

Phillips-Heil Cemetery Walking Tour

SUNDAY · JUNE 17, 2018 · 2-3:30 PM



About the Phillips-Heil Cemetery

“IN THE SOUTHWEST part of Jaffrey, rising toward Gap Mountain and watched over by Monadnock, are breezy uplands once cleared and occupied by prosperous farms. The pioneers of this region were active in the affairs of the town but were so far removed from the meeting-house and center of community life, that in matters of trade they were largely tributary to Fitzwilliam, while in social affairs they came from their isolation to have a close-knit neighborhood relation that was peculiarly their own.

Following the Revolution there had been an era of land speculation in New England...and so it happened that a thousand acres, more or less, in the township of Jaffrey came into the possession of the wealthy and distinguished Phillips family of Massachusetts... In 1797, for a nominal consideration and the condition that it should be fenced with a good stone wall...Samuel Phillips conveyed to the town a tract of ninety-five square rods for a burial yard, which was an immediate need. The town complied faithfully with all the conditions of the gift, and out of the rough field stones of the vicinity it built the typical New England wall... The tall gate posts also were of stone, hewed by Josiah Ingalls, a worthy man of that neighborhood whose work is his only monument.”

—Adapted from *Volume I of the Town History*.

In 1988 land from John Heil, who lived nearby, was added to the cemetery for an extension and a new access road. As a result the cemetery is now named Phillips-Heil Cemetery. John Heil, who died in 2002, is buried here. ☞

9 JONATHAN JEWETT (1739-1786) was born in Boxford, Massachusetts. Around 1772 he moved to Jaffrey settling on Lot 5, Range 7. He was a private in the Revolution and served with Capt. Stone’s Co. marching in July 1777. He held some minor offices in town and served on various town committees. He was elected constable in 1779. He married Martha Belcher in 1762. They had nine children. While on a voyage to Maine in 1786, Jonathan drowned. It is noted on his wife Martha’s stone, ‘Relict of Jonathan Jewett who was drown at sea, age 48.’ There was no question who would run the farm. The third son, David, at age 19 was placed in charge of the family homestead and was called upon to fill his father’s place in town affairs. Along with many chores and obligations of operating a farm, David took on new obligations, continuing the involvement with town affairs his father had engaged in. David acted as tax collector, highway surveyor, school house agent and fence viewer. David’s sister Martha, married William Comstock in 1801 (see below). 64 ☞

10 WILLIAM COMSTOCK (1770-1865) was born in Lyme, Connecticut, and came to Cheshire County from Lyme, New Hampshire, which was settled by pioneers from Connecticut. He married David Jewett’s sister Martha in 1801 (see above) and they moved to Sullivan. William outlived three wives. His second wife was Martha Jewett, who died in childbirth, and later he married Ruth Crane. William was a man of remarkable physical strength as reported in the *New Hampshire Sentinel* of September 11, 1857. When he was 87 years old he walked from the present highway to the top of Monadnock and returned in five hours, a feat which has probably never been surpassed by a man of his age. In old age William moved to Jaffrey to live with his son Jonathan Jewett Comstock. In 1827, when Jonathan was 24 years old he moved to Jaffrey to live on the Jewett homestead which was the birthplace of his mother, Martha Jewett. He was selectmen from 1848-1850. 69 ☞

11 EBENEZER POOL (1775-1857) was born on February 11, about two months before the frame for Jaffrey’s new meetinghouse was raised. He was the fifth and last child born to Samuel and Hannah Poole of Wayland, Massachusetts. Three days after his 26th birthday on the 14th of February in 1801 he married Lois Ward in Roxbury. They were in Jaffrey the next year and Mary, their first child, was born in town. They settled near Gap Mountain on Lot 4 in Range 6. Over the next eighteen years ten more children were born, six girls and four boys. One girl died at one year of age and another at seventeen. Of the remaining offspring, four girls moved away from Jaffrey as did three boys. That left just one of the boys, John Ward Poole, in Jaffrey. It was he who began a lineage of Pooles who became a very important part of Jaffrey’s history. He died at the age of 82 on December 31, 1857; Lois preceded him in death eleven years earlier. 71 ☞

12 PHINEHAS SPAULDING (1745-1809) Phinehas came to Jaffrey as a young man. He was bound out during his minority to a farmer in Nottingham West (now Hudson) New Hampshire. Coming of age, he went to Lowell to teach school. He heard much of the common talk that the rich lands around Grand Monadnock were being offered for settlement. The young teacher bought a 100-acre tract, known as Lot 3, Range 8. The place selected was untouched by man since Creation, was covered with dense forest, and the nearest settlement was miles away. It was exempt from taxes until it was improved. It was in the southwestern part of the town not far from Gap Mountain. Phinehas was a good pioneer, he was industrious and frugal in his habits. He married Elizabeth Bailey in 1773. “He was reserved in his manners, strict in the discipline of his children, and strong in the Calvinistic faith.” No one ever questioned his integrity. He was a teacher and believed strongly in education. He sent two sons to college. His monument looks down upon the homestead that he cleared. With his ax and his gun, he came alone into the unbroken wilderness at the foot of Monadnock. 83 ☞

The Phillips-Heil Cemetery is located off of Fitzwilliam Road just south of Old County Road. Look for the granite post and sign on the west side of the road.

