

## CHAPTER XXX

### DEVELOPMENT OF JAFFREY AS A RECREATIONAL CENTER

#### SUMMER BUSINESS

I like this place and willingly could waste my time in it.

SHAKESPEARE.

Such were the sentiments of Celia when viewing the Forest of Arden as portrayed by the immortal Bard of Avon in "As You Like It"; and such have been the thoughts of the thousands of visitors who have been attracted to Jaffrey by its Monadnock Mountain, its tree-clad hills, its crystal lakes, its sparkling brooks, and its shady roads. And a goodly proportion of those who have come once to taste those pleasures have returned year after year not only to "waste time," in the words of Celia, but to renew strength and vigor of body and soul by breathing the pure air, tramping over the hills, resting in the cool woods, and bathing in the shining lakes.

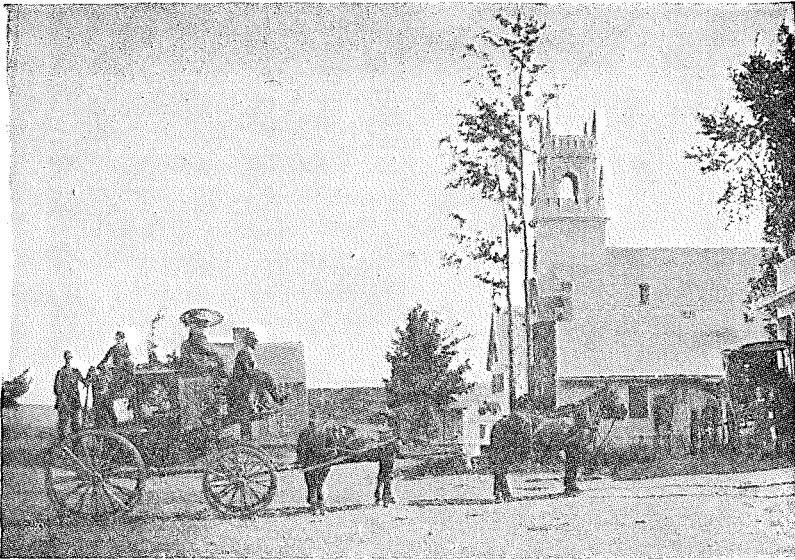
Neither history nor tradition tell of the beginning of Jaffrey as a pleasure resort, but more than one hundred years ago the town found it necessary to license places of refreshment for mountain visitors (see The Grand Monadnock), as appears from John Fife's advertisement in the New Hampshire *Sentinel* of August 6, 1824:

The subscriber will be ready to wait on who shall visit Monadnock this season after Tuesday next at the brook about one-half hour's walk southeast of the pinnacle where he is erecting a sufficient building as shelter from the sun, rain or the chills of night. Tea and coffee, with suitable meats and drinks will be provided. Horses may be left at his house on the turnpike. Spirituous liquors may at all times be had at either place.

John Fife.

The taverns along the Third New Hampshire Turnpike were similarly licensed even earlier. Of the early taverns along this thoroughfare from Boston to Canada was the old Danforth Tavern, built in 1792, afterwards owned by Asa Brigham, bordering on the Jaffrey Center Common (see Asa Brigham biography), which catered to a lively traffic in the staging days. After his disastrous fire in 1816, Brigham rebuilt, bigger and better than before, a commodious brick structure on the site of the old wooden tavern. But the struggle proved too great a burden and in 1820 he relinquished the property to mortgagees in Boston. Soon after that date it became the tavern

of Ethan Cutter, who was denominated an "innholder" as early as 1826. After Cutter's acquisition began a long occupancy of the place as a hotel for summer boarders, ending only when the buildings were again destroyed by fire on November 14, 1901 (see Fires). Thereafter the business was continued on another site, a few rods west of the former stand, where, as "The Cutter House," it was carried on until the buildings were burned in 1922. Thus under successive ownerships by Jacob Danforth, Asa Brigham, Ethan Cutter, his son



*Courtesy of R. I. Baldwin*

STAGE COACH AND FOUR, AARON PERKINS, DRIVER

Jonas Cutter, and the latter's son, Mortimer Cutter, it saw the transition from the early staging days to modern means of travel, over a period of one hundred and thirty years, the longest in the town. It was conveniently located on the road from Vermont and southern New Hampshire to Boston, and in the early staging days was an important stopping place for the Keene and Boston stages for breakfast and change of horses.

To Ethan Cutter belongs the credit of being probably the first in Jaffrey to see the possibilities in the business of taking summer boarders, and under his management "Cutter's Hotel" won a far-reaching fame, becoming one of the best known of the taverns in the vicinity until comparatively recent times. It was successfully managed by

three generations of the Cutter family. Situated in the center of the town, facing the Common with its historic old Meeting-house and Monadnock Mountain beyond with its magnificent interval of scenic landscape, it is natural that the old Cutter Hotel should become the pioneer of the summer hotel business which now has spread to all parts of the town.

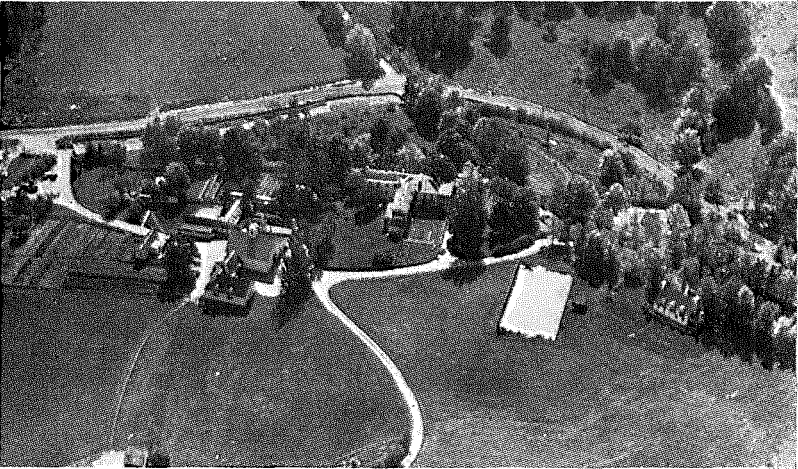
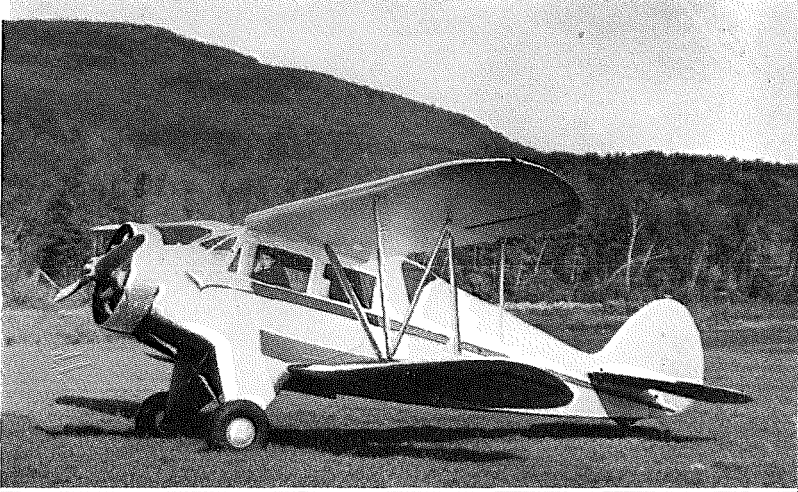
A definite move to provide for the entertainment of visitors in search of recreation seems to have been in 1823, when Tilly Whitcomb of Boston purchased the Millikin Tavern. While no direct



CUTTER HOTEL

*Courtesy of R. I. Baldwin*

evidence of his intentions has been found, it is fair to assume that his purpose was for recreational development, since he had been one of the proprietors of Concert Hall at the corner of Hanover and Court Streets, a coffee house which was one of the city's best known places of public entertainment. Since the Millikin Tavern was situated near the highest point on the Third New Hampshire Turnpike, the direct road from Boston to Keene and Vermont, it was a logical place for such a development. However, Whitcomb died suddenly in the spring following purchase, and the Tavern thereafter was not used for public entertainment except for a short time in the 1880's by John B. Proctor. After passing through various hands, it was purchased as a summer residence in 1905 by Pope Yeatman



CHISLEHURST

of Philadelphia, one of the world's best-known copper mining experts. Re-named Chislehurst, in the years since 1905 the Yeatmans have shown active interest in developing that section of the town, adding to their holdings and maintaining a well-appointed farm. Miss Georgina Pope Yeatman, now Director of City Architecture and Philadelphia's first woman cabinet member, is an enthusiastic aviator and recently has constructed the town's first aviation landing-field.

