

THE JAFFREY MEETINGHOUSE



Commemorative Program issued in Celebration of the
Major Renovations to the Jaffrey Meetinghouse
undertaken during 1991-1993.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE MEETINGHOUSE

Homer J. Belletete	Nancy H. Massey
Joanne A. Buck	Robert K. Massey
Caroll J. Carbonneau	Eleanor D. McQueen
George H. Cox	Mary R. Payson, <i>Chairman</i>
Peter B. Davis	Sally J. Roberts
Gerald A. DeGrandpre	Jennifer Roth-Quinlan
William M. Driscoll	H. Charles Royce, Jr.
Toni Gildone	Robert B. Stephenson
Owen R. Houghton	Jane W. Torrey
Margaret A. Johnson	Virginia Warfield
Susan B. Leach	

SELECTMEN'S MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

Peter B. Davis, *Selectman*
George H. Cox, *Jaffrey Historic District Commission*
Mary R. Payson, *Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society*

TOWN OF JAFFREY PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

David R. Belletete, Peter B. Davis, Jeanne L. LaBrie, *Selectmen*
Hunter F. Rieseberg, *Town Manager to 1993*
Jonathan B. Sistare, *Town Manager from 1993*
Barbara E. Horn, *Administrative Assistant*
Joanne M. Johnson, *Secretary*
Floyd N. Roberts, *Director, Public Works*
Joseph F. Forcier, *General Foreman, Public Works*
Bruce D. Feltus, *Building Inspector*
and all those other Town workers who have assisted in this project.

GRAND RE-OPENING OF THE MEETINGHOUSE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, July 3rd, 1993

From 2 to 4 o'clock on the Meetinghouse Common

Games for children
Family relay races with prizes
Storytelling and songs by Gail Talbot
Art exhibition featuring scenes of the Meetinghouse
Historical displays and Jaffrey Mural from the Civic Center
Horse and carriage rides by Alfred Sawyer
Antique car rides by Charlie Bacon and Dan Johnson
Mary DesRosiers, musicians and the Nelson Village Dancers.
(Performances at 2 and 3 pm)

Open Houses

The Meetinghouse (David Torrey)
Little Red Schoolhouse (Homer Belletete)
Melville Academy (Hester Ames)
Old Fire Station (Dave Kemp)
The First Church (Virginia Warfield & George H. Cox)

Tours of the Old Burying Ground by Committee members

Leading citizens in period costume will portray historical figures

George Jaffrey (William Driscoll)
The Rev. Laban Ainsworth (David Torrey)
Hannah Davis (Hester Ames)
Samuel Litch (Homer Belletete)



Refreshments

Soft drinks and popcorn by the Woman's Club, Noon to 9 pm.
The BRASS PINEAPPLE (Paul Wilson) will provide food & drink from 2 pm onward
with a special Chicken Barbecue served between 5 and 7 pm.



*Items for sale to support the Meetinghouse
Commemorative Program*
Model of the Meetinghouse Raffle Tickets
Meetinghouse balloons Meetinghouse buttons
Meetinghouse bookmarks Meetinghouse tiles
Bicentennial and Sesquicentennial commemorative medals featuring the Meetinghouse
Artifacts crafted by Dr. Robert A. Chase from ancient wood
salvaged from the Meetinghouse belfry

Items for sale by the Chamber of Commerce
Christmas Ornaments featuring the Meetinghouse

Items for sale by the Woman's Society of The First Church
Notepaper with a scene of the Meetinghouse & environs



PROGRAM OF RE-DEDICATION
4:30 pm in the Meetinghouse

Moderator
Dr. Theodore P. Greene
(direct descendant of Laban Ainsworth, Jaffrey's first minister)

Acknowledgements
George H. Cox

Presentation of the Book of Record and Display Case
Mary R. Payson, President, Village Improvement Society

Official Remarks
Peter B. Davis, Chairman, Jaffrey Board of Selectmen

Featured Speaker
P. J. O'Rourke
"Thoughts on Freedom, Meetinghouses, Jaffrey and Life Itself"



SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM IN THE MEETINGHOUSE
Festive dance from 7 to 10 pm with the Middle Road Society Band

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Sunday, July 4th, 1993

On the Common

Refreshments from the VFW Chuckwagon from 5 to 9 pm
Strawberry Festival by the United Church of Jaffrey

At 7:15 pm

TRADITIONAL 4TH OF JULY BAND CONCERT
featuring the American Legion Band of Keene.
Sponsored by the Jaffrey Historical Society.

