

BICENTENNIAL

of

JAFFREY

NEW HAMPSHIRE



1773-1973

BICENTENNIAL OF JAFFREY

ERRATA SHEET

Pg. 21 — The girl on the right is Maryann Gordon not Mayame Gordon.

Pg. 26 — The May 21 event is sponsored by Forest Park not Forrest Park.

Pg. 30 — The principal speaker is Donald J. Williams (PHD) not (PHH).

Pg. 49 — The picture at the top is the Jaffrey Service Club in the late 1920's. At the bottom of that page the name Lionel Bobilee is really Lionel Letourneau.

Pg. 58 — It is Margie's Restaurant not Margies.

Pg. 75 — Sam LaFreniere is on the left and Alfred Christian is on the right.

Pg. 77 — It is Ed Shields, "Phoebe" Letourneau, Joe Lamire, Al Lamothe, and Gus Caouette. All these names were misspelled.

Pg. 82 — Jack Pobuk, Wheeler Merriam, Dr. Robert MacCready, Francis LaFreniere, and George Dishong are all misspelled.

1773

1973



Souvenir Program

of the

BICENTENNIAL

•

of the Town of

JAFFREY

NEW HAMPSHIRE

(The cover illustration was prepared by 14 year old Chris Tremblay, winner of the cover contest conducted among the Elementary School Students)

Issued by the Anniversary Committee

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The Town of Jaffrey was incorporated in 1773;

WHEREAS: Many visitors will establish new friendships;

WHEREAS: Former residents will renew contact with relatives and friends;

WHEREAS: Summer residents will be enjoying the usual pleasant surroundings of their homes;

WHEREAS: The citizens of Jaffrey will be enjoying this occasion by participating in the various events and through whose combined efforts, the Town of Jaffrey has steadily progressed to its present position;

WHEREAS: The youth of Jaffrey will not only take part in the events, but many also will be participating and witnessing the 250th anniversary of the Town of Jaffrey in the year 2023;

THE THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the year 1973 be declared the Bicentennial of the Town of Jaffrey;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a cordial greeting from the Town of Jaffrey be extended to everyone;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Selectmen as successors of the many men and women serving in this office, take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Jaffrey for their support and encouragement and that thanks also be given to the many members of the various Bicentennial Committees and especially to Glenn A. Hunt, Chairman, and to his two assistants, Homer J. Belletete and George W. Gordon.

WITNESS our Hands and the Seal of the Town of Jaffrey, this 24th day of January 1973.

Homer J. Forcier

Francis L. LaFreniere

Alfred J. Christian

SELECTMEN OF JAFFREY, N.H.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Albert J. Morin

TOWN CLERK OF JAFFREY, N.H.



JAFFREY

By Walter Heath

On the green hills of New Hampshire,
At the foot of Monadnock grand,
Is a little town called Jaffrey—
Jaffrey, our native land.

We love its rocky hillsides,
We love its meadows green,
Its cool and quiet valleys,
Where sparkling brooks are seen.

No city's gay attractions,
Our little town can show,
But purer, sweeter pleasures,
Its sons and daughters know.

Then haste ye from the city,
While summer is in prime,
Enjoy our mountain breezes,
And up Monadnock climb.

And while o'er hill and valley,
The skies of summer smile,
Forget your city mansions,
And tarry here awhile.

*Jaffrey has been good
to the Peard Family*

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Real Estate Service

Thank You,

Norman & Edith

Robin Martha

John & Lauren

Peter & Peggy

GREETINGS

The Jaffrey Bicentennial Committee wishes to express grateful appreciation to the advertisers and sponsors of this commemorative and Program Book whose generous support has made the success of this celebration possible.

A "Thank You" to the various organizations and committees for their contributions in sponsoring special events.

A special "Thank You" to the Civic Center where all of our meetings have been held for the past two years—to the Monadnock Banks for office space and the sale of commemorative coins—to the LEDGER for excellent editorials and news coverage. Also to Mr. Bruce Herron and John M. Phillips of Rindge for presenting the Rindge Bicentennial movies on two occasions.

GLENN A. HUNT, *Chairman*

HOMER J. BELLETETE, *Co-Chairman*

GEORGE W. GORDON, *Co-Chairman*

Jaffrey Bicentennial Committee

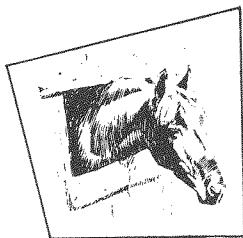


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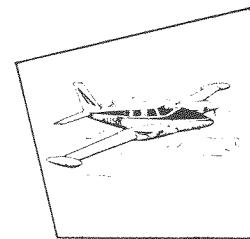
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SUMMER, 1970

OLD DAYS IN JAFFREY

*From an address given by Albert Annett
August 21, 1921*

The history of Jaffrey has been uneventful. There have been very few out-standing events, no Indian massacres; and there is no record of extraordinary achievement or ability in the citizens that we have sent out into the world. But, on the other hand, our average of character and attainment has been high. Jaffrey was comparatively late in time of settlement; and no farther than thirty or forty miles away the town of Groton in Massachusetts had almost attained our present age before an axe stroke awoke the echoes of our unbroken wilderness. It was partly fear of the Indians, during the long French and Indian wars, that retarded settlement; partly a matter of disputed jurisdiction and ownership of a large section of New Hampshire between the so-called Masonian Proprietors, and the Province of Massachusetts Bay; and it was partly that, as long as there was other land to be had, none of the prospective settlers wanted the rocky acres around the great Monadnock hill.

The region immediately around Monadnock was for many years a mountain fastness to which the Massachusetts settlements to the south looked with apprehension and alarm. It was a lurking place for bands of savages in their descent upon the Massachusetts frontier, and numerous accounts are found in the Massachusetts archives of scouting expeditions that penetrated the Monadnock wilderness.

More than two hundred years ago, in the year of 1706, a company of rangers from Groton was sent up to Monadnock upon a reconnoitering expedition. If they steered their course by the summit of the mountain the misadventure that befell them probably happened in what is now the township of Jaffrey and not far from this village. As they approached Monadnock they found signs of the enemy that filled them with alarm. They saw a "smoak" curling up over the tree tops that was evidence of an enemy near by. They heard a gun in the silence of the wilderness. They found tracks at the crossing of a stream that some said were tracks of Indian dogs; others said they were only the tracks of a she-wolf and her whelps. Night was coming on and when the sun was an hour high they made their camp and sent out scouts in every direction into the woods. To keep the bearings of the scouts and direct their return those in camp drummed with their hatchets on the trees. In the gathering darkness the woods seemed to be filled with drumming and the scouts thinking that they heard it answered from an enemy camp, came running back in great alarm. Confusing reports were made; and some said that they had seen the French and Indians in great force, a thousand in number. A panic ensued; some of the officers tried in vain to control the men; but they fled in disorder and in their passage back to Groton they broke all the speed records up to that time. The commander of the expedition was tried by court martial for his disorderly retreat and in that way the story of their adventure into the Monadnock wilderness has been preserved.

A few years later, in 1725, Col. Samuel Willard set out from Lancaster, with Indian guides and an army of fifty-two able-bodied men, for an expedition of thirty days or more in search of Indians. He headed for Monadnock and was eleven days in reaching what is now Jaffrey, a distance that could be covered by one of our high-powered automobiles in a single hour. He found here four wigwams which he concluded had been occupied the year before by the Indians who massacred the inhabitants of Rutland, Massachusetts. In the wigwams he found squash shells and eleven spits on which the Indians roasted their meat. But perhaps of greatest interest to us is the record that on the next day, July 31, 1725, Col. Willard with eleven men marched about twelve miles and camped "on ye top of Wanodnack." This is probably the earliest record of a visit to Monadnock by white men.

The history of Jaffrey as a body politic may be said to date from the granting of the township, at first called Middle Monadnock, by the Masonian Proprietors, in 1749, to Jonathan Hubbard and thirty-nine associates. Jonathan Hubbard was a respected citizen of Lunenberg, a deacon and town treasurer, and he had no notion of settling in his new township or doing any of the

rough work of a pioneer. He was a promoter and speculator, and with his associates was interested in the development of other towns. He had explored the country and was well acquainted with the wilderness that he had purchased. It is related that on one of his surveying or prospecting expeditions into this region he fell from a log into the waters of a muddy pond in Rindge and as consequence of his mishap Hubbard pond has been his enduring memorial to this day.

The settlement of Jaffrey was a difficult undertaking. It was the scheme of the proprietors to make a town out of their holdings, to retain a share of the land themselves, and as the population increased, to profit by its enhanced value. In other words they expected profit from what we call the unearned increment. In this they were disappointed, and when they found that no one would buy land in Jaffrey they offered pay to anyone who would take it. In 1750 they offered a bounty of one hundred pounds for five settlers who would go to the new township and remain for one year, but without results. Two years later five families were induced to make the venture; they camped for a time around Gilmore Pond, but hardship and fear of the Indians soon drove them away.

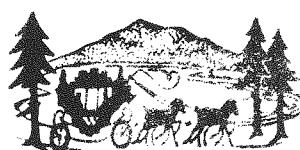
But Deacon Hubbard found among his own neighbors just the rugged material he needed to make a town out of his wilderness. Years before New England had been blessed with an influx of Scotch Presbyterians from the north of Ireland. They settled in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and other states. They soon overflowed their bounds and their progress was marked by such new names on the map of New Hampshire as Derry, Londonderry, Derryfield, Dublin, Antrim, Limerick, Coulraine and Kilkenny. Of these names Derry, Londonderry, Dublin and Antrim have remained to our day while the others have suffered a change into something less rich and rare. Jaffrey was fortunate in her pioneers. In the first report to the proprietors of the progress of the settlement thirty settlers were named and they were nearly all of the Scotch-Irish stock. Among their names were Gilmore, Grout, Davidson, Smiley, Dunlap, Dunshee, Harper, Hogg, Henderson, Organ, Wallace, McNeil, Wright, Weir and Mitchell.

These people had the pioneer spirit and were suited to the rough life of the wilderness. The story that is told of Granny McNeal, who was one of them but not of Jaffrey, seems to represent

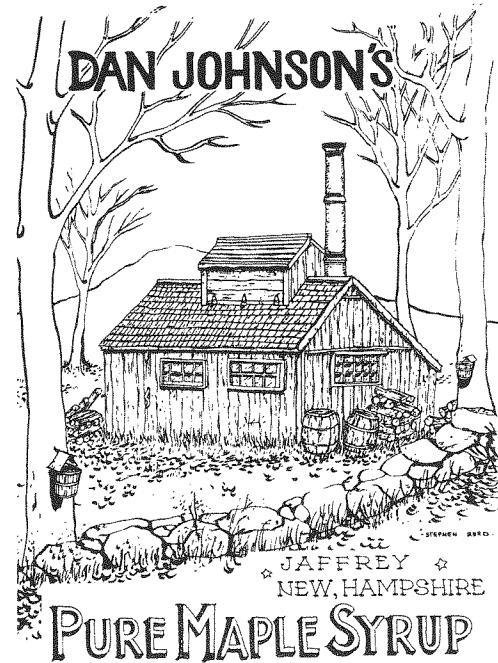
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the character of them all. It was said that she was in the habit of drawing up a keg of powder to sit upon as she fried flapjacks before the open fire, and that she never dreamed she had a nervous system. According to all accounts they drank prodigious quantities of strong liquor and their frequent merry-makings were never dull whatever their other shortcomings may have been. That they did not practice all the austereities of the Puritans led to a misunderstanding of their character and purpose, but it has been said to their credit that "they held as fast to their 'pint' of doctrine as to their pint of rum." They brought to their new home hardihood and mental acuteness, and withal an indomitable love of freedom that gave to us Stark and Sullivan and many more who were of inestimable service to the colonists in their struggle for independence. Following quickly upon their devotions they found a time to sing and a time to dance and these diversions served to lighten the hardships of the wilderness. It is related of Matthew Wright, who was the Nestor of our pioneers, that on his death bed he called his son Francis to his bedside and said: "Tak the big jug and gang down to New Ipswich and get it filled with rum, and when I am buried give the poor divils all the rum they want." Many of these pioneers were a log cabin population and having borne the brunt of the battle with the wilderness, sold their rights to new comers from the older Massachusetts towns and followed the receding frontier. Those that remained, the Gilmores, Turners, Davidsons, Hodges, Harpers, Smileys and Wrights were numbered with the most substantial citizens of the town.

Jaffrey became an incorporated town in 1773 and from that time its growth was accelerated. The Cutters, John and Joseph, came and by their force and character gave new life to the community. Abel Parker, one of the most distinguished of our early citizens, settled first in the north part of the town and later became a resident of this village. To the old School District No. 1 in the east part of the town came Benjamin Prescott with an ax in his hand and a bag of beans on his back. He was a born leader of men and in his new field he cut a wide swath. On their original holdings the Turners and Davidsons still remained; and near Gilmore Pond was another group of the Scotch Irish pioneers. These were Matthew Wright, Francis Wright, who kept a tavern on



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Jaffrey Memorial Auxiliary
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Instituted May 17, 1946

the old County road where the first town meeting was held, William Smiley, Hugh Dunlap and John Grout.

John Grout, according to his own account, was the first permanent settler in the township. He had a family of thirteen children and nearly all rose to distinction. Major Hiikiah, the eldest, settled in Hinsdale where his wife and three small children were taken captive by the Indians. Hilkiah Junior never returned and after many years it was learned that he was adopted by the Indians and became a chief among them. He took the name of Peter Westfall and was the progenitor of the distinguished family of Westfalls in the state of New York. John Grout, Jr. turned tory and fled to Canada, where he became a successful lawyer in Montreal. Elijah and Jonathan were officers in the patriot forces. Jonathan became a brigadier general, a lawyer of ability, a member of congress during the administration of Washington, a friend of the leading men of the country; and he was known as one of the handsomest men in public life in his time. Joel, if memory serves me right, went up Vermont way and became the ancestor of all the Grouts who have served that state as governors, members of Congress and have filled other positions of honor and trust. Solomon Grout, the only member of the family who remained in Jaffrey, served as selectman and was prominent in town affairs.

Abigail Grout, the youngest daughter, married Col. Nathan Hale, a leading citizen of Rindge, who was long in the Revolutionary service. He was an officer at the battle of Bunker Hill and commanded a New Hampshire regiment during that memorable winter of privation at Valley Forge. He was later captured by the British and died a prisoner of war within the enemy's lines on Long Island. Upon his death the management of his large estate in Rindge devolved upon his widow and she proved herself a woman of great executive ability. She had heard much of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and she applied them unerringly to her own case. She reminded the authorities of her town that taxation without representation was tyranny; and rather than pay taxes that she held to be unjustly assessed she suffered arrest and spent a winter in jail. Candor compels us to state that her brother Jehosaphat was jailer and high sheriff of the



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county at the time and this may have served to mitigate the rigors of her martyrdom; nevertheless she had the courage of her convictions and is entitled to remembrance and honor as an early, if not the original advocate of woman suffrage in America.

In 1774 there came to the new town a man fit to rank with the minister in solid usefulness at a period when the community was largely dependent on its own resources for the conveniences of life. He was John Eaton from Bedford, Mass., a millwright and master of many trades. He kept an account book or journal that he made for himself when he lived in Bedford, and it gives us a good look into the simple, neighborly life of the times. The covers of the book were shaven boards held together with leather thongs. Through the courtesy of a descendant this book was at one time in my possession and though more than one hundred years old it was still legible and in sound condition. In it may be found evidence that he was an obliging neighbor and a man of buoyant disposition. He recorded in his book not only his business transactions, but riddles and matters of neighborly interest.