While from earliest times there were numerous taverns in town, for the most part they were for the accommodation of travelers rather than for those in search of recreation. (See Roads and Taverns.) But, as indicated by John Fife's advertisement, Monadnock was early an attraction for sight-seers, and various services were there offered from time to time, as described by Allan Chamberlain in his "Annals of the Grand Monadnock." In 1860 Moses Cudworth of Rindge erected a barn near the present site of the Half Way House, where he did a flourishing business in caring for the horses of those driving over the road already built. George D. Rice announced the opening, on June 4, 1866, of a three and one-half story hotel at the same point, at which Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Ellery Channing, Moorfield Story and other notables of that time were guests during the first year.\* But as the proprietor was leaving the premises on October 11, 1866, after closing the house for the season, he looked back only to see his house in flames.

The following year the house was rebuilt on a small scale, and in 1868 was sold to P. S. & S. Bacheller and Charles Newton of Fitzwilliam. They immediately built a two and one-half story building, which stands as part of the present Half Way House, with additions made in 1874 and 1885. The property remained in possession of the Bachellers and their heirs until 1927, when it was sold to the present proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Axel Exel of Quincy, Massachusetts, formerly of Fitzwilliam.

With the opening of the Monadnock Railroad in the late months of 1871, active interest in the vicinity as a resort seems to have been aroused. The *Peterborough Transcript* of July 11, 1872, gave the following news:

Wednesday evening (July 3) witnessed a large influx of people in search of the comfortable and picturesque who showed a laudable taste in selecting such places as Cutter's, Rice's, Burton's, and Wheeler's for their summer sojourn.

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\*It is interesting to note that descendants of the great Emerson still maintain summer homes near the turnpike at the ridge of the mountain.

"Cutter's" was the hotel of Ethan Cutter and his son, Jonas, already mentioned, an imposing three-story structure, with an addition constructed in 1869, facing the Village Common and Monadnock Mountain at Jaffrey Center, filling, with its barns, the triangle, now a beautiful lawn, formed by the turnpike, the road leading from the watering-tub to the Town House and the road leading from South Hill northerly past the church. For many summers thereafter it was filled to overflowing until its complete destruction by fire on November 14, 1901 (see Fires).

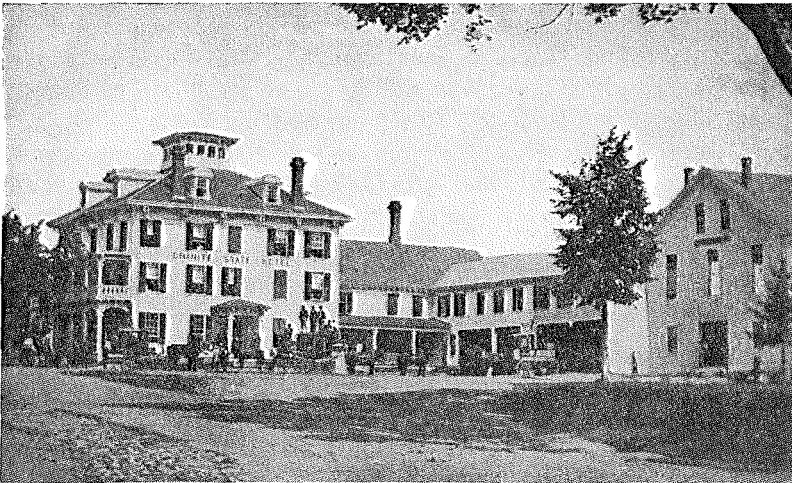


CENTRAL HOUSE, JAFFREY CENTER

"Rice's" was the former John Cutter homestead in the easterly part of Jaffrey Center, now the summer home of L. H. Wetherell, known as "The Forks." Laban Rice married the daughter of John Cutter, and enlarging the buildings and naming the place "Central House," catered to a large number of guests. Apparently one of the attractions was his aged mother, Dorcas Rice, who must have been a woman of remarkable qualities, since on her one hundred and third birthday, December 10, 1872, a party was given in her honor at which she greeted every guest. A sumptuous banquet, dancing, and other social activities were enjoyed. After the death of Laban Rice in 1873, his widow retained ownership of the premises during her life. It was operated part of the time by her sons, Jonas C. and George L.,

and by James H. Drugg. Mortimer E. Cutter purchased the place in 1887, conducting it as a summer hotel most of the time until 1894, when he sold to Dr. C. P. Lyman. It was not open to the public thereafter. Lyman sold to Miss Annie P. Henchman in 1903, who in turn transferred the premises to the present owners in 1918.

"Burton's" was the former William T. Cutter homestead on the turnpike halfway between East Jaffrey and the Center, now the residence of D. D. Bean. James L. Burton, purchasing in 1872, named it the "Massasoit House," enlarged it, installed bowling alleys and other attractions, and did a thriving business for a year or two. Later,



OLD GRANITE STATE HOTEL

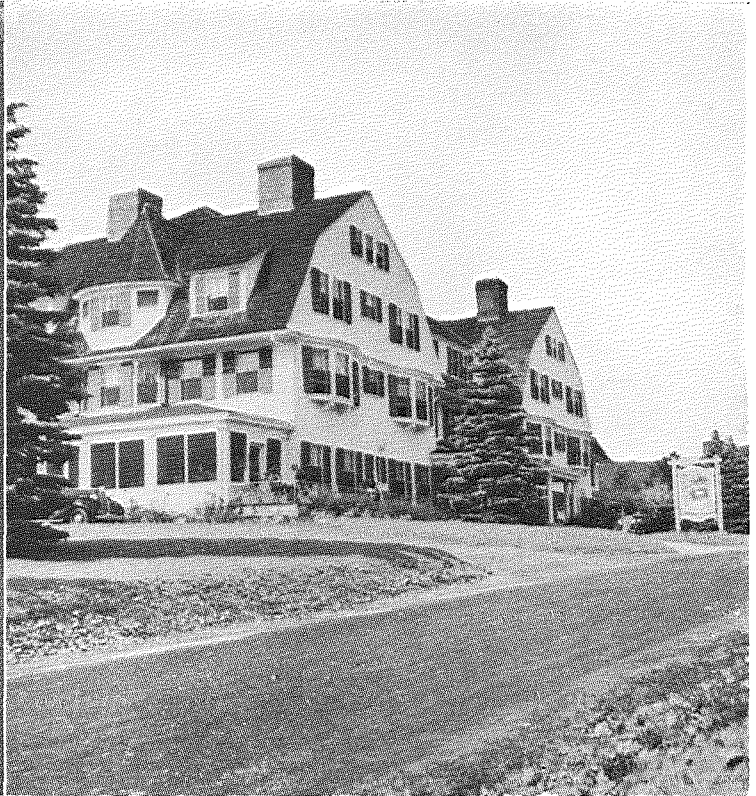
under the name "Dorchester House," it was conducted for the entertainment of guests by Philip Peak and others until its purchase in the late 1880's by Perkins B. Mead and Elias H. Hudson and was not thereafter used as a hotel.

