

Winter

Jaffrey Historical Society

Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

2019



potluck | pät'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 14, 2019 at the Civic Center. (*No snow date because of conflicts.*) 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 to say you're coming and what you'll bring. Please do so by **February 8th**.

'The Great Molasses Flood'

A HUNDRED years ago—on January 15, 1919—one of the more bizarre episodes in Boston's history resulted in the deaths of 21 people and even more horses, the destruction of numerous buildings and the crushing of the elevated railroad. A 40-foot wave of molasses inundated the North End neighborhood and some claim evidence of the disaster still persists today. **Joe Manning** will tell us about it and his family's connection to the event. 🐼🐼🐼

News of your Society

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT,

THE JOY of beginning a new year, the positive resolve to accomplish projects, the satisfaction of planning programs for the year, is dampened by the sadness we feel over Archie Coll's passing. He was a paragon of virtue, a kind, benevolent man who volunteered time and effort to church and community beyond anyone's imagination. I personally counted him as a friend and advisor and will miss his cheery yet quiet demeanor. Rest in peace, Archie, the work is done.

On the brighter side we continue on our mission to educate young and old alike in the history of Jaffrey. In order to educate we need to preserve the past; in artifacts, in written words, in photos, and in oral history. Keep in mind that "history" can mean any period in the past from our beginnings in the 1700s, to our development in the 1800s, through the 1900s (especially the last half that most of us lived through), and even the early 2000s that today's school children consider "long ago." We save and catalog everything!

As the opening script of *THE LONE RANGER* exclaims, "Return with us now to the thrilling days of yesteryear..." Mark your calendars now for some interesting and entertaining programs this year. Happy New Year!

Bruce

And a reminder. The Society's membership year coincides with the calendar year so you may find a 2019 dues envelope enclosed. (*If you don't find an envelope enclosed, that means you're paid up through 2019*). 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>



The Depot in Troy, one of the many sites the Society visited on its AUTUMN OUTING to our neighboring town. We also stopped at Soldiers' Rock on Route 124, the site of the Marlborough Meetinghouse, the Troy Mills and Troy School, the Troy Meetinghouse and, of course, the Historical Society. It was all capped off by dinner at The Inn at East Hill Farm.

Society President Bruce Hill and Civic Center Executive Director Regina Vorce at the annual JHS-Civic Center Christmas party on December 13th. There was a large turnout and lots of holiday cheer. 🎉



Archives

Dick Boutwell, *Chair*

A MODEL of a tack machine feeder and World War II Civil Defense papers and materials were donated by **Harold Robichaud**. **Lucy Carpenter** donated two cassette tapes she made in the 1980s that record interviews she made of **Alice Lehtinen** and **Lili Johansson**. Both have since been digitized.

(The Society generally accepts 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 **Norm Soney** and our long-time member and Director **Archie Coll**. ☞

Buttons

BEGINNING in mid-February the Society will be exhibit its collection of buttons in the first floor display cases. Experts have described this as a remarkable collection. The 24 framed displays were put together by Helen Spofford Shattuck. ☞

Dean Murder recap

THE CENTENARY of the Dean Murder has come and gone and Jaffrey's longest running, most infamous and unfailingly compelling unsolved murder...remains unsolved. Thanks to generous grants from the Bean Family Foundation, the Society commemorated the grisly event in numerous ways: Launched a website (deanmurder.org) • Held worksessions attended by interested sleuths • Gave talks at various locations around the region • Mounted exhibits at the Civic Center • Worked on a special *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* supplement • And most importantly, commissioned and produced **DEEP WATER**, an original play written and performed by Ken Sheldon. Three sold-out performances were presented at the Meetinghouse. ☞

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS 2019

• **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14:** *Potluck* The Great Molasses Flood (see page 1) • **FEBRUARY 15-MARCH 15,** Exhibit, *Buttons* • **THURSDAY APRIL 18:** *Lafayette and the Farewell Tour: Odyssey of an American Idol*, Alan R. Hoffman • **A SUNDAY IN JUNE:** A fourth *cemetery walking tour* (with the Jaffrey Cemetery Committee), Details TBD • **SUMMER:** Launch of *Laban Ainsworth: A Life* by Jean Parker Waterbury, TBD • **THURSDAY AUGUST 8:** *Annual Meeting*, Program TBD • **MONTH OF AUGUST,** Exhibit, TBD • **SUNDAY OCTOBER 13:** *Annual Autumn Outing*, Destination TBD • **THURSDAY DECEMBER 12:** *Annual Christmas Party* with the Civic Center. ☞

