



THE PIERCE BRIGADE MONTHLY NEWS

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If You Write It, They Will Come

On Thursday, July 9, 2009 the *Concord Monitor* ran an 800-word front page feature article on the “New Face” of the Pierce Manse, examining the partnership with the Political Library that offers visitors an opportunity to experience New Hampshire’s past and present political history.

Reporter Dan Barrick described the Pierce artifacts on display in the house, the renovated Pierce and Political Galleries and the various public programs offered to adults and students at the Manse. Visitation is growing with nearly 1,000 students and teachers touring the Manse in the 2008-2009 school year and audiences of 50 or more people at the monthly Brigade Lecture Series.

The timely article called attention to the Summer Open House, proving that if you write it, they will come. One hundred and seventy visitors—an open house record—poured through the doors on Saturday, July 11th eager to see more. Almost without exception, Saturday’s



The *Concord Monitor* ran this eye-catching image of Senator John McCain as part of the front page feature article “Pierce Manse’s new face” on July 9, 2009. Produced by Parkside Middle School students, this image hangs along with three others in the admission area and is part of the Library’s collection.

visitors were from the Concord area and had seen the feature article or the event listing in the *Monitor*.

For many visitors, it was their first time at the Pierce Manse and they responded enthusiastically to the interpretation and preservation of the house, the quality of the tour guides, the exhibit galleries and the political memorabilia from the Political Library’s collections. To read the article in its entirety, visit www.concordmonitor.com.

Brigade Lecture Series
2009 Event Calendar

COMING THIS
MONTH

Thursday, August 27th,
7:00 pm @ The Manse*

“Pictures Out of Sunshine:
The Art, Science and
Magic of 19th Century
Photography”

An illustrated lecture by
Inez McDermott
Associate Professor
New England College

*Please note that this
month’s program is in the
evening.

This month’s program explores the history of the first few decades of photography in America (1840 through the Civil War years) and focuses in particular on the science, subject matter and popularity of the daguerreotype, the tintype and the ambrotype processes. We will look at photographic images of Franklin Pierce and those who were close to him, and discuss the role that photography played in the work of Franklin Pierce’s dear friend, writer Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Pierce Almost Slept Here *Article excerpted from August 2009 Early American Life*

The Pike Tavern’s touch with fame came one night in 1842, according to a tale told in *Our Yesterdays*. The Pike family was in a flurry because Pike’s wife, Adeline Chamberlain Pike, was near the end of a pregnancy and was “lying in.” Everyone in the house was busy tending to her when a weary traveler knocked on the tavern door, perhaps on his way back to his law practice in Concord after resigning from the U.S. Senate.

History doesn’t record who, in the midst of the birth, answered the door, but the traveler must have faced a huffing, disheveled face too preoccupied to consider the obvious stature of the stranger. He was turned away and the door

(Continued on page 2...)

Education Update

Since opening on June 16th, the Pierce Manse has welcomed 390 visitors to President Pierce’s historic home, including the 170 visitors who attended the Summer Open house on July 11th. We are on track to meet or exceed 2008’s 627 public season visitors.

On July 27th, the Political Library also hosted a group of budding journalists from high schools around the country, who were in town for Franklin Pierce University’s Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communications “Presidency and the Press” conference.

The Political Library values its tradition of partnership with the Fitzwater Center

by the Concord day in during this annual week long institute. The 15 young journalists dined in the Political Gallery, toured the Manse and participated in an afternoon of panel discussions on politics and the media.

Panelists included *Union Leader* Publisher, Joe McQuaid; WMUR-TV General Manager, Jeff Bartlett; Obama New Hampshire campaign co-chair, Jim Demers; McCain Senior National Advisor, Mike Dennehy; and former Associated Press Reporter and current Director of the Nacky S. Loeb School of Communication, David Tirrell-Wysocki.

Did You Know?

During his four years in the White House [Pierce] enthusiastically approved and personally watched over the building of an elaborate greenhouse with a sloping glass-paned roof: the renovation of the White House garden, lush with camellias and roses; the installation of a hot-water heating system (one of the first of its kind in the country); and the creation of new ceiling decorations in gold, green and blue imitation fresco dominated by a center neo-classical sunburst of leaves.

Excerpted from “The Expatriation of Franklin Pierce,” by Garry Boulard.



Pierce Almost Continued...

quickly latched. The traveler was left to ride on to find succor elsewhere.

Only later did the Pikes find out that Freeman Pike might have met the future fourteenth President of the United States on his first night in the world. Franklin Pierce had knocked, and a decade later would become the first and only president to hail from New Hampshire.

Pierce probably resigned his Senate

seat to please Jane, his wife, who disliked both politics and Washington, D.C. She also favored temperance—one of the multitude behind the movement that swept through the state and the rest of the country in the 1830s. The movement even touched little Brookfield, which in 1847 voted to prohibit the sale of wines and other spirits “except for chemical, medicinal, or mechanical purposes.”

19th Century entrepreneur Dudley Pike owned Pike’s Tavern in Brookfield New Hampshire.

Get Involved

The Pierce Brigade Family Recipes cookbook will be available for purchase August 6, 2009. This 40-page bound volume includes 80 delicious and widely varied recipes for appetizers, salads, main courses, vegetables and desserts. Twenty three Brigade members submitted their favorite recipes from friends, families and beloved cookbooks. A special bonus section includes six of First Lady Jane Pierce’s favorite recipes. Cookbooks are affordably

priced at \$10.00 each and are available at the Pierce Manse gift shop. Proceeds support the ongoing work of the Pierce Brigade and aid in the preservation of President Pierce’s home and legacy.

If you live in the area, swing by the Manse and pick one up! Out-of-towners who would like to purchase a copy by mail can contact Joan Woodhead at (603) 224-1819. Please add \$2.50 to the price for shipping and handing. Get them while they last!

Just Announced!

The Political Library is pleased to announce that planning is underway for *New Hampshire Comes to Washington*, an event commemorating New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation presidential primary set to take place in the nation’s capitol on Tuesday, October 20, 2009.