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President's Corner

By Peter Lambert

Happy New Year to you all!

Since our last newsletter, we journeyed to Amherst in October for our Annual Outing. We visited the town hall, the various holdings of the Amherst Historical Society, the first church, and the fire station. We also had the added bonus of viewing a gathering of hundreds of golden retrievers on the town common! A fun time was had by all! Special thanks to Robert Schaumann and our vice presidents Karen Ayers and Sean Driscoll for putting the outing together.

Our Christmas party with the Civic Center was held December 7, and everyone enjoyed delicious food, friendly conversation, and holiday camaraderie. We were honored to dedicate the Archives Room as the "Richard Boutwell Archival Center" in tribute to Dick's many years of devoted service running and organizing our extensive archives. Dick thanked us by playing several holiday tunes on the piano. Thank you Dick for your dedication and service to the JHS!

At our November Directors Meeting, the decision was made to hold the Annual Potluck Dinner in April, and instead have a program in February. This is a switch from our normal calendar year. We initially switched the Potluck from February to April during the Covid-19 pandemic, but it will now be a permanent change. Our program in February will feature Bruce Hill speaking about Conant history and the Conant Generations Project. **Look for announcements and postcards about the February program and April Potluck Dinner in the coming months!**

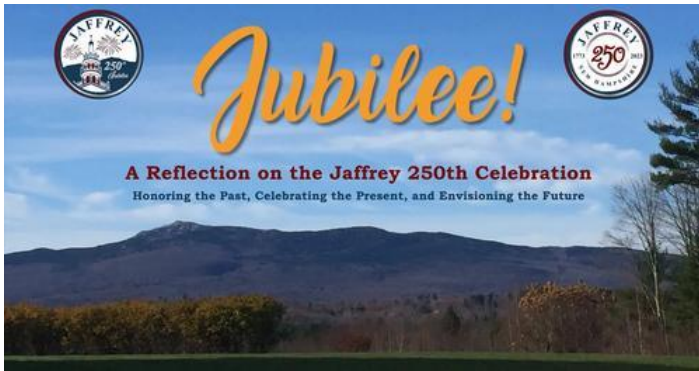


*Dick Boutwell holding the dedication plaque for the Archives Room.
Photo Credit: Vicki Arceci*

We should soon be receiving the final grant check from the NH Preservation Alliance/1772 Foundation for the renovations and repairs made to the Monadnock #4 Firehouse. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this project, especially Charlie Turcotte for serving as our general contractor! Thank you also goes to Dennis Wright for his professional painting work and his generosity and civic-mindedness.

The year 2024 is the 66th year of the Jaffrey Historical Society. I am told that we are the largest town historical society in Cheshire County. I am constantly impressed by the energy, spirit, and volunteerism of our members. As we look forward to new opportunities to be the caretakers of our town's history, I'd like to thank everyone for their dedication and support.

-Peter



A big shout-out and a “pat on the back” for all of our members who helped with, or were featured in, “Jubilee!” the Jaffrey 250 movie. Our Society was instrumental in making the Jaffrey 250 anniversary so special, and that was reflected in this film. It is rumored to be shown again in the near future, but until then you can watch it online. Just Google “Jaffrey 250 Vimeo” (Yes, Vimeo with an M) or follow the link from the Jaffrey 250 Facebook page.

February Program

Conant Generations

A slide show of Conant High School familiar faces from the past; who do you recognize? Also, a short history of Jaffrey school buildings. Program open to all. Thursday, February 8, 7 PM Civic Center



Calling all Conant High School graduates!

If you are a multi-generational Conant family please share your info (names, relations, years) by email to bruce@jaffreyhistory.org before January 15.

Membership Renewal

From Marcie Manning



Included in this mailing is your 2024 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. 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!



We need a “Savvy Computer Technician” to help out in the archives with software file organization. If you have any technical literacy or computer skills at all, please email Bruce at bruce@jaffreyhistory.org. Thanks!

