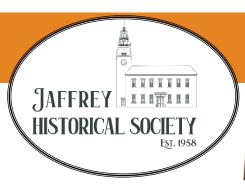
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Fall Newsletter October 2025

"...To study, interpret, protect, and promote the history of Jaffrey, New Hampshire."

Off to....

By Sean Driscoll

he Fall Outing this year will be a trip to Hancock, NH on Sunday, October 19. We will visit the Hancock Historical Society and their museum, which sits near the center of town in a handsome brick building built in 1808 for Charles Symonds.



The Hancock Historical Society. Courtesy Photo.

The museum houses a collection of furniture, china, glass, militaria, musical instruments, tools, maps, manuscripts, photographs, paintings, and samplers. All of the items are well labeled and attractively displayed. The Hancock Historical Society is in the process of building a new room for archives. Hopefully, we can pick their brains about the new project.

We will also visit the Hancock Meetinghouse Hall, built in 1820 after fire destroyed the original Hancock Meetinghouse. Like Jaffrey and Fitzwilliam, the Hancock Meetinghouse Hall has a steeple modeled after the one Elias Carter built in Templeton, Massachusetts. It hosts a porch that contains triple doors and a Palladian window. Like Rindge, the Meetinghouse in Hancock is used by both the town and the Congregational Church.

The Town of Hancock was first settled by colonists in 1764. In 1779 it was separated from Peterborough and incorporated as "Hancock" in honor of John Hancock, President of the Continental

Congress, who owned over 1,000 acres of land in town. The Hancock Historical Society, was founded in 1903 and has been preserving the town's history ever since. Today Hancock is known for being home to the Harris Center, a site on the NH Black Heritage Trail, and a Very Long Baseline Array radio telescope, one of 10 in the world.

The outing will start from the Civic Center at 2:00 PM. Directions will be available. Parking at the Hancock Historical Society is limited, so carpooling is



encouraged. Around 4:00 PM we will depart Hancock and head to **Kogetsu** at Noone's Falls in Peterborough for a meal.

So that we may get an accurate number of people for both the outing and the meal, please email either Sean Driscoll (sedris@mac.com) or Vicki Arceci (arcecifamily@myfairpoint.net) BY OCTOBER 11 to let them know you plan to attend. To see the Kogetsu menu, please go to https://www.kogetsuatnoonefalls.com/.



IN MEMORIAM

Kent Royce (1934-2025) Past President of the JHS

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

By Peter Lambert

In August, the JHS held its 67th Annual Meeting at the Jaffrey Civic Center. Thank you to all who attended. After some delicious refreshments, the Society took up its annual business. Welcome to new directors Sheila Girbach, Weltha Barker, Dawn Cournoyer, and Jan Weekes. Thanks to the outgoing directors – Fran McBride, Ray Record, and Jeanne Duval - for their service to the Society.

Five amendments to the bylaws were passed unanimously. Most of these dealt with tighter oversight of the Society's finances and clarifying language in the bylaws themselves.



I promise it was a fun meeting! Photo Credit: Vicki Arceci

After the business meeting was concluded, Rob Stephenson gave a brief presentation Jaffrey's former seats of government. We then had a special preview tour of the new Jaffrey Town Hall by Town Manager Ion Frederick. It is truly an asset to the town, and we thank Ion and the other town employees making this special tour possible.

In my remarks at

the Annual Meeting, I mentioned my two goals for this year. The first is a larger, more active membership. The strength of the JHS lies in its members. However, there are many people in town who are either unaware of us, our activities and programs, or our location. To many, a "historical society" brings to mind a stuffy, exclusive, and perhaps somewhat stodgy organization – and that's not true at all! We welcome all – whether they live in Jaffrey, used to live here, or are just interested in what this town is about.

I would like to increase our membership to include more young people, families, and business in town. I would also like members to take a more active role in some of our activities. If you would like to join a committee to help out with the archives, create displays, volunteer at the Little Red Schoolhouse or Monadnock #4, or a myriad of other projects, we would truly welcome your involvement! Just drop us an email and we'll put your talents to good use!

My second goal for this year is to find the JHS a new home. The Civic Center has been our home since the 1960s,

and the relationship has been a good and beneficial one. But alas, we have outgrown our basement and need a more

spacious, modern, and safe environment for ourselves and our holdings.

Earlier this year the Board of Directors commissioned Alan Rumrill of the Historical Society of Cheshire County to study our Society and make some general

recommendations. You can read it in full on our website,

www.jaffreyhistory.org.

One thing is clear - a new home is needed. We will carefully look at our finances, possible expenditures, possible fundraising efforts, and location opportunities.



