Come to the Jaffrey Civic Center at 1 pm when we’ll congregate, arrange some carpooling, and head on our way to Winchendon. Those in ‘convoy’ will visit some interesting sites/sites along the way. Or go on your own, arriving at the Winchendon History & Cultural Center (Murdock-Whitney House), 151 Front Street (Rt 12), at around 1:45 pm.

Annual Autumn Outing
Sunday, October 15, 2017
Winchendon, Massachusetts
(see the back page for more information)

Autumn is just around the corner which means we’ll soon be headed off on our Annual Autumn Outing. This year’s destination? Winchendon! Our host will be the Winchendon Historical Society (Winchendon History & Cultural Center) which calls the Murdock-Whitney House its home. And a grand one it is! It was bequeathed to the Society by Adelaide Whitney. Across the street is the Society’s Toy Museum in the Isaac Morse House. We’ll visit both.

Winchendon became known as ‘Toy Town’ in 1914 when Clyde, the large swing horse, made its debut in the 150th Anniversary parade. The Morton E. Converse Toy Company was “America’s first and largest toy factory” and an economic force in the community. Many products of the enterprise are on display in the Isaac Morse House.

In 1930 interest in Winchendon’s historical past was kindled when a group of about twenty men and women, on the call of Joseph E. White, organized the Winchendon Historical Society. The Beals Memorial Library offered the use of a room in its basement to display the Society’s collection of documents and artifacts. Seventy years later, in 2001, the collections were moved to their present location at the Murdock-Whitney House.

For more about the Society visit its webpage at www.winchendonhistory.com
Greetings from the President,

I am honored to be asked and to serve as the next leader of this organization. Rob has left some big shoes to fill but, happily, he will continue to produce this excellent newsletter and other Society publications as well as advise and help plan some of our yearly activities.

We welcome new Directors Cathy Proulx, Henry Hammond, and Karl Putnam. We thank Peggy Ueda, Dennis Wright, and Joe Manning for their prior service. The officers, directors, committee chairs, past presidents, and trustees make up the working board of the JHS. They all give of their time and effort to preserve the history of our Town and to support an appreciation of our heritage.

There will be several new initiatives this year. We have established a committee to study how the JHS can utilize some space on the second floor of the Town Library. We also have a committee to work on recording first-hand oral history from some of our senior residents. Preliminary plans have been formulated to mark the anniversary of the Dean Murder in 2018.

There will be a time in the near future when we will call on all able-bodied members to step up and help with moving some of our historical artifacts in order to freshen up our displays. Please say yes if you can help create new exhibits and keep the JHS of interest and value to those who seek information on the past.

I hope all members will join us for our programs throughout the year. If we are not already on a first-name basis please make yourself known to me at one of our programs. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone soon!

Bruce

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Doctests Needed

Would you be willing to volunteer two hours a month for the JHS/JPL Partnership?

Our Historical Society and the Jaffrey Public Library are partnering to open the second floor of the library. It’s going to be a work in progress for some time to come. But we can start with having a volunteer ‘on duty’ on the second floor, just to maintain a presence and possibly answer questions if visitors should appear. No special knowledge or qualifications are required and no tasks assigned other than ensuring safety and security by your presence.

In the coming weeks and months a few core JHS Officers and Directors will be combing through the files, volumes, and artifacts located in this area of the Library that has been ignored for years. We hope to coordinate our archives and preserve any valuable historical documents and objects we find. We intend to use this area for exhibition, work space, and research on all things related to local history.

However, all we really need right now are individuals to station themselves on the second floor for two-hour shifts. If each of our 200 members would pick a time to volunteer we could easily cover the open hours of the Library. The second floor is accessible by elevator and has a restroom. Won’t you give two hours of your time?

To volunteer or for more information please send an email to Bruce at jhspl.historyfloor@gmail.com.
Members of the Prescott DAR chapter from Fredonia, NY, are pictured with their namesake, Benjamin Prescott, Revolutionary War soldier and resident of Jaffrey. JHS and the local DAR chapter provided a welcoming reception July 28th at the Civic Center. The New York ladies held a remembrance service at the Prescott gravesite in Conant Cemetery on July 29th, complete with VFW color guard, firing squad, and bugler.

Little Red Schoolhouse
Jackie Johnson, Chair

Thanks to all of those who served as docents this past season at the Little Red Schoolhouse: Vicki Arceci, Sandy & Bob Chamberlain, Bill Driscoll, Jacqueline Johnson, Marcie & Joe Manning, Emily Preston, Betty & Kent Royce, Paul St. Pierre, Diane Schaumann, Betty Shea and Peggy Ueda.

