

Winter

# Jaffrey Historical Society

Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

2018



potluck | pət'ləkl  
noun

used in reference to a situation in which one must take a chance that whatever is available will prove to be good or acceptable : he could take potluck in a town not noted for its hotels.

• a meal or party to which each of the guests contributes a dish : [as adj. ] a potluck supper.

Everything "...available will prove to be good or acceptable..." at the Society's Annual Potluck Supper on...



**Thursday, February 8, 2018 (snow date: Friday, February 9)  
at the Civic Center. Gather at 5:30 p.m. for socializing.  
Supper at 6:00. Program at 7:00. p.m.**

For the Potluck Supper please bring your choice of *hors d'oeuvres*, bread, salad, main dish, sides or dessert. The Society will provide coffee, tea, wine, etc. Please come even if you can't bring a dish.

**IMPORTANT!** Contact **Marcie Manning** at 532-7452 or [mcm9210@gmail.com](mailto:mcm9210@gmail.com) to say you're coming and what you'll bring. Please do so by **February 6th**.

## 'Jaffrey Anniversaries'

**T**HERE have been many Jaffrey Anniversaries celebrated over the years, starting with the Centennial in 1873. The last big one—no apparent notice was taken of the Quinquicentennial in 1898—was a hundred years later in 1973: The Bicentennial. (The next one—the Sestercentennial—is not far away: 2023!) We'll have a slide show of some the past highlights. 🍷🍷🍷

# News of your Society

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT,

**THE PAST** We are dedicated to preserving the history of Jaffrey as did our forbears in town. They recorded what they had learned through research and in listening to older families and friends. They recorded in the only way possible at the time—writing and publishing. They saved documents, photographs, books, tools, paintings, signs, artifacts—things they thought future generations might want to see.

**THE PRESENT** We continue to accept items of interest that have provenance in Jaffrey (and are of a suitable size to store in our archives!). On the second floor of the Jaffrey Library we are re-organizing the Amos Fortune permanent exhibit, taking inventory of Town Reports, Tax Reports, and Yearbooks, hanging portraits, and cleaning glass. Twelve JHS members volunteered to become docents at the Library, allowing the second floor to be open most of the week.

**THE FUTURE** We will mark the 100th anniversary of *My Antonia*, authored by “Willa Cather in Jaffrey,” by co-hosting a musical play by that name on February 11th (see page 7). Another centennial event will be a dramatic production about the Dean Murder to be performed on the anniversary date of August 13th. Requests to host field trips by school groups have been received. We will record oral histories from some of our seniors using audio visual technology. Our exhibit space in the Civic Center and in the Jaffrey Library needs fresh, new displays from our many holdings. Our February program will re-visit our past Jaffrey celebrations as we begin to think about the Sestercentennial in 2023.

Thanks to an active core group the mission of preserving local history and educating future generations is continuing. Many thanks to those who provide hands-on service or generous donations to the JHS. If your membership has not yet extended to active involvement please give me a shout and we’ll put you right to work!

Bruce

**And a reminder.** The Society’s membership year coincides with the calendar year so you may find a 2018 dues envelope enclosed (*if you don’t find an envelope enclosed, that means you’re paid up through 2018*). Please help the Society by paying promptly.

## THE SOCIETY ON THE WEB

- There are two Society websites: Sean Driscoll maintains <http://www.jaffreyhistory.org> and Rob Stephenson maintains <http://www.rs41.org/jhs.htm>
- Voluminous information on the Dean Murder is at: <http://www.deanmurder.org>
- Photographs and other images are on SmugMug at: <https://rs41.smugmug.com/Jaffrey>
- Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JaffreyHS/>



On the Autumn Outing at the Riverside Cemetery in Winchendon. **Bill Driscoll** gives us some background on the Whites who were important figures in the development of textile mills in Winchendon (and Jaffrey). The **Winchendon History & Cultural Center** was the perfect host: our large contingent toured the **Murdock House** and the adjacent **Isaac Morse House**—now a toy museum. We drove around the town coming and going and saw a variety of interesting sights/sites. Some of us enjoyed dinner at the **Glen Caffe**, a fitting conclusion to the Outing. 🍷



The crowd on the Common gathered for the Centennial celebrations on August 20, 1873. The speeches went on all day. Come to the Society’s *Potluck* on February 8 and learn more about anniversaries that Jaffrey has celebrated. 🍷

## Archives

Dick Boutwell, *Chair*

THE Historical Society of Cheshire County will soon open an exhibit on 'MARKETING MONADNOCK' to which the Society is loaning assorted papers, brochures and signs, including a share certificate in the Mineral Springs at the foot of Monadnock along present-day Route 124 (the Springs are still there).

