



Members Quarterly Newsletter

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www.pittsfieldhistory.com

Pittsfield, New Hampshire—The Gem of the Suncook Valley
Liz Dimmick, editor

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Accessions

Many thanks to Art Morse for donating an oil painting of the Community Center in memory of Elsie Morse. This painting (1995), by Andrea Robbins, portrays the side-view of the building which is not normally highlighted, and the colors are unusually vivid.



Many thanks to Dan Schroth ("Dan the Stoneman") for rebuilding the "well" at Lyman Park. Over the years, the bricks either caved in or fell out of place. It was an eyesore. Dan graciously agreed to rebuild it and started in the fall of 2024. It is now completed with some help this spring from Joel Schroth. Members of the Historical Society appreciate Dan's help in maintaining Lyman Park—a colorful oasis in the heart of Pittsfield.

Flowers in Lyman Park

Many thanks to Pleasant View Gardens and Jeff Huntington for providing the colorful flowering plants that grace Lyman Park. Pleasant View Gardens has graciously donated plants since the development of the Park.

Also, thanks to the many volunteers who provided the labor to weed, dig, plant, and water the plants. This spring was a difficult time to plant. Rain was the nemesis since it poured most Saturdays. The planting crew, however, was flexible, and individuals took flats of plants and worked at the park when they could. So, again, Lyman Park is a garden gem in the middle of town.

Historical Society's Facebook Page

Have you seen it? The Society has a active Facebook page. Please check it out to learn many interesting facts and stories about Pittsfield. ***Pittsfield NH History***

Cram's Mineral Springs

Did you know that Pittsfield had a renowned mineral spring? Cram's Mineral Spring was located by Wolf Meadow (located at the base of Tilton Hill on Tilton Hill Road). There were accounts of its medicinal use dating back to 1766, when the Sanborns and McClarys of Epsom were cutting the grass on Wolf Meadow. Some Pennacooks were camped nearby and were "being doctored" with the spring water. They knew it as the "Big Medicine Water." In 1917, a Gazetteer of New Hampshire credited it of "being very beneficial in kidney complaints and humors."

Here is one testimonial from Eld. James Morrill, Pittsfield, from 1878:

"I had suffered with Dyspepsia for a number of years, in fact, until I had given up all hope of finding relief. Last fall (1878) I commenced the daily use of Cram's Mineral Spring Water. I continued the use for about two months, from which so great benefit was received, that I have had no occasion to use medicine of any kind for the disease since."

An analysis of the water showed "It is an alkaline-chalybeate water of unusual composition," according to S. Dana Hayes, State Assayer.

Capitalizing on the amazing medicinal benefits of this spring, the proprietors, *Berry and Cram*, made arrangements to fill orders and offered the water to the public at the following rates:

Per gallon, at the Fountain	10 Cts.
Per Barrel, delivered at the Depot in Pittsfield Village	\$4.50
Per Half-Barrell, delivered at the Depot in Pittsfield Village	\$2.75

They also sold the barrels: Spruce barrels, of superior manufacture, can be procured of the proprietors for \$1.50; half-barrels, \$1.00

In addition, there was an advertisement for the Washington House in the same sales brochure stating that it "is within 200 rods of this Spring, furnishes most excellent accommodations at Reasonable Rates."

Another tidbit about Pittsfield found in the archives at the museum.

BALLOONS! BALLOONS!

ARE EVERYWHERE!

Be Sure to Visit the **CRAFT FAIR**



Saturday
August 2
Drake Field
Pittsfield
10 to 7



Craft Fair Sponsored by the Pittsfield Historical Society

You're Invited!

The Pittsfield Historical Society presents in collaboration with The Scenic Theatre:

A Journey Through Time: The Story of The Scenic Theatre

Please join us for an engaging exploration of the Scenic Theatre's remarkable journey—from its origins as an early 1900s cinema to its transformation into the flourishing and vibrant home of the Pittsfield Players.

