Steven Baldwin was born and raised in Jaffrey, graduating from Conant High School in 1977. He’s an alumnus of the New Hampshire Police Academy and studied criminal justice at NHTI, attended the Northwestern University Traffic Institute and trained as a Crime Scene Investigator. He joined the Hancock Police Department in 1987 and after 22 years of service retired as Police Chief.

A few years ago he purchased a metal detector not realizing how closely related it would be to police work. It’s quite simple searching for history that has been lost or buried for hundreds of years—it’s an investigation. Steve says that “when I encounter an interesting place to detect it becomes a scene from history, for instance an old farm field bounded by stonewalls. View the corners as places where a farmer turned oxen; a depression in the field where a barn may have stood; a well where one stopped to drink; and the largest tree on the property where shade was taken. These are all places that will yield relics and tips from the past. Metal detecting is much more than walking a beach looking for jewelry. A detector is an excellent tool for searching what lies beneath the ground. Technology has advanced to where I can tell the difference in metal composition, size and depth of an object. Lastly, detecting has two sides: hobby and sport...and both are very exciting. But for me I have found another that is truly rewarding: I have been very successful in finding lost items and returning them to whom they belong.”

Things are never lost forever!

Looking ahead — Upcoming Programs & Events

Thursday August 11: Annual Meeting, Steve Baldwin Digging up the Past

Sunday October 16: Annual Autumn Outing

Thursday December: JHS-Civic Center Christmas party

Thursday February 9, 2017: Pot Luck

Thursday April 13: Annual Meeting, Phil Cournoyer on W.W. Cross (tentative)

Sunday October 15: Annual Autumn Outing
Greetings to all,

Our April program on tall-case clocks by Scott Edwards (of Peterborough’s Scott’s Clocks) was well-received and quite educational. Scott used our Laban Ainsworth clock as a teaching aid. You can see the slideshow at http://www.rs41.org/jhs/edwards.pdf.

At this year’s Annual Meeting our speaker was Steve Baldwin. He has agreed to present his program on metal detecting this year. We wish John well and perhaps his talk can be rescheduled to another time.

The Dean Murder Project is progressing a step at a time. We’re looking ahead to August 2018 and the hundredth anniversary of this famous unsolved crime. (The main working website is at http://www.rs41.org/jhs/dean.htm) The scanning of original documents continues. Progress can be seen at http://rs41.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/Dean-Murder. Mark Bean, Bill Driscoll and I spoke on the subject at the Cheshire Academy of Lifelong Learning and are due to speak at the Keene Library in August.

The Society co-sponsored with the Jaffrey Cemetery Committee a walking tour of Conant Cemetery. It was scheduled for June 11th but was postponed to the 18th because of rain. You can see the tour guide at http://www.rs41.org/jhs/conanttour.pdf

We co-sponsored, as usual, the Reading of the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July in the Meetinghouse. It was set to coincide with Labor Day. You can arrange a visit at other times by contacting Jackie Johnson at 552-7379.

The Archives has a steady stream of researchers seeking out a wide range of Jaffrey-related. The two on the left are researching railroad history, assisted by Bruce Hill and Dick Boutwell.

Little Red Schoolhouse

Jackie Johnson, Chair

Our historic one-room schoolhouse is now open on weekend afternoons in July & August from 2 to 4 pm until Labor Day. You can arrange a visit at other times by contacting Jackie Johnson at 552-7379. ♦

Membership

Marcie Manning, Chair

We are sorry to report the death of member Lloyd Soderberg. And we welcome as a new member Peter Davis. Our membership now stands at 160. ♦

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August is the Society’s month for the Civic Center display cases. Our exhibit this year will feature the ‘Buddies Monument’—Viggo Brandt-Erichsen’s World War I memorial. The secondary focus will be the recent Conant Cemetery walking tour.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on August 11th at the Civic Center.

Rob Stephenson, President

PS: If you receive a membership envelope with this newsletter it means that your dues haven’t been received yet. Please renew your membership!

News of your Society

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At this year’s Annual Meeting our speaker will be Steve Baldwin [see front page]. He was due to speak next year but because of the ill health of John Peard, who was to speak on Reid’s of Jaffrey, he has agreed to present his program on metal detecting this year. We wish John well and perhaps his talk can be re-scheduled to another time.

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