

Autumn  
2021

# Jaffrey Historical Society

Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

603-598-0120

## Off to Swanzey!

THE JHS ANNUAL OUTING is back, and this year will bring us to nearby Swanzey. The outing will be **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24TH**, starting at 2 pm in Swanzey (1:15 pm in Jaffrey).

Swanzey was originally chartered by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1733 as “Lower Ashuelot.” Despite a promising start, the young town was abandoned in 1747 during King George’s War—and the village was burned by the Abenaki shortly thereafter. In 1753 the town was re-charted by the New Hampshire colony as “Swanzey,” probably due to some connection with Swansea, Massachusetts.

As in Jaffrey, the growth of water-powered textile mills in the 19th century caused the population center of Swanzey to shift. As Jaffrey’s center moved east to the Contoocook River in East Jaffrey, Swanzey’s moved west to West Swanzey on the Ashuelot River. Swanzey became famous for the Homestead Woolen Mills in West Swanzey, and the Lane Bucket factory in East Swanzey.

Perhaps the most famous resident of Swanzey, Denman Thompson, lived in West Swanzey. Thompson became one of the most prominent vaudeville troupers of the late 19th century and his play “The Old Homestead” was performed yearly at Swanzey’s Potash Bowl until just a few years ago.

Today Swanzey boasts five villages: Swanzey Center, East Swanzey, West Swanzey, North Swanzey, and Westport. It also is home to four picturesque and historic covered bridges!

### CARPOOLING

If you would like to pick up a map of directions—also on the last two pages of this Newsletter—and/or carpool, please be at the Civic Center parking area no later than 1:15 pm. Parking in all of the Swanzey locations is somewhat limited. Please carpool if at all possible.

To get to the Swanzey Historical Museum, take Route 101 into Keene and then take Route 10 South at

the large roundabout near Wal-Mart. The Museum is approximately 4.5 miles south, on the left, at 720 West Swanzey Road (Route 10).

### THE TOUR

Our tour will begin promptly at 2 pm at the **SWANZEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM [1]** on Route 10 in West Swanzey. Swanzey Historical Museum members will be on hand on each of the three floors (yes, three floors!) of this museum. Around 2:45 pm we will drive less than a mile away to **WHITCOMB HALL [2]** in downtown West Swanzey (parking is limited!) to look around this historic community hall that was just lovingly renovated over the past few years. We may even get to go up into the steeple to look at the historic—and still hand-wound—1916 town clock.

Weather permitting, around 3:30 pm we will drive about 3 miles over to Swanzey Center. Parking at the former Carpenter House on Simeneau Lane off Route 32 (across from Monadnock Regional High School), we can look around the historic center of Swanzey, Meetinghouse Hill.

We can also walk through the **MOUNT CAESAR CEMETERY [3]**, Swanzey’s old colonial burying ground that predates even Jaffrey’s own burying ground.

Our tour should end around 4-4:15 pm.

*Please note:* We will only see one of Swanzey’s





covered bridges on our tour; but if you would like to see any of the others, consult the map we have created, available at the Civic Center on the day of the tour. One bridge is easy to get to on the way to the museum, and another is easy to get to on the way to Troy.

### THE DINNER

Following our tour of Swanzezy the group will retreat to **EAST HILL FARM [4]** on Monadnock Street (Troy Road to us in Jaffrey) in Troy for socializing from 4:30 to 5:00 pm. A family-style dinner with roast beef and stuffed chicken breast and all the fixings will follow.

The cost is \$28 (tax and tip included) per person.

If you prefer, you need not attend the dinner in order to participate in the tour. Reservations with us must be made in advance, and need to be sent to Karen Ayers ([kbanh43@yahoo.com](mailto:kbanh43@yahoo.com)) ASAP or by Thursday October 14 at the very latest.

Please make your dinner check payable to the Jaffrey Historical Society. It can be delivered to the Jaffrey Civic Center or brought with you to the outing. 🍷

—Peter Lambert

We hope to see you all on October 24th in Swanzezy!