"Wheeler's" was the Granite State Hotel, an attractive three-story frame structure erected in 1859 by Nathaniel R. Corning in East Jaffrey on the site now occupied by the lawn and building of Monadnock National Bank. Henry B. Wheeler of New Ipswich purchased the hotel in the late 1860's, conducting it until 1874, when he removed to Portsmouth, later returning to Rindge where he conducted the local hotel until his death. While under the management of John M. Wales, on March 21, 1875, this beautiful structure, with adjacent buildings, was destroyed in a disastrous fire which

threatened the entire village. Rebuilt on a modest scale, it was again destroyed on March 27, 1877, with adjacent buildings, including the new bank building (see Fires). After this a transposition of locations took place, whereby the Granite State Hotel was rebuilt, using as its walls the brick walls of the recently built and burned bank building, while a new bank building was erected on the rear of the hotel lot—its present site. Over the stables to the west of the hotel proper, a spacious dance hall was arranged, used both summer and winter by devotees of the art, both guests of the hotel and other visitors. After 1904, the excessive height of the rooms rendering winter heating almost prohibitive with increasing prices of fuel, and effective restrictions on the sale of spirituous liquor curtailing a previous source of considerable profit, operation proved unprofitable and the lower floor was then used for stores, with apartments above. On May 28, 1923, the building again caught fire, only the brick walls remaining after the conflagration. Subsequently, the last owners, Mr. and Mrs. Julius E. Prescott, donated the tract to the town for a town hall site, but up to the present time financial conditions have made it unwise to use it for the purpose.

About 1807 Dr. Adonijah Howe built a spacious mansion just northwest of Jaffrey Center. Upon the settlement of Dr. Howe's estate in 1835, the place was purchased by Daniel Cutter. In 1856 Daniel retired and his son-in-law, Edmund P. Shattuck, came from Pepperell, Massachusetts, to manage the estate. Upon Daniel Cutter's death in 1868, the property came into full possession of Mr. Shattuck, and shortly thereafter Mrs. Shattuck began taking summer boarders, having sometimes as many as fifteen guests. With the assistance of her gracious and industrious daughters, Mary Abby, Elizabeth P., and Lucy M., the place grew in attractiveness and renown.

A son, Edmund C. Shattuck, having obtained the rudiments of education at the Old Red Schoolhouse still standing in the vicinity, supplemented by studies at Appleton Academy in New Ipswich, returned to assist in the home business during the summers although occupied in Boston at various occupations during the winters. Upon the death of another son who had remained at home, in 1883 it was decided in family councils that Edmund should remain to assume a responsible share in the entertainment of guests at what was known by that time as Shattuck Farm; and two years later, having in the meantime disclosed a talent for excellent management, especially in the preparation of food, he took entire charge of the establishment.



EDMUND C. SHATTUCK AND SHATTUCK INN

With the advantages of a fine location and competent supervision, increasing patronage soon grew beyond the capacity of the house until then not materially changed from its original form. In 1889 an addition was built which doubled its capacity, while nearby cottages, built in 1893 and 1894, made it possible to accommodate about one hundred guests in all. Still the reputation of Shattuck Farm spread, requiring further expansion; and in 1909 another addition was built and almost ready for occupancy when, on June 19, 1909, just at the opening of the summer season, fire completely destroyed the main building, both new and old (see Fires).

Nothing daunted by this disaster, Mr. Shattuck, though then nearly sixty years of age, immediately set to work to rebuild on a scale commensurate with his knowledge of the possibilities; and on July 1, 1910, the present Shattuck Inn was opened with a hundred guests to celebrate the occasion. That he was wise in his courageous undertaking was shown by the necessity for building an addition in 1912 and The Annex, doubling the capacity of the place, in 1913. These two buildings, with four cottages, form the present resort, with accommodations for over two hundred guests and with a well-deserved reputation second to none in the vicinity. For over fifty years, except for a few merited vacations, Mr. Shattuck was in daily close personal contact with all the responsibilities attendant upon the conduct of such an extensive establishment. During a vacation trip to Florida, he died on February 8, 1933.

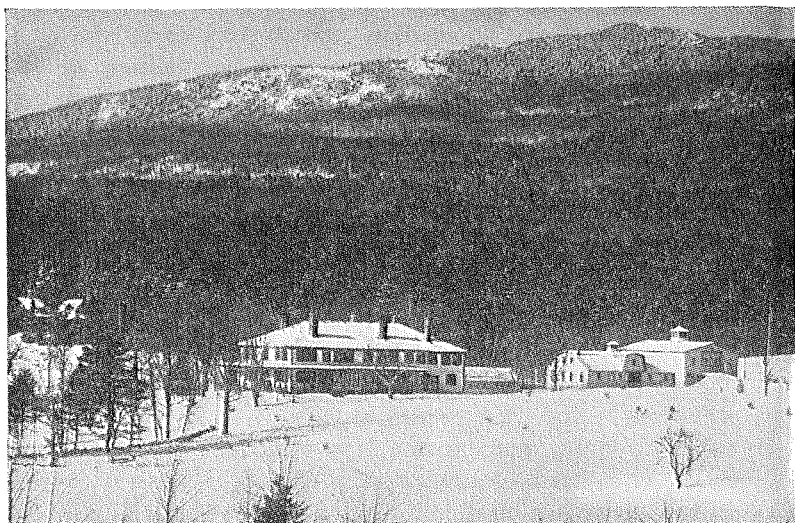
Helen E. Spofford, who became Mrs. Shattuck by marriage on January 28, 1903, has been sincerely and efficiently cooperative with her husband in carrying on the business, interesting herself especially in supervision of the grounds and gardens which add much to the attractiveness of the surroundings. Since the death of Mr. Shattuck, The Inn has been under the successful management of his son-in-law, George S. Austermann, with the advice of Mrs. Shattuck.

The New Hampshire *Sentinel* of April 17, 1873, carried the following news item:

"The Ark," Jaffrey, will be sold at auction on May 1, 1873. It was built by an eccentric gentleman who wished all his children to settle round him and made his house proportionate to his family and their probable increase. Both he and his wife deceased. Property to be sold by heirs.

Whatever the purpose of Joseph Cutter who built The Ark (see Volume II, page 200), Mr. and Mrs. Joel H. Poole, both descendants of Joseph Cutter, purchased it at the sale, and ultimately found it admirably adapted by location and size for the shelter of their large

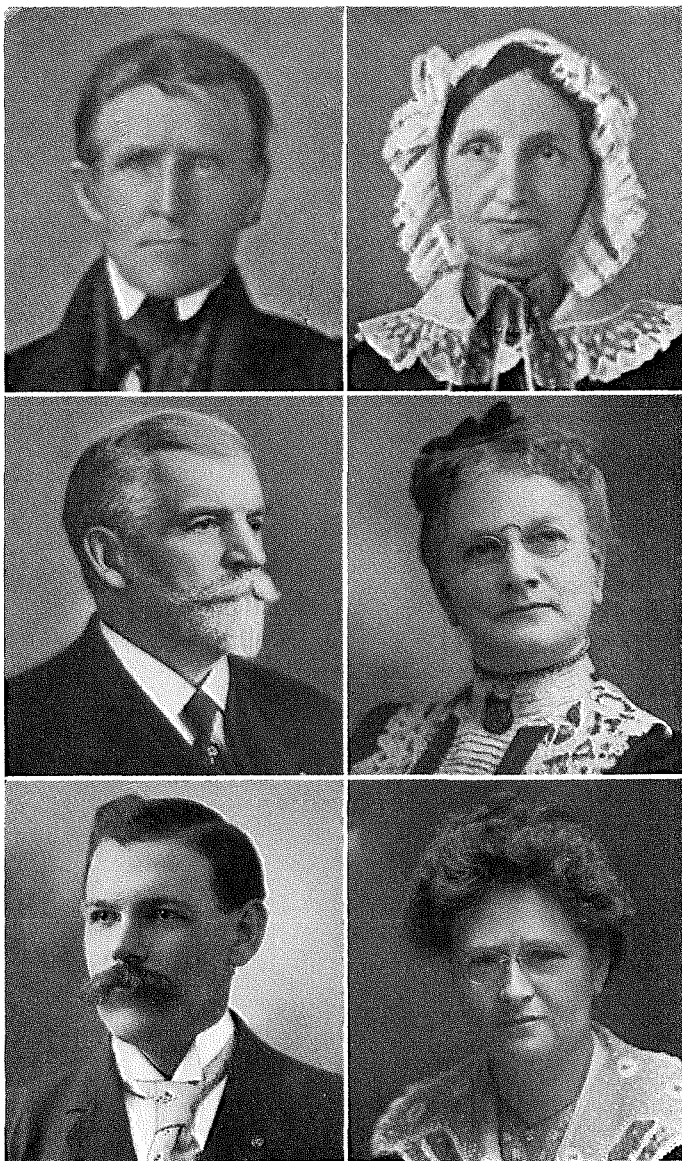
family of guests. At that time, however, Mr. Poole had no intention of entering the hotel business, his sole aim being to restore to productivity the farm lands, virtually abandoned for a decade. But in 1874 Dr. and Mrs. William P. Wesselhoeft of Boston were stopping in the vicinity and desirous of a place for an extended stay, they proposed to Mr. Poole to rent a part of the house not then used by him, therein to conduct their own housekeeping. To discourage them he named a price which he considered exorbitant, only to be astounded by its acceptance. For five years this arrangement continued with mutual satisfaction; then, after a lapse of six years, in



THE ARK

1885 the Wesselhoefts returned to build a cottage nearby on The Ark property. Since then the Wesselhoeft family have been almost annual visitors to Jaffrey.