An uncataloged 1838 certificate of ownership for a pew in the Brick Church ('Slip No. 16') was recently discovered in the Archives and has now been properly recorded.

Our Fannie Hillsmith painting—*Early Signs*—was lent to the Thorne-Sangendorph Gallery at Keene State for its recent *Abstracted/Obscured: de Kooning, Dombek, Hillsmith* show.

(The Society accepts any Jaffrey-related items that it does not already possess and that can be stored in one of our three basement rooms.) ☺

## Membership

Marcie Manning, *Chair*

WE ARE saddened by the death of our member **Mary Kidd**. ☹

## Postcard Exhibit

LAST August the Society held an exhibit in the Civic Center auditorium entitled *Dear Friend...Jaffrey Postcards to Here & There*. You can see the show at <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/postcard.pdf>

## Meetinghouse Roof

THE re-roofing of our 1775 Meetinghouse was completed in October. The Society was among the supporters of this effort along with other Jaffrey organizations. LCHIP and Mooseplate grants were also received. It is believed that our meetinghouse is the only one in New Hampshire retaining a wood roof. For photos see <https://rs41.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/Meetinghouse/Roof-Replacement-Progress/> ☹

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS 2018

- **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8:** *Potluck Jaffrey Anniversaries* (see page 1) • **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11:** *Willa Cather musical* (see page 7) • **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23:** *Matchbook Covers from the Collection of Steve Weiner*. Reception 5-6 pm (see page 8) • **THURSDAY APRIL 12:** Program TBD • **A SUNDAY IN JUNE:** A third *cemetery walking tour* (with the Jaffrey Cemetery Committee) Details TBD • **THURSDAY AUGUST 9:** *Annual Meeting & opening reception of the Dean Murder exhibit* • **MONDAY AUGUST 13:** A *Dean Murder Theatrical* premiere at the Meetinghouse • **SUNDAY OCTOBER 14:** *Annual Autumn Outing*. Destination TBD • **October 20-22:** *Willa Cather Weekend* • **THURSDAY DECEMBER 13:** *Annual Christmas Party* with the Civic Center. ☹

## Some Jaffreys Visit Town

WE WERE surprised to meet possibly the first Jaffreys to ever find themselves in Jaffrey when last October **Jonathan Jaffrey** and his daughter **Madison** made an appearance on their way through town. Are they descendants of George? (No. See the next page to learn why.) ☹



## Officers & Committee Chairs

*President:* Bruce Hill • *Vice Presidents:* Charles Turcotte & vacant • *Treasurer:* Kent Royce

*Corresponding & Recording Secretary:* Vicki Arceci • *Archives:* Dick Boutwell

*Exhibits:* Helen Coll • *Genealogist:* Paul St. Pierre • *Hospitality:* Pam Royce • *Little Red Schoolhouse:* Jackie Johnson

*Membership:* Marcie Manning • *Monadnock No. 4:* Bill Driscoll & Dave Kemp • *Publications:* Rob Stephenson

