

JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 2019



Where We Stand

Again this year, the Jefferson Historical Society is able to continue with restoration projects and events with the help and engagement of our friends and members. Our wish is to provide our community with music programs, lectures and fun, utilizing the two spaces in our care – the Maple Museum, which we lease from the Town of Jefferson, and Col. Stephen Judd Hall (the former Masonic Hall.)

It has been our policy over the years to offer all events free of charge. This means we must reach out to other agencies to pay for the musicians and speakers. The Maple Museum Free Music & More Series is brought to you this year with grants from the Decentralization Program of the New York Council on the Arts, Humanities New York, the Fairgame grant (monies donated by the casinos in our area), CORE Values, and Verizon Volunteer Dollars (thanks to Shannon Staib who donated her hours). Fenimore Asset Management has given a donation to the Jefferson Farmers Market to help pay for expenses (above the weekly contribution of our vendors).

Judd Hall will have a formal dedication in Stephen Judd's honor on Heritage Day, Saturday, July 13. In anticipation, we've hired a painting contractor to repair some of the damaged exterior and to paint the facade – and ultimately the entire building. Our plan for creating a local history museum is now close to becoming a reality. The Preservation League of New York provided funding for the architecture firm of Lacey Thaler Wilson and Reilly to prepare the design to make Judd Hall handicapped accessible, both downstairs and up. As of June 21 of this year, the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation offered JHS a \$15,000 matching grant to be used for fire stairs and elevator to the upstairs of Judd Hall and for a new septic system. Thanks to our remarkable supporters, the \$15,000 match was made as of June 27, meaning that our accessibility projects can begin immediately. This match was met through a donation from the Nicholas J. Juried Foundation and a second from an anonymous donor in memory of Morris W. Skidmore, Ashley George Skidmore, and Carl Beard Skidmore members of Working Lodge #554 of the Masons. The total budget for the project, however, was \$42,000 – based on bids from contractors for the other aspects of the work. Your help in finalizing this project is needed, and we are grateful for donations of any amount. Access to the upstairs space in the Hall means we will be able to open the Museum of Jefferson, long a dream for the society. So, whether you drop some money in our donation jar when attending an event, or send a check in the mail, you will know that every penny will be counted towards our continuing efforts to make Jefferson a wonderful place to be.

JHS Activities & Events 2019

Historic Talk

In January we had our first event of the year, a presentation by Preservation Consultant Jessie Ravage of Cooperstown. Jessie spoke about the early development of Jefferson and why it developed where it did along the old Albany and Delaware Turnpike route. She described the styles of the oldest structures at the core of the business area and how later development spread from that center. She remarked on

how unique it was to have a mostly intact array of historic buildings, without a large number of buildings that had burned down and few modern structures inserted into the historic landscape. Jessie displayed a series of maps of the area from the original patent maps through early stages of development of Jefferson. Ms. Ravage showed us how the town's history was represented through different architectural design phases and how many home renovations over time reflected newer design influences. Jessie had done a "Historic Resources Survey" of Jefferson with support of a grant that Carol Bodnar had acquired from the Preservation League of New York. Her well-documented and extensive report detailed the historical development of the town and described each of the buildings within the town's lighting district, which could be considered for designation in a potential historic district.

Business Forum

The Jefferson Historical Society hosted a forum of local small businesses in early February. The new website (www.jeffersonnewyork.com) was previewed as a site where businesses could gain exposure. The site lists the town's businesses, government, activities, etc. It serves as a one stop point of contact to identify local resources. Participants discussed how local businesses and the historical society could work together to benefit the community.

Historians' Gathering

We hosted a gathering for historical societies and local historians from Schoharie and surrounding counties in April. JHS President Kevin Berner and Summit Town Historian Karen Cuccinello led discussions. Each representative described what they or their group was doing and a discussion followed about common problems such as fund-raising. A follow-up gathering is planned for the fall.

Open Mic Events

The Jefferson Central School Art Club initiated an open mic event in February at Judd Hall (the former Masonic Hall). Art teacher Martha Hacklin provided the inspiration for this event which her students have enthusiastically organized and run on the first Friday of each month since that time. Many of the performers are high school students, but there are both young people and senior citizens stepping up to the mic. While some performers are beginning musicians, local professionals have been involved as well. Beyond music there have also been dramatic readings of original and classic writings, works of Shakespeare, and a puppeteer. The open mic events, first Friday of each month, open for sign-ups at 6:30 pm with performances between 7 and 9 pm.

