



# THE JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WWW.thejeffersonhistoricalsociety.org

Summer 2026

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## Our Past Preserved in Place Names Nichols Road

By Bonnie C. Dailey, drawing heavily on Mildred Bailey's account.

Nichols Road, in the northern part of Jefferson, runs from Moxley Street to Allen Road, a distance of about 1.3 miles. It was named for the Nichols family. **Ezra Nichols** (1763-1827) was a Private in Capt. Hinckley's Co, 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Regiment. After the Revolution, Ezra moved from Connecticut to North Harpersfield with his family. Ezra Nichols was among the first settlers of North Harpersfield, according to the *History of Delaware County* by W.W. Munsell. Ezra's son John stated that the "first labor upon their arrival was to erect a dwelling, which was built of peeled fir poles, notched together at the corners, and filled between with mud, the roof being made of elm bark, pinned on to hold it in position, nails at that time being very scarce and expensive; over an opening at the side of the building a blanket was hung, which served as a door; the floor was made of puncheons, as they were called, being logs split and hewed so as to lie as close and smooth as possible." He also became acquainted, much to his dismay, with a strange and unfamiliar animal, which turned out to be a skunk!

Rev War Patriot Ezra Nichols and several other Nichols family members are buried in North Harpersfield's Nichols Cemetery. The cemetery is located near the borderline of the towns of North Harpersfield and Jefferson, on land that was once part of the original Nichols farm.

Several of Ezra's descendants served in the Civil War. His grandson **Isaac P. Nichols** was wounded at Gettysburg. Isaac's brother **Nathan** was killed in action there, and his name is on Jefferson's Civil War monument. **Smith Nichols**, a cousin from Harpersfield, also served in the Civil War. At least three of Ezra's Jefferson descendants were veterans of WW I."

**Charles E. Nichols**, Ezra's 2<sup>nd</sup> G-Grandson, was known as "Schoharie County's first citizen." He was born in Jefferson on May 2, 1862, one of five children of Hiram Nichols and Elizabeth Totten. His wife Harriet "Hattie" Hubbell was a daughter of Dr. Richtmyer Hubbell of Jefferson. The couple's daughter Grace graduated from Vassar, and their son Charles attended Yale.

C.E. Nichols began his legal career in his hometown of Jefferson around 1885 after studying at the Delaware Literary Institute and Hamilton College and completing a law apprenticeship in the office of Senator Krum in Schoharie. His rise was rapid; he soon became one of the county's leading attorneys. He was an early officer and member of Jefferson Grange No. 761 when it was organized on December 12, 1891. He also served as Jefferson Town Supervisor in 1892 and 1893. When the Water District was formed in 1893, Nichols was a major supporter and shareholder. He was elected to its board of directors and served as one of its first presidents. He joined Jefferson's Masonic Lodge #554 in 1894. In 1898, the Jefferson Co-operative Creamery elected him Secretary of the association.



JUDGE CHARLES EARL NICHOLS, SR.

In September 1907, Nichols was one of six lot owners who met to consider whether the Evergreen Cemetery should be incorporated. At a meeting the following month, he spoke in favor of incorporation. Although newspaper reports noted strong opposition, the vote carried. Nichols was appointed a director and served on the committee charged with perfecting the incorporation. Later that year, he was named to an executive committee to formulate the new cemetery's by-laws.

Nichols contributed to the Town Hall furnishing fund in 1911. In 1912, he served as toastmaster at the opening dinner and ceremony for the new Opera House. Sometime after 1916, he donated a stained-glass window to the Methodist Church. In 1919 he wrote part of the historical record of the Jefferson Methodist Episcopal Church. At the founding meeting of a branch of the American Red Cross in Jefferson on July 12, 1917, the Hon. Charles E. Nichols spoke about the 'conflict of nations' (the First World War).

Continued next page



## A Message From Our President - Kevin Berner

Since last fall, we have welcomed two new board members. Brian Darcy, who has frequently volunteered alongside his wife, Caryn, officially joined the board last fall. Together, they have been regular volunteers at our yard sales. Brian has also cleared overgrown vegetation from Potter Hill Cemetery and continues to maintain the grounds. In addition, he is planning ways to make information about Evergreen Cemetery more accessible to the public. He has also been assisting Bob Glas with the general maintenance of our facilities. Carey Nershi joined the board at our May meeting, but she had already begun putting her graphic design skills to work for us. In just a few days, she developed the rack card showcasing our 2026 programs and arranged to have it printed in time for the recent county tourism brochure exchange event. We had also discussed developing a 2027 fundraising calendar featuring her father's outstanding photography, and she immediately volunteered to handle the layout and design work.

We are always looking for individuals like Brian, Caryn, and Carey to strengthen our volunteer base. Whether you have special skills or simply want to lend a hand, there are many ways you can help. The exterior of Judd Hall had been largely neglected before we purchased the building. During the summer of 2019, we completed general carpentry repairs and had the entire building painted. Once again, some of the woodwork needs attention, and there are areas where the paint is failing. Unfortunately, modern paints do not seem to last as long as they once did. We have contracted with Lenny's Painting Inc. to complete this work during the summer.

