

Winter
2022

Jaffrey Historical Society

Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

603-598-0120



OUR FEBRUARY meeting is when we traditionally gather for our annual Potluck extravaganza. We cancelled it last year because of Covid. This year we're planning on going ahead with it but in April rather than in February. Consequently, no February meeting this year. 🍷

Greetings from the President,

I HOPE that this message finds you all in good health and good spirits!

2021 has been another year of cautious, yet steady progress in the work that the Jaffrey Historical Society has tried to accomplish. The Officers and Directors have met as many times as possible in an effort to insure that we stay active and meet our many commitments while staying safe.

As we enter this New Year the country is still struggling with Covid-19 and its variants. For that reason your Officers and Directors have decided to postpone the Pot Luck Dinner in February. We have decided to try to have it in April. We will be advising you all as April approaches.

I would like to give you all a 2021 recap: The Society held its Annual Meeting at the Park Theatre, which was very well attended. The event was held in the 'King Room' on the second floor. The theatre offered a lovely change of venue from past years.

Thanks to Bruce Hill the new computer is up and running, with back-up to protect the entries from being lost. Nice job, Bruce!

Bruce has also applied for a grant to help us with our anticipated expenditures to do the repairs at MONADNOCK #4 FIRE MUSEUM. The grant offered by the NH Preservation Alliance could cover one half of our expenditures for the project, if approved. We will

have more details on our progress as time goes on. Our fingers are crossed!

The LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE was opened this year. Many thanks to Jackie Johnson for her dedication to managing the many volunteers needed to showcase the LRSH during the summer.

The AUTUMN OUTING was held in Swanzey, followed by a gathering for dinner at THE INN AT EAST HILL FARM. Thank you to Karen Ayers and Peter Lambert for making that a very well attended success.

A tour of Cutter Cemetery was held in June co-sponsored by the Jaffrey Historical Society and the Cemetery Committee. Thanks go out to Cathy Proulx and Dick Boutwell for their thorough research and narratives on 'Jaffrey Notables' who are laid to rest in this lovely cemetery.

Finally, our joint venture Christmas party with the Civic Center closed out 2021 with good food and cheer for all.

Happy New Year, God Bless,

Charlie
charlie@jaffreyhistory.org

And a reminder: The Society's membership year coincides with the calendar year so you'll find a 2022 dues envelope enclosed. (*If you don't find an envelope enclosed, that means you're paid up through 2022*). Please help the Society by paying promptly.

With this mailing you'll find the annual Officers & Directors Card which lists all the Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, Past Presidents, Trustees of the Trust Fund, and—on the verso—a bit about your Society and Contact information.

Also included will be a dues statement / return envelope for those who have yet to pay the 2022 dues.

News of your Society



This year's **AUTUMN OUTING** was in nearby Swanzey. At the outset we all gathered at the **Swanzey Historical Museum**. (Here we are outside.) Then over the **Denman Thompson Covered Bridge** and on to **Whitcomb Hall**, newly renovated. Next stop: **The Mt. Caesar Cemetery**. A good number of us finished up the day at **The Inn at East Hill Farm** where we enjoyed a hearty New Hampshire dinner. 🍷

CONANT HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

THE JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY and, separately the Jaffrey Public Library, both have good collections of Conant High School yearbooks. However there are some missing years we would like to acquire to make our collections more complete. We are particularly interested in 1914-1921, and from 1965 on, but we will accept donations of any yearbooks because we like to have multiple copies of each year.

During the 250th Jaffrey Anniversary in 2023 we will operate the 'Conant Yearbook Project.' The project activities will include:

- Collecting and loaning out the yearbooks
- Media posts of photos and articles from the yearbooks
- Public exhibits and name research opportunities
- Photo booth for "then and now" photos
- School census statistics over the years
- Contests for age, class participation, and multi-generations

Bruce Hill will lead the Yearbook Project and he needs many assistants to look through the books and extract information, compile data lists, manage registrations and inquiries, create photos, set up exhibits, and write press releases. Work on the Project needs to start now in 2022. To volunteer please email bruce@jaffreyhistory.org or leave a message at the JHS voicemail line (603) 598-0120. 🍷

Archives

Dick Boutwell, *Chair*

AS FOLKS clean out and downsize, Jaffrey-related articles turn up and we are happy that they make their way to the Historical Society. These donations have come in since the summer: **Cynthia Hamilton** gave us a wooden nickel from ‘Andy’s,’ a View Master reel of Monadnock scenes and three Conant Yearbooks. Five signs that were once displayed around Jaffrey came from **Randy Cournoyer**. An 11-inch ceramic owl created by Viggo Brandt-Erichsen no longer inhabits **Ann Chamberlain’s** attic. Jeannelle Moore passed on a 1941 picture of the Jaffrey Boy Scout Troop. Cleaning out her mother’s home, **Mary Pelletier** donated a 1940 Conant Washington Trip photo, 31 newspaper clippings and numerous 1938 Hurricane photos. A fine, framed photo of the Swig Building on Main Street c. 1950s was donated by **Carolyn Edwards**. The **Milford Historical Society** passed on three post cards of downtown Jaffrey c.1920s. Three colored pictures of the August ribbon-cutting ceremony at The Park Theatre were thoughtfully sent to us by **Eunice Halbedel** of Rindge. A daughter of Jaffrey’s **Charles ‘Charlie’ DeGrandpre** sent us his newly published autobiography which opens with his earliest days in Jaffrey, up to his graduation from Conant in 1954. 🍷