Birding Day

Werner Rentsch and Barbara Palmer developed the concept of a Birding Day that was held on May 19. Participants met early in the morning for a bird walk at Jefferson's Paulson Preserve led by Andy Mason of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society. Walkers toughed out intermittent periods of light rain to enjoy seeing and hearing a wide variety of birds. We were especially lucky to see a large number of warbler species within a good range for identification. Many of the group went on to Buck Hill Farm for pancakes or other tasty breakfast items... of course with fresh local maple syrup. The day continued at Judd Hall with a bird photography art show by Barb Palmer. Andy Mason then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Birds of Jefferson. The photo show continued the next week as well.

Main St. Walk

On June 1, Kevin Berner led a historic Main St. walk from the Maple Museum to the four corners and back to the west edge of the hamlet. He described the history of the buildings that we passed as well as other structures that preceded some of the current buildings. Participants all received a walking tour guide showing historic photos of nearly all the old structures on the route. One home owner saw us

along our walk and invited us into her home to show off the historic woodwork. David Savatteri and Joan Powers provided food and drink refreshments on the porch of the inn that they are restoring at the west edge of Jefferson. That 1879 building was once the home of the Mann brothers, Nathan and Levi, who used the pond behind the house to run both a saw and a grist mill. David and Joan purchased the long-abandoned building and have painstakingly restored it and will open it soon as the Mill Pond Inn. We had the chance to see the interior of that inn as well as the Wind in the Willows Overnight Accommodations.

Alumni Reception

We continued our JHS tradition of hosting a reception for JCS graduates who were in town for the Alumni Banquet. Previously we had done this in the Maple Museum but this year we used Judd Hall. A rolling slide show of over 400 Jefferson school related photos was projected throughout the event. Fifty enlargements of old Jefferson buildings that will eventually be in our town museum were on display as were many other photos, yearbooks, postcards, newspaper clippings, and other Jefferson memorabilia. Many alums brought in photos for us to scan and return or to keep for our archives/future displays.

Jefferson Farmers' Market

Our third season of the Jefferson Farmers' Market started Memorial Day weekend in the Maple Museum. Local producers have been selling plants for gardens, eggs, chicken, beef, fudge, rhubarb, baked items, cheese, honey, maple products and a wide variety of other items. The sale continues every Saturday from 9am until noon until Columbus Day weekend. This year Matt Betsinger of Abba's Acres is managing the market.

Communications

We have a very active Facebook presence with postings made nearly every day at www.facebook.com/The-Jefferson-Historical-Society. We post historic photos, newspaper items, and other Jefferson memorabilia as well as announcements of our activities and those of other historical societies. This is the best place to get up to date information about the JHS. We also have a new website www.thejeffersonhistoricalsociety.com developed for us by Deidre Hill.

Building Work

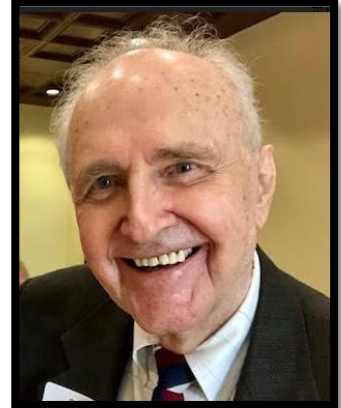
We have leased the Maple Museum for many years and have invested over \$100,000 in its restoration. In the past we have had the exterior repaired and painted, the foundation repaired, the septic system replaced, and painted the foyer, display room and balcony. This year Jefferson Joel stabilized the weak entry foyer floor and laid a hardwood maple floor in that area. In the mini-kitchen, the plywood covering the stained glass window was removed and the room was painted. Within the bathroom the toilet has been replaced and a small water heater is being installed, so we will have hot water not just cold water available in the building. Bob Glas had led the cleanup, organization, and improvements done in the building.

