

John Cutter

1765 – 1835

1. JOHN⁵ CUTTER (Nathaniel⁴, John³, Nathaniel², Richard¹), b. Woburn, Mar. 16, 1765; m. Abigail, dau. of John and Rebecca (Corneille) Demary of Rindge. In 1789, soon after his marriage, he came to Jaffrey and succeeded Samuel Foster as tanner in Jaffrey Center Village. He was a man of singular energy and soon built up a prosperous business which was continued for many years. He built the substantial house at present (1928) owned by Laurence W. Wetherell, described in a road survey of 1804 as "John Cutter's New House." His tannery was at the foot of the hill, near the fork of the roads leading to East Jaffrey and to the Cutter homestead on the hill, at present occupied by Miss Lucia B. Cutter. He was one of the founders and principal supporters of the Universalist Church in East Jaffrey, and he gave the land for the Cutter Cemetery and tomb a short distance east of his residence on the Cutter Hill road. It is said that he was the first person in Jaffrey to keep his accounts in dollars and cents, or United States money. His wife Abigail is described in Cutter's History of Jaffrey as "one of the excellent of the earth; her whole life, long and useful, was characterized by strict integrity, virtuous principle, and a Christian walk. She retained her physical and mental faculties in a remarkable degree up to the close of her earthly pilgrimage; patient, trustful, and hopeful, she met her death with calmness. She was the mother of twelve children, and had fifty grandchildren and a large number of great grandchildren." She d. Mar. 4, 1866, a. 97. He d. Sept. 14, 1835. Children:

- 2 I. JOHN⁵, b. Rindge, Oct. 31, 1788. (Forward.)
- 3 II. JONAS⁶, b. Jaffrey, Mar. 6, 1791; was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1811; d. in Savannah, Ga., Oct. 7, 1820.
- 4 III. BENJAMIN⁶, b. Jan. 8, 1793. (Forward.)
- 5 IV. ETHAN⁶, b. Apr. 11, 1795. (Forward.)
- 6 V. ERMINA⁶, b. Feb. 14, 1797; m. Sept. 7, 1819, Levi Underwood of Watertown, N. Y. Shed. Goshen, Oct. 17, 1821.
- 7 VI. CYRUS⁶, b. May 17, 1798; m. (1) Aug. 30, 1820, Eliza Jackson Chapman of Jaffrey, who d. Orford, N. H., Jan. 12, 1842, a. 40. He m. (2) Mary Lucretia Abbot of Thetford, Vt. He d. July 7, 1853, in Orford, N. H. Nine children.
- 8 VII. NATHANIEL⁶, b. Mar. 2, 1800. (Forward.)
- 9 VIII. ESTHER⁶, b. Nov. 3, 1801; m. Laban Rice. (See Rice.)
- 10 IX. HEPSY⁶, b. Dec. 24, 1803; m. June 30, 1825, John Holmes. (See Holmes.)
- 11 X. EMELINE⁶, b. Sept. 16, 1806; m. July 21, 1829, Hiram Duncan, q. v.
- 12 XI. PAULINA⁶, b. Aug. 2, 1808; m. Feb. 18, 1835, Hiram Spofford, cotton manufacturer, b. Weathersfield, Vt., Nov. 3, 1801; d. Springfield, Vt., July 16, 1846. Two children.
- 13 XII. ABIGAIL⁶, b. Mar. 20, 1810; d. Feb. 7, 1849, unm.

—Source. Jaffrey Town History, Vol. II, Genealogy. 1934

41. WETHERELL HOUSE

This largest house in the village was built by John Cutter (1765-1835) in 1790, the year after he arrived in Jaffrey Center, where he succeeded Samuel Foster as a tanner and leather merchant. His business prospered. In due course he constructed three more buildings: The Hanson house across the road for employees, the "Currier Shop" below the house (Gourd residence), and the brick house across the road for Benjamin, his son and heir to the tannery business.

The *History* notes that John Cutter was the first person in Jaffrey who kept his accounts in dollars and cents, or United States money. The life of his wife, Abigail, who bore him twelve children, is said to have been characterized by "virtuous principle, and a Christian walk."

The property descended to Cutter's daughter, Esther, and her husband, Laban Rice (1801-73), who enlarged the house and took in summer visitors. It was named the "Central House." mother, Dorcas, on her 103rd birthday gave a memorable party in the house, with a banquet and dancing. After Laban's death in 1873 the property was managed by the sons, Jonas C. and George L. Rice, and by James H. Drugg. In 1887 it was sold to Mortimer Cutter, who in turn sold to Dr. C. P. Lyman (1894). Lyman discontinued the summer visitor business.

In 1903-04 the Rice place was purchased by Miss Annie P. Henschman. She sold the house and adjoining land to Mr. Lawrence Wetherell in 1917-18. After the death of Mrs. Lawrence Wetherell in January 1974 the property was acquired from the Wetherell Estate by Mr. Charles Hearsey. It was purchased by Mr. John Peterson in 1975.

—*Source*. Jaffrey Center New Hampshire; Portrait of a Village. 1976

Rice's Hotel, Harkness Road at Main Street. John Cutter, who was the first of many generations of Jaffrey Cutters, built this Georgian-style house in 1790. Its commodious size reflected his success as a tanner and leather merchant. He was a founder of the Universalist Church and donated the land for the Cutter Cemetery that adjoins the property along Harkness Road. His daughter, Esther, married Laban Rice who enlarged the house in order to accommodate summer visitors. For a time it was also operated as the Central House. Ca. 1880.

When sold to C. P. Lyman in 1894, the use of the house for summer boarders was discontinued, although apparently it was reestablished for a time as a temporary Shattuck Inn following the fire that destroyed the Inn in 1909. During this brief period it was appropriately called the Shattuck House. The grounds have been formalized a bit from the time of the earlier photograph, but the only change to the building itself appears to be the addition of a Palladian window near where the ell meets the main house. In time the structure was converted back again to a private

residence and in the process much of the back ell was removed. A second floor window was added to the gable end and the porch was stripped from the front of the house and replaced in part by a Colonial Revival entranceway, a fashionable feature locally. Ca. 1910s.

—Source. Jaffrey Then & Now. 1994



