



# Bedford Cemetery Views

A Public-Private Partnership

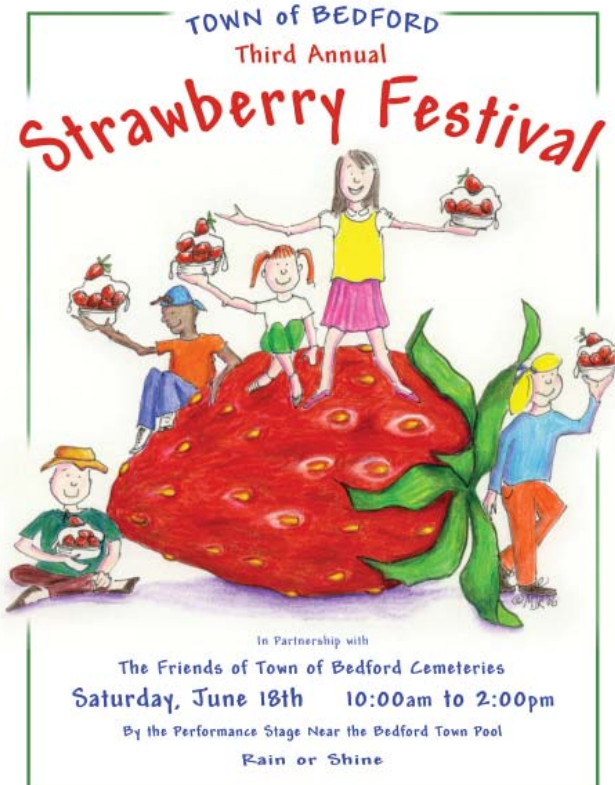
The mission of the Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries is to support the restoration and maintenance of the four cemeteries

May 2011

2011 Strawberry Festival  
Saturday, June 18, 2011  
10:00 am- 2:00 pm

## Walker Monument

By Emily Weiss  
Head of Reference Services  
Bedford Public Library



The Walker Monument commemorates the town's first settlers, brothers Robert and James Walker. In the fall of 1737, the Walker brothers moved to Bedford from Londonderry. In spring of 1738, they were joined by Matthew and Samuel Patten. The four shared a hut, until the Pattens built their own residence. The Walkers and Pattens began clearing land near the bank of the Merrimack River, known as Patten's Field. Later, the Walkers began manufacturing turpentine from pitch pine trees. The 1903 History of Bedford, N.H. recounts several stories about the Walkers. This book is available at the library or online via the Heritage Quest database, which can be accessed through the library's website ([www.bedford.lib.nh.us](http://www.bedford.lib.nh.us)).

The Walker Monument was erected in 1901 by the Walkers' descendents.

Cemetery Trustees Corner  
Town of Bedford Cemetery Trustees  
Ralph Dieter, Chairman  
Elizabeth HoSang, Secretary  
John Wood, Trustee

### Public Forum Regarding Proposed Rules at the Bedford Town Cemetery

On Wednesday, May 18, at 7:00 PM, in the Town Meeting Room, there will be a public forum to discuss the proposed rules at the Bedford Town Cemetery. The proposed rules can be found at: [www.bedfordnh.org/pages/BedfordNH\\_BComm/Cemeteries/index](http://www.bedfordnh.org/pages/BedfordNH_BComm/Cemeteries/index). Copies will also be available from Lori Radke, the Town Clerk. Please come to learn more about this proposal and give us your input.



photos taken by Mike Sills

# Many Thanks...

**BEDFORD PHARMACY**  
Incorporated in 1983  
**101 Plaza (603) 472-3919**  
**209 Main St. 1-800-663-6333**  
**Bedford, NH 03110 Fax (603) 472-7462**  
*The Prescription Compounding Specialists*

**PhotoArt** www.PhotoArtImaging.com  
 Family Photography & Photographic Restorations  
 Call Jerry (603) 472-5587

**ROCK OF AGES** **Manchester Memorial Co. Inc.**  
**601 603-5013 Fax 603-9096**  
**305 Carter Road**  
**Manchester, NH 03103**

**FRIZZHOME GARDENS**  
**OPENS APRIL 2nd** T: (603) 644-0734  
 270 Back River Road  
 Howard Frizzel Bedford, NH 03110

Gravestone Services of New England  
*Monument Conservation Specialists*  
**KAI NALENZ**  
Owner  
 Phone: (603) 472-5271  
 Fax: (603) 472-5397 www.GravestoneServices.com  
 Mobile: (978) 821-9158 info@GravestoneServices.com

**GOODWIN FUNERAL HOME**  
 607 Chestnut St. Manchester, NH  
 603-625-5703

**GOEDECKE**  
 DECORATING CENTER  
 284 Rt. 101, Bedford, NH 03110  
 • Carpet & Vinyl  
 • Draperies  
 • Window Treatments  
 • Wallpaper  
 • Paint  
 603/472-5221  
 Fax 603/472-5307

Proud to invest in our communities  
  
**Laconia Savings Bank**  
*New Hampshire's best bank*  
 1.800.832.0912 laconiasavings.com  
 Member FDIC

## ARE YOU A MEMBER?

We hope that you will join today?  
 Family Dues \$10.00  
 (through December 2011)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and check for \$10.00 made payable to  
 the FTBC to

Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries  
 24 North Amherst Road, Bedford, NH 03110

(Please disregard if you are already a member)

# Bedford Cemetery Spotlight John Orr

compiled by Julia Schappals



John Orr was born in Londonderry in 1748. Orphaned at age five, he became the ward of Deacon Robert Walker who became his guardian until the age of fourteen. Deacon Walker was a strict but fair disciplinarian which John later said was precisely what he needed because, “there was in me by nature, a reckless daring, an obstinacy and self-will.” After leaving Deacon Walker, he became a hired laborer. About the age of nineteen, moved with some friends to Maine where they worked as carpenters. Some of the payment for the work was in “ardent spirits” a few times a day. “At first, I took the spirits only to avoid singularity but I soon found my appetite increased and would catch myself looking up to the sun to see if eleven o’clock was drawing.” Convinced he was in danger of becoming “a drunkard” he left Maine and returned to Bedford at age 21. He and his brother owned a farm and a few years later John married, had several children and bought out his brother’s interest in the farm. During the Revolutionary War, he received a Lieutenant’s commission, serving under General John Stark at the Battle of Bennington. He was shot in the knee, lying in the field for several hours until dragged by his hands, the battle still raging around them, to a field hospital. The injury left him a cripple for life “with a running sore” on his leg. After the War, his children ran the farm and he became a man of public service. He served as representative and senator in the State legislature, held offices of Justice of the Peace and church offices. Of his life, he wrote that he “enjoyed as much happiness as generally falls to the lot of humanity in this world of change.” He died in December of 1822 at the age of 74 and is buried in the Old Bedford Cemetery.