

# Jaffrey Historical Society

Autumn

Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

2013



## Annual Autumn Outing

Sunday, September 29, 2013

We're off to Worcester!



THIS YEAR we're off to Worcester, Massachusetts. Why Worcester, you might ask? There's a lot to see and do there but in this instance we are visiting the **Higgins Armory Museum** before it closes forever at the end of the year. Don't miss what could be your last opportunity to view this world-class collection of some 3,000 examples of arms and armor dating from medieval times to the present day set in a purpose-built five-story art-deco building erected in 1929 by John Woodman Higgins, a prominent Worcester industrialist. This distinctive building "was one of the first all steel and glass curtain-wall structures built in America; it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Inside the Museum's Great Hall, high ceilings and gothic arches are reminiscent of a medieval castle and offer a powerful setting for the museum's collection." Learn more at <http://www.higgins.org>

We'll plan to arrive at the Museum by 2:15. There will be a presentation at 2:30 then we'll be on our own until closing time at 4 pm (gift shop open to 4:30 pm in case you want to buy full body armor). Reservations are necessary. The cost will be \$5 per person (the Society will pick up the remaining \$2 of the \$7 group rate). You can pay on the day itself or mail a check to the Jaffrey Historical Society, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452. In any event, let us know if you plan to come. (See further details on the back page.)

→ On the way home, for those who are interested, we will stop in Westminster, Massachusetts, to enjoy an early dinner at the **The Old Mill** restaurant. We'll be able to order off the menu, partake of our favorite beverages and receive separate checks. The place has a lot of charm and has been around since 1761. Learn more at <http://www.1761oldmill.com>

→ We will need to know ahead of time how many will be attending the dinner so please let Rob Stephenson know at [532-6066](tel:532-6066) or [jhs@rs41.org](mailto:jhs@rs41.org) by Monday the 23rd.



The distinctive art-deco facade of the Higgins Armory Museum.

See further details and photographs on the back page. 🍷

# *News of your Society*

GREETINGS TO ALL,

I hope you'll come along on our **Autumn Outing** to Worcester! And looking ahead, remember our traditional **Christmas Party** at the Civic Center on December 12th, a **Potluck** supper and program on February 13th, speakers in **April** and **June** and our **Annual Meeting** on August 14th. (Generally the Society meets on the second Thursday of alternate months.) Details on these will be forthcoming in mailings—and e-mailings. If you received this by US mail and have e-mail and would prefer that medium, send me your e-address and I'll add you to the list. It will save the Society a bit of money and make the logistics faster and easier. We have a website of sorts, hosted on my own, at <http://www.rs41.org/jhs.htm>

The current exhibit (through November) displayed in the basement of the Civic Center features artifacts related to the 114 years of '**Railroading in Jaffrey.**'

On April 4th, writer and story-teller **Rebecca Rule** regaled us with stories of the rituals, traditions and history of Town Meeting, including the perennial characters, the literature, the humor, and the wisdom of this uniquely New England institution. Her recent book—*Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire*—was the basis of her talk and signed copies were eagerly snapped up afterwards.

Our **Annual Meeting** held in August was a great success with an overflow crowd. Members of the extended **Belletete** family gave an interesting history of the multi-generational lumber and hardware business which has been such a part of Jaffrey life over all these years.

On September 3rd, a convoy of cars followed Mark Cournoyer as he hauled on Dave Kemp's trailer the Society's **1868 Wheeled Hearse** from the Cournoyer Funeral Home on River Street—where it's been in residence for years—to Belletete's Annex in Squantum, where it will be for a year or two while we decide how to best store, preserve and display it. (The Sleigh Hearse is presently ensconced in the Hearse House at Village Cemetery, just east of the Post Office.) A 'Hearse Committee' is being formed to research the hearses and recommend how they should be preserved and displayed; if you'd like to participate, let me know! Many thanks to Belletetes for providing the storage.

Several members of the Society gather most Monday and Thursday mornings from 10 to 12 (November-April) in the basement archives. They are there to work on accessions and cataloguing, but if you drop by for a visit you might be lucky and get a cup of coffee. This is a good opportunity to pursue any Jaffrey history questions you might have.

Rob Stephenson, *President*

If you have any comments or suggestions please e-mail me at [jhs@rs41.org](mailto:jhs@rs41.org)

## **Little Red Schoolhouse**

Jackie Johnson, *Chair*

THANKS to all of those who served as docents this past season at the Little Red Schoolhouse:

Richard Boutwell	Bill Driscoll	Joe Manning	Paul St. Pierre
Mickey Chamberlain	Ken Duquette	Marcie Manning	Ann & Pete Sawyer
Sandy & Bob Chamberlain	Jackie Johnson	Kent Royce	Betty Shea
Helen Coll	Sandy Kallman	Pam Royce	Debbie Stewart

In addition to the open hours of weekends from 2 to 4, the Schoolhouse was open for the Jaffrey Grade School fourth graders in June, on the 4th of July, for the visiting students from China in August and for students from the Epping Christian Academy.

