

Summer
2022

Jaffrey Historical Society

Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

603-598-0120

Annual Meeting

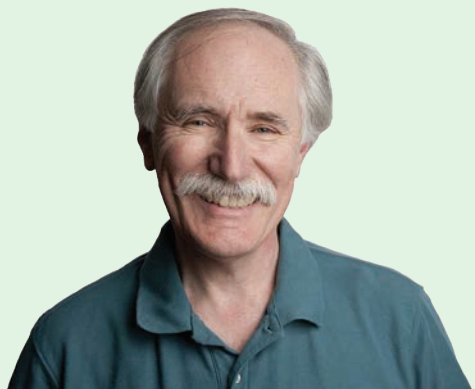
Thursday, August 11, 2022, 3:30PM. Jaffrey Meetinghouse.

COME TO the Society's Annual Meeting to be held at the Jaffrey Meetinghouse. The activities of the past year will be briefly reviewed, the President, Treasurer and Trustees will report, and Officers & Directors will be proposed and elected.

At no later than 4PM Ken Sheldon will present *Deep Water: The Rest of the Story*. Following up the successful launch of his book on the Dean murder, Ken will share more amusing and mystifying anecdotes and observations encountered in the research and writing about Jaffrey's most enduring mystery. His story begins with his one-man play of the same name (premiered right here in the Meetinghouse on August 13, 2018, the centenary of the 'dastardly deed') which led him to tailoring an absorbing book, finally launching it at the Civic Center on July 16th.

Ken made good use of the Society's Archives as he constructed both his play and the book following the twists & turns of this still yet-to-be-solved murder. He will share some photos and stories he didn't have room for in the book, and shed light on the process he followed in stitching this all together. *The result:* The first comprehensive and unbiased account of what people in our town have been ruminating on for over a century.

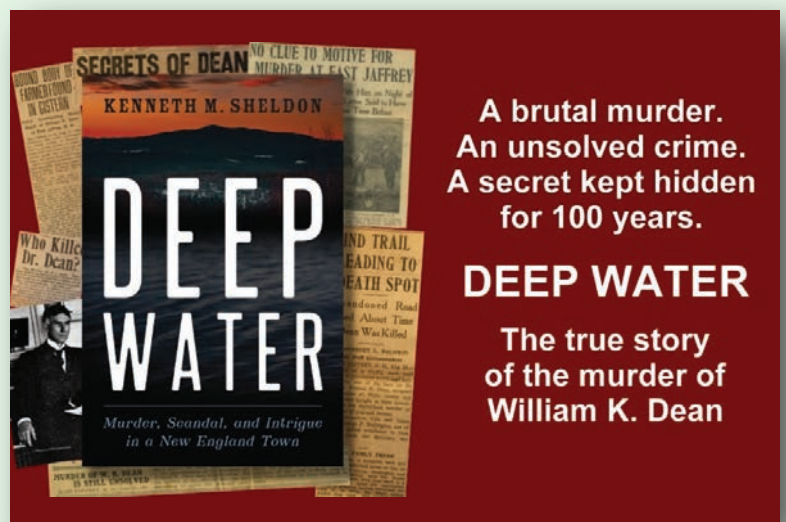
Following the meeting refreshments will be served in the Parish House of First Church. Ken will be there answering questions and selling and signing copies of *Deep Water*. 🍷



What: The Society's Annual Meeting
Where: Jaffrey Meetinghouse
When: Thursday, August 11, 3:30PM



The Meetinghouse just before the 4th of July: newly painted and the Tower extensively repaired inside and out, only the Clock faces to be completed.



More information on *Deep Water* and Ken Sheldon may be found at
<http://www.rs41.org/jhs/dw2.pdf>

Also visit the Society's Dean Murder webpage at
<http://www.deanmurder.org>

And for images go to <https://rs41.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/Dean-Murder>

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT,

I HOPE that all is well and you all are enjoying the summer.

