

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 2012

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

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

During 2012 the Committee met six 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, Cutter Cemetery and The Old Burying Ground.

Katsura Landscaping continues to do an excellent job of grass cutting, cleanup and grounds maintenance at all the cemeteries.

A Cemetery Trees Trust Fund was established at the 2007 Town Meeting. At last year's Town Meeting, \$2,000 was added to the fund. (In addition \$500 in private contributions have been received.) \$880 was expended in 2012 to pay for tree removal and pruning in Conant and Cutter Cemeteries and The Old Burying Ground. Additional trees including very large white pines will be removed in 2013 if the logistics of the removal can be safely worked out. The balance of the Fund now stands at \$10,406.80.

Minor gravestone repairs and stone straightening were done by volunteers. The stonework at the Bradley gravesite in Conant Cemetery was thoroughly cleaned by John Kaufhold and his crew at Peterborough Marble & Granite. The cost of this was covered by a trust fund established many years ago by Mark Bradley. (This fund also covered the cost of a new storage shed at Conant Cemetery—\$4,605.05—which replaced the deteriorated one at the same location.) Peterborough Marble & Granite also did extensive stone repair and stone re-setting at Conant and Village Cemeteries and repaired one slate headstone in The Old Burying Ground. The cost of this was borne by the Gravestone Restoration Trust Fund (\$5,435) and the Bradley Trust (\$2,500). The

balance of the Gravestone Restoration Trust Fund is \$2,480.24 as of December 31, 2012. At last year's Town Meeting, \$500 was added to the fund.

Phase VII 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. The scraping and painting were finally completed in the Fall of 2012 after an effort of seven years.

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 <http://townofjaffrey.com>. The Cemetery Committee has a page on the site under Boards & Committees. 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—have taken on Cutter Cemetery as a project, restoring and enhancing this cemetery's distinctive sugar maple allées. Seventeen 3-1/2 inch caliper sugar maples were planted in May filling in the vacant spaces. Twenty-five cuttings from the original trees are now being propagated in a temporary nursery in Cutter Extension. The Committee is appreciative of their efforts and looks forward to admiring the results.

Emily Preston has completed her work of photographing the headstones in Conant Cemetery. Photography continues in The Old Burying Ground and Cutter Cemetery as does database entry.

During 2012, Paul St. Pierre joined the Committee as Genealogist. Paul's wealth of knowledge on Jaffrey families has already proved invaluable in assisting in inquiries.

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. Dennis Wright kindly donated his services to prepare and paint the flagpole at The Old Burying Ground.



Finishing up the John Conant fence. Rob Stephenson, Dick Boutwell, Paul St. Pierre and Emily Preston with Simon.

For front matter of Town Report:

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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 2015
Kevin Sterling, Member-at-Large (Old Burying Ground Overseer)	Term expires 2015
Emily Preston, Member-at-Large	Term expires 2014
Randyl Cournoyer	Cournoyer Funeral Home
Antoine Roy	V.F.W. Representative
William Sheldon (pending)	American Legion Representative
Robert B. Stephenson (Village Cemetery Overseer)	Historical Society Representative
Paul St. Pierre	Genealogist
Donald MacIsaac	Selectmen's Representative