

Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 8, 2019, 7 pm. Grand View Estate.

COME TO the Society's Annual Meeting to be held at Grand View Estate. (See details below.) The activities of the past year will be briefly reviewed, the President, Treasurer and Trustees will report, and Officers & Directors will be proposed and elected.

The date is consistent with past years; however, the location is different—the **Grand View Estate**.

This large estate is located at 580 Mountain Road. Some of our more senior members knew it as the 'Yeatman Place.' Manager & member Pam Royce has very kindly invited the Society to hold its annual meeting here and to learn about its history and current operation. The property, which has served as a tavern, a farm and a private residence, has a panoramic view of Mt. Monadnock, forested woodlands, and open fields. Currently it is a commercial facility available for weddings, events, and estate rental.

Following our business meeting we will hear an historical perspective of the property followed by an outline of the current operation. Members may then tour the facility and enjoy some refreshments.

This event is open to members of the Jaffrey Historical Society. Others may join the Society at the door by cash or check. Membership fees start at \$15 a year. Questions may be recorded at the JHS voicemail (603) 598-0120.

The Grand View Estate has a long and interesting history. Soon after the Third New Hampshire Turnpike (roughly present-day Route 124) was built in the very early 1800s, Lt. Alexander Milliken opened his tavern. It is thought to have been the first brick building in Jaffrey. It served as a stopping-place for the stage coaches going from the Connecticut River towns to Groton and on to Boston. It changed hands many times over the years and has been added to and frequently altered. The older image at right shows it as the Proctor House in the 1880s.

Among the more interesting of the past owners was the Yeatman family of Philadelphia. During their time the property was called Chislehurst Farm. Pope Yeatman was a prominent and wealthy mining engineer; his daughter, Georgina (1902-1982), was a pioneering architect and aviator. She was the first to land a plane in Jaffrey on June 12, 1932. Her father, with his mining experience, used a thousand pounds of dynamite to prepare what became Georgina's landing strip, the present-day meadow along Route 124. 🐦



Grand View today and below how it looked in the 1880s as the Proctor House.



What: The Society's Annual Meeting
Where: Grand View Estate
580 Mountain Road
When: Thursday, August 8, 7pm

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT,

WHEN some of us attend the occasional MONADNOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETIES FORUM and share our programs and activities with other regional historical society representatives, we come to realize how busy we are. "Busy" translates into work, and that, in turn, means stretching to fulfill our mission of preserving Jaffrey history and educating our citizens. We process newly donated material weekly and we plan and produce programs that are interesting and informative. While monetary contributions are welcome and important to maintain our quality of operation, actual hands-on assistance by new volunteers is of high value as our stalwart cadre of the usual workers begins to age out. The six Executive Team members are all active leaders and will continue to work hard in the coming year, however, they need some helpers and apprentices that will be ready to step into their shoes in the near future. We need assistance to not only continue our programing and good works but to meet the needs of all of our citizenry, young and old alike. We invite any and all members of the Jaffrey Historical Society to become active workers in furthering our mission. And to those usual movers and shakers, we thank you for your continued support and good work. Looking forward to another rewarding year. 🍂

Bruce

ArchivesDick Boutwell, *Chair*

RECENT items donated to the Society include various reports, receipts and photos from **Bill Driscoll**; photos of Olive Lynch and of Don Eaves, a 1928 auto registration and some cemetery receipts from **Cynthia Hamilton**; and from various other donors: Charles Jurva & H.C. Barber milk bottles, a White Bros. crate and some Conant High School photos...and this watercolor entitled 'East Jaffrey' by Blanche Minot, donated by **Margery Reed** of Charlestown, NH. It's a nice picture but doesn't look much like Monadnock to us. 🍂

**Membership**Marcie Manning, *Chair*

WE ARE SORRY to report the deaths of **Evie Hammerman**, **Norma Houghton** and **Philip Tremblay**. Our membership now stands at 147. *If you receive a membership envelope with this newsletter it means that your dues haven't been received yet. Please renew your membership!* 🍂

*Officers & Committee Chairs**President:* Bruce Hill • *Vice President:* Charles Turcotte • *Treasurer:* Karl Putnam*Corresponding & Recording Secretary:* Vicki Arceci • *Archives:* Dick Boutwell • *Exhibits:* Helen Coll*Genealogist:* Carolyn Garretson • *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

