

upon the fact the horse blanket in question admittedly belonged to the town banker, Charles L. Rich, and the fact he had appeared at the bank that morning with a blackened eye and lacerated cheek. In his testimony, however, he explained that he had pressed the blanket on the victim the night before to ward off the chill of the mid-August night on his trip home, and that his facial disfigurement was due to a kick from his horse.

Dean was a gentleman farmer on one of Jaffrey's sightliest hilltop farms, having abandoned his chosen medical profession on account of the threat of pulmonary disease, which brought him to Jaffrey where in 1889 he bought the former Elijah Smith farm. His wife was his cousin, Mary Dean; and he himself was born in Wilmington, Delaware, February 12, 1855, the son of Rev. William and Maria (Main) Dean. He was educated at Hamilton College in western New York State. In Jaffrey he was highly respected as a man of culture and refinement and a good neighbor, virtues which his wife shared with him.

For a long distance the writer's parents' farm was only a road apart from the Dean farm, and the writer, then a schoolgirl, remembers the Deans well. As neighbors they were of the best. By that time, as a matter of finances, they had moved from the "big house" to the bungalow nearby, renting their former home to a couple from New York, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Colfelt, Jr.

Strange things were happening in Jaffrey about the time of their arrival, including reports of lights flashing on Mt. Monadnock over a period of about two years. It was known that Dean, whose barn chores were midnight duties, had watched these lights, gathering as much information along with them as he could. Later it became known that holes had been bored in the window casing of the big house overlooking the eastern mountains, Pack Monadnock and Temple. Through them signal lights were said to have been flashed to the mountains from where they were relayed to Mt. Monadnock. It was believed by intelligence that these lights were associated with the movement of troop ships from the coast to the theatre of operation of World War I in Europe. At any rate, President Woodrow Wilson had demanded the recall of two top ranking German citizens, Capt. Franz von Papen, military attache at the embassy, and Capt. Karl Boy-Ed, naval aide, back to Germany. Both were reportedly connected with German espionage in the United States since the start of World War I. Spy reports continued to float around the countryside, alarming its citizens.

The writer recalls Colfelt as a courteous man who was frequently seen on horse back on Old Peterborough Road, and sometimes assisted her mother in turning her horse and buggy around at a point beyond the Dean farm road, after taking her children part way to school. But he appeared to be a man of few words and rather mysterious. Shortly

afterward Dean had asked the Colfelts to leave and they moved to Greenfield, New Hampshire.

The Parmenter house in Peterborough had just recently been donated for a hospital and on the thirteenth of August, 1918, Mrs. Horace Morison of that town was driving along the countryside soliciting articles for a sale for the benefit of the proposed hospital. When she called at the Dean farm, Mr. Dean took her aside and asked her when she was going to Boston next. She answered she was going the next day. He confided to her that he had carefully verified information which he was ready to give to the proper authorities and would she ask the secret service in Boston to send one of their best men to Jaffrey to confer with him. The information he had he said was "too dangerous for a woman to know." While the two were talking, there was a crash of twigs or underbrush in the nearby woods, the cause of which was never explained.

When pulled from the six-foot deep cistern, Dean's neck was garroted with a horse tie rope, his head wrapped in burlap, and his body wrapped in the horse blanket. With the gruesome find and the evidence available, the people went wild with excitement, fantastic stories were told, and "sides" were chosen by the people which are still in evidence locally, more than fifty years later, with most of the principles in the case now deceased. Secret Service agents and Pinkerton detectives arrived to search and study the case and interrogate the people. Among those who came to Jaffrey then was Bert Ford of the Boston *American* who obtained information on his own which he collected into a book, which, if it were available today, would classify among the best sellers. The County and State officials, however, were reluctant to act, ostensibly for lack of sufficient evidence. An attempt was made by some to incriminate Mrs. Dean, who was a frail and nearly invalid woman. After the murder she made her home with the Rev. Francis R. Enslins and died September 15, 1919, at the age of 68 years, three months, and four days.

Dean's father, the Rev. William Dean, was one of the first American missionaries to China. In 1860 he moved to Siam with his family and there became closely associated with the king of Siam. His son, William, then a lad of five years, became a playmate of the prince of Siam. Returning to the United States, he was educated by his uncle, Dr. Henry Dean of Rochester, N.Y., and while still a medical student he was placed in charge of the Rochester Hospital. This is the boyhood and youth story in brief of the man who later met such a tragic fate in Jaffrey.