A few excerpts from his book, taken at random, will serve to establish his position in the community in which he lived. His spelling is sufficient evidence of his marvelous versatility. The following are a few of the services by which his neighbors were laid under obligation to him: "wid richerson is in dat to me for day work sider mill." "Jonothan Este is in dat to me for making a cart." "Samuel Flint Let me have a pach of Mell and again I had a par of Mittons of his wife and again I help him part of a day pach his barn." He made "tuggs" and "collers" and sleds; "dugg" graves and made "corfens." He plastered chimneys, made casement (window sash), leach tubs, "ches pres" and "exaltrees." He mended "saddels" and made plows and "siesnaths" besides other articles too numerous to mention.

While in Bedford he managed on shares a saw and grist mill for two sisters, evidently maiden ladies of means who had come into possession of the property by inheritance; and, in shocking contrast to the proverbial formality of the old days, we find the amazing entry "reconed with the gals" when he recorded an accounting in his book. He often changed work with his neighbors and occasionally lent his "mear" to go a journey. He helped "nearmire" Hayward rack

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his hay (here is an improvement that should commend itself to the modern advocates of simplified spelling) and among a variety of other transactions the said "nearmire" "lat me have a yead and a half of read cloth to make me a chaket." This seems to complete the picture of the man as chipper and assertive as a red winged blackbird. In Jaffrey John Eaton bought of Ephraim Hunt the saw and grist mill at Squantum which he improved and to which he added new lines of work. He made flax wheels, repaired "big" wheels and as in Bedford was the handy man of the town.

But the choicest history of our old New England towns is woven around the meeting house and minister; and among our historic days none has been greater than that day in the middle of June, 1775, when this old meeting house was raised. For many years there was a tradition that the raising took place on the day of the battle of Bunker Hill, but this has been questioned, and it seems probable that the true date was that fixed by the town when it was voted that the long timbers should be hewed and every thing in readiness by the middle of June. No essential to the great work was overlooked and it was left to Capt. Henry Coffeen, a trusty man who had been a carpenter at the raising of the meeting house in Rindge and knew the indispensable requirements of such an occasion, to provide the proverbial barrel of rum. But towns, like republics of larger growth, are sometimes ungrateful; and it was not until four years later and after repeated requests, that the public spirited captain was, in the language of the record, reimbursed "for the barral of rum expended at the raising of the meeting house and the two dollars silver money he lent the town."

A raising in the old days was a spectacle to stir the blood; it was an event of ceremonial consequence like the launching of a ship. The raising of a meeting house which was to be the common property of them all was of more than ordinary significance, and brought out every good townsman, the able-bodied to give of their strength and the aged and infirm to mix and pass the inspiriting drink. The great timbers, framed together in longitudinal or cross sections were raised by pike poles and by ropes in the hands of many willing men; and as these sections came into place men swarmed over them to fasten the connecting timbers, like sailors on the rigging of a ship. There was an element of danger in the work and in our neighboring town of Wilton several were killed and many injured as a portion of the frame of the meeting house in process of erection fell to the ground. But a kind Providence watched over the work in Jaffrey; harmony prevailed and no accident marred the day. Neither was there occasion for the sun to stand still in the heavens, for the day was one of the longest in the year and before nightfall the work was finished. Then as the people prepared to return to their farms and their chores, a great marvel appeared before them. John Eaton, in his red "chacket," as we suppose, stood on his head on the ridgepole of the skeleton frame. This story may be thought to hover between sober history and myth, but honest men have vouched for its truth. We are too matter of fact here in New England, and had this happened in other times, or among a people more imaginative, or fallen in the way of historians less scrupulous for truth, it might have grown into a legend by now, of a spirit presence in flaming vestments coming down to bless and dedicate their work.

In due time the meeting house was completed and became the center of community life, religious and secular. When we consider the slender resources upon which they had to draw it was an achievement of which they had a right to be proud. In an address to the General Court of the state in the year 1787 we have a vivid picture of the meeting house and its surroundings as they appeared to the founders of the town. They said "we have Raised, and finished on an Eminence a Large and Statly meetting house, 60x45 feet and near 30 feet post, Verry near the Centre of the town, we have laid out ten acres of a Common, on which the Meetting house stands, and we have cleared the Same, and spent thereon a great deal of Labor. we have Laid out on Said Common a Large Burreing Yard, and fenced the Same with a great Stone wall, and there is a great Number interred there, we have Settled a Minister, and given him a large farm adjoining said Common, and he has built him a Large house and Barn Verry near the meetting house, and their is on the East Side line of Said Common a Row of Large and Elegant Buildings, which together with Meetting house makes a Beautiful appearance, and the Roads in Said Jaffrey are laid out and opened Leading to the Meetting house so as to Conveen the whole town."

A study of the early roads in Jaffrey confirms their closing statement. From all quarters of

the town, with the single exception of the county road, the early roads led to the meeting house. It was considered a sufficient record of location to say that they followed the "way as it is now trod to the meeting house." In 1779 it was voted to lay out "a road for Abram Baily to get to meeting." It is not to be assumed that Abram Bailey's spiritual condition was a matter of town concern, for he was active in the church and was chosen in town meeting "to tune the psalm" on the Lord's day; but we may understand that this truly good man in his petition for this avenue of communication, placed the attendance upon town meeting and public worship above all secular considerations. In a remarkable manner the old system of highways continues to "convene" the town; but, alas! the tide of travel is too often in the opposite direction from that contemplated by the fathers.

But the meeting house pre-supposes the minister. Inseparable from the history of this house is the memory of Rev. Laban Ainsworth, our first settled minister. He came almost before its completion and his ministry continued nearly to the end of its use for religious service. He was looked up to and respected as no one else has been in the entire history of the town. He was an adviser in secular as well as spiritual matters, and his voice was often heard in town meeting. The "Large house" that he had built was burned one night in 1788 and a wave of sympathy and horror swept over the town when it was learned that a child of Dea. Eleazer Spofford, who was visiting the minister's family, lost his life in the flames. On an old headstone in the grave yard back of the meeting house, in poignant brevity, the record of the tragedy remains:

Here is entered the remains of Isaac A. Spofford son of Dea. Eleaz. & Mrs. Mary Spofford a brand plucked from the ashes of Rev Laban Ainsworth's house 13

Feb. 1788 AE 8

Oh say grim Death why thus destroy
The parents hopes, their fondest joy

The response of his parishioners to the minister's distress was immediate and generous. The "Ainsworth Manse" was rebuilt and has remained a treasured possession of his descendants and of the town to this day. In its simple dignity it is a fitting memorial of the man; and if we could this afternoon look across the common and see him come out of his front door, as he was wont to do in the quietude of a Sabbath morning, in his clerical attire, knee buckles, shoe buckles and all that, and could watch his progress to the meeting house while the bell was tolling in the steeple, it would take us back to a day so simple and peaceful and remote that we can only think of it as belonging to another world than our own. It is nearly a century and a half since he began his labors here, and yet there are many people in town today who remember our first settled minister. For seventy-six and one half years, a period of service that has probably never been equaled in the history of the church in America, he was the minister of this people; and when, in the one hundred and first year of his age he "fell on sleep," he left a memory that will be a priceless possession while the town endures.

It was in this old meeting house that our fathers met during the war of the Revolution; making up time and again their quota of men for the army; taxing themselves for hard dollars and beef cattle and powder and rum, without stint and without a dissenting voice so far as the record shows. So pressing was the concern for the public good during this period that five town meetings were sometimes held in a single year. There was talk worth hearing in those days. Every freeman had a right to his say, and their frequent adjournments from day to day are in evidence that they exercised that right until darkness overtook them in their deliberations. Contrary to the experience of most other New England towns, Jaffrey appears not to have had a single tory to deal with during our struggle for independence.

The old Scotch Irish pioneers delighted in town meeting as they did in a religious disputation or a free fight. No subject was beyond their powers. In this old town house they discussed both the State and Federal Constitutions article by article, and found so many flaws and so many provisions that they feared might infringe their liberties that both instruments were at first rejected by vote of the town. It was here that they settled the vexed question as to who should tune the psalm on the Lord's day, and it was here that they put their paupers up at vendue. Shakespeare says that "Time hath a wallet wherein he puts alms for oblivion," and if we could today get hold of that capacious receptacle and could empty out of it all the wit and all the wisdom and all the eloquence that have been uttered in this old meeting house it would make a heap as high as the steeple and next to Monadnock would be the most prized possession of the town.

We shall try to scrape an acquaintance with a few people who staid at home and were part and parcel of the town itself. The old New England towns not only had character but they had characters who by their wit or wisdom or lack of it gained for themselves a lasting place in the memory and affection of the community. Some of these characters grew in a hard environment and like some of our mountain trees were stunted, gnarled and twisted. Others of a different disposition in a more favorable soil ran all to sweetness and light and had about them so much of the milk of human kindness that as they took on the dignity and benignity of middle age they came naturally to be called the uncles and aunts of the community.

We will honor the memories of some of the old uncles and aunts without being at all partial to our rich relations. If there is a single possession in which Jaffrey can take pride as something all its own it is the memory of Aunt Hannah Davis. She grew here out of our native stock. She was unspotted by the world. She was the granddaughter of John Eaton, the master of many trades, and the daughter of Peter Davis, skilled maker of wooden clocks. She inherited the full measure of their mechanical ingenuity and manual skill. She never complained of her circumscribed lot or lack of opportunity; but, obedient to her genius, she invented and became the sole manufacturer of the nailed wooden band-box. In her, the student of heredity will find the flower of generations of mechanical skill and perhaps a trace of the red cloth "chaket."

The band-box was the trunk and satchel of those days; it was a receptacle dear to the feminine heart; the mind of mere man approaches the theme with trepidation; it was redolent of lavender and old lace. Hers were no flimsy affairs of pasteboard and paper that have so often proved a delusion and snare; she built into them character as well as skill. They have stood the test of time and after three quarters of a century hundreds of them are still in use. An interesting collection of Aunt Hannah's band-boxes has been made by the Jaffrey Village Improvement Society, and one has long been included in the historical collections in the Rensselaer Mansion in the City of New York.

Aunt Hannah owned, as a part of her equipment, a wagon of the prairie schooner type, with a canopy or covering of white cloth; and when she had accumulated a shopful of her wares, she loaded her wagon to the roof, hired a sedate and trusty horse of her neighbors, and perched among her treasures, she set out like a fairy godmother for the factory towns where finery did most abound. In the large towns of Manchester and Lowell she was well known; and when, as was her custom, she halted her van at the mill door at the hour of noon, she was sure of eager customers and a thriving trade. The factory girls of those days were from the best families of New England. They brought the latest fashions back to their home towns, and they have been pictured as riding on the tops of the old stage coaches in their trips to and from their homes with Aunt Hannah's band-boxes around them like satellites around a sun. She is remembered while many of greater pretensions are forgotten, because of her unique individuality, her overflowing kindness and goodwill. She was a devoted member of the Baptist church in East Jaffrey; and her memory has been honored by a memorial window on which the endearing title of "Aunt Hannah" is happily preserved.

There is one name in the history of Jaffrey that has never received its due honor. It is that of Amos Fortune, the tanner. He was an African and in his strange setting was a marked figure in the early days of the town. It was a queer antic of fate by which he was taken as untamed as a

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American Legion

*extends best wishes to Jaffrey
on their 200th anniversary*

When in Jaffrey, Legionnaires and their guests
are cordially invited to visit our club facilities.

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young fox from the wilds of Africa to be a white man's chattel in America; and finally to be a freeman and citizen among the snows and cold of the North. He came to Jaffrey about the year 1778 and was, so far as I know, the only man of his race who ever made his home in this town. By industry and upright conduct he gained, what was for his simple needs, a competency of goods, and an honored place in the community. He was a member of Parson Ainsworth's church, and by his last will and testament he gave a sum of money for the purchase of a silver communion service that was in use for many years. He was a member of the old "Social Library in Jaffrey," a society formed for the betterment of the mind by the study of books; and before it had become the fashion to make public bequests, he left a fund for the support of schools in the district in which he lived, that has been a benefit to the town for more than one hundred years. Out in the old Town Burying Yard, on quaint slate headstones, beneath the weeping willow and the urn are two epitaphs that for classic brevity and completeness should keep the names of Amos Fortune and his wife in perpetual remembrance.

Sacred to the memory of
Amos Fortune
Who was born free in Africa,
A Slave in America,
He purchased his liberty,
Professed Christianity
Lived Reputably
died hopefully,
Nov. 17, 1801 a. 91

Sacred to the memory
of Violate,
by sale the Slave of
Amos Fortune
by Marriage his wife
by her fidelity
his friend and solace.
She died his widow
Sept. 13, 1802 a. 72

Visit the graves in the old cemetery of Rev. Laban Ainsworth, of Aunt Hannah Davis, of Amos Fortune and his wife, and of Moses Stickney, whose headstone tells us that he was the first white child to roam the wilds of Jaffrey and who bore testimony to the salubrity of the place by living to the age of one hundred years.

The Third New Hampshire Turnpike Road (We call it Route 124 now) was for some years the most direct road from central Vermont to Boston and the stage registers published lists of taverns and distances by this route all the way from Boston to Montreal. Six horse mail coaches ran over the line, leaving Brigham's Tavern on Hanover St., Boston, at 5 A.M. and arriving in Keene, a distance of eighty miles, at 7 P.M. It is interesting to note that the advertised fare to Jaffrey, \$3, was less than our present fare by bus. The bulk of the traffic, however, was by freighting teams and processions of varied and wonderful composition were daily halted at the taverns and turnpike gates. There were rates of toll for all sorts of vehicles, including chairs, chaises, coaches and chariots; for led horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and turkeys. An old man who remembered those days once told me that Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth was never a circumstance to the caravans that passed along our turnpike in those stirring days.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Prize winning poem and essay from Elementary Students

The 200 Year Old Town — Jaffrey

By Jacqueline Dodge
Grade 6, Jaffrey Grade School

When I think of Jaffrey, I think of the statue in the middle of the town saying "Buddies". I think of the Catholic Church which has stood for many, many years. I think of it as a peaceful town with maple and oak trees all around town. In autumn I see the colors in the changing leaves.

In the winter I see the trees fall over the river and make a tunnel of snowy white trees. I see new stores and restaurants being built and old ones being torn down. I see parades walking up main street playing cheerful music for everyone to hear. I see the town being lit up on special holidays. Where I live now is where horses pulling stage coaches came to get new horses for the tired ones.

When I think back of all the pictures I have seen of Jaffrey I see that Jaffrey is a peaceful town and as nice as it could be. In the future I know that Jaffrey will still be a peaceful town and still nice as it could be.

JAFFREY

Julie Desmarais
Grade 8, St. Patrick's School

In 1773, a town was begun,
Jaffrey, N.H. — that's the one!

The people then and the people now
Sat back and just said, "Wow."
For the reasons
Of course are the seasons.

Winter, being when it's cold,
The land is icy, the air is bold.
The lakes like mirrors on all the walls
Kids all around throwing snowballs.
Happiness is found in snow
As it was years ago.

After winter survival
Spring announces its arrival
With fresh clean air
And blossoms so fair
And lilacs and other flowers so sweet
Smell good enough to eat.

Then, summer bursts from the spring
And brings sunshine to everything
Swimming causes joyous laughter
And the loads of fun right after.
It is found to be your duty
To become a bathing beauty.

Finally, summer isn't there at all
But, instead it's time for fall.
This is when the leaves glitter
That Mother Nature made to fit her
Gusty days and frosty nights
Cause this beauty to suffice.