Little Red Schoolhouse

Jackie Johnson, *Chair*

MEMBERS are reminded that the Little Red Schoolhouse on the Common is open on weekends through August, Saturday & Sunday, 2-4PM. It will also be open on the 7th of August from 1PM during the annual First Church Fair. ☺

Projection System

THE SOCIETY has made a substantial donation from the **Mary Kidd Fund** to the Civic Center to cover the costs of installing a state-of-the-art projection system in the Auditorium. This will greatly improve the presentation of our programs as well as make the space more attractive to outside groups wishing to hold meetings and conferences in the Civic Center. The installation should be completed by the end of July. ☺

Hannah Davis

OUR booklet on Jaffrey bandbox maker Hannah Davis (written in 1925 by Margaret C. Robinson) is now out-of-print. Mary Jo Marvin has prepared a revised edition which will be expanded to include new material particularly photographs. The Society has a large collection of her boxes as does the Village Improvement Society. We expect the booklet to appear sometime in 2020. ☺

Upstairs at the Library

THE SOCIETY mounts an exhibit every month or so in the History Rooms on the second floor of the Jaffrey Public Library. Drop up sometime and have a look.

The current one focuses on cars, gas stations and dealerships. To highlight the current exhibit a framed notice board has been installed on the ground floor. (The antique frame was donated by **The Cobbs** auction house in Peterborough.) ☺



Master Planning

THE SOCIETY is in the early stages of collaborating with the Civic Center in a master planning process focusing both on the Civic Center itself and the Historical Society. This could commence as early as this September. ☺

Historical Markers

THE SOCIETY is in the early stages of applying for a State of New Hampshire historical highway marker for **Soldiers Rock**. This large boulder stands on the south side of Route 124 east of Bullard Road. The idea for this first arose when a stop was made there as we set out to Troy on our last Autumn Outing. Cathy Proulx is heading up the effort. The preliminary proposed text reads:

Soldiers' Rock

Revolutionary War

On a military road cut in 1760, it is said on authority of old families in the neighborhood on one expedition through Jaffrey, a company of soldiers, camped for the night on the so-called Fassett place on the Mountain Road, west of Monadnock, beside a large boulder a few feet south of the road. In the night, one of the soldiers, whose name is unknown, died and was buried beside the boulder, giving it its name, Soldiers' Rock, by which it is still known.



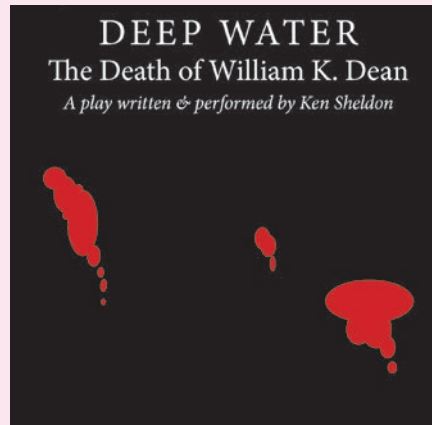
A similar marker for the **Jaffrey Meetinghouse** is also being considered as is a local marker indicating the original location of the **Little Red Schoolhouse** on Dublin Road. This would replace the present one which has little information. ☺

The Year in Review

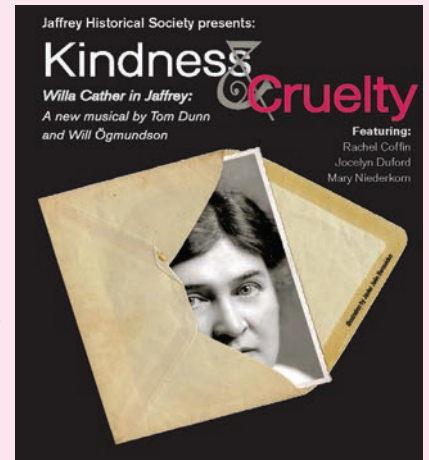
Since last year's Annual Meeting the Society has presented or co-sponsored the following programs, events and exhibits:

Dean Murder

THE HIGHLIGHT of the centennial year of the DEAN MURDER was Ken Sheldon's play, *DEEP WATER*. Three sold-out performances were held in the Meetinghouse. *August 13, 18 & 19, 2018.* 🐾



Cruelty: Willa Cather in Jaffrey, a musical performed by the Alchemist's Workshop. *February 11, 2019.* 🐾



Potluck

OUR always popular annual POTLUCK was well-attended and when all appetites were well sated Joe Manning told us all about Boston's GREAT MOLASSES FLOOD that had happened a hundred years before. *February 14, 2019.* 🐾