No inquest of the murder was held and there was no autopsy until five months later. Grand jury action was delayed for nine months, and finally the case was publicly dropped unsolved, although there are still periodical eruptions, and the "sides" taken over fifty years ago are still being felt. ☹

Summer

Jaffrey Historical Society
Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452. Tel: 598-0120

2018

Annual Meeting **Thursday, August 9, 2018, 4 pm. Jaffrey Civic Center.**

COME TO the Society's Annual Meeting. The activities of the past year will be briefly reviewed, officers will be proposed and elected, and several changes to the By-Laws will be presented. (There will be no program this year as *Deep Water*, our play on the Dean Murder, will start its three-performance run the following Monday.) ☞ Once the meeting has concluded we will have a reception to launch the month-long exhibit on the Dean Murder which will be both in the auditorium and the glass display cases. ☹


The 100th anniversary of the unsolved Dean Murder is fast approaching: August 13, 2018. That Monday evening the Society will premiere *Deep Water*, a play written and performed by Ken Sheldon, familiar to many of you through his *Frost Heaves* productions. Although he will be the only one on the stage, 62 Jaffrey residents—many of them members of the Society—will appear as "voice-overs," portraying real people from a hundred years ago. There will also be ten video segments of major figures in this fascinating mystery. The play is based almost entirely on actual Grand Jury

A JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION

DEEP WATER

The Murder of William K. Dean

A play written & performed by Ken Sheldon



PERFORMED AT THE JAFFREY MEETINGHOUSE
Monday August 13 & Saturday August 18 at 7:30 pm
Sunday August 19 at 2 pm
General admission \$10. Tickets available at:
Civic Center & Chamber of Commerce, Jaffrey
Steeles & The Toadstool, Peterborough
Historical Society of Cheshire County, Keene
deanmurder.org

testimony and court records, contemporary newspaper articles, and FBI reports. This one-act play runs for about 90 minutes and will have three performances. (Details appear to the left.) Tickets are selling fast so don't procrastinate.

A worthy complement to the play will be an exhibit at the Civic Center running August 10-September 7.

This will include all the physical artifacts associated with the murder in the possession of the Society as well as the answers, with elaboration, of the 'questionmark' ads you may have seen in the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*. ☹

Looking ahead — Upcoming Programs & Events

THURSDAY AUGUST 9: Annual JHS Business Meeting, followed by a Reception • FRIDAY AUGUST 10: Opening Reception for *The Dean Murder* exhibit, Civic Center 4-7pm. • MONDAY AUGUST 13 & SATURDAY AUGUST 18 performances of *Deep Water* at the Jaffrey Meetinghouse at 7:30pm; SUNDAY AUGUST 19 at 2pm • OCTOBER 19-20: *A Willa Cather Weekend* • SUNDAY OCTOBER 14: *Annual Autumn Outing* (Troy & an early dinner at East Hill Farm) • THURSDAY DECEMBER 13: *Annual Christmas Party* with the Civic Center 5:30-7pm. ☹

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT,

WE HAVE BEEN *very busy preparing for the Dean Murder play!* Rob has created cards and posters and tickets. And I have helped coordinate the voice recordings and sold many tickets. We both have combed the archives for photos that have been scanned for use in the play. We have both been working on publicity with newspaper coverage and sponsorship with ads. With Mark Bean and Bill Driscoll we have met with Ken Sheldon, the playwright, to ensure a top quality production. It's been a lot of work but we all are very excited about this commemorative play and hope you will plan to see it. For more on the Dean Murder go to our website www.deanmurder.org

As I complete my first year as President I want to thank and acknowledge the help of the executive committee: Vice President Charles Turcotte, Secretary Vicki Arceci, Treasurer Kent Royce, Past President Rob Stephenson and Chief Archivist Dick Boutwell. It's a good team backed up by dedicated Directors, Chairs, Past Presidents and Trustees. We are financially solvent, energetic, forward thinking, and ready to tackle another year promoting and preserving local history. 🐾

Bruce

A Willa Cather Weekend in Jaffrey

ONE HUNDRED YEARS ago Willa Cather wrote her famous novel *My Antonia* while spending the summer at Jaffrey's Shattuck Inn. To celebrate her connection with Jaffrey the Society along with seven other organizations are sponsoring a special event October 19th and 20th. The program will include tours, talks, music, food and theater. This will be a package deal with pre-registration available soon. If you are a Willa Cather fan you will want to save the date and watch for more details soon. 🐾



We're headed to Troy in October!