Then, the year has left at last
Boy, has it passed by fast!
With all these different times of year
Everybody loves it here.

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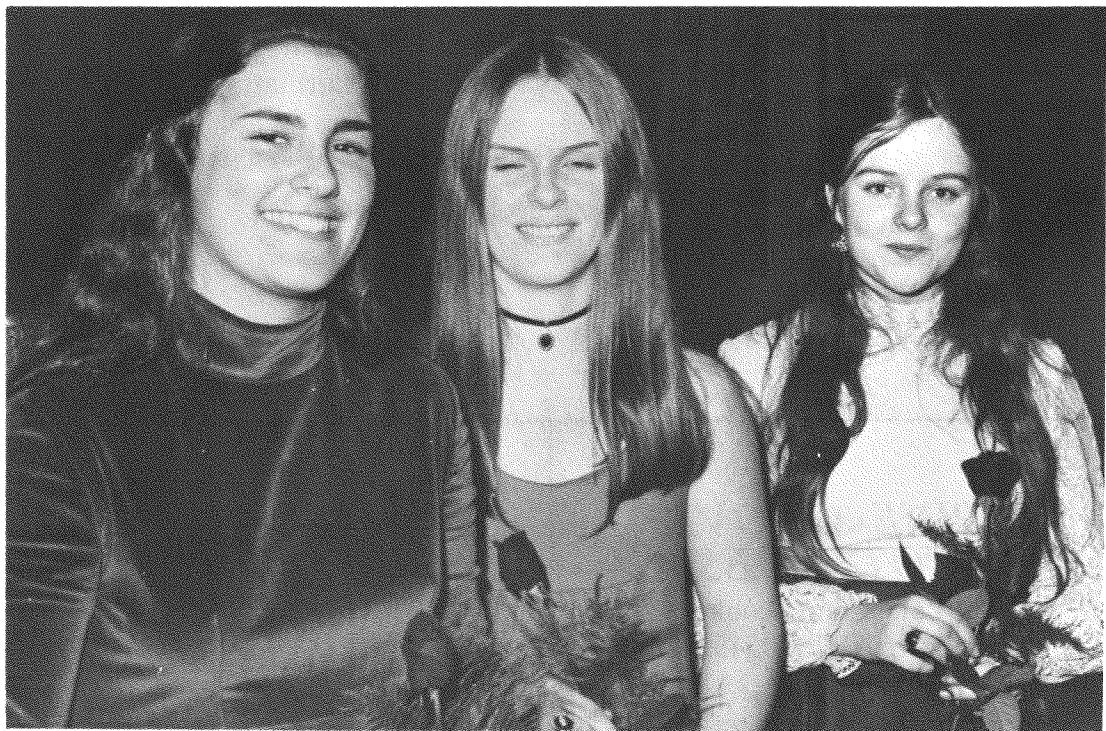


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SINCE 1899-1973



*Bicentennial Queen
Jeanne Duval*



*Queens Court
Jeanne Duval, Paula Aucoin, Mayame Gordon*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JAFFREY BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Please consult the LEDGER or a later program listing for events scheduled too late for inclusion on this and succeeding pages.

JANUARY 1973

January 7 Church Services
January 20 Fireman's Ball
Featuring selection of the
Bicentennial Queen
Sponsored by: Jaffrey Fire Department
Mr. John White, Chairman

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

February 18	Snowmobile Races Sponsored by: Sno Moles Club Mr. Merrill Hill, Chairman
February 25	Stock Car Ice Races Sponsored by: Monadnock Ice Racing Club

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

March 3 & 4	Dog Sled Races Sponsored by: Jaffrey & Peterborough Lions Clubs Mr. Ronald Christian, Chairman
-------------	---

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CONGRATULATIONS, JAFFREY
ON YOUR
BICENTENNIAL

MILLIPORE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR
APRIL

April 7 & 8 Maple Sugar Open House
Sponsored by: Local maple sugar producers
Mr. Charles Bacon, Chairman

April 8 Open House, Public Library 2-5 p.m.
 National Library Week

April 16 St. Patrick's Bicentennial Fair
Sponsored by: St. Patrick's Parents Assoc.
Mrs. Charles Royce, Chairman

Compliments of:

Dr. & Mrs. John D. Meehan

Coll's Farm Stand

Old Sharon Road

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR

MAY

May 19 Children's Fishing Derby
Sponsored by: Monadnock Rod & Gun Club

May 21 Forest Park Arts & Crafts — Civic Center
Sponsored by: Forrest Park

May 28 Memorial Day
Sponsored by: Veterans of Foreign Wars

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR

JUNE

June 7 Conant High School Concert
 Mr. Thomas Letourneau, Chairman

June 16 Children's Parade
 Sponsored by: V.F.W. Auxiliary

June 21 & 22 Bicentennial Play
 Sponsored by: Triple D Club
 Mrs. Marion Houghton, Chairman

June 28 United Church Summer Fair

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR
JULY

July 4 Band Concert
 Sponsored by: Jaffrey Historical Society

July 5, 6, 7 Carnival
 Sponsored by: Jaffrey Lions Club
 Mr. Francis LaFreniere, Chairman

July 13 Amos Fortune Forum

July 14 Melville Academy Open House
 Sponsored by: Village Improvement Society
 Mr. Frank Hazel, Chairman

July 14, 15 Cannon Shoot Weekend
 Sponsored by: Monadnock Rod & Gun Club
 Mr. Cliff Conley, Chairman

July 20 Amos Fortune Forum

July 21 Melville Academy Open House
 Sponsored by: Village Improvement Society
 Mr. Frank Hazel, Chairman

July 22 Antique Auto & Gasoline Engine Show
 Sponsored by: Mr. Daniel Johnson, Mr. Charles Bacon

July 27 Amos Fortune Forum

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR
AUGUST

August 1	Fair and Sale Sponsored by: First Congregational Church
August 3	Amos Fortune Forum
August 4	Melville Academy Open House Sponsored by: Village Improvement Society Mr. Frank Hazel, Chairman
August 8	Historical Display at Civic Center Mr. Homer Belletete, Chairman
August 10	Amos Fortune Forum
August 11	Lions Club Auction Sponsored by: Jaffrey Lions Club Mr. Richard Pickford, Chairman
August 11	Square Dance Sponsored by: Village Improvement Society Mrs. William D. Tribble, Chairman
August 11	Melville Academy Open House Sponsored by: Village Improvement Society Mr. Frank Hazel, Chairman
August 13, 14	Historical Review Sponsored by: Historical Society Mrs. Homer Belletete, Chairman
August 17	Banquet Sponsored by: American Legion Post #11
August 17	Amos Fortune Forum
August 18	Parade
August 18	Commemorative Coin Auction
August 18	Barbecue
August 18	Beard Judging
August 18	Bicentennial Ball Sponsored by: Jaffrey Community League Mrs. Richard Pickford, Chairman
August 19	Church Services

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT BICENTENNIAL MAIN EVENTS ON

AUGUST 18, 1973

Dr. Donald J. Williams (PHH)

Although Dr. Williams was born in a Fitchburg, Massachusetts hospital on December 25, 1933, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Toivo Williams, lived in Jaffrey, so we are proud to call him a native son.

Dr. Williams received his preliminary education in the schools of Jaffrey, graduating from Conant High as president of his class. He then entered Yale University where he received his BS and MS degrees. He continued his Studies at Yale and received his doctorate in 1961 in Theoretical Nuclear Physics. Dr. Williams worked five years for John Hopkins Research Laboratory and for NASA at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland for nine years. He is now with ESSA (Environmental Space Science Administration) in Boulder, Colorado.

Dr. Williams was in ROTC for four years and served as a Captain. He served two years in the United States Air Force as a Lieutenant.

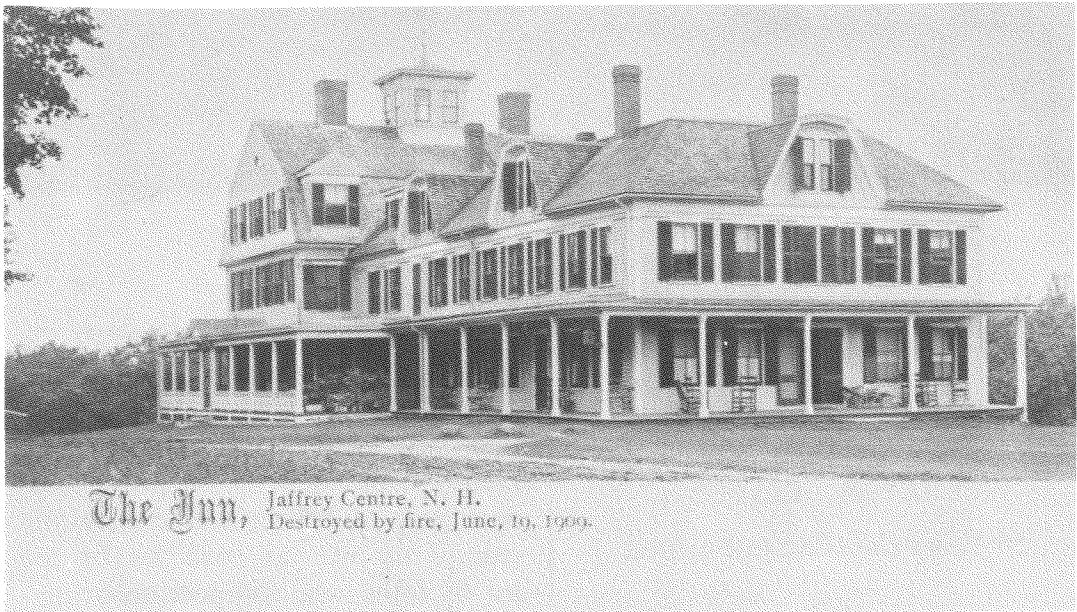
Dr. Williams married Priscilla M. Gagnon, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Demetrius Gagnon of Jaffrey, on July 4, 1953. They have three sons, Steven, Craig, and Eino. They are presently making their home in Boulder, Colorado.

JAFFREY HOTELS

Poems by Lena Fish



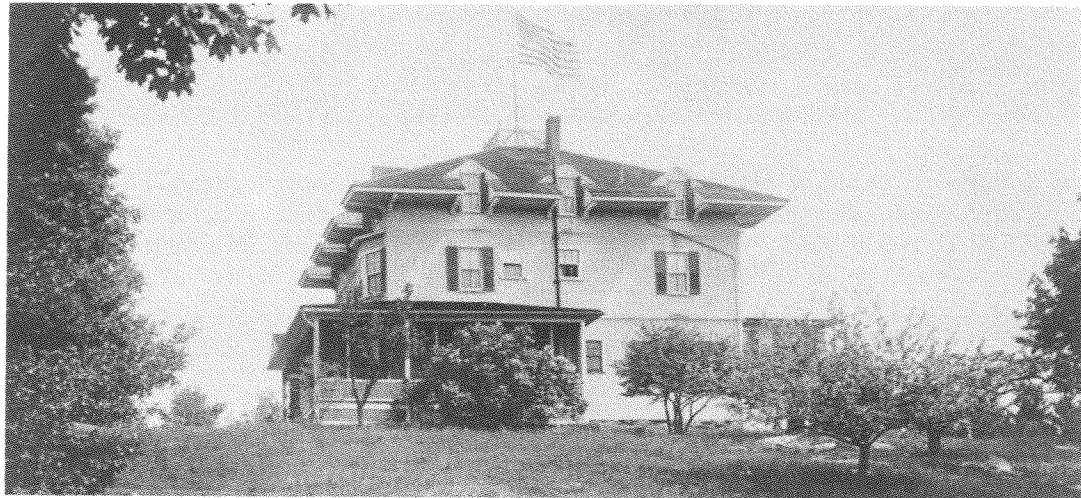
If you should stop at the Red Mill Inn,
You may be sure they will take you in,
A charming hostess you will find there,
Her tasty dinners are served with care.



Shattuck Inn is another old standby,
The scenery there will take your eye,
Good food is served so I've heard say,
And all that come are sure to stay.



The Spofford House is a homelike place,
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You can empty your plate and ask for more,
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They serve well all who enter in,
It's an ideal spot for peace and rest,
They'll serve you food of the very best.

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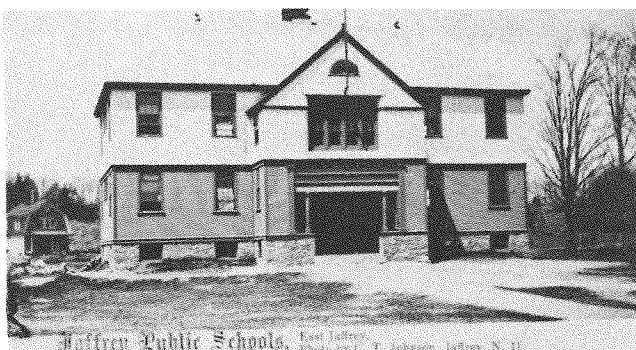
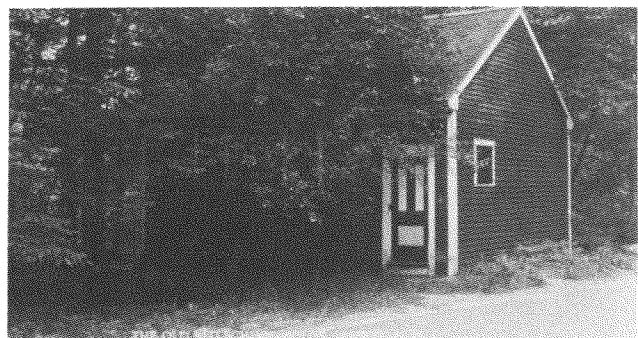
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THE OLD SCHOOLS

Schoolhouse #6 shown in its original location on the Dublin Road. (Now placed on the common next to the Meeting House.)



Mrs. Helen P. Duncan was the teacher in this class photo taken in 1897.

This two story wooden building served as the principal Grade School from 1893 until replaced by the present building in 1937.



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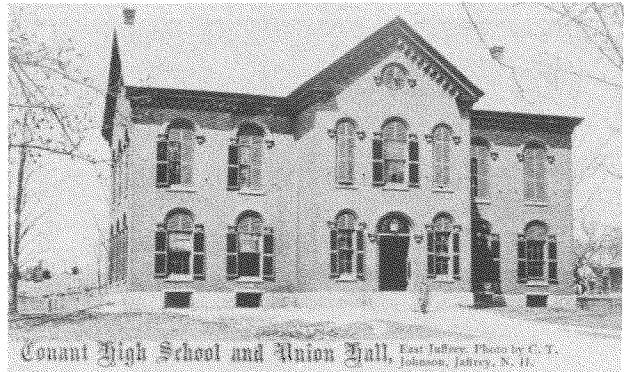
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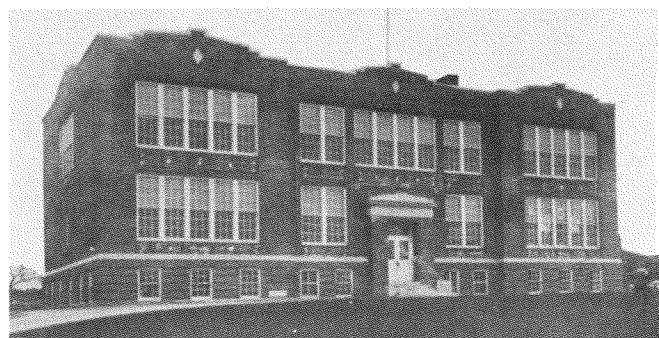
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The first Conant High School and Union Hall in use from 1854 to 1937.