Autumn Outing

OUR annual Autumn Outing was to our neighbor Troy. We packed a lot into our time there and topped it off with hearty dinner at THE INN AT EAST HILL FARM. *October 14, 2018* 🐾



A Willa Cather Weekend

THE SOCIETY was one of the many co-sponsors of this two-day celebration of Willa Cather in 'words, music, theater and food,' marking the hundredth anniversary of *My Antonia*. *October 19-20, 2018.* 🐾



Annual Christmas Party

THE SOCIETY and the Civic Center come together for this festive holiday gathering every December. The food and drink are always memorable. *December 12, 2018.* 🐾



Lafayette and the Farewell Tour

FOR our spring program Alan Hoffman gave a well-researched and fascinating talk on the French general Marquis de Lafayette and his farewell tour of America in 1824-25. Did he come to Jaffrey? No, but he did visit New Hampshire. *April 18, 2019.* 🐾



Kindness & Cruelty

ALONG with the Jaffrey Public Library and the Civic Center, the Society co-sponsored a performance of *Kindness & Cruelty*



Cemetery Tour

THE fourth cemetery walking tour featured **Village Cemetery**, sometimes called Baptist Cemetery. It's in the center of town, within sight of the post office yet remains largely unknown and unvisited today.

June 23, 2019. ☞

BELOW: Bruce Hill & Helen Coll welcoming members and friends to the Village Cemetery. The tour was co-sponsored by the Society and the Jaffrey Cemetery Committee.



The Fourth of July

Now in its 19th year, the annual reading of **The Declaration of Independence** was held in the Meetinghouse at noon. This patriotic event—co-sponsored by the Society, the VIS, the Meetinghouse Committee and the Historic District Commission—is always well attended. The Society's Little Red School House was open, the Seagrave Fire Engine was on site and this year Monadnock 4, our Fire Museum on Main Street, was open and even serving hotdogs!

July 4, 2019. ☞

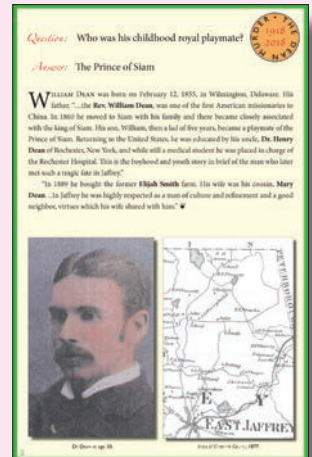


Exhibits at the Civic Center and the Jaffrey Public Library

Dean Murder

As part of the year-long centenary of the Dean Murder the Society mounted an exhibit in the Auditorium of the Civic Center made up of 21 panels focusing on the many intriguing aspects of this still unsolved crime.

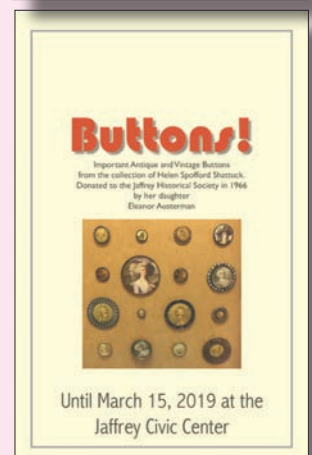
August 2018. ☞



Buttons!

WE are fortunate to have an important collection of buttons. They're on permanent display in the basement of the Civic Center but we thought they should be featured in the first floor display cases. They were collected by Helen Spofford Shattuck.

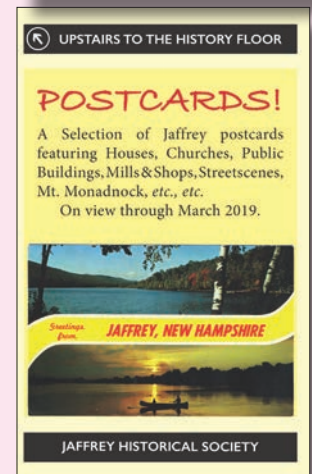
February-March 2019. ☞



Postcards!

Boy, do we have postcards! Thousands, in fact. But the Society could always use more, particularly street scenes, buildings, images related to day-to-day life in Jaffrey. A selection was shown on the History Floor at the Jaffrey Public Library.

