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## President's Corner

By Peter Lambert

Happy New Year to you all!

After our very busy 2023, one might have thought we would rest on our laurels for a year. Not so! The year 2024 turned out to be an extraordinarily busy and successful one for the JHS.

This past year featured two programs on Jaffrey's history. In February, we heard Bruce Hill's Conant Generations presentation, and in August Dave Kemp spoke on Jaffrey's firefighting history. Both programs were excellent, and showed off the best of our resident knowledge and research.

Our biggest exhibition to date, the Warfield Birds, took place in August and September. Hundreds of people from across the US and even overseas came to see the 40+ hand-carved birds, sculptures, pottery, and drawings by two of Jaffrey's talented artists, Bob and Virginia Warfield. Our merchandise sales were excellent, and the birds now feature prominently in our display areas. A huge thank-you goes to the Jaffrey Preservation Alliance, Bob Warfield, the Civic Center, and of course Jeanne Duval for making this exhibition possible.

Our display rooms have been completely transformed in the past year, thanks to Jeanne Duval, Cathy Devlin, Charlie Turcotte, and others. The rooms are much more inviting, less cluttered, and display many of our artifacts under better conditions and lighting than ever before.

As always, we welcomed the Jaffrey Grade School 4<sup>th</sup> graders to Jaffrey Center in June, and many people came to visit the Little Red Schoolhouse during the summer. The annual Reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup> was a huge success, and the Hancock Women's Club visited in late summer. Thanks go to the volunteer tour guides, readers, and participants; and to the Village Improvement Society for being a partner in showing off Jaffrey Center's history.



Lyn Lambert handing out cookies during the Currier and Ives Cookie Tour December 14, which brought 300+ visitors into the display area. Photo Credit: Peter Lambert

Our potluck dinner in April and the Christmas party in December featured delicious food and warm camaraderie, as they always do. The holiday season was especially busy this year! We co-sponsored a concert at the Park Theatre (see page 2), participated in the Civic Center Craft Fair, the Currier and Ives Cookie Tour, and for the first time displayed a Christmas Village in Room 2. Between all these events, we had over 600 visitors in December alone! Thanks go to all the volunteers who made this possible.

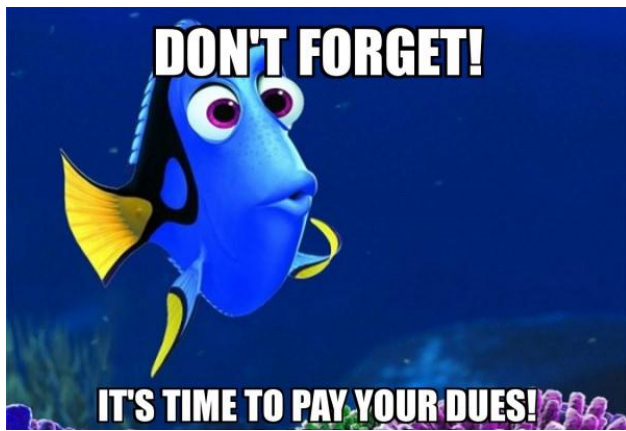
We enter 2025 – our 68<sup>th</sup> year – with more plans, changes, improvements, and challenges. As always, we will face all of the above with the cooperation, volunteerism, small town pride, and dedication to history and education that has been successful in the past. Thanks for your help. I'm proud to be a member of this organization.

-Peter



Marcie Manning works the JHS table at the Civic Center Craft Fair December 7<sup>th</sup>, which brought in \$150. Photo Credit: Jeanne Duval

## News and Reminders



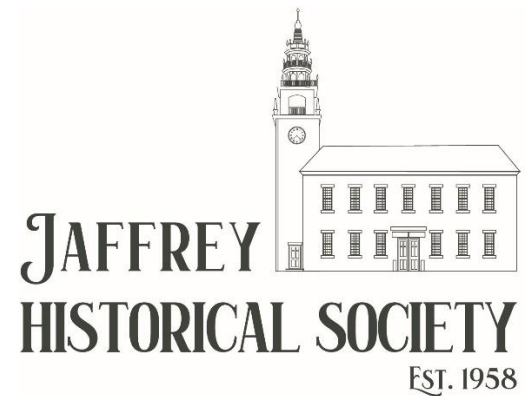
Included in this mailing is your 2025 Membership renewal and dues envelope. If you wish to renew your membership – and we hope you will! – please include your check and send it back to us as soon as possible. Please update your contact info as necessary, and send us any alternative contact info so we can ensure our information reaches you. Remember, all of the JHS programs and activities are only possible with financial support from our members!

**Important: If you did not receive a renewal envelope, it means your dues are already paid or you are already a lifetime member.**

**We'll still gladly accept donations, however!**



On December 1, the JHS co-sponsored a concert of French-Canadian music by Josee Vachon and Patrick Ross, attended by an enthusiastic crowd of 150. Photo Credit: Peter Lambert



## JHS Announces New Logo

For the first time in many years, the JHS is pleased to have a new logo. Our new logo was designed by Whitney (Alvarez) Olitch, originally from Jaffrey, with the input of the officers and approval of the Directors. This logo can be used on promotional materials, publications, stationary, and the like.

Although we do not own the Meetinghouse, we recognize that it is, arguably, the most famous and recognizable historic building in town. It represents our mission of preserving and promoting Jaffrey's past – whether we own it or not! It also seemed appropriate to feature the Meetinghouse in 2025, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its raising.



## Dr. Dean's Sleigh!

During our Annual Outing to Rindge this year, we encountered the sleigh owned by Dr. William Dean, the famous 1918 murder victim. This sleigh was given to the RHS by Mary Lee Ware, a Rindge resident and friend of the Deans. The folks in Rindge joked they would give the sleigh to Jaffrey if we "give back Bullet Pond." Stay tuned...?



