



THE PIERCE BRIGADE MONTHLY NEWS



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A Presidential Visit

On Wednesday, December 2, 2009 President Bill Clinton visited the Pierce Manse in order to dedicate the new exhibition galleries. President Clinton was welcomed to the Manse by Ambassador Terry Shumaker, chairman of the New Hampshire Political Library board, and Joan Woodhead, President of the Pierce Brigade. While looking at the gallery displays he voiced his support for New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, and noted the importance of retail politics and getting to know the people and their needs. Clinton spoke at length about the Kansas-Nebraska Act, stating that Pierce's goal was to keep the nation and his political party united. President Clinton explained that sometimes presidents are called to make decisions with no way of knowing the outcomes. Clinton stated that was true for Pierce regarding the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and it is true today of President



Obama's decision to send troops to Afghanistan.

Clinton briefly toured the house, stopping in the Campaign Room to view the memorabilia from Pierce's run for the presidency. He compared campaigning today to Pierce's campaign, where candidates stayed at home while friends and supporters campaigned for them.

Clinton's visit to the Manse was the first time a U. S. President has visited the home of President Franklin Pierce. It was a memorable event for those present and we thank him for taking the time to visit and dedicate the new exhibition galleries.

2010 Brigade Lecture Series

Abraham and Mary Lincoln: The Long and the Short of It

Thurs., February 25th
@ 7 p.m.

The Lincolns, portrayed by Steve and Mary Woods, will talk about the challenges they faced during a very turbulent time in our country's history.

Refreshments to follow at the Pierce Manse.

REMEMBER!
Monthly Pierce Brigade Board Meetings occur the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and are open to all interested members.

Next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 20th.

Need a ride?
Call the Manse at 225-4555 and leave a message.

Changes at the Manse

Brigade members living the Concord area are probably aware of the profound changes taking place at the Manse. Since 2004 the Brigade has been affiliated with the New Hampshire Political Library (NHPL), with NHPL as the "sole-member of the Pierce Brigade." Brigade members were then termed "Advisory members." The sole member had rights of approval of Board members and officers, and occupied the second floor apartment as its headquarters. The Brigade greatly benefited from NHPL's professional staff, from cataloging and conserving the house and the collection, publicity for the lecture series and special events,

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The Manse Annual Holiday Open House was held on Dec. 6, 2009

Get Involved!

We wish you all a Happy 2010! There are always opportunities for volunteers at the Manse, giving tours to adults and student groups. Make a New Year's resolution to donate a little of your time this year. If you like history and people it's a good fit. Call the Manse at 225-4555 and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Our thanks to Lori Fisher for volunteering to produce the monthly newsletter.

Pierce Brigade Volunteers 2009

Volunteers at the Manse had a very busy and productive year. During the summer season 27 volunteers donated 784 hours to show visitors through the house. This includes time at two open house events in July and August.

Guests touring the Manse numbered 379, coming from 30 of the 50 states and four foreign countries. A total of 231 people attended the two open house events.

2009 school tours included 914 students and 231 adults from 28 schools. Evaluations returned from these schools were overwhelmingly positive.

Total attendance for the Manse in 2009 was 1,745 people. Thank you to all Brigade volunteers for a successful year!

If you can help us save money by receiving this newsletter via e-mail, please call 225-4555 to give us your e-mail address!

Changes at the Manse, cont...

producing the monthly newsletter, developing the membership, special event fundraising, and negotiations with the city of Concord.

It is with great sadness we have learned that all three NHPL staff members would be terminated on November 27, 2009 by the NHPL Board of Directors. The notification left us with little time to work with the staff before their departure due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Our goal was to acquire as much information and instruction as possible to continue all programs, the newsletter, and special events at the same level of quality we have become accustomed to.

NHPL plans to vacate the office space by the end of April. They are looking for an affiliation that fits with their mission to preserve NH's first-in-the-nation primary. At this time it doesn't seem likely that the Pierce Brigade and NHPL will stay affiliated, at least not as outlined in the current legal contract. At some point in the future when the legalities of ending the affiliation between the Brigade and NHPL have been addressed, we may decide to look for an appropriate affilia-

tion for the Brigade. In the meantime we will look into renting either the office space or the small three-room apartment at the Manse. We will try to hold at least two fundraising events in 2010. School group tours and the Brigade lecture series will also continue. We also have meeting room space for 40-50 people, which can be rented out. Brigade officers are now working on a rental fee schedule.

The Brigade was a stand-alone organization for 30+ years before the affiliation with NHPL, and yet we find ourselves in better shape both organizationally and financially from the relationship. We realize we have much to do in a short period of time, and since the Brigade is an all-volunteer organization it is a huge challenge. If you can help in any way, please let us know by calling the Manse at 225-4555. We ask for your patience and above all your support as we wrestle with these profound changes to our organization.