During the intermission
a variety of floral arrangements and
the replica of the Meetinghouse will be raffled.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MEETINGHOUSE

Albert Annett observed in the Town History that “[n]ever did the town of Jaffrey enter upon a great public undertaking under such unfavorable conditions as in the building of the meeting-house. The town was less than a year old as a body politic. It had only 351 inhabitants, a large majority of whom were women and children; its roads were only marked trails or cartpaths; there were probably not a dozen framed houses in the township; and the necessities of everyday living imposed a severe limitation upon the labor that could be devoted to the public service. Moreover, there were already rumblings of the impending war with the Mother Country, that was to create an incredible drain upon the resources of the town during the Revolutionary period.”

The frame of the Meetinghouse was raised in 1775. Its construction was the first important civic event in Jaffrey’s history, and the location chosen, on a rise of land in the central part of the town, would effectively determine the new community’s development pattern: the

route of roads, the siting of stores and taverns, the building of farms and houses. In short, the town grew up around and out from its Meetinghouse.

Tradition has it that the raising occurred on the day of the Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17th) and that battle sounds from Charlestown could be heard by those doing the raising. The builder/contractor was Captain Samuel Adams, twenty-four years of age and then of Rindge, assisted by his brother-in-law Jeremiah Spofford. In 1822 the bell tower and spire were added, built by Joel Oakes Patrick and paid for by donations on the condition that the Town would buy the bell, which it did in the following year. It was cast by the Paul Revere Foundry. At the same time the building was painted and new clapboards installed.

The Meetinghouse served both as church and site for Town Meetings. In time, other church denominations were accommodated. With the building of the nearby Brick Church and other churches in East Jaffrey, the Meetinghouse was seldom put to use other than for Town Meetings until after the Civil War when, in 1870, the interior was totally rebuilt for town offices and school rooms. The school (Conant High School) eventually moved to the Union Hall on School Street and at the 1914 Town Meeting it was voted to move the town offices and location of future Town Meetings to East Jaffrey, the former to the second floor of the library. The present basic layout, appearance and use of the Meetinghouse date from a major remodelling undertaken in 1922 by the Village Improvement Society in cooperation with the Town.

A MEETINGHOUSE CHRONOLOGY

November 30, 1749 It was made a condition of the conveyance by the Masonian Proprietors “that a good and convenient Meeting House be Built in said Township as near the Center of the Town as may be with Convenience--within six years from this date and Ten Acres of Land Reserved for Publick Uses.”

April 26, 1774 The people of Jaffrey “voted To Build a Meetinghouse on the Common Near the Senter this and the insuing year.”

Winter of 1774-1775 Timbers for the Meetinghouse were cut on the highlands east of Thorndike Pond and drawn to the Common by oxen over the snow.

April 17, 1775 The frame is raised. “Far-off rumble of guns...” heard.

June 1775 First Town Meeting held in the new Meetinghouse.

January 21, 1779 Pews were sold in order to raise money to finish the Meetinghouse.

March 6, 1798 The Town voted to paint the Meetinghouse and \$167.67 was appropriated for the purpose.

1810 The Horse Sheds at the rear were built.

1819 The Toleration Act of 1819 called for the severing of connections between church and state, eventually leading to the construction of separate privately supported church buildings.

1822 The bell tower was built.

July 5, 1855 Meetinghouse officially designated as the Town House, its legal name even today.

1870 The interior was totally rebuilt for town offices and school rooms, at which time the pulpit, gallery and pews were removed and a middle floor was added. The main entrance door was shifted one bay to the west and the window openings were changed slightly. Close inspection of the clapboards today gives evidence of this. The tower entrance door has been shifted as well.

1906 The clock was added at about this time.

1914 It was voted to move the town offices and location of future Town Meetings to East Jaffrey, the former to the second floor of the library.

