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"...To study, interpret, protect, and promote the history of Jaffrey, New Hampshire."

Historical Society Has Found New Home!

By Peter Lambert

The great news we have waiting to report is finally here: **The Jaffrey Historical Society will be moving to 10 Goodnow Street this year!**

Thanks to the concerted effort of countless members of the JHS, at Town Meeting in March the people of Jaffrey unanimously gave approval for the Selectmen to lease Town property in five-year increments – the legal limit. The Selectmen will now have authority to lease to the JHS the former Town Office building. As you may know, this building served as the town offices from 1995-2025. Before that it was part of the Monadnock Bank complex, and before that it was a lumber warehouse for Goodnow Brothers' Department Store (see picture, page 4).

At the time of this writing the terms of the lease are still being worked out by the Town, the JHS leadership, and our respective attorneys. Special thanks to **Jonathan Sistare** for agreeing to represent the JHS *pro bono*! However, in general, we can report the lease will be for 5 years, but is renewable. This allows us to make long-term plans for the building. Although our insurance costs and utilities will increase, the cost of leasing the building will not be significantly more than our current expenses at the Jaffrey Civic Center. At present we will only be leasing the first floor of the building, but will have the option of leasing the top floor when/if we are ready to assume that responsibility.

But now the real work begins! Although the building is in great shape, some remodeling and renovations will be needed. A few partitions to be removed, some new carpeting, and certainly a new coat or two of paint will be necessary. Also, we will need to purchase new furniture like tables, chairs, desks, shelving units, A/V equipment, etc. We plan on doing all of this before anything is moved into the building. And then, the hardest part of all – moving our 8,000+ artifacts and documents and arranging it all.

This is where we may need to tap your volunteerism and very particular sets of skills! If you are handy in carpentry, electrical work, or plumbing; if you have a knack for painting walls; or if you'd like to help cleaning, washing windows, or anything else – you could be of great help! This effort will last into the spring and summer, so there is plenty of time to help. Just drop us a line at peter@jaffreyhistory.com and let us know what you can, and would be willing, to do.

We also plan on incorporating into the new JHS building a front desk for a host and a small gift shop to sell our publications and other seasonal merchandise. Our Archives will be expanded to accommodate desks for researchers. We also plan on a small kitchen area for our various functions involving drinks and refreshments.

This is probably the largest project the JHS has taken on since moving into the Civic Center in 1966, but it is an exciting one that will benefit the JHS and all of Jaffrey for decades to come. I would

like to thank the **Building Committee – Vicki Arceci, Bruce Hill, Clay Hollister, Lyn Lambert, Charlie Turcotte, and our agent Marc Tieger** for all their help; the JHS officers for making it possible; and the Board of Directors for supporting this endeavor. Special thank you to **Dick Boutwell**, Archivist *emeritus* and *extraordinaire*, for lending his support in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript.

Of course, we also need to thank the Jaffrey Civic Center for being our partner and home for 60 years. Ever since Marion Mack Johnson ensured the JHS would have a home in the new Civic Center in 1966, the two organizations have worked exceptionally well together and collaborated on some fantastic programs and exhibits for the public. Happy 60th Anniversary! We hope, despite our new address, that we can continue to work together for the benefit of the entire community. And we are excited to see what you will be able to do in our old space!



Photo manipulation: Peter Lambert

REMINDER: Please send changes of address, current email, etc. to Marcie at: mcm603532@gmail.com

RECENT HAPPENINGS

The “Hot Wings” - the Conant Middle-High School Robotics Team that is sponsored by the JHS - recently placed 8th out of 70+ teams at their First Tech competition on February 21st at NHTI in Concord. Not only that, they won a special “Judges Choice Award” for exemplary sportsmanship throughout the competition! Well done!



The CMHS Hot Wings Robotics Team. Photo: Charlie Turcotte

Even more exciting, the Hot Wings have been invited to participate in the [Canada Cup of Robotics](#) June 13-16 in St. Catherine’s, Ontario! This is an expensive endeavor - over \$6,000 - and the Hot Wings are currently fundraising. The JHS has agreed to donate \$500 to this effort. We strongly urge members of the JHS to consider contributing to their fundraiser. [Checks can be made out to CMHS Robotics and sent to 3 Conant Way, Jaffrey NH 03452.](#) Anything helps! I know we at the JHS strongly support the students of the Jaffrey-Rindge School District. Good luck in Canada, kids!

The Jaffrey Masonic Lodge recently merged with the Peterborough Lodge and sold their building on Charlonne Street. The building was owned by the Jaffrey Grange from 1925 to 1969. In February, the Masons allowed the JHS to retrieve five 13-foot benches they had been using. These benches were previously used at the First Baptist Church, where the Post Office is now located. They will be used for seating in our new JHS home!



Moving the benches was a challenge! Thanks to Charlie Turcotte, Bob Schaumann, Pete Davis, Joel Proulx, Cathy Proulx, and Dave Kemp. Photo Credit: Charlie Turcotte



A few days after the benches were retrieved, the new owner of the buildings, Sarah Seaver, allowed the JHS to come and get seven 8-ft folding tables and two dozen folding chairs used by the Masons. She also donated a set of Grange dishware - stamped with the “Patrons of Husbandry” (the real name of the Grange organization) and the trophy pictured on the left. The trophy was awarded to the Jaffrey Grange in 1940 by the Cheshire Fair, and has ribbons from subsequent fairs all the way through the late 1960s. Thank you for your donations, Sarah!