Little Red Schoolhouse

Jackie Johnson, *Chair*

DOCENTS at the Schoolhouse this past summer included: Vicki Arceci, Karen Ayers, Dick Boutwell, Peter Lambert, Joe Manning, Marcie Manning, Emily Preston, Cathy Proulx, Karl Putnam, Betty Royce, Kent Royce, Diane Schaumann, Betty Shea, Debbie Stewart and Peggy Ueda. 🍷

Monadnock No. 4

Bruce Hill & Dave Kemp, *Co-Chairs*

MAINTENANCE of **Monadnock No. 4** has been deferred and we must now act to preserve it for the future. Among the repairs needed: drainage, sill replacement, roof repairs, painting, security and chimney re-pointing. The Board of Directors has voted to make this rehabilitation a priority in 2022 as we approach the JAFFREY 250 JUBILEE. 🍷

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

All events are tentative because of Covid-19 concerns.

- **THURSDAY, APRIL 14:** *Potluck at the Civic Center tentative*
- **SUNDAY, JUNE 26:** *St. Patrick Cemetery tour*
- **THURSDAY, AUGUST 11:** *Annual Meeting, PROGRAM TBD*
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16:** *Annual Autumn Outing, destination TBD*
- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8:** *Annual Christmas Party with the Civic Center, 5:30-7pm.* 🍷



Jaffrey 250 Jubilee

Vicki Arceci, Bruce Hill & Peter Lambert

Historical Subcommittee

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE for the Jubilee has many events in the works, some by corroborating with other groups, beginning this year (Octoberfest, art events, golf tournament, firemen’s ball, winter carnival, Veterans celebration, mountain climb, concerts, speakers, and many more). Sponsorship levels have been set with great benefits at each level. Banners to be attached to many of the poles in town will go up by mid-May of this year and remain through August, 2023. Businesses and families are encouraged to purchase a banner to advertise or show their support. Special Jubilee license plates will be produced, and there are many other merchandise items being sold (www.jaffrey250.com).

Businesses, organizations, groups, neighborhoods, and families will be encouraged to have a float in the giant parade.

THE JAFFREY 250 HISTORICAL SUBCOMMITTEE has been meeting and planning history-themed events. We will have the vintage fire trucks, hearses, and a float in the parade. Historical exhibits will be set up in the Civic Center and other areas in town. A French-Canadian Festival is planned to coincide with RiverFest. An event specially geared towards children at the Little Red Schoolhouse is being considered. A live crafters event showcasing tanning, blacksmithing, wool weaving, hatboxes, etc., is planned. Past JHS President Rob Stephenson is producing the program booklet. Walking tours, outdoor wall mural, oral history project, and reproduction of the ‘Deep Water’ Ken Sheldon play are in the planning stages.

Volunteers for any and all events are always welcome!

For more informaton, go to <https://jaffrey250.com> 🍷

Membership

Marcie Manning, *Chair*

WE ARE saddened by the death of our member **Judith Bixler Collier**.

Please invite your friends & neighbors—especially younger ones—to join the Society. 🍷

WINTER CARNIVAL

TO OVERCOME the doldrums of harsh winters and to encourage tourism in Jaffrey, Winter Carnivals were held starting in 1922. Visitors and locals enjoyed many recreational activities over a mid-February weekend, usually with ample snow and freezing temperatures. Special “snow trains” leaving from Boston brought hundreds of visitors to Jaffrey in the 1930s where they watched winter sporting events by day and danced the night away in Union Hall. Although many people skated and tobogganed, recollections of the past seem to indicate most events were spectator sports. Champion ice racers, figure skaters, sled dog races, and hockey entertained the people. They watched “brownies” from Boston and Manchester dive from a tower through a hole cut in the ice in Cheshire Pond. In later years there were skiing and saucer races behind the high school on Fitzgerald Hill. Continuing to this day are motorized races on the ice of Lake Contoocook. Over the years there have been different iterations of the Winter Carnival, all made possible by volunteers from town. One of the best documents we have on this subject in the JHS archives is a program booklet from the fifth annual Winter Carnival in 1936 sponsored by the Jaffrey Outing Club. It details the activities and the townspeople who made it happen. The time seems ripe to reproduce this fun winter event in 2023 for the JAFFREY 250 JUBILEE. ❄️

