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

**HUMANITIES COUNCIL**
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