

## CHAPTER VIII

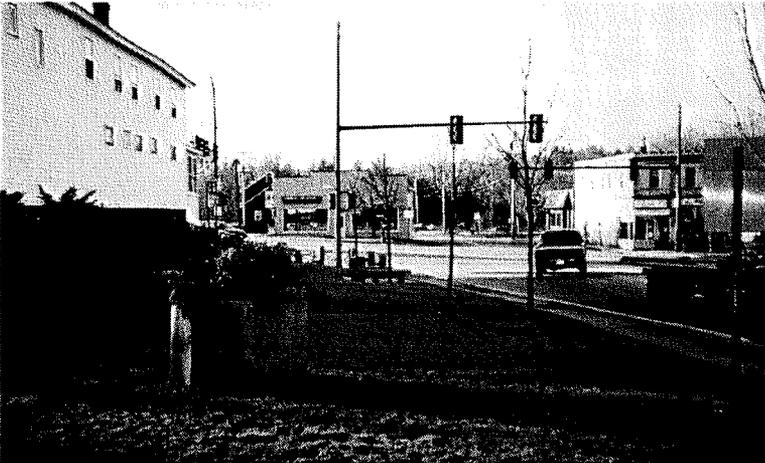
### PARKS

“What has been the delights of the lord are  
now the delights of the people”

MARTEAL

#### ALDERMAN PARK

In the early 1990s, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation attempted to improve the traffic flow through the downtown area on Route 202 fondly known as the “dogleg.” In order to do that, the state purchased a piece of property at the corner of Peterborough Street and Turnpike Road, which for many years was the home of Hackler Motors. In order to widen the road at the intersection, they found it necessary to tear down the existing building, leaving a vacant lot. The board of selectman received permission from the state allowing them to enhance the appearance of this area by constructing a small park. Town manager Hunter Rieseberg, on behalf of the selectman, contacted Jaffrey resident



*Alderman Park*

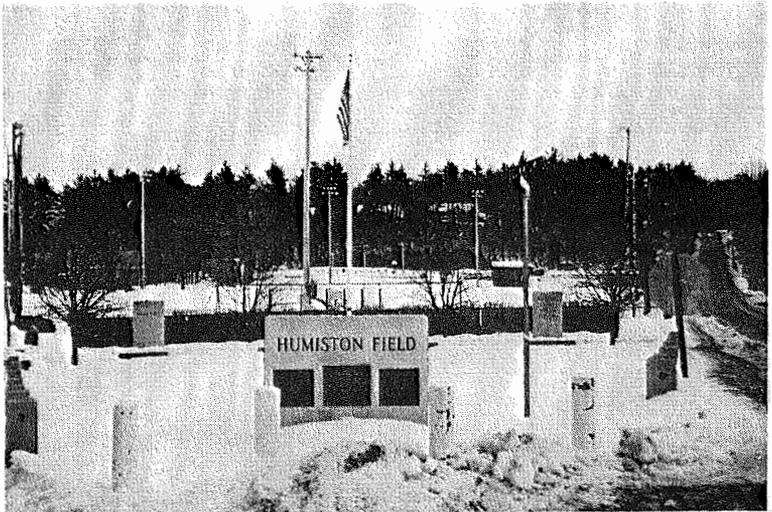
and architect Bissell Alderman to design the park.

Mr. Alderman, who had designed the Korea-Vietnam Memorial Park as well as the Veterans' Memorial at Humiston Field, went to work on the design for the new pocket park. When he presented the finished design to the board, he suggested it be named "Central Park." Though he had designed all three parks in the town of Jaffrey, he had never submitted a bill for any of them. Therefore on June 4, 1994, during the celebration of "Jaffrey Days," chairman of the board of selectman, Jeanne LaBrie, announced the dedication of Jaffrey's newest park to architect Bissell Alderman. She read the following inscription from the bronze plaque which had been placed on Jaffrey's ancient granite watering trough:

*Alderman Park*

*In recognition of Jaffrey's  
own architect Bissell Alderman  
who has given so generously  
of his talents in the beautification  
of our town.*