I am anxious to turn over school visits to a younger volunteer so please contact me if you are willing and interested. ☺

## **Monadnock No. 4**

Bill Driscoll & Dave Kemp, *Chairs*

WE REMAIN active and busy in preserving Jaffrey's fire apparatus from years past. Many people are not aware that the Society has two fire engines dating from the early 1800s that were in service in Jaffrey. We also have Jaffrey's first motorized engine, the 1931 Seagrave Pumper. To show off these treasures we are planning an Open House sometime next year—watch for the date in a future Newsletter.

Dave Kemp, Bill Driscoll and Joe Manning are active members of the Amoskeag Reserve Engine Company of the

N.H. Chapter of the National Association for the Appreciation and Preservation of Antique Fire Apparatus. Through contacts with them we are researching the origins of the “Contoocook,” first recorded in Town records as an 1848 model. We know that it is many years older and was manufactured in Boston by the Thayer Company, perhaps earlier than our 1828 “Fire Fly” made by the Cooper, Phelps, Campbell Company of Vermont.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that after many years of searching, we have finally found a missing and vital part for the pump mechanism on the Seagrave. Through the financial generosity of one of the Society’s Directors, the pump primer was purchased from a West Virginia collector and installed. The Seagrave is ready to “lay on the water” for the first time in 50 years! 🍷

## Acquisitions & Accessions

Dick Boutwell, *Chair*

CURRENTLY on display in the basement display cases at the Civic Center are the acquisitions received by the Society over the past year. (We accept any Jaffrey-related items that can be stored in our three basement rooms.) The current exhibit can be viewed any time the Civic Center is open. They include some interesting items:

**B. F. Cann** was a Jaffrey carpenter and contractor in the first decades of the 20th century. His son, **F. B. Cann**, served in World War I as an aviator. The Society has been given his uniform with ammo belt, cap, goggles and ear piece, and photographs of the aviator wearing them.

When **Stan Wilson** closed his barbershop on River Street after more than fifty years of service to the town, the outside sign and barber pole were given to us.

**George Duncan** operated a business in the Duncan Block known as *Duncan the Druggist* for many years. Heirs of his grandson, **G. B. Duncan**, brought to us three boxes of papers and books. Among the many books are the histories of Jaffrey, Peterborough, Marlborough, Dublin and Hancock. Notebooks include the many years of the work of George Duncan when he was active in town affairs and as a state tax committee member, and scrapbooks include additional town and family activities.

**Marion Dubley Corain** sent four postcards picturing activities during the many Winter Carnivals held in town. The Society displayed a number of Winter Carnival cards and scenes during the past winter. The new cards fortunately do not duplicate any that were on exhibit.

In 1952 when **The Shattuck Inn** ceased operations, a Roman Catholic Seminary was started at the former hotel. The priests and brothers became active in activities around town. A group of six brothers formed a musical group they named “The Scholastics.” **Lorie-Ann Tessier**, who at one time worked at the Grade School, has donated a recording of the singing brothers.

During the summer two Society members visited **Helen Gorzokoski** in Northfield, Massachusetts, to collect three notebooks relating to the Dean Murder of 1918. Mrs. Gorzokoski is a descendant of a nephew of Dr. Dean. Along with virtually every newspaper release about the murder are many family letters written about the crime.

**Elmo** and **Donna Ouelette** passed on to us a cardboard milk “bottle” from the Second World War, distributed by Silver Ranch Dairy, and a stiff bristled broom used to put out grass fires; “Jaffrey” is stamped on the handle.

At the time of the Annual Meeting of the Society in August, when the Belletete family related the long and successful history of their business, items relating to other retail stores were exhibited at the Civic Center. It was evident that our collection contains very little to show the great commerce that was carried on in Jaffrey. We will be happy to receive business cards, posters, advertisements, pictures, etc., of present and past business operations. 🍷