Hear from special guest speakers Meggin Dail, Jean Gentile, Valerie Eaton, and DeeDee Douglas as they share the Scenic's storied past and offer creative visions for its present and future.

The Scenic Theatre
6 Depot Street, Pittsfield, NH
Wed. August 20
7 pm

Air conditioned for your comfort
Light refreshments will be served

Come celebrate this treasured piece of Pittsfield's cultural history—and discover what's next for the heart of local theatre!

Memorial Days in Pittsfield

Established in 1868, Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was a national day to honor Civil War veterans. Later the name was changed to Memorial Day, and after World War I it became a day to honor all who died in service to our country. The townspeople of Pittsfield, being a very patriotic community, held various observances throughout the years. Let us look at the many ways Pittsfield has celebrated this time-honored day.

Although we don't have a concise record of the observances prior to 1901, we do know there were parades led by a mounted color guard, and sometimes a firing squad shot volleys from Barnstead Bridge, Floral Park, and later Dustin Park and Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Houses along the parade route sported flags and bunting and banners.

The Valley Times and subsequent newspapers provided detailed accounts of the celebrations. As an example, in 1902 the Memorial Day Parade formed in Depot Square. Marchers included the following:

Pittsfield Brass Band
Knights of Pythias
Willard K. Cobb Post #29, GAR
Pittsfield Drum Corps
Pittsfield Fire Department
School Children
Reuben T. Leavitt, President of the Day
E. W. Smith, Orator of the Day

In addition to the parade there were often religious services, held at either a church or at the Opera House. School children also participated in the programs throughout the years. Early on, each school celebrated its own activities at the respective schools, but these were later combined at the Opera House, where the various school children presented individual programs.



Art St. Laurent, James Allard, Phyllis (Brooks) Conway
2025

This year the Memorial Day service included a benediction, speeches, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and a very special ceremony which touched members of the community in a very personal way. The speaker, Colonel James Allard, USA retired, spoke of Corporal Richard A. Brooks, USMC.

In April 1968, a black car pulled into the driveway of the Brooks family home in Pittsfield. A Marine dressed in a crisp navy-blue uniform stepped out, walked to the American flag on the property and slowly lowered it to half-mast— an unspoken gesture that told Phil Brooks, who was working in his garage, that his son, 20-year-old U.S. Marine Corporal Richard Brooks, had been killed in Vietnam.

This year, 57 years after Corporal Brooks' death, Park Terrace, a small road at the edge of Dustin Park and near the War Memorial, was renamed Brooks Terrace. The new sign, unveiled during this year's ceremony, has a blue plaque with a gold star and the words "In Memory of CPL Richard A. Brooks, USMC" displayed underneath.



This will be a Memorial Day service to remember.

(Additional information on CPL. Richard A. Brooks may be found in the Historical Society's 2022 calendar.)

Pittsfield New Hampshire, An Encyclopedic History: 1782-2018

Pittsfield Historian Larry Berkson has recently published the initial three volumes of a new, multi-volume history entitled *Pittsfield, New Hampshire, An Encyclopedic History: 1782-2018*.