If you haven’t yet seen Jeanne Duval’s latest curated exhibit for the JHS at the Civic Center, “[Treasures from the Jaffrey Historical Society](#)” - you have a few weeks left! It features some of our most prized possessions that make Jaffrey’s history unique, such as Amos Fortune’s compass and lantern, Charlie Bacon’s original maple syrup jug molds, the evidence from the Dr. William Dean murder, and much more! Over 100 people visited during the opening night reception in March. The exhibit will be displayed through April 18. Don’t miss it!

Treasures from the Jaffrey Historical Society

March 6 - April 18, 2026
Opening Reception March 7 5-7 pm
At the Jaffrey Civic Center
40 Main Street, Jaffrey NH 03452
Open Wednesday - Friday 12-5, Saturday 10-2



PROGRAM NEWS

In February the JHS hosted **George Morrison**, who gave a presentation on General John Stark. Morrison, a public-school teacher for 27 years and historical researcher, spoke of General Stark's humble origins, successful lumber business, military experience in the French and Indian War, and of course his exploits at the Battles of Bunker Hill and Bennington. The energetic presentation was enjoyed by all who attended. **Thanks to the Hospitality Committee** for providing the light refreshments!



The JHS is proud to announce the formation of an Education Committee! In these times the schools can use all the help and assistance they can get, and there is more demand for state and local history. With our upcoming move to a new, accessible space, we hope to facilitate a greater involvement with the local schools and their teachers than ever before. The new committee will work with teachers to come up with ways to welcome students to our building, share information in their classes, and engage the students of Jaffrey with their local heritage. **Special thanks to the members of this committee:** Dawn Cournoyer, James Norby, Sean Driscoll, Bruce Hill, Anne Griffin, Jeannelle Moore, and Owen Houghton. Also, to Cathy Proulx and Suze Campbell for being the liaisons with the Little Red Schoolhouse and the Village Improvement Society.

UPCOMING DATES

- April 2: Executive Team, 4 pm
- April 9: Potluck Supper, 5 pm, JCC
- April 16: Board of Directors, 4 pm (if needed)
- May 7: Executive Team, 4 pm
- May 14: Board of Directors, 4 pm
- June 1: 4th Grade Visit, Jaffrey Center
- June 4: Executive Team, 4 pm
- June 11: Board of Directors, 4 pm
- July 2: Executive Team, 4 pm
- July 4: Reading of the Declaration of Independence, 12 pm
- July 9: Board of Directors, 4 pm

POTLUCK DINNER APRIL 9

The annual Potluck Dinner will be Thursday, April 9, at 5 pm at the Civic Center. Please bring any food you like – appetizer, main course, dessert – to be shared by all who attend. Please bring a serving utensil as well. The JHS will provide beverages (alcohol and soft drinks) and provide the plates, utensils, etc. You do not need to RSVP or call ahead to let us know what you plan to bring – just bring yourself and your delicious food!

After the dinner, the program for the evening will be presented by **Dr. Robert Goodby**, a professor at Franklin Pierce University and expert in local Native American culture. Dr. Goodby will talk about the **indigenous peoples of the Monadnock Region** and some of the archeological digs he has conducted in the area. He will also discuss the Native American artifacts we have in our collection. These arrowheads, spearpoints, and other miscellaneous tools were allegedly discovered near Contoocook Lake and were given to the JHS last year by the Jaffrey Public Library. Please come to this free event!



The Native American Artifacts held by the JHS, currently on display in the Civic Center through April 18.

Photo Credit: Peter Lambert



HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

If you still have not returned your annual dues, please do so soon! We rely on your contributions to stay operating!

Thank you!

JHS HONORED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The JHS was honored as Jaffrey's Non-Profit of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce at their Annual meeting on March 26, 2026.

In nominating the Society for the honor, Steve Pelkey of Atlas Fireworks said, "Tonight, we have the privilege of honoring an organization that has spent nearly seven decades ensuring that the story of Jaffrey is never forgotten. The Jaffrey Historical Society was founded in 1958 by a group of citizens deeply concerned about the loss of the town's historic buildings and the absence of a proper home for the documents and artifacts that tell the story of Jaffrey's founding and development. From that beginning, the Society has grown into the community's foremost guardian of local heritage."

JHS President Peter Lambert accepted the award on behalf of the JHS. Thanking the Chamber for the honor, he said that he looked forward to hanging the plaque on the wall of the new JHS facility in the spring.



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 Maki

Directors

2023-2026

Lyn Lambert - Cathy Proulx
Karl Putnam - Diane Schaumann

2024-2027

Judith Goff - Bob Schaumann
Betty Shea - Jan Weekes

2025-2028

Weltha Barker - Dawn Cournoyer
Sheila Girbach - Jackie Johnson

Genealogist:

Carolyn Garretson

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Jan Weekes* (2023-2026)

Mike Shea (2024-2027)

Charlie Turcotte (2025-2028) *chair*

Archivists

Dick Boutwell

Bruce Hill *Assistant*

**Interim appointment*



This is Goodnow's Store, on Goodnow Street (then labeled School St). First occupied by Goodnow's in 1897, the store operated here until 1967. The site is now the northern end of the Jaffrey Town Hall & parking lot. If you look carefully, in the rear you can see the Goodnow's lumber and building supply warehouse - the new home for the JHS! (JHS Photo)

JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
40 MAIN STREET
JAFFREY, NH 03452