• See the maps on the last two pages. Also, for more on Swanzezy go to <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/Oct2021.pdf>

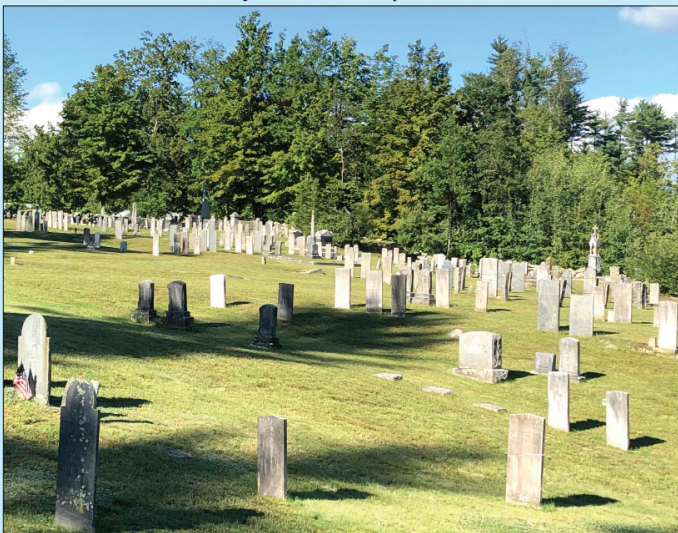


Whitcomb Hall in West Swanzezy. 🍷



The **Swanzezy Historical Museum**, the first stop on our Swanzezy tour. Started by a gift to the Town of Swanzezy in 1984 from Charlie Hanrahan, the Swanzezy Historical Museum opened to the public in 1987. Its collections include books, papers, photographs, newspaper clippings, Town Reports, bibles, quilts, signs and much more. 🍷

**Mt. Caesar Cemetery**, another stop on our tour. 🍷



**Fire apparatus at the Swanzezy Historical Museum.** 🍷





## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I WANT to start my message with my heartfelt thank-you to all who have supported me and this Society over the past year.

As most of you know, the Jaffrey Historical Society has been working with the Jaffrey Civic Center and the Jaffrey Public Library in efforts to showcase some of our historical holdings and memorabilia. Your Society has tried in many ways to expand beyond the basement of the Civic Center in areas that complement our immediate neighbors and their quest for local historical knowledge. There are several ways we have been very generous to both the Civic Center and the Library, not just in local historical knowledge but in time, energies, and taking on some financial obligations on their behalf.

Recently, the Library has communicated to the Society's Board of Directors that static displays are no longer relevant. The Library believes that interactive, multi-generational learning spaces are more desirable. In that effort it would like us to remove our semi-permanent and rotating displays from the Library.

The Civic Center has opted out of any future expansion of the Society within the Civic Center, other than the basement area we now occupy and some of the display cases located on the main floor.

I know the Society will continue to support both our neighbors with our archive materials and extensive knowledge of Jaffrey's history. However, we recognize that we do not have the capacity to create multi-generational learning spaces and displays due to the limited area of the Civic Center to which we have access.

The purpose for which the Jaffrey Historical Society was established 63 years ago still applies today. We are entrusted to preserve historical evidence and materials, documentary and printed, concerning Jaffrey, in a manner which will make it of educational value and provide for its



Steve Jackson makes a presentation at the Annual Meeting—the first function at the new Park Theatre—on August 19, 2021. 🍷

transmission to future generations (*Articles of Incorporation*, October 3, 1958).

As most of you know, we are sitting in a less-than-desirable position to continue this stated mission. We have outgrown our ability to safely archive all the documents and donated materials that are the 'History of Jaffrey,' past, present and future. All of our archival spaces are surrounded by overhead piping, subject at any time to a catastrophe. We have recently survived a severe storm with an unprecedented amount of rain, which jeopardized many of our holdings in the basement area.

