

## CHAPTER I

### JAFFREY THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER

"There is a spot of earth supremely blest,  
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest."

—JAMES MONTGOMERY

Jaffrey, New Hampshire, is an extraordinary town. Its more than three thousand inhabitants of many national backgrounds live side by side, forming a cosmopolitan family. There is today no segregation or localization of nationalities. No one section of the town is strictly a Yankee, a French-Canadian, an Italian, or any other nationality segment, but all mingle freely and in harmony. All are just plain people, one as vitally interested in the welfare of the town as another, without prejudice or caste. Individuals from all national backgrounds are elected or employed in town affairs. Persons of French-Canadian antecedents form the largest ethnic group, with a dozen or so other nationalities represented.

Following the immigration of French-Canadian families from the Province of Quebec, Canada, during the latter part of the nineteenth century and in the early nineteen hundreds, the Cross Street section of the village became known as Little Canada, as many of the newcomers settled in that part of the village. They brought with them their language and many of their customs, some of which still prevail among the older families. But as the families learned the use of the English language, they found new homes in all sections of the town. The Cross Street section is still sometimes referred to as Little Canada, in name only. It is now as cosmopolitan as any other section of the town.

The preponderance of Anglo-Saxon names began to dwindle from the roster of citizens some three or so decades ago, just as the earlier volumes of the HISTORY OF JAFFREY, NEW HAMPSHIRE, were being finished. It is a natural ending of an epoch in the history of the town and the beginning of a new era of widened horizons.

There has been a steady growth in population from the 2600 inhabitants of 1932 to well over an estimated 3400 persons today. This healthy growth has been matched by the growth of the economic life of the community. New industries have absorbed the increased manpower and no serious unemployment problems have arisen, except during the nation-wide depression of the 1930's. But

even then Jaffrey's problem was not so acute as that of many other towns.

One reason for Jaffrey's fine economic position is its diversification of industries, most of which produce civilian goods, with only a small proportion for war or military services. This is a factor for steady, rather than spasmodic, employment, a condition that makes for a healthy social and financial community. In this Jaffrey is, indeed, fortunate.

Its industries are diversified, so that a cosmopolitan population of varied interests can be gainfully and happily employed. There are wood-working mills for those who like to work with wood; tack and nail-making factories for those whose bent is working with metals; cloth-making factories for those to whom the ancient art of weaving is a way of life; fiber glass weaving for those with a penchant for the new; bookmatch-making for those to whom the field of advertising has an appeal; electronics for those to whom this is a symbol of progress and a key to newer things to come. These are the things that have replaced the plowshares of the field; and the staccato echo of the woodsman's axe has yielded to the hum and clack of busy factories.

Jaffrey has a healthy social climate, evident at that ancient New England institution, the Town Meeting. Here democracy can be seen at work. Here all voters have a chance to say their say as well as cast their ballots. Here it is often clear that relative newcomers on the voting list have as much interest in Jaffrey's well-being as the older residents. All Jaffrey people take pride in their town, holding their heads high, even as Monadnock that towers above all.

#### THE VILLAGES

The town of Jaffrey has four villages, Jaffrey, Jaffrey Center, Squantum, and Cheshire. All except Jaffrey Center had mills as the occasion of their being.

When in 1769 John Borland bought lot 17, range 7, he little realized that his purchase would eventually become part of a thriving, growing village. But, in the spirit of the times, he went about building sawmills and grist mills near the site of the present Texaco gasoline station, which gave the place the name of Borland's Mills until 1778. That year he sold his Jaffrey interests to Eleazer Spoford, who, in turn built a new set of mills down the stream on the site of the present Jaffrey Mills, and lent the place the name of

Spofford's Mills. Later it was known as Factory Village and, until recently, as East Jaffrey.

During the past three and a half decades the village has continued its growth in all directions along its seven main arteries leading outward. Teeming with life and activity, it is today the metropolis of the town, the business and governmental center. Here are the stores, the banks, and the schools, the library and civic center, the automobile repair shops and filling stations, the fire station and newspaper plant, the railroad, and the mills. In brief, all the things that comprise a modern thriving village are found here, including a healthy social, civic, and cultural life.

