

June

Jaffrey Historical Society

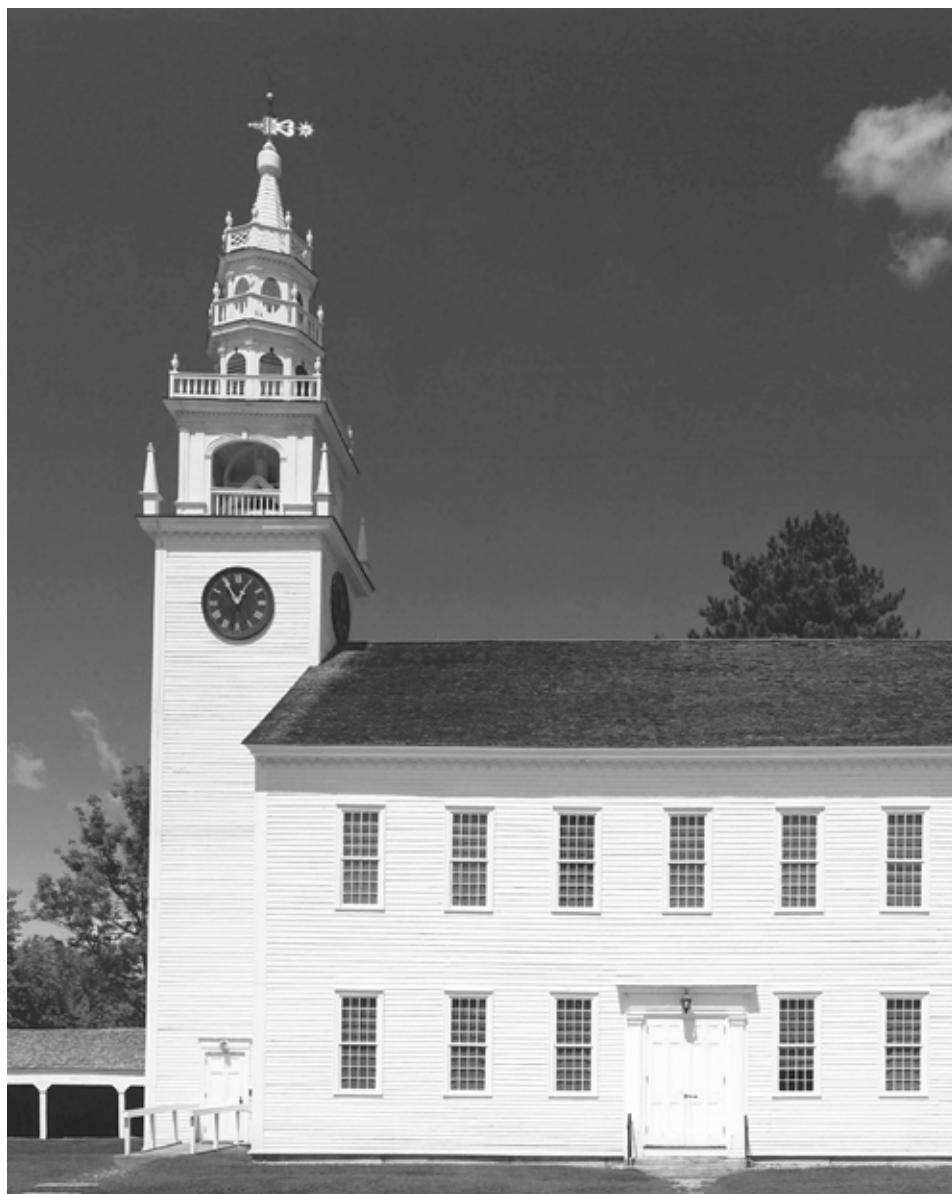
Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