Archives

Dick Boutwell, *Chair*

The Society has received several interesting items associated with **Coburn Kidd** from Lisa Bostnar who is administering Mary Kidd's estate. Among them are three photos of Coburn. Of particular interest are several maps with manuscript notations that Coburn used in preparing his 1982 book *Jaffrey Roads and Streets 1773-1980* (see it on-line at <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/Kidd.pdf>). 🐾

Membership

Marcie Manning, *Chair*

WE ARE SORRY to report the death of members **Charlotte Belletete, Bruce Ellis, Richard Ellis, Richard Hamlin and Sally Soney**. And we welcome as a new members **David & Alisa Nash, Charles Richmond, Patty & Tony Scholl, Steve & Pat Weiner**; and new Life Member **Nancy Rierson**. Our membership now stands at 158. *If you receive a membership envelope with this newsletter it means that your dues haven't been received yet. Please renew your membership!* 🐾

Mrs. Dean wrote this postcard to Mrs. Cutter saying "I thought it might amuse you to see Billie [Dr. Dean] driving our baby bull the same age as your baby Radcliffe..." (From the Society's collections.)



A good crowd convened for a tour of the Phillips-Heil Cemetery on Sunday, June 17th. It was co-sponsored with the Jaffret Cemetery Committee.



Who was going to Boston and promised to pass on a message?

Have you noticed these 'advertisements' in every issue of the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* since April 12th? If so, have you been able to guess the answers? You'd be right in thinking that they all deal with the Dean Murder. The answers, with elaboration, will appear in the issue the Thursday before the 100th anniversary—August 13. They will also be featured in the exhibit that will be presented at the Civic Center auditorium from August 10-September 7. You can also see each one as they appear at <http://www.deanmurder.org/teasers>.

The Dean Murder

Alice Lehtinen, *Town History* Volume III (1971) Pp 176-79.

ON THE MORNING of August 14, 1918, Jaffrey was rocked to the core by news of the disappearance of Dr. William Kendrick Dean and the subsequent finding of his body in a rainwater cistern near the "big house" on the Dean farm, brutally strangled and murdered with a blunt instrument. The body was wrapped in a horse blanket and weighted down with a 27-pound rock. In the village the people had seen Dean only the night before, with his horse and buggy, doing his weekly shopping of groceries. Before returning home he had stopped at the home of his friend, the village banker, and upon arriving at home he had unloaded his provisions and gone to the barn about midnight, as was his custom, to milk his Jersey cows. Added to the bizarreness of the case was the fact that his milk pail was never found, and the discovery of an initialed cigarette case in the bottom of the six-foot cistern after the recovery of his body, which immediately disappeared.

When, in due course of time, he did not return, his frail and invalid wife became alarmed and in the morning relayed news of his disappearance to authorities. The day was a beautiful sunny August one, as the search was initiated by Chief of Police Perley H. Enos, and the three Jaffrey Selectmen, Edward C. Boynton, William F. Coolidge, and Peter E. Hogan. Later developments divided the town, turning friend against friend, neighbor against neighbor, as the developments unfolded themselves, and the repercussions are still being felt over half a century later.

Since the case was fraught with possible espionage and deep mystery, it was carried to Washington, D. C., by the local authorities, where it is still classified, at latest reports, as one of the nation's ten most interesting unsolved cases. In Jaffrey it was seemingly otherwise, as the town became divided. There was a segment of the population who, in their own minds, had "solved the case," basing their conclusions

—continued on the back page

Officers & Committee Chairs

President: Bruce Hill • *Vice Presidents:* Charles Turcotte & vacant • *Treasurer:* Kent Royce

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

Exhibits: Helen Coll • *Genealogist:* Paul St. Pierre • *Hospitality:* Pam Royce • *Little Red Schoolhouse:* Jackie Johnson

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

Directors

2015-2018

Archie Coll
Emily Preston
Dan Shattuck
Betty Shea

2016-2019

Jackie Johnson
Susan Leach
Fran McBride
Karl Putnam

2017-2020

Henry Hammond
Cathy Proulx
Pete Sawyer
Diane Schaumann

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