

Historic Roadside Markers in Guilford

BY THE GUILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The following historic markers were found along Guilford roads during GCC's 2019/2020 EAB Inventory. Perhaps you and your family would like to follow "a treasure hunt" for these markers as a summer activity. The latest (2016) edition of the Guilford Town Map can be seen on and downloaded from the town website at guilfordvt.com/documents-and-maps/maps/ (click on Road Map 2016); copies are also available at the Guilford Library.

1. Slate marker near 2282 Stage Road (slate)



Erected in memory of
Mrs. Sarah Cutting: wife
of Capt. Jonah Cutting
who was kild at this place
by the fall from a horse

May 19th 1816 Aged 48 Years
Make the extended skies your tomb
Let stars record your worth
Yet know vain mortals all must die
As nature's sickliest birth.

Would bounteous heav'n indulge
my pray'r
I frame a nobler choice
Nor living wish the pompous pile
Nor dead regret the loss.

In thy fair book of life divine
My God inscribe my name
There let it fill some humble place
Beneath the slaughter'd Lamb.

Ty saints while ages roll away
In endless fame survive
Their glories o'er the wrongs of time
Greatly triumphant live.

2. Natural stone marker near 672 Hale Road

A coffin is carved in the upper right of this natural stone. Another figure to the left is hard to decipher, perhaps a death's head or an urn. The inscription is carved to fit the stone's irregular shape and reads:

AD
1812
IN MEMO
RY OF MR
JOHN BOL
STER WHO
DIED 30 HO
URS AFTER
THROWN
FROM HIS
HORSE NE
AR THIS
PLACE ON
JUN
E 23 1810



3. Stone Marker on Stony Hill Road (*on Class 4 section of road, just north of the stream that crosses the road where the bridge is out*) This stone marks the site where Marian Gotier Baker was killed when she fell off her horse. She is buried

in Baker Cemetery with husband David (who lived another 22 years). South Stony Hill Road was a main road back in the 1800s.



D.BAKER
WIFE WAS
INSTANTLY
KILLED
JULY 2 1859

Continued on next page

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Roadside Markers, continued

4. Wooden Marker near 413 Sweet Pond Road



This Town Pound is described in *The Official History of Guilford, Vermont* (pp. 144-5) as an animal pound for cows, sheep, horses, or other livestock that were loose. Perhaps it was also used for dogs if they were caught chasing livestock, but it is not noted as such in the description. The high stone walls of the pound are still visible on the property. The hand-stenciled marker reads:

TOWN POUND

5. Granite Marker at VT/MA State Line on River Road (3.5 miles south of Green River Covered Bridge) This granite marker was placed during an 1896 survey of the VT-MA boundary. It is one of many stones and monuments located in the United States whose position was established by surveying. Another one can be found in the southwest corner of Guilford near Corner Road. A line called an azimuth is carved into the top of these markers to indicate the direction of the state line boundary. Text on the north and south sides of the stone read as follows. The "1975" on the north side is

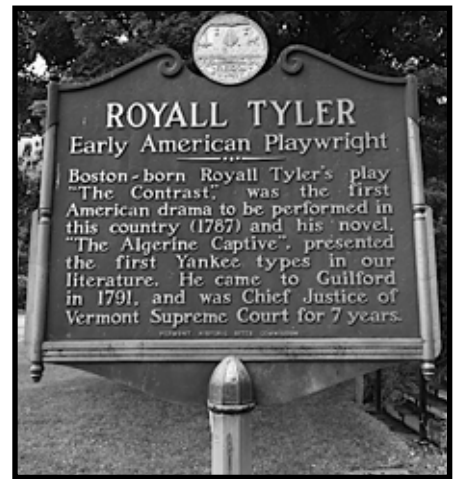
less deeply cut and presumably scratched in by an unwelcome visitor.



VT.
1896

MASS.
1975
1896

6. State Marker on Guilford Center Road (in front of Guilford Historical Society) Made of cast-aluminum and crested with the gold state seal, this is one of over 200 roadside markers placed throughout Vermont by the Division for Historic Preservation to mark people, events, and places of regional, statewide, or national significance.



ROYALL TYLER
Early American Playwright

Boston-born Royall Tyler's play "The Contrast," was the first American Drama to be performed in this country (1787) and his novel, "The Algerine Captive", presented the first Yankee types in our literature. He came to Guilford in 1791, and was Chief Justice of Vermont Supreme Court for 7 years.

VERMONT HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION

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Historic Markers, continued

Another state roadside marker can be found on Route 5 in Guilford at the state line. It reads, "On this former wilderness trail to Canada, the pioneers built old Fort Dummer in 1724 below Brattleboro, then the frontiers most advanced outpost. Guilford, then the largest town in Vermont, was the scene of bitter strife between the Yorkers and the Green Mountain Boys led by Ethan Allen."

7. Marker on Guilford Center Road (in front of Meetinghouse)

Hosea Ballou's birthplace was a farm on Brook Road (now Hale Road) near Governor's Mountain that belonged to his grandparents.



HOSEA BALLOU, II
 BORN IN GUILFORD, VERMONT
 FIRST PRESIDENT
 TUFTS COLLEGE
 OVERSEER
 HARVARD UNIVERSIT
 PIONEER IN
 UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
 AUTHOR, SCHOLAR, TEACHER
 1796-1861

8. Marker on Guilford Center Road (between Meetinghouse and Library)



Another marker, located between the Guilford Center Meeting House and the Guilford Free Library, commemorates 68 Guilford citizens who served in World War II. A bronze plaque mounted on a large-boulder reads:

GUILFORD ROLL OF HONOR
 PROUDLY WE PAY TRIBUTE TO
 THOSE FROM OUR TOWN
 WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO
 THE COLORS IN WORLD WAR II

This is followed by the 68 names. Five of these are women and three others have asterisks next to their names indicating that they died in service. The full list, with many familiar Guilford names, can be found on pp. 232 of *The Official History of Guilford, Vermont*.



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