

was known as the Wesselhoeft Farm. Thomas, as many others of his day, combined the trade of shoemaking with his farming. And he had a gift for music, spending much of his time playing the fiddle. That trait was passed down through his family which eventually numbered nine children, five boys and four girls. But Thomas's fiddling, both town histories relate, created a problem; he was not being a good provider for his growing family. He did change his ways but often said that people did not like the plowman as well as they did the fiddler. Two of the girls married into Jaffrey families, two remained unmarried. Three of the boys stayed in Jaffrey and raised families of their own, Luke fathering 13. Along with his father and brother Cummings, Thomas was among the original members and strong supporters of the Baptist Church in Jaffrey. **Grave 77** 🍀

10 CHARLES G. GILLMORE (1802-1838) of Scotch descent was the fifteenth child of Capt. Roger Gillmore. Capt. Gillmore came to Jaffrey at an early date and became one of the most prominent men among the early settlers. Roger settled on Lot 13, Range 6 (later the home of Lucia Cutter, 1931). Previous to the erection of the Meeting-house in 1775, most town meetings were held in his house. Capt. Gillmore held nearly every important office in the town. When the town was organized, he was chosen as auditor of accounts and tythingman. He served as selectman, constable, moderator and town clerk. In 1791, he was chosen as a delegate to the constitutional convention, and he was the first state-appointed justice of the peace in town. He was also a lieutenant and captain of the first military organization of the town. He served in the Revolution in which he was captain of a company of Jaffrey men. He married Molly Blodgett in 1779. Their son Charles G. Gillmore is buried here. Charles married Pamela Cutter (1803-1866). They lived in East Jaffrey until his death in 1838. Pamela was widowed at the age of 35 and had three small children. Fourteen years later she married Deacon Sanderson. Pamela is buried with the deacon. **Grave 97** 🍀

11 ARTEMAS LAW (1802-1836) Artemas Law was the first with that family name to come to Jaffrey, coming from Sharon about 1825. The burials in the nearby Law graves are descended from him. He was the twelfth of thirteen children, all born in Sharon, Artemas on August 14, 1802. About four years after his arrival he married Sarah Cutter from one of the several Cutter families. Of interest is that for a time he owned the property at the corner of Main and River Streets which included a house and one or more out-buildings where businesses were operating. These, with the exception of a blacksmith shop, were sold by Artemas. (Eighty years later all was removed and the present building known as the Duncan Block was erected.) Artemus's son George was proprietor of an apothecary shop at the east end of the bridge by this property—later operated by his brother Charles—and eventually moved to Cross Street, the lot later becoming a filling station and even later by the building now housing the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce. Though Artemas was not responsible for these many changes it is interesting to know that at one time he was owner of this busy location. He died November 12, 1836 and wife Sarah on July 2, 1887. Artemas was 34, Sarah 85. Two grandchildren are buried nearby. **Grave 62** 🍀

12 JOHN BYAM (1761-1835) born in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. He came to Jaffrey in 1796 and bought the northwest part of Lot 17, Range 8. This purchase extended from the former Baptist Common to the Contoocook River. The house on the Baptist Common was later owned by John Towne and was known as the Towne house for many years. John Byam was a farmer and manufacturer of cordage, and also served as highway surveyor. He served in the Revolutionary War from Chelmsford, Massachusetts, as a drummer in Capt. John Minot's Co., Col. Dike's Regt. From December 1776 to March 1777. He was in Capt. John Moore's Co., Col. Jonathan Reed's (first) regiment of guards, from April 2 to July 3, 1778, guarding troops of convention at Cambridge. He married Sarah Haywood (1764-1866) and had six children. John died in 1835, at the age of 73. Sarah lived to be 102 years, 2 months, 9 days, having at the time of her death, six daughters, thirty-eight grandchildren, ninety great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. John and Sarah are buried here. **Grave 42** 🍀

The Village Cemetery is located off of Turnpike Road (Rt. 124) just east of Oak Street in downtown Jaffrey. Look for the Hearse House and the white gate. Parking is best on Turnpike Road or Ellison or Oak Streets.

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

The following people researched and composed this Walking Tour, acted as Guides for those attending, or otherwise assisted: Richard Boutwell, Helen Coll, Bruce Hill, Cathy Proulx and Robert Stephenson.

