



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 🐾

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/sights 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. 🐾

News of your Society

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

DOCENTS 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 jhsjpl.historyfloor@gmail.com.

Officers & Committee Chairs

President: Bruce Hill • *Vice Presidents:* Charles Turcotte & vacant • *Treasurer:* Kent Royce

Corresponding & Recording Secretary: Vicki Arceci • *Archives:* Dick Boutwell

Exhibits: Helen Coll • *Genealogist:* Paul St. Pierre • *Hospitality:* Pam Royce • *Little Red Schoolhouse:* Jackie Johnson

Membership: Marcie Manning • *Monadnock No. 4:* Bill Driscoll & Dave Kemp • *Publications:* Rob Stephenson

Directors

2015-2018

Archie Coll
Emily Preston
Dan Shattuck
Betty Shea

2016-2019

Jackie Johnson
Susan Leach
Fran McBride
Karl Putnam

2017-2020

Henry Hammond
Cathy Proulx
Pete Sawyer
Diane Schaumann

Director Emeritus

Joe Manning

Past Presidents

Mark Bean • Dick Boutwell • Helen Coll • Bill Driscoll • Owen Houghton
Dave Kemp • Marcie Manning • Kent Royce • Rob Stephenson

Trustees of the Trust Fund

Mark Bean • Betty Royce • Harvey Sawyer



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.) 🍷



What the heck is this #1? Drive west along Rt 124 and you might be able to pick this out on the right hand side of the road. It's what's left of the Mineral Springs, so well known back in the 19th century that it shows up on the maps of the time. A researcher from Columbia University recently contacted the Society in an attempt to track down the location. We found it for her and in June she and her co-researcher husband stopped by to take water samples. (It all has something to do with earthquakes and such.) This part of Jaffrey was once known as Ballou City back around the time that the Third New Hampshire Turnpike was developed. In 1808 the Monadnock Mineral Spring House was licensed to John Joslin and the waters taken there were touted as a cure-all. Dr. Dana of Harvard analyzed the water in 1816 and wrote in the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery* that "the quantity [of carbonate of iron] was so minute 'as scarcely to entitle it to the application of Mineral water.'"



What the heck is this #2? This 8.5 x 86 inch board recently came our way. It was found inside the walls of a Jaffrey house during renovation. Years ago, Bill Smith seemed to think it was used to determine board feet of lumber. If so, how did it work? It's divided into five 15 inch panels, each of which is further divided into an upper section and a lower section. The carved numbers are in rows of four in one section; in five in the other, and in five columns. And the rows are oriented right-side-up in the one section and 180 degrees differently in the other. But there are variations in this. Beats us. It's resting on the floor outside our display room in the basement of the Civic Center if you want a closer look.

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 CAFE**. 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 School

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

Winchendon Old Center

This is Winchendon'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.