As president of the Jaffrey Historical Society I can only make you aware of our situation. We need a united front with one purpose: to find a more suitable home for the very important work that we do. To bring this Society out of the basement and into the sunshine.

As members and supporters of our Society you are the ultimate decision makers. We can only move forward by working together.

Please let me know your thoughts.

*Questions:* What is at stake? Can we be certain that 63 years of record-keeping will remain safe? What do we tell future generations of Jaffrey citizens if or when there is a loss of historical items?

Charlie

## Our Treasury

Karl Putnam, *Outgoing Treasurer*

Opening Balance (08/01/2020)	\$11,446.12
Income	+ \$20,052.21
Expenses	- <u>\$13,537.63</u>
Closing Balance (07/31/2021)	\$17,960.70
Archives/Accessions	\$287.49
Bean Family Foundation	\$850.04
Hearse House	\$616.68
Little Red Schoolhouse	\$958.59
Willa Cather Account	\$2,322.31
General Account	\$12,925.59

Our major sources of income this fiscal year were: \$11,700 from the Mary Kidd Estate, more than \$3,000 in donations in memory of Bill Driscoll and Peter Sawyer and other donations which were made in lieu of annual membership dues.

Major expenses were: \$4,000 for our annual donation to the Civic Center, \$1,600 to Savron Graphics, \$1,668 for the final payment to Ken Sheldon toward his Dean Murder book, \$2,000 for insurance and our \$1,500 donation to the Meetinghouse Tower fund. 🍷

## Our Trust Fund

Betty Royce, *Outgoing Chair, Trustees of the Trust Fund*

Opening Balance (08/01/2020)	\$373,011.92
Change in Fund Balance	+ <u>\$60,310.46</u>
Closing Balance (07/31/2021)	\$433,322.38
JHS Fund	\$340,309.51
Mary Kidd Fund	\$93,012.87
Asset Allocation (07/31/2021)	57.5% Equities 42.5% Bonds & Cash

The Society's trust fund is managed by Charter Trust.

## Archives

Dick Boutwell, *Chair*

A VARIETY of items have been received in the past few months from the following and added to the Society's collections:

- ANN CHAMBERLAIN: Ceramic, futuristic owl molded and signed by Viggo Brandt-Erichsen; 1997 newspaper picture of the 25th anniversary of the Jaffrey Outing Club committee of five men who planned the winter carnival.
- RANDY COURNOYER: Five wooden signs from the early 1900s: East Jaffrey Riding School; Contoocook Zoo and Picnic Ground (2); 122 Co. CCC; Cournoyer Insurance-Real Estate for sale sign; A. M. Deschenes – Anthracite Coal sign.
- FRED DAY: Photograph by French of Keene of the Meetinghouse and environs c. 1900.
- PHYLLIS LIEBMAN: Newspaper picture and article from the 1960s about a tunnel found by road agent Richard Wilson; Souvenir tea towel/calendar displaying a picture of the Meetinghouse.
- SUSAN PRATT MOONEY: A collection of the 50th anniversary Keene *Sentinel* stories on the Dean Murder collected and saved by her mother, Irene (Deschenes) Pratt.
- JEANNELLE MOORE: Photograph of the 1940-41 Jaffrey Boy Scout Troop 33 with scout leaders.
- NORMA SANDS: Full set of the *History of Jaffrey*.
- DEBBIE STEWART: Two Sawyer's View-Master reels: *Autumn Scenes of Mt. Monadnock, Bonneville Dam*; 1976 booklet: *The Bells of Paul Revere, his Sons and Grandsons*. 🍷

## Membership

Marcie Manning, *Chair*

WE ARE saddened by the deaths of our members **Robert Abernethy, Billie Coleman, Jean Hampsey and Zaven Giragosian.**

We welcome as new members **Pauline & Steve Brackett,** and **Peggy Hogan & Gary Penfield.** 🍷

## Exhibits

Karen Ayers, *Chair*

FROM July through Labor Day the *Relax and Have Fun!* exhibit at the Jaffrey Public Library focused on recreational sites in Jaffrey. The featured photographs and pamphlets from the Archives highlighted the various lakes, Shattuck Golf Course, Silver Ranch and, of course, Mount Monadnock.