New Committees

In 2024 we will be adjusting how we run our committees. Committees oversee all the various functions of our Society. In the past few years these responsibilities have fallen on fewer and fewer people. It is time that we all help shoulder the responsibilities, and give everyone new opportunities for involvement!

All members of the Board of Directors will need to serve on at least one of these committees. Some directors already serve on a few committees and will remain on them unless they let me know they would like to step down and serve elsewhere. If you are a general member of the JHS and would like to join a committee we would absolutely welcome your involvement, your ideas, and your particular set of skills!

Some may meet only once or twice a year, others more frequently. Please feel free to look over the list. If any of them interest you, please send me an email at president@jaffreyhistory.org and let me know which committee(s) you have chosen. You may also mail in your choice. If you are a director and you don't send me preferences, I'll "volunteer you" for whatever committee needs more members.

-Peter



Accessions & Archives: To maintain the Society's archives in good order, access all new items, and start the deaccession process for certain items.

Chair: Bruce Hill Emeritus: Dick Boutwell

Bylaws: To annually meet to consider any necessary or beneficial changes to the Society's bylaws and submit these revisions to the Executive board and Board of directors for approval.

Exhibits & Displays: To create new exhibits for public viewing, and maintain /improve existing displays and display space in the downstairs display rooms.

Chair: Karen Ayers

Facilities: To oversee the physical condition of all Society-owned or maintained buildings, and to make or request repairs as needed.

Chair: Charlie Turcotte

Hospitality & Refreshments: To organize and provide for suitable refreshments for all appropriate Society functions, including programs, parties, the potluck dinner, and the annual meeting.

Chairs: Diane Schaumann, Cathy Proulx

Little Red Schoolhouse: To oversee the collection of exhibits, artifacts, and equipment, and maintain the building for public viewing and oversee the staffing of docents for summer hours.

Chair: Jackie Johnson

Membership: To keep and maintain a complete and updated membership list and to collect annual dues.

Chair: Marcie Manning

Monadnock #4: To oversee the collection of exhibits, artifacts, and equipment, and maintain them for public viewing and oversee the staffing of docents for summer hours.

Chair: Dave Kemp

Programs: To plan all public and Society programs, including the annual outing, presentations, etc.

Co-chairs: Sitting Vice Presidents

Publications: To keep inventory of all current publications in stock, republish existing titles when needed, and to

encourage and supervise the production of new works.

Chair: Sean Driscoll Emeritus: Rob Stephenson

Publicity: To publicize all Society events with press releases, advertising, postcards, etc as necessary. It shall also be responsible for promoting the Society to the public in general.

Chair: Bob Schaumann

Website: To create and maintain the Society's website; merge content with existing websites, with the goal of creating a user-friendly source of historical information and education.

Chair: Sean Driscoll Emeritus: Rob Stephenson

From the Archives

By Bruce Hill

For those who missed the event, these archival artifacts decorated the tables at the Christmas party and Boutwell Archival Center dedication.

The Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce issued special ornamental Christmas balls from 1987-1990, each with a depiction of a different building or memorial. This collection, along with the Santa figurine from the Shattuck Inn, are catalogued and stored in our archives.



These Christmas ornaments and Santa statue are part of our collection in the Boutwell Archival Center.

Photo Credit: Bruce Hill



Jaffrey Historical Society Officers and Directors

President: Peter Lambert

Vice Presidents:

Karen Ayers
Sean Driscoll

Secretary: Vicki Arceci

Treasurer: Peter Davis

Directors

2021-2024

Judith Goff - Henry Hammond
Bob Schaumann - Betty Shea

2022-2025

Jeanne Duval – Jackie Johnson
Fran McBride - Ray Record

2023-2026

Lyn Lambert - Cathy Proulx
Karl Putnam - Diane Schaumann

Director Emeritus

Joe Manning

Genealogist:

Carolyn Garretson

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Harvey Sawyer (2021-2024)

Clay Hollister (2022-2025)

Berry Royce (2023-2026)

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