We also have several new exhibits and museum upgrades underway. Our goal is to keep the museum dynamic and ever-changing so that visitors will want to return again and again. Some improvements will be completed before we open for the season over Memorial Day weekend, while additional changes are planned throughout the summer. We have a very busy schedule planned for 2026, and we hope to see you at many of our events. Our Facebook page is updated daily and remains the best source of information about upcoming programs and events, as well as stories highlighting Jefferson's rich history.



Nichols Road— Continued from page 1

Home of Nathan and Isaac Nichols. Watercolor by Paul F. Watkeys as it looked in 1941

Charles E. Nichols went on to serve as Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, 3rd Judicial District, from January 1, 1917, until September 12, 1930. He began his fourteen-year term at age fifty-four and was elected by the largest majority ever given a candidate in the district. At the time of his election to the Supreme Court, his private practice was said to be more lucrative than the \$10,000 annual salary for the high office he was about to assume. He was the county's third Supreme Court Justice, following Stephen L. Mayham of Schoharie and Peter S. Danforth of Middleburgh.



Charles Nichols house 1904

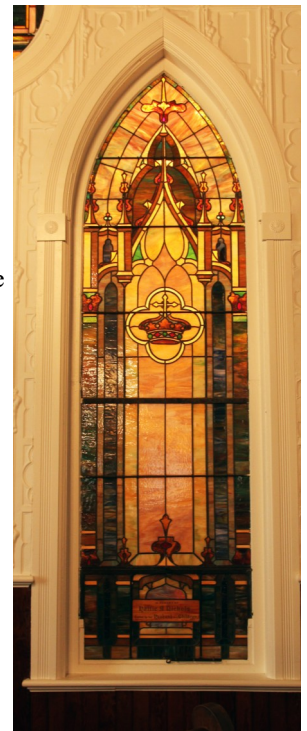
In addition to his service on the Supreme Court and the positions he held in Jefferson, Nichols was Vice President of the Sterling Fire Insurance Company, director of the Farmers and Merchants bank of Cobleskill, a member of Cobleskill Chamber of Commerce and the Cobleskill Golf and Country Club and a president of the Cobleskill Agricultural Society.

Charles Nichols died on Sept 30, 1930 and is buried with family members in the mausoleum he had built in Jefferson's Evergreen Cemetery. An article in Albany's Knickerbocker-Press stated that more than 1,000 persons attended

his funeral, including "many attorneys, Supreme Court justices, county judges and political leaders of New York State."

The journey from Ezra Nichols' pioneering settlement in North Harpersfield in the 1790's to his 2<sup>nd</sup> G-Grandson Charles Nichols' illustrious career in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries chronicles not only the Nichols' family heritage, but also the story of our little slice of New York State.

*With grateful acknowledgment for the contributions of Kevin Berner, Stephanie Rubin-Ruquet, and Randy Treadwell.*




Window donated by Nichols in the Jefferson Methodist Church.

# An Interesting 250-Year-Old Historical Document

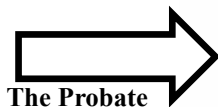
By Stephanie Ruquet

Recently I was doing some research on two of Stephen Judd's brothers, Freeman and Daniel, both of whom were part of Colonel Benedict Arnold's 1775 expedition to liberate Quebec from the British. Daniel died in Quebec of smallpox in February 1776. On [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) I found two Woodbury, Connecticut, Probate District Court documents related to the death of a Daniel Judd who may possibly be Stephen and Freeman's brother, although the document lacks the details to positively make the identification. One of the documents was especially fascinating to me, not for what it said, but what it was altered not to say.

Seen below, the probate document is a pre-printed legal form with relevant information filled in, including the date. That date, June 4, 1776, was exactly one month before the Declaration of Independence was signed. Three sentences have been crossed out. It was what was crossed out that caught my eye. Take a look:



**KNOW** all Men *Stephen Judd and Noah Richards* presents, That we *Stephen Judd and Noah Richards* both of *Waterbury in the County of New Haven and Colony of Connecticut in New England* are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto *Daniel Sherman Esq;* Judge of the Court of Probate for the District of *Woodbury* in the Penal Sum of *£ 300 = 0 = 0* Lawful Money of the said Colony: To be paid to the said Judge, or to his certain Attorney, or Successors in *Office* To the which Payment well and truly to be made, and done, we the said *Stephen and Noah* do bind Ourselves, and each of us, our Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, and each and every of them, for, and in the Whole, firmly by these Presents; signed with our Hands, and sealed with our Seals: Dated at *Woodbury* the *4<sup>th</sup>* Day of *June* in the *1776* Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord ~~GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of G.O.D. of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Anno Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy~~



The Probate Court had apparently declared its independence before the Declaration was signed!