Archives
Dick Boutwell, Chair

Among the recent accessions to the Society’s collections: A W. W. Cross display box (Jackie Eaves Kincaid); Red Mill Inn ephemera (Al Vorce); 1959 Bernards Store calendar (Don Stewart); Poster, program and list of arrangements for a 1940s musical review at St. Patrick Church (Mary Given); Shattuck Inn postcard (Franklin Historical Society); Two books authored or co-authored by F. Alexander Magoun and a copy of Coburn Kidd’s Jaffrey Center book (Richard Lynch); and two anonymous gifts: Marguerite Morin’s certificate of military retirement and Lloyd Wellington’s 1922 Conant High School diploma.

(The Society accepts any Jaffrey-related items that it does not already possess and that can be stored in one of our three basement rooms.)

Looking ahead — Upcoming Programs & Events

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15: Annual Autumn Outing (Winchendon). • THURSDAY DECEMBER 14: Annual Christmas Party with the Civic Center 5:30-7 pm. • THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2018: Annual Potluck 5:30. • THURSDAY APRIL 12: Program TBD • SUNDAY JUNE 17: Cemetery tour, tentative. • THURSDAY AUGUST 9: Annual Meeting. • SUNDAY OCTOBER 14: Annual Autumn Outing TBD • THURSDAY DECEMBER 13: Annual Christmas Party with the Civic Center 5:30-7 pm.
Murdock-Whitney House

The Murdock-Whitney House is the palatial home of the Winchendon History and Cultural Center. The house was built around 1820 by Elisha Murdock but was substantially remodeled in 1901. It was bequeathed to the Society by Adelaide Whitney and the collections were moved there in 2001 from the basement of the Beals Memorial Library. The displays are arranged by room, each having a name and a theme: Military Room, Firefighters Room, etc.

Isaac Morse House

The Isaac Morse House is home to the Morton E. Converse and Mason-Parker Toy Museum. Morton Converse started making toys in Rindge in 1873, later going into partnership with Orland Mason. The company “made a great variety of toys, including Noah’s Arks, doll furniture, kiddie riding racers, hobby horses, floor whirligigs, drums, wagon blocks, building blocks, pianos, trunks, ten pins, farm houses, and musical roller chimes. Such a large number of toys were made in Winchendon that it became known as Toy Town.”
Optional after-outing dinner at Winchendon’s Glen Caffe

To top off our Autumn Outing to Winchendon those who wish will congregate around 4:30pm at the Glen Caffe. You’ve driven by it hundreds of times; have you ever dropped in? Sally—the owner and our hostess—will open especially for us which means we’ll have to have a minimum of 25 in our party to make it work. What’s so appealing about the Glen Caffe? Well, the food is good and hearty. But what we will find particularly interesting as historians are the wall murals. They are Winchendon’s little hidden treasure. Sally will tell us all about them and the history of this gathering place. (It dates to the days of Prohibition when it was a private club in what was then a heavily Italian neighborhood.)

This will be a fixed-price meal: $25 per person which includes tax and tip. There will be two menu choices: AMOS FORTUNE POT ROAST or LABAN AINSWORTH CHICKEN (stuffed chicken breast). Both come with sides of mashed potatoes, gravy & glazed carrots. Bread, salad & dessert (apple crisp with ice cream) will be included. We’ll start off with refreshments and a full cash bar.

We will need your reservation by Monday, October 9th. You can either send in the form below with a check (P.O. Box 435, Jaffrey) or pay on the day of the Outing. If the latter, call Rob Stephenson (532-6066) to reserve or better yet send him an e-mail at jhs@rs41.org.

Name: ____________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ E-mail: __________________________

No. of Pot Roast: ____________ No. of Chicken ____________ Total amount at $25 each: ____________

PLEASE RESPOND BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 9
Some of the Sights on the Outing

**Murdock Middle & High Schools**
This striking complex was designed by ARC (Architectural Resources Cambridge) and opened in 1995.

**Old Murdock High School**
This impressively large brick building was built in 1887 and served as a school for a hundred years. It was designed by H. M. Francis who was the architect of Jaffrey’s library (and Rindge’s, too).

**Goodspeed Machine Co.**
A leftover from Winchendon’s manufacturing heyday.

**Clyde**
The original Giant Rocking Horse was built in 1912. The present version is a replica created in 1988.

**Winchendon Old Center**
This is Wichendon’s earliest settlement. The Congregational Church (1859) stands in the distance. The monument marks the site of the first church, 1762.

**North Central Pathway**
This 10-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail stretches from Winchendon to Gardner.

**Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery**
This 210 acre cemetery was opened in 2004. More than 2,600 veterans are interred here.

**Joseph White Column**
in Riverside Cemetery. Many Whites are buried here.

**Winchendon School**
This prep school, founded in 1926, has as its main building what was once the Toy Town Tavern.