Running from September 11 through October 23, *Jaffrey Worthies* is an exhibit at the Jaffrey Civic Center. It features 'Notables' from Jaffrey's past.

These exhibits were mounted with the assistance of Vicki Arceci and Charlie Turcotte. Also assisting at the Jaffrey Civic Center was Rebecca Fredrickson, Executive Director of the Jaffrey Civic Center. 🍷

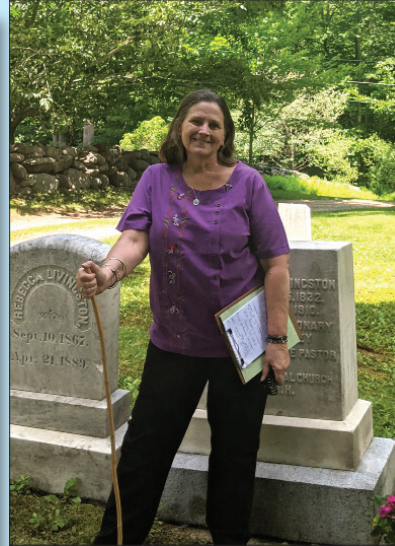
## Jaffrey 250 Jubilee

Bruce Hill & Peter Lambert, *Co-chairs History Committee*

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE for planning how to celebrate Jaffrey's 250th anniversary in 2023 continues to meet monthly and make progress. Specific activities are planned for each month starting in October of 2022. The culmination will be a parade on August 19th, 2023. Some of the other events during the anniversary year will include a Firemen's Ball, Winter Carnival, Historical programs, Veteran's Event, Monadnock Climb, Arts Show and French Canadian Festival. A special commemoration will be held on the actual date of incorporation, Thursday, August 17th. The Historical Subcommittee, made up of JHS and VIS leaders, and others, meet occasionally to collaborate on programs and preparations. This is a large undertaking that requires many hands now as we work to be ready in 2023. When the call goes out for help please volunteer your time and talents. 🍷



## News of your Society



Cutter Cemetery was the scene of another successful and well-attended tour on Sunday, June 27th. This was the fifth such tour of Jaffrey's cemeteries organized by the Society and co-sponsored with Jaffrey Cemetery Committee. Dick Boutwell is shown below expounding on the gravesite of Walter Gentsch, long-time Jaffrey attorney. Plans are now developing to move on to St. Patrick Cemetery next June. It's tentatively scheduled for the 26th and is being planned by Dick Boutwell and Cathy Proulx (shown on the left). To see all the cemetery guides go to <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/tours.htm> 🍷



JHS

Heavy rains in July resulted in flooding in the basement of our home at the Civic Center. An inch or two of water did some damage to some of our collections and but for the vigilant efforts of many volunteers the situation could have been far worse. 🍷



### Dean Murder Book on the Way

*Deep Water*, a nonfiction book about the murder of William Dean written by Ken Sheldon, has been acquired by Down East Books and will be published in the spring of 2022. "Down East is a leading publisher of books about New England and I'm thrilled that they are publishing *Deep Water*," says Ken. The writing of *Deep Water* was supported by a grant from the Bean Foundation administered by the Jaffrey Historical Society. "I'm so grateful to the Historical Society and the Bean Foundation for their support, which provided the time for me to write a definitive account of the Dean murder and its aftermath." A book launch is planned for the release of *Deep Water* in the spring. 🍷