**T**HE Condition of this Obligation is such, That if the above bounden *Stephen Judd* Administrator of all and singular, the Goods, Chattles, Credits, and Estate of *Daniel Judd late of Waterbury* deceased, do make, or cause to be made, a true and perfect Inventory, of all and singular, the Goods, Credits and Estate of the said Deceased, which have or shall come to the Hands, Possession or Knowledge of the said Administrator or into the Hands or Possession of any other Person, or Persons, for him; and the same to be made, do publish, or cause to be published, into the Publick of the said Colony

## One Thing Leads to Another - J. Robert Glas

**The end of the French and Indian War left the British Parliament with crushing debt. Britain sought reimbursement for their military expenditures by taxing the colonies:**

1764- The Sugar Act. Tightened customs enforcement on items such as molasses, wine, coffee, textiles and foreign rum. It also restricted export of lumber and iron except only to Britain.

1764- Currency Act. Colonies were prohibited from issuing paper money requiring transactions using gold or silver.

1765- Stamp Act. Directly taxed nearly all paper products, including legal documents, newspapers, pamphlets, almanacs, liquor licenses, college diplomas, playing cards, and dice. To be paid in sterling.

**Although later rescinded, it led to mass protests and boycotts. The phrase "No Taxation Without Representation" was born.**

1767-Townshend Acts- taxes on imported goods such as glass, lead, paint, paper and tea.

1770- Boston Massacre. British troops fire into crowd of protesters killing 5.

1773- Tea Act- created a monopoly for the British East India Company, enhancing the Townshend Act.

**This led to the Boston Tea Party which led to the Coercive or "Intolerable Acts".**

1774- Boston Port Act. Closed the port until restitution for the destroyed tea was made.

1774- Massachusetts Government Act. Revoked the colony's charter,

1774- Administration of Justice Act. British officials accused of crimes to be tried in Britain.

1774- Quartering Act. British troops to be housed any colonial home, barn or uninhabited building.

**These led to uniting the Colonies and forming the First Continental Congress.**

1775- Lexington and Concord skirmishes.

1775- Fort Ticonderoga captured

1775- Battle of Bunker Hill

**1776- Independence declared by the Second Continental Congress.**

## Lost and Found: Jay C. Tompkins: Revolutionary War Descendant and Civil War Veteran

Kathleen Tompkins Puciato

High on a sunny southeastern slope at the edge of the hamlet of West Fulton, then called Sap Bush Hollow, at the intersection of Huckleberry Kingdom and Cole Hollow Road, lived a group of folks whose 1830s lives were captured by Henry Conklin. Conklin's published manuscript, *Through Poverty's Vale: A Hardscrabble Boyhood in Upstate New York, 1832-1862* described his neighbor to the west, Jay C. Tompkins. Jay C. was my third cousin four times removed. He settled in West Fulton with his wife Elizabeth Mosier, and his parents Joshua Tompkins and Lois Lobdell. Census records for Schoharie County, Fulton indicate all seven of his children were born there. Our common English immigrant ancestor John Tompkins was from northern England.

Jay C. Tompkins' great, great Uncles John and Nathaniel Tompkins served in the Revolutionary War. John was born at Yorktown, New York in 1739. He was a private in the 4th Regiment Orange County Militia, New York, under Capt. Chas Brodhead and Col. John Hathorn, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ancestor #:A114714.

Nathaniel was born at Greenburgh, New York in 1742. He was a private and served in the 2nd New York Regiment under Capt. Israel Smith and the 4th New York Regiment under Col. Peter Van Cortland, DAR Ancestor #: A114736.

Enoch Tompkins, a distant cousin, was born in New Castle, New York in 1745. It is believed he was captured by the King Phillips Wampanoag Tribe when he was a small boy. As the story goes, when war broke out Enoch was permitted to leave the tribe as he was of age to fight. He served in the 6th Dutchess County Regiment which was part of the 6th Dutchess County Militia.

Another captured child living with the tribe was Lucretia Husted, daughter of Caleb Husted and Martha Gunter Totten. After the war he returned to the tribe and was granted permission to marry Lucretia. Enoch and Lucretia were my 5th great grandparents.

Jay C. Tompkins and his four sons enlist in the Union Army. Sons Joshua Tompkins, age 21, and his brother William Henry, age 18, enlisted in Co. D, 44th NY Infantry on October 19, 1861 at Albany. Joshua was discharged for disability on May 28, 1862. George, age 19, enlisted in Co. K, 2nd NY Artillery on January 26, 1864 at Albany. Jay C. Tompkins, Sr., age 49, and Jay Jr., age 15, both enlisted in Co. K, 2nd NY Heavy Artillery on February 24, 1864 at Catskill. At Petersburg, on June 17, 1864, Jay C. witnessed his son, Jay Jr. get killed by a premature explosion. Brother George and comrade Orrin Maybee, also of Fulton, buried Private Jay Tompkins on the field. Jay C. Tompkins and sons Joshua, William Henry, and George survived the war. Jay C. was at the battle of the Wilderness and was present when Lee surrendered. He died on January 19, 1900 and is buried in the Wiley Cemetery in Blyton, Illinois.