1922 The interior was completely rebuilt, the nine thousand dollar cost being borne by the Town, the Village Improvement Society and private citizens. The original location of the main entrance--opposite the pulpit--was reestablished

August 11-18, 1923 Jaffrey Sesquicentennial celebration events held in the newly remodelled Meetinghouse.

1947 Amos Fortune Forum, a summer lecture series, established in the Meetinghouse.

1949-1954 Horse Sheds at the rear restored.

1968 First Monadnock Music concert in the Meetinghouse.

1991-1993 Meetinghouse repaired including rebuilding of the steeple and extensive foundation work.

THE RESTORATION OF 1991-1993 PROJECT CHRONOLOGY

April 4, 1990 "Request for Proposals" prepared by the Jaffrey Historic District Commission, Jaffrey Historical Society, Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society and the Amos Fortune Forum Committee released and sent to 31 consultants. In response, eight proposals were submitted.

June 1, 1990 Structural Technology, Inc. (Conor M. Power) and Sara B. Chase, Preservation Consultant, selected to undertake studies of The Meetinghouse, Melville Academy, The Little Red Schoolhouse and The Old Fire House for a fee of \$3,000.

October 4, 1990 Field investigations undertaken by the consultants.

December 18, 1990 Final Report of Structural Technology, Inc., and Sara B. Chase, Preservation Consultant, issued and presented to the Town.

February 20, 1991 The Meetinghouse closed to the public by the Town out of concern for safety.

March 16, 1991 Article 13 passes at Town Meeting appropriating \$35,000 for the Meetinghouse.

Spring 1991 Colonial Renovation of Acworth, New Hampshire, contracted to undertake Phase I, starts work.

April 4, 1991 The National Trust for Historic Preservation awards Jaffrey \$2,000 to support the renovation of the Meetinghouse.

April 19, 1991 Civil War-era safe discovered under the Meetinghouse. Later found to be empty.

June 13, 1991 Steeple removed by crane from the Meetinghouse tower.

August 29, 1991 Benefit Dance held at the Meetinghouse.

February 14, 1992 St. Valentine's Day "Steeple Stomp" Benefit Dance held at Pratt Auditorium.

March 14, 1992 Article 16 passes at Town Meeting appropriating \$35,000 for the Meetinghouse.

Spring 1992 Abet Construction Company, Inc., of Salem, New Hampshire, contracted to undertake Phase II, starts work.

May 21, 1993 Steeple returned to the Meetinghouse tower.

July 3 & 4, 1993 Re-opening of the Meetinghouse. Gala celebration ensues.

TOTAL PROJECT COST (PHASE I & II): \$155,585. OF THIS, \$89,094 WAS RAISED PUBLICLY AND \$66,491 PRIVATELY.



S U P P O R T

Many individuals, families, businesses, institutions and organizations have generously supported the effort to restore the Meetinghouse through their donations of time, money and materials.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Delcie D. Bean, Ellen Holden Bean, Vivian Bean Ellison, Delcie D. Bean, Jr., Louise B. Belletete, James Wilson Bixler, Graham Burt Blaine, Katharine Winthrop Blaine, Harriet M. Blake, Arthur Howe and Eugenia Price Bradford, James B. and Helen D. Draper, Adair

Gilchrist, Katharine Gilchrist Trimble, Theodore Ainsworth Greene, Clara Huston Hillsmith, Paul G. Hooper, John D. and Janet H. Johnson, James H. and Barbara W. Kennedy, Coburn B. Kidd, Wesley A. Mallery, Robert Newbegin, Henry C. Nielson, W. Richard and Alma H. Ohler, Andrew and Jane Ohler Thompson, W. Richard Ohler, Jr., David Ohler, Ruth Orringer, Carlos T. and Dorothy F. Pierce, Lucius and Helen Karr Ryce, Margaret Kell Rumble, Elaine Becker Russell, George and Ada Stetson, William Fessenden and Emily Bradley Wesselhoeft.

BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Amos Fortune Forum, Cournoyer Funeral Home, Francis X. Quinlan, Professional Association, Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society, Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce, Jaffrey Fire Protection, Jaffrey Historic District Commission, Jaffrey Historical Society, Jaffrey Woman's Club, Jaffrey Veterans of Foreign Wars No. 5613, Middle Road Society Band, Millipore Foundation, Monadnock Bank, Monadnock Inn, Monadnock Tax/Bookkeeping Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Peterborough Fish Market, Roy's Bike Shop, Savron Graphics, Tower, Bean and Crocker, Professional Association, The Towne House Antique & Lamp Shop, W. W. Cross, Inc., Walt's Signs, Woman's Society of First Church, Yankee Publishing, Inc.

INDIVIDUALS

Forrest and Hester Ames, William and Ann Arthur, Alice Austin, C. Burgess and Katharine Ayres, Rob and Demi Ayres, Charles and Virginia Bacon, Hans and Elspeth Badertscher, James and Betty Jane Balentine, Robert and Charity Banker, Jeannette Palache Barker, Susan E. Beauregard, David and Nancy Belletete, Homer J. Belletete, George and Josephine Benedek, Gordon and Elizabeth Billipp, Herbert and Judith Bixler, Gladys Day Black, William and Allon Blackwell, Edmund G. Blake, John and Geneva Bliss, Roland and Elizabeth Boucher, Ronald and Jean Boutwell, Mary Bradley, Robert and Barbara Brandin, Louise W. Bristol, Virginia B. Burgess, John and Eleanor Butler, Robert and Ann Chase, Francis and Winona Cheney, Joseph E. Cheney, Hannah R. Clay, Archie and Helen Coll, George and Helen Cox, Wallace and Hilda Creelman, Richard and Jane Cunningham, Peter and Louise Curran, Curtis Dahl, Erma Alvord Davis, Peter and Barbara Davis, Charles A. DeGrandpre, Mary Del Rossi, Suzanne Aldrich Drinker, William and Catherine Driscoll, James and Margaret Duesenberry, J. August and Charlotte Duval, Frederick and Jane Ernst, Rachel Page Evans, Helen Ford, Malcolm and Mildred Freiberg, Chandler and Barbara Gilbert, Ernest P. Gill, Gardner and Martha Howell Gould, Herbert and Colette Gramm, Herbert and Clara Grant, Mary Graves, Anne Moore Griffin, Richard and Edith Grodin, Arthur and Cynthia Hamilton, Charles and Sylvia Hamilton, Richard and Barbara Hamlen, Bernard and Jean Hampsey, John and Betsey Harris, J. Jerome and Elizabeth Hartzell, John G. Heil, Fannie Hillsmith, Harriet Sturgis Hollister, William and Evelyn Hooper, John and Beverly Hoover, Owen and Norma Houghton, Daniel Hurlin, David and Priscilla Hurlin, William and Janet

Jackson, Linda K. Jacob, Donald and Paula Jeffries, Graham and Elizabeth Jeffries, Wilma Jewell and Deborah Stewart, Daniel and Jacqueline Johnson, Margaret A. Johnson, Edith A. Jones, Robert and Lois Karlsberger, Thomas and Louise Kell, James H. Kennedy, Bruce and Jane Keough, Mary H. Kidd, Ethel Kloberg, Anne Lindsay Knight, Raymond and Deborah Kruse, Priscilla Kunhardt, Philip and Jeanne LaBrie, Hope Howell Langdon, Paul and Lucy Leach, Daniel and Lois Leavitt, Merle and Yangja Legg, Richard and Jane Lent, John and Mary Lord, Adair Trimble Lummis, Theodore and Janet Magoun, Robert and Nancy Massey, Allen and Ellen Maulsby, Bruce and Mary Elizabeth McClellan, Lorraine McConnell, Marie McMorrow, James and Eleanor McQueen, Robert and Helen Mercer, Charles and Mary Merrill, Gaius and Catherine Merwin, Frank and Suzanne Mieso, D. Glyn and Phyllis Millard, Robert and Hilda Mitchell, Harvard E. Moor, William and Barbara Moore, Joseph O. Morgan, Karen Nadeau, Katharine Slade Newbegin, Henry and Patricia Nielsen, P. J. O'Rourke and Amy Lumet, Andrew R. Oliver, David and Suzanne Oliver, Iver and Dorothy Olsen, Charles and Marie Ouellette, Thomas and Jean Page, Charles and Priscilla Palmer, Harold and Edith Parker, Richard and Louise Parker, William and Mary Payson, William F. Payson, Jr., Quentin and Carolyn Peacock, Suzanne Pierce, Theodore and Alice Pineault, Gene and Margaret Pokorny, Francis and Prudence Poole, Robert and Betsy Potter, Francis and Virginia Quinlan, Mark and Irene Quinlan, Timothy and Jennifer Quinlan, Ann M. Raleigh, Fanny B. Raymond, Ronald and Christine Reid, Sally J. Roberts, Walter and Gertrude Rowlands, Mary Wild Roy, Marie Royce Ruffle, Kendall and Stella Russell, Lauraette C. Sawtelle, William and Kelley Schofield, John and Diane Schott, Henry and Irene Schulte, Catherine Seiberling, Edward and Elizabeth Shea, Paul and Phyllis Shelton, Elizabeth C. Sisson, Roger and Florence Smith, Russell Train Smith, Tom and Margo Smith, Arthur and Jean Stanton, Richard H. Stein, Joseph D. Steinfield and Virginia Eskin, Robert B. Stephenson, Margaret Stevens and Jonathan Hart, Martin and Ann Stevens, John and Patricia Strauss, Rosamond M. Sullivan, Marvin and Mary Topolsky, Wolf and Nina Von Eckardt, Cheves and Jane Walling, Virginia Warfield, James and Gillian Whalen, Francis and Davida Woods, Emily D. Wright.