2014

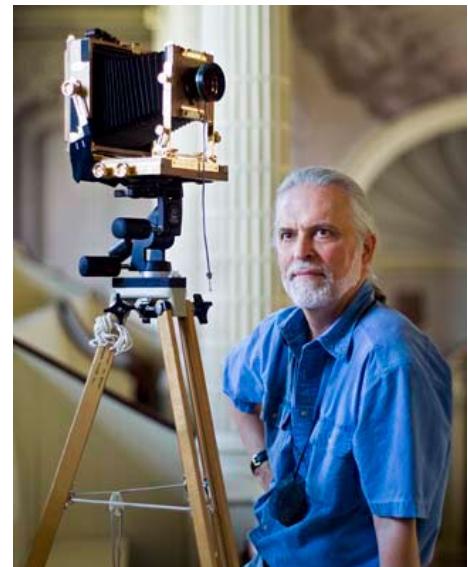
Paul Wainwright New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and their Impact on American Society

NEW ENGLAND's colonial meetinghouses embody an important yet little-known chapter in American history. Built mostly with tax money, they served as both places of worship and places for town meetings, and were the centers of life in colonial New England communities. Using photographs of the few surviving "mint condition" meetinghouses as illustrations, Paul Wainwright tells the story of the society that built and used them, and the lasting impact they have had on American culture.

Based on Paul Wainwright's book, *A Space for Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*. (Copies will be available for sale at the reception.) ♡ ♡ ♡



**Thursday,
June 12, 2014.
8 p.m.
At the Jaffrey
Meetinghouse.
Rt 124 at Laban
Ainsworth Way.
Refreshments following
at the First Church
Parish House.**



Paul Wainwright is a landscape and architectural photographer who works in a traditional manner utilizing sheet film, a large-format camera and silver gelatin printing. Based in New Hampshire, his work is included in private, corporate, and public collections, including the Boston Public Library and Fidelity Investments. Wainwright's images reflect an eye for space and light, subtle details, and a keen appreciation of history.

With support from



See over →

News of your Society

GREETINGS TO ALL,

OVER 90 members and guests attended the Society's April 10th meeting featuring Professor Robert Goodby speaking on "12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State." He described his archaeological discoveries at the site of the new Keene Middle School.

We are a step closer to realizing our hopes for a new Hearse House to accommodate and display the Society's two historic hearses. The proposed location is just outside the stone wall at the south end of the Old Burying Ground to the west of the entrance gate. Your officers and directors are now grappling with the questions of financial feasibility and the prospects for successful fundraising. A presentation was made to the Selectmen on May 12th. (You will find some further information at <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/hearse.htm>)

The latest development regarding our Dean Murder Project was the discovery in the Library Vault of a box of Town records relating to the case (see photo). Much material hitherto unknown has now come to light. The Society plans to start scanning this summer all the available documents concerning the murder. The results will eventually appear on the Society's website which will be launched sometime later this year.

In 1971 Susan and Genevieve Doran, who lived in Bradley Court, left the Society a large collection of their household effects. Included was the very nice painting of Laura Blossom Eaton, their grandmother (see photo). She is shown wearing earrings and a brooch, which were among the items included in the bequest. These have now been nicely mounted and framed thanks to Jackie Johnson. They are currently on display in the Civic Center basement.

Our newspaper scanning project being done at Savron Graphics is progressing. More scans have been added to our temporary website at <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/newspaperscans.htm>.

Your Society has launched itself into the new age of social media with the unveiling of its Facebook page. You can find it at <http://www.facebook.com/JaffreyHS>. So if you have a Facebook account, click "likes" and you'll get occasional news from the Society.

The Society is planning an open house at **Monadnock 4**, our firehouse museum on Main Street opposite the Monadnock Inn. It will be on a Saturday afternoon in August. Bill Driscoll and Dave Kemp will oversee the event and we hope to "unveil" a new brochure on the building and its collections. Walt Hautanen has completed a new sign (see photo).

At the last Board meeting, Mark Bean was unanimously elected to replace Charlie Palmer as a Trustee of the Society's endowment fund. He joins Harvey Sawyer and Betty Royce.