Although separated in time by one hundred and forty three years, Jay C. and I were within walking distance of each other by a road now lost to the forest and time. Jay C. lived in the hamlet of West Fulton and I

Lucretia Husted Tompkins  
of the Wampanoag Tribe,  
1747-1823

Photograph of a watercolor

live in the hamlet of Eminence. His daughter Hannah Tompkins married Austin Ploss of Eminence. They lived in Jefferson in their later years as did Hannah's brother George Tompkins, who boarded at the Jefferson Hotel and was a mail carrier. Hannah and Austin's son Garfield Ploss married Grace Hubbell of Jefferson.

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## You Can Support Our Future

The Jefferson Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving our community's history for generations to come. These gifts help ensure that our programs, archives, and historic resources continue to thrive.

If you are considering your legacy, you may wish to include the Society in your will or estate plans. Another meaningful option is making a charitable contribution through your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a retirement account.

For more information, please contact Kevin Berner, [bernerkl@gmail.com](mailto:bernerkl@gmail.com) or 518 294-7196.

## Revolutionary War Patriots of Jefferson

The following are a few of the Revolutionary War Patriots from the Town of Jefferson who are buried in the Old Jefferson Cemetery, or "Old Burying Ground." We should note that Jefferson didn't exist during the Revolutionary War. It was still a forest wilderness, inhabited by wildlife and Sugar Bush groves, interspersed with footpaths used by the Haudenosaunee for travel to their Castles (Mohawk villages), as well as on hunting and fishing expeditions. However, many Rev War veterans settled in Jefferson after the War, and we celebrate them here.

**Jesse Atwood (23 May 1752- 14 Oct 1836).** Born in Woodbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut, Jesse and his younger brother Asa Atwood both joined the Patriot Cause early in the Revolutionary War. Asa joined the first Connecticut Battalion in 1776, serving under Col. G.S. Silliman. They engaged in the Battle of Brooklyn on Long Island in September of 1776, where Asa was fatally wounded. Jesse volunteered for service in the Revolutionary War four separate times, serving for a combined total of nearly three years. Notably, he participated in defending Boston against the British siege in 1775.

In March 1778 he married 19 year-old Rachel Minor. Their first child, a son, was born in March 1779. They named their son Asa, after Jesse's younger brother who died in the War. Jesse and Rachel had six children, two boys and four girls. In July of 1805, Jesse and most of his family relocated to Jefferson. Jesse and Rachel remained in Jefferson, where Jesse passed away in 1836. He is buried in the Old Jefferson Cemetery.

**Epenetus Buckingham (1755-1829):** Epenetus Buckingham, son of Thomas and Sarah (Treat) Buckingham, was born in Milford, CT on August 29, 1755 (or 1757). He enlisted as a Private in the Continental Army on the first call for troops, May 6, 1775. He was at the siege of Boston with the 5<sup>th</sup> Company of Continentals from May 6 to Dec 4, 1775, serving under Benedict Arnold. Members of his company included Demas Judd, Freeman Judd, Daniel Judd, Stephen Judd, and Thomas Merchant. Four of these fellow soldiers moved to Jefferson after the War, as did Epenetus. He re-enlisted on June 27, 1776, in the company of Capt. John Couch, and was discharged on January 17, 1777.

Epenetus married Anne Welton of Milford, CT. The family moved to Jefferson before 1805. He passed away in Jefferson at age 74 on Sept 19, 1829. His wife Anne died on Dec 1, 1830. Epenetus, his wife Anne, daughter Caroline, son Isaac, and Isaac's wife Sally are all buried in the Old Jefferson Cemetery.

**Eliphalet Clark (1752-1850):** Eliphalet Clark was born in Killingworth, Connecticut in 1752. He filed for a pension on April 24, 1818. He declared that he enlisted in the Continental Army for the term of three years in about May of 1777. He took the place of his brother Samuel Clark in October of 1777, and continued to serve until May 2 1780.

Eliphalet married Lydia Thomas in Granby, Connecticut on 25 Sep 1780. They had at least 11 children while in Connecticut. They moved to Jefferson sometime before 1820. Eliphalet died in Jefferson at age 85 on 18 Oct 1837 and is buried with his wife Lydia in the Old Jefferson Cemetery.

By Bonnie Dailey

Civil War veteran Oscar Hubbard was the proprietor of the Jefferson House (now the Heart-break Hotel) during at least part of 1879 and 1880. Bill Parker lent me two of Oscar's business ledgers, each containing an index of customers and the pages where their accounts appear.

Although some food was served, the ledgers make it clear that most customers came to drink rather than eat. Pints of whiskey were especially common, costing between 30 and 40 cents. Bourbon sold for 60-70 cents, while gin was typically around 70 cents. Brandy, rye, cider, and, less frequently, beer also appear in the records. A more general category of "drinks" usually cost 10 cents per glass for customers who did not purchase a pint of hard liquor.

Another frequent purchase was cigars, which sold for 3-5 cents each. One customer, for example, bought 77 cigars for \$3.85. Meals generally cost around 25 cents. Oysters were also a particularly common item and appear regularly in advertisements for Jefferson businesses during the 1800s, as well as on menus for public gatherings.