The Little Red Schoolhouse on the Common got a good cleaning during a work session late in June prior to its traditional opening on the 4th of July. Vicki Arceci—here in the doorway—orchestrated things. Helping out were Charlie Turcotte, Bruce Hill, Dick Boutwell and Gary Arceci. The interior was vacuumed and dusted; the windows were washed, inside and out; all furniture and the woodstove were wiped down; and some of the collection was re-arranged. In general all was made tidy and ship-shape. 🍷



# Miscellany

## 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/JHS>

REMEMBER your Society has a **Facebook** page! On it you will find details on upcoming events and programs, news of the Society, interesting photos and articles from our Archives, and information from other Societies and the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Just go to the Search function on Facebook and type in **Jaffrey Historical Society**. —Vicki Arceci

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

*All events are tentative because of Covid-19 concerns.*

THROUGH OCTOBER 23: Exhibit, *Jaffrey Worthies*  
• SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24: *Annual Autumn Outing*, Swanzey • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9: *Annual Christmas Party* with the Civic Center, 5:30-7pm.  
• THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022: *Potluck at the Civic Center* • THURSDAY, APRIL 14: PROGRAM TBD  
• SUNDAY, JUNE 26: *St. Patrick Cemetery tour* • THURSDAY, AUGUST 11: *Annual Meeting*, PROGRAM TBD • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16: *Annual Autumn Outing*, destination TBD • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8: *Annual Christmas Party* with the Civic Center, 5:30-7pm. 🍷

## 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 • *Hospitality:* Cathy Proulx & Diane Schaumann  
*Little Red Schoolhouse:* Jackie Johnson • *Monadnock No. 4:* Dave Kemp  
*Membership:* Marcie Manning • *Publications:* Rob Stephenson • *Webmaster:* Sean Driscoll