The name East Jaffrey no longer appears on the map. It is Jaffrey now. And the older residential village around the Old Meeting-house Hill is now Jaffrey Center. In this connection it is of interest to note that an old road sign, still in use, after the East Jaffrey Post Office was established, reads JAFFREY CENTER 4 M. Because, as stated above, East Jaffrey had become the business center of the town, a feeling was engendered among its residents that it should bear the name of Jaffrey. This feeling found expression at the Annual Town Meeting on March 13, 1945. At that meeting "it was voted that the Moderator appoint a committee of three to request the First Assistant Postmaster General to make a survey of the Jaffrey Post Offices, and from his recommendations, bring a suggested plan before the next annual town meeting." The vote was 113 "Yes" and 36 "No". Philip M. Darling, George S. Austermann, and Alfred S. Despres were appointed to be the committee.

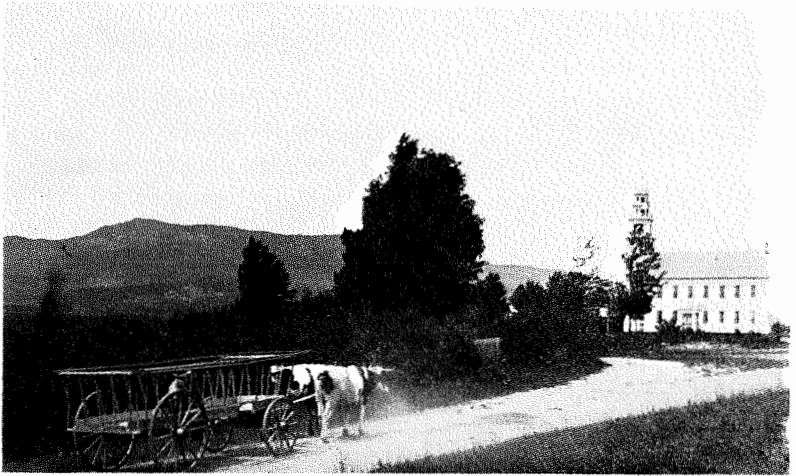
At the March, 1946, Town Meeting the committee made its report, following which it was "Voted that the selectmen be instructed to take such steps as may be necessary to bring about the elimination of the word 'East' in East Jaffrey and thus further the general use of the name of the town of Jaffrey.

Among the first to comply with the mandate of the voters was the Boston and Maine Railroad. The railroad sent a man with a handsaw who quickly and efficiently sawed off the EAST from the railroad station signs.

At first some residents in the older village resented the change in the name of their post office, but time reduced this and all continued devoted to the furtherance of Jaffrey's good. Jaffrey is, indeed, an extraordinary town, where the humanness of purpose is manifest in all its activities and endeavors.

Jaffrey Center to the west of the main village of Jaffrey is still

the charming idyllic New England village that it has always been. It is residential in character, built around the Meeting-house Hill, the heart of the town, with Mount Monadnock rising in awe-inspiring majesty just beyond. Aside from its Post Office and store, hotel, tea barn, and a physician's office, it boasts of no other business enterprise to mar its serenity and repose. Its fine old houses and well-kept lawns enhance a unique setting that is hard to surpass. Here one can find peace and quiet and beauty and let the problems of the world go by. Here, on top of the hill stands the Old Meeting-house, of Jaffrey's proudest tradition, in alabaster whiteness against the green of the trees and the blue of the sky.



MOUNT MONADNOCK FROM AINSWORTH MANSE (CIRCA 1890)

Squantum in the extreme southeast corner of the town is the oldest village of them all. How it got its name is shrouded in mystery, but how it grew is the story of the mills that have been there from the days long before there was a town of Jaffrey. (See *Mills*, Vol. I.) Today it is a picturesque village with many fine houses and two factories, and it is growing in the direction of the village of Jaffrey. A few years ago a new road was laid out to Squantum to by-pass the public bathing beach at Contocook Lake, the old road being closed to through traffic during the recreation months each summer. Squantum now has a new mill on the site of the Annett Lumber Company plant that was destroyed by fire in July, 1966.