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JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY · JAFFREY CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Village Cemetery Walking Tour

SUNDAY · JUNE 23, 2019 · 2-3:30 PM



About the Village (Baptist) Cemetery

“CONTRARY to the course of Empire, the town of Jaffrey grew from west to east, and as early as 1829 the thriving Factory Village (now East Jaffrey) found it too far to go to the old churchyard at Jaffrey Center to bury the increasing number of its dead, and as there was already a shortage of room at the old graveyard the town acquired on October 24, 1829, of Oliver Bacon, a tract of land on the outskirts of the village, north of the Turnpike and so near the Baptist Meeting-house, then building, that it was sometimes called the Baptist graveyard. Two years later, December 30, 1831, the town paid Thomas Davidson \$79.65 for building sixty-five rods of ‘stone wall around the burying yard near the Baptist meeting house.’ The village yard was beautiful for situation, and for a time it was more used than the old yard at the center of the town. Again the increasing population of the field of the dead set an even pace with the growth of the town.”

—From *Volume I of the Town History*.

THE LAST INTERMENT at the Village Cemetery was in 1935 so its time as an active Jaffrey cemetery was just over 100 years. Although it's right there on Turnpkke Road in downtown Jaffrey, many people pass it by every day without ever noticing it's there, tucked behind the trees. Stop sometime and pass through the gate and view Jaffrey history.

Perhaps its most distinguishing characteristic is its surviving Hearse House beside the entrance gate. Inside resides the antique sleigh or winter hearse. (The wheeled hearse is in storage in Squantum.) 🍀

1 ANDREW LINDSAY (1830-1917) came to America from Paisley, Scotland in 1849 with his father and two brothers. They settled in New Ipswich before Andrew moved to Jaffrey in 1857. He served in the Civil War Co. F in 1862-63. In 1880, along with his son Walter (*b.1856*) purchased the Jacob Baldwin farm, Lot #18, Range 5. Ten years later he sold it back to a descendent of Jacob Baldwin. Andrew married Janet Murray, of Scotland, born in 1832. For a number of years, their son, Walter, served as janitor of the village schools and Union Hall in East Jaffrey. Walter, successor to William O. Howard, was the East Jaffrey lamplighter. He made daily rounds with a short ladder and a can of kerosene, to trim and replenish a line of lamps on the main streets. Two of Andrew and Janet's children married siblings of the Parker family of Jaffrey. Here lie the children and grandchildren of Andrew and Janet Lindsay. **Grave 209** 🪦

2 JACOB NEWELL (1760-1834) was born in Scituate, Massachusetts. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary War and served a short enlistment of 28 days. He was a private in Capt. William Barker's Co. He came to Jaffrey during the war and was generally known as Sailor Newell. Following this service, he led for many years a seafaring life. He was taken prisoner in The War of 1812 and was confined in a British prison. He married Keziah Powers and they had ten children, all of whom lived to adulthood. His son, Jacob (1823-1863) served in the Civil War, Co. F. He died in Baton Rouge of disease. Here lies Jacob and his wife Keziah, along with the many sons and daughters of both Jacobs. **Grave 203** 🪦

3 DEACON JOHN SANDERSON (1792-1875) was born in Gardner, Massachusetts, February 14, 1792. He came to Jaffrey in 1831 and was a resident in East Jaffrey Village for over forty years; where he was employed in the mills. In 1841 he bought a dwelling house and lot on the north side of the Dublin Road—now North Street—from Jonathan Ward. He was Deacon of the Baptist Church in Jaffrey. He married Sophia, who died April 8, 1853, at the age of 61 years. In September of the same year, he married Pamela Cutter, the widow of Charles G. Gilmore. After her death he married Lydia Fletcher in 1867 of Westmoreland. John died in 1875, at the age of 83. He is buried here with his three wives. **Grave 196** 🪦

4 JOHN TOWNE (1792-1868) William Towne, the emigrant ancestor, was born in England. Later in 1640, William and his wife Joanna were living in Lynn, Massachusetts. They had seven children. Their daughter Rebecca Towne Nurse, of Salem, Massachusetts, a woman said to be of the finest character and a member of the church, was in her old age accused of witchcraft. After three trials, she was condemned and executed on July 19, 1692. The Towne family had also lived in Topsfield, Massachusetts, the early residence of many Jaffrey families. Generations later, Jeremiah moved to Rindge and settled near the Jaffrey line. Two generations later, John Towne (1792-1868) moved to Jaffrey about 1833 and bought the place on the road from East Jaffrey Village to Jaffrey Center, which remained in the family for many years. He is said to have been the first carpenter in the vicinity to frame by square root instead of by the old scribe rule. He married Polly Stratton (1795-1884) in 1814. They had eight children. The Towne House, on Ellison Street, originally built by John Byam, was the homestead for many years for the Towne family. Both John and Polly are buried here. **Graves 139-40** 🪦