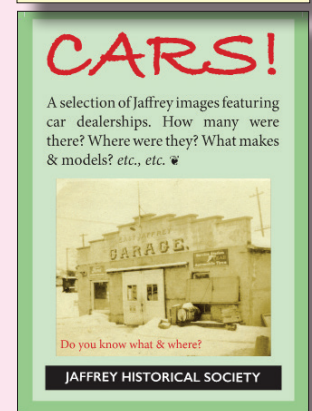
February-March 2019. ☞



Cars!

JAFFREY has historically had a large number of businesses devoted to the automobile. This exhibit featured automobile dealerships using photographs and newspaper advertisements. Not a single dealership remains today.

June-July 2019. ☞



Current & Upcoming Programs & Events

Troy Visit

WHEN we go off on our AUTUMN OUTING each October we always invite our host community to come to Jaffrey. Only one has actually taken up our offer but our neighbors in Troy, where we enjoyed our visit last year, are headed for Jaffrey on Sunday, **September 15, 2019**. We'll start off at the Meetinghouse, tour the Old Burying Ground, the Little Red Schoolhouse, Melville Academy, Monadnock 4 Fire Museum, Civic Center, History Floor of the Jaffrey Public Library, ending up with some socializing at the Civic Center around 4:30. Docents, greeters and ushers at all the locations are needed. Please come and share your enthusiasm, knowledge and neighborly spirit. 🍷



Historical Societies Forum

SINCE 2002, the Monadnock Historical Societies Forum has served the Monadnock Region to help promote the collection, preservation, and communication of local history. More than 20 historically oriented organizations meet to support each others' initiatives. The Forum meets three times a year. The first meeting was held some years ago at the Jaffrey Civic Center with our Society the host. We'll be at it again when the Forum meets at the Civic Center. All are welcome at these informal sessions. Thursday, **October 10**, 9AM through lunchtime. 🍷

Summer Fair

THE 103RD annual First Church Summer Fair will be held in and around the Meetinghouse on Wednesday, **August 7th**, from 1:00 until 4:00PM. One half of the proceeds are earmarked to the operating expense of the Church while the remainder is donated to local social service organizations and scholarships. The Fair has evolved into a community event and depends on over 100 people who volunteer to help in some way. Please consider donating good merchandise to sell, volunteering to work in preparation, making a monetary contribution, and attending the Fair. The gourmet luncheon that precedes the Fair opens at noon. For more information contact Bruce Hill at (508) 280-9546. 🍷



Dining Out with Benefits

THE GROVE, which is the name of the restaurant at **Woodbound Inn**, offers a Wednesday night buffet for \$13. It donates \$3 back to an assigned non-profit. **September 4th** and **25th** have been assigned to the Jaffrey Historical Society and the Civic Center jointly. Members of both organizations—and the general public—are encouraged to dine out those nights, between 6 and 9PM. Reservations are advised at (603) 532-9505. Come one or both nights and support our organizations. 🍷

Looking ahead — Upcoming Programs & Events

SATURDAY JULY 27: Launch of *Laban Ainsworth: A Life*. Jaffrey Meetinghouse 7:30PM. (See back page.)
 • **THURSDAY AUGUST 8:** *Jaffrey Historical Society Annual Meeting* Grand View Estate 7PM • **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4 & 25:** *Dinners at The Woodbound* with the Civic Center • **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15:** *Troy Historical Society visits Jaffrey* • **THURSDAY OCTOBER 10:** *Monadnock Historical Societies Forum* meets in Jaffrey • **SUNDAY OCTOBER 13:** *Annual Autumn Outing* (Millipore tour, tentative) • **THURSDAY DECEMBER 13:** *Annual Christmas Party* with the Civic Center 5:30-7PM. 🍷

The Duncan-Carguilo Collection

In 2000 Nick Carguilo of Rindge donated to the Society 139 glass plate negatives produced by George Duncan "The Druggist." Here are a few of them.

