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Latest Happenings

If it has been awhile since you last went down into our display room and archives in the basement of the Civic Center, you need to visit!

A team headed by **Jeanne Duval** has been hard at work since the late winter re-imaging our space. A small taste of this was unveiled during our April potluck, but a grand “unveiling” event was held on Saturday, June 1st for the community to get a new look at our holdings.

Over 100 community members from Jaffrey and beyond visited to see the newly designed displays, freshly cleaned rooms, and sample some delicious snacks provided by Carolyn Edwards. Also making a comeback, after many years, was the long-forgotten “Secret Signature 1968 JHS Punch” – a non-alcoholic version of which was enjoyed by many of the attendees! Jeanne says she “may” disclose the recipe at a future event!

In addition, modern track lighting has been installed to properly illuminate Room 2, and lighting on a motion sensor has been installed in the downstairs hallway. The Display Rooms will be accessible, though with the glass doors locked, during normal Jaffrey Civic Center hours. On Saturdays, the rooms will be opened to the public with docents and guides on hand.



Guests enjoy the new displays and snacks at the June 1st reception. Photo Credit: Peter Lambert



A new banner announces the JHS is once again open for business! Photo credit: Vicki Arceci

- Important Note -

We are looking for volunteers to serve as docents and guides in the JHS Display rooms on Saturdays 10am-2pm. You don't need to be an expert on the artifacts, just be willing to welcome guests and answer questions about the JHS! Please contact Jeanne at (603) 831-9865 or email her at jeanneduvalstudio@gmail.com to volunteer!

UPCOMING DATES

- July 11: Board of Directors Meeting
- August 1: Executive Team Meeting
- August 8: Annual Meeting, 7 pm (see back page)
- August 17: Warfield Birds Reception
- September 5: Executive Team Meeting
- September 12: Board of Directors Meeting
- October : Annual Outing, TBD

Society News

Jackie Johnson and the Little Red Schoolhouse Committee proudly announce that the schoolhouse is now open for the summer! Stop by to visit any Saturday or Sunday from 2-4 pm through August.

The annual reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th was once again a huge success. The JHS is one of the co-sponsors. Thank you to everyone from the JHS who helped, including **Judith Goff**, **Charlie Turcotte**, **Sean Driscoll**, **Rob Stephenson**, and many others!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Pamela Brett, Eric Jonas & Susan Cho,
Laura Grimshaw & Lisa Clark, Cathy Devlin,
and Bob Warfield



Jackie opening up the LRSH on July 4. Stop in and visit this summer! Photo Credit: Peter Lambert



Photo Credit: Jeanne Duval

Robert and Virginia Warfield lived in Jaffrey from 1960 until their deaths. They carved and painted over 7000 detailed and exquisite birds which can be found on display all over the world. The final 50 were donated to the Sharon Arts Center in 2008 where they were on exhibit until the Center closed about 5 years ago. Due to the diligence and generous support of Robert's son, **Bob Warfield**, this final collection was rescued and returned to Jaffrey. This collection will be displayed by the JHS at the Civic Center in August, with a Grand Reception on August 17. *More information to come!*

The JHS recently acquired a small, nondescript notebook of great historical interest! Found in a "free" box along the side of Route 124 near Marlborough was a handwritten list of all deaths in Jaffrey from 1841-1893. We would like to thank **Joshua Tetreault** for his discovery and his subsequent donation of the notebook to the JHS. Details of the history, original owner, and purpose of the notebook are unknown, but it certainly adds to our knowledge of Jaffrey history and genealogy. We have also acquired an original **Ellie Gagnon** painting, courtesy of the Peterborough HS. Thank you!

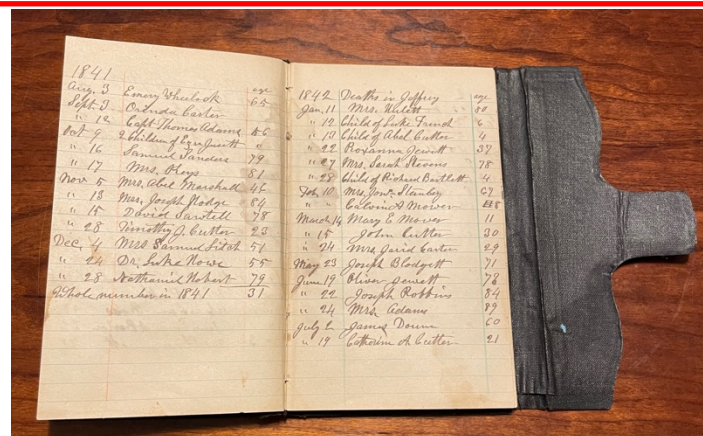


Photo Credit: Bruce Hill

Pompey Freeman

A forgotten hero of the Revolution

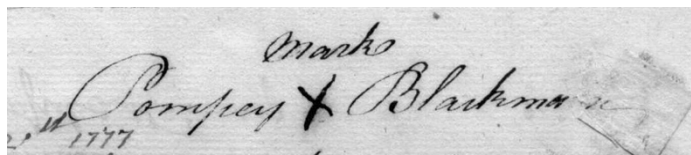
Pompey Blackman was born around the year 1755, and although colonial records are sparse it is thought that he was enslaved in Lexington, Massachusetts. Nothing is known of the first 20 years of his life, but in 1775 he is listed as a “tanner’s apprentice.” Perhaps he apprenticed with Amos Fortune, who at the time was operating his own tannery in nearby Woburn and had been a free man for 6 years. If they did not work together, they certainly knew each other, as we shall see.

