



THE POLITICAL LIBRARY

Preserving New Hampshire's Political Traditions



The Pierce Brigade



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The Political Library and Pierce Brigade Present “Music and Dance of the Early 19th Century”: Local master R.P. Hale performs on harpsichord and grand dulcimer

CONCORD, NH: The Political Library and the Pierce Brigade present “Music and Dance of the Early 19th Century,” a performance by R.P. Hale on Thursday, September 24 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.

Harpsichordist and historian R.P. Hale will present a program, based on period letters and journals, on the kinds of parlor and dance music that were heard in New Hampshire at the beginning of the 1800s. He will use an English-spinnet harpsichord and a grand dulcimer, both of his own construction and derived from historic originals.

R.P. Hale, of Concord, New Hampshire, is an interdisciplinary artist, master calligrapher, historian, craftsman and teacher who combines many of his interests in unusual ways. He continues a long tradition of calligraphers, printers, wood engravers and visual artists in his Mexican-American family heritage. He has built harpsichords and historic instruments since 1976 and was honored by the Smithsonian Institute as one of this country's premier instrument makers and performs extensively around the country.

Hale teaches at St. Paul's School and is on the education staff of the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in astronomy, archaeoastronomy, optics, and spectroscopy; is music-minister/organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Manchester and works with Zuckermann Harpsichords in Connecticut as instrument designer and builder. He is also in charge of craft and folklore instruction for the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, WV, teaching there every summer since 1980, and is a historical re-enactor, specializing in the 1740s period.

“Before the advent of radio, parlor music played an important role in American life,” commented Caroline Amport, Director of Programs for the Political Library. “R.P. Hale is a nationally recognized craftsman and performer and we're thrilled that he will be recreating this important aspect of our cultural heritage as part of the Brigade series.”

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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