*Dedicated June 4, 1994*



*Veterans' Memorial at Humiston Field*

## CHILDREN'S WOODS AND CAREY PARK

In 1936, 30 acres of land adjacent to the Albert and Agnes Annett homestead on Stratton Road was bequeathed to the children of Jaffrey by Annett, who was born in Jaffrey in 1861. The land has been held by the town in trust, and its use has been controlled by the school board. Annett, who along with Alice Lehtinen, compiled Volumes I and II of the *History of Jaffrey*, published in 1937, had been in the lumbering and box-making business. He understood the importance of preserving a parcel of forested land for Jaffrey's children to study and enjoy in the years to come. Conant High School students have learned about botany, trail mapping, and ecology in Children's Woods. Jaffrey teachers Charles Chamberlain in the 1950s and 1960s and Charles Daloz in the 1990s led students out of the classroom to study the trees, shrubs, and flowers that grow in Children's Woods. Not only did Annett envision the study of natural history taking place on land that had long ago been known as "Palmer's pasture," but he also recognized the value of the land to inspire appreciation of the aesthetic beauty to be found there.

It is a park that generations of Jaffrey's children have played in, felt safe in, and where they have learned ecological concepts to pass on to the next generation.

Further along Stratton Road, up Howard Hill, is the access to Carey Park, a tract of land donated to the town by the Jaffrey Outing Club in 1972. Besides having similar flora and fauna to Children's Woods, it has access to the Contoocook River, providing the opportunity for studying an aquatic environment. Of course it also provides a chance to play Huck Finn on a sunny afternoon and drop in a fishing line. With fewer restrictions on this land than on the adjacent Children's Woods, discussions took place among school officials in the early 1990s to use Carey Park's trees, in a limited way, to demonstrate timber management practices for high school and technical school students. This plan has yet to be implemented.

## LAND TRUST AT GAP MOUNTAIN

Land Trust at Gap Mountain was incorporated (not for profit) in 1987 to satisfy the desire of the incorporators to hold land in common, to learn to live together in ecological harmony, to remove the land forever from the speculative market, and to make homesites

(there will be about eight leaseholds in all) available at low cost. The original 97 acres in the land trust, given to Judith Gregory by her parents, Mary and Charles Gregory, lie along Old Mill Road and Bullard Road and Route 124 between Mount Monadnock and Gap Mountain. The incorporators were Douglas Clayton, Judith Gregory, David Jacke, Kyung Kim, and Sally Nichols. Robin Boyd joined them, building on her leasehold in 1994. There were four leaseholds on the land at the end of 1995.

### JAFFREY WAR MEMORIAL PARK

On August 11, 1954, at a ceremony that included remarks by State Representative Richard Grodin and U. S. Representative Judd Gregg, this memorial was dedicated to those who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. The site, on the bank of the Contocook River near the center of town, was purchased with some of the \$137,000 raised to construct a fitting memorial without the use of tax revenue. At the time it was the only privately financed memorial to the service men and women of Korea and Vietnam in the Granite State. The two huge granite slabs at the entrance to the park once served as the steps of the Jaffrey Baptist Church and were donated by Jaffrey resident William P. Smith. Serving on the committee of the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce which appealed to fellow citizens for contributions and guided the project were: Richard Lambert, Robert Potter, Christopher Bean, Gordon Billipp, Herbert Bixler, Alan Cote, Kenneth Saunders, William Smith, Arthur Snow, and Robert Stephenson. Architects Bissell Alderman and George Wiedenkeller's vision for the tribute was brought to life by Hunter Construction Corporation and Sunrise Landscapers, Inc.

### MOUNT MONADNOCK STATE PARK

On April 5, 1987, the United States Department of the Interior designated Mount Monadnock as a Registered Natural Landmark. In the visitor center at the park a plaque reads: "This site possesses exceptional value as an illustration of the Nation's national heritage and contributes to a better understanding of man's environment."

The mountain has become more and more popular with hikers, so much so that in October 1995, Michelin's *Green Guide to New England* declared that it was the most-climbed mountain without

an auto road in the world. More than 127,000 people hike it each year, some rather frequently. Since May 1, 1992, Lawrence Davis has set a record for climbing the mountain. As of March 1, 1999, he had made the climb 2,495 consecutive times and shows no sign of stopping. He still pursues this record-breaking quest each day. Most visitors, however, come to hike or cross-country ski the more than 40 miles of maintained trails, camp in designated areas, enjoy wildflowers, or observe fall foliage.