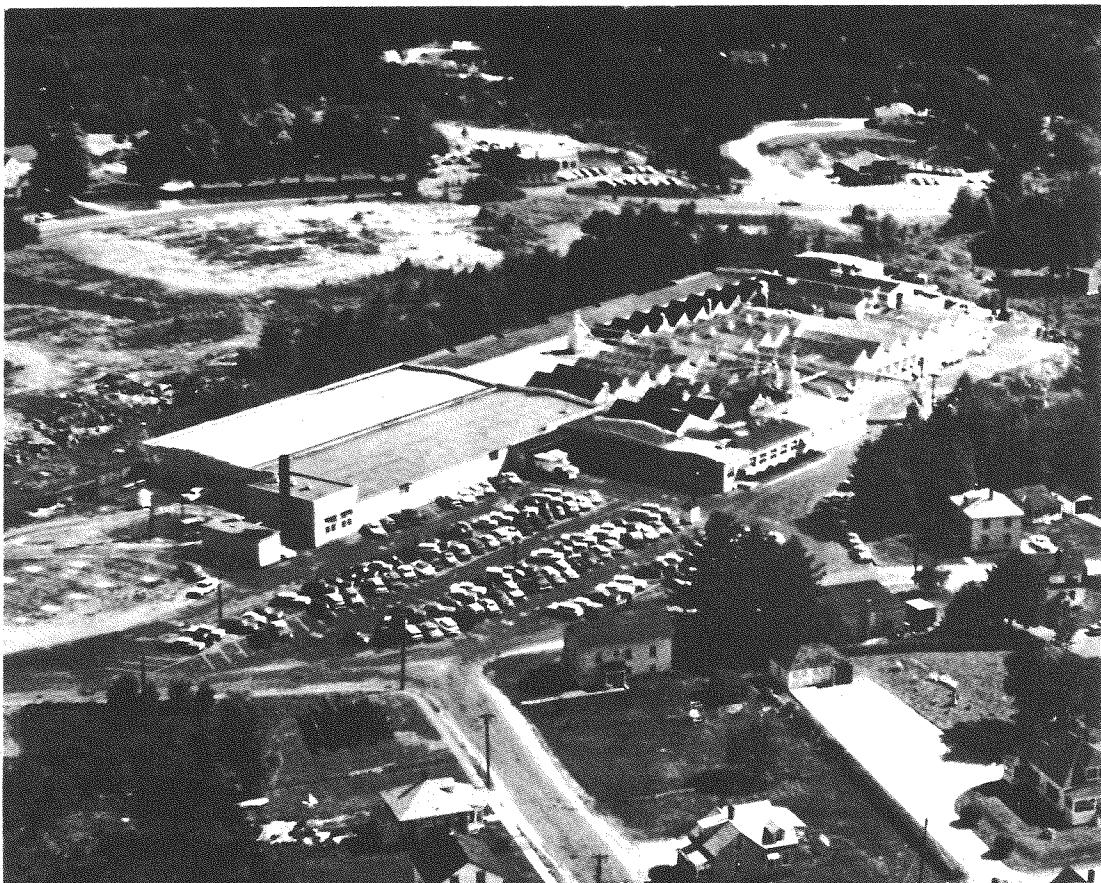
The second Conant High School, now a portion of the greatly enlarged school serving the School District formed by Jaffrey and Rindge.



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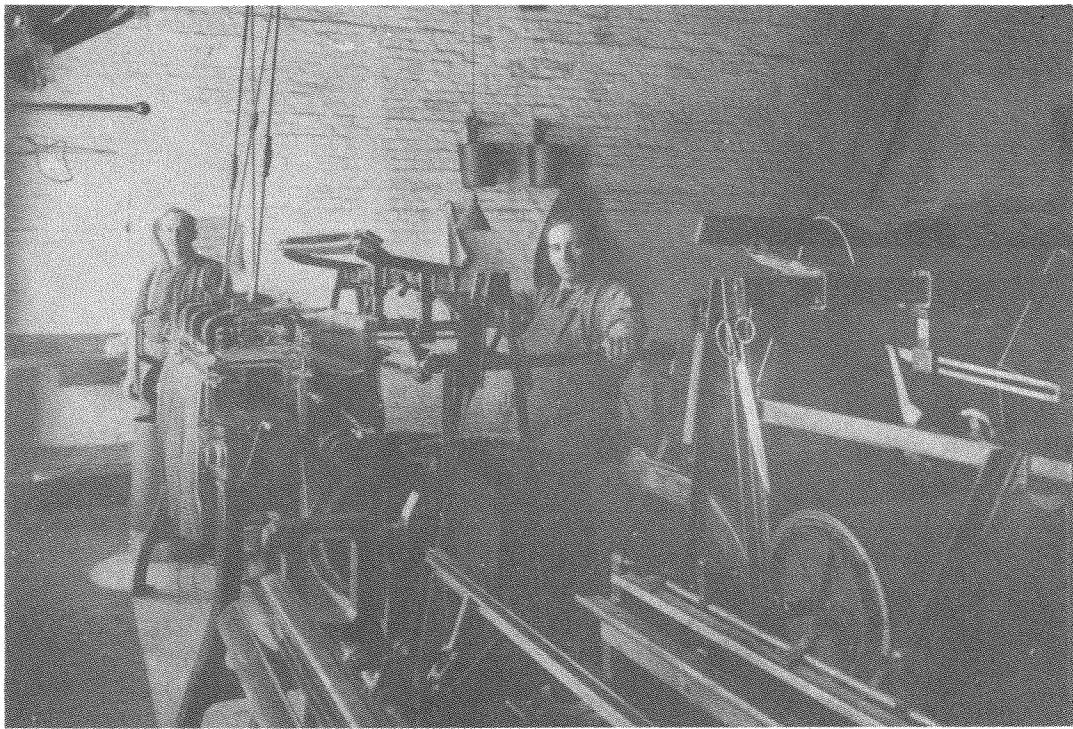
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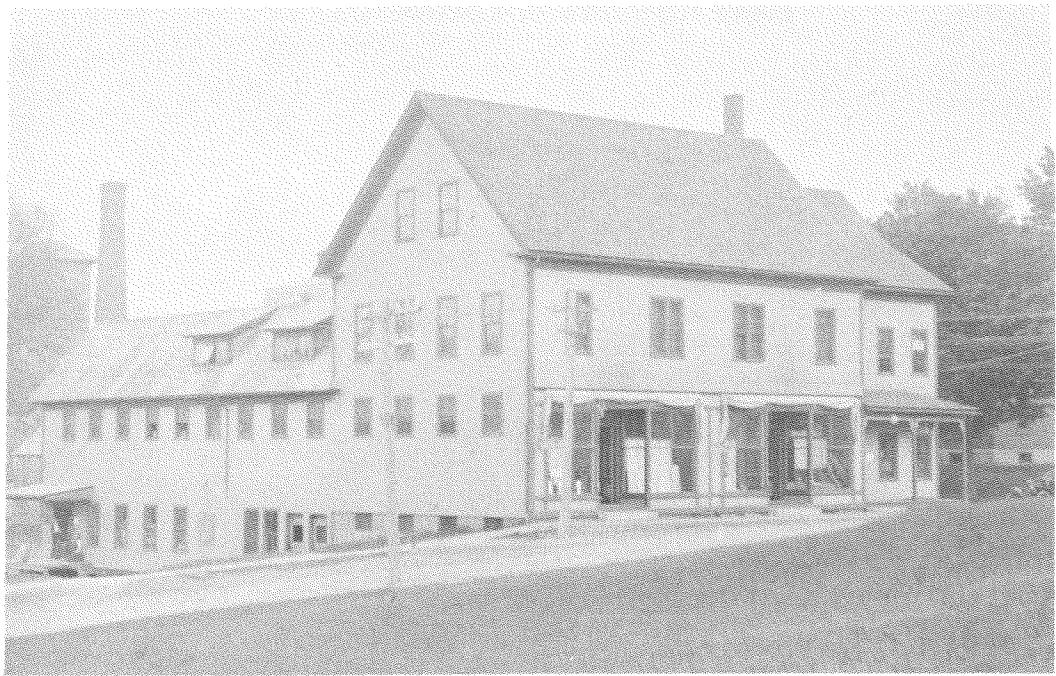
EARLY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



Jaffrey Mills in the beginning — about 1880



Inside the Mills, probably on the first floor. Mr. Joe Parrott operating the machine, Mr. Armstrong one of the plant engineers in the background.



Goodnow's Department Store
The outside in the early '20s



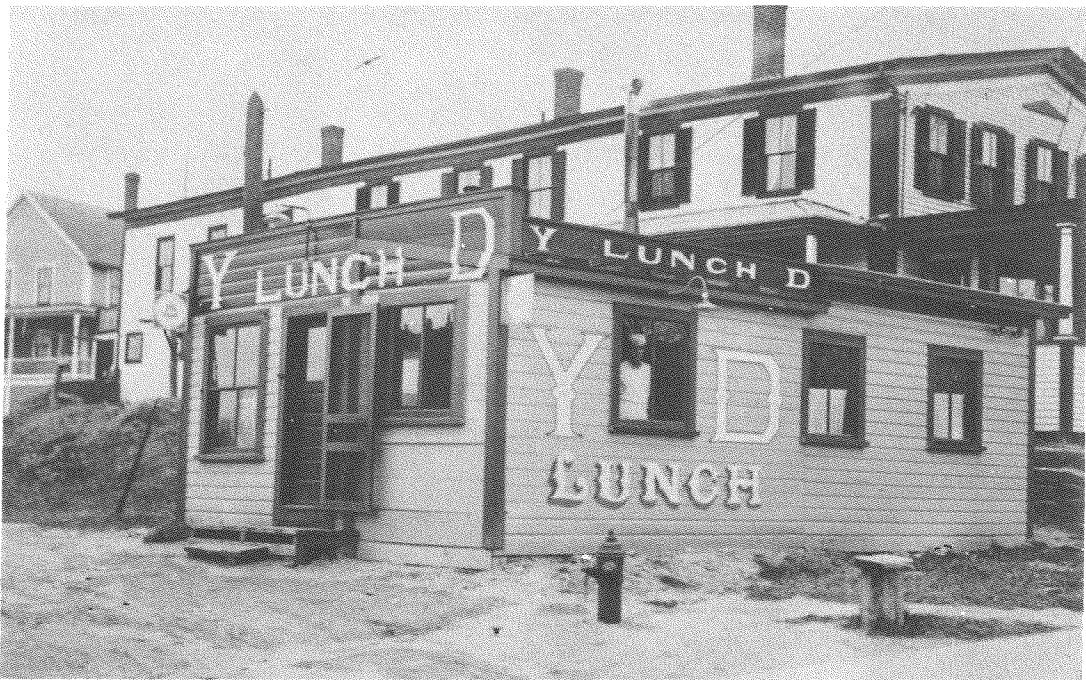
Inside Goodnow's hardware department in the '30s. Charles D. Letourneau on the left. John Moore on the right.



Bean & Symonds, Inc.
May 12, 1942. Every man Pledges His Allegiance.



Urbain "Fred Mitchell" Desmarais waiting to serve another early diner on Main Street.



The Y D Lunch, with Levi Sirois in the window. Present location of Hackler's Garage.

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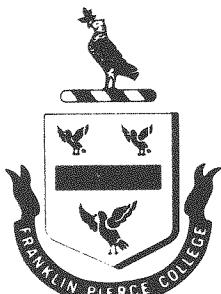
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It's your 200th

and our 10th.

Let's Celebrate Together!



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*Best Wishes
to Town of Jaffrey*

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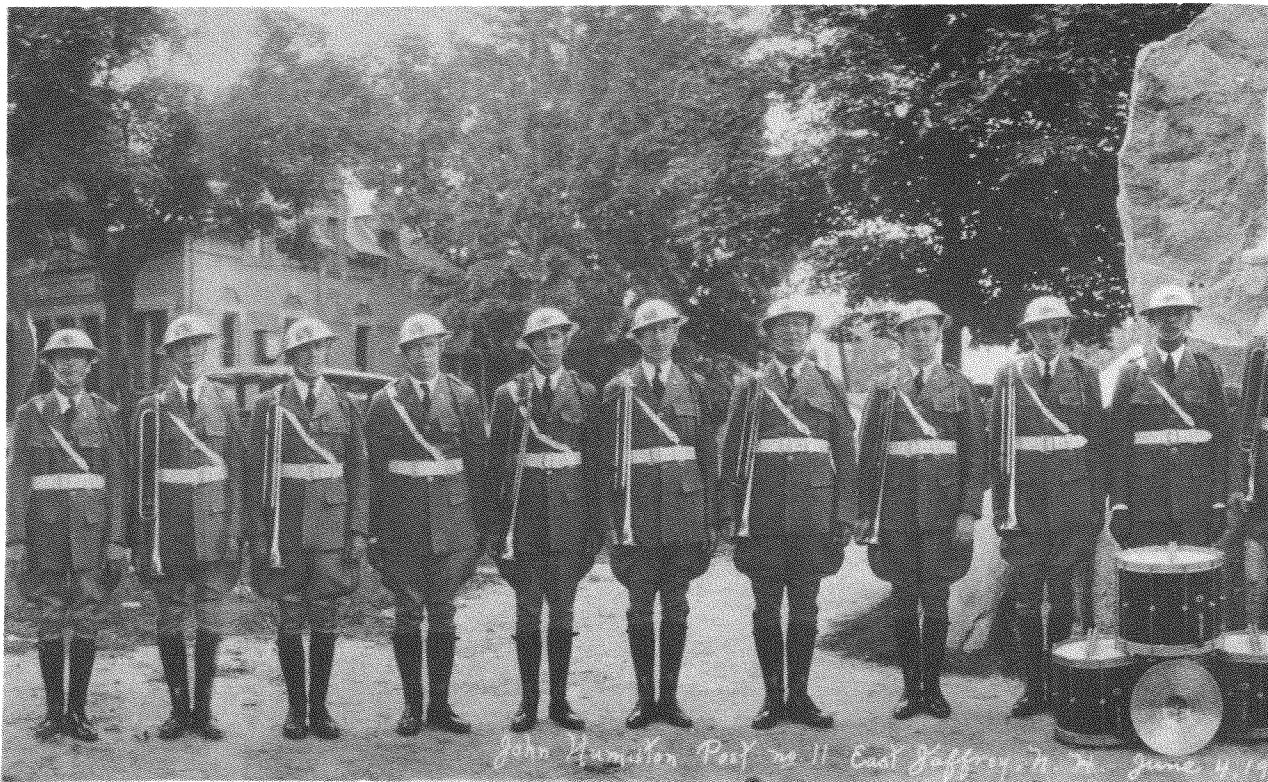
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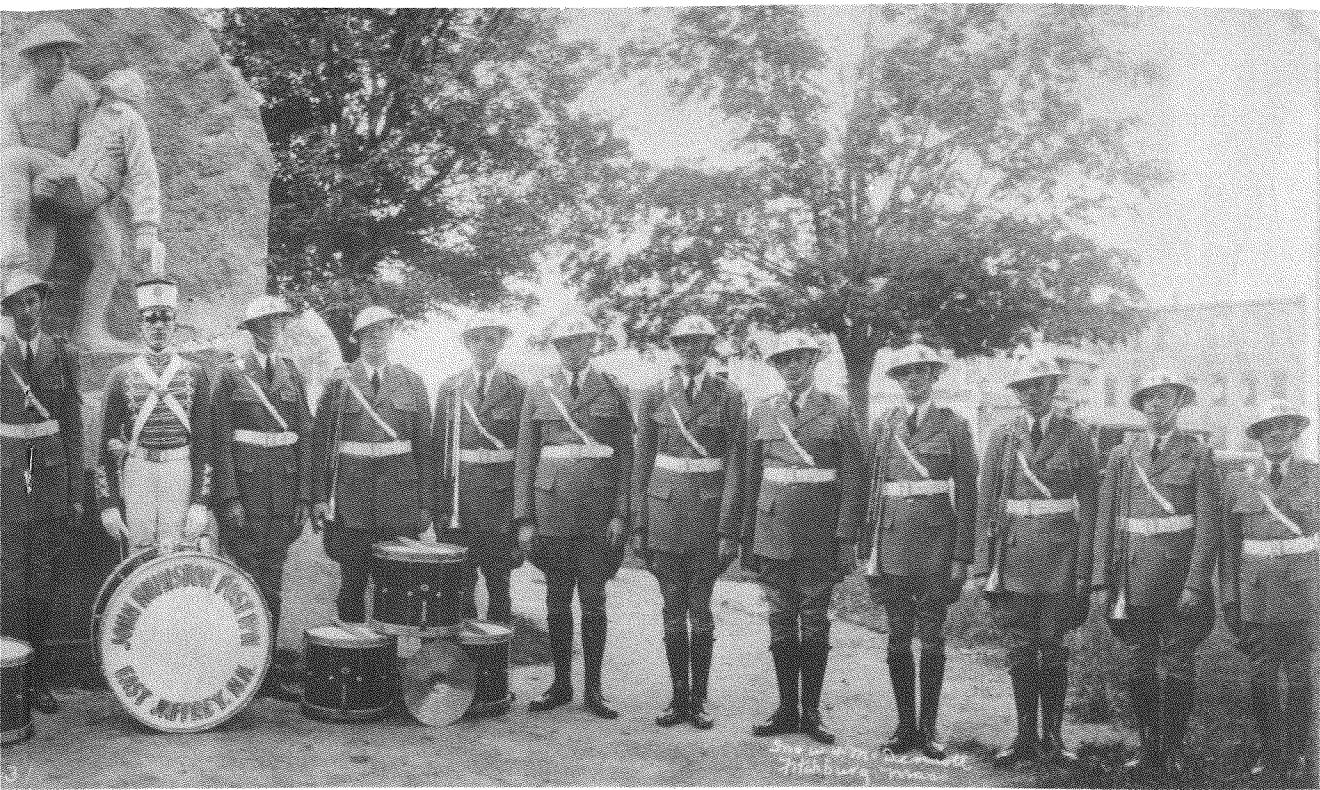
Left to right: Philip Taylor, Edward Gobiel, Alfred Cournoyer, Ernest Pratt, Frank Faery, Llewellyn LaPage, Henry Becker, Raymond Sebastian, Leonard Merrill, Meddie Taylor, Chester Abercrombie, Charles Meyers, Joseph Donahue, Carl Spofford, Dick Eaves, David Harling.