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

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1 MOSES WORCESTER (1751-1833) Moses came to Jaffrey around 1773. He bought property at the foot of Gap Mountain, where he lived out his life. He served as selectman from 1796-1802, as constable in 1786 and 1800 and held other town offices. Moses and his wife Hepzibah Hardy had nine children. Two of their children died young. Buried here are their children, Molly (1778-1790) age 11 and brother Jesse (1792-1792) age eight months. Molly’s younger sister Abigail married Jonas Ross from another Jaffrey family (see below).13 🐾

2 THE ROSS FAMILY originally came from Sudbury, Massachusetts. The patriarch was James, a surviving soldier of King Charles II’s Scotch Army. Abraham, his descendant, came to Jaffrey and settled on Lot 4, Range 7 with his wife Persis. He was a soldier of the Revolution. Their son Jonas was born in 1784. He bought in 1814 a farm of 100 acres on Cobleigh Hill. A neighbor was Moses Worcester (see above) whose daughter, Abigail, Jonas had married in 1807. Their granddaughter, Eliza Jane Fay, placed the life-sized stone chair in the cemetery looking across at Gap Mountain. She did so because it was believed by a family member “that spirits return to the scenes of their former existence, and so, with filial respect, she placed for them this chair, facing the sunset, where in seemly fashion they may sit at ease when they return to muse upon the scene of their early existence.” 1-8 🐾

3 JONATHAN STANDLEY (1748-1789) was not the first of the family to live in Jaffrey, but he was the first to own land in the western part of town. He had purchased Lot 1 in Range 7 adjoining the Fitzwilliam line from his father. Jonathan’s brother David bought a neighboring lot. Jonathan served briefly in the Revolution at the start of the war. He married Lois Moors of Rindge, a teacher, in 1774. Two years later the couple, with a one-year-old son moved to Jaffrey. They had eight more children, six boys and two girls. Two of the children married into the Warren and Ross families. Jonathan died in 1789 at 41 years of age; his gravestone is the oldest in the cemetery. Lois lived eleven more years. 14 🐾

4 WILLIAM MARSHALL (1757-1828) came to Jaffrey about 1782 at age 25. He was a thrifty farmer, good citizen and served as a surveyor for several years. He served in the Revolution as a private in Capt. Jonathan Brown’s Company which marched on the alarm of Lexington. In 1784, he was a member of the Jaffrey Training Band. His wife Sally Cutter Kimball of New Ipswich is buried next to him. Also buried here is his son Abel who married Roxalana Rice and then later married Laura Pratt Eveleth. He had eight children. Their son George, was killed by lightning in 1864, at age 19 and is buried with them. 17 🐾

5 SHUBAEL (1799-1869) & ROWENA (1808-1881) BAILEY were married for many years and remained childless. Shubael was described as a man of education and refinement and was for some years a schoolmaster. He died in Jaffrey at age 70. His wife Rowena Lawrence of Harvard, Massachusetts, died in 1881 at the age of 72. She was a large woman, weighing 240 pounds. The gravesite is a railed lot, with four ornamental corner posts. 23-24 🐾

6 CAPTAIN JOSEPH PERKINS (1744-1821) was born in Topsfield, Massachusetts, on July 16, 1774 and later moved to Methuen with his family. When he was 21 he married Ruth Clark of Salem who bore him four children—Robinson, Moses, Molly and Edward—before he answered the call to Lexington on April 19, 1775. Soon after, the family moved to Jaffrey having purchased Lot 2 in Range 9 from the Phillips family. He set to work clearing the land and establishing a homestead for his growing family; they now numbered eight with the birth of two more girls and two boys. Joseph became a large land owner and was able to set up his sons on farms of their own. He also found time to serve his town as a selectman for three terms, as a constable as well as other lesser offices. He earned the rank of Captain when he was serving the town military company. He died at the age of 77 on January 28, 1821. 33 🐾

7 THE PRIEST FAMILY Abraham Priest (1748-1824) bought in 1796 several tracts of land in Jaffrey from the Hon. Samuel Phillips, the cemetery’s namesake. Many descendants of the original Priest settlers were born in Jaffrey and lived on the land as farmers, carpenters, cattle graziers. Some ran the liveries in town and later went into trucking and automobile service in East Jaffrey. Others moved away to towns in Massachusetts and one of them, John (fifth) had 12 children, several of whom became successful merchants in Boston and other places. A son of Jonathan served for many years as U.S. Counsel in St. Petersburg, Russia. All of those who left town retained summer homes in Jaffrey for their attachment to this town went very deep. 50-51 🐾

8 ISAAC ADAMS (1761-1839) was born in Hamilton, Massachusetts. It was many years later that he appeared in Jaffrey following what we would today call a military career. That took him to more parts of the western hemisphere than probably any other soul interred here. Isaac answered the call to service in the Revolution three times, taking him to Cambridge, Winter Hill in Rhode Island and to West Point at the time that General Washington was at the post. Then Isaac became a seaman and served three tours in that service also, sailing into the Atlantic and visiting the Bay of Biscay, The Gulf of Mexico, Bilboa, Spain and Cuba. Some years after his service he came to Jaffrey to live out his last days at the farm owned by his brother Stephen on County Road. 52 🐾