### Oscar Hubbard log book for the Jefferson House By Kevin Berner

Page 12		Page 13	
Date	Description	Date	Description
	<i>D. A. Seely</i>		<i>O. S. Hubbard</i>
	Making wood rising	Jan 4, 1878	Account
	50 bundles straw		1 bushel Potatoes 50
	1 Rope	1877	Account
	Helping draw the back bay	Apr 4, 1879	1 Au meloe
	1 1/2 days work	May 13	1/2 pt - Cold Suck
Aug 11, 1878	3 1/2 qt Milk	Jan 15	1/2 pt wine
" 8 "	Bill	July 17	1/2 pt wine
Sept 11 "	Cash	Aug 25	2 1/2 lb Sugar
Oct 27	4 1/2 lb Crackers	" 30	6 1/2 lb Sugar
Nov 4	1 drink	Sept 20	1/2 pt Brandy
" "	1 pt Bourbon	Oct 13	By C. Fuller
" 17	1 1/2 lb Crackers	Dec 30	Cash
" 23	1/2 pt whiskey		3471
" 25	1 Cigar 3 drinks		3521
Dec 11	Cigars	Jan	for firing sawy
" 20	1 best Oysters	O. S. Hubbard's Charge 285	142
" 22	2 1/2 lb Crackers	April 7	Bill By A. W. Clark
" 28	1 best Oysters	" 15	By J. Donforth
Jan 16	4 best Oysters	Sept 12	firing wagon Spring
" "	Cash By Butler	June 20	1/2 pt - Alcohol
" "	Carried to Page 100	Dec 6	10 lb beef
			60
			352

Apparently, they were both inexpensive and readily available during that period.



**George McCroy's May 2026 talk fleshing out the life of Stephen Judd**



**John Polito regaled with piano, guitar and trumpet**



**Sam Forehand, March 2026 Destination Marketing meeting**



**John Polito sang "Jefferson Roads" with apologies to John Denver**



**Stephanie Ruquet holds a tin horn used during the Anti-Rent War a gift of local interest from Eklund's Antiques.**



**Winter of 2026 could be brutal!**



**Kim Tom owner of The Middlebrook Café donated coffee and pastries for the Historians Gathering**



**Historians Gathering April 2026**

On May 22 a reception was held for a showing of Jefferson themed paintings by Werner Rentsch. These were donated by him to the Historical Society.



Brian Darcy and Bob Glas built stands for the works. .



John Jackson, Cathy Bulka, Gail Rentsch, Joe Henry.



John Steitz, Cathy Bulka, Caryn Darcy



Gail Rentsch gave a loving tribute for Werner. Listening, surrounded by his works made the experience deeply moving.



Ed Atkins, Philip and Mary Dolensk, Seated: Rena Koserski and Tony Robins.

## Where They Lay - by Bonnie Dailey

The Old Jefferson Cemetery (originally known as the Jefferson Burying Ground) stands on land north of Main Street in Jefferson, with only a right-of-way for access. The land was originally owned by Col. Stephen Judd, and he and many of the Judd family are buried there. The first burial, in 1799, was the Colonel's stepmother Elsie Judd, who came to Jefferson in her 70's with other members of the family. There is also a marker there for two young children of the Colonel's brother Freeman Judd, a daughter Mary who died at age 6 in 1795, and an infant who died shortly after he was born in 1796. Records indicate that the children were buried elsewhere, and the double marker with their names was placed in the Old Burying Ground so that their memory would not be lost.

Ten veterans of the Revolutionary War are buried here, as well as three veterans of the Civil War and veterans of the War of 1812. The stones tell a story of Jefferson's early years, and the pioneering spirits who founded our town

### Honoring Veterans of Three Wars

On Sunday May 17 Jefferson's Scout Troop 50 honored veterans of the Revolution, 1812 and Civil War in the old Cemetery with markers and flags. They thanked those buried for their service and solemnly saluted before moving on to the next grave.



**Honor guard :** Stephanie Ruquet, Bob Glas, Gage Vitakius, Anne Haggerty, *Troop Leader* Yvonne Pagillo, *Assitant Troop Leader* Mike Pagillo, Jace Pagillo, Cole Seeley, Nathan Haggerty, Liam Seeley And *Troop Leader* Jason Seeley.

