

Members Quarterly Newsletter

Issue XIX
Quarter 2; June, 2011

Pittfield Historical Society
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Pittfield, New Hampshire – The Gem of the Suncook Valley

Martha Moloy and Bill Provençal, co-editors

Letter in the Suncook Sun 4/13/2011

Last weekend I literally went “Sunday Driving” around some of the back roads of Pittsfield. Being new to the area, I wanted to explore my new home. As I drove around, I noticed small cemeteries that were marked with signs that told who was buried there. When I got out of my car to look at a sign, I saw that it was put up by the Pittsfield Historical Committee.

As I drive around NH towns I tend to notice small cemeteries because they interest me. I have never seen attractive signs indicating who is buried in them. I thought that this was such a nice thing for an organization to do. The cemeteries hold so much history and are often forgotten and not recognized. I am glad that I live in a town where those who came before us are respected enough to be identified and not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Jennifer March
Pittsfield

Computer System Donation

We were fortunate to receive a “new” to us Dell computer system with printer/scanner/copy machine from Martha Maloy. The new system now solves most of our computer problems and we are able to do all of the work of scanning our picture files.

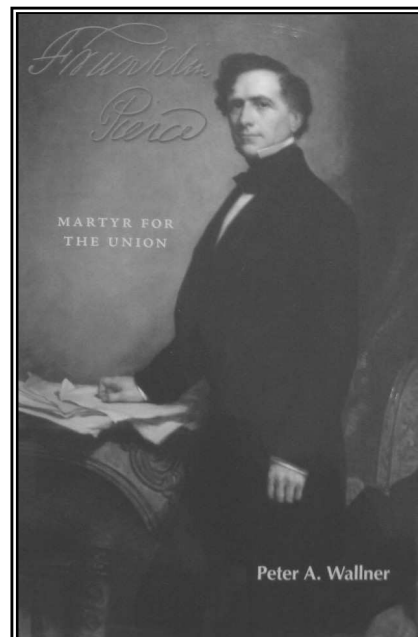
Thank You Pittsfield High School!

The Pittsfield Historical Society would like to thank Susan McTague’s tenth grade advisory that did an outstanding job with the cleanup of Lyman Park as part of their Earth Day Project on April 22. The following students participated in the detail: Rebekah Adams, Anna Colon-Pagan, Ashley Conner, Russell Cox, Ashleigh Garland, Travis Guest, Cassidy Kearns, Riley LeBel, Janice Negron, Ashley Pence,



Tyler Stockman, Jillian Towle, Aaron Vien, Wesley Ward and Cameron White. The park sparkled from trash pickup, raked lawns and cleared flower beds. As part of the Project, the senior class and their advisors (Carin Plante and Jessica Bickford) also picked up trash at the Thyng Memorial. A very special thank you to all that worked to clean the Historical Society property.

Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the United States



Peter Wallner, library director of the NH Historical Society, was featured speaker at the April meeting of the Pittsfield Historical Society, presenting a program on Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the United States and the only president from NH. Pierce served a 25-year political career in NH before heading to

Washington, having served as town moderator, in the legislature, as a US Senator, and most notably spearheading the Democratic Party. He was the first President to recite his inaugural address from memory, the only one to have the same Cabinet and the first to leave US shores while in office. His successes included the Gaston Treaty, balancing the budget, increased efficiency of the military and added 12 steamships to the Navy, improving American trade and lowering tariffs, and strengthening relations with Great Britain.

His reputation as one of the worst US Presidents came after he spoke out in favor of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, repealing the Missouri Compromise, and renewed debate over expanding slavery in the West. Pierce was abandoned by his own Party and was not nominated for reelection in 1856. His political demise came with his support of the Confederacy during the American Civil War.

Peter Wallner has authored books on Franklin Pierce. There are two Franklin Pierce biographies available in Carpenter Library.

Pittsfield Historical Society, May Program

WOW, what a program we had in May. The Pittsfield Historical Society was very fortunate in being able to have its May program at Doug Towle's Historical Setting on Frisky Hill in Gilmanton. A special thanks goes out to Doug and



The Carriage House

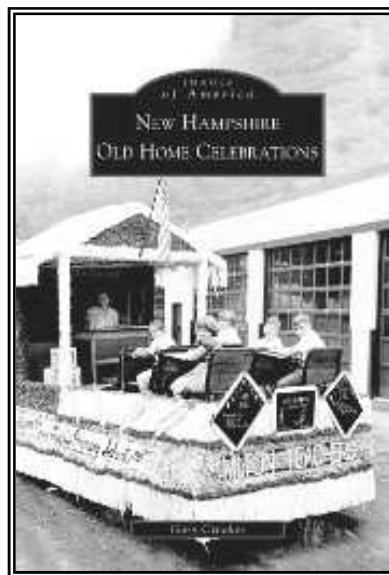
his able tour guides: Diana Avery, Susan Barr and Audrey Humphrey for their in-depth explanations of furniture, settings, and construction in the main dwelling. Also assisting in keeping our group well fed with great snacks was Margaret Towle.



The Ell - Kitchen

We had over 80 people who participated in the tour of the main dwelling, which included the 1665 House, the Ell and the Lean-to. Prior to the tours, Doug did an excellent presentation of how the property and where the buildings were acquired and also told stories about his other restorations and the people who resided in them. Because of the size of our group, several separate tours were conducted. Those awaiting tours were encouraged to visit the Barn, Corn Crib, the Water Tower and the one room School House.

Upcomming Program for September 8th



Gary Crooker of Crook's Books in Wilton, will be the featured speaker at the September 8 meeting. His talk will center on the history of NH Old Home Day celebrations and the writing of his book on that subject. He will be focusing on the fact that Old Home Day is a homegrown holiday created in NH. He will also present his collection of Old Home Day ephemera from throughout the state.

Crooker has served as chairman of the Wilton Old Home Days Committee for the past 30 years, and has worked as a freelance writer for 40 years, writing articles for such magazines as Mother Earth News, Running Times, NHtoDo and Learning Through History. He currently writes for Unravel the Gavel and Faces, and has been a member of the NH Antiquarian Book Association for 15 years, now serving as vice president