Some records indicate he may have fought on April 19, 1775 as the British retreated from Concord. Pompey enlisted in Colonel Samuel Gerrish’s regiment of Massachusetts militia in the early spring of 1775.

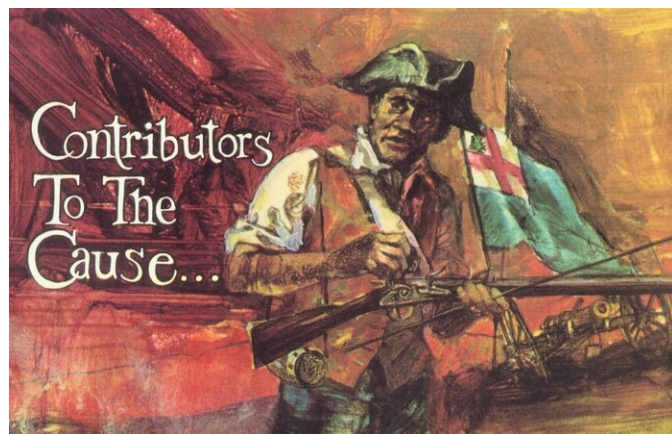
On June 17, 1775 at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Colonel Gerrish refused orders to advance to the battlefield, so Pompey Blackman may not have seen active combat that day. After Gerrish was discharged for cowardice, his regiment came under the command of Colonel Loammi Baldwin of Woburn. Colonel Baldwin’s father James was the legal owner of Violet Baldwin – the future Mrs. Amos Fortune.

In March 1776, Pompey helped reinforce the artillery placed on Dorchester Heights, forcing the British to evacuate Boston. That fall, he served at Fort Ticonderoga, New York through the late fall, helping to repel a British attack via Lake Champlain.

In the spring of 1777, he enlisted for three years in the 15th Massachusetts Regiment. Before marching off, getting his affairs in order, he granted his “trustworthy friend” Amos Fortune power of attorney.



Pompey served at the Battle of Stillwater near Saratoga, New York and assisted in forcing the surrender of British General Burgoyne’s army. He then marched south and spent the winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and fought the British at Monmouth Courthouse, New Jersey in June 1778. He again re-enlisted in 1780 and served the Continental army in Rhode Island. His final discharge from the army was November 1, 1780.



Credit: USPS

Pompey Blackman returned to Massachusetts and presumably reunited with Amos Fortune – who the following year moved to Jaffrey. In 1781 Pompey filed an intention to marry the enslaved woman Susanna Bay of Holliston, Mass. This was forbidden by Duty Bay – presumably Susanna’s master.

On October 27 1782, he was ‘Baptized & Admitted’ into the First Congregational Church of Lexington. He was presumably in poor health, as the church records the service was private as he was sick. Perhaps this led to his eventual move to Jaffrey to work with his trusty friend Amos Fortune, which happened sometime before 1785.

Notably, by 1785 Pompey had made a major personal change as well. At this point records refer to him as **“Pompey Freeman.”** It is presumed he made this change to reflect either his Revolutionary service, his freedom from slavery, or perhaps some other circumstances lost to history.

Pompey Freeman assisted Amos Fortune in his business and personal life for the next five years. He was young – only in his 30s – and Amos Fortune by this time was well into his 70s. Records indicate he occasionally made trips to various taverns and stores, and he no doubt helped with the various tanning processes. He probably even lived with Amos Fortune – some records refer to him as “Pomp Fortune” – and made the move with the Fortune’s to the new tannery on the road to Sharon in 1789.

Regrettably, and for unknown reasons, Pompey died on May 20, 1790. He is presumed to be buried in the Old Burying Ground behind the meetinghouse – for where else would he have been buried? – but he has no headstone. I personally believe he deserves better, and perhaps someday a grave marker will be put up to recognize this Revolutionary War hero.

-Peter Lambert

JHS Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 8 – 7 pm –
Jaffrey Fire Station

The annual meeting this year will focus on Jaffrey's firefighting history. **Dave Kemp** will give a presentation on his research into the Jaffrey Fire Department and some of our historic firefighting equipment. Current JFD members will be on hand to show off our current fire trucks and firefighting equipment. As always, the meeting will feature a status update on the JHS, the election of next year's officers and directors, light refreshments, and friendly conversations! Please join us at **7 pm on August 8** at the Jaffrey Fire Station, 138 Turnpike Road.



Jaffrey Historical Society Officers and Directors

President: Peter Lambert

Vice Presidents:
Sean Driscoll
Vicki Arceci

Recording Secretary: Meg Gourley

Corresponding Secretary:
Lyn Lambert

Treasurer: Peter Davis

**Directors
2021-2024**

Judith Goff - Henry Hammond
Bob Schaumann - Betty Shea

2022-2025

Jeanne Duval – Jackie Johnson
Fran McBride - Ray Record

2023-2026

Lyn Lambert - Cathy Proulx
Karl Putnam - Diane Schaumann

Genealogist:
Carolyn Garretson

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Harvey Sawyer (2021-2024)
Clay Hollister (2022-2025)
Betty Royce (2023-2026)

JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
40 MAIN STREET
JAFFREY, NH 03452

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