

Cutter Cemetery Walking Tour

SUNDAY · JUNE 27, 2021 · 2-3:30 PM



About the Cutter Cemetery

“In Jaffrey Center there is an old cemetery sacred to the Cutter tribe who gave it. If you would find the place, leave the Center Village to the west, and branching off on the old road over Cutter Hill you will come after a few rods to a well-kept, shaded, and beautifully situated cemetery, laid out and owned for many years by an association of the Cutter family and its connections. It was founded in 1836 in accordance with the wishes of John Cutter, a prosperous tanner, whose home was the large house at the fork of the roads nearby. This yard was entrusted to the care and ownership of the town in 1927.”
— *Volume I of the Town History.*

THE most pleasing appeal of Cutter Cemetery is its allée of maples many of which date from the Civil War era. The newer maples replaced older ones and were planted by the Monadnock and Dublin Garden Clubs as a joint project back in 2012 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Garden Clubs of America.

The Cutter Extension which adjoins the northwest corner was laid out in 2004. Both Town and private funds were used to purchase the land, a happy confluence of cemetery expansion and land protection. 🍀

The Cutter Cemetery is located on Harkness Road close to its intersection with Main Street.

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

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE researched and composed this Walking Tour, acted as Guides for those attending, or otherwise assisted: Richard Boutwell, Cathy Proulx and Robert Stephenson.

PRODUCED AND ISSUED by the Jaffrey Historical Society and the Jaffrey Cemetery Committee.

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8 WALTER F. HEATH (1858-1931) was born in Jaffrey three years after his parents, Eleazer W. and Mary L. were married in Lowell, Massachusetts, and had moved to town. Walter’s father had purchased land near Gilmore Pond, and with his brother-in-law, one of the Gilmores, bought a saw and grist mill nearby and became engaged in the manufacture of chair stock. But none of this was of interest to young Walter. He instead enjoyed the wonders of nature around him, the birds and other wildlife. He began cultivating flowers and vegetables. He also began composing little poems about the things around him and about life as he saw it. Some of his poems were printed in local newspapers. Soon his gift of verse became so much in demand that a little collection called *Mountain Echoes* was printed. Two thousand copies were sold and the booklet, at the time of Walter’s death, had gone into a third printing. His death was sadly felt by many. His wife remarried and stayed on the Heath homestead. Walter and Mary had no children. Lot 33 🍀

9 ALBERT S. PIERCE (1845-1909), Co. G, 14 N.H.V., served in the Civil War. He enlisted in 1862, at the age of 17. He was wounded in 1864 in Opequan, Virginia. He became a corporal on December 25, 1864 and mustered out on July 8, 1865. He was part of the 14th NH Regiment which enlisted thirty-four Jaffrey men. Each volunteering for nine months was paid \$100 as a bounty and a monthly wage of \$20. Drills were held on the Baptist Common through the summer. In September 1862, the Jaffrey Company was joined by a squad of twelve men from Dublin. Following his service, he was a machinist in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Later, he was a mail carrier for many years. He married Mary B. Chamberlain. Mary was born in 1849 and was the daughter of Ermina Cutter Chamberlain and great granddaughter of John and Abigail Cutter. Albert died in 1909 at the age of 65. Lot 26 🍀

10 COL. GEORGE BRIANT (1814-1865) lived on the family homestead, Lot 14, Range 4, now known as Bryant Road, in a brick house built in 1829 by his father, John Briant. George was captain of the Jaffrey Military company in 1820, and afterward colonel of the Twelfth Regiment State Militia. He married Elvira Elizabeth Hodge (1826-1875) of Rindge in 1845. Also buried here is their son George Edwin Bryant (1848-1897) and his wife Clarissa Ballou (1851-1911). According to the Jaffrey Town History, the spelling of Briant changed to Bryant with son, George Edwin. George Edwin was familiarly known as “Short Ed” in distinction from his second cousin Edward G. who was known as “Long Ed.” Lot 32 🍀

11 WALTER HUGO GENTSCH (1907-2000) was born in Clinton, Massachusetts, where he started school and moved to Jaffrey where he graduated from Conant High School in 1925. He went on to earn degrees in Accounting and Finance. Eventually, choosing the legal profession, he earned his LL.B. at Northeastern University’s Law School. Walter opened his law practice in Jaffrey in 1933 and offered legal services and counsel, and served as a tax attorney to the people of Jaffrey and surrounding towns for 30 years. He married Doris Eddy of Southern Pines, North Carolina, in 1935. In Jaffrey she became involved in town activities and women’s groups. Walter also served as town and school district clerk and was appointed Special Judge of the Municipal and District Courts. Lot 71 🍀

12 COBURN KIDD (1909-1982) was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He attended the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, earning his Masters and Doctoral Degrees. He went on to Georgetown University School of Law in Washington, D.C. During World War II he served with the Office of Strategic Services as a First Lieutenant. Following his military service Coburn was for many years a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State, serving in Vienna, Washington, Tokyo and Bonn, Germany. His final post was as Consul General in Hamburg, Germany. On a visit to the Monadnock Region, Coburn and his wife Mary discovered Jaffrey and retired here. Coburn took an interest in town affairs and became an active member of the Village Improvement Society and served as Chairman of the Amos Fortune Forum. His lasting contributions to the town were the book *Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire*, a historical look at the homes of the village, and a work that entailed countless hours of research, *Jaffrey Streets and Roads, 1773-1980*. The work was left in manuscript form at Coburn’s death in 1982; Mary saw it through to publication. She died in 2017. Coburn and Mary remembered their adopted town well, bequeathing generous gifts to many of the area’s individuals, organizations and causes. Lot 60 🍀

