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

# A New Home for the Jaffrey Historical Society? Yes, we can – with your help!

By Peter Lambert

For some time many at the JHS have been concerned about the state of our rooms in the basement of the Jaffrey Civic Center. The concerns have been many: they are overcrowded, not handicapped accessible, not visible (or even known) to the general public, and the infrastructure has been unsafe and outdated.

Although we have valued our relationship with the Civic Center since 1966, we had simply outgrown our space. The problem was, where to move to? We had to wait for the right opportunity – and it is finally here!

Last summer the Town of Jaffrey moved the town offices from 10 Goodnow Street to the former Monadnock Bank/TD Bank building on Main Street. We now have an opportunity to turn the old town offices into the new home of the JHS!

The Town is willing to lease us the bottom half of the building – they would like to keep the top floor available for their needs for at least another year. Our current negotiations include the following terms: a 25-year renewable lease, an annual rent to the Town (to be determined but at a rate very favorable to the JHS) and basic utility costs. In exchange, we have use of the 2400 square foot bottom floor, and provide programs open to the public (as we already do). Complete terms will be available before March. The bottom floor includes a vault approximately 3 times as large as our current vault and much more secure. We hope to make arrangements to house historic archival documents from other suitable organizations in town to make our new home a true research destination.

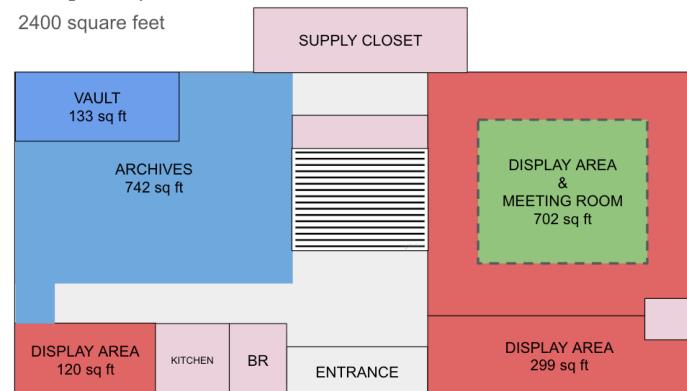


The old town offices building has been well-maintained, and in the past few years received a new roof, insulation, siding, and windows. We believe this facility will be able to house our society for many, many decades to come.

Of course, this will not be without a significant cost. Although the yearly operating expenses are anticipated to be about 30% higher than our current expenses, our trust fund trustees tell us this is well within our means. There will also be substantial one-time costs that include new furniture, A/V equipment, shelving, appliances, and the like. We fully anticipate a membership drive and fundraising efforts will follow this year.

How can you help? Please, raise awareness of this important vote at Town

Meeting. Show up and cast your vote to support us on March 14th. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and we can't let it pass by! *Thank you!*



*Current layout and envisioned use of the space on the ground floor of 10 Goodnow Street.*

## ARCHIVES NEWS

By Bruce Hill

**A**s the United States recognizes the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Revolutionary War we take note of relevant items in the Jaffrey Historical Society archives.

We have a musket and a canteen, donated by the late Ralph Boynton, who presumes they were carried by his great-great grandfather Elias Boynton. He fought at Bunker Hill and was present at the taking of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga.



*The Boynton musket and canteen. Credit: Bruce Hill*

We have extensive lists of Revolutionary soldiers' names from Jaffrey and the surrounding towns. These were diligently compiled by the late Wilma Jewell, mother of Debbie Jewell Stewart. There is an alphabetical list of 75 soldiers buried in Jaffrey, noting which cemetery and lot number they are interred. Another list details 23 Jaffrey soldiers whose burial place is uncertain. [Maybe your last name matches one of these 98 names and you are a descendant?](#) We would be happy to check for you if you contact JHS by phone or email [\(603-598-0120](tel:603-598-0120) or [bruce@jaffreyhistory.org](mailto:bruce@jaffreyhistory.org)).

