

## HARRISON STREET



Samuel Harrison was the first pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Pittsfield who during the Civil War joined the all-Black regiment, the Massachusetts 54<sup>th</sup>, as its chaplain.

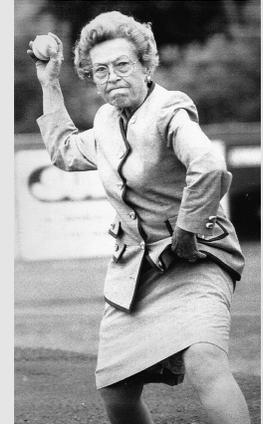
During this day-by-day journey into the history of Pittsfield's street names, a pattern emerges. No people of color grace our street signs; no women are recognized.

This underrepresentation tells its own story, of an era when the contributions of all our citizens were either ignored or invisible. We have long past reached a point to correct the record.

There have been changes to street names in the past. One developer, for example, asked to change the street where he built houses from Kremlin to Lillian Street. Another unsuccessful proposal after JFK's assassination was to drop the name of Oswald Street. And, going back farther, there were numbered streets on Pittsfield's West Side, mirroring First, Second, Third and Fourth Streets on the east side.

Here are a few nominations to correct the history, to honor those people who have served the city and our nation with distinction, but have been overlooked. Imagine if Pittsfield had streets with these names!

## MILLER ROAD



Amy Miller was a mover and a shaker. As President of the Berkshire Athenaeum for 30 years, she led the move to its current site in 1976. As a founder of Hancock Shaker Village, she worked to preserve the village as a museum.

## WOJTKOWSKI STREET



Anne Wojtkowski was the first woman elected Mayor of Pittsfield in 1987. An engineer, she taught at Berkshire Community College for 35 years.

## WITHINGTON ROAD



With her medical degree in hand, Dr. Alfreda Withington started her practice in Pittsfield in 1891. She was the first woman in the Berkshire County branch of the statewide medical society. During the first world war, she moved to Europe to treat tuberculosis victims among the refugees.

## WILSON BOULEVARD

A graduate of Stearns, Crosby and Taconic High School, Stephanie Wilson has flown on three separate NASA shuttle missions, logging more hours in space than any African-American astronaut.



## HART DRIVE



When Margaret Hart started teaching middle school in Pittsfield in 1949, she was the first African-American teacher in all of Berkshire County. She taught here for 26 years and also served as director of the Catholic Youth Center.

## PERSIP STREET

Alfred Persip Sr. decided to enlist in the Army in World War I, his application was rejected in Pittsfield. He was successful in Springfield and assigned to the 372<sup>nd</sup> Colored Regiment which earned the highest French honor, the Croix de Guerre for its bravery. His two brothers, John and Charles, also enlisted.