1931 Ameri



First VFW Ambulance

From left to right: Sylvio Bernier, Maurice Christian, Bertrand Mercure, David Ely, Severino Ascani, Orin Letourneau, Charles Baldwin, George Robinson, Rene Forcier, Leo Forcier, Roland Pillsbury.



ican Legion Band

Robert Whitehead, Ruck Charlonne, Lawrence Brown, Don Eaves, Marcel Guillaume, Salmana Ricard.



VFW Ambulance 1961

From left to right: Arthur Hunt, George Blair, Bertrand Fournier, Raymond Desmarais, Rene Durand, Francis Devlin, Fred Hartwell, Bertrand Mercure, Roland Pillsbury, Richard McNear, George Hart, Duvglio Ascani, George Blair, Jr., George Robinson, Ronald Christian, Arthur Lambert, Gilbert Emery, Edmund Robichaud, William Elliott, Wilfred Lambert, Alfred Merrill, Theodore Lambert, John Field, Leo Forcier.

SOME EARLY VIEWS OF DOWNTOWN JAFFREY



1892
That's the present Woman's Club on the right.



Winter 1894
Showing the Offices of the Mills on the right.



1898
Looking up Main Street from the corner of North Street.



1905
Looking down Main Street from about the corner of School Street.



1906

Looking up School Street from the corner of Main Street.



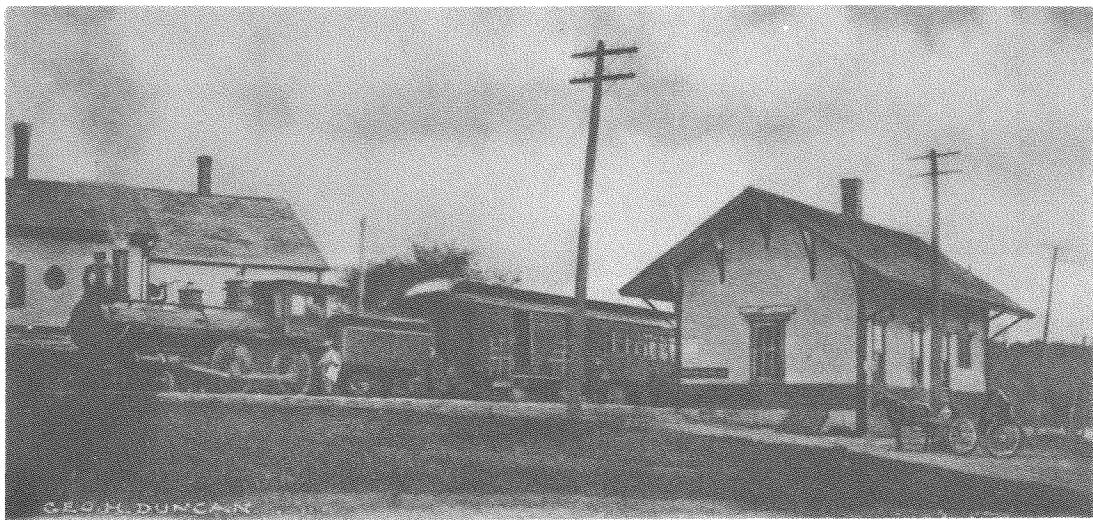
1906

The old stage coach with Tom Mears in the seat. Taken in front of the Jaffrey Center Post Office.

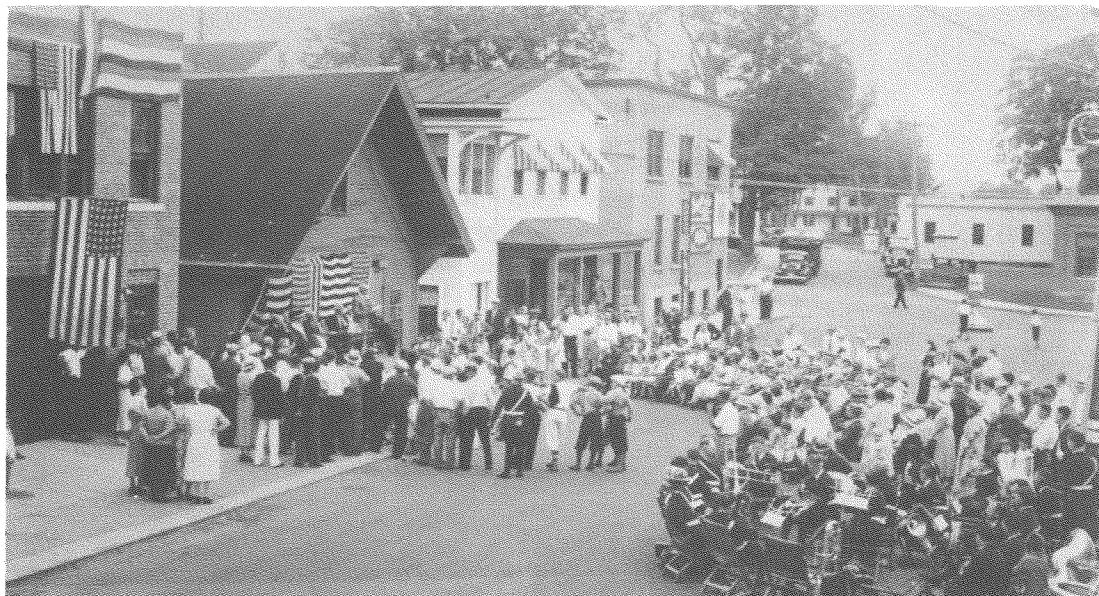


1920's

The Public Beach at Lake Contoocook has been popular for many generations.



The passenger traffic is no more. The old station now houses part of The Ledger.



1932
Dedication of our present fire station Sept. 5, 1932.

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Jaffrey, N.H.*

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ORGANIZATION



FRONT ROW — Left to right

L.W. Davis, Albert Annett, Harland Stearns, Homer White, Alfred Court, Alfred Dube, James Fitzgerald, Rev. H. Reeves Jones, Charles Bacon, Joseph Donahue, Seymour H. Austin, Alfred Hall, Charles Burpee, Delcie D. Bean, Peter Hogan.



1957 — JAFFREY WOMAN'S CLUB

Front row (left to right): Mrs. Joseph Eldridge, Mrs. William Winslow, Mrs. Lewis S. Record, Mrs. Robert Hamill, and Mrs. William B. Evans.

Second row (left to right): Mrs. Newton Howard, Mrs. Jason C. Sawyer, Mrs. Charles Chamberlain, Mrs. George Farnham, Mrs. David F. Griffiths, Mrs. Theodore F. Breon, and Mrs. Robert F. Bunce.

S AND CLUBS



BACK ROW — Left to right

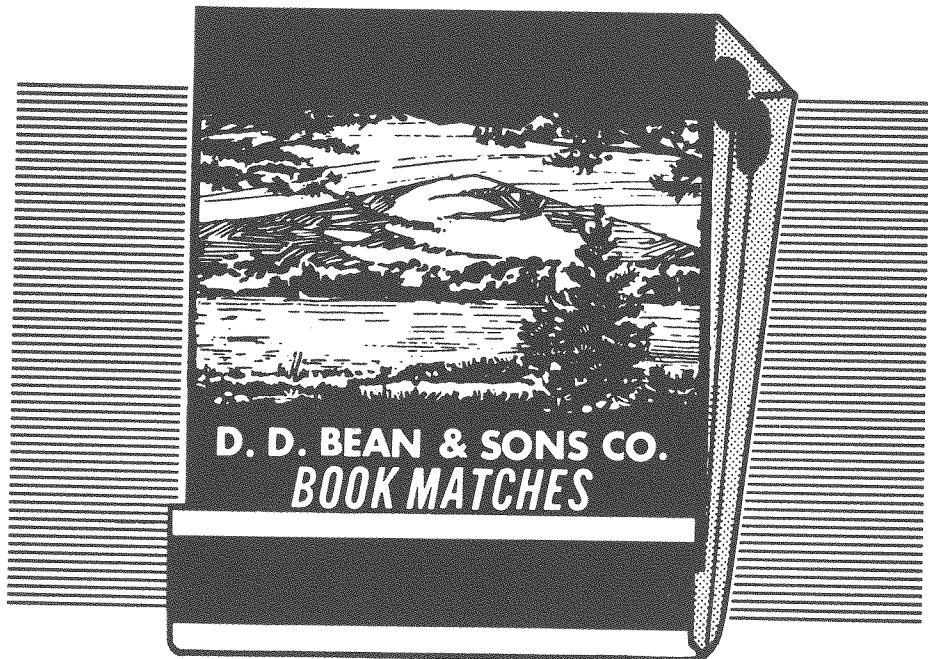
Oscar J. Dillon, Frederick J. Butler, L. Windsor Priest, Arthur Davis, Charles Adams, James Perry, Chauncey Brown, Henry Buckwold, Wellington Eddy, Charles Johnson, William Messing, Edward Shields, Jason Sawyer, David Harling, Fred L. Cournoyer, A.B. Hunt, John Devlin, August Bernier, John Townsend, Rev. Frank Neary, Robert Hamill, William Evans, Charles Holden, Rev. Myron Cutler.

Photo taken 1928



THE EAST JAFFREY CORNET BAND
Photo taken during 150th Anniversary, 1923

Left to right: Charlie George, Harold Robertson, Fred Bobilee, Jean Towne, Fred Towne, Harry Ryder, Philip Trombly, George Preston, Fred Hunt, Mr. Americo, Frank Bobilee, Homer Bobilee. *Sitting:* Philip Taylor, Joe Charlonne, William Naramore, Lionel Bobilee, Philip Letourneau.



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*Congratulations to
the Town of Jaffrey*

ABOUT JAFFREY'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND OLD HOUSES

An Invitation. View with us from the outside some of our historic buildings and old houses. With so many beautiful old houses in Jaffrey, our account can be only a sampling of some that are either very old or of particular historic interest. For our information we are indebted to numerous residents of Jaffrey, especially of the Historical Society, and to the Volumes of the "History of Jaffrey," by Albert Annett and Alice E.E. Lehtinen, the "History of the Town of Jaffrey," by Daniel B. Cutter, and the "Cheshire County Gazeteer," by Hamilton Child.

Cutler Memorial Building — Jaffrey Woman's Club. This fine old building was erected in 1844 to house the Church of the Universalist Society. In 1939, the Universalist Church dissolved, giving its building to the Jaffrey Woman's Club with the requirement that it be named the Cutler Memorial Building, in honor of Myron Cutler who had served as minister of the church for its last forty-two years. In 1971 a bolt of lightning badly damaged the clock tower and much of the interior of the building. To rebuild, required generous contributions by the people of Jaffrey, a number of whom stressed how much they missed the use of the convenient clock in the center of town.

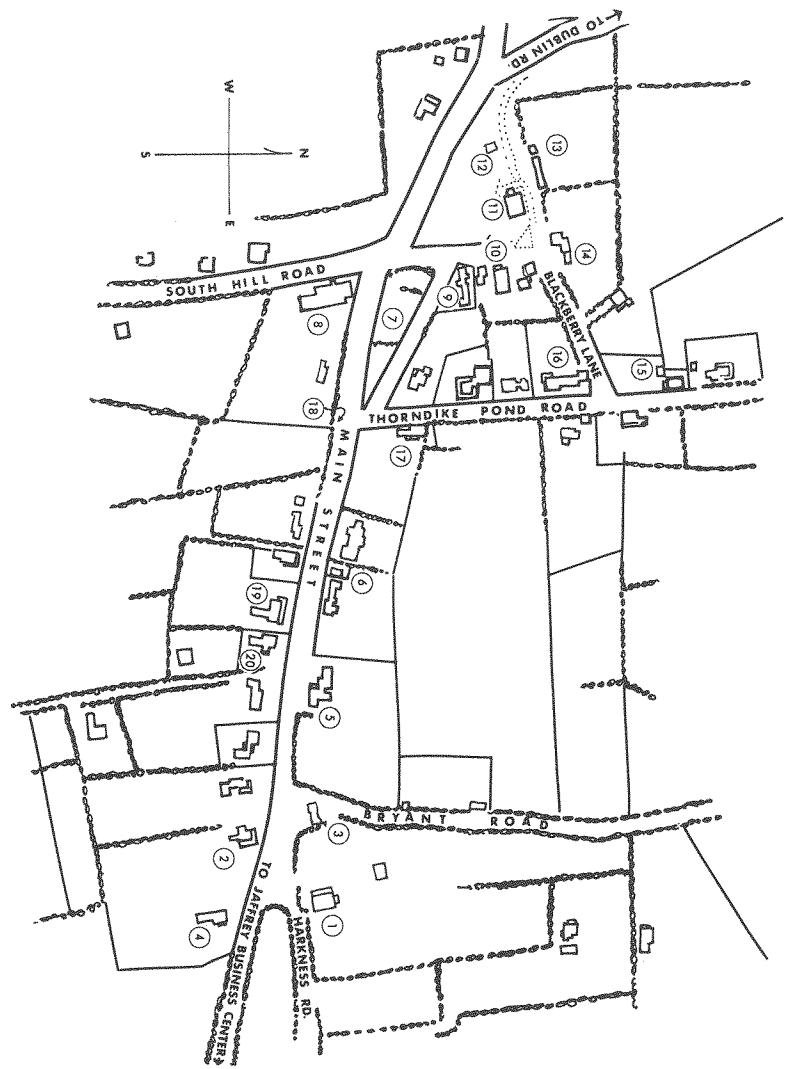
Peter Upton House — Now the Francis Devlin House. This house, second west from the Cutler Memorial Building, was built about 1850. It is of special interest because in the front rooms of this house Peter Upton, the first cashier of the Monadnock Bank, carried on the first banking business in Jaffrey.

