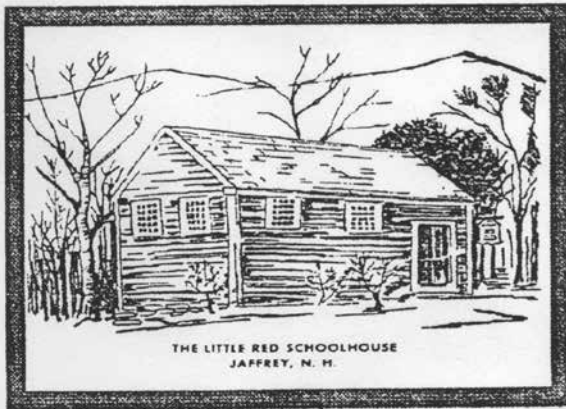


## The Little Red Schoolhouse



PRESERVED AND MAINTAINED BY THE  
JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
40 Main Street, The Civic Center  
Jaffrey, NH 03452

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The building measured twenty feet by twenty-two feet, had one entry door, a hallway for coats, boots, and wood storage, and the primary lighting was from windows. It held a pot-bellied wood stove for heat, and had built-in benches and desks. The rows of desks and benches were smaller in the front for the younger children, and each row was built slightly larger, with the largest at the back of the room for the older children. Children from grades one through twelve were taught in the same room, and all shared duties such as cleaning the painted "blackboard," bringing in the wood, and sweeping the floor. Samuel Litch, the famous Jaffrey schoolmaster, taught one term in this district when ten Cutter children from one family attended his school.

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The Jaffrey Historical Society  
is pleased to welcome you to  
"The Little Red Schoolhouse."

The building now known as the "Little Red Schoolhouse" was the eleventh of thirteen one-room school houses in the town of Jaffrey. The original Schoolhouse in District 11 was built when a number of families living near Mt. Monadnock and Thorndike Pond petitioned the town for a schoolhouse to be built closer to their homes to make it easier for their children to attend. The original building was used until 1822, when it was determined it should be sold rather than repaired; it was sold that year for \$6.70. A replacement schoolhouse was put out for bid, and constructed that same year by a local carpenter for the sum of \$200; this is the building we now know as "The Little Red Schoolhouse."

In 1827 or 1828, the building was moved to a new site between two old hotels at the base of Mt. Monadnock; these hotels went by the names of "The Ark" and "The Shattuck Inn." An old story often told is that Charles Cutter, then a boy of ten or eleven, rode on top of the schoolhouse building while it was being moved "so he could keep up with his education." The building was used as a one room schoolhouse until approximately 1886, when it was decided it was no longer useful, and should be preserved forever as a memorial of the earlier, simpler days of Jaffrey. The building was moved once more in 1959, when it was relocated to its present site at the Jaffrey Center Common next to the Old Meeting House. Many schoolchildren visit each year to see what schools were like many years ago.

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