The Society will have a display at **Riverfest** on the last Saturday in July, the 26th. Drop by and say hello!

The Jaffrey Fourth Graders will be making their Spring visit to the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Meetinghouse and Melville Academy on May 29th. Dick Boutwell, Bill Driscoll, Joe Manning and Travis Shattuck will be docenting for the Society.

Our Treasurer (Ken Duquette) and our Membership Chair (Marcie Manning) remind those members who have yet to send in their dues, to consider doing so soon.

I hope you will tell your friends and neighbors about our June program (see over). It will be held at the Meetinghouse which is appropriate given the subject: **New England's Colonial Meetinghouses**. Note that it will be at 8pm which will give you a better opportunity to have supper before.

We welcome as new Society members Roberta Letourneau and Henry Hammond and are sad to report the death of Hilda Mitchell.

Rob Stephenson, President

Upcoming Programs

THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2014: Paul Wainwright, *New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and their Impact on American Society* (at the Jaffrey Meetinghouse) • **THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 2014:** Annual Meeting with Helen and Archie Coll. • **SUNDAY OCTOBER 19, 2014:** Annual Autumn Outing (tentatively a visit to Sam and Jason Hackler's NEW HAMPSHIRE ANTIQUE Co-op and the MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY). ♡ ♡ ♡



Jackie Johnson has kindly donated the framing to display the jewelry that is worn in this painting of **Laura Blossom Easton**. See more about it to the left.

This display on the Baptist Weather-vane was recently placed in the Post Office. The restoration was a Society project completed in 2008. The weather-vane once graced the steeple of the old **Baptist Church** that stood next to the Post Office. This is too small to read here so have a look next time you're at the Post Office.

THE BAPTIST WEATHERVANE

As top building is a gilded weather-vane that once graced the steeple of the First Baptist Church which stood on this site until it was removed in 1968 at the time this Post Office was being constructed.

The church was built in 1830 and the vane probably dates to then. It had greatly deteriorated over the years and was removed on November 28, 2007 for restoration. This was expertly undertaken by Walt's Signs with the assistance of those listed below. The vane was returned to the cupola on June 26, 2008.

Although the Baptist Church building is no longer a feature of Jaffrey's townscape, many parts—other than the weather-vane—may still be found at various locations: The engraved granite foundation stone faces the Post Office in Charity Square. Two of the granite front steps stand at the entrance of the War Memorial Park on River Street. The Hannah Davis memorial window is on display in the basement of the Civic Center. The Paul Revere bell hangs in the belfry of the United Church of Jaffrey. And the belfry itself went off to Concord, Massachusetts, and later to Acton, where



Photos of the church demolition may be seen at <http://imgur.com/gJfzrG>
Photos of the vane today may be seen at <http://imgur.com/lI4eKNa>
Photos of the restoration may be seen at <http://imgur.com/lI4eKNe>

The weather-vane restoration project was sponsored and supported financially by the Jaffrey Historical Society with the encouragement of TEAM Jaffrey and the cooperation of the staff of the Jaffrey Post Office. Additional support came from the Terra Nova Trust, a fund of the NH Charitable Foundation. A major gift was made by J&C Management, the owners of the Post Office building. Among those who worked to bring the project to a successful conclusion: Brad Winters – metal fabrication and welding.
Arnold Baldwin – machining the device that holds the vane.
Bob Stephenson – coordination and organization and Steve Pelkey (Atlas Drywall Vision) – platform lifting.
David Tower, Leg – advisor on legal matters.
Rob Stephenson – coordination and fundraising.
The weather-vane was designed and maintained by the Jaffrey Historical Society, it having been gifted to the Society by J&C Management in 2011.



Walt Hautanen working on the new sign for the old fire station in Jaffrey Center. He just finished it up so it should be installed soon.



Newly discovered in the Library Vault: a cache of documents relating to the **Dean Murder**. Many of the items are new to those expert on the case.