

Members Quarterly Newsletter

Issue LXIII
1st quarter, March 2023

www.pittsfieldhistory.com

Pittsfield, New Hampshire—The Gem of the Suncook Valley
Liz Dimmick & Bill Provencal, co-editors

Pittsfield Historical Society
4 Oak Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263
603-435-8004

Accessions

Many thanks to Jan Heath for her recent donations of infant dresses. One is an intricately sewn lace creation and the other is made out of fine cotton with carefully crafted pintucks for the bodice. Both date from the 1900s and are from the Ruth Cram family.

The other item is a child's linen sailor suit belonging to Criswell Smith of Pittsfield, given in loving memory by his wife, Harriet Smith. This well-preserved sailor suit shows how even children's clothing reflected the military influence of World War I, the "War to End All Wars."



Child's linen sailor suit



Infant's cotton dress with
pintuck bodice

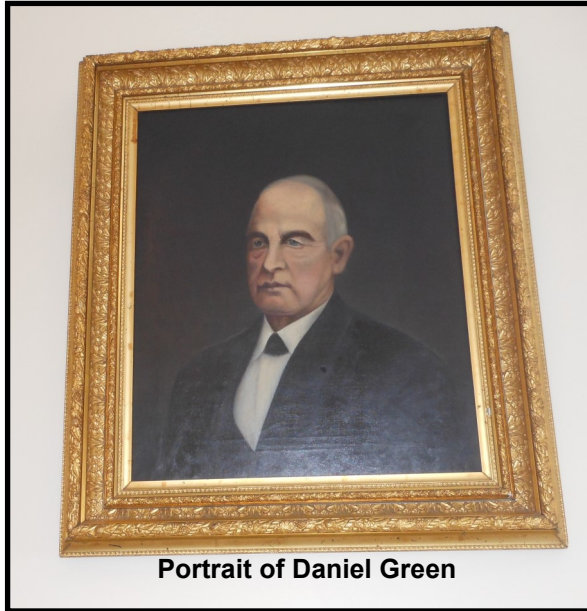


Infant's lace dress

Accessions

Thanks to Joan Bender Wetzel for various correspondence and diaries relating to the Drake family, with the majority of the items attributed to Nathaniel Drake. They offer a detailed description of daily life and activities in Pittsfield.

The Society also received a portrait from Ms. Wetzel. With the help of a strong magnifying glass, we found it was a portrait of Daniel M. Green, painted by his daughter, Mary A. R. Drake.



Portrait of Daniel Green

Board of Directors

At the Annual Meeting of the Pittsfield Historical Society held in January, the following officers were elected:

President:	Liz Dimmick
Vice President:	Martha Moly
Treasurer:	Clayton Wood
Secretary:	Jaime Koladish

The following people are 2023 members of the Board of Directors:

Larry Berkson	Art Laro
Joe Darrah	Martha Moly
Liz Dimmick	Bill Provencal
Levi Gallup	Mark Riel
Jaime Koladish	Ray Webber III
	Clayton Wood

It was with great regret that the Board accepted David Harper's resignation. However, he has agreed to help with specific projects.

Scavenger Hunt

Thanks to Jaime Koladish and Kim Diomede, the Society held its first Scavenger Hunt. This Hunt was designed for the youth to explore the many items and stories from and about Pittsfield within the new museum.

All participants started with a "passport" with questions relating to the various displays. The "hunters" had to find the correct display and then find the correct answers. Board members and other volunteers were stationed around the museum to answer questions and to verify the answers. Once the passport was completed, it was stamped with the Historical Society's logo.



Waiting to Begin!

New Display Stand

Many thanks to Levi and Jean Gallup for donating a lighted display case. It is the perfect addition for displaying John Cram's Bible.

It's located on the main floor of the museum near the main entrance.



History of Glass Manufacturing

**Wednesday, May 10
7:00 p.m.
Pittsfield Historical Society
Oak Street**

Early Glass Making in New Hampshire
Presented by Michael George

New Hampshire has a rich history of glass making, dating back to the 18th century, and Mr. George will lead us on an exploration of this history and the various factories. He will review the unique characteristics that help to identify the different glass bottles. Examples of early New Hampshire glass will be on display.



Mr. George started collecting glass at an early age by scavenging medicine bottles from old town dumps. This passion led to finding and collecting historical flasks and Early American glassware. Since then, he has written numerous articles, conducted numerous lectures, and is a member of various professional bottle and glass organizations.

This program is free and open to the public.