Cheshire Village on a hillside north of Jaffrey village is separated from it by Cheshire Pond on one side of the highway leading to Peterborough and St. Patrick's Cemetery on the other side of highway and railroad tracks. Aside from the new plant of the D. D. Bean & Sons Co., Inc., and adjacent factory storehouses, and the barn on the Deschenes farm on top of the hill, no new buildings have been erected here since the White Brothers built the present houses for homes for their employees before the turn of the century and after their acquisition of the mills in 1884. In recent years three houses have yielded to progress. The so-called Monroe house, opposite the mill, was removed to make room for the new match shop plant, and the other two houses were torn down to make way for the 202 highway construction. The mill property was once owned by the Cheshire Manufacturing Company, from which the village derived its name. Like the other villages, it is contributory to the village of Jaffrey and dependent upon it for its needs.

#### JAFFREY'S GROWTH

As for growth, Jaffrey has maintained an enviable record during the last three and a half decades. Its number of houses has almost doubled and its population has increased by an estimated thousand inhabitants. The number of year-round dwelling houses has increased from 486 in 1932 to 897 in 1967. In addition there are twenty house trailers used as year-round homes, which, added to the above figure, gives over nine hundred dwellings for the current year. There were, however, several more summer homes in 1932, partially accounted for by the fact that many of them now are permanent homes. The 1932 figure of 116 has dwindled to 98.

During the 1930 Federal Census year, Jaffrey's inventory was assessed at \$3,829,140.00, and its tax rate was \$24.30 per \$1000.00. Its valuation for 1960, the latest Federal Census year, was \$6,536,845.00, and the tax rate was \$58.60 per \$1000.00, based upon an approximate 39% valuation. With a 100% valuation in effect in 1967, these figures are as follows: Total valuation, \$22,153,320.00; tax rate, \$23.50 per \$1000.00 valuation.

Jaffrey has not experienced any phenomenal population growth, but rather a continuous one that has been consistent with the town's employment situation. In the spring of 1930 many new families moved to Jaffrey from the Brockton, Massachusetts, area, due to a transfer of tack-making personnel to the W. W. Cross & Company, Inc., which was expanding at the time. They have remained

here and have become an active element in the industrial and social life of the community. During the present decade several new families have come to Jaffrey from Pennsylvania because of lack of employment opportunities in their former towns. They, too, have been accepted by the town and are as interested in Jaffrey's well-being as is the native element.

In 1960, the latest Federal Census year, Jaffrey had a population of 3154. In 1930 it was 2485. A breakdown of the population figures reveals that the largest increase occurred during the 1930 decade when the population multiplied by 394 persons. The smallest increase was during the World War II decade, 1940 to 1950, during which the population rose by only 32 persons. From 1950 to 1960 it increased by 243 persons, which indicates that Jaffrey is returning to its normal rate of growth, an auspicious omen for the future.

Jaffrey's population and industrial growth and its wealth of natural resources and assets make it a desirable town in which to live. With sparkling lakes and ponds dotting the landscape, not too many or too few; with rivers and streams veining its watersheds; with hills and valleys for contrasts; and with majestic Monadnock, the best beloved of mountains, rising above all, Jaffrey is in reality "a spot of earth supremely blest."

#### GOVERNMENTAL

SELECTMEN: William W. Torrey, Alfred J. Christian, James P. Smith.

TOWN CLERK: Albert J. Morin.

TOWN TREASURER: Albert J. Morin.

TAX COLLECTOR: Raymond J. Desmarais.

CHIEF OF POLICE: Arthur H. Rivard.

POLICE OFFICERS: Kevin P. Rivard, Sergeant; John A. LaFreniere, Sergeant; Robert F. Bunce, Albert W. Christian, Francis R. Chamberlain, Ronald D. Christian, Stewart Walton, Arthur H. Hunt, Girard D. Marrotte, Francis Lambert.

POLICE MATRON: Edith A. Peard.

CONSTABLE: Lloyd F. Wellington.