Hannah Davis House — Now the Joseph Lambert House. Continue west up Main Street to #249. This is of particular interest for it was built about 1850 as a gift to Hannah Davis by the Old Baptist Church, of which she was long a devoted member. Aunt Hannah, as she was known, manufactured and sold the celebrated "Hannah Davis Band-Box," to support herself and her widowed mother. They are now a collector's item, and can be admired at the Civic Center and at Melville Academy.



John Cutter Houses. These four houses have historic significance to one another, because they were all built by John Cutter — an important figure in Jaffrey. Although they stand in an open cluster, they were all built at different times.

John Cutter, a tanner, built #1 on the map, the *Cutter Homestead*, around 1790 (currently the Wetherell house). The house was a huge structure having some 28 rooms. In 1792, he dammed a nearby brook to form a pond, at the base of which he erected a large tannery, with living quarters to be provided for the tannery workers. In 1800, the second house was erected — next to the pond (#2 on map, the present *Hanson house*). Long after tannery workers resided



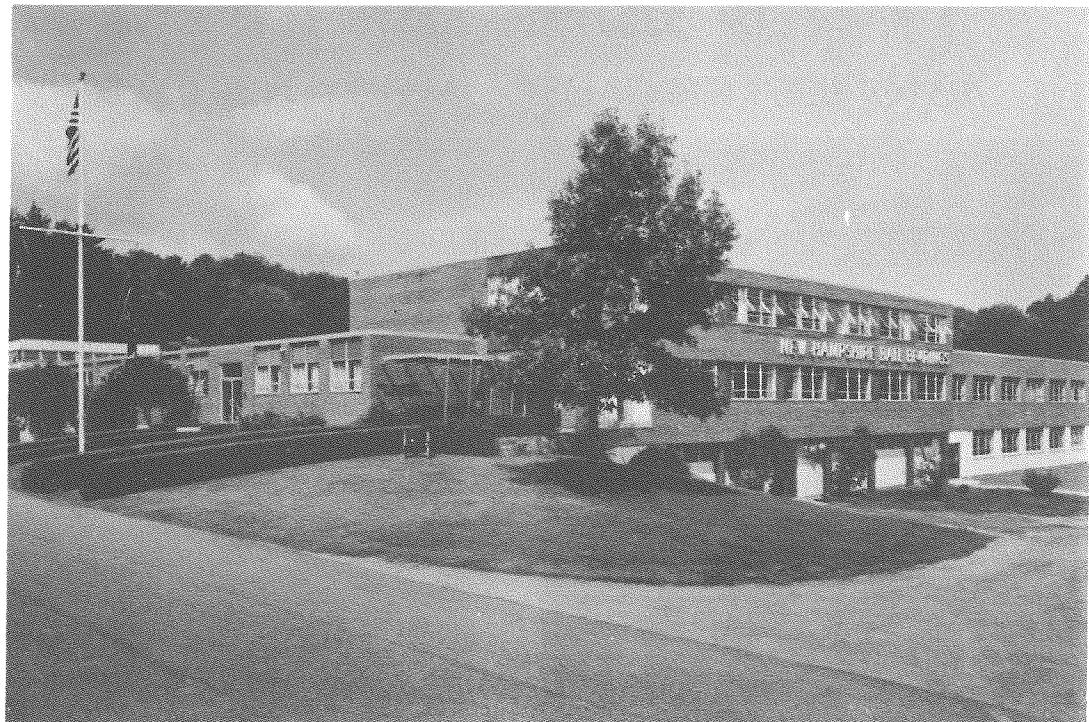
here, Cutter descendants lived in the house. In 1810, a currier shop (#3, *the present Gourd house*) was erected. Here, leather and hides from the tannery were curried, dressed and prepared for their destination in the market place. In 1830, John Cutter built a house for his son, Benjamin Cutter (#4, *now the Pettegrew House*). Unlike the other structures, this house was brick, having four chimneys and eight fireplaces.

The original Cutter homestead (#1, *now Wetherell*), was converted to a hotel around 1909. Then, when the Wetherells purchased it in 1917, they removed thirteen of the rooms, leaving the fifteen room house that stands today.



#5, *Ernest Bernbaum House*. Built in 1790 this house also is one of the oldest in Jaffrey Center.

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#6, *Old Jaffrey Center Firehouse*. Built in 1854, it was the second fire house built in Jaffrey. This is next to the last structure in the block on the right.

During the warm weather season you may visit inside to view the interesting fire fighting equipment of an earlier day.

#8, *The Manse*. This house, completed in 1788, was the longtime homestead of Laban Ainsworth, who served as the beloved pastor of the church in Jaffrey Center from 1782 to his death in 1858, an astounding total of seventy-six years of devoted service.



#9, *Old Thorndike Store, Now Cunningham Dwelling*. It has a white picket fence in front. The figures 1790 on the chimney date its very early construction. It was a store and post office in earlier times, when Jaffrey Center was a more active business community.

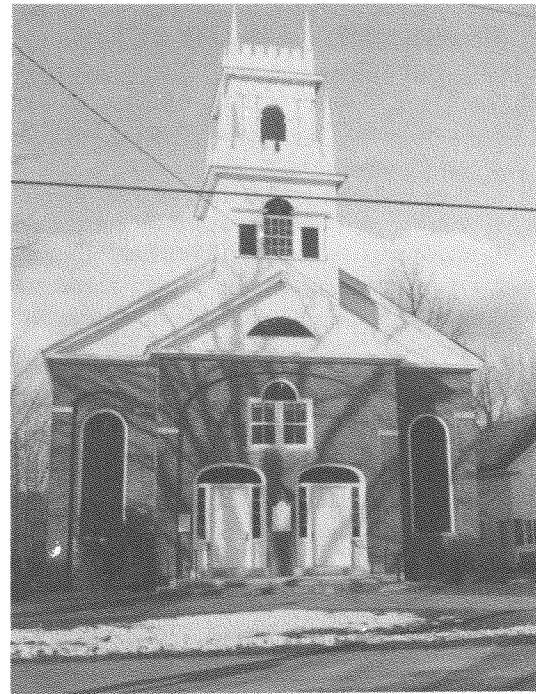
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#10. First Congregational Church in Jaffrey. This historic and beautiful brick building was constructed in 1831. Note the massive granite doorstone twenty feet long, four feet wide, and eight inches thick. Picture in your mind the seven yoke of oxen one hundred forty-two years ago dragging it twelve miles over the mountain from the quarry in Marlborough, where it was hancut.

Compliments of:

Dr. & Mrs. Harold Goodman

Compliments of:

Cynthia, Erik & Alyssa

Hamilton

#11, *The Old Meeting House*, proudly overlooking the Common at Jaffrey Center, is certainly our most treasured historic building. The celebrated raising in 1775 is reported to have taken place on the day of the Battle of Bunker Hill, which it is claimed was heard by those present. The building is a fine example of the early unadorned barn meeting house. The War of the Revolution somewhat delayed the completion of the interior, originally with high pulpit and box pews, while the steeple with its bell cast at the shop of Paul Revere was added in 1822, and the clock not until the early 1900's.

#12, *The Little Red School House*, on the far side of the Common, has very thoughtfully been preserved and restored. Open weekends during the summer. Inside is an account telling more about the building, and how it came finally to reside in its present location.

#13, *The Old Jaffrey Burying Ground*. Here are buried Willa Cather the novelist, Laban Ainsworth, Hannah Davis, and Amos Fortune and his wife. (For a guide in finding these graves, see the small map on the west end of the row of nine carriage sheds.)



After leaving the cemetery, we suggest you follow the arrows on the map taking you down the hill, off the map, and finally to the old Dublin Road, where directly on the opposite side is the *John Buckley House — Now the Robert George House*. One of the oldest houses in Jaffrey Center, it was built about 1784 by a Hessian serving under the British in the Revolutionary War.

The Ark — Now the Monadnock Christian Conference Center. This fine old landmark of Jaffrey Center is a mile plus north up the Old Dublin Road. On the way you will enjoy a fine view of Mount Monadnock by the Queen of Peace Seminary building, which was long the Shattuck Inn esteemed as a vacation resort. The Ark, the big building on the left you reach finally just before a road leads off to the State Park, was originally built by Joseph Cutter in 1808 as a very large house, and covered more ground than the Town Meeting House!

THE TOWNE HOUSE

1796

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Retracing your journey back to the area of the Meeting House covered by the map, you can now view a few of the other old houses in Jaffrey Center. First #14, *former Benjamin Cutter Tavern*. Built about 1786, this house was one of the early taverns in Jaffrey. It also was a coaching stop, where travellers by stage coach from Boston to Keene changed horses. The great horse barns were probably at the side, between the house and the old burying ground.

#15, *Melville Academy*. This building was erected in 1833 as the private Melville Academy, which once had an enrollment of one hundred seventy-four boys and girls. After the depression and panic of 1857, the school was forced to close, but was later used for a time to house the Jaffrey public school.

In 1961 the Village Improvement Society acquired the building, restored it, and now uses it for its annual meeting each July, and also as a museum for local antiques. The second floor is still arranged as a classroom, with the double bench desks used by the "scholars" still intact. For an interesting time looking around inside, check the published schedule.

#16, *Col. Parker House — Now the Keating House*. Col. Abel Parker, who was a minute man and was wounded at Bunker Hill, built this house about 1803.

#17, *The Slade House — Now the Hewett House*. This little house on the corner of Thorndike Pond Road and Main Street at the top of the hill on the other side of Thorndike Pond Road, was built about 1810. In 1876, ten yoke of oxen pulled the house down the road to where you see it now.

Just as you turn left into Main Street again, note just about opposite, #18, *The Historic Road Marker* for Hannah Davis and Amos Fortune. Your return to the business center takes you past #19 the Monadnock Inn, and #20 the Jaffrey Center Post Office, slightly left on Harkness Road, which skirts the north side of the tiny green we noted as we came into the Jaffrey Historic District.

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B. BUSINESS CENTER EAST THROUGH SQUANTUM
(6 miles)

After you have returned to the business center of Jaffrey, we suggest that you begin the second part of the "old houses" tour. It will take you through the eastern part of the town to Squantum, which formerly was the center of the ill-fated and soon defunct township of Rowley Canada chartered by the Province of Massachusetts in 1743, and which became the site of the earliest commercial and industrial activity of the Middle Monadnock (Jaffrey), the township chartered by the Masonian Proprietors of New Hampshire.

Proceed eastward on Main Street, past the point where Route 202 turns north to Peterborough, and along East Main Street (Route 124).

(1) *The Melville — subsequently Goodnow House*

On your left, just before you reach the Post Office, stands a white painted brick house with the date 1824 in the gable end. It was built by Squire Melville, a leading business man of the time, a founder of the Monadnock Bank and patron of Melville Academy. He sold the house, however, in 1829 about the time the Baptist church was completed where the Post Office now stands. He then built the large stone house in the center of town. About 1870 the original building became the home of William E. Goodnow, the patriarch of the Goodnow family in New Hampshire. It is now owned by Wilfred Roy.

(2) *The Bynam House*

On the west side of Charity Square, the triangle formed by East Main Street, Ellison Street and the Post Office, stands an old white farm house. It now is owned by the August Duvals and incorporates an antique shop, "The Towne House", so-called because the Towne family owned the property for over 50 years before its purchase by the Duvals. It was built in 1786 by John Bynam, a Revolutionary War veteran.

(3) *The Conant House*

There is a Federal style white house (102 East Main Street) at the east end of the Square which was built in 1850 by John Conant, another leading citizen and benefactor of Jaffrey. When he died in 1887 the house was occupied by Russell Kittredge, his stepson, who had come to take care of the business interests and farm of his ailing stepfather. One of his sons, Alfred Beard Kittredge, became a United States Senator from South Dakota but returned to Jaffrey, his boyhood home, upon his retirement and lived next door in the house built by his younger brother, Charles. The property was acquired in 1917 by James Fitzgerald, whose son's widow still resides there.

(4) *The Bigelow House*

Proceeding eastward on Route 124, or the "Third New Hampshire Turnpike" as it was originally called, for about a third of a mile, you will see on the left the Bigelow house. This Federal style white farmhouse was built in 1783 by Asa Carter. It now is owned by Charles Griswold.

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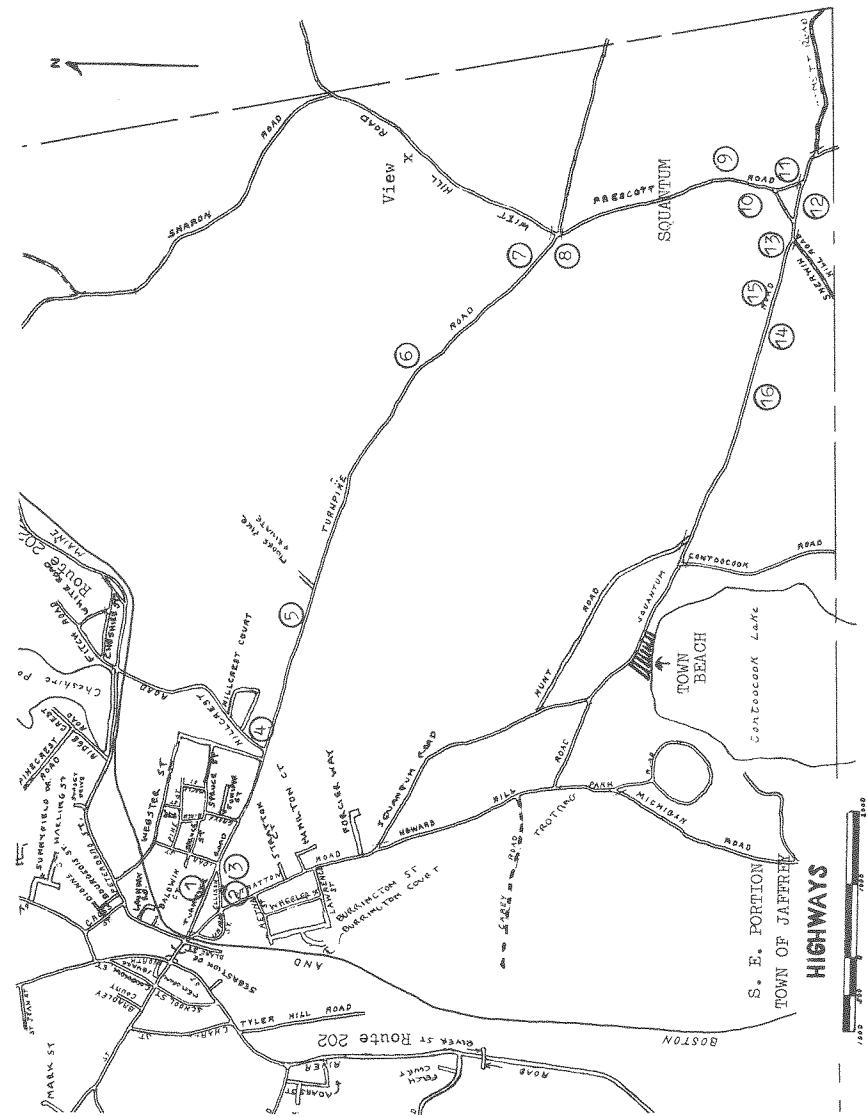
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(5) *The Bacon House*

Continuing further along the Turnpike, just across from Silver Ranch, you come to a typical Colonial type farm house, now owned by Roscoe Sawyer. It is called the Bacon house, after the man who owned it for some years, but it was built about 1779 by Arthur Taylor.