In the meantime, Mr. and Mrs. Poole consented to take a few boarders, friends of the Wesselhoefts, then friends of those friends, until within a decade they found themselves established in a business almost against their will. Later, the son, Arthur E. Poole, was taken into partnership, when the facilities of the place were extended by completing rooms in a part of the building unfinished for three-quarters of a century, erecting a commodious cottage nearby, and finally, on his marriage in 1899, building the large house to the north known as The Annex. Later other cottages were built.



ARK PROPRIETORS

Top: MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH CUTTER

Center: MR. AND MRS. JOEL H. POOLE

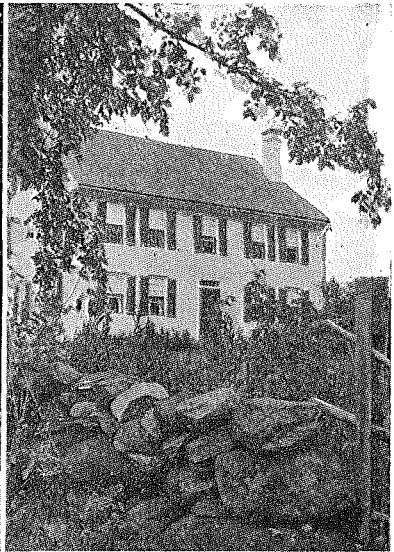
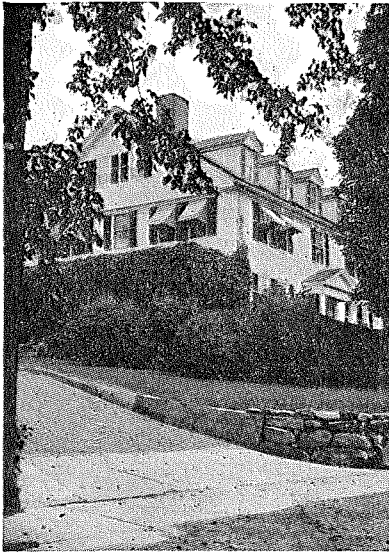
Bottom: MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR E. POOLE

Arthur E. Poole died unexpectedly in March, 1912; but the father and mother, with sturdy courage and with the loving and capable assistance of the son's widow, Mrs. Alice W. Poole, carried on the business as before. Catering not at all to those attracted by social functions, The Ark and its proprietors welcomed with open arms those who returned year after year to enjoy its hospitality, its abundant yet simple fare, the beautiful scenery, the healthful surroundings, and the enticing trails up and over Monadnock.

After the death of Mr. Poole in 1926, The Ark was continued for three years by his widow and daughter, to be sold in 1929 to Charles W. Bacon, who for about twenty years had been a member of the operating staff of the place. Mr. Bacon died in 1932, since which time The Ark has been carried on by his widow, Mrs. Hattie H. Bacon.

Space does not suffice even to catalogue all the homes which have opened their doors to summer visitors during the past sixty years. An informational booklet locally published in 1898 carries the advertisements of eleven places of public accommodation, and certainly this did not include all. Among the houses offering service to a substantial number of guests during this period may be mentioned The Monadnock (Carl C. Spofford), formerly "The Fairview" of Mrs. S. E. Lawrence, situated on Jaffrey Center's main street; Mountain Shade House (B. Caldwell & Son), on the turnpike near Ballou City; Woodland Farm (Hugh Morgan) near Priest Corner on the Fitzwilliam road, ancestral homestead of the Jewetts and the Comstocks; the second, the Cutter House, already mentioned, erected by Jonas and Mortimer E. Cutter in 1899 as a cottage on the south side of the turnpike facing the Jaffrey Center Common, extensively added to in 1909 and completely destroyed by fire in 1922; Maple Lawn Villa on the northerly side of the turnpike west of the Center, conducted by Mrs. Maude J. Brown until sold to E. C. Shattuck in 1920, continued under him until destroyed by fire in September, 1933; Pine Acres (Harry Mack) near Gilmore Pond, close by the site of the Rufus Sawyer homestead, built by Charles S. Chamberlain in 1874 and extensively remodelled by him for summer boarders in 1885; Pine Knoll Inn (Miss Flora E. Garabrandt) the former summer residence of Albert Baldwin of New Orleans, Louisiana, a descendant of Jaffrey pioneers, who returned to build on the ancestral farm in 1890; Hillcrest Lodge (Miss M. E. Eldredge) the former Oliver Bacon place, later the home of George A. Emory, then the summer residence of Marshall French, still later of Rev. George H. Flint; Sawyer Farm,

near Contoocook Lake, built by Jacob Pierce in 1773, occupied successively by Orlando Cragin, and Leonard F. Sawyer, now owned by Ernest Cormier; Lawrence Farm, the pioneer home of Benjamin



ABOVE: SUMMER RESIDENCE OF MRS. ELLA T. NIGHTINGALE

BELOW: (LEFT) SUMMER RESIDENCE OF L. H. WETHERELL

(RIGHT) SUMMER RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. EUGENE A. KINGMAN

Lawrence, conducted by Fred J. Lawrence of the fourth generation and now owned by J. R. & G. L. Blick; Red Mill Inn, early occupied by Harvey Gilmore, later by Perkins Bigelow, by John H. Fox, by

Austin A. Spofford, by Fred J. Lawrence after leaving Lawrence Farm, finally purchased and remodeled to its present form by a local corporation in 1919.

While the comings, goings, and sojournings of guests at these numerous places contribute largely to the business life of the community, that is not the sole source of material advantage. Those who came for a visit found spots which they wished to enjoy permanently, purchased dwellings already built or satisfactory sites upon which to build. The shores of lakes proved magnets to many as will be shown hereafter. A large proportion of Jaffrey homes which may be classed as "summer residences" and which stand hard by or at the end of almost every highway and byway in town are owned by those first learning of the attractions of the region through a temporary stay. And to such an extent has this development proceeded that the assessment rolls disclose upwards of one million dollars worth of taxable property either owned by those who thus have adopted Jaffrey or devoted themselves to the accommodation of temporary guests.

Not only are these friends of Jaffrey responsible in large measure for the material prosperity of the town. They enter wholeheartedly into its social activities. No church service, no public gathering is lacking their interest and support. Organizations such as the Jaffrey Village Improvement Society and the recently-formed Contoocook Lake Association, labor unceasingly in the general public interest. In recent years a number have become legal residents of the town, and to extend an official helping hand in the conduct of its affairs. Such was the course taken by Professor J. Laurence Laughlin, celebrated writer and teacher of political science and economic adviser to the United States delegates at the Versailles conference which ended the World War. He purchased the ancestral Pierce homestead near Frost Pond in the northeasterly part of town in 1910, became a legal resident in 1916, and upon his retirement from service at the University of Chicago, spent a major part of his time here until his death in 1933.

#### CONTOOCCOOK LAKE

The earliest authenticated recreational development on Contoocook Lake seems to have been when, as stated in the *Peterborough Transcript* of May 2, 1872,

Contoocook Park was sold under the hammer of F. S. Pierce for \$500.00. Messrs. Wheeler of the Granite State Hotel, M. M. Bascom, and William Sibley

of Winchendon were the purchasers. They intend to improve the premises by erecting a summer boarding house, constructing a trotting park and clearing the grounds generally. They will also put convenient boats upon the lake and provide first-class accommodations for excursion parties and summer boarders. A large amount of lumber has been purchased for this purpose and we shall not be surprised if in a few years this should become as famous a summer resort as any in the country.