Volunteer Randy Cournoyer, along with Charlie Turcotte, is reorganizing the JHS collection of vintage hand tools. Photo Credit: Bruce Hill

Some locations previously considered are no longer options – but hopefully, there will be exciting news in the near future.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

James & Sara Norby Nate Townsend

VANISHED VETERANS

An Illustrated Introduction to NH's Civil War Monuments and Memorials

A program by historian
George Morrison
Co-sponsored by the
Friends of the Library and the JHS

Free of Charge

Registration encouraged on the Jaffrey Library website or use this QR code.



Saturday, October 18 11 am Jaffrey Public Library



ARCHIVES NEWS

By Bruce Hill

fter the 1938 hurricane the Monadnock Garden Club undertook the establishment of a typical collection of woodland plant material. A beautiful bit of natural woodland with a bog, a brook and a wide variety of forest trees is the setting for this. 163 varieties of flowering plants, 49 shrubs, and 31 ferns, grouped for beauty and ecological relation have been assembled and labelled.

Many were rescued from lumbering and road widening operations while others were raised by members and a few were purchased. This project is known as the Bog Garden on the Spaulding Trail in Monadnock State Park.



The JHS has received a framed map of this Bog Garden, hand drawn by artist Pauline Hatfield Bittinger in 1941, and presented to Ruth McKendry Draper for her efforts in designing the Garden. The map was given to JHS by Liz MacEachran of Sharon and will complement our large wooden sign from the Spaulding Trail. We salute the Monadnock Garden Club as they celebrate 100 years of good deeds.



Items Photo Credit: Bruce Hill

We have many plates, dishes, and cups imprinted with the classic photo of the Half Way House on Mt. Monadnock. But we recently discovered this unusual item among our acquisitions. Thanks to Marty Harris we know what practical purpose it served. Can you guess what it is? See the answer on our website: www.jaffreyhistory.org.

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS

Many thanks to Jackie Johnson for all the years she volunteered her time dedicating many days at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The JHS and friends appreciate all she did to make the LRSH a welcoming place for Jaffrey residents and visitors. Thanks Jackie.

This season the LRSH opened its doors to more than 300 visitors. Our busiest days were the 4th of July and the day of the First Church Fair. We were very happy to host the fourth grade from the Jaffrey Grade School for their annual visit to Jaffrey Center to see and learn about our town's early days. We invite you all to visit us again next summer. - Cathy Proulx



Cathy Proulx and Dick Boutwell hosting at the LRSH. Photo Credit: Cathy Proulx





Left: Marilyn Simons organizing our library. Right: Marty Harris inventorying artifacts from the Hurlin estate. Photo Credit: Bruce Hil

We have a full complement of volunteers working in the archives! Many thanks to Randy Cournoyer, Charlie Turcotte, Vicki Arceci, Marilyn Simons, Meg Gourley, Marty Harris, Marcie Manning, and Diane Given.

UPCOMING DATES

October 18: Civil War Monuments Presentation,

October 19: Annual Outing, Hancock

November 6: Executive Committee Meeting

November 13: Board of Directors Meeting

November 19 - December 20: Christmas Village Display

December 4: Executive Committee Meeting

December 11: Holiday Party

December 13: Currier & Ives Cookie Tour

January 8: Executive Committee Meeting

January 15: Board of Directors Meeting



This year's JHS Christmas Village

ICC November 19-December 20!

December 13 the JHS will once again participate in the Currier

& Ives Cookie Tour. Last year we handed out almost 300

cookies to visitors to our home! We'll need volunteer bakers!

Email <u>prlambert76@yahoo.com</u> for more info. We'll provide

you with the official 1HS cookie recipe!

laffrey Historical Society Officers and Directors

President: Peter Lambert

Vice Presidents:

Sean Driscoll - Vicki Arceci

Recording Secretary: Meg Gourley

Corresponding Secretary:

Lyn Lambert

Treasurer: Peter Maki

Directors

2023-2026

Lyn Lambert - Cathy Proulx Karl Putnam - Diane Schaumann

2024-2027

Judith Goff - Bob Schaumann Betty Shea - Jan Weekes

2025-2028

Weltha Barker - Dawn Cournoyer Sheila Girbach - Jackie Johnson

Genealogist:

Carolyn Garretson

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Betty Royce (2023-2026)

Mike Shea (2024-2027)

Charlie Turcotte (2025-2028)

Archivists

Dick Boutwell

Bruce Hill Assistant

JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY **40 MAIN STREET** JAFFREY, NH 03452



REMINDER: Please send changes of address, current email, etc. to Marcie at: mcm603532@gmail.com