## Membership

Marcie Manning, *Chair*

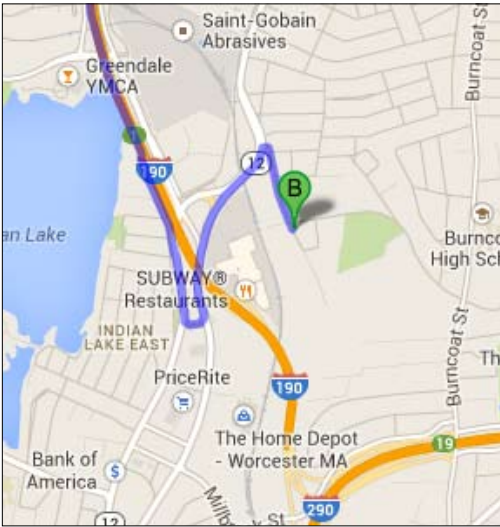
A LETTER-WRITING campaign in the Spring resulted in 13 new members, one Patron and one Lifetime member. The membership now stands at 154. We are saddened to announce the loss of two of our members, David Sullivan and Katherine Barlow. 🍷

## Upcoming Programs

Joe Manning & Betty Shea, *Chairs*

*Sunday September 29, 2013.* Annual Autumn Outing to the Higgins Armory Museum in Worcester. • *Thursday December 12, 2013.* Annual Jaffrey Historical Society-Jaffrey Civic Center Christmas Party. • *Thursday February 13, 2014.* Annual Potluck Dinner. Program to be determined. • *Thursday April 10, 2014.* Program to be determined.

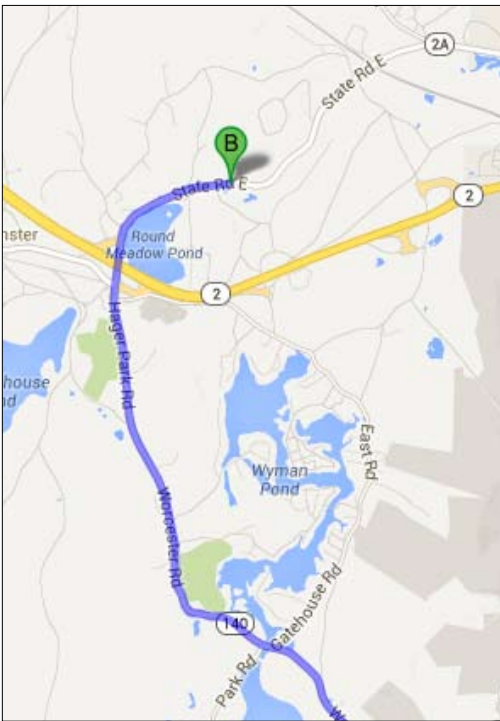
*Thursday June 12, 2014.* Program to be determined. • *Thursday August 14, 2014.* Annual Meeting. Program to be determined. • *A Sunday in September or October.* Annual Autumn Outing (tentatively a visit to Sam and Jason Hackler’s New Hampshire Antique Co-op and the Milford Historical Society). 🍷



# Higgins Armory Museum

THOSE who wish to carpool or go in convoy, meet at the Civic Center for a 1 pm departure. The **Higgins Armory Museum** is somewhat complicated to get to though it's visible from a distance. The address is 100 Barber Avenue which is north of the center of Worcester and east of I-190. The phone number is 508-853-6015. Here are the directions from the Museum's website:

"Take I-190 South to Exit 1, Rt. 12 South. Take second left and then left again onto Gold Star Boulevard/Rt. 12 North. Follow Rt. 12 North for ¼ mile, Greendale Mall will be on the right. Stay in right lane over the railroad bridge. Take first right after bridge onto Barber Avenue (no street sign). Travel less than ¼ mile straight ahead to the Museum, a four-story glass and steel building with pennants and a knight on the roof." 🐾



# The 1761 Old Mill

THOSE who are stopping at **The Old Mill** for an early dinner following the Museum visit, should drive north on I-190 and take Exit 5 onto Route 140 north. Pass under Route 2 (at which point the road becomes Route 2A) and a few hundred feet further on you will find The Old Mill on the right. 🐾



## *O f f i c e r s & C o m m i t t e e C h a i r s*

*President* Robert Stephenson  
*Vice President* Joseph Manning  
*Vice President* Elizabeth Shea  
*Treasurer* Kenneth Duquette

*Secretary* Francis McBride  
*Hospitality* Pamela Royce  
*Membership* Marcie Manning  
*Accessions* Richard Boutwell

*Little Red Schoolhouse* Jacqueline Johnson  
*Monadnock No. 4* William Driscoll & David Kemp  
*Genealogist* Paul St. Pierre

## *D i r e c t o r s*

### 2011-2014

Peter Sawyer  
 Deborah Stewart  
 Dennis Wright

### 2012-2015

Robert Chamberlain  
 Archie Coll  
 Emily Preston  
 Daniel Shattuck

### 2013-2016

Francis Chamberlain  
 Jacqueline Johnson  
 Susan Leach  
 Jereme Underwood