The ANNUAL MEETING will be on August 11th, at 3:30PM at the Meetinghouse, ending our 2021/2022 season. Our guest speaker will be **Ken Sheldon** (of FROST HEAVES fame) who has written *Deep Water*, his non-fiction account of the Dean Murder. Our Society sponsored the work! Ken will entertain us with his insights and unique finds while doing research for the book—odd, funny, and bizarre bits and bloopers. As the saying goes: “The rest of the story.”

The business meeting and Election of Directors & Officers on that afternoon will start our 2022/2023 season. Refreshments will be served in the Parish House of the First Church immediately following our meeting. Ken will have copies of his book to sell and sign and be available for questions.

I want to thank **David Salvatore**, our summer intern in the Archives. He has been working with **Dick Boutwell**, **Bruce Hill** and myself in cataloging, sorting, photographing and making digital entries into our database. Thank you David from all of us at the Jaffrey Historical Society.

I am happy to report that Bruce Hill has been able to secure a grant from the NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE to help us fund repairs of the Monadnock No. 4 firehouse. The work will commence soon, our goal being to complete the work before the end of the year.

As the Society enters its 64th year please come out and

show your support by joining us at the ANNUAL MEETING on the 11th, AUTUMN OUTING on October 16th and the December 8th CHRISTMAS PARTY at the Civic Center. 🍷

Charlie charlie@jaffreyhistory.org

Monadnock 4

Bruce Hill

THE JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY owns the historic building on Main Street in Jaffrey Center known as Monadnock #4, an old fire station housing vintage fire-fighting equipment original to our town.

Recognizing that the building needs some care and maintenance the Society applied for and has been awarded a \$5,850 grant from the NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE and the 1772 FOUNDATION. This grant requires matching funds from the Society. Last year the Board of Directors authorized the expenditure of up to \$10,000 towards this project.

Plans call for excavating the drip line and constructing proper drainage around the building, examining and replacing sills as needed, repairing the clapboard siding, restoring the leaking roof where needed and cleaning the roof of lichen, re-pointing the chimney, securing the doors, painting the building, and upgrading the exhibits inside. The goal is to preserve this important community resource and develop it as a proper museum. We hope to share the history of fire-fighting in Jaffrey with citizens and visitors in this remodeled facility next year for the Jaffrey 250th Anniversary. 🍷

Officers & Committee Chairs

President: Charles Turcotte • *Vice Presidents:* Peter Lambert & Karen Ayers • *Treasurer:* Peter Davis
Corresponding & Recording Secretary: Vicki Arceci • *Archives:* Dick Boutwell • *Exhibits:* Karen Ayers
Genealogist: Carolyn Garretson • *Hospitality:* Cathy Proulx & Diane Schaumann • *Little Red Schoolhouse:* Jackie Johnson
Membership: Marcie Manning • *Monadnock No. 4:* Dave Kemp • *Webmaster:* Sean Driscoll • *Publications:* Rob Stephenson

Directors

2019-2022
 Henry Hammond
 Jackie Johnson
 Susan Leach
 Fran McBride

2020-2023
 Marty Harris
 Cathy Proulx
 Karl Putnam
 Diane Schaumann

2021-2024
 Sean Driscoll
 Betty Shea

Director Emeritus

Joe Manning

Past Presidents

Dick Boutwell • Helen Coll • Bruce Hill • Owen Houghton
 Dave Kemp • Marcie Manning • Kent Royce • Rob Stephenson

Trustees of the Trust Fund

Clay Hollister • Betty Royce • Harvey Sawyer

Archives

Dick Boutwell, *Chair*

IN RECENT MONTHS several items have been donated to the Archives: Conant High School Washington, D.C., trip and class photographs, two World War II ration books (Cynthia Hamilton); Llewellen LaPage 1940's membership certificates (Randy Cournoyer); 1945 Conant High School Washington, D.C., trip photograph and a Conant yearbook, 1945 graduation program, numerous obituaries (Cathy Proulx); 1951 *Union Leader* photograph of Charles Burrage, Monadnock State Park Superintendent (Nashua Historical Society); two-volume 1996 Peterborough Town History (Rob Stephenson); signed presentation copy of *Deep Water*, by Ken Sheldon (gift of the author).

