

Old Burying Ground Walking Tour

SATURDAY · JUNE 17, 2023 · 12:30-1:30 PM



About the Old Burying Ground

IN THE SETTLEMENT of early towns provision for a burying ground was of necessity among the first requirements. Custom and convenience had it situated close by the church and this convention was observed here in Jaffrey.

The original grant of the township—at first called Middle Monadnock No. 2—was made in 1749 and among the stipulations was “that a good Convenient Meeting House be Built...as near the Center of the Town...and Ten Acres of Land reserved for Publick Uses.” The Burying Ground qualified as such a use and so too the Common for military training and reviews. Later, a petition to the Township proprietors noted that before incorporation in 1773 a burying place had been reserved on the Common “...and some persons interred there.” The present form of the Burying Ground reflects the work of a committee appointed by the Town in 1784. Of the four members, three—ROGER GILMORE, DANIEL EMERY and ADONIJAH HOWE—are buried within. No trace remains of the earliest gravesites, but at least eight marked graves pre-date the laying out of 1784, the oldest being that of Mrs. Jaen Harper who died in 1777.

1 **LT. THOMAS ADAMS (1751-1820)** was born in New Ipswich and came to Jaffrey previous to 1774. He was one of the most useful and public spirited of our early citizens. He settled on Lot 17, Range 4, later owned by his nephew. Thomas was a soldier of the Revolution. He was a member of the training band in 1784, and a lieutenant of militia. He served in Capt. Smith’s Company for New York, which he enlisted out of Col. Hale’s Regiment of Militia, 1776. He was also in Capt. Roger Gilmore’s Company, which marched from New Hampshire to reinforce the garrison at Ticonderoga. Thomas died in 1820. His nephew Thomas (1785-1841) came to Jaffrey to settle on his uncle’s lot, near Lincoln’s Corner. Capt. Adams was a highly respected citizen and was honored with many offices of trust and responsibility. He was a Town Clerk, Selectman, and served on “superintending school Committee,” and for many years he was a distinguished teacher in the public schools of the town. 464

2 **JOHN GILMORE (1737-1813)** John Gilmore came to Jaffrey with his brothers Roger and Robert from Londonderry. Each bought a separate lot, John settling on Lot 12, Range 7, which included the shore of the body of water which became known as Gilmore Pond. All three of the brothers became active, involved citizens. John served two terms in three public offices: Selectman, Representative to the General Court, and Constable. Likewise, each

NOTE: This Old Burying Ground Walking Tour is also available online at <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/obgtour2.pdf>

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THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE researched and composed this Walking Tour, acted as Guides for those attending, or otherwise assisted: Richard Boutwell, Cathy Proulx, Charlie Turcotte and Robert Stephenson.

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brother served in the Revolutionary War. John went to Cambridge following the Lexington alarm. He was in Ticonderoga as a private in Capt. Roger Gilmore's Company, part of Col. Enoch Hale's Regiment to reinforce the regiment at Fort Ticonderoga. Prior to his war service John married Alice Hunter. Together the couple had seven children, two boys not living to adulthood, three other sons lived on in Jaffrey. Both daughters married and moved to Goffstown. 596 🍷

3 THE REV. LABAN AINSWORTH (1757-1858) Born in Woodstock, Connecticut, on July 19, 1757. He was a student at Dartmouth College when the Revolutionary War broke out. Even though a student, he found an opportunity for service to his country as Chaplain of Major Mckinstry's Corps. The *History of Jaffrey* tells us that Major Mckinstry was in command of the 9th Regiment or 2nd Claverack Battalion of New York, 1778-9 and that Laban Ainsworth was licensed to preach in 1779. Rev. Ainsworth was Jaffrey's first Settled Minister and served the town as such from 1782 to 1858, a Congregational Church record of 76 years. He lived to be 100 years old. 474 🍷

4 CAPT. WILLIAM PARKER AINSWORTH (1825-1862) was the grandson of Rev. Laban Ainsworth. He was born in Jaffrey on December 22, 1825. He died at the battle of Front Royal, Virginia, May 30, 1862. On May 30, the New Hampshire advanced guard, by way of Manassas Gap, a narrow pass in the Blue Ridge Mountains, reached Front Royal. As Captain he was tasked to secure a series of bridges over the Shenandoah River. These bridges would allow the advancing Union Army safe and expedient passage. He led his men valiantly and to victory that day, sadly he was not a part of the celebration. He was returned to Jaffrey by way of Nashua and was buried in the family plot. 476 🍷

5 REAR ADMIRAL THEODORE PHINNEY GREENE (1810-1887) was a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and was appointed Lieutenant by President Van Buren, September 20, 1837; appointed Commander by President Franklin Pierce, September 14, 1855; appointed Captain by President Abraham Lincoln, July 16, 1862; appointed Commodore by President Andrew Johnson, July 24, 1867, and Rear Admiral by President Ulysses Grant, May 24, 1872. He served during the Mexican American War (1846-1848) and the Civil War (1861-1865). He married Mary Minot Ainsworth of Jaffrey, October 17, 1849. He had a long and distinguished career in the service of this country. He died in Jaffrey, August 30, 1887. 482 🍷

6 JOHN MATTHEWS (1752-1822) Born in England, John and two brothers were sent to Boston as members of the British Army. They became sympathizers with the Colonists, hid in a church in Boston for three days, and escaped to the back towns. John got to Temple, New Hampshire, where he was living at the time of the outbreak of hostilities around Boston. He responded to the Lexington alarm and continued in the Army through the war, returning to Peterborough between battles. The engagements over eight years include Lexington, Cambridge, White Plains, Saratoga, Monmouth, and 'the taking of Cornwallis.' He was discharged from the service at Newburgh, New York, in 1783. The following year John was warned out of Jaffrey but stayed and married Sally Wesson. The couple had ten children, seven of them surviving. John, who listed himself as a farmer, died in 1822 at the age of 70; Sally lived 25 years longer. 580 🍷