Willa Cather Weekend Big Success

ONE YEAR of planning paid off with a well-attended celebration of Willa Cather in Jaffrey. A diverse and cooperative committee representing multiple organizations prepared activities that celebrated the 100th anniversary of her publication of *My Antonia*. Through an exhibit, symposium, music, food, a dramatic production and historical tours, we raised the awareness of Willa Cather's importance in 20th century literature and her connection to Jaffrey. Attendees came from Nebraska, Texas, Florida, and throughout New England with one half from the Monadnock region. About \$2,000 remains in the Willa Cather account, earmarked for further recognition in the future. A semi-permanent exhibit will be developed for the History floor of the Jaffrey Public Library and other Cather projects have been proposed for the community. The Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society maintains a museum at the Melville Academy and has dedicated a section to Willa Cather. ☞

Officers & Committee Chairs

President: Bruce Hill • *Vice President:* Charles Turcotte • *Treasurer:* Karl Putnam

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

Exhibits: Helen Coll • *Hospitality:* Cathy Proulx & Diane Schaumann • *Little Red Schoolhouse:* Jackie Johnson

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

Directors

2016-2019

Jackie Johnson
Peter Lambert
Susan Leach
Fran McBride

2017-2020

Henry Hammond
Cathy Proulx
Pete Sawyer
Diane Schaumann

2018-2021

Emily Preston
Dan Shattuck
Betty Shea

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

Toys in the Attic

WHAT do you know about old toys manufactured in the greater Monadnock area?

The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY is planning for its exhibit on the history of toy making in our area, which will go on display in November. It is seeking information and items to help with this exhibit.



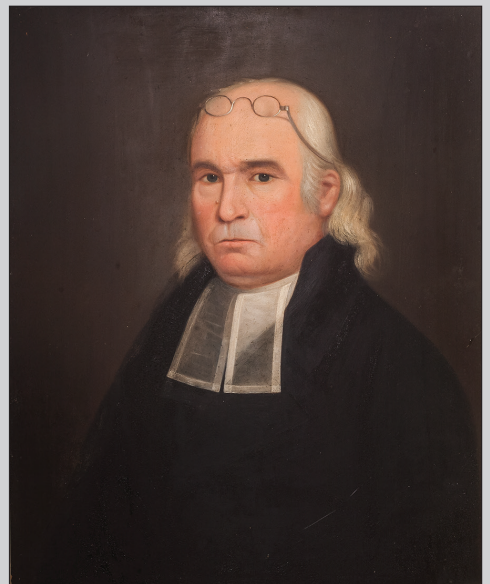
The HSCC already knows a lot but you may have some information that would add to its knowledge base:

What year did Triumph Wringer start manufacturing in Keene? • When did Red Shed Rubber Toys cease operations in Peterborough? • Who was the one-man wood carver of hobby horses in Fitzwilliam? • Do you know anything about D.P. Clark Co.? • When did Mason & Parker close up shop? • Were there any toy manufacturers in Jaffrey?

The Jaffrey Historical Society is loaning its one example (a doll swing, see left), made by the Annett company. If you have any verifiable data on old toys made locally or have any to lend for display please contact the HSCC in Keene at hscch@hscch.org or 603-352-9226. And keep us in the loop as well! 🐾

Laban Ainsworth: A Life

AFTER some years of work, the publication by the Society of Jean Parker Waterbury's biography of Laban Ainsworth is now in sight. Jean, who died in 2007, was a writer, editor, literary agent, and historian with deep connections to Hancock, New Hampshire, and St. Augustine, Florida, where she was born and raised. She served on the boards of Monadnock Music and the Peterborough Players in New Hampshire and at the St. Augustine Historical Society where she also served as president. Her interest in Laban Ainsworth was sparked by her being the great-great-granddaughter of both Ainsworth and his Baptist opponent Abel Parker.



Although a shortened version of the biography appeared in 2000 in *Historical New Hampshire*—the New Hampshire Historical Society journal—the full version only existed as a typescript. A Society member discovered a copy in the Jaffrey Public Library and a project was born. The Waterbury family gave its blessing for the Society to publish it and Jean's son, Whit, has copy-edited the manuscript. A second volume has been prepared to include new and supplementary material such as a Timeline, Genealogy, Description of The Manse, an edited reprint of Leonard Tenney's *Sermon preached at the funeral of The Rev. Laban Ainsworth*, relevant excerpts from the Town History, maps, numerous modern and historic images, etc.

It will be issued in both soft and hard cover and should be available in the spring of 2019. A special book launch and discussion of Laban Ainsworth to include his descendants and Waterbury family members is being considered for some convenient time this coming summer. 🐾