David Salvatore, a senior majoring in anthropology at Franklin Pierce University, is working in the Archives this summer as an intern. He has tackled a few different tasks including photographing many items from our collections for inclusion in our voluminous database of holdings. Here he examines an antique firearm with Chief Archivist **Dick Boutwell**. 🍷



Membership

Marcie Manning, *Chair*

WE ARE SORRY to report the deaths of **Mrs. Stephen Bradley, Clifford Ellston, Ross Gauthier, Emily Preston** and **Travis Shattuck**.

We welcome new members **Eleanor & Thomas Ahlborn-Hsu, Mike Buckley**, and **Rev. Steve Miller & Jill Tyler**. Our membership now stands at 158 (we're the largest town historical society in the county).

If you receive a membership envelope with this newsletter it means that your dues haven't been received yet. Please renew your membership!

ABOUT 60 years ago a group of Jaffrey citizens were concerned about keeping Jaffrey's history alive so the Jaffrey Historical Society became a reality.

These citizens have passed on or are aging so we need new blood to keep the Society going. Now it is up to newer generations to step up and keep our town history alive.

Please consider joining us with your membership; you can put in as much of your time as you see fit. Many of you have busy schedules and may not be able to assist now, but there will be a time when you are perhaps more available and can do your share. In the meantime, you can help out financially and keep your name on our list as a member. 🍷

Little Red Schoolhouse

Jackie Johnson, *Chair*

MEMBERS are reminded that the Little Red Schoolhouse on the Common is open on weekends through August, Saturday & Sunday, 2-4PM. It will also be open on the 11th of August from 1PM during the annual First Church Fair.

Later this season the windows & sills will be painted, courtesy of member Dennis Wright. 🍷

Exhibits

Karen Ayers, *Chair*

WORSHIP has been an integral component of the Jaffrey community for almost 250 years. The Meetinghouse, First Church of Jaffrey, those with permanent buildings, those that have a temporary settings, those that transformed a Main Street store and those that are no more, church is part of the fabric of the people and culture of Jaffrey.

From August 5 to September 17, 2022, the annual Jaffrey Historical Society exhibit at the Jaffrey Civic will feature **THE CHURCHES OF JAFFREY**.

All are encouraged view this exhibit. 🍷

Black Heritage Trail

SOCIETY MEMBERS Owen Houghton and Peter Lambert are working on a proposed marker to commemorate **Amos Fortune** similar to others in New Hampshire as part of the Black Heritage Trail initiative. The location, design and text are yet to be determined. 🍷

The Year in Review

During 2021-22 the Society presented or co-sponsored the following programs, events and exhibits:

Exhibits

THE SOCIETY'S annual exhibit for 2021 at the Civic Center (September 11–October 23) presented JAFFREY WORTHIES. For 2022 (about to open) the theme will be THE CHURCHES OF JAFFREY (August 5–September 17).

VINTAGE VALENTINES in February 2021 showcased items from the Society's collections as well as cards and memorabilia from members. At the Jaffrey Public Library, CONANT HIGH SCHOOL 150—YEARS & COUNTING was followed by RELAX AND HAVE FUN! focusing on recreational sites in Jaffrey 🍷



Annual Meeting

THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING was held at the new Park Theatre, its premiere event. The usual business was conducted, followed by a talk by **Steve Jackson** on the Park Theatre and its re-birth on Main Street. 🍷



Autumn Outing

OUR 2021 AUTUMN OUTING was to Swanzeey. Our large entourage visited the Historical Museum, Whitcomb Hall, Mt. Caesar Cemetery and drove through one of the town's four covered bridges. We topped it off with hearty dinner at THE INN AT EAST HILL FARM. 🍷



Annual Christmas Party

AS WE HAVE for some years now the Society and the Civic Center came together for our festive holiday gathering in December. The food, drink and good cheer are always memorable. 🍷

Potluck

OUR always popular annual POTLUCK (re-scheduled to April 21) was well-attended and when all appetites were well sated **Charlie Turcotte** told us all about Boston's ZAKIM BRIDGE and his role in its construction. 🍷



Fourth Graders

THE FOURTH GRADE class visited the Meetinghouse, Little Red Schoolhouse and Melville Academy on June 6, 2022. Thanks go out to the members of the Society who participated as docents and greeters.