(6) *The Haywood-Sawyer House*

Some two miles from the center of town you will arrive at the Haywood farm house, now owned by Jason Sawyer, Roscoe's brother. It presents a perfect example of brick-end federal architecture, with the four chimneys built into the brick ends replacing the massive chimney with many flues in the middle of the house (central heating), which is typical of the older colonial style. This house was built in 1816 by Benjamin Haywood, the Squantum blacksmith, for his son's bride, Patty Sawyer. She kept it in the family.

(7) *The Eldad Prescott House*

About a quarter of a mile further along the Turnpike you comes to the Eldad Prescott house, built by him in 1853. It is a perfect example of Greek Revival architecture as developed in New Hampshire. It stands on the site of the first Prescott house, built by his father, Benjamin (Colonel) Prescott, in 1775 out of lumber sawed at the Squantum Mills and was the first two-story house in Jaffrey. Col. Prescott was a promoter and substantial stockholder of the Turnpike, built in 1802, a leading Baptist and dominant figure in the town for many years. The place became the summer home of Vannevar Bush, then president of M.I.T., and he was responsible for the migration of many M.I.T. people to the area. Now it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon L. Sheppard.

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(8) *School House No. 1*

Diagonally across the road stands a small white building, which was Dr. Bush's work shop but was originally District School No. 1. It was built in 1816 by Col. Prescott's son, Oliver (Major) Prescott, to replace an earlier building destroyed by fire. The present building served as the first meeting place for the Baptists and about 1870 a Mormon preached there. The separation of Church and State never was an issue with the Prescotts. The building also was the meeting place for the Lyceum conducted by Samuel Abbot in the 1830's, designed primarily to aid young people in preparation for the academies. The building now is owned by Perry Sawyer and used as a residence. The old Peterborough road formerly ran along the west side of the building but now, known as Prescott Road, turns off the Turnpike to the east of the building.

(9) *The Gould-Garfield House*

Now turn right on Prescott Road and go over Garfield Hill. On your left, as you descend, stands the Gould house. The property was purchased by Oliver Gould from Ebenezer Stratton Feb. 7, 1778. Ever since that date some descendant of Oliver Gould has lived on the property. One of the present owners, Miss Sarah Gould, acquired it from her cousins, the Garfields, in 1951 and sold a half interest to Miss Anita M Jones, the other present occupant. Oliver's son, Sewell, operated the Squantum Mill for many years and Sewell's daughter, Emily, married John Garfield in 1826. While the house undoubtedly is the oldest building in Squantum, it has been so remodeled and improved over the years that it is difficult to trace its original form.

(10) *Squantum Mill Site*

Just below house Number (9) is the Mill Pond and dam marking the site of the first mills in Squantum. They were a saw mill and grist mill constructed by the Rowley Canada settlers about 1743, but apparently abandoned by them when their land titles were declared void in 1754. In any event the mills were on the land when Jonathan Hopkinson acquired about 200 acres in 1761 from Robert Boyes, who derived title from a Masonian Proprietor. The mills were then

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<p>NONIE'S FOOD SHOP Bakery — Luncheonette <i>Home Baked Food</i></p> <p>924-3451 Peterborough, N.H.</p>	<p>J. Oren Belletete, Inc. CONTRACTOR</p> <p>SANITARY SYSTEMS</p> <p>532-6693</p> <p>Old Turnpike Rd., Jaffrey, N.H.</p>

operated by Hopkinson, who sold to John Eaton in 1774. Eaton introduced wood turning and when David Sherwin purchased the property in 1795 he added more mills and a "potash" lower down on the stream. John A. (Captain) Prescott, one of Benjamin's sons, bought the property in 1826 and greatly enlarged the whole operation.



(11) *The Annett Homestead*

Captain Prescott built the handsome white federal style house standing between the Mill Pond and the road, and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grodin. The foundations of Captain Sherwin's earlier house are clearly discernable in the cellar and the carriage shed probably remains from the earlier structure. Rufus Porter painted frescoes in the new house and they are still in an excellent state of preservation. He also painted the tap room walls in the Prescott Tavern on the Turnpike owned by brother Oliver, which unfortunately was torn down. Thomas Annett, founder of the Annett Lumber Co., acquired the house in 1858 and his descendants resided there until shortly after World War II.

(12) *The Mill Cottages*

When Captain Prescott was enlarging his mill in 1826, he built upon or moved to the opposite side of the triangle of roads facing his house six new houses for mill personnel. At least five of them still remain.

(13) *Other Mill Sites*

If you will now turn down the road, going down hill past the smaller houses just described, you will come to a small stone bridge over the Mill Stream. The old Starch Mill, operated by Samuel Abbot and financed by the Prescotts, was located upstream, about in the

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center of the present lumber yard. Downstream from the bridge was a second mill pond and dam comprising the so-called "lower privilege". Here was located the "Mutton Mill", originally a wool carding and fulling mill, begun by Bradstreet Baldwin in 1825 on the Hunt property and continued by the Hunts and John Maynard.

(14) *The Eldad Austin Prescott House*

The pink colonial farm house standing on the lefthand (southwesterly) side of the road was built by John Maynard around 1833 but is noted principally as having been the residence of Eldad Austin Prescott, deaf-mute son of Eldad and grandson of Colonel Benjamin. Eldad Austin married another deaf-mute in 1843 and moved in shortly thereafter. He changed the mill operation to a wood working plant, which became noted for its fine furniture and coffins. His first wife died and he married a second deaf-mute in 1855 and had, in all, eight children, four by each wife, and all were normal children. The house now is the property of Mrs. William F. Taylor.



(15) *The Nathan Hunt House*

Opposite Mrs. Taylor's home stands the old Hunt farm house and barn, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grummon. It was built by Nathaniel Hunt around 1790, when the road between the two houses was the main road to Boston and the most travelled artery in the area. Mr. Hunt ran a tavern in his home at least until 1802 when Colonel Prescott's new turnpike was opened. Thereafter he kept store and farmed. If this is not the oldest house in Squantum, it seems to be the least altered.

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(16) *The Burdoo House*

This last statement may be questioned, however, when the Sargent home is inspected. This is the small white colonial farm house and barn located two houses down from the Taylor pink house described above. The house was built in 1778 by Ebenezer Stratton and purchased by Moses Burdoo in 1779. While it appears unaltered, it was built across the road from the Gould house, but higher up on Garfield Hill. It was moved to its present location around 1840. The present owner is Mr. Elon G. Sargent.

You are now headed back toward the center of town. While there are other historic houses and sites between the Sargent house and town, it is not possible to view them from the road or, in the limitations of this article, to describe how they may be found. It is suggested that you continue on down the road but go left at the next fork and past the Jaffrey public beach, and so back to town. You will be rewarded by some excellent views of Lake Contoocook and Monadnock. The beach road is closed, however, after school ends the latter part of June. You might then backtrack the way you came but, if you feel adventurous and willing to drive a few more miles, take the dirt road off to the north just as you pass School House No. 1.

This is the old road to Peterborough. There is a real picture postcard view of Monadnock to be had from a bar-way located about where the "J. Jewett" house appears on the old maps. Then if you take the left fork at the bottom of the hill, you will arrive at Route 202. Turn left on 202 and you will return to the center of Jaffrey.

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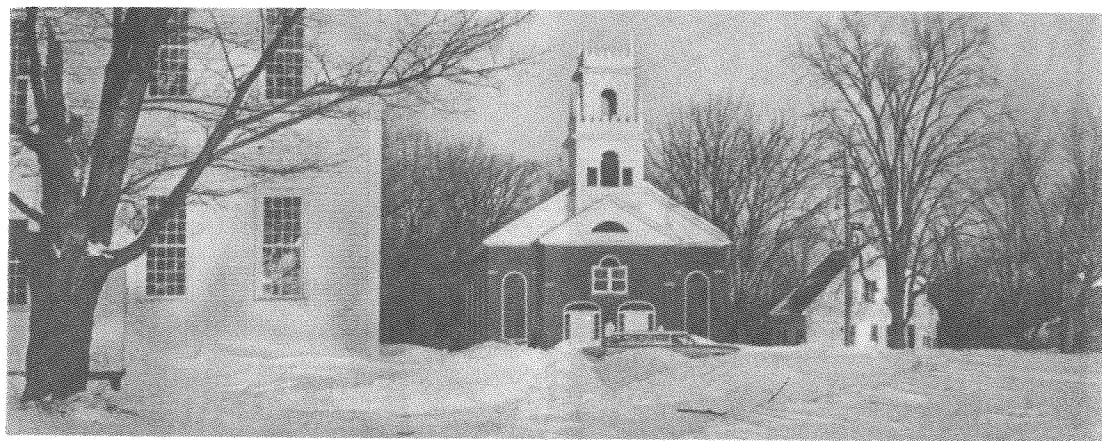
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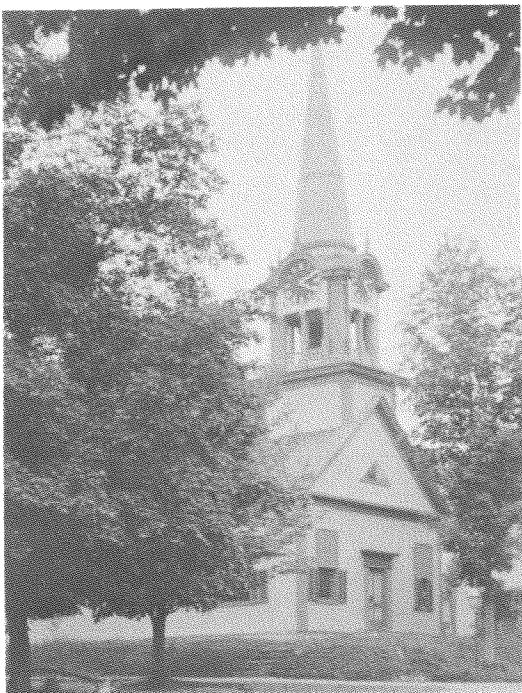
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1830 to 1968*



*The First Congregational Church
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*The Universalist Church
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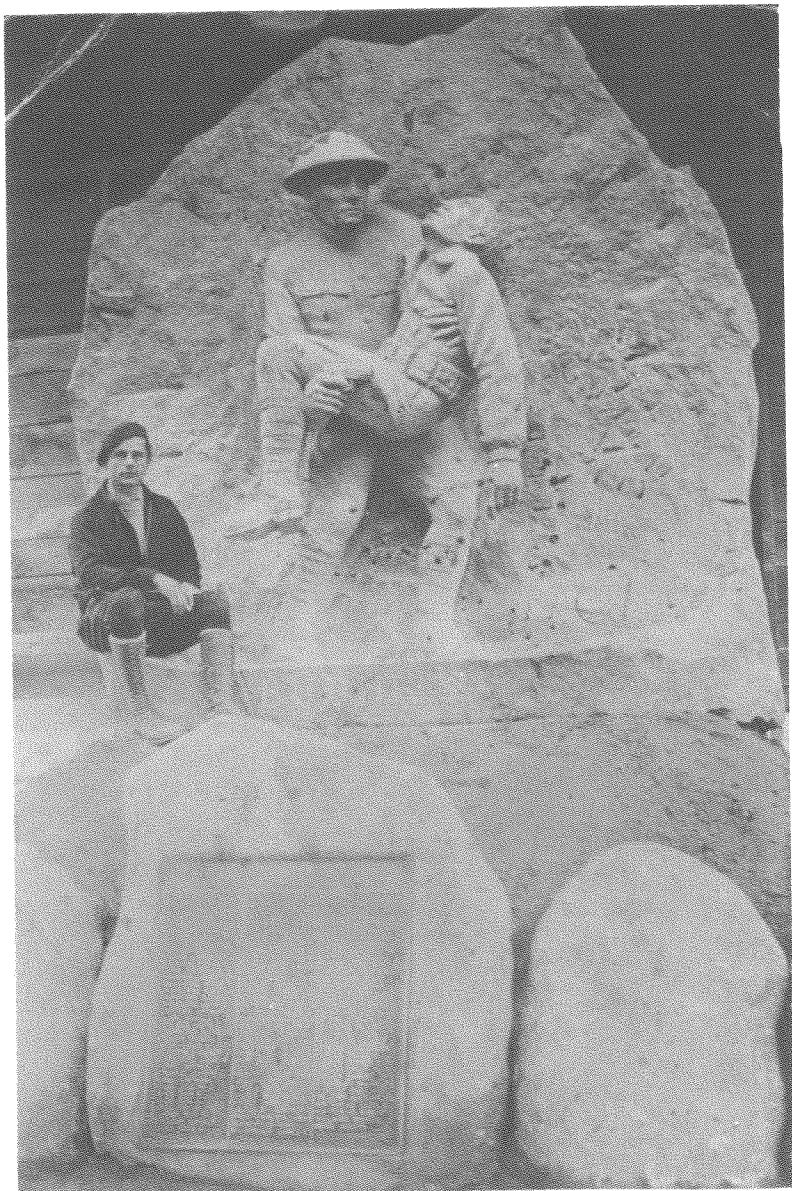
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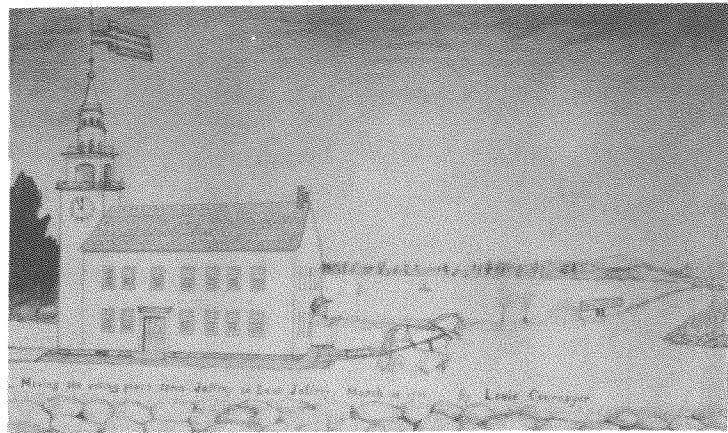
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MOVING THE VOTING PLACE



It required two Town Meetings to officially move the voting place from Jaffrey Center to East Jaffrey, with much debate and strong feelings. The cartoon, drawn by Louis Cournoyer, captures the might of this task. These excerpts from the Town Warrants and Town Meetings of 1913 and 1914 shed further light on the subject.

Town meeting Warrant March 11, 1913

Art. 14th. To see if the Town will vote to appoint a committee to investigate the erection of a new Town Hall in East Jaffrey and change the place of voting to East Jaffrey, or act in any way relating thereto.

As petitioned for by D.D. Bean and others.

Action

Art. 14. A motion was made by G.H. Duncan and seconded that a committee of three be chosen by acclamation to investigate the advisability and cost of building a town hall at East Jaffrey and changing the place of voting, and report to the next annual meeting and that such report be published in the next town report.