DOG CONSTABLE: Arthur H. Rivard.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Engineer, Paul A. Leach; Assistant Engineers, Robert F. Bunce, Francis E. Devlin.

FOREST FIRE WARDEN: Paul A. Leach; Assistants, Robert F. Bunce, Philip C. Tremblay, Samuel LaFreniere.

CIVIL DEFENSE: Director, Charles W. Bacon, Jr.; Co-director, Raymond J. Desmarais; Assistant Director, Reginald C. Hill.

HEALTH OFFICER: John G. Heil.

HIGHWAY AGENT: Richard Wilson.

OVERSEER OF PUBLIC WELFARE: Arthur H. Rivard.

WATER COMMISSIONERS: Richard R. Bussiere, George A. Sirois, Julio Mei.

WATER WORKS TREASURER AND BOOKKEEPER: Alfred J. Christian.

DISTRICT COURT: Justice, Jason C. Sawyer; Special Justice, Walter H. Gentsch;

Clerk, Raymond J. Desmarais; Bail Commissioner, Raymond J. Desmarais.

TREE WARDEN: Alfred P. Sawyer.

AGENT FOR TOWN CLOCK: Elmer H. Eaves.

COMMISSIONERS FOR HUMISTON PARK: Robert G. Van Blarcom, Joseph T. Griffin,  
Leon H. Hunt.

JAFFREY MUNICIPAL AIRPARK: Manager, David R. Sawyer.

REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL COURT: Charles R. Austin, Andrew J. Bussiere.

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECK LIST: Rita J. Forcier, William A. Blair, Myrtle J.  
Hazleton.

SELECTIVE SERVICE: Registrar, Raymond J. Desmarais.

MODERATOR: Jason C. Sawyer.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: David L. Van Blarcom, Leonard R. Kirschner, Copeland M.  
Draper, Alfred P. Sawyer, Henry Wheeler, Jr., William W. Torrey, Ernest J.  
Pratt.

SCHOOL BOARD: Chairman, Ernest J. Pratt, Anne B. Gordon, Marion M. Johnson,  
Leon H. Hunt, James A. Sullivan, Robert E. Bussiere.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Raymond G. Edwards, Peterborough, N. H.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES: Homer J. Belletete, Ralph E. Boynton, Georgia L. Eaves, Carl  
C. Spofford, Marion G. Symonds.

LIBRARIAN: Evelyn H. Ruffle.

AUDITORS: Roger R. Smith, Theodore R. A. Lambert.

PLANNING BOARD: H. Charles Royce, B. Leonard Krause, Joseph J. Crocker, Peter  
B. Davis, Edward J. Shea.

CONANT INDIGENT FUND TRUSTEES: Ella E. Griffiths, Catherine B. Kirschner, Al-  
bert J. Morin.

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS: Carl C. Spofford, Warren C. Ruffle, Randy P.  
Cournoyer, Bookkeeper.

CONANT HIGH SCHOOL FUND TRUSTEES: Robert H. George, Homer J. Belletete,  
Randy P. Cournoyer.

ALICE W. POOLE FUND TRUSTEES: Vernon J. Bean, Donald E. Proctor, B. Leonard  
Krause, Nellie R. Evans, Juliette DeGrandpre.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Philip M. Darling, Bernard J. Hampsey, Jr.,  
James W. Ballentine, Joseph P. Manning, Charlotte Duval.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE: F. James Butler, Gerald A. DeGrandpre, Raymond J.  
Desmarais, Walter H. Gentsch, Hattie R. Letourneau, Albert J. Morin,  
Donald E. Proctor, Warren C. Ruffle, Jason C. Sawyer, William D. Tribble,  
Lloyd F. Wellington.

NOTARIES: Alvin Benjamin, W. Lionel Boulay, Randy P. Cournoyer, Eunice  
Davis, Gerald A. DeGrandpre, Raymond J. Desmarais, Mildred G. Devlin,  
Elinor R. Eaves, Charles H. Griswold, Bernard J. Hampsey, Jr., Myrtle J.  
Hazleton, Leonard O. Kirschner, Hubert S. O'Neil, Donald E. Proctor, Kent  
M. Royce, Warren C. Ruffle, Wallace W. Savard, Jason C. Sawyer, Harry J.  
Sirois, Ellen R. Smith, William D. Tribble, Maurice S. Tuttle, Hazel F.  
Wellington, Bernice J. Wolff.