James Stevens was a Revolutionary soldier who moved to Jaffrey in 1777, after serving in the war effort in Massachusetts for two years. Fortunately, he kept a diary for those two years which provides a fascinating first-hand narrative of the conflict. His detail of everyday life (with his inventive spelling) is interesting and fun to read. In 1928 a committee on Jaffrey history published excerpts from this diary in a small booklet and printed hundreds of copies. [We still have many copies to give away! Just contact JHS for your free copy.](#)

In the [History of Jaffrey](#) Vol. I, you can read all about the local connection to the Revolution in chapters 7 and 42 (beginning on pages 137 and 757 respectively). You may have your own copy, or you may read it at the Jaffrey Public Library, or even more convenient – [read it online at: rs41.org/jhs/townhistory2.htm](#).



## TREASURES OF THE JHS

### EXHIBIT COMING MARCH 6

**A**n exciting new exhibit is coming to the Civic Center from March 6 through April 18! "Treasures from the JHS" is currently being designed by our resident curator and display guru Jeanne Duval.

This exhibit will feature some of the priceless and unique Jaffrey items the JHS has preserved over time. These include Abenaki artifacts discovered near Contoocook Lake, Amos Fortune's lantern and compass, Ellie Gagnon's paintings, mementos from Willa Cather's summer visits, Charlie Bacon's original maple syrup jug molds, and evidence from the Dean murder case of 1919. The free opening reception will be [March 7, 2026 at 5 pm at the Civic Center](#). Please attend to see a wonderful display of items and people that have made Jaffrey the unique place that it is!

## RECENT HAPPENINGS

**T**his year's [Annual Christmas Village](#) brought in hundreds of people from across the region to see the enlarged village of Piscaquoddymoggin, NH. The display lasted from November 19-December 20. Although technical issues made the train inoperable, the vast majority of visitors enjoyed the display and said they were looking forward to next year. This brought much needed publicity to the Society.



*The JHS Christmas Village on display at the Civic Center this past season. Photo Credit: Peter Lambert*

For the past few months, the Society has been working on hanging pictures and developing a display for the new Town Hall on Main Street. Our current display includes artifacts and history relating to the old W.W. Cross Factory – the "Tack Shop" – that was such an integral part of our town for decades. The JHS display in the Town Hall will change from time to time, so next time you are in the Town Hall, take the time to check it out. You may even recognize a few people in the pictures!

## Jaffrey Time Capsule - The Junior Service Club -

By Meg Gourley

We may have a member or two who remember the Jaffrey Junior Service Club. This club was organized in June of 1943 to help with the war effort. It was started by Prescott Duncan, the son of the druggist George Duncan, of Duncan block fame. The club met in the lower level of the Duncan block, every Saturday morning. The age range was from 6-14 but according to an unsigned note the archives, it was mostly grammar school-age kids.



Published by Duncan, The Druggist

Post Office Block, East Jaffrey, N.H.

The Duncan Block, now Country Bridal, on the corner of Main and River Streets. JHS Photo.

The Club participated in a lot of war-related activities. They paid dues to the Cheshire County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Red Cross in turn provided them with a dozen chairs and a ping pong table.

Responding to the acute harmonica shortage overseas, the Red Cross also asked the group to send as many harmonicas as they could find. They collected fats, often as much as 70 lbs. a week, that were turned in and used for ammunition.

They conducted a Canteen Fund drive for the Grenier Field airbase in Manchester. (Over 79,000 men were served by the Red Cross Canteen Corp at Grenier Field.) They held paper drives, and collected tin foil. They collected 200 books for the Merchant Marine, sending them to the Boston Seamans' Friend Society. They collected over 1500 magazines to be sent overseas, as well.

Mostly, though, the club was about fun. On October 6, 1945, the club climbed Mt. Monadnock. Mr. Duncan reportedly fell down on his descent, and they formed a circle and sang "I see Stars" until he felt better. At the base, they made hot dogs and drank Pepsi. During the winter, they did

sleigh rides around Gilmore Pond. They participated in a clothing drive, and played games. The losing team had to dress up in the clothes and walk around downtown Jaffrey.