Schoolhouse docents were Joe & Marcie Manning; Melville Academy docents, Suze & Ken Campbell; Meetinghouse docents, Charlie Turcotte, Henry Hammond & Jan Weekes. 🍷



Cemetery Tour

THE FIFTH cemetery walking tour featured **St. Patrick Cemetery**. An enthusiastic crowd showed up despite the sultry temperatures. The Society, along with the Jaffrey Cemetery Committee, has now led tours of all of Jaffrey's cemeteries with the exception of the Smallpox Cemetery. There's talk about starting all over again with the Old Burying Ground, focusing on 12 new Jaffrey Worthies.

Copies of the handout Guide (and all the previous ones) may be found online at <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/tours.htm> 🍷



The Fourth of July

Now in its 22nd year, the annual reading of **The Declaration of Independence** was held in the Meetinghouse at noon. This patriotic event—co-sponsored by the Society, the VIS, the Meetinghouse Committee and the Historic District Commission—is always well attended. The Society's Little Red School House was open and the Seagrave Fire Engine was on site!

All spring, right up to a day or so before the 4th of July, there was substantial activity at the Meetinghouse, especially the Tower which was painted from top to bottom. Deteriorated wood high up was replaced, new treads & risers were added to the interior stairs, plaster repairs were undertaken, new metal roofing was added above the bell stage, the clock hands & numerals were removed and are now being repaired/re-gilded, to be re-installed later this summer. And the south facade has been painted, the first time in several years. Half

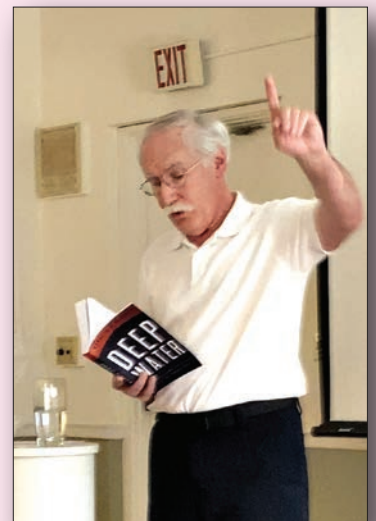


of the project cost is being paid by an LCHIP grant and \$10,000 has been obtained through the NH Moose Plate program. Individuals and organizations, including your Society, have made generous donations to this major effort. 🍷

For full information on the project go to <http://www.rs41.org/Meetinghouse/tower.htm>

Deep Water Launch

THE CIVIC CENTER saw an overflow crowd on July 9th for the launch of **Ken Sheldon's** new book on the Dean Murder, *Deep Water*. Ken read excerpts and presented copies to Linda Bean and Rob Stephenson, for the Society (the Bean Foundation supported Ken's efforts through your Society). Lots of interesting questions were asked and answered. Ken sold and signed many copies. You can learn more about the researching & writing of the book at the Annual Meeting on August 11th. 🍷



Upcoming Society Programs & Events



JAFFREY 250 Anniversary Calendar

IN CELEBRATION of the 250th anniversary of incorporation of Jaffrey as a Town the Steering Committee (JHS representatives: Vicki Arceci, Bruce Hill, Peter Lambert) has planned the following tentative calendar of events:

JAFFREY 250 PARTICIPATION

AS PART of the Jaffrey 250 celebration the Society needs to be a significant presence in the August 19th GRAND PARADE.

We have many artifacts from our collections to draw upon: Two antique hearses, the 1931 Seagrave fire engine, the giant Dutton Rifle, etc.

