

# ST. JOHNSBURY HISTORY & HERITAGE CENTER



## Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Quest: *Who were some early pioneers and innovators in St. Johnsbury?*

Created in collaboration with St. Johnsbury School  
Summer Program students, July, 2016

Opened in 1853,  
Welcome to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.  
Earlier graves were moved to this spot  
When land to build the new Courthouse was sought.

At the Chapel, we begin our quest;  
Take the uppermost road to the west.  
Walk just past the Celtic Cross;  
Continue north, and you won't get lost.

Look to the left toward the iron fence  
To find this man of prominence.  
Lambert Packard is his name;  
Architecture was his claim to fame.



**(1)** *Lambert Packard (1832-1906) was an architect. In 1866 he was employed as a foreman with E. & T. Fairbanks Co., and soon became the company architect. Packard designed most of St. Johnsbury's major buildings, including the Fairbanks Museum and North Church.*

From Packard left, you should turn;  
Then toward the fence you will worm.  
Outspread wings top this tall stone;  
Here rests our Founder, as he is known.

**To get there:**  
Take I-91 Exit 21 to Rt. 2  
East. Turn left on Central  
Street across from the  
Fairbanks Motor Inn.  
Merge onto Cliff Street;  
follow to end. Turn left on



**(2)** *Jonathan Arnold (1741-1793) founded the town of St. Johnsbury, clearing seven acres of forest on St. Johnsbury Plain with five others in 1787. He built the first framed house at the head of the Plain, and set up a sawmill at Arnold Falls, just a short distance from his homesite. He was a physician and statesman. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and served in the Revolutionary War as a surgeon.*

Go back to the road and continue to snoop;  
Turn north and saunter 'round the loop.  
Pass earlier graves of marble and slate  
Moved from the original Courthouse site.

Past the lightning tree, and Chubb's brick door;  
Keep going to discover more.  
North of the crossroads stands his stone of gray;  
Franklin gave the Museum to the town of St. J.



**(3)** *Franklin Fairbanks (1828-1895) was the son of Erastus Fairbanks and the brother of Horace Fairbanks. He was a businessman, politician, and collector. He became president of Fairbanks Scales, the family business, in 1888. He donated the Fairbanks Museum to the town of St. Johnsbury.*

Now turn south (to the right),  
And find James Colby in plain sight.  
Between two maples, thin and tall;  
His monument beckons one and all.

**(4)** *James K. Colby was principal of St. Johnsbury Academy from 1842 until his death from typhoid fever in 1866. On December 13, 1842, Colby started teaching his first class with 23 pupils, including six members of the Fairbanks family.*

Continue on the road past the water spigot;  
Be ever so careful not to trip on it!  
See Erastus toward the west;  
What a quester; you're the best!



*(5) Erastus Fairbanks (1792-1864) settled in St. Johnsbury in 1824. He partnered with his brother Thaddeus to form E. & T. Fairbanks Co. to manufacture scales, stoves, and plows. The scale business was so successful, the company became the largest employer in Vermont.*

*Erastus was elected the 21st Governor of Vermont, and served from 1852 to 1853. He was reelected as the 26th Governor of Vermont, and served from 1860 to 1861. During his second term, he helped provide equipment and send troops to the Civil War.*

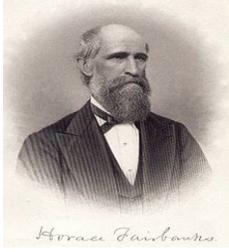
Turn left at the corner to walk northeast;  
Spy the pink granite stone of the deceased.  
A blacksmith by trade who made guns to deliver,  
Belknap tragically drowned in the Passumpsic River.

*(6) John Belknap (1840-1888) was a gunsmith and blacksmith following in his father's footsteps. He produced a number of handcrafted implements in his shop, including knives, axes, rifles, skates, and water motors. He drowned November 27, 1888, in the Passumpsic River opposite the current police barracks, trying to remove a timber from a log dam.*

Keep on the road;  
Turn north at the bend.  
To the rear of the Paddock stone  
You will now wend.

*(7) Ephraim Paddock came to St. Johnsbury on foot in 1780. He became a lawyer and began practicing in St. Johnsbury in 1807. In 1828, Paddock was elected to the Vermont Supreme Court. Ephraim's sister, Phoebe, was married to Joseph Fairbanks and was the mother of Erastus, Thaddeus, and Joseph P. It was Ephraim's letters to the Fairbanks brothers that encouraged them to come to St. Johnsbury.*

Across the way, a stone has been set  
For another Fairbanks whom we owe a great debt.  
He collected paintings far and wide;  
Horace's Athenaeum is a source of great pride.

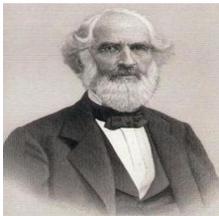


**(8)** *Horace Fairbanks (1820-1888) was the son of Erastus Fairbanks, and the brother of Franklin Fairbanks. He was a businessman and politician. Horace was president of E&T Fairbanks Co. He was elected the 36th Governor of Vermont, serving from 1876 to 1878. In 1871, Horace Fairbanks presented the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum to the town of St. Johnsbury, with a library and art gallery.*

The youngest brother of the Fairbanks three  
To make platform scales in St. Johnsbury,  
J. P. (Joseph) rests just to the north  
To the east of the road, as you step forth.

**(9)** *Joseph P. Fairbanks was the brother of Erastus and Thaddens. Joseph studied law with his uncle, Ephraim Paddock, and served in the Vermont legislature in 1845. In 1848, he joined E. & T. Fairbanks Co., and began selling scales to Cuba. By 1860, the company was selling scales throughout the Caribbean, South America, India, and Russia as well as Europe.*

Perhaps the most famous of the Fairbanks clan,  
Walk north to the stone of this great man.  
He invented a scale to weigh things large and small,  
Making life easier for one and all.



**(10)** *Thaddens Fairbanks (1796-1886) was an inventor. His greatest success was the invention of the platform scale to weigh objects accurately. In 1834, Thaddens and his brothers formed E. & T. Fairbanks Co. to manufacture and sell their platform scales. Fairbanks Scales were well known in the United States and around the world.*

Your history quest is almost complete,  
But there's one more clue, so turn your feet;  
Follow the wall east, past the Alvord stone;  
Search the large tree roots 'til the quest box is known!

*Congratulations! Please sign the ledger in the box, then replace it for other Questers.*

*Use the special stamp if you follow Valley Quest.*

*Return to the road and follow it south to find your way back to the Chapel.*

*For more St. Johnsbury history, visit the*

**St. Johnsbury History & Heritage Center,**

**421 Summer Street, St. Johnsbury, VT**

*802-424-1090, [www.stjhistory.org](http://www.stjhistory.org)*