## 2025 Donors

Kay Stryker Ackerman  
Susan Alstedt *in memory of Bud McKeage*  
Joann & Mike Antaki  
The Apple Barrel, LLC  
Ed & Jackie Atkins  
Ken Ayers  
The Community Foundation for South Central New York / The Joyce & David Barber Fund  
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Kevin Berner  
Jessica Bernius  
Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Peter Brennan  
Elinor C. Brocklehurst  
Andrea Brooks *in memory of Christopher Di Corado*  
Wesley Brown  
Rosemarie Burghard-Pelatti / Burghard Family Memorial Fund  
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Clara Clack *in memory of Thomas Courtenay-Clack*  
Andrea Clapper & Timothy Holmes  
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Community Foundation of Otsego County  
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Joanne Darcy Crum, L. S.  
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Bonnie Dailey  
Rosalie & Alan Danforth  
Russell Danforth *in memory of George Danforth & Gail Danforth Peake*  
Caryn & Brian Darcy  
Sue Dayton *in memory of K. Dan Dayton*  
Jerry Diamond *in memory of Joan Diamond*  
Barbara Burn Dolensek *in memory of Werner Rentsch*

Dennis Duffy  
Carl Eklund  
Diane Ericson  
John Ericson / Ruth White Estate  
Victoria Faoro & Lou De Luca *in memory of Mabel Totten Faoro & Gino Faoro*  
Fenimore Asset Management  
Robert Ferris  
Stacey Flanagan *in honor of 5 Weaver siblings; in memory of grandpa Donald, great-uncles Charlie & Frank, and great-aunt Gertrude(Weaver)Ellis; and in honor of great-uncle Walter*  
Lois Bailey Fowkes *in memory of Kenneth H. Bailey*  
Diane Frances & Larry Hepner *in memory of Ruth White*  
Patricia & Michael Freshour *in memory of Theodore John & Mary Anna Phelan*  
Elisabeth & Richard Friedberg *in memory of Werner Rentsch*  
Betty G. Gilbert  
Bobbi & Jeff Goldman  
Deborah & David Gordon *in memory of the Patchin family*  
Jim & Gina Faoro Gratton  
Nicholas Groudas  
John Guilfoyle  
Allan Hacklin  
Terry & Lynn Hait  
Grant Harders  
Holly & Scott Harrick  
Jocelyn & Leean Harris  
Donna A. Hartwell  
Lyndia C. Hauser  
Annie Hayes & Alan Herman  
Sara & Joe Henry *in memory of Werner Rentsch*  
Deb & Bob Herodes  
Lyn & Frank Herodes  
Richard Herodes *in memory of Constance Dorland Herodes*  
Char & Jim Higgins *in memory of Al & Toni Higgins*

Albert & Joyce Hodder  
Karen Holeczko *in memory of Frank X. & Maria G. Laubmeier*  
Raymond S. Hryczyk *in memory of Stanley Hryczyk*  
John & Cheryl Hubbard  
Catherine L. Hubbard *in memory of her father Van Hubbard*  
Paula M. Hughson  
Lela Christine Huneke  
Rex Hunt *in memory of Glenda McAvoy*  
Jeannie Irvine & Everton H. Henriques  
Rich & Vanessa Irwin *in memory of James C. Moore*  
John Jackson & Nancy Shaver *in memory of Tom Clack & Barry Rigby*  
Carrie & William James  
Amy Juried / Juried Family Foundation  
Marilynn Karp  
Donald T. Keil Jr. *in memory of his father Rev. Donald Keil, his mother Evelyn Freer Keil, & his brother Charles Freer Keil; all lived in the Jefferson Methodist parsonage, 1937-1941*  
Ron Ketelsen  
Abby Kinsley  
Virginia Kintz  
Angela & Ken Kobetitsch  
Mary E. Koonz  
Suzanne Korff de Gidts & Robert Kloos  
Pamela Kostbar-Jarvis  
Regina Larkin & Nick Petron *in memory of the Harris Family*  
Helene Lawrence *in memory of Gary Lawrence*  
Doris & David Leverett  
Dawn D. Lewis *in memory of K. Dan Dayton*  
Karen & Brad Lord  
Linda Lord  
Sarah P. Malec  
Roxanne & Paul Marcellino  
Debra Marzigliano  
Gray & Andy Mason *in memory of Milton, Dorothy, & Van Hubbard*

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—Continued from page 8—

Frederic M. Mauhs / Catherine Ruland  
& Frederic M. Mauhs Giving Fund  
Millie & David McCoy  
George McCroy & Michele Monforte  
Brenton McMenamain  
Maureen & Tim McMullen *in memory*  
*of Frances McMullen Fishlock*  
Kathleen M. Meredith / Gather Co-Op  
Beatrice Miller *in memory*  
*of Lambert-Lola Sternberg*  
Kevin M. Miller  
Theresa & John Murphy  
David Nershi  
Helen & Tom Nershi  
Richard A. Norton  
Lauren Olson  
Deborah Palmatier  
Barb Palmer & Rod Collins  
Joseph Paraszczuk  
Ann Peters & Andre Theisen  
Linda Stryker Phillips *in memory*  
*of Donald & Jean (Van Dusen) Stryker*  
Christine Pickett  
Dorothy F. Pickett *in memory of*  
*Vernon H. Pickett Jr, and her beloved*  
*friend Nick Juried*  
Donna and Phil Potak *in memory of*  
Democracy  
Joan M. Powers  
Phyllis & Wilson Pryne  
Irene & Jeffrey Rabinowitz