What we need are 'all hands on deck' to have this come to fruition: obtaining trailers, constructing a float, et al.

Please contact **Karen Ayers** if you can lend a hand or pass on ideas. (603-731-6185 or kbanh43@yahoo.com) 🍷

October 15, 2022	Octoberfest
October 22	Scarecrows on the Common
December 2	Holiday Lighting on the Common
January 2023	Jubilee Ball
February	Winter Carnival
March	Maple Syrup; St. Patrick's Day Parade
June 17	Salute to Jaffrey Veterans
July	Invitational Fire Muster; Visual Art Exhibit & Sale
July 29	Riverfest; French Canadian Festival
August	Golf Event
August 12	Deep Water, command performance, Park Theatre
August 17	Commemoration Event
August 18	Special Concert & Fireworks
August 19	Grand Parade
August 20	Inter-faith Service

January 1 – August 15, 2023:

Anniversary Mountain Climb - open registry
Conant High School Graduates - open registry
First Settlers ancestors - open registry
More details to follow!

SUMMER FAIR



THE SUMMER FAIR in Jaffrey Center will be on Wednesday, August 3rd, from 1 until 4PM. Although sponsored by the First Church in Jaffrey, the Fair is managed by members of the community at large and shares the profits equally between the Church and non-profit social services in town. The venues in and around the Meetinghouse and the Church include antiques & collectibles, white elephant, fine art, garden treasures, tools & electronics, and a bakery. A children's section of games and activities will be in the horsesheds behind the Meetinghouse. A take away picnic lunch will be available at 12:30, and a hot dog stand will be open all afternoon. This, the 105th annual Fair, is open to all and sales are cash or check only. 🍷

Looking ahead — Upcoming Society Programs & Events

AUGUST 5-SEPTEMBER 17: *The Churches of Jaffrey*, a Society exhibit at the Civic Center • **THURSDAY AUGUST 11:** *Jaffrey Historical Society Annual Meeting* Jaffrey Meetinghouse 3:30PM • **SUNDAY OCTOBER 16:** *Annual Autumn Outing* (Fort at No. 4, Charlestown) • **THURSDAY DECEMBER 8:** *Annual Christmas Party* with the Civic Center 5:30-7PM • **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2023:** Annual Potluck, Civic Center • **THURSDAY APRIL 13,** Society Program Details TBD • **JUNE,** Society Program Details TBD • **THURSDAY AUGUST 10:** *Jaffrey Historical Society Annual Meeting.* Details TBD 🍷

The Carolyn Parrott Collection

In 2009 Carolyn Parrott of Hopkinton donated to the Society 15 photographs that mostly date to 1923 and focus on the 150th Anniversary of Jaffrey (Sesqui-Centennial). Here are a few of them.

The entire collection may be seen at <https://rs4l.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/JHS/Parrott-Photos>



Billings House. Note the Watering Trough at the far right, the Town Elm and the Bandstand, and the Jaffrey Mills beyond.



Boy Scouts lined up on Main Street. Note a bit of the Park Theatre on the left.



"Indians" whooping it up in front of the Library. We won't be doing this in 2023!



Dr. Frederick Sweeney in the Parade. He came to Jaffrey in 1897 and practiced as a physician for many years. Among his patients was Willa Cather who made use of his diary in her book *One of Ours*.



Joe Donahue, Leader of the Sesqui-Centennial. He served in the Mexican Border Conflict and in World War I. For 26 years he was Marshal of Jaffrey's Memorial Day exercises.



The Granite State Hotel, where the Police Station now stands. This was the third iteration of the hotel which burned down the same year as the Sesqui-Centennial.

Looking Back: Jaffrey's Quartoseptcentennial 1948.

TOWNS like people have birthdays and anniversaries but those of the former are measured in terms of quarter and half centuries. In 1873 Jaffrey observed its Centennial and in 1923 its Sesquicentennial anniversaries, both appropriately celebrated. In August, 1948, the 175th anniversary celebration took place.