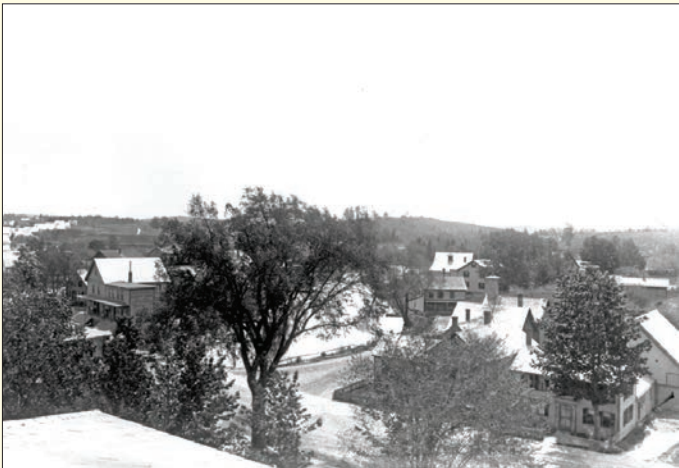
The entire collection may be seen at <https://rs4l.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/JHS/Duncan-Carguilo-Photos/>



Looking west from the 5-way intersection. The Mills still stand so too the Woman's Club but all the other structures are long gone.



Looking east from the Main & River Streets intersection. The Mills still stand as does the Hill Family Insurance building.



The corner of Main & River Streets is in the center. The Town Elm looms above the common. The photo was taken from the roof of the Granite State Hotel.



The Depot still stands on Blake Street. The other buildings are gone. The Livery Stable is the location of the municipal parking lot.



The original Duncan store at the corner of Main & River Streets. It was replaced by the present building, now Country Bridals.



Students at the Meetinghouse when it served as what later became Conant High School.

Launch of *Laban Ainsworth: A Life* by Jean Parker Waterbury.

A FEW years ago Sean Driscoll mentioned that he had found in the Jaffrey Public Library a typescript of a biography of Laban Ainsworth, Jaffrey's long-serving first minister. This was news to us in the Jaffrey Historical Society. We made some photocopies and circulated them amongst the Society's directors. We all agreed: "this should be published." Thus started a project that at the outset we thought would be pretty straightforward and not particularly time-consuming. Now, years later, the Society is proud to launch the first biography of Laban Ainsworth, written by Jean Parker Waterbury nearly 30 years ago.

Through Sue Greene we were introduced to Whit Waterbury, the author's son. He and his sister Holly were supportive of the idea of Jean's efforts being published by the Society and it wasn't long before we had an agreement to proceed.

The typescript was scanned at Savron Graphics of Jaffrey. The results needed considerable 'cleaning up' and rearrangement. (The footnotes, for example, were moved from the end of the book to the end of the individual chapters.) Whit did some copy editing but on the whole the end results remain as Jean wrote them. Over the months of production, Savron turned out several proofs, each one reflecting some design changes and corrections of typographical errors. All along we wanted to retain Jean's efforts as originally presented.

Increasingly, however, we saw the need to include new material particularly photographs. We didn't want to include these in Jean's work itself, but decided to prepare a second volume. This explains why the production appears as 'two volumes in one.' The first volume is Jean's work alone (with some new front matter). The second volume includes nearly everything that could be found about Laban Ainsworth: excerpts from the Town History, a Laban Timeline, an Ainsworth genealogy, the previously unpublished Memoir of Laban Ainsworth by his grandson, the sermon delivered at Laban's funeral, a condensed version of Jean's work that appeared in the journal of the New Hampshire Historical Society, two maps and an Album of Images including

portraits, gravestones, the Manse, and several letters and sketches that appear for the first time.

After numerous drafts the manuscript was finally complete and ready for Savron to 'roll the presses.' A set of 27 sheets was produced for the hardbound version of the book and was taken to the New Hampshire Bindery in Bow on July 9, 2019. The remaining sheets are in production now and will be soft bound with a spiral spine by Savron Graphics.

So barring any last minute glitches, hardbound and softbound copies will be available for sale at the Meetinghouse (and later at the Parish Hall of the First Church of Jaffrey) on Saturday, the 27th of July 2019.

The launch of *Laban Ainsworth: A Life* will kick off at 6:30PM (weather permitting) in the Old Burying Ground where **Rob Stephenson** will point out the burial sites of the Ainsworth-Greene families, the Parkers, and some of the other Jaffrey Worthies with connections to Laban. At 7:30PM Rob will open

the informal presentations to describe with images the publication process (largely covered above). Other speakers will include **Bank Greene** (on Laban and his legacy), **Holly Manley** (Jean's daughter), **David Torrey** (on the history of The Manse) and **Mary Jo Marvin** (on Laban and The First Church of Jaffrey). There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. The evening will be concluded at a reception in the First Church Parish Hall. ☺



What: **Book Launch**
Where: **Jaffrey Meetinghouse**
When: **Saturday
July 27, 7:30pm**