



Annual Fall Outing

By Sean Driscoll

The Society's Fall Outing will be a visit to our neighbors at the Rindge Historical Society on Sunday, October 20. Despite both our physical and historical proximity (both towns, for example, were once part of Rowley Canada), the society hasn't visited Rindge since 1995. Since then, the Rindge Historical Society has acquired the Freeborn Stearns House and turned it into an excellent museum. On display in the museum are many items that once belonged to Revolutionary War veteran Eleazer Blake, including his powder horn, some continental currency notes, and his discharge paper signed by George Washington.

The walls are decorated with maps, samplers, portraits, and a copy of the town's charter. Like us they have dresses, uniforms, and textiles on display, but at the heart of their museum is a stunning assortment of housewares collected by Rindge resident Mary Lee Ware, who began soliciting Rindge residents for donations in the late 1800s. Of particular interest to JHS members are a document of indenture signed by George Jaffrey and the hand painted sleigh of our own William Dean.

The outing will leave from the Jaffrey Civic Center parking lot at 1:00 pm. We will visit the museum first (24 School St, Rindge), then the Rindge Meetinghouse, which still houses the First Congregational Church of Rindge, and finally, the Meetinghouse Cemetery, wherein the aforementioned Eleazer Blake and Rindge's first resident, Captain Abel Platts, are buried. Custom dictates that we take a meal together at the end of the outing, so the society has reserved some tables at La Piñata Mexican Grill on Hadley Road, Jaffrey for 4:00 PM.



*A display inside the Rindge Historical Society's Museum.
Photo Credit: Sean Driscoll*

If you plan on joining us, please register by emailing sean@jaffreyhistory.org. Those planning to attend can also prepare for the outing by visiting the Rindge Historical Society's web site at: <https://www.rindgehistoricalsociety.org/>

Society News

Warfield Bird Reception

The Warfield Bird Collection Exhibition has been a great success! Around 75 people attended the Opening Reception on August 17, and over 200 visitors have stopped in as of mid-December. This is one of our most successful displays ever!



Guests at the Warfield Bird Reception enjoy food, camaraderie... and of course the birds! Photo Credit: Peter Lambert

After the exhibition is over, many of the Warfield Birds will remain on display in our downstairs Display Rooms. Although we do not have the space to display all of them at the present time, we will for as many as possible, given space and aesthetic considerations.

We also still have plenty of Warfield merchandise available for sale! Your Society created calendars, mugs, ornaments, notecards, and the like and they have been flying off the shelves. You can still purchase them at the Civic Center, and at the upcoming Civic Center Christmas Craft Fair.

- Warfield Collection Merchandise -

Ornament	\$15	Coaster Set (4)	\$16
Bookmark	\$2	Mug	\$12
Postcards	\$1	Notecard Set (6)	\$20
	Calendar	\$28	



Warfield Collection merchandise is still available! Photo Credit: Jeanne Duval

COMING IN DECEMBER

The Society is sponsoring a **Christmas Village display** in the downstairs Exhibit Room. Free admission! The 64 square foot display, with dozens of lit buildings and a moving train, will up from mid-November through early January.

The Society will have a sales table at the **Civic Center Craft Fair** on December 7 from 10-2.

Our annual **Holiday Party** will be December 12, 5 pm!

Fête de Noël Concert December 1 (see back page for details)



Rufus Porter Murals Celebrate 200 Years

By Dick Boutwell

Col. Benjamin Prescott peers across the room at the Civic Center where his dark portrait hangs. His view is of Main Street, once known as the Third New Hampshire Turnpike. He holds a scroll, possibly the proposal Benjamin worked on, getting the turnpike to run through Jaffrey. He succeeded and the 1799 charter was approved. It benefitted the town greatly, opening Jaffrey to decades of commerce and growth. It benefitted Col. Prescott as well. In 1803 he and son Oliver built a large brick tavern with 16 rooms on the turnpike, not far West of the tollgate and across Turnpike Road from today's MilliporeSigma plant. The inn served travelers for many decades.

Two hundred years ago, during the third decade of the turnpike's operation, a wagon with paints, brushes, stencils and other paraphernalia needed by a mural painter rolled up to Prescott Tavern. It was Rufus Porter, the itinerant artist who travelled widely in New England. It is uncertain how long he stayed, but when Porter departed, there was a 7 by 15-foot mural of a harbor scene painted on a wall of the Taproom which came to be called the Painted Room. There is no certainty regarding whether all four walls were decorated or only one. But the scene on that wall exists to this day.

Prescott Tavern changed hands one time but the original name carried on. Prescott Inn was offered for sale in the 1930s with no takers. Contents were sold at auction in 1938. In 1945 A. Erland Goyette of Peterborough bought the harbor scene painting (for many years thought to be Boston, now to be Portland) cutting it out of the wall, and displayed it in his Americana Museum. The inn was razed in 1950 for its bricks and valuable wood paneling.

The Goyette Museum closed in 1960 when Erland died. His widow dispersed the numerous items in the collection over the ensuing years. The Marriott Corporation purchased the harbor mural in 1979. Christy Cunningham, an expert trained in Italy in the restoration of frescos, was engaged to bring the piece to



Anne Pelletier Leys from Jaffrey visits the Rufus Porter Mural at the Long Wharf Marriott, 1992. Photo Courtesy Dick Boutwell.

presentable condition. When the work was completed in 1982 it was displayed in a lobby of the new Long Wharf Boston Marriott Hotel where it was viewed for 25 years. The Marriott donated the work to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in 2007.



The archives recently received nine Conant yearbooks donated by Mary Robinson Pelletier – our largest yearbook donation to date. Thank you!

UPCOMING DATES

- October 3: Executive Board Meeting
- October 20: Annual Outing, Rindge
- November 7: Executive Board Meeting
- November 14: Board of Director's Meeting
- Thanksgiving - New Year's: Christmas Village
- December 1: Fete de Noel Concert
- December 12: Christmas Party, 5 pm

A French Canadian Christmas Concert



Josée Vachon

Patrick Ross



A Fête de Noël

Sun. December 1, 2024 • 2pm



TICKETS \$25 • 12 & UNDER \$12
19 MAIN ST • JAFFREY NH
(603) 532-8888 • THEPARKTHEATRE.ORG



NEW ENGLAND'S UNIQUE SHOWPLACE FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE & FILM

*This concert is sponsored by the Jaffrey Historical Society,
along with Cournoyer Funeral Home and Rainflow, Inc.
Tickets are \$25/\$12 kids and are available at
theparktheatre.org*

JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
40 MAIN STREET
JAFFREY, NH 03452

Place
Stamp
Here

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