All about Jane
Hard life for America's First Lady from Hampton

suffered with tuberculosis, as well as had an eating disorder. Her husband exacerbated her illness because Jane hated politics.

Anthony says even today, letters are surfacing that shows the duality of Jane Pierce’s personality.

“A lot of what’s been written was done so without the privilege of access to her letters and writings,” he says. (1)

While Jane once wrote of hosting an event at the White House as something “to be endured rather than enjoyed,” she also attended several Supreme Court arguments on slavery and was a staunch abolitionist. She even went so far as to convince her husband to release Dr. Charles Robinson, an ardent republican and abolitionist from a Kansas prison. The Pierces were also friendly with Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Davis.

To add to Pierce’s mental and emotional woes she also suffered through the death of all three of her young children.

Franklin Pierce Jr. died just three days after his birth. Frank Robert Pierce would die seven years later at the age of four from epidemic typhus. Ten years later, the third son, Benjamin died at the age of 11 in a tragic railway accident witnessed by his parents. The accident occurred a mere month prior to Franklin’s inauguration.

But Anthony contends that Jane’s suffering began much sooner, as the daughter of Congregational minister and president of Bowdoin College, Jesse Appleton. He is a man Anthony identifies as a “religious zealot.” “She was made to feel responsible for the things that happened to her family,” he says. “Her father would starve himself and by doing so became closer to God. He essentially starved himself to death. Jane’s upbringing could be described as a very severe situation.”

But there was even a duality in Jane’s upbringing as well.

“She was unusually well-educated while being raised in an extraordinarily wealthy family,” Anthony says. “She had the benefit of being raised in a family that valued an intelligent and well-educated woman as much as a man.”

Anthony says a look into the life of Jane Pierce sheds a light on a very dark era in American history.

“It was a dark era, shadowed by strife and the abolitionist movement,” he says. “In a sense she served her times well.”

Easter by the Sea
Ashworth Hotel
on Hampton Beach

Breakfast Buffet
Our sumptuous all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet in the Ashworth Main Dining Room is the perfect place to celebrate Easter with your family and friends. Served Easter Sunday from 8:00am-11:00am.

Holiday Menu
Enjoy the Ashworth’s special holiday menu featuring seasonal favorites such as Honey Baked Ham and Roast Leg of Lamb. Our special Easter menu is served Easter Sunday in the Ashworth Main Dining Room from 12:00pm-8:00pm.

Dinner Buffet
Indulge in our Easter Sunday dinner buffet served in the Ashworth Ballroom. Our all-you-can-eat dinner buffet features assorted salads, delicious entrees, and an extravagant dessert table. Served Easter Sunday from 11:30am-4:00pm.

For Reservations Call
800-345-6736
209 Ocean Boulevard Hampton, NH 03826
603-996-0700 | www.ashworthhotel.com