



THE POLITICAL LIBRARY

Preserving New Hampshire's Political Traditions



The Pierce Brigade



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The Political Library and Pierce Brigade Present “Contoocook River Park,” an illustrated lunchtime lecture on the historic riverfront getaway

CONCORD, NH: The Political Library and the Pierce Brigade present “Contoocook River Park,” an illustrated lecture by Cynthia Merrill on Thursday, July 23rd at 12:30 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 bring a bag lunch and enjoy refreshments after the lecture. This program is free and open to the public.

The Concord Street Railway opened the beautiful 26 acre Contoocook River Park to the public in Penacook in 1892. Visitors could ride the street trolley from downtown Concord and enjoy a day on the river. Boating, swimming, scenic overlooks, picnics, steamboat rides, dancing and theater were just a few of the activities offered to the public. The park was the place to be in the good old summertime from 1892 until 1925 when it closed. The July 23rd lecture will share the sights and history of summers past.

Cynthia Merrill, a retired educator with 30 years experience in elementary education, is a member of the Pierce Brigade and the Contoocook River Improvement Society. She is a volunteer trailmeister for the Contoocook River Park Trails, which is part of the Concord Trail System. Merrill and her husband have a summer cottage on the Contoocook River in Penacook, which borders the area where the Contoocook River Park once stood. This is how her interest began in this historical area. She is a graduate of Keene State College.

“The history of the Contoocook River Park is a testament to the region’s interest in and commitment to connecting residents to natural resources,” commented Caroline Amport, Director of Programs for the Political Library. “It seemed fitting that we should offer this program during the summer when the Pierce Manse hosts visitors who come to the region in order to enjoy all the history and beauty it has to offer.”

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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