FAMILIES

THE BEAN FAMILY: Christopher and Claire Bean, Margaret Bean and children, Vernon and Evelyn Bean, Robert and Bonnie Bennett, David and Marilyn Ellison, James and Doris Ellison, B. Leonard and Helen Krause, Allen and Susan Leach. **THE BLAINE FAMILY:** Graham Burt Blaine, Jr., Katharine Winthrop Swan, Lorna Blaine Halper, Charlotte Winthrop Vaughn. **THE GREENE FAMILY:** Bancroft and Susan Greene, Frederick W. Greene Estate, Inc., Jennifer Ainsworth Greene, Nancy Torrey Greene, Theodore and Mary Jane Greene, Jane W. Torrey, Jean Parker Waterbury. **THE OHLER FAMILY:** Caroline H. Ohler, John H. and Priscilla W. Ohler, Susan B. Ohler. **THE WESSELHOEFT FAMILY:** Margaret B. Allen, W. and M. Barron III, Bradley and Michelle Bigelow, Emily Byrd, Mrs. Hamilton Hadden, Peter and Virginia Russell, Renouf and Lilly Russell, Susan Saltonstall, W. and E. Saltonstall, William Saltonstall, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Von Stade.

CONSULTANTS, CONTRACTORS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE

Structural Engineer and Construction Manager
Structural Technology, Inc. (Conor M. Power)

Preservation Consultant
Sara B. Chase

Architectural Services
Richard M. Monahan, Jr., Architects
(Richard M. Monahan, Duffy Monahan)

General Contractor - Phase I
Colonial Renovation (Michael Hulser)

General Contractor - Phase II
Abet Construction Company, Inc. (John Schroeder)

Reconstruction of Belfry Tower
Dovetail, Inc. (Richard Lawson)
Vermont Timberframes (Thomas Harrison)

Restoration and Re-gilding of the Weathervane
Walt's Signs (Walter W. Hautenan)

Other Sub-Contractors
Hansen Electrical
Joseph Plumbing and Heating (Brooke P. Joseph)
Universal Construction (Chris Asaff)
Al Thompson Flooring & Son (Al Thompson)

Book of Record
Designed and hand-lettered by Eleanor D. McQueen
Bound by Harry E. Kenney of Fitzwilliam
Display case designed and crafted by Andrew L. Webber
of black cherry wood from the slopes of Mt. Monadnock

Commemorative Program
Designed, written and typeset by Robert B. Stephenson
Printed and bound by W. W. Cross, Inc. (John White)



Stereographic view published by G. H. Scripture, Peterborough, sometime between 1865 and 1870. From the collection of Dan Johnson.



Cabinet view published by J. A. French, Keene, 1894. From the collection of Mollie MacCready.

Front cover photograph by Robert B. Stephenson, 1990.