5 THE GARFIELD FAMILY of Jaffrey are an old English family whose lineage may be traced for several generations beyond the sea. The immigrant ancestor of the American families was Edward Garfield of Watertown, Massachusetts, born in 1575. He was admitted freeman in 1635. Several generations later, Abraham Garfield (1779-1865) son of a Revolutionary War soldier was born in Marlborough, New Hampshire, and later lived in Troy before moving to Jaffrey to live out his life with his son John. John came to Jaffrey for work at age 16. Years later he moved to the Gould farm at Squantum Village where he lived for the rest of his life, dying at age 96. He inherited the great strength and physical proportions of his ancestors and came within a year of equaling the record set for longevity established by his ancestor Edward Garfield, who died at age 97 in 1672. John was a thrifty farmer, faithful member of the Baptist Church, a good neighbor and citizen. Buried here is Andrew, and his son Abraham, a woodenware dealer who died at age 27. **Graves 137-38** 🪦

6 DAVID LACY (1796-1870) was of Norman origin, his ancestors coming from Normandy to England to Northern Ireland and thence to the Andover area of Massachusetts. Two of David's ancestors were brought before judges on charges of witchcraft, to which, under pressure, they confessed and they were sentenced to be hanged. One died in prison of ill treatment and exposure. The other confessed and was later pardoned by the General Court. David's great grandfather, Ephraim, was a soldier in the Revolution and a comrade of

James Stevens at the siege of Boston. He also served in the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Lacys came to Jaffrey soon after the Revolutionary War. The family homestead is near the Rindge Road, close to the outlet of Contoocook Lake. David married Phebe Melvin and they had four children. Buried here are their two sons: J. M. Melville (1831-1883) and his wife, Mary Tarbox, and Joseph S. Lacy (1842-1862), a member of the 6th Regt. Co. F, N.H. Vols. He died in service in Yorktown, Virginia. He was 20 years old. **Grave 112** 🪦

7 BETSY WESTON DURANT (1777-1856) came to Jaffrey around 1838, possibly because her daughter Susan had married Daniel Adams 2nd of Jaffrey in March of that year. Betsy moved from Mont Vernon as a widow with five children. Before her own death four of her children died; Hannah at 28, Benjamin at 29, Horace at 32 and Levi at 43. All were unmarried. Tuberculosis may have been the cause. Daughter Susan bore three grandchildren for Betsy to enjoy, two moving from town before growing to adulthood. On March 23, 1840 Betsy bought a house facing the common in the growing village of East Jaffrey that remained in the family until 1915.

Not long after the move from Mont Vernon, Luther, the fifth-born son, arrived to live with the family. He built a tailor shop next door on the site where in 1914 the building known as the Duncan Block was erected. Luther married Maria Elvina Jewett of Jaffrey and a grandchild was born. Betsy did not live to see the child who came into the world ten days after she died. That child, Jule Clinton Durant, grew to become Jaffrey's greatest benefactor. His home was the site where the new Park Theater is now rising. **Grave 88** 🪦

8 CHARLES HANSCOM (1801-1882) Charles Hanscom arrived in Jaffrey in 1842 from Charlestown, Massachusetts, at about 40 years of age. His reason for coming to Jaffrey is unknown. With him came his wife, Abigail and two children, Theodore, about 10 and Adelaide around 13. Two years after the family's coming to Jaffrey, Adelaide died, followed by her mother five years later. Charles remarried, the new bride named Rebekah; sadly she died eleven years before him. All three women are buried here. Through it all, for about forty years, Charles became a well known and respected citizen, owning and operating a wheelwright shop by the river near the bottom of Cross Street. Theodore, the remaining son later ran it as a paint shop until it burned in the great fire of 1868. He married Hannah P. Towne who for many years was a dressmaker in East Jaffrey. Theodore served in the Civil War, becoming a Captain. Charles for some years owned and lived in the Hanscom House on the Village Square. Around 1932 it was removed and the present day building houses three businesses, the larger space occupied by Sunflowers Restaurant. Charles died in 1882 at the age of 81. **Grave 84** 🪦

9 THOMAS FRENCH (1765-1869) was born in Billerica, Massachusetts, on December 6, 1765 and at some point moved to Dunstable where his grandfather lived. It was from there in 1783 that Thomas, at 18, moved to Jaffrey with his father. The town had its new meetinghouse but there was not much else. A year later he was a member of the Training Band, the local militia organization. When about 22 he and a friend bought land south of Thorndike Pond with money he borrowed from his mother, it seems. Years later that land

