

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE

THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE was established in 1991 to advise the Town on the operation, maintenance and preservation of Jaffrey's public cemeteries: Conant, The Old Burying Ground, Cutter, Cutter Extension and Phillips-Heil (also the inactive cemeteries, Village and Smallpox). It is composed of representatives of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Historical Society, Cournoyer Funeral Home, the Board of Selectmen and up to five appointed Members at Large. Randall Heglin, Director of Public Works, and Bruce Hautanen assist the Committee in its work. The *Resolution* establishing the Committee and the *Cemetery Rules and Regulations* are on the Town's website: <http://townofjaffrey.com>

CEMETERY STATISTICS FOR 2011

| <u>Available Lots:</u> | Conant | Phillips | Phillips-Heil | Cutter | Cutter Extension | Old Burying Ground |
|------------------------|--------|----------|---------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|
| Burial (double) | 348 | 0 | 80 | 0 | 5* | 0 |
| Cremation | 11 | 21 | 29 | 0 | 31* | 0 |
| <u>Sale of Lots:</u> | | | | | | |
| Burial (double) | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burial (single) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cremation | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Burials:</u> | | | | | | |
| Full | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Cremation | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Disinterment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Section B single lots only. Additional lots will become available in future years.

During 2011 the Committee met four times with Town staff to discuss operation, budget and maintenance issues, or to undertake inspections. Each cemetery is overseen by a member of the Committee. This oversight involves inspecting the cemetery from time-to-time and reporting on conditions and problems at Committee meetings. Members of the Committee also participated in several work sessions to 1) straighten headstones; 2) continue the restoration of the cast iron fence surrounding John Conant's grave; and 3) record and photograph the gravestones in Conant Cemetery (800 completed, 500 yet to be done), in Cutter Cemetery and in the Old Burying Ground.

Katsura Landscaping continues to do an excellent job of grass cutting, cleanup and grounds maintenance at all the cemeteries. Andrew Webber replaced the sill of the Hearse House at Village Cemetery and repaired the wood-rail fence at the entrance, while Green Side Fence Co. repaired the chain link fencing that had been damaged by a falling tree.

A *Cemetery Trees Trust Fund* was established at the 2007 Town Meeting. At last year's Town Meeting, \$3,000 was added to the fund. (In addition \$500 in private contributions have been received.) \$5,100 was expended in 2011 to pay for the removal of six very old maples in the Old Burying Ground and for grinding the stumps. These trees had exceeded their expected life spans and posed a threat to the surrounding historic headstones. Additional trees including very large white pines will be removed in 2012 if the logistics of the removal can be safely worked out. The balance of the Trust Fund now stands at ca. \$9,300.

Minor gravestone repairs and stone straightening were done by volunteers. The large Gilmore obelisk in the Old Burying Ground, which was dangerously leaning, was moved, a foundation added and moved back in place by John Kaufhold of Peterborough Marble & Granite. He repaired as well several broken headstones in the Old Burying Ground and Conant Cemetery. The costs of these (\$750) were borne by the *Gravestone Restoration Trust Fund*, the balance of

which now stands at nearly \$7,500. At last year's Town Meeting, \$1,000 was added to the fund. More stone straightening and resetting is planned for the Old Burying Ground and Village Cemetery in 2012. Also the Bradley monument in Conant Cemetery will be thoroughly cleaned by John Kaufhold (there is a dedicated fund created by Mark S. Bradley for this work).

Phase VI of the volunteer effort of restoring the iron fencing surrounding John Conant's grave at the cemetery named for him was undertaken by members of the Committee. One and a half sections were scraped and painted. The completion of this project is now in sight. The goal in 2012 is to finish another two sections.

It is expected that a new storage shed will be purchased for Conant Cemetery in 2012, paid for with proceeds from the Bradley Trust.

Residents and lot owners are reminded that the Town's *Cemetery Rules & Regulations* and *A Guide to the Public Cemeteries of Jaffrey* are available from the Department of Public Works and on the Town website. The Cemetery Committee has a page on the site under Town Government, Committees/Commissions. More content was added or expanded during 2011 (inventories and photographs of graves in the Old Burying Ground, Phillips-Heil and Village Cemeteries). Information on some but not all graves in Jaffrey is available on www.jaffreyhistory.org.

The Monadnock and Dublin Garden Clubs—in observance of the Garden Club of America's centennial in 2013—are taking on Cutter Cemetery as a project. The intention is to enhance this cemetery's distinctive sugar maple allées. Trees that have long gone will be replaced in 2012. Cuttings from the original trees are now being propagated in a temporary nursery in Cutter Extension. The clubs have been successful in raising funds for trees and the Committee is appreciative of their efforts and looks forward to admiring the results.

During 2011, Andy Roy, an experienced slate letter carver, and Emily Preston joined the Committee as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member-at-large, respectively. The Committee welcomes their participation.

The Committee thanks those volunteers who have shown an interest in Jaffrey's cemeteries by devoting their time and attention to their care and maintenance over the past year.



The entrance to Village Cemetery and the Hearse House.

For front matter of Town Report:

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Richard G. Boutwell, Member at Large (Conant Overseer) | Term expires 2013 |
| Cynthia Hamilton, Member at Large (Cutter Overseer) | Term expires 2013 |
| Thomas Rothermel, Member at Large (Phillips-Heil Overseer) | Term expires 2011 |
| Kevin Sterling, Member at Large (Old Burying Ground Overseer) | Term expires 2012 |
| Emily Preston, Member at Large | Term expires 2014 |
| Randyl Cournoyer | Cournoyer Funeral Home |
| Antoine Roy | V.F.W. Representative |
| Vacant | American Legion Representative |
| Robert B. Stephenson (Village Cemetery Overseer) | Historical Society Representative |
| Donald MacIsaac | Selectmen's Representative |