With minds focused ahead on a more ambitious celebration in 1973 on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town, Jaffrey could not let the 175th anniversary, as a milestone in its history, pass unobserved. The idea of a celebration first came to a group of

citizens at a time when it was too late to bring the matter before the voters at the annual town meeting in March. There remained one thing to do: To ascertain the consensus of the townspeople in regard to such a celebration.

A community meeting was held in Firemen's Hall on the evening of May 24th, over which Charles F. Hart, president of the Jaffrey Outing Club, presided. Preliminary plans to hold a celebration were made and Alice E. E. Lehtinen was chosen general chairman for the event. Helen M. Adams was named clerk and, with Ferdinand Gordon and Carl A. Butler, a committee to publicize the event.

The celebration was held during the weekend of August 20 to 22, with events scheduled for each day. It was a perfect weekend weatherwise. The festivities opened Friday afternoon with a tea and reception held by the Village Improvement Society from two to five o'clock in the Old Meeting House at Jaffrey Center. During the afternoon Melville Academy was opened to the public with many persons visiting the old schoolhouse and its museum of relics of bygone days in Jaffrey. Many of the fine old homes opened their doors to the public during the afternoon.

On Friday evening the Amos Fortune Forum had as its rival a gala anniversary ball in Union Hall with Willy Letourneau's orchestra providing the music.

Saturday, August 21st, was the big day. At nine o'clock that morning a colorful parade assembled at the American Legion Hall and the village streets became scenes of lively activity. It was estimated that probably as many as five thousand persons were on hand to witness the event. Floats were entered by the civic and fraternal organizations, and by businessmen and individuals. The parade was in four divisions: Civic, industrial, historical, and individual. Particular emphasis was placed on the children's part in the anniversary as they would be the ones planning the bi-centennial in 1973. The children's part of the parade consisted of decorated doll carriages and bicycles, a mock wedding, and a toy band, arranged by Mrs. Dorothy Nute and Mrs. Bernice Deschenes. Four out-of-town bands participated in the long parade procession: The Murdock High School Band of Winchendon, Massachusetts, the

Florence Band of Gardner, Massachusetts, the Simplex Time Recorder Band, also of Gardner, and the Red Men's Band of Manchester, New Hampshire.

The parade route was along Peterborough Street to Main Street, then east on Turnpike to Baptist Common, to Stratton Road, then down Main Street to River Street to Charlonne Street, then north to Main Street and down the business section by the reviewing stand between the Common and War Memorial, thence returning to Legion Hall by way of Turnpike and Oak Street.

After the parade the scene shifted to the historical program at the judges' reviewing stand. Welcoming remarks were made by Miss Lehtinen, who introduced the participants: Delcie D. Bean who made appropriate remarks; Douglas Sloane, of the Cathedral of the Pines, who awarded the prizes; State Senator Jason C. Sawyer who addressed the crowd on the growth of the town; and V.F.W. Department Commander Raymond Chase of Dover, N. H., who presented the local unit with a plaque for its community service. Invocation was by Rev. Roger W. Floyd. Besides Mr. Sloane, the judges were Joan Marean, Alice Draper, George B. Farnham. Working with chairman Andrew Bussiere on the parade committee were Louis Rondina, George Robinson, Charles F. Hart, George McInnis, Mrs. Nute and Mrs. Deschenes.

Other features that day included two afternoon ball games at Humiston Field, and a softball game in the evening. A water carnival for the children was held at

Contoocook Lake with the playground supervisor Walter Simcock and Fletcher Taft in charge.

A band concert was held in the evening on the common. United States Representative Sherman Adams of Lincoln, N. H., was the evening speaker and centered his address on the town, its leading figures, and memorable events. Two dances, a square dance in the Old Meeting House and a modern dance in Union Hall, wound up the day's program. A music committee consisted of Hubert S. O'Neil, Emerson Williams, and Wilfred Letourneau. 🍷



Alice Lehtinen, Jaffrey historian and general chairman of the 175th anniversary celebration.