The deed consummating this sale of thirty acres of land on the west shore was from Leonard F. Sawyer to the group named, but careful research fails to disclose any previous development there, so it may be assumed that the purchasers at this time adopted the name "Contoocook Park." The Monadnock Railroad had been completed the previous year through East Jaffrey, and in the little hamlet there was intense business and manufacturing activity. Presumably, then, these enterprising young men envisioned like interest in recreation and they immediately embarked on extensive improvements.

Just a week after purchase, ground was broken for the trotting course, Luke H. Nutting furnishing five yoke of oxen and Nathaniel Stevens additional livestock motive power for pulling stumps and grading. A "tight board fence eight or ten feet high will be erected immediately," says the *Transcript* of May 16. A belated report, in the issue of May 23, states that, on May 9, "the Marines of Ashburnham, Mass., defeated the Contoocooks of E. Jaffrey at baseball at Contoocook Park by a score of 39 to 9." Since this was only a few years after the first organized baseball game at Cooperstown, New York, it may well be that this was the first game in town. But grander things were in store.

The *Transcript* of May 30, 1872, gave the following astounding news:

Messrs. Bascom, Sibley & Wheeler, proprietors of Contoocook Park, have purchased a steamer capable of carrying 125 persons which they will place upon Contoocook Lake in a few days. It was purchased in Worcester and is now on its way to its destination. When safely placed upon this beautiful sheet of water it will afford visitors a most cool and delightful ride during the hot summer days and cannot fail to prove one of the chief attractions of the place.

The transportation of the steamer must have been a stupendous task, since it was not until July 1 that it was "safely placed" on the lake, after having received repairs for damages incurred in transit.

The *New Hampshire Sentinel* of July 11 describes the boat as arriving by rail and being 45 feet long and 17 feet wide, completely covered with an awning and, when fully loaded, drawing only 22

inches. A column article in the *Transcript* of July 4 chronicles the ceremonies attending the launching, at which time free rides were given to all, a stop being necessary at Sandy Shore for refueling with wood; while, to cap the climax, "a dance will be given on board July 4."

A schedule and a name soon were found necessary, for in the *Transcript* of July 25 an advertisement stated that the "Phil Sheridan" would make regular trips on Wednesdays and Saturdays and on other days by special arrangement, while "shaded lawns, swings and croquet grounds are available at Contoocook Park."

Contoocook Park and the "Phil Sheridan" during the balance of the season of 1872 apparently lived up to the expectations of their sponsors. During the week of August 12 some 300 members of the Sunday Schools of the Congregational churches of East Jaffrey and Peterborough were found there on Wednesday, the combined round-trip rail and steamer fare from Peterborough to the Park, by way of the landing at the railroad about half-way between West Rindge and East Jaffrey, being thirty cents and "the two passenger cars, the express cars and two freight cars were filled." On the following day members of the Masonic lodges of Jaffrey, Peterborough, Troy, and Winchendon repaired thither for recreation. Later the combined Baptist Sunday Schools of East Jaffrey and Peterborough followed suit, as did still later the Universalists of East Jaffrey and the Unitarians of Peterborough. The construction of the trotting track proceeded apace, various enthusiastic devotees of the sport, including E. B. Crowe, then living where B. G. Wilson now lives, and a summer guest of Alfred Sawyer, named Walker, of Boston, and others testing their spirited steeds there.

But the ambitious project, initiated under such favorable auspices, fell upon unfortunate times. While the *Sentinel* announced that the "Phil Sheridan" was launched in the week preceding May 22, 1873, the same issue gave notice of an auction sale of the Park, the steamer and a quantity of lumber. The Park was sold to "Daniel W. Tarr of Boston for \$712.50; the steamer to B. I. Peabody, of Worcester, for \$400.00; and 30M. ft. of lumber to H. B. Wheeler for \$10.00 per M." Records in the Registry of Deeds show that Tarr immediately resold to Wheeler for the amount paid, \$712.50; on the following day Wheeler mortgaged to Benjamin Pierce for \$621.00; while in 1875 Pierce secured the property on foreclosure writ of possession against "H. B. Wheeler of Portsmouth in our County of Rockingham." The cause of this debacle is shrouded in mystery, but doubtless the pro-

moters, like others of the ilk, learned that their scheme was too ambitious.

Pierce sold the property to Isaac C. Ryan in 1877; and thereafter Contoocook Park was used occasionally for picnic celebrations and the training of racing horses until 1893, when Ryan's widow sold to M. M. Bascom and L. W. Davis. An approach to the projected splendors of 1872 was made on July 4, 1902, when the Jaffrey Athletic Association of that year carried out an ambitious celebration consisting of two ball games, horse racing, athletic events and dancing attended by upwards of 3000 people. On Labor Day of the same year the Catholic Society of East Jaffrey sponsored a similar affair as did the Athletic Association on July 4, 1903; but about that time several cottages were erected on the tract near the lake shore and general public resort thereafter was discouraged. Now the area within the old track is entirely covered by a beautiful growth of pine while trim cottages line the shore.

The earliest move for the accommodation of visitors at Contoocook Lake seems to have been the building by M. M. Bascom of a rude shelter on the Island in the late 1860's. This was resorted to by fishermen and hunters; but subsequently to 1874, possibly due to unpleasant associations connected with the tragic death of George A. Law (see Vol. II), possibly to diminishing area of the Island caused by erosion resulting from the raising of the water-level about four feet by the construction of the so-called "Red Dam" in the early 1860's (see Mills), the structure was moved off over the ice to the rear of the Bascom house on Peterborough Street in East Jaffrey. But Mr. Bascom's interest in the Lake persisted; and probably about 1880, he built the cottage to the north of it, known as "Mig's Folly," now the summer residence of Miss Marie Nichols of Boston, a violinist of world-wide renown.

Late in the 1870's, also, Leonard F. Sawyer, who lived nearby, began the development of Sawyer's Grove on the northwesterly side of the Lake known as "Sandy Shore." Moving a small building, probably part of "Watson's Tavern" on the turnpike in Sharon, to a site on the bluff, he prepared it for temporary occupancy and subsequently built two others near it. A register kept by Leonard F. Sawyer bears on the fly-leaf the date "August 20, 1879," which may mark the opening of the Grove. For the balance of that year the names of fifty-eight visitors are registered in addition to those of one hundred and thirty-two members of an excursion from Temple, New Hampshire, with a note, "Fine weather and jolly crowd."

This register shows the names of numerous visitors in 1880, 1881, 1882 and 1883. An 1884 register records the names of 484 campers and visitors from six states in the months of July, August and September of that year, as well as 356 signatures of attendants at a union Jaffrey Sunday School picnic on August 1. This section is now owned by Amedee M. Deschenes of Jaffrey.

Late in 1884 a corporation, chiefly of Massachusetts people, was organized with the euphonious and intriguing name of "Mediumistic Camp Meeting of the Two Worlds," to purchase eighty acres of land adjacent to the southeasterly shore of Contoocook Lake in Rindge. This tract was laid out in 674 lots, mostly thirty-five feet by seventy feet, with suitable streets, while reserving an "Auditorium Park" of about two acres, four smaller parks and an area for a headquarters building. An ornate "Tabernacle," with colored glass windows and with a seating capacity of about 500 people, was erected in "Auditorium Park"; lots were sold and cottages erected. In the years 1885-86-87-88 sales of lots were recorded to thirty-eight different parties.

Adherents of the faith were quiet, orderly people, and the formal deeds contained restrictions of considerable latitude, including prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquor and the carrying on of any offensive trade or business. Early in 1888 the remaining property of the corporation was transferred to "Monadnock Land Corporation" with substantially the same control; and in 1911 all tracts remaining unsold were disposed of to Hiram M. Clark, possibly the only prior resident of Jaffrey who embraced the cult. Later the name of this settlement subsequently was changed to "Woodmere."