## 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  
Emily Preston  
Travis Shattuck  
Betty Shea

*Director Emeritus*  
Joe Manning

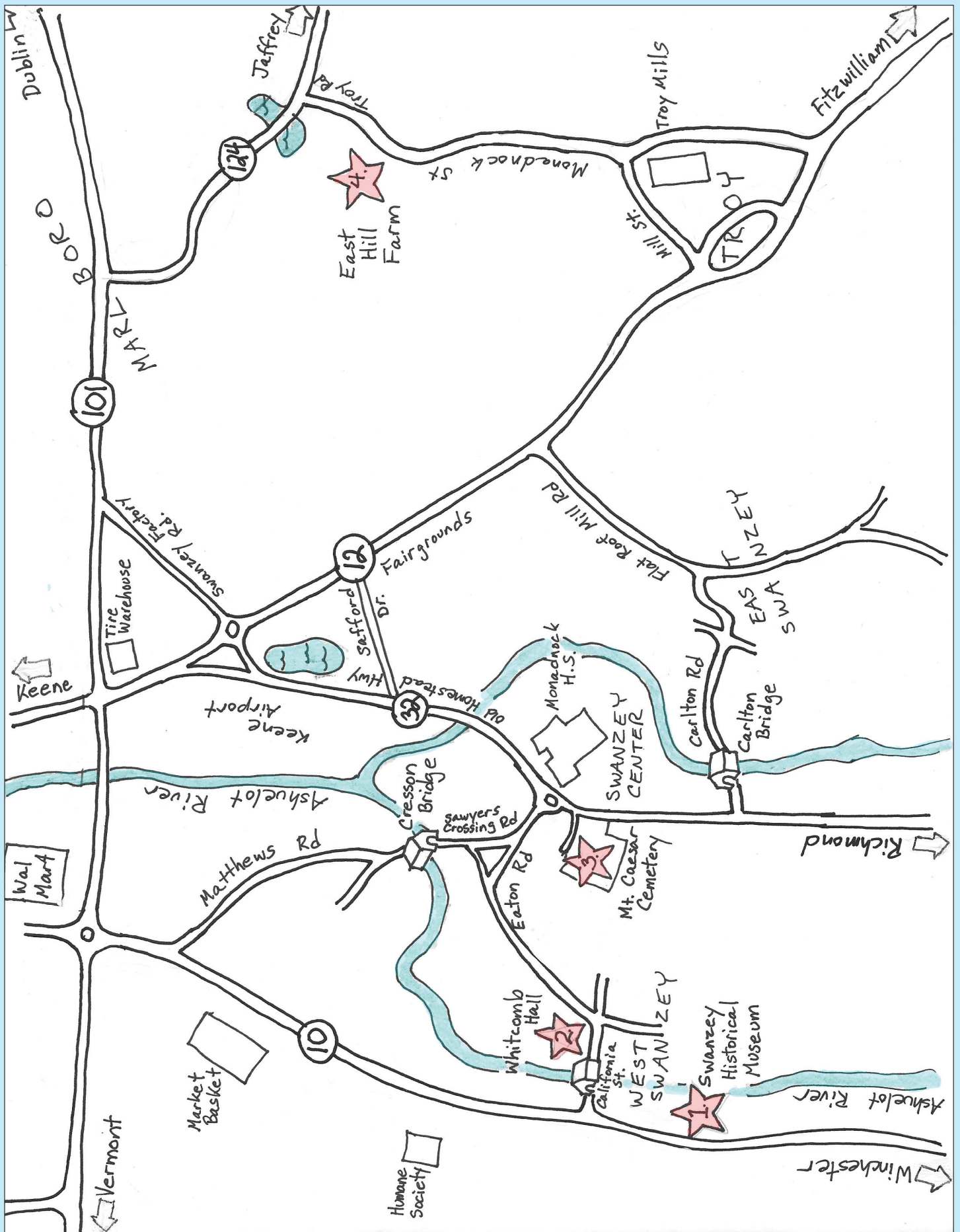
## Past Presidents

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

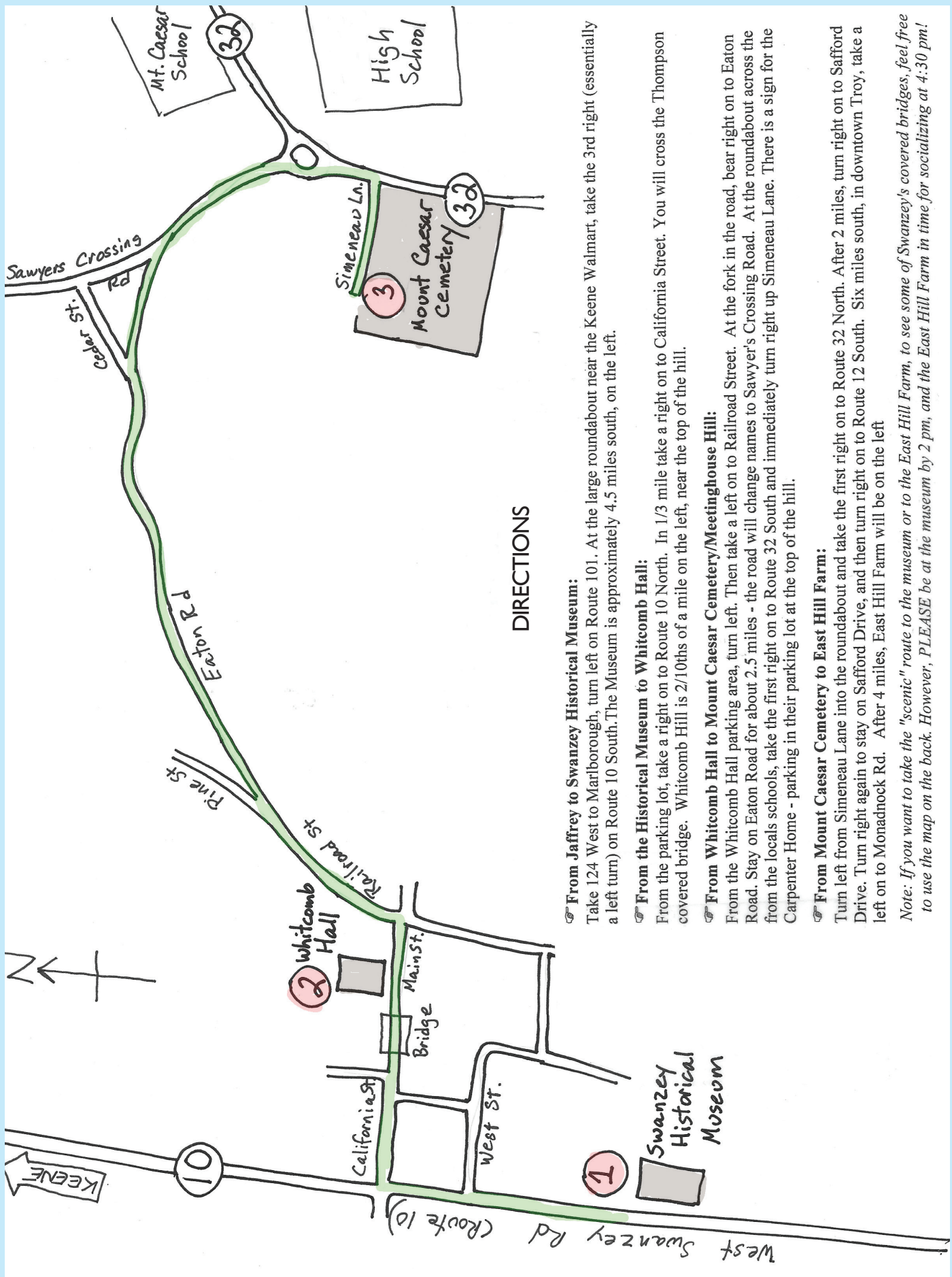
## Trustees of the Trust Fund

Harvey Sawyer (2021-2024) • Clay Hollister, *Chair* (2019-2022) • Betty Royce (2020-2023)





A Map of Swanzey showing some of the sites on the *Autumn Outing*. (Peter Lambert)



## DIRECTIONS

### From Jaffrey to Swanzey Historical Museum:

Take 124 West to Marlborough, turn left on Route 101. At the large roundabout near the Keene Walmart, take the 3rd right (essentially a left turn) on Route 10 South. The Museum is approximately 4.5 miles south, on the left.

### From the Historical Museum to Whitcomb Hall:

From the parking lot, take a right on to Route 10 North. In 1/3 mile take a right on to California Street. You will cross the Thompson covered bridge. Whitcomb Hill is 2/10ths of a mile on the left, near the top of the hill.

### From Whitcomb Hall to Mount Caesar Cemetery/Meetinghouse Hill:

From the Whitcomb Hall parking area, turn left. Then take a left on to Railroad Street. At the fork in the road, bear right on to Eaton Road. Stay on Eaton Road for about 2.5 miles - the road will change names to Sawyer's Crossing Road. At the roundabout across the from the locals schools, take the first right on to Route 32 South and immediately turn right up Simeneau Lane. There is a sign for the Carpenter Home - parking in their parking lot at the top of the hill.

### From Mount Caesar Cemetery to East Hill Farm:

Turn left from Simeneau Lane into the roundabout and take the first right on to Route 32 North. After 2 miles, turn right on to Safford Drive. Turn right again to stay on Safford Drive, and then turn right on to Route 12 South. Six miles south, in downtown Troy, take a left on to Monadnock Rd. After 4 miles, East Hill Farm will be on the left.

*Note: If you want to take the "scenic" route to the museum or to the East Hill Farm, to see some of Swanzey's covered bridges, feel free to use the map on the back. However, PLEASE be at the museum by 2 pm, and the East Hill Farm in time for socializing at 4:30 pm!*

A Map of Swanzey showing the route between West Swanzey & Swanzey Center. (Peter Lambert)