Beverly A. Reed *in memory of*  
*her brother Robert Van Dusen*  
*Vernon H. Pickett Jr, and her beloved*  
*friend Nick Juried*  
John Polito  
James A. Seary *in memory of*  
*Dr. Charles Richtmyer Hubbell,*  
*Fred Decker Hubbell,*  
*Alden Bradley Hubbell, and*  
*Mabel Rosemary Hubbell Seary*  
Daniel Shields & Dennis Lumba *in*  
*memory*  
*of Roy Becker & Andy Windgate*  
Mark Sisk  
Michael Sisk  
Lois Smart *in memory of*  
*Frederick Wilcox Smart &*  
*Kenneth Holmes Bailey Jr.*  
Morten Sohlberg  
Volneta Stannard *in memory of*  
*Richard Stannard Jr.*  
Elaine & Greg Starheim  
Hazel & Ford Stryker  
Stryker Family Giving Fund  
Jim & Marie-Louise Sullivan  
The Robert & Addie B. Thomson Trust  
Ellen Thorn *in memory of* Gerry Stoner  
Betty Lou & Ed Schwarz *in memory*  
*of Mr. & Mrs. M. V. Jochem and*  
*Ed & Val Schwarz*

Johanna Tordai  
Freda Treadwell *in memory*  
*of Richard Treadwell*  
Randy Treadwell  
Gail & Werner Rentsch  
Richmondville Senior Citizens  
Cathy & John Riedl  
Matthew Roberts &  
Linda Carmosino, M. D.  
Linda Rohacevich  
Mary & William Rouleau  
Laura & Glenn Rubin  
Stephanie Ruquet *in memory of*  
*Kenny Ruquet*  
Marjorie Troidl *in memory*  
*of George Danforth*  
Carole & Paul Trotta  
Upstate Theatre Coalition  
Lesley & Matthew Vaitekunas  
Bert Vilato  
Anna Vitek & Thomas Ozelski  
Dolores Wenzel & Stephanie Gatto  
*in memory of Anna Weger Bormann*  
Grace & Don Whitmore *in memory*  
*of Lefa & Russell Zimmer*  
Steven Whitesell  
John P. D. Wilkinson  
Kimberly YoungSandy & Bob Zeman  
Scoville-Meno Honda

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## ELIZABETH BARTHOLOMEW HARPER

by Susan Harwood  
(1749-1833)

Elizabeth Bartholomew Harper was born February 13, 1749 in West Portal, Hunterdon, New Jersey, daughter of Johan and Dorothy (Endt) Bartholomew. On July 30, 1771, Elizabeth married Col. Alexander Harper, son of Col. John Harper Sr. and his wife Abigail Montgomery Harper, in Wooster, Otsego, New York. After their marriage they settled in Harpersfield, Delaware, New York. They were driven from their burning home by Tories in 1777 and took refuge at the Middle Fort.

In April 1780, while on a scouting expedition to Harpersfield to secure maple sugar for the Fort, Col. Alexander Harper and ten of his men were captured by Tories and Native Americans led by Chief Joseph Brandt. They were taken as prisoners to Niagara and then Quebec. During the two and a half years of his captivity, Elizabeth, not knowing what had happened to her husband or if she would ever see him again, raised their children while in refuge at the Middle Fort in Schoharie. During the Siege of October 1780, while the attack was raging, Elizabeth made cartridges, prepared ammunition, and served rations to incoming soldiers. She has been honored for her service to the country during this time.

After the signing of the peace treaty of 1783, Col. Alexander Harper returned home to Harpersfield with Elizabeth and five of what would eventually become their eight children. With his brother Joseph Harper and others, Alexander formed a company to purchase land in the Western Reserve.

In June of 1797, he and Elizabeth set out for “the far west” with their children and members of their company. They settled in northeastern Ohio, where they had purchased six townships, naming the most promising of them Harpersfield. Weakened from the strenuous journey, Alexander died on September 10, 1798. Elizabeth continued to be a “pillar of strength” in the new Harpersfield Township, In Ashtabula County, Ohio. She died there in 1811. For her efforts during the war, she was awarded a pension by the US government, and has been recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution as a patriot.

# *JHS's 9th Annual Yard Sale*

## **2 Big Weekends! At The Maple Museum** 221 Creamery St. Jefferson

**Friday & Saturday, August 14 & 15, 9-3**

**Sunday, August 16, 11-3**

**Friday & Saturday, August 21 & 22, 9-3**

**Sunday, August 23, 11-3**

### **Set-up schedule**

Monday thru Thursday, August 10-13, 10-3

in the Maple Museum

*Volunteers are needed to unpack, sort, and display a vast array of terrific items. Bring your work gloves!*

**Donations of items may be brought to the Maple Museum during the set-up and sale days.**

Please contact Stephanie at

<[historicalsocietyjefferson@gmail.com](mailto:historicalsocietyjefferson@gmail.com)>

to arrange a different drop-off time for your donations.

