



THE POLITICAL LIBRARY

Preserving New Hampshire's Political Traditions



The Pierce Brigade



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Political Library and Pierce Brigade Present “Pictures Out of Sunshine:” Professor Inez McDermott discusses the art, science and magic of 19th century photography

CONCORD, NH: The Political Library and the Pierce Brigade present “Pictures Out of Sunshine: The art, science and magic of 19th century photography,” an illustrated lecture by Inez McDermott on Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pierce Manse. The program is part of a year long series focused on New Hampshire political traditions and history hosted at the Pierce Manse. Attendees are invited to stay for refreshments after the lecture. This program is free and open to the public.

Professor McDermott will explore the history of the first few decades of photography in America (1840 through the Civil War years) and will focus in particular on the science, subject matter and popularity of the daguerreotype, the tintype and the ambrotype processes. The illustrated lecture will include photographic images of Franklin Pierce and those who were close to him, and McDermott will discuss the role that photography played in the work of Franklin Pierce's dear friend, writer Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Inez McDermott is an Associate Professor of Art History at New England College and an independent curator. She has curated photography exhibitions for the Currier Museum and the New Hampshire Institute of Art, as well as exhibitions for the Hood Museum at Dartmouth, the Museum of New Hampshire History and the Museum of Our National Heritage. She was formerly Director of the New England College Art Gallery and Associate Curator of the Currier Museum.

“Photography as both an art and science came into being at the time the Pierces were living in Concord,” commented Caroline Amport, Director of Programs for the Political Library. “Inez McDermott’s program is a unique opportunity to explore this medium as it relates specifically to the Pierce family and their close friend, Nathaniel Hawthorne.”

Brigade Lecture Series programs occur on the fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. For the complete 2009 program calendar please visit the Political Library website at www.politicallibrary.org.

About The Political Library

The Political Library is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to increase civic engagement in the democratic process by promoting and preserving the state's unique political traditions and ensuring these traditions are passed on to future generations. The Political Library offers onsite educational programs and tours for students and the public at the Pierce

Manse and administers Kids Voting New Hampshire programs in communities across the Granite State. The Political Library also maintains the only comprehensive collection of election campaign papers and memorabilia from over half a century and provides forums for voters and community leaders to meet Presidential candidates. To see the Political Library's online collection or for more information, visit www.politicallibrary.org.

About the Pierce Brigade

The Pierce Brigade is the membership organization dedicated to preserving the home and legacy of President Franklin Pierce. The Pierce Manse is located in Concord, New Hampshire and is operated in partnership with the New Hampshire Political Library. For more information, visit www.piercemanse.org.

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