The increased usage has resulted in a number of changes, including expansion of year-round camping facilities and increased services provided at park headquarters. The parking area at the old toll road trail was expanded to hold 85 cars in 1993. During that same year the park was administered from the new store facility through the winter months.

To protect this resource, the town went so far as to adopt a Mountain Zone as one of its Land Use Ordinances. It is designed to protect and preserve the scenic beauty of the mountain by permitting only residential and agricultural uses and limiting business and commercial development. Lease managements and easements acquired over the past few years also help the mountain to endure.

Mount Monadnock is the crown jewel of Jaffrey's natural resources. This beloved recreation area represents a constant challenge for the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation and private interests such as the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests, both concerned with protecting the resource for the future as well as enhancing the visitor's experience today.

In the 1970s the Monadnock Advisory Commission, consisting of two members from each of the towns surrounding the mountain, cooperated to create a zoning plan to protect the area from the pressures of development. Working with New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Wilbur LePage, a Jaffrey native, a "Mountain Zone" was established inside 21 miles of circumventing roadways. For the first time, town planning boards in the region worked together to protect Mount Monadnock and the highlands around it. In 1989 the advisory commission helped write legislation to assure sound management practices in the future.

In 1972 the summit building and the cabin at Falcon Springs were torn down by park personnel to provide an experience more

in keeping with the wilderness. Also in 1972, H. Charles Royce, Jr. left as park manager after almost 20 years of stewardship. That same year Benjamin Haubrick took over for another near 20-year term as park manager.

In 1972 the Monadnock Eco-Center opened at the park with funding from the Sagendorph family, *Yankee Magazine*, and the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF). Staff and guest experts provided thematic education programs for the general public. In 1987 SPNHF and a graduate student from Antioch New England College renovated the center, and it became the self-guided educational facility known today as the Monadnock Visitor Center. Expansion and updating of the center to increase its accessibility have been ongoing since Michael Walsh became park manager April 30, 1993. One of the projects accomplished by Ameri-Corps at Monadnock has been to refurbish the exterior of the building and install a recycled oak floor inside.

A \$483,000 federal grant to fund Ameri-Corps at Monadnock was coauthored by park manager Walsh and Robert Coates of the New Hampshire Conservation Corps. Their goal was to provide year-round programming at the park and extend the 1993 six-week nonresident conservation and education program with Conant High School for Jaffrey-Rindge students. In October 1994 Ameri-Corps at Monadnock commenced with 20 corps members who were assigned 1,700 hours of public service over an 11-month period supervised by five leaders and one director. Projects focused on outdoor education, public safety, accessibility, building renovation, and trail and bridge work. Corps members went out to public schools in the Monadnock Region to present conservation/education programs. Ameri-Corps at Monadnock earned high marks nationally and served as the model for an expanded statewide project known as New Hampshire Parks Ameri-Corps to be headquartered at Bear Brook State Park in Allentown, New Hampshire.

Park managers since 1947 have been: Charles Burrage, 1947-61; Charles Royce, 1961-73; Benjamin Haubrick, 1972-93; Michael Walsh, 1993-.

## SHATTUCK PARK

At town meeting in 1986 a warrant article was presented to voters to transfer responsibility for the land and beach on Thorndike Pond, given to the town in 1924 by Henry V. Shattuck, from the board of selectmen to the Jaffrey Recreation Department. Shattuck had left a trust fund for maintenance expenses, and over the years volunteers from Jaffrey VFW Post No. 5613 had monitored the area. Given the demands of increased usage and liability concerns, voters agreed that the recreation department should upgrade the facility which now has picnic and barbecue sites, a pavilion, rest rooms, and is protected by a lifeguard throughout the summer season. Shattuck Park provides residents with access to one of the town's most precious natural resources, just as Henry V. Shattuck had intended.



*Charles Howard Park*

## HOWARD PARK

Howard Park was built and is maintained by Jaffrey VFW. For information see Chapter XVIII.