We purchased Judd Hall from the Masons in December 2017 and we began extensive restoration of that building. Last year we stabilized the first floor from the basement and roof from the attic. The roof was replaced, the water damaged walls and ceiling of the kitchen were removed and replaced. Work on the main room on the first floor included taping and spackling the ceiling as well as painting both the walls and the ceiling. Debris and rotting materials in the cellar were cleaned out and the furnace was replaced. Broken window panes were replaced using antique glass donated by Dan and Sue Dayton. Many work days were donated by JHS volunteers and local contractors did additional work. This year we have replaced a septic line and have a contractor lined up to replace the septic system. We have

removed the exterior wooden fire escape which will be replaced with a metal one to meet current codes. A contractor has removed the vinyl siding that was on the west wall and under the porch, power washed and scraped the exterior, and is now doing repairs to the structure in preparation for painting the entire building. We had an architect with expertise in historic buildings review Judd Hall to determine the best means of making the building handicapped accessible. Eagle Scout candidate Eric Parker and his work team recently completed the gutting of the second floor in preparation for insulating the area and replacing the walls for our future museum and archive area. David Savatteri is our "Judd Hall Boss" in charge of the facility.

Nicholas Juried Foundation

The Nicholas J. Juried Family Foundation has been the key to allowing us to purchase and restore Judd Hall. It provided the funds for one half of the purchase price of the building as well as a majority of the funds used towards its restoration. Nick Juried grew up in Gilboa and graduated from Gilboa-Conesville School in 1947. He has demonstrated significant philanthropic support to the Gilboa Historical Society for expanding their museum complex. Nick created a family foundation to support the causes of historic preservation, animal welfare, civil rights, and poverty.



Ken Bailey

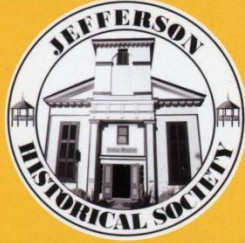
We were sad to learn of the passing of Kenneth Bailey last November. His ashes were recently buried in the Harpersfield Rural Cemetery. Ken spent much of his youth growing up with his grandmother in a home on Park Ave. where the "Jefferson House" airbnb is located. He had a passion for his family genealogy and local history. Ken interwove those two subjects in books that he wrote about Harpersfield and Jefferson. He provided copies of those books to JHS and we have them available for sales at our events. In 2016 Ken was our keynote speaker for our History Day.

Yard sale

We will be having a yard sale Friday August 23 - Sunday August 25 and Fri. August 30 - Sunday September 1. Donations can be made at Judd Hall, 163 Main St. starting Saturday August 17 from 10-1. They will continue Monday August 19 - Thursday August 22 between 1pm and 4 pm. Sale hours TBD.

Summer Activities

We have an extensive series of programs planned for the summer including concerts, Textile Day, the farmers' market, and open houses at the Fuller District One Room School House (see attached rack card for complete schedule.)



MAPLE MUSEUM FREE MUSIC & MORE SERIES 2019

• 221 Creamery Street, Jefferson, NY 12093 •

TOURS BY KEVIN BERNER

Saturday, June 1 - HISTORIC MAIN STREET WALK

Saturday, August 17 - TOUR OF THE OLD CEMETERY

Meet at the Maple Museum at 11am

Saturday, June 29, 2 pm

UPPER CATSKILL STRING QUARTET

In the Maple Museum

Sunday, July 7, 10 am - 3 pm

TEXTILE DAY - MATERIAL REMAINS

Keynote Speaker Hallie Bond: in the Maple Museum

Friday, July 12, 7:30 pm

BLUES MANEUVER

Under the Tent - Jefferson Town Green (Heritage Day Eve)

Saturday, July 13

HERITAGE DAY AT JUDD HALL

Historic Displays 10 am - 1 pm

Sunday, July 28, 2 pm

2pm, previously listed wrong

CELEBRATION OF STRINGS

Friday, August 9, 7 pm

CANAL STREET STRING BAND

With Dave Ruch • In the Maple Museum

Sunday, August 25, 2 pm

FIRST CALL BRASS ENSEMBLE

Bandstand on the Jefferson Town Green

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the sounds of your favorite old time tunes (Held inside the Maple Museum if weather is bad)



The Jefferson Historical Society
email: historicalsocietyjefferson@gmail.com
www.thejeffersonhistoricalsociety.com



JEFFERSON FARMERS MARKET

Facebook Jefferson NY Farmers Market

Saturdays 9 am—12 pm from May 25 - October 12

Indoors at the Maple Museum, 221 Creamery Street

FULLER DISTRICT ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

Next to Jefferson Town Hall, 677 N. Harpersfield Rd.

Open Saturdays: June 1, July 6, August 3

10 am - 1 pm

JUDD HALL DEDICATION JULY 13 AT 1PM



Judd Hall - New home of the Jefferson Historical Society, future local history museum and event venue. 163 Main Street, Jefferson



HUMANITIES
NEW YORK

Textile Day is made possible with funds from Humanities New York.