Ali Ben Rattle, the famous snake charmer from "Arabia" came to show off his more than 100 snakes. The Secretary's report makes mention of the fact that Betty Sidman had to have the smelling salts after one of the snakes coiled around her neck and gave her a real fright.

The club was a tightly run affair, with a constitution, and five officers. Dues were 5-cents a week and collected on Saturdays when they met. Cash on hand tended to be around eight dollars. Membership was limited to 35 participants. If your dues were more than four weeks in arrears, you were delisted as a member. There seems to have been as many in arrears on any given week as members in good standing. Other club expenses were cards sent out for members who were ill, and movies and popcorn were regular expenditures.

*Do you have any information, recollections, or mementos on the Junior Service Club to share? Please let us know!*

Our participation in the Currier and Ives Cookie Tour brought nearly 300 people into Rooms 2 and 3 on December 13<sup>th</sup>. A huge thank-you to all the volunteers who made cookies, distributed cookies and punch, and otherwise welcomed these guests into our Society area.

Several members have inquired about our "secret" JHS cookie recipe. It's no secret! The "Jaffrey Anzac Cookie" is based on an Australia/New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) recipe from World War I. The "Anzac Biscuit" was designed to be baked and sent to the boys at the front lines with minimal rationed ingredients or spoilage. We just swapped "golden syrup" for NH maple syrup to create the Jaffrey version – but you can substitute honey as well.

### Ingredients

1 cup rolled oats	1 cup sweetened coconut flakes
1 cup sugar	1 cup all-purpose flour
9 tbsp butter	2 tbsp maple syrup or honey
1 tsp baking soda	2 tbsp boiling water

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350°. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Combine oats, coconut, flour, and sugar.
- In a saucepan, melt the butter and maple syrup together over medium heat. When well blended, remove from heat.
- Dissolve baking soda into boiling water and add to butter mixture.
- Pour butter mixture into dry ingredients and mix together.
- Scoop dough into portions NO MORE than 2 tbsp and place on baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
- Bake for 11-12 minutes. They are done when the edges are brown. The center may not be. Allow to cool.
- Makes Approx. 2 dozen



## UPCOMING DATES

January 8:	Executive Team, 4 pm
January 15:	Board of Directors, 4 pm
February 5:	Executive Team, 4 pm
February 12:	February Program, 6 pm
March 5:	Executive Team, 4 pm
March 7:	<i>Treasures of the JHS Exhibit</i> Reception, 5 pm, Civic Center
March 12:	Board of Directors, 4 pm
March 14:	Town Meeting, 9 am, Pratt Auditorium
March 19:	Board of Directors (if needed)
April 2:	Executive Board, 4 pm
April 9:	Potluck Supper Program, 5 pm

## ***HEAR YE, HEAR YE!***

In this newsletter is a renewal envelope for your 2026 JHS dues. Please send back your dues as soon as possible, and add your email address and phone number so we can keep you notified of upcoming JHS news and programs!

*Thank you!*



## **LOST TREASURE REDISCOVERED!**



In 1973 Eleanor Lambert took it upon herself to sew a Jaffrey flag. This flag consisted of a white background and featured a hand-stitched seal of Jaffrey, drawn for her by Coburn Kidd. This flag was carried in the Bicentennial parade in August that summer. It was then framed and on display at the Town Offices (now the Jaffrey Police station). After that, its location was lost, much to the chagrin of her children.

But Lambert's Jaffrey flag was rediscovered this fall! It had been stored, facing the wall, in the back storage room of the Civic Center, behind 40 years of accumulated "stuff." This was an exciting rediscovery. Rest assured, this unique Jaffrey treasure will be hanging in a prominent location in our new home!



**REMINDER:** Please send changes of address, current email, etc. to Marcie at: [mcm603532@gmail.com](mailto:mcm603532@gmail.com)