



The Pierce Brigade



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Contact: Caroline Amport
Director of Programs
(603) 225-4617 x10
camport@politicallibrary.org

The Political Library and Pierce Brigade Celebrate Thanksgiving: *Sharon and Steve Wood present a living history program on the origins of the uniquely American holiday*

CONCORD, NH: The Political Library and the Pierce Brigade celebrate Thanksgiving by hosting Sharon and Steve Woods in a living history program sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council. "Our National Thanksgiving: With Thanks to President Lincoln and Mrs. Hale" will be held on Thursday, October 22nd at 7:00pm at the Pierce Manse, the historic home of President Franklin Pierce. The program is part of a year long series focused on New Hampshire political traditions and history. This program series is free and open to the public.

During "Our National Thanksgiving: With Thanks to President Lincoln and Mrs. Hale," Sarah Josepha Hale will tell the story of her thirty year effort to have Thanksgiving declared a national holiday. President Abraham Lincoln enters at the end of her tale, to read his 1863 Thanksgiving proclamation.

The Woods are historical presenters specializing in 19th century American history. Steve has been a Lincoln presenter since 1995 and has presented his program, "A Visit with Abraham Lincoln," for schools, libraries, historical societies and community events. In addition to portraying Mary Todd Lincoln, Sharon also offers several other first person historical programs set in the same time period. She has done considerable research on Sarah Hale, who is generally remembered more for her children's poem, *Mary's Lamb*, and her lifelong campaign for a Thanksgiving holiday, than for the influence she had on American culture through her widely read magazine, *Godey's Lady's Book*. After the program, the Woods will step out of character and answer audience questions. More information about the Woods and their living history programs can be found at <http://his-story.atspace.com>.

"Thanksgiving is a cornerstone in American culture and begins the holiday season," commented Caroline Amport, Director of Programs for the Political Library. "Were it not for the work of Sarah Josepha Hale and President Lincoln, the holidays as we know them today would be very different. This *Humanities To-Go!* program provides a unique opportunity to learn first-hand how this uniquely American celebration came to be."

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.

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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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