

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 2013

Available Lots:	Conant	Phillips	Phillips-Heil	Cutter	Cutter Extension	Old Burying Ground
Burial (double)	348	0	80	0	48*	0
Cremation	11	21	29	0	63*	0
Sale of Lots:						
Burial (double)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burial (single)	0	0	0	0	11	0
Cremation	0	0	0	0	2	0
Burials:						
Full	2	0	0	0	2	1
Cremation	3	0	0	1	0	1
Disinterment	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Sections A, B & F single lots only. Additional lots will become available in future years.

During 2013 the Committee met five 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. During 2013, \$3,550 was spent on tree removal and pruning in Cutter Cemetery and The Old Burying Ground (where several very large white pines were removed). The balance of the Cemetery Trees Trust Fund at the start of the year was \$10,395; at the end of the year, \$8,814.81. At last year's Town Meeting, \$2,000 was added to the fund.

Minor gravestone repairs and stone straightening were done by volunteers. Peterborough Marble & Granite did extensive stone repair and stone re-setting at Conant, Village and Cutter Cemeteries and The Old Burying Ground. During 2013, \$4,065 was spent for these purposes, much though not all from this fund. The balance of the Gravestone Restoration Trust Fund at the start of the year was \$2,774.12; at the end of the year, \$1,968.93. At last year's Town Meeting, \$1,000 was added to the fund.

The seven-year project of scraping and painting of the iron fencing surrounding John Conant's grave at the cemetery named for him was completed in 2012 by members of the Committee. Nearly the entire fence was given a second coat of paint in 2013.

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 sugar maples planted in 2012 in Cutter Cemetery by the Monadnock and Dublin Garden Clubs—in observance of the Garden Club of America's centennial—have all done well. The remaining small cuttings taken from the original trees, which were planted in a “nursery” in Cutter Extension, have now been transplanted along the southern boundary of the Extension.

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. Special thanks goes out to Paul St. Pierre and Emily Preston who did major brush cutting in Village and the Small Pox cemeteries.



Removing very large and very old white pines along the west boundary of the Old Burying Ground.

For front matter of Town Report:

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Richard G. Boutwell, Member-at-Large (Conant Overseer)	Term expires 2016
Cynthia Hamilton, Member-at-Large (Cutter Overseer)	Term expires 2016
Kevin Sterling, Member-at-Large (Old Burying Ground Overseer)	Term expires 2015

Emily Preston, Member-at-Large
Randyl Cournoyer
Antoine Roy (Phillips-Heil Overseer)
William Sheldon
Robert B. Stephenson (Village Cemetery Overseer)
Paul St. Pierre
Donald MacIsaac

Term expires 2014
Cournoyer Funeral Home
V.F.W. Representative
American Legion Representative
Historical Society Representative
Genealogist
Selectmen's Representative