These projects are made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and administered in Schoharie County by the Greene County Council on the Arts.

Research Work

I continue to gather old photos and documents related to Jefferson's history. If you have old photos of Jefferson people or places, I would be interested in scanning them and then returning them to you. Some edits have been done to the Jefferson Then and Now Volume II and a second printing is now being done. Volume III is close to completion. Data is being gathered to document the historic businesses of Jefferson, when they were in operation, where they were, and who owned them in various periods. Other information and photos are being collected to eventually be used to develop bios of historic

residents either for development of a book or museum displays. Work also continues in documenting the lives of people buried in the old Jefferson Cemetery. Someday, hopefully in my lifetime, that will end up in the form of a book.

Private Ezra A. Buck

A Civil War Soldier from Jefferson

by Stephanie Ruquet

Ezra A. Buck was the son of Amos and Lucretia Van Voris Buck of Jefferson. Ezra's grandfather, Abner Buck, was a veteran of the American Revolution who had served in Connecticut, 1776-77. He was captured by the British and held as a prisoner of war before being released by Benedict Arnold. Some years later he and his family relocated to Harpersfield. Ezra's father, Amos Buck, was Abner's eldest son born to his second wife, Jamima Hawley.

In his first listing in the US Census, in 1850, Ezra A. Buck was listed as Amos E. Buck. In the 1860 census, he was listed as Ezra. The family first lived in Harpersfield but by 1840 had moved to Jefferson where Ezra was born in 1845. Ezra's mother, Lucretia, died in 1857 when Ezra was about 12 years old. Amos, Ezra's father, died in 1868, only a few years after his son had died in the Civil War.

In August, 1864, 19 year old Ezra enlisted for a one year term of service in the 91st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Albany Regiment." He was mustered in as a private in Company B and joined his regiment at Fort McHenry in Maryland. During the Civil War, the Baltimore fort was not only a training ground for Union artillery men, it also served as a prison for captured Confederate soldiers and Maryland political prisoners. In 1814, during the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key wrote the words that became our national anthem after witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore.

Two thirds of the soldiers who died in the Civil War died from disease. Ezra was one of them. On December 14, 1864, four months after his enlistment, Private Ezra A. Buck died at the post hospital of typhoid fever. His body was returned home and he was buried in Harpersfield Rural Cemetery. Ezra A. Buck is one of the twenty eight soldiers listed on the Civil War monument in Evergreen Cemetery.

Ezra's older brother, Ezekiel, also served in the Civil War, in the same company and regiment as Ezra. He had enlisted in 1861, completed his service and reenlisted in 1864. Private Ezekiel M. Buck survived the war.

Stephanie Ruquet has been researching the soldiers from Jefferson who died in the Civil War. In addition to the twenty eight listed on the monument in Evergreen Cemetery, she has identified twenty additional soldiers with a Jefferson connection who died in that war. If you have any information,

documents, photographs or stories about a soldier from Jefferson who died in the Civil War, please contact Stephanie via the Jefferson Historical Society's email address or through its Facebook page.

Dr. Richtmyer Hubbell

by Kevin Berner



Dr. Richtmyer Hubbell was one of Jefferson's most prominent citizens in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He was the son of Jacob Richtmyer Hubbell and Harriet Pierce Hubbell and was born on February 2, 1843 on Clay Hill in Gilboa. Richtmyer was the oldest of six children; his siblings were Charles B., Hiram P., Elizabeth, Sophia, and Fred. In 1844 his family moved to Blenheim Hill where he attended the Perry District School. He also briefly attended a "select school" in Gilboa and the Roxbury Academy. At age 16, Hubbell started five years of teaching at district schools in Gilboa, Blenheim, and Eminence and became a member of the Methodist Church. He studied medicine with Dr. Albert A. Wood of Jefferson and followed him to Oasis, Wisconsin in 1863 where he continued learning about medicine

and was seasonally involved in farming. In 1864 during the Civil War he enlisted as a Corporal in Co. M of the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. He became a company clerk stationed at Fort Weed near Alexandria, Virginia and visited Washington several times each month. He had the opportunity to meet President Abraham Lincoln three times. Hubbell attended the second inauguration of Lincoln and participated in a New Year's reception in 1865 at the White House. He wrote extensively in a diary during the war. His observations were eventually published in a book [Potomac Diary: A Soldier's Account of the Capital in Crisis 1864-1865](#) by Marc Newman. Hubbell stayed in the service until the end of the war, receiving his discharge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He returned to Schoharie County after the war and then enrolled in and graduated from Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery in 1866.