### **Clean-up schedule**

Sunday August 23, 3-5

Monday, August 24, 10-3

Tuesday, August 25, 10-3 (if needed)

*Volunteers are needed to pack up the leftovers and deliver them to area thrift stores.*

### **MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM    RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026**

(Members receive 10% discount on JHS merchandise)

Item	Total
Membership - Individual                      \$20	
Membership - Couple/Family                \$35	
Membership - Individual Lifetime        \$150	
Membership - Couple Lifetime            \$250	
Donation - General	
Donation - Judd Hall	
Donation - Fuller District Schoolhouse	
Donation - Trees on the Green	
Donation - Fund for the Future	
Donation - Maple Museum	
Donation - Music & More Series	
Donation - Support of printed newsletter	
Donation - Other (please specify )	
<b>Total</b>	

## Jefferson Historical Society—Schedule for 2026

Sun. May 3, 2pm	George McCroy – "The Life and Ancestry of Colonel Stephen Judd of Jefferson, New York: Recent Research Tells a Surprising Story", Judd Hall
Sat. May 9, 2pm	Piano event – Rocking the Piano - John Polito, Judd Hall
Sun. May 17, 2pm	History of the Jefferson Methodist Church, Judd Hall
Fri. May 22, 4-6pm	Reception for Werner Rentsch show
Sat. May 23, 10am-2pm Sun. May 24, 12-4pm	Museum opening weekend, Werner Rentsch art show, Judd Hall
Sat. June 6, 2pm-4pm	JCS Alumni Reception, Judd Hall
Sat. June 20 2pm	Stephanie Ruquet, <i>Fallen Heroes</i> book talk, Judd Hall
Tues. July 7-Fri. July 10. 10am-5pm	Art on the Green, Martha Hacklin led work preparing for Heritage Day parade, Maple Museum
Sat. July 11	Heritage Day, museum 10am-4pm, quilt show in church 10am-4pm Sue's Garage under the tent on the Town Green 7:30pm
Sat. July 18, 1pm	Cosponsor event at Gilboa Historical Society Maureen Taylor "The Photo Detective" at the GHS Museum, 122 Stryker Rd., Gilboa
Sat. July 25, 7pm	Music event. TBD
Sat. Aug. 8, 2:30	Gary Petagine & Sean Grady, Benjamin Tallmadge story, in the Methodist Church
Sun. Aug 9-Thurs. Aug. 13	Yard sale set-up, Maple Museum
Fri. Aug. 14, 9am-3pm Sat. Aug. 15, 9am-3pm Sun. Aug. 16, 11am-3pm	Yard sale, Maple Museum
Fri. Aug. 21, 9am-3pm Sat. Aug. 22, 9am-3pm Sun. Aug. 23, 11am-3pm	Yard sale, Maple Museum
Sun. Aug. 30, 3-4:30pm	Tin Roof Blues Dixieland in Bandstand on the Town Green
Sat. Sept. 5, 10am-2pm	Museum open for last day of the season
Sat. Sept. 5, 2:15pm	Victoria Kupchinetsky, <i>Calico Rebellion</i> video, Judd Hall
Sun. Sept. 13 3pm	Susan Harwood, Blenheim Hill Anti-Rent War walk/drive, meet at Brimstone Church?? location TBD
Sat. Sept 26, 3pm	Voices from the Cemetery, Old Jefferson Burying Ground, rain location Judd Hall.
Fri. Oct. 2, 4-6pm	Newton & Myra Dibble photo show reception, Judd Hall
Sat. Oct. 3 and Sun. Oct. 4, 10-4pm both days	Schoharie County Arts Driveabout, Newton & Myra Dibble glass plate negative photo show, Judd Hall
Sat. Oct. 10, 2pm	Michael Kudish, Kudish Nature Preserve, changes in vegetation of region during Pre-European settlement to today, Judd Hall
Sun. Oct. 18. 2pm	Bob Glas, Brant, Crysler raid/ambush at Utsayantha, Judd Hall
Sun. Nov. 8, 2pm	Mike Tarbell, "Haudenosaunee Peoples and the American Revolution", Judd Hall
Sun. Dec. 13, time TBD	Upper Catskill String Quartet, holiday concert—Methodist church

JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 143  
JEFFERSON NY 12093



**1776-2026**

### **You Can Support Our Future**

The Jefferson Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving our community's history for generations to come.

#### **Alternatives For The Future**

If you are considering your legacy, you may wish to include the Society in your will or estate plans. Another meaningful option is making a charitable contribution through your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a retirement account.

These gifts help ensure that our programs, archives, and historic resources continue to thrive.

For more information, please contact Kevin Berner, [bernerkl@gmail.com](mailto:bernerkl@gmail.com) or 518 294-7196.

**FIND US AT:** Mailing address: P.O. Box 143, Jefferson, NY 12093

Email address: [historicalsocietyjefferson@gmail.com](mailto:historicalsocietyjefferson@gmail.com) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/juddhall163/>

Website: <https://www.thejeffersonhistoricalsociety.com/> YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@thejeffersonhistoricalsoci8081>

**ECONOMICS 101**- Members will receive the newsletter by email unless a print copy is requested. Print copies will be mailed.