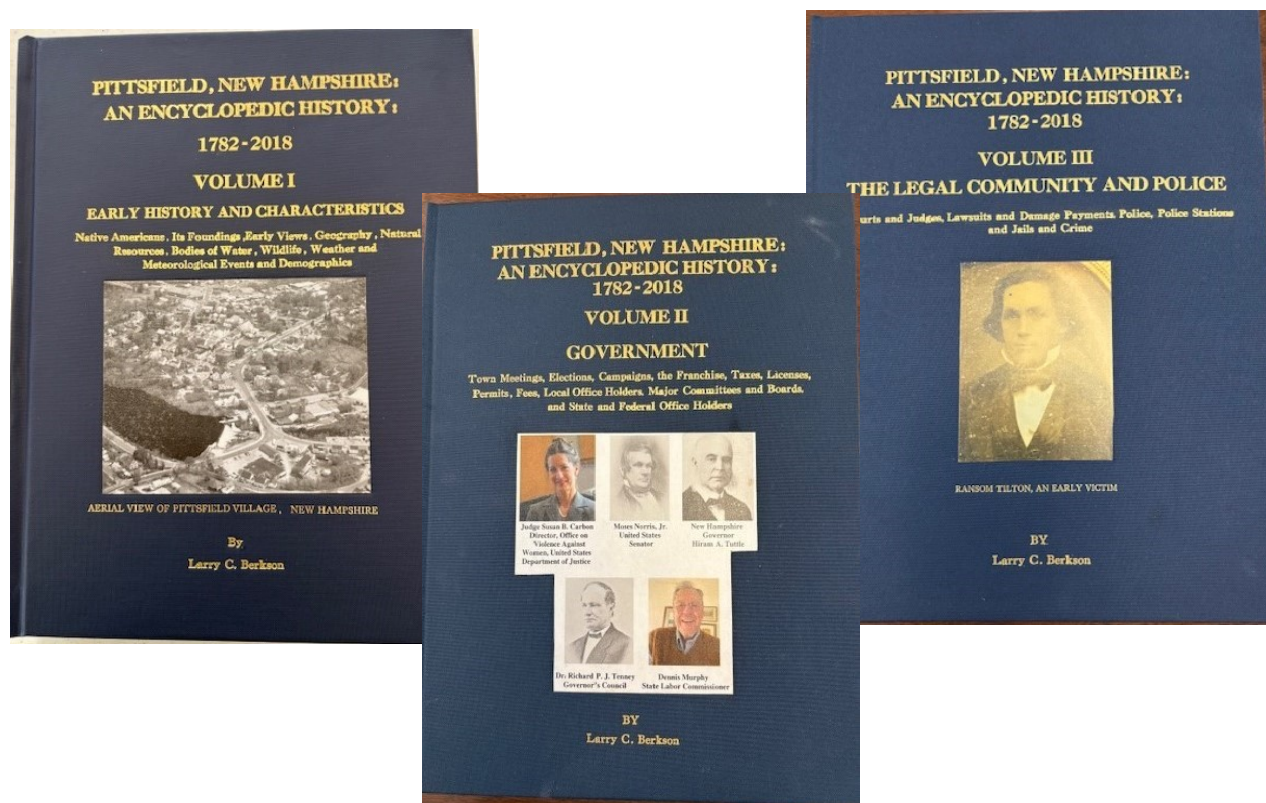
Volume I, *Early History and Characteristics*, covers "Native Americans, Its Founding, Early Views, Geography, Natural Resources, Bodies of Water, Wildlife, Weather and Meteorological Events, and Demographics."

Volume II, *Government*, delves into "Town Meetings, Elections, Campaigns, the Franchise, Taxes, Licenses, Permits, Local Office Holders, Major Committees and Boards, and State and Federal Office Holders."

Volume III, *The Legal Community and Police*, looks at "Courts and Judges, Lawsuits and Damage Payments, Police, Police Stations, and Jails and Crimes."

Each volume offers a deeply detailed and intimate view of the town's history and of the people who have served and lived here.

These early volumes are now available on loan from the Josiah Carpenter Library, Pittsfield, NH. As printing continues, future volumes will become available at the library.



Opportunities to Tour the Museum

The museum is open on the second Sunday of each month. (Weather permitting.) Please join us between 1 and 4 pm. However, if this doesn't meet your needs, please call the museum at 603-435-8004 to arrange a time. Remember, the museum is open most Tuesdays between 9 am and noon. Here is the schedule for the remainder of the year. Please note, we will not be open on Sunday in September.

Sundays: July 13 Aug. 10 Sept. 13 (Sat. Old Home Day) Oct. 12 Nov. 9 Dec. 14