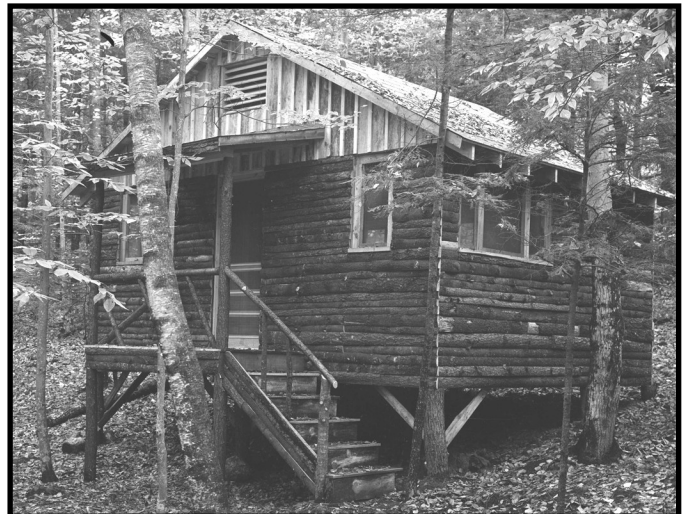
Coming Soon! History of Graylag Preserve

Enjoy the history of Graylag Camp that later became Graylag Preserve in 2019. Most of you are familiar with the preserve, but there is a history. Originally, 500 acres of woodland and waterfront at the Wild Goose Pond were developed by Jacob Geib and sons, Fred and Robert, into a summer camp for boys. It was named Graylag Camp, after the European name for the wild goose, because it was gray and lagged behind other geese when flying south in the winter.

This presentation, at Graylag Preserve, will explore the varied history and explain the influence of Bob Cousy, Boston Celtics, in transforming it into a camp specializing in basketball. Exciting times.

The museum has a display of various items from the camp if you wish to explore it further.

Cabin at Camp Graylag



Belonging. That's what membership is all about. Being part of a group. An organization.

Membership is very important to us, the Pittsfield Historical Society. Actually, it's a priority of ours. For without our membership, we are nothing. Not a concern, not a body of people, not a Society. We are nothing without our members.

And so, as 2023 gets its feet firmly planted in the new year, we are asking **YOU** to become a member of our Society. Last year at this time we were still working out of our small, but adequate and much-loved, Museum on Elm Street, as we awaited completion of construction at our new "digs."

With the heralding of the New Year has come the opportunity for a cleansing breath, a new start, a fresh renewal of our lives, our loves, our passions. The Pittsfield Historical Society is in full gear, ready and willing to get going. But we need your help. Now fully ensconced in our new museum/headquarters, we are delighting in our new surroundings, introduced to the community at our Grand Opening last July.

The Tuesday morning crew, including Bill Provencal, Gail Allard, Dave Pollard, Larry Berkson, Nancy Fogg and Martha Moloy, continues to be busy at work, maintaining archives, and cataloging accessions.

We have exciting plans for 2023, including a program schedule that will offer something for everyone. Among the topics to be explored are: glass making in Pittsfield and surrounding areas; a tour and history of Graylag, once home to a basketball camp run by Celtics' legend Bob Cousy; stories of Pittsfield schools by retired teachers Jonas and Elaine Glidden; and a history of 4-H. Once again we will be sponsoring the Craft Fair at the Suncook Valley Rotary Hot Air Balloon Rally in August. On March 10, as a kick-start for a brand new year, we hosted a highly successful scavenger hunt for kids and their families.

Also on the agenda is something quite new...for years the Museum has been open to the public only on special occasions and on Tuesdays, while the "crew" is in-house. **Drum roll!** The Museum now will be open on the second Sunday of each month, from 1-4 pm, except April, so plan your visit and come see what the excitement is all about. Our doors will be open on May 14. Stop in.

As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on fundraising efforts, which have been curtailed seriously during these past years of the pandemic. We rely even more heavily on the support of our members. Thanks to those who have renewed their membership and to those considering joining our ranks - to take part with us in preserving Pittsfield's 200-plus-year history. It's so worth it.

Pittsfield Historical Society, Inc. 13 Elm Street Pittsfield, NH 03263	Name	_____	
	Address	_____	
	Telephone No.	_____	
	Email Address	_____	
	DUES FOR _____ ARE NOW PAYABLE.		
<i>Please</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior/Student Membership	\$ 20.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Membership	\$ 25.00
<i>Check</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Membership	\$ 30.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining Membership	\$ 50.00
<i>Membership</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributing Membership	\$ 75.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting Membership	\$ 100.00
<i>Level:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron Membership	\$ 250.00
Make checks payable to: Pittsfield Historical Society Mail to: P.H.S., Inc. • Treasurer • P.O. Box 173 • Pittsfield, NH 03263			

Commemorative Bricks

Honor someone by purchasing a commemorative brick to be placed in the Historical Society's patio on Main Street. The 4" x 8" brick may be engraved with 3 lines of 18 characters. Each brick costs \$100. A certificate replicating the wording on the brick is available for an additional \$15.

These bricks will be placed in the patio in the spring.

Thanks to everyone who has purchased a brick. Stop by in the spring to see the patio and beautiful gardens surrounding it.