## CHURCHES

CATHOLIC: Rev. W. Lionel Boulay.  
 CONGREGATIONAL: (Center) Rev. John H. Leamon.  
 UNITED: Rev. Mario Cestaro.

## PROFESSIONAL

CHIROPRACTOR: Nelson's Chiropractic Clinic.  
 DENTIST: Dr. Harold H. Goodman.  
 LAWYERS: Walter H. Gentsch, William D. Tribble, Bernard J. Hampsey, Jr.,  
 Francis X. Quinlan.  
 OPTOMETRISTS: Mandel & Duclos.  
 PHYSICIANS: Dr. C. Francis Wozmak, Dr. D. Glyn Millard, Dr. Franklin W.  
 Sterling, Dr. Charles H. Hamilton.  
 VETERINARIAN: Dr. Richard H. Donovan.

## BUSINESS

POST OFFICE: Postmaster, Homer J. Forcier.  
 POST OFFICE: Center, Rural Station, Alice L. Meyers, Clerk in Charge.  
 R.F.D. CARRIER: Charles A. Baldwin.  
 NEWSPAPERS: Monadnock Ledger, Jaffrey Recorder Transcript.  
 MONADNOCK NATIONAL BANK: President, Donald E. Proctor; Cashier, Gerald A.  
 DeGrandpre.  
 MONADNOCK SAVINGS BANK: President, Donald E. Proctor; Treasurer, Warren C.  
 Ruffle.  
 AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS: Don A. Eaves, Karl J. Boutwell.  
 ANTIQUES: Old Towne House, Hazel's Glass & Bottle Shop.  
 AUCTIONEERS: Jason C. Sawyer.  
 AUTOMOBILES: Hackler Motor Sales, Hayes Motor Sales, Boutwell's Garage, Ray  
 Moore Motors Sales and Service, Don's Sunoco Station, Korpi's Service  
 Station, Martin's Texaco Station, Red's Atlantic Station.  
 AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES: Christie & Thomson, United Auto Supply.  
 BAKERS: Crane's Pastry Shop.  
 BARBER SHOPS: Johanson's Barber Shop; Bernard J. Heil, Stanley Wilson, Howard  
 Lewis.  
 BEAUTY PARLORS: Carol's Beauty Shop, Clip-N-Curl, Rita Gobeil, Mae's Beauty  
 Shop, Marion Martin, St. George Beauty Salon, Star Beauty Shop.  
 BICYCLES: Roy's Bicycle Shop.  
 BLACKSMITH: Charles A. Folsom.  
 BOOT AND SHOE REPAIR: Antonio A. Ouellette.  
 CARPENTERS AND BUILDERS: Frederick H. Smith, Clyde W. Felch, Roland Thoin,  
 Albert P. Cloutier, DeCelle & Letourneau, Belletete's.  
 CLEANERS AND LAUNDRIES: Elite Laundry.  
 CLOTHING DEALERS: Abbott Clothing Co., Goodnow's Shopping Center, Betty's  
 Smart Shop, Dessaints.  
 CONTRACTORS: Oren J. Belletete, Octave Bernier, Henry J. Belletete, Lloyd C.  
 Dunning.  
 DEPARTMENT STORES: Goodnow's Shopping Center, Godin's Store.  
 DRUG STORES: Sawyer Pharmacy.