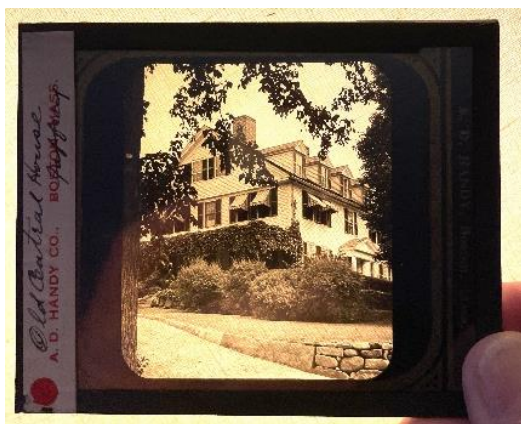


Our first ever Christmas Village helped draw over 600 visitors to our display rooms in December, including many children. Visitors also marveled at the other artifacts we have on display. It was a great success, and will be even bigger next year.

## From the Archives

By Bruce Hill

The Jaffrey Historical Society has a collection of over 300 old glass slide photos and negatives in our archives. Some have been printed on paper and some have been scanned into digital images. Many just exist as glass slides, either in the 4" x 3" size as pictured below, or in the 7" format as pictured in the negative at right.



Member Janet Grant recently donated some additional slides produced by her grandfather, George Stetson, to compliment a previously donated collection. She also graciously donated an antique glass slide projector. While this projector still works and would dimly display the image on a screen, its real value is as an exhibition piece of old machinery. With today's technology we are able to scan the glass plates and then reproduce them digitally as brighter images. We can also zoom in for fine detail.



A good future project would be to organize the collection, scan the best images, and prepare a presentation for the public. The best images would include old buildings and scenes of Jaffrey as well as people familiar by name from historical narratives. Anyone with interest and possible experience dealing with these glass slides, and/or familiarity with digital scanning would be welcome to lend a hand for this project. Contact Bruce Hill, assistant archivist at [bruce@jaffreyhistory.org](mailto:bruce@jaffreyhistory.org).

[www.jaffreyhistory.org](http://www.jaffreyhistory.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/JaffreyHS>



<https://www.youtube.com/@JaffreyHistoricalSociety>

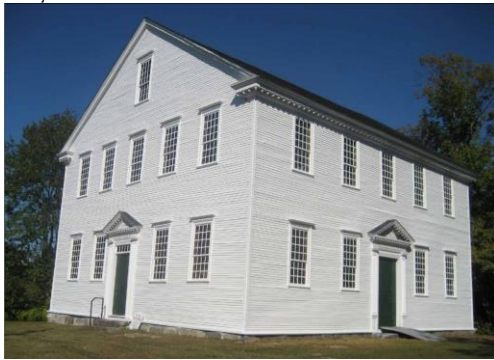


<http://www.instagram.com/JaffreyHistorical> (NEW!)

## Some Historic Churches and Meetinghouses Feb 28-Mar 28

Our February program this year will feature a reception and talk by our own Rob Stephenson on "Some Historic Churches and Meetinghouses." Rob has created a wonderful display of photographs, research, and historic information for a variety of these beloved buildings from across the region.

The reception will include refreshments and a brief presentation by Rob on February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm, in the Civic Center auditorium. The exhibit will be featured through March 28<sup>th</sup>. Accompanying this exhibit will be a display of Jaffrey Meetinghouse artifacts held in the JHS collection, which will be featured in the first-floor display cases. As 2025 in the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raising of our Meetinghouse, this exhibit and display will be a timely celebration, and we hope to see you all there!



The Sandown, NH Meetinghouse. Photo credit: Rob Stephenson

### UPCOMING DATES

February 6: Executive Board Meeting  
February 28: February Program, 6 pm, JCC  
(see above)  
March 6: Executive Board Meeting  
March 13: Board of Directors Meeting  
April 3: Executive Board Meeting  
April 10: Annual Potluck, JCC, 5 pm

JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
40 MAIN STREET  
JAFFREY, NH 03452

*Of interest to our members....*

## Black History Talk at Park Theater

*Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:30 p.m.*

The Park Theatre is pleased to present Dariya Steele as its 2025 Black History Month speaker. Ms. Steele is the Program Assistant for the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. The Granite State has long been home to African Americans, yet their history has long been submerged. The Black Heritage Trail seeks to uncover these hidden stories to honor those who came before and create a more complete state history. As part of Jaffrey's 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations, the BHTNH dedicated a marker to Amos Fortune. Learn more about the rich history of African Americans in New Hampshire that is only recently being appreciated; and about the work the Black Heritage Trail is doing to bring these hidden histories to light. Q&A and reception follow Ms. Steele's remarks.

**The event is free; \$5-10 donation appreciated.**

### Jaffrey Historical Society Officers and Directors

**President:** Peter Lambert

**Vice Presidents:**

Sean Driscoll - Vicki Arceci

**Recording Secretary:** Meg Gourley

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Lyn Lambert

**Treasurer:** Peter Davis

**Directors**

**2022-2025**

Jeanne Duval - Jackie Johnson

Fran McBride - Ray Record

**2023-2026**

Lyn Lambert - Cathy Proulx  
Karl Putnam - Diane Schaumann

**2024-2027**

Judith Goff - Peter Maki  
Bob Schaumann - Betty Shea

**Genealogist:**

Carolyn Garretson

**Trustees of the Trust Funds**

Clay Hollister (2022-2025)

Betty Royce (2023-2026)

Mike Shea (2024-2027)

**Archivists**

Dick Boutwell

Bruce Hill Assistant