## Directors

2015-2018

Archie Coll  
Emily Preston  
Dan Shattuck  
Betty Shea

2016-2019

Jackie Johnson  
Susan Leach  
Fran McBride  
Karl Putnam

2017-2020

Henry Hammond  
Cathy Proulx  
Pete Sawyer  
Diane Schaumann

## Director Emeritus

Joe Manning

## Past Presidents

Mark Bean • Dick Boutwell • Helen Coll • Bill Driscoll • Owen Houghton

Dave Kemp • Marcie Manning • Kent Royce • Rob Stephenson

## Trustees of the Trust Fund

Mark Bean • Betty Royce • Harvey Sawyer

## Historical Odds 'n Ends

OPPOSITE page 112 of the first volume of *The History of Jaffrey* (1937) there appears a portrait of the HON. GEORGE JAFFREY, attributed to John Singleton Copley. The portrait was, in fact, the work of Joseph Blackburn. Wikipedia tells us that “Joseph Blackburn (d.1787) was an English portrait painter who worked mainly in Bermuda and in colonial America. He...had a studio in Boston in 1750-1765; among his patrons were many important early American families, including the Apthorps, Amorys, Bulfinches, Lowells, Saltonstalls, Winthrops, Winslows and Otises of Boston. Blackburn spent time in...Portsmouth (1758–1762). In late 1763 he returned to London... Approximately one hundred fifty of Blackburn’s portraits survive. He excelled at painting textiles (i.e., representing the shimmer of silks, the texture of laces, and the folds of fabrics).”

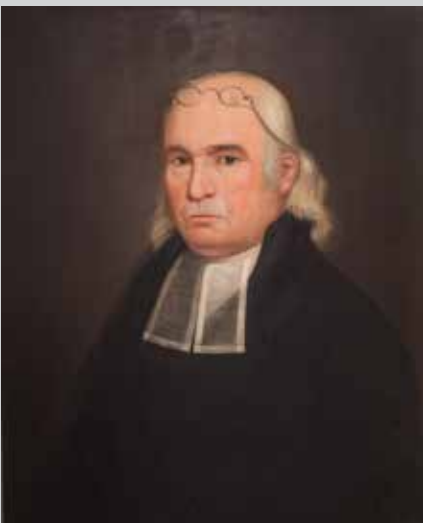


Our George Jaffrey—who famously never visited the town named for him—was the third of that name and was born on February 8, 1717, and died in Portsmouth in 1802. He married Lucy Winthrop; they had no children so the direct Jaffrey line ended there. Blackburn painted George and Lucy in “about 1758.” making George about 41 years old at the time. (They were married in 1858 which may have been the impetus for the paintings.)



The paintings descended in the Jeffries family (George’s nephew was a Jeffries) and were for sale in the late 1970s by the Vose Galleries in Boston for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$15,000. No takers in Jaffrey or New Hampshire. Where are they today? In St. Joseph, Missouri, at the **Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art!** This is what the museum’s annual report for 1978 says: “The most notable gift of art to the museum since it was founded...was the seven American paintings given by the Enid and Crosby Kemper Foundation.” George and Lucy were among the seven and Lucy is pictured in the report. 🐾

ANOTHER painting story has to do with the Town’s first minister and he certainly *did* spend time in Jaffrey, being a presence here into his 100th year (“one hundred years, seven months, and twenty-eight days”).



He was, of course, The Reverend **Laban Ainsworth**. His portrait appears opposite page 204 of the first volume of *The History of Jaffrey*. That image derives from the actual oil portrait still in the possession of the family. Done at the same time was a portrait of his wife, Mary Minot. Who the painter was is unknown. Last summer, the Society retained the services of photographer Chuck Cole to photograph the two paintings for inclusion in the upcoming *Laban Ainsworth: A Life* by Jean Parker Waterbury, due to be published by the Society, with any luck later this year. 🐾



## Some Images from our Collections



Fannie Hillsmith's *Early Signs* which is on display at the Civic Center was loaned to the Thorne-Sangendorph Gallery at Keene State for a recent exhibition. 🐾



A winter scene in Jaffrey Center with the Meetinghouse and the Brick Church. The date and artist are unknown. 🐾



The evidence from the **Dean Murder** Grand Jury. The rope was used to tie up Dr. Dean and the burlap bag was placed over his body before he was thrown into the cistern. The calendar is for 1918 and the pencil entry for August 13 reads "Billie die." Photo: Chuck Cole. 🐾



This clock stands in the Directors Room at the Civic Center. It was made in 1790 and presented to the Rev. **Laban Ainsworth** to celebrate his 80 years as pastor of the First Church. 🐾



**Jule Durant's** trunk. He (1856-1924) was Jaffrey's greatest benefactor, leaving money to the library and the schools (the funds total \$1,171,687 today). He traveled throughout the world pursuing business interests. 🐾