Increased interest in 1885 resulting from the spiritualist meetings brought another steamer, "Contoocook" by name, smaller than the "Phil Sheridan" but sufficiently pretentious to attract the young people. This boat plied for three or four years between Sawyer's Grove and the Spiritualist Campground; but eventually operations proved unprofitable and it was removed to a lake in Ashburnham, Massachusetts.

From the early days this body of water was known as Long Pond, although, as indicated above, the promoters of Contoocook Park named it Contoocook Lake appropriately enough, since it is virtually the source of Contoocook River. However, those interested in the Spiritualist Campground called it Lake Sunshine—a title considerably used by some at present. During the regime of the Monadnock Land Company it received from an unknown source the resounding cognomen of Lake Madokawanda, which apparently has no local sig-

nificance. The New Hampshire Legislature of 1911, acting at the instance of C. L. Rich of Jaffrey, then State senator, gave official sanction to "Contoocook Lake" and it is thus styled on topographic maps of the United States Geological Survey.

While almost the entire shore line is clean and smooth and attractive for bathing, the beach at the northerly end alongside the highway long has been regarded as the finest spot for this purpose. Recognizing the desirability of fostering this healthful custom, the town in 1924 authorized the purchase of a strip of this beach for \$75.00 and the erection of a public bathhouse thereon at a cost of \$843.45. Since then its facilities, comprising forty lockers, have been in almost constant use during the summer months; and visitors to the beach on some torrid days mount to the thousands. In recent years a life guard and swimming instructor, with salary paid by the town, is in constant attendance during the season, and the bathing beach has been operated and supervised by the Jaffrey Parent Teacher Association for several years.

The years intervening since the glamorous birth of Contoocook Park have witnessed a slow, steady and healthful growth in interest until today about one hundred and fifty cottages dot the shores, partially or wholly hidden in the luxuriant foliage. The Jaffrey municipal water system supplies all cottagers in Jaffrey and, to be neighborly, in Rindge also, with pure water; while the Rindge municipal electric system, supplying its own cottagers and not to be outdone in neighborliness, also supplies such Jaffrey cottagers as are not reached by the local system.

Thus, though in simpler style, the aims of the 1872 pioneers, "to make Jaffrey more attractive and better known as a summer resort," to quote the *Sentinel* reporter of July 11, 1872, have been achieved in large measure.

#### GILMORE POND

This beautiful, crystal-clear, spring-fed jewel, named for an early settler on its shore, lies in a nest of green in the south central section of Jaffrey. The first recreational development there was a rude shelter presumably erected by George Edwin Heath on the northerly shore and used by him and his friends during early vacations from his work in Boston. Later somewhat improved, it was used by Josiah Heath as a dwelling, to be burned in 1906.

In 1886 Walter L. Goodnow and Charles L. Rich, both of East Jaffrey, secured a site on the northerly shore, but farther east than

the Heath camp, on which they erected a small cottage. Mr. Rich later withdrawing, the property remained in possession and use of Mr. Goodnow until his death, when it fell to the ownership of his daughter, Mrs. Jessie E. Bradley. In 1921 it was rebuilt to become one of the most attractive summer residences in town, and still remains in her possession.

Fred J. Slade, in later life prominent in the iron and steel business in Trenton, New Jersey, came to Jaffrey in youth from Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the company of his then nurse, Syrena Sawyer, a native of the town (erroneously confused with Susan Sawyer in Vol. II), the Sawyer homestead being near the site of the dwelling now owned by Harry Mack and occupied by Leon S. Turner. In 1888, while on a vacation tour through New England, he decided to re-visit his childhood haunts. The sawmill-pond in the valley south of the road had entirely disappeared; but pushing his way through the woods to the north, he came to the well-remembered Gilmore Pond at a point where Monadnock, lifting on the farther side, was reflected in its shining surface. Struck with the beauty of the scene and touched by recollection of the watchful, loving care of Syrena in his youth, he lost no time in becoming the owner of the spot, with intention soon to build a place where, amid the quiet, he might refresh himself after the struggles of the business world. This tract was that now occupied by the summer residence of Mrs. Lucy M. Bradley of Hartford, Connecticut.

But a further survey of the vicinity convinced Mr. Slade that a more engaging vista was to be had from an elevation farther to the east. He therefore secured this site, and in the following year, 1889, erected his summer home. Fate decreed, however, that he should not be long spared to enjoy these happy surroundings, for he died suddenly in October, 1891. The place remained in family ownership until 1933, when it was sold to James B. and Helen D. Draper.

About the time of Mr. Slade's visit another captain of industry, Joseph E. Gay of New York, a pioneer in the development of the copper-mining industry in northern Michigan, visited Jaffrey and in 1889 purchased from Lyman K. Sawtelle the so-called "Smith Dutton place" on a slightly eminence just west of Gilmore Pond. Great activity was soon in evidence; and ere long giant boulders on the rocky hillside found new resting-places in massive stone walls, smooth, grass-covered fields appearing in their stead. The ancient farm house took on added proportions while a spacious barn appeared in the rear. The roadway along the shore of the Pond was changed

to afford a more advantageous approach, while willows, planted at the water's edge, added their gracefulness to the scene. Soon "Gay Farm" became the showplace of the town and ever since has been regarded as outstanding among its summer residences. Upon Mr. Gay's death in 1914 it became the property of his niece, Mrs. Paul W. Kimball, in whose possession it has since remained.

In later years several other attractive residences have found place upon the shores of Gilmore Pond, although development has not advanced to such a degree as to change materially the aspect which must have greeted the eye of the first settler.

This Pond is entirely spring-fed and its outflow to the northwest joins the Mountain Stream just above the dam for the sawmill built by William Davidson about 1803 and that for the fulling-mill of Josiah Belknap somewhat earlier. There being but meagre flow from Gilmore Pond at any time, but in spring thaws a tremendous flood from the Mountain Stream, and the level of the Pond being but slightly higher than that of the Stream, some ingenious brain devised the scheme of raising the height of the dam below the junction to a point where, when the highest flashboards were in place, the flood waters of the Stream could be turned *into* the Pond, there to be impounded for later release when the flow of the Stream slackened. This procedure required the widening and deepening of the Pond outlet for a distance of perhaps half a mile and, since the waters of the Pond were thus raised several feet, the construction of a dike for a considerable distance along the northerly shore. Here the remains of the dike still may be seen, mute testimony to the prodigious labors of the forefathers to conserve and stretch to the utmost the limited natural resources at their disposal. The privilege is now in control of riparian owners of the Pond, thus making it possible to maintain the waters of the Pond at a constant level. A similar evidence of wisdom and industry may be seen in the neighboring town of Rindge, where the waters of Grassy Pond, naturally flowing directly into Contoocook Lake, were diverted by a long man-made channel through the village of West Rindge and there forced to pass over or under no less than six water-wheels before being allowed to escape by way of Pool Pond into their normal course.

#### THORNDIKE LAKE

Thorndike Lake, thus named for the family which settled in 1774 on its southwesterly shore, lies in the north central section of the town, extending into the adjoining town of Dublin, where it was

known as Bullard Pond, for a family of that name which settled on its northwesterly border.

The first summer residence in this vicinity was that of Dr. Elizabeth Keller, a prominent physician of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. In 1886 she purchased from George G. McCoy a sightly eminence, part of the original Thorndike farm, overlooking the Lake with a fine view of Monadnock, and erected thereon the substantial set of buildings now owned by Mrs. Ethel M. Spencer.

In 1890 Fred J. Slade of Trenton, New Jersey, who as already has been noted, had recently established a summer home at Gilmore Pond, recognizing the superlative sites on the easterly shore of Thorndike Lake, purchased several hundred acres formerly belonging to Loren Woodbury, and prepared plans for extensive development, including a large hotel and an adjacent colony of cottages. Mr. Slade's extensive and influential acquaintance in his own community gave strong assurance of the success of the undertaking. He appeared before the March Town Meeting of 1891 with an explanation of the project, which required the construction of nearly two miles of new road from the Richard Spaulding place, now owned by Dr. William F. Wesselhoeft, northerly to an intersection with the road leading from Jaffrey Center to Dublin past the Fred J. Lawrence place, now owned by J. R. & G. L. Blick, to afford direct access to the tract from the Center. Mr. Slade proposed that, if the town would build this road, he would purchase the town's bonds to the extent of the cost and remit the interest until such time as an increase in property valuation along its course would return additional taxes sufficient to meet the interest.