7 THOMAS DUTTON (1747-1838) was born in Westford, Massachusetts, and came to Jaffrey before 1778. He settled west of Gilmore Pond, on the place known as the Gay farm. He served as Corporal in the company of Capt. Samuel Twitchell of Dublin in Col. Enoch Hale's Regiment of Volunteers which joined the Continental Army in Rhode Island, August, 1778. He was a pattern of good citizenship, and while never seeking to shine in the higher positions of honor and trust, he bore well his part in church and town on committees where there was work to be done. He became owner of considerable real estate in Jaffrey, including a saw mill and forty-eight acres of land on the Mountain stream. The foundations of this mill and dam still remain, and furnish sufficient evidence of much labor expended, and a one-time valuable source of sawed lumber and boards for the rapidly growing town. He married Sarah Bigelow. Widowed, he later married Betsey Smith. Thomas Dutton died December 31, 1838, at the age of 91. Thomas' grandson, John Smith Dutton, was the well-known gunsmith of Jaffrey and the surrounding region between 1854-1878. 502 🍷

8 LEONARD SPAULDING (1840-1915) The Spaulding name is one of the oldest in Jaffrey, the first settler coming in the 1700s and clearing land along Fitzwilliam Road. Leonard's father came later to the same farm and moved south of Thorndike Pond where Leonard was born. He attended school in Jaffrey and married Mary Shattuck, who bore him one child, Austin. In August 1862 Leonard enlisted to serve in the Civil War, mustering in as a Private in Company G of the 14th NH Regiment. His first engagement was at Opequan, Virginia, followed by the ones at Cedar Creek and Fisher Hill. The battles of the Shenandoah Valley were the most important of his service. Leonard was, for a time, hospitalized at Camp Adirondack, Washington, DC. He lived many years after the war at the Spaulding farm in the southwest corner of Jaffrey. 702a 🍷

9 JOEL HOBART POOLE (1842-1926) Joel Poole was born in Jaffrey on January 1, 1842, the third generation to live in town at a property on Fitzwilliam Road. His father was a blacksmith and his mother a granddaughter of Captain Joseph Cutter, the first settler on the place. Joel helped at the farm of his father until the start of the Civil War, when at the age of twenty he enlisted on August 19, 1862, and was mustered in at Concord in the autumn of that year. He was a Private in Company G of the 14th NH Regiment. The regiment was deployed at Washington, where it protected the capital. Over its three years of service the unit made four sea voyages, traveled 15,000 miles, and served in seven states. Upon his return to Jaffrey Joel married Elizabeth Shattuck. The couple bought The Ark, which they developed into a successful hostelry. Further, they donated land to the State for Monadnock State Park and constructed a road to it, the Poole Memorial Road. 004a 🍷

10 BENJAMIN FROST (1748-1819) Born in Dunstable, Massachusetts, he came to Jaffrey in 1783 and lived on Lot 17, Range 1. Benjamin was a good farmer and a worthy citizen. He served in the Revolution as Private in "Capt. William Thurlo's Co, 9 days." The company marched on the alarm at Bennington, August 22, 1777, under the command of Maj. Ebenezer Bridge, by order of Gen. Stark and Col. Warner and was dismissed by Gen. Lincoln after proceeding 90 miles. He died in 1819. Benjamin's grandson was John Frost (1818-1900), son of John and Sally (Adams). He lived on the family homestead just west of Frost Pond, until he bought Lot 17, Range 4, later owned by Eliza H. Eaves. When the war of the rebellion broke out, he was one of the men who were ready to answer the call of his country. He enlisted and served in the 14th Regiment, Company G, New Hampshire Volunteers, to the end of the war. He married Amanda Simonds of Peru, Vermont. She died seven days after John in 1900. 213 🍷

11 ISAAC BAILEY (1729-1812) was a Private in Capt. George Kimball's Company which marched on the Lexington alarm, April 20, 1775. He was credited with 10 days service. He continued to serve in Capt. Andrew Haskell's Company; Col. Asa Whitcomb's Regiment, three months and 12 days in the summer of 1775. He came to Jaffrey soon after the completion of his service. He lived in Jaffrey for the rest of his life. He died at the age of 82 years. 225 🍷

12 LT. JEREME UNDERWOOD (1750-1820) was born in Westford, Massachusetts. He came to Jaffrey in 1777 and settled on Lots 8 and 9, Range 8, located off of Great Road. He built the square substantial house, a fine example of early New England farm-house. Jereme and his wife Lucy were members of the church when it was incorporated in 1780. He was a prominent man in town and church affairs; he served as Selectman for six years, and held other offices. He was a Lieutenant in the military service and a soldier of the Revolution. Jereme was one of the men who marched from New Ipswich to Cambridge on the morning of April 20, 1775, in response to the Lexington alarm of the day before. He was credited with seven days of service. Jereme served in Capt. Benjamin Spaulding's Company of Militia, in Col. Moses Nichols' Regiment, raised by New Hampshire and joined the Continental Army at West Point. According to Cutter's *History of Jaffrey*, he was at West Point in 1780, "when Arnold sold that important post to the British officers, and being an artificer by trade, was ordered by Washington to open the traitor's trunk after Arnold's escape to the British lines." Jereme died October 27, 1827, at age 77. 312 🍷