# A Willa Cather Weekend

THIS YEAR marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, one of the truly great American novelists of the early 20th Century. As most of you know well, Cather chose to be buried here in Jaffrey—her “place of inspiration.” Coming each Fall to the Shattuck Inn for nearly twenty years, she worked outside, under a tent and in view of the mountain. Among her many novels and short stories, *My Antonia* (1918) and *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927), still her two most celebrated novels, were written here.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of *My Antonia*, as well as her life and work in general, a WILLA CATHER WEEKEND is being planned for October 20-22. Special guests that weekend will be Ashley Olson, Executive Director of the Willa Cather Foundation, located in Red Cloud, Nebraska, Cather’s family home, and Tracy Tucker, Education Director and Willa Cather scholar. Olson and Tucker will present the Foundation’s new seven-million dollar expansion, creating the National Willa Cather Center with a new museum, visitor center and archival resources.

Laura Bush gave the keynote at the opening last June that also included filmmaker Ken Burns, our Walpole neighbor. Other ideas for the weekend’s program are under discussion. We expect to attract both a local and regional audience of Cather fans.

The JHS Exhibits Committee will also begin work this Spring on a related long term interpretive plan to raise the profile of Willa Cather in Jaffrey. The goal is to provide both a more visible and informative tour of Willa Cather’s grave, workplaces and local friendships as well as more curated resources on Cather’s writing for teachers and students. We’re hoping to preview at least some of these plans at the October gathering. Anyone interested in joining this effort should contact Bruce Hill.

While details of this exciting WILLA CATHER WEEKEND are forthcoming, we are proud to lead this effort in collaboration with our sister organizations as co-hosts: the Jaffrey Public Library, the Jaffrey Civic Center, the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society, the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce and Franklin Pierce University, and with others joining us in the coming months. We are hoping that this event will not only properly honor and commemorate Willa Cather, but will also become an opportunity to showcase the power and impact of a truly joint, collective, community effort. ☘



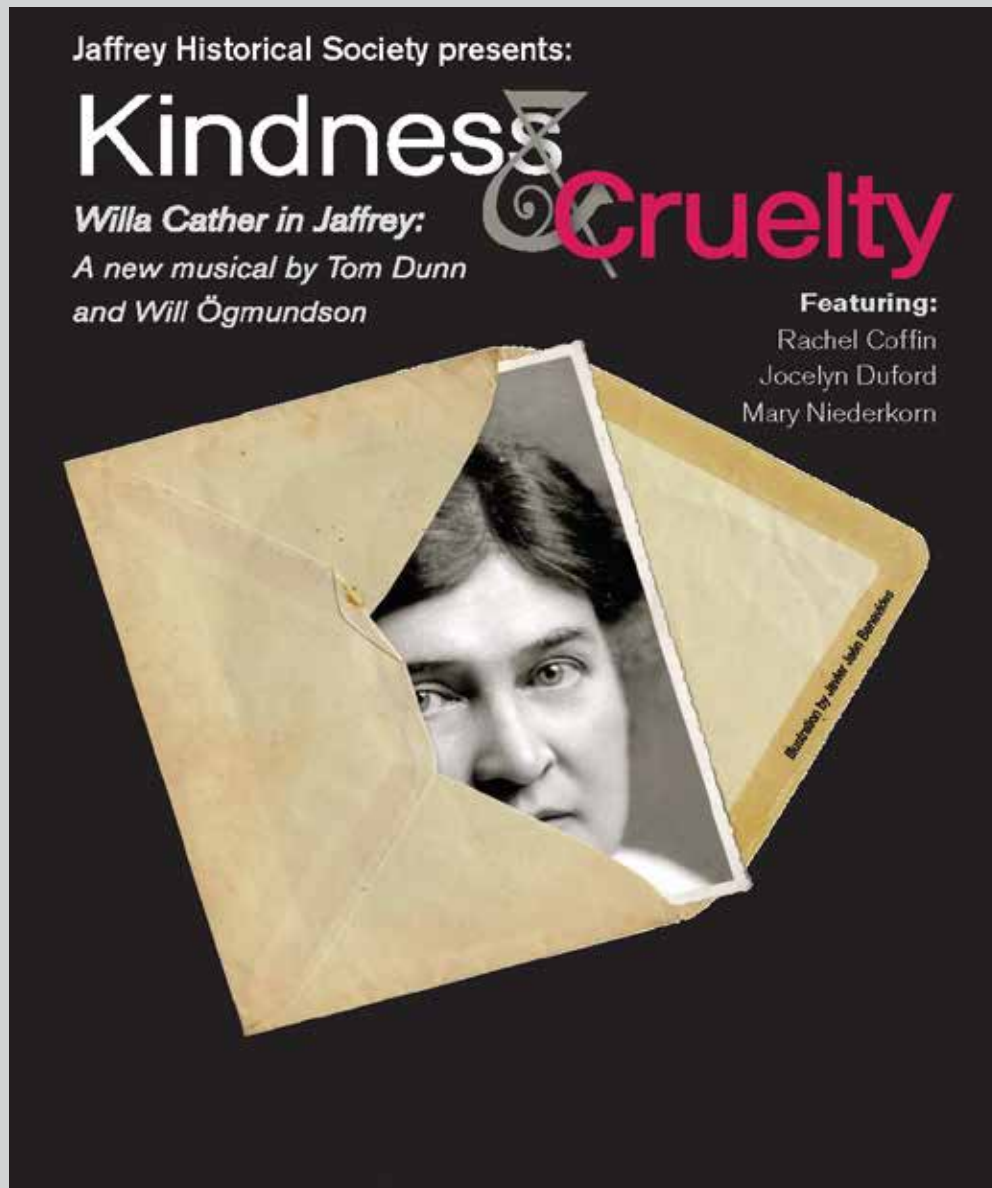
# Willa Cather Returns to Jaffrey!

