



Members Quarterly Newsletter

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

Martha Moloy and Bill Provençal, co-editors

Donation of Bicentennial Plate



The Society is honored to receive a beautiful Bicentennial Plate (1782-1982) from Pearl Cheney. This plate will be added to our Pittsfield Souvenirs Collection.

10-Year Veterans Project Coming To An End

The project to collect information about Pittsfield's World War II Veterans, which has been ongoing for more than a decade, is coming to an end. The result is five books:

Volume I: those who served in the United States and Northern Europe

Volume II: those who served in Africa, Southern Europe & the Pacific

Volume III: those who served in the Air Corps

Volume IV: those who served in the Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines & Navy

Volume V: women who served and veterans loosely associated with Pittsfield

In all, there are 439 biographies, 310 of veterans closely associated with Pittsfield and 129 connected in some way with our community. More than 350 pictures of veterans were collected and appear in the books. A detailed foreword about the role of Pittsfield's civilians during the war is included in Volume I.

The first volume has been sent to the printer and the others will soon follow. The price will be \$20.00 each. Anyone wishing to purchase the set or an individual volume should contact the Society to have them reserved as there will be a limited printing due to cost. Please do not send money in advance.

Eleanor Joyce, New Society Volunteer



We have a new volunteer to assist us in our massive job of indexing all of the Suncook Valley Sun's news papers. Eleanor Joyce has agreed to come in on Tuesdays to assist our long-time volunteer, Ruth Strickhart. By performing this work, we will be able to locate quickly articles written about Pittsfield residents by searching our master newspaper index.

Ruth Strickhart Turns 90 Years of Age

We would like to congratulate our long time volunteer, Ruth Strickhart who turned the young age of 90 on March 7. In addition to volunteering



here at the Society, Ruth also manages to find time to volunteer at the Carpenter Library as well as the Pittsfield Food Pantry. Thank you Ruth for all that you do for the Town of Pittsfield.

When It Began

Dial telephone began service in Pittsfield on May 22, 1954. The dial code name was General but the letters did not have to be dialed if a call was within the district. About an hour before the old system and office in the Union Block were closed down, operators and former operators were given a chance to operate the switchboard. The last call was made by E. J. Stapleton. At midnight, Selectman Gilbert Paige of the Harriman and Paige Insurance Agency made the first call to *Valley Times* Publisher Thomas McKoan. (*The Valley Times*, May 11, 21 and 28, 1954)

Upcoming Programs At The Society

On April 8, Leslie Vogt, with support from society historian, Larry Berkson, will provide a history of libraries in Pittsfield. Leslie will also offer a few thoughts on the library's digital future. Leslie served as the director of Pittsfield's Carpenter Library from 1991-95 and 2003-08.

On June 10, Larry Berkson and Robert Moulton will present a summary of the Historical Society's 10-year project collecting information on Pittsfield's World War II Veterans. They will discuss those captured and placed in POW Camps, those wounded and killed.



From our picture archives, Pittsfield High School under construction. Taken around 1942.



Another from our archives, a picture of Scott Brown's house on So. Main Street. Former home of Christopher Paige, c. 1789.