The motion was put and lost.

Town Meeting Warrant March 10, 1914

Art. 15 To see if the town will vote to change its voting place from Jaffrey to East Jaffrey, or act in any way relating thereto.

As petitioned for by Jean W. Towne and others.

Meeting

Art. 15 A motion was made and seconded that we take up Art. 15 at this time. The motion carried.

Under Article 15 it was moved and seconded to pass over the article. A standing vote was taken and lost.

Under Article 15 Louis Cournoyer made the following motion: Moved that we change the voting place to East Jaffrey in the future. The motion was seconded.

A standing vote was taken 104 voting in favor of the motion and 85 against it and the motion was carried.

JAFFREY BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM

<i>Steering Committee:</i>	Mr. Glenn Hunt, chairman Mr. Homer Belletete Mr. George Gordon, secretary Mrs. Patricia Sawtelle, treasurer
<i>Finance Committee:</i>	Mr. Gerald DeGrandpre, chairman Mr. Albert Morin
<i>Parade Committee:</i>	Mr. Arthur Faford, chairman Mr. Robert Bussiere Mr. Andrew Bussiere
<i>Promotions Committee:</i>	Mr. Randy Cournoyer, Jr.
<i>Business Committee:</i>	Mr. Philip LaBrie, chairman Mr. Thomas Duval
<i>Commemorative Booklet Committee:</i>	Dr. Charles Hamilton, chairman Mr. Donald Gordon Mrs. Warren Ruffle Mr. Albert Morin Mrs. Charles Royce Mr. Frederick Richardson
<i>Commemorative Coin Committee:</i>	Mrs. Nancy Moore, chairman Mrs. Roland Thoin Miss Suzanne Pierce Miss M. Catherine Richardson
<i>Traffic Committee:</i>	Chief Arthur Rivard, chairman
<i>Brothers of the Brush Committee:</i>	Mr. Robert Lawn, chairman Mr. Richard Pickford Mr. Walter Hautanen Mr. Clifford Goulet Mr. Robert Oja
<i>Bicentennial Project Committee:</i>	Mr. Bayard Sawyer, chairman Mr. Vernon Bean Mrs. Anne Gordon Mrs. Marion Johnson Mr. Francis Lafreniere Mr. Robert Pettegrew Mr. Donald Proctor Mr. Francis Quinlan Mrs. Irma Royce Mr. Richard Sawyer

EARLY WINTER SPORTS



*An early six-horse snow vehicle,
driven by Percy Cutter and Walter Lawrence*



This formidable crew posed with their equipment prior to Ice Harvesting, a cold winter's job that with plenty of sawdust, made many things pleasantly cool in summer.

THIS AND THAT



In the early Thirties the Jaffrey Outing Club did a thriving business on Cheshire Pond.

*Boating too, was a popular pastime
on the Contoocook River in the 1920's*



Front Boat: Napoleon Paul, Pierre L'Ecuyer, Louis Cournoyer.

Back Boat: August Bernier, Joseph Hamel, John Baptist Guillaume, Marcel L'Etoile.



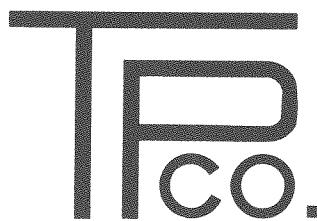
*Guess who?
Alfred Christian and Sam LaFreniere in an earlier day.*

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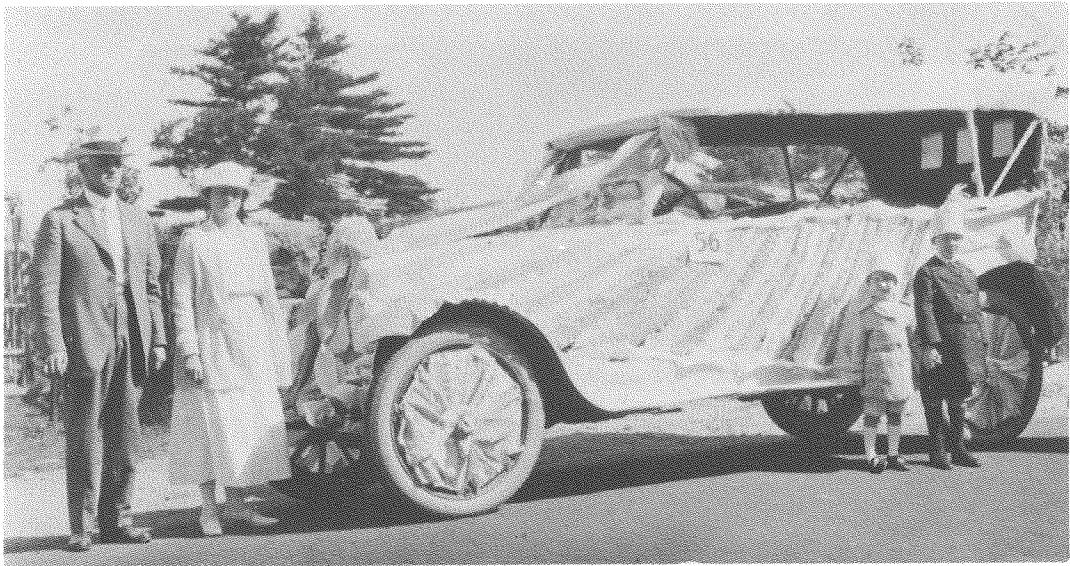
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*Mr. & Mrs. William Leighton
at the Sesquicentennial*



*Derostus P. Emory and his horse
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Jaffrey Fire Department — Mid 1930's

First row: Joseph LaPlante, "Bobby" Rich, Philip Tremblay, Joseph Bibeau, George Hart, Cheif Sam LaFreniere, Ed Shield, "Phobe" Letourneau, Sam Blanchette, Albert "Shorty" Lambert, Louis Tremblay, William Devlin. *Back Row:* Ed Emery, Fred Forcier, Oscar Dillon, Joe Lamere, Al LaMothe, Homer Goulet, Pete Taylor, Eugene Pelkey, Gus Cauouette, Joe Parrott, Jack Sebastian, Rod Derby, Windsor Priest.

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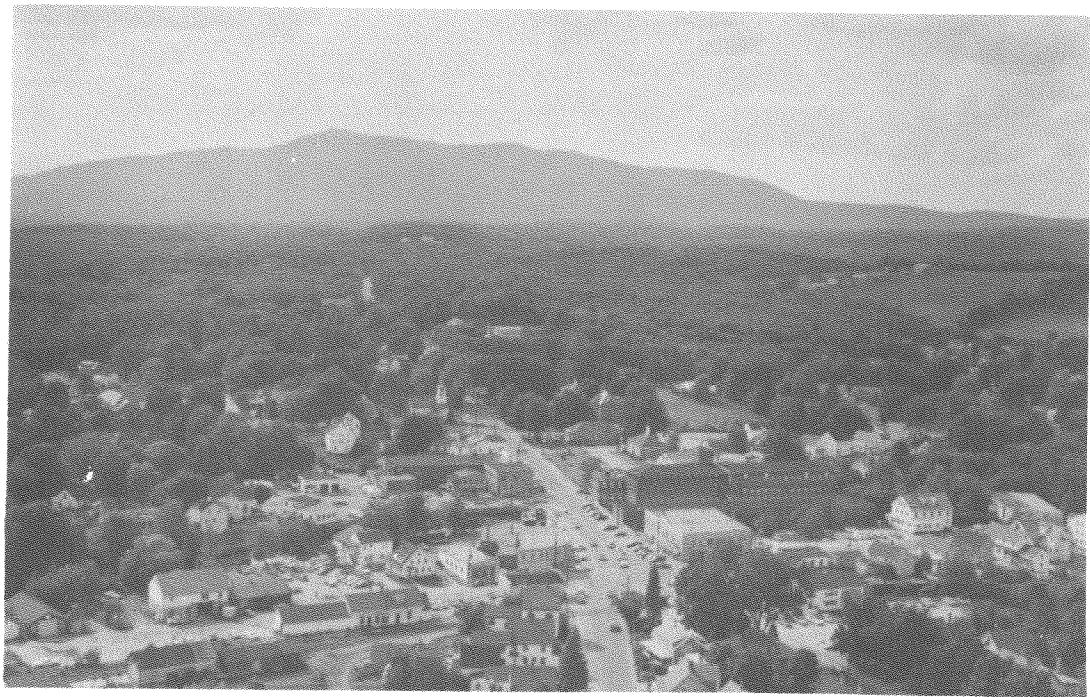


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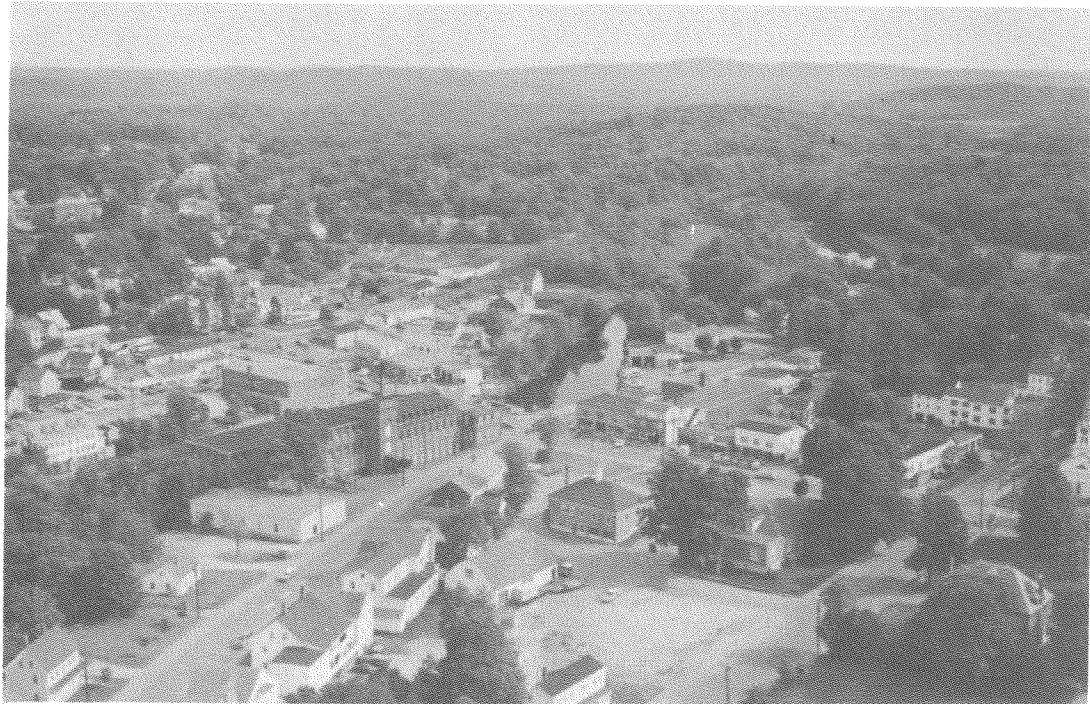
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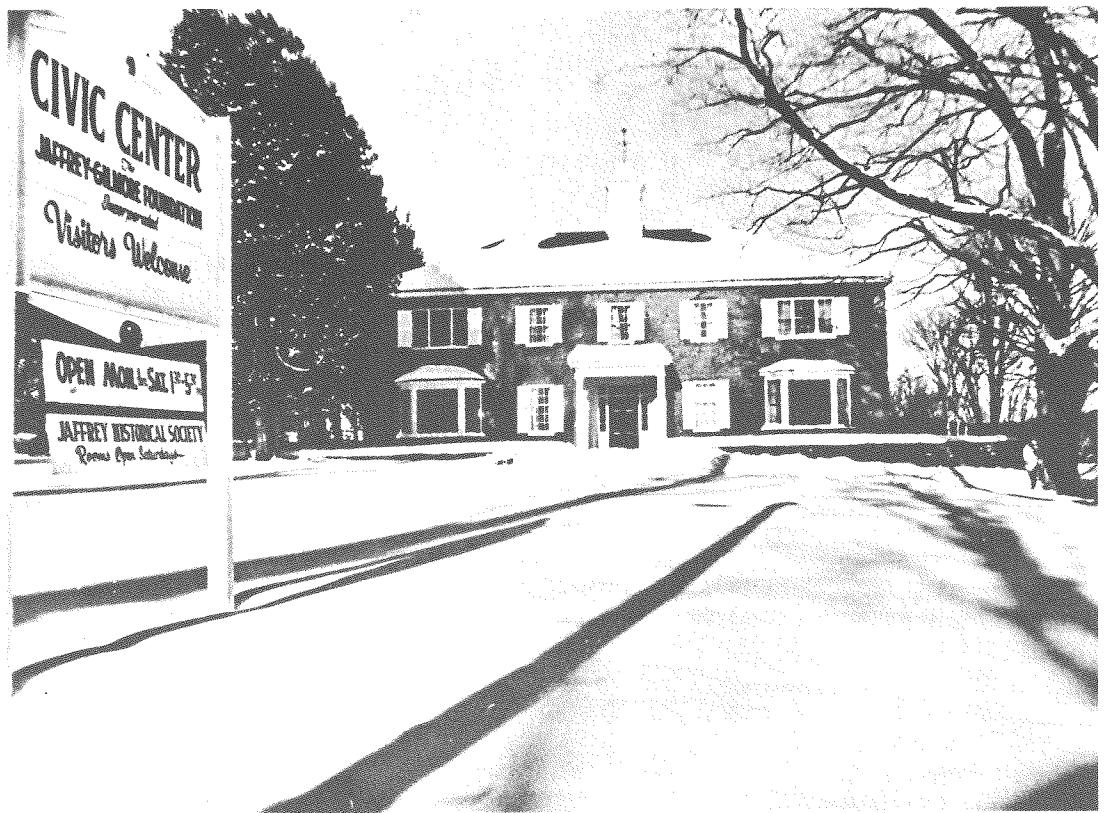
Facing North



Today's Main Street, Facing South



Today's Main Street, Facing South





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Best Wishes to the Town of Jaffrey

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The Amos Fortune Forum was organized to take advantage of the fact that the Monadnock region contains many widely known speakers on subjects of public interest and importance. It was felt that most of them would welcome the opportunity to cooperate in this Forum, each speaking on whatever subject he himself considered most interesting and timely. Thus this small community might make a substantial contribution to the intellectual and cultural life of our nation. Whatever helps people to distinguish between that which is first-rate and that which is inferior, that which is important and that which does not matter, that which is profound and that which is only obscure, that which is true and that which is mere pretense, contributes to the ultimate goodness of any nation. These discussions of current problems carry on in important ways the discussions held almost two centuries ago in this same Meeting House, when the foundations of our republic were being established by men who fought for freedom and for human dignity. The prompt and generous response of the individuals to whom an invitation has thus far been tendered to participate in the Forum bespeaks a similar spirit.



JAFFREY LIONS CLUB

Back row: George Sirois, Leon Jackson, Phil Tremblay, Jack Pobak, Ken Ryan. *Third Row:* Roland Thoin, Charles Bacon, Al Niemela, Ted Shea, Clayton Crane, Wheeler Mirriam, Dave Lawn, Bill West, Steve Gilbert, Elmer Oesterlin, Sam Hackler. *Second Row:* Wm. Devlin Jr., Glenn Hunt, Jim Butler, Ronald Christian, Stan Wilson, Dick Pickford, Dr. Hal Goodman, Fred Butler, Dr. Robert McCready, Julie Mei, Ray Moore. *Front Row:* Frank Clark, Frances LaFreniere, Bob Bussiere, Harry Lang, George Disbong, Bernard Hampsey, Bruce Edwards.

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