COME to the Jaffrey Civic Center on **Sunday, February 11**, at **4 pm** for the Alchemists Workshop production of *Kindness & Cruelty... Willa Cather in Jaffrey*. The setting is Willa Cather's room in the Shattuck Inn. Edith Lewis is there, and a maid, a local girl, Nancy, keeps popping in and out. But not only is this set in Jaffrey but it's also a musical! How can you miss *not* coming?

The Society will be co-sponsoring this enticing event with the Jaffrey Civic Center and The Friends of the Jaffrey Library. It will be a fitting reminder that this is the hundredth anniversary of the publication of *My Antonia*, much of which was written in Jaffrey.

An informal discussion will follow the performance along with some refreshments.

There is no need to make a reservation; just come along. But we ask for a donation of at least \$5 to cover the costs. (Check [www.rs41.org/jhs.htm](http://www.rs41.org/jhs.htm) if the weather is questionable.) 🐦



# The Dean Murder at the Meetinghouse

THE CENTENNIAL of Jaffrey's famous and still unsolved murder is fast approaching—**Monday, August 13, 2018**. It was on that night a hundred years ago that Dr. William Dean met his end in his barn off of what is now Dean Farm Road. Many have speculated on who the perpetrator of this heinous crime might have been: books have been written, articles penned, songs composed and podcasts produced. But as yet no play has been performed. But that will soon change. A still unnamed play, now being written by Ken Sheldon of *Frostheaves* fame, will have its world premiere at the Jaffrey Meetinghouse on the actual evening of the anniversary (August 13). The Society is sponsoring this with assistance from the Bean Family Foundation. Look for more information as it develops. In the meantime have a look at the website the Society has created focusing on the murder: [www.deanmurder.org](http://www.deanmurder.org)

By the way, if you or your family happen to have any documents, letters, clippings, etc., pertaining to the murder, we'd love to know about it. Contact our President. 🐣

**Dr. Dean**, around 1908.



## Matchbook Covers from the Collection of Steve Weiner

AS MANY of you know **Steve Weiner** has a gargantuan collection of Matchbook Covers. A tiny portion will be on display at the Civic Center for one month from February 16. The theme of the show is Jaffrey and the Monadnock Region.

The Society will highlight the show with a wine & cheese reception on **Friday, February 23 at 5 pm**. Steve will say a few words about his hobby and the covers on exhibit. He may also divulge some exciting plans for a new Jaffrey museum! 🐣