The voters of Jaffrey, always willing to cooperate in any movement to advance community interests, accepted this proposal; and during the summer of 1891 the road was built at a cost of \$3,545. But the untimely death of Mr. Slade on October 11, 1891, put an end to the project, his heirs being unable to carry it to completion. The property was sold to Isaac Sprague in 1913, since which time a moderate development has taken place, sufficient by 1921 to meet the requirements of the original contract and the bond interest no longer was remitted. The bonds finally were paid by the town in 1931.

On the west side of the Lake activity began with the purchase, in 1893, of the so-called Woodruff farm by F. H. Gilson and Isaac Sprague, both of Boston, the former an outstanding mercantile printer and the latter a prominent banker. Here again proper access required the building of a new road, and the town, still cooperative, in

1895 built the "Gilson Road," skirting the westerly shore of the Lake a distance of about one and one-fourth miles, from a point near the Thorndike-Conant-McCoy homestead to an intersection with the Dublin road just beyond the Woodruff place, at an expense of \$2,002.00.

Both Mr. Gilson and Mr. Sprague soon built cottages near the shore while other friends built near. The former also built a camp high on the flanks of Monadnock near a small but beautiful tarn created by damming a brook. In 1930 Isaac Sprague, Jr., also built a finely appointed residence on a shoulder of Monadnock at the highest point in Jaffrey used for such purpose with the exception of the Half Way House and its attendant cottages.

In 1909 Dr. William F. Wesselhoeft of Boston, whose family, as has been related, early came to enjoy the hospitality of The Ark, and who himself was a consistent visitor to Jaffrey and lover of it, purchased the Richard Spaulding place, which, affectionately known as "Happy Farm," now shelters the fourth generation of the family to adopt Jaffrey. Dr. Wesselhoeft himself in recent years has become a legal resident of the town.

Another interesting group, also settled on a part of the Thorndike Farm in 1928 and the years immediately following, are four prominent Boston physicians and surgeons, Dr. E. Granville Crabtree, Dr. W. W. Howell, Dr. W. Richard Ohler, and Dr. Horace K. Sowles.

The Thorndike farm likewise afforded a site for the Thorndike Club, organized in 1898 by five summer residents of Jaffrey Center, who purchased a lot of land on the south shore of Thorndike Pond. A Club-house was erected in 1900, and with some alteration and enlargement is still in use. Later there were added bath-houses and a boat-house. The Club was incorporated under the statutes of New Hampshire in 1906, the Corporate Memberships being then fifteen. In 1926 another adjoining lot of land was purchased for providing two tennis courts. The Club-house affords an enjoyable meeting-place for those interested in athletic and aquatic sports as well as for social events.

## RECREATION

### SUMMER SCHOOL CAMPS

With the growth of interest in summer recreation in the early years of the twentieth century, parents intending to visit distant points sought opportunity to place their children where they would be under responsible supervision in pleasant and healthful surroundings. Jaffrey was soon recognized as a suitable spot for such activities.

In 1904 Charles E. Stratton, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1901 and Theodore H. Taft, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1901, approached L. W. Davis with a proposal that he erect a suitable building for a headquarters for such a summer school on the shore of the Lake at Contoocook Park. Their proposal was accepted and about the first of July, 1904, the school was opened under the name of Camp Quinebaug, with two counsellors in addition to the sponsors, and with twelve pupils who received instruction in athletic sports and watermanship as well as in books. The enterprise continued for four summers with such success as to reach a membership of thirty-five, requiring four counsellors and a camp doctor. The sponsors then having become engaged in activities requiring their whole time, the camp was discontinued.

In 1915 certain enterprising citizens of Jaffrey, supported by the summer colony, hoping to promote healthful sport, organized the Jaffrey Country Club. A commodious summer cottage, previously erected by E. O. McCarthy on the so-called "Hunt Place" near Contoocook Lake, with the surrounding grounds was purchased. The building was remodeled, two bowling alleys were installed, two tennis courts, and a nine-hole golf course were constructed, the whole investment being about \$11,000, and for several years the place was the scene of considerable social activity. However, the project failed to receive necessary financial support; and in 1924 it passed to the ownership of Frank W. Moses, a teacher in Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, who for several years conducted Camp Contoocook there. Still owned by Mr. Moses, it has been opened only occasionally for the past few years.

In 1917 Frederick S. Ernst, a Harvard graduate, purchased of Isaac Sprague a part of the Slade land on the easterly shore of Thorn-dike Lake and the following year established Camp Monadnock, which since has operated very successfully with accommodations for about seventy-five students.

Several other camps in the region although located outside the corporate limits of Jaffrey, regard East Jaffrey as their chief trading center, and contribute materially to the business prosperity of the town. Chief among these are, Camp Iroquois on the former Orison H. Moore farm in Dublin, part of which extends into Jaffrey, purchased in 1919, by Nathan N. Dickler, Brooklyn, New York, with associates; Camp Wanocksett on the former Bullard Farm in Dublin, purchased about 1927 by the Boy Scout organizations of Leominster, Clinton, and Lancaster, Massachusetts; and Camp Quinapoxet near

Hubbard Pond in Rindge, operated by the Boy Scout organizations of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

#### TRANSPORTATION

During the greater part of the period under consideration, travelers to and from Jaffrey journeyed by rail. Thus during these years, the railroad station, particularly about the time of arrival of the afternoon train from the south, was a scene of great activity. Especially was this the case on Friday and Saturday nights, when business men came to join their families for the week end. Until 1906, when unfortunately it was destroyed by fire, the outstanding piece of equipage was "The Coach," a veritable Concord thorough-brace stage, swung on sturdy leather straps, painted a bright lemon-yellow profusely decorated with red, gold and black and drawn by two or four horses. This stage coach was probably put on the road in the 1850's, between Winchendon, Massachusetts and Jaffrey, and continued to serve on this route until the advent of the railroad to Jaffrey in 1871, after which it was used between the railroad station at East Jaffrey and Jaffrey Center. On a previous page is a picture of this coach, standing in front of the Cutter Hotel at Jaffrey Center. On the driver's seat in the picture is Aaron Perkins, veteran stage coach driver (see Genealogy, Volume II). It is a sight still remembered with something of the old-time thrill by our older residents when, especially on the night before the Fourth of July in the 1860's and 1870's, loaded inside and atop with passengers, with trunks strapped on behind, and the mail sack for the Center under the driver's seat, it swung, with its four horses on a gallop, up the turnpike into the yard at Cutter's Hotel, to deposit its load.

The Shattuck Inn and The Ark maintained their own conveyances, wagons of four or five cross-seats with trunks behind, while the less pretentious hostelries either depended upon their own modest equipment or upon "The Coach." On a summer night of 1894 it is stated that there were seventeen teams in the railroad station yard at one time. Now, of course, everyone owns an automobile and rail patronage is scanty.

#### MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

During this period no village was complete without its band and in the autumn of 1872 East Jaffrey fell in line. Available instruments being too few for the would-be musicians, a proposal was advanced by interested parties in East Jaffrey to secure a modest appropria-

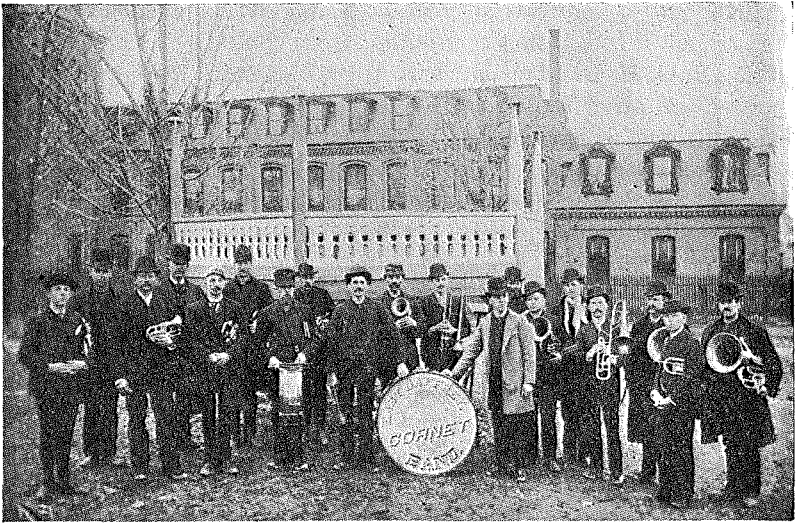
tion from the town for the purchase of additional equipment and an article was inserted in the warrant for the annual town meeting of March, 1873, to this end. 1873 also being the year of Jaffrey's centennial, certain other interested parties inserted an article for an appropriation to meet the expense of a suitable celebration, this latter article fortuitously being in order for prior consideration. The centennial appropriation was approved without argument but when the band appropriation came up, Dr. John Fox and others of frugal disposition in the vicinity of Jaffrey Center offered the sound objection that the laws of the State afforded no authorization for such expenditure of public funds, thus no appropriation could be made. Whereupon Dr. O. H. Bradley, James S. Lacy, Benjamin Pierce, James L. Bolster and other leaders of the East Jaffrey contingent raised the equally sound objection that no authorization existed for the centennial appropriation. The question was again placed before the voters and the vote for the centennial appropriation rescinded.

Undaunted by this reverse, a voluntary committee was appointed to solicit popular subscriptions for the centennial, which was carried through successfully. Equally undaunted, East Jaffrey enthusiasts organized the "East Jaffrey Band Association," with fifty shares at ten dollars a share, all of which were sold in a few days, the requisite new instruments were purchased and on Saturday, May 11, 1873, according to the *New Hampshire Sentinel*, the band made its first appearance on the streets with the new instruments.

Interesting provisions of the by-laws of the organization were that the instruments never were to be permanently removed from East Jaffrey (to prevent their use by the Center people) and that one-sixth of the proceeds of an annual "levee" to be held should be paid as dividends on the stock. The stock certificate was a striking example of the printer's art, in red ink, bearing in addition to the necessary wording a representation of a sixteen-piece band standing in circular formation with instruments and in full dress. On January 5, 1875, a dividend of \$2.20 was paid in accordance with the foregoing provision, but apparently none was paid thereafter. A band-stand was erected on the East Jaffrey Common, since twice renewed, and for years the East Jaffrey Cornet Band discoursed music therefrom on pleasant summer evenings, and for patriotic and political parades and picnics. For several years in the early part of the present century the town annually appropriated sums of from \$100.00 to \$200.00 to pay the Band for a series of summer concerts, usually with the provision, to prevent the recurrence of ancient dissension, that at

least two of the concerts be held at Jaffrey Center. Since 1923 no such appropriation has been made, and the bandstand is used only occasionally by similar organizations from other towns.

During most of the years under consideration, the customary evening entertainment, both summer and winter, consisted solely of dances or of some preliminary exercises followed by dancing. Music was provided by "orchestras" of varying composition of from one to eight "pieces." One of these organizations was commonly said



EAST JAFFREY CORNET BAND (1890)

Left to right, back, C. H. Emery, E. S. Wait, H. C. Lacy, J. A. Baldwin, F. Foster, L. Foster, B. Bacon, F. H. Hunt, G. Davis, B. L. Millen. Front, H. A. Bixby, G. W. Preston, F. E. Jaquith, G. A. Towne, J. Foster, P. Charlonne, —, — Dube, G. M. Towne.

to consist of "three pieces—two violins and a cuspidor; when the cuspidor is full the dance is over." One member of the group necessarily was competent to "prompt," that is, to call the figures for square dances. These orchestras usually were known by the name of their organizer; and Bacheller's, Preston's, Jaquith's, Lacy's, Greissing's and Wellington's are names which call up visions of happy parties dancing the galop, schottische, polka, waltz and two-step, wherein couples remained together throughout the "figure," as well as the lively Portland Fancy, Virginia Reel, plain and fancy quadrilles, which moved with lightning speed and frequently left the unskilled standing in the middle of the floor without his proper partner.

Musicians frequently transferred from organization to organization in accordance with the exigencies of the occasion or as the importance of the affair required large or small services. But there was one such group, the Contoocook Orchestra, which maintained its standing for such a length of time as to establish an undoubted record in the region for longevity. It was a family group, composed of Alfred L. Towne, leader and cornetist; Jean W. Towne, drummer and "prompter"; their sister, Mrs. Enola L. Leighton, pianist, with Alexander Taylor, Anthony Letourneau, Jr. and others as the violinist at different times. Their reputation spread throughout the countryside; and for almost thirty years beginning in 1903, their music was heard at gatherings in all the towns within a radius of twenty miles. For several years in the height of their popularity, they were engaged three to five nights each week throughout the year. Sometimes augmented by John E. Wheeler with his clarinet and William T. Leighton or William E. Naramore with a trombone; sometimes with Miss Omilina Santerre (Mrs. John E. Wheeler) substituting at the piano for Mrs. Leighton, the total engagements of Contoocook Orchestra must have mounted above three thousand. But the development of interest in the radio and motion pictures brought a change in type of entertainment; and since 1932 the group has not performed as a unit.

#### WINTER ACTIVITIES

With the extended installation of modern conveniences in rural dwellings, the thoughts of urban denizens turned to the wide-open spaces in winter as well as summer and they began to desire a sight of Monadnock and its neighboring hills, woods and lakes under a mantle of snow. Shattuck Inn and The Ark were equipped for winter comfort although at the latter many rooms were heated only by fireplaces requiring an enormous supply of wood. But by 1900 these houses arranged to open their doors to a limited extent, particularly at the time of Washington's Birthday holiday, and by 1910 so great was the patronage that on such occasions a special car for Jaffrey was attached to certain trains leaving Boston, thus obviating a change of cars at Winchendon.

For a few years in the early 1920's, E. S. Mayo of Boston leased and managed The Inn. He was a man of much enterprise, and for the season of Lincoln's birthday, February 10-11-12, 1922, in cooperation with M. E. Willard, then managing what is now the Red Mill Inn, arranged to attract an unusual number of visitors by a Winter

Carnival. Townspeople cooperated, with an organization known as the Winter Sports Club, headed by Dr. F. C. Sweeney. A mammoth ice palace was built by Peter N. Proctor on East Jaffrey Common; horse-races were run on the ice at Contocook Lake; and to make it possible to transport visitors from the railroad station to The Inn and The Ark and to the Lake by automobile, since horse conveyances by then were too few to accommodate the crowds, the road between The Ark and the Lake was scraped virtually clean of snow. This was the first instance in town of this type of winter road clearance, "breaking" originally having been accomplished by plows attached to sleds and later by packing down the snow with heavy wooden rollers. The Carnival proved a success. It was estimated that fifteen hundred people attended the festivities, while all the places then open for the accommodation of guests were filled. Each year the number of visitors and the length of time hotels were open increased, until now both The Inn and The Ark are open throughout the winter, while several others open their doors on occasion.

In 1931 the Boston & Maine Railroad sought to revive fading traffic by offering excursions to winter sports devotees on "Snow Trains." The first such expedition to Jaffrey arrived on Monday, February 23, 1931, in three sections, bringing eight hundred enthusiasts with skis, snowshoes and toboggans. The day was perfect, with a recent fall of snow, and most of the party enjoyed themselves in the open, some even climbing Monadnock almost to the top. Each section of the train had a dining-car where meals were served to such as desired. Since then a "Snow Train" has been an annual event.

Nineteen hundred thirty-two found local interest in winter sports so keen that the Jaffrey Outing Club was formed, with Alfred H. Dube as president. A comfortable hut was built on the shore of Cheshire Pond and the ice was kept clear for skating so far as possible. In connection with the February holidays a Carnival was held, with ice hockey games, exhibition skating, and community dances in both Union and Town Halls, all of which activities were patronized by holiday visitors. Each year since, a similar undertaking has been carried out with great success by the Outing Club, with the addition since 1933 of the New England Championship Sled Dog races, a type of entertainment recently attaining great popularity. These activities have counted much in creating and holding a sustained year-round interest in Jaffrey.