- DRY GOODS AND NOVELTIES:** Nan's Novelty Shop, Goodnow's Shopping Center, Godin's Store, Dessaint's.
- ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS:** Wilfred H. Boudrieau, Jas. A. McEwan Corp., George A. Sirois, Howard O. Williams.
- ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURERS:** Man Electronics Corp.
- FIBRE GLASS MANUFACTURERS:** Bean Fibre Glass, Inc.
- FINANCE COMPANIES:** Coastal Acceptance Corp.
- FUEL DEALERS:** Butler Oil Co., A. M. Deschenes, Jaffrey Oil Co., Charles J. Letourneau, Korpi's.
- FURNITURE:** Johanson Furniture Co., Goodnow's Shopping Center.
- GAS (BOTTLED) :** Butler Oil Co., Charles J. Letourneau, F. Mei & Co.
- GIFT SHOPS:** The Glenn Hunt Shop, Nan's Novelty Shoppe, Oribe Gift Shop, Hazel's Glass & Bottle Shop, Silver Ranch Saddle & Gift Shop, Village Gift & Card Shop.
- GROCERIES:** Goodnow's Shopping Center, Belletete's Inc., Forcier's Super Market, Roy's Self Service, Meyer's Store (Center).
- HARDWARE:** Belletete's Inc., Aubuchon Hardware, Porter's Sport Center, United Auto Supply.
- HOTELS:** Monadnock Inn, Woodbound Inn (Rindge).
- HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES:** Wilfred H. Boudrieau, Coll's Radio Shop, Johanson Furniture Co., N. H. Public Service Co., George A. Sirois.
- INSURANCE:** Butler Insurance Agency, Cournoyer Insurance Agency, Raymond J. Desmarais, Elinor R. Eaves, Leonard O. Kirschner, Monadnock Insurance Agency, Maurice S. Tuttle, Lloyd F. Wellington.
- JUNK DEALERS:** Joseph Crocker.
- LIBRARIES:** Jaffrey Public Library, Evelyn H. Ruffle, Librarian.
- LIGHT & POWER COMPANIES:** Public Service Co. of New Hampshire.
- LIQUOR STORES:** N. H. State Liquor Commission Store No. 36.
- LUMBER:** Annett Lumber Co., Belletete's Inc.
- MANUFACTURERS:** Atlas Display Fireworks, D. D. Bean & Sons Co., Inc., W. W. Cross & Co., Inc., Jaffrey Mills, Jaffrey Woodworking, Inc., Jaffrey Woven Label Co., Jaffrey Trophy Co., King Manufacturing Co., Man Electronics Corp.
- MASONS:** Edward J. Desmarais, Daniel G. Marrotte.
- PAINTERS AND DECORATORS:** William W. Belletete, Donald J. Butler.
- PLUMBING AND HEATING:** Evans & Devlin, Alfred Fontaine, John G. Heil, F. Mei & Co., Charles L. Stratton.
- RADIO AND TELEVISION:** Coll's Radio Shop, Goodnow's Shopping Center, Johanson Furniture Co., David O'Neil, Roland Pillsbury, Sawtelle Electronic Laboratory.
- REAL ESTATE:** Oren J. Belletete, Randy P. Cournoyer, Crocker Associates, St. George Real Estate, Harry J. Sirois, Shattuck Realty, Inc., Monadnock Agency.
- RESTAURANTS:** Anthony's Restaurant, Crane's Pastry & Coffee Shop, Margie's Restaurant, Oribe Tea Barn (Center), Pauline's Luncheonette, Silver Ranch.
- SCHOOLS:** Jaffrey Grade School, Conant High School, St. Patrick's School, Queen of Peace Mission Seminary.
- SMALL POWER EQUIPMENT:** George Fontaine.
- THEATRES:** Park Theatre.

TRUCKING: Roland Archambault, O. J. Bernier, Delphis P. Robidoux.  
 WATCH AND JEWELRY REPAIRS: E. E. Aucoin.

## FINANCIAL

## Inventory — 1967

Land and Buildings		\$16,901,555.00
Factory Buildings and Land		893,948.00
Factory Machinery		989,889.00
Public Utilities (Electric)		647,820.00
Trailers	20	60,280.00
Stock in Trade — Merchants		715,310.00
Stock in Trade — Manufacturers		1,870,288.00
Boats and Launches	44	18,480.00
Dairy Cows	161	9,695.00
Neat Stock	13	390.00
Poultry	15,000	5,250.00
Road Machinery		25,515.00
Gas Pumps and Tanks		13,700.00
Wood and Lumber		1,200.00
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		\$22,153,320.00