He was married to Amelia Susan Decker from 1866 until she died in January 1889. Their children included Frank J., Hattie A., Benona, and Grace Hubbell. In August 1890 he married his sister-in-law Rose E. Decker. Fred D. Hubbell was their son.

Hubbell opened his first medical practice in Harpersfield where he served as the town clerk for four terms, and as Town Supervisor for three terms. He stayed there for 10 years before selling his practice to his brother Hiram. He then moved to Jefferson where he practiced medicine from 1876 until his death in 1918. Hubbell was known to treat for people whether they could afford to pay him or not. He directed the studies of four students who became doctors and one who became a pharmacist. Hubbell served as President of the Eclectic Medical Society for the Twenty-third Senatorial District from at least 1910-1915.

Richtmyer Hubbell was among the first in Jefferson to have telephone service. A Stamford newspaper reported in 1880 that he received a phone call from Herschel V. Jones in Franklin and could hear him playing his trombone. He was very active within the community and supported a wide variety of civic endeavors. Hubbell created the Jefferson Banking House which existed from 1880-1882. He was actively

involved in the development of the Jefferson Co-operative Creamery and the Union Free School (1900). He acquired extensive land holdings of around 2000 acres including a number of farms and actively farmed, raising Jersey cattle. Hubbell served as an associate editor of "The Prattsville District Register," a monthly magazine about affairs related to the Methodist Church. In 1901 he was involved in the creation of the Gilboa Water Works as an investor and he was an early director of the Jefferson Water Works. He had the 13 sided barn in Jefferson. He also purchased the two room school house by the Green in Jefferson and moved it to his farm with the 13-sided barn.

He spoke and wrote extensively about Jefferson's history. He had discussed plans to write a book on the topic but never succeeded in accomplishing that goal. His obituary described him as being "a man of knowledge, not only in medicine, but in law, in history, in science." It went on to say that he was "humble yet he was a giant in intellect."



Preservation Consultant Jessie Ravage describing her research on the development of the town of Jefferson in Judd Hall .



Meeting of historians and historical societies at Judd Hall.



Start of historical Main St. walk.



Painting Judd Hall walls.



Bird walk at the Paulson Preserve



Bird photography art show by Barb Palmer



Open mic nights hosted by the Jefferson Central School Art Club





Jefferson Farmers' Market at the Maple Museum and Mike Herman performing at the market.



Start of restoration of upstairs in Judd Hall.



Priming of the front of Judd Hall.

Late notice: We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sally Swantz. She was very devoted to the history of both her family and Jefferson. Sally also contributed in a significant manner to the Jefferson Historical Society.

Officers:

Kevin Berner, President , bernerkl@gmail.com
Carol Bodnar, Vice President
Stephanie Ruquet, Treasurer
Joan Powers, Secretary

Board Members:

Shannon Finn
Bob Glas
Faye Harris
Barbara Palmer
Ingrid Zeman, Town Historian

Mailing address: P.O. Box 143, Jefferson, NY 12093
Email address: historicalsocietyjefferson@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/The-Jefferson-Historical-Society
Website: www.thejeffersonhistoricalsociety.com

Jefferson Historical Society - Membership and Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Membership Categories

_____ Individual yearly ...\$15

_____ Couple/family yearly....\$25

_____ Individual lifetime....\$100

_____ Couple lifetime\$150

Donation Opportunities

Judd Hall restoration \$_____ Maple Museum restoration \$_____

Other (please specify) _____ \$_____

My donation is in memory of/in honor of _____

The Jefferson Historical Society is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Book orders

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

	Unit price	# Books	Cost
Jefferson Then and Now - Volume 1	\$20		
Jefferson Then and Now -Volume 2	\$20		
Maple Festival - The Jefferson Years	\$20		
Willard Rising Stewart 1933 Diary	\$20		
Postage & mailing	\$5/book		
Total			

Please make your check out to the "**Jefferson Historical Society**" and mail it together with this form to P.O. Box 143, Jefferson, New York 12093

TO:

The Jefferson Historical Society
P.O. Box 143
Jefferson, NY 12093



Main Street, Jefferson in the early 1900s: the hardware store (now the Breakfast Club), the Clark Block (now gone) and Hubbell's funeral home and furniture store (now gone as well).