



Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument erected 1924, on the small green at the front of the 1st Congregational Church house. Photo, J. Hauck, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM
ERECTED BY
THE CITIZENS
OF THIS TOWN
IN HONOR OF
HER PATRIOTIC
MEN AND WOMEN
WHO SERVED
THEIR COUNTRY
IN TIME OF WAR
TO THE DEAD,
A TRIBUTE
TO THE LIVING,
A MEMORY
TO POSTERITY,
AN EMBLEM OF
LOYALTY TO THE
FLAG OF THEIR
COUNTRY.”

History of

Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument

Hamilton dedicated a Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on May 30, 1924.² Erected on the small green at the front of the 1st Congregational Church house, it commemorates the men that served in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, the War of 1812 and World War 1.

Following the Revolutionary War, Hamilton did not create a post of the Grand Army of the Republic post, nor was an organization of veterans established after the Civil War. Discussions about building a monument had been occasionally held following Wenham's building, in 1878, a

memorial to those who had served during the War of Rebellion. However, nothing was done. In 1919, the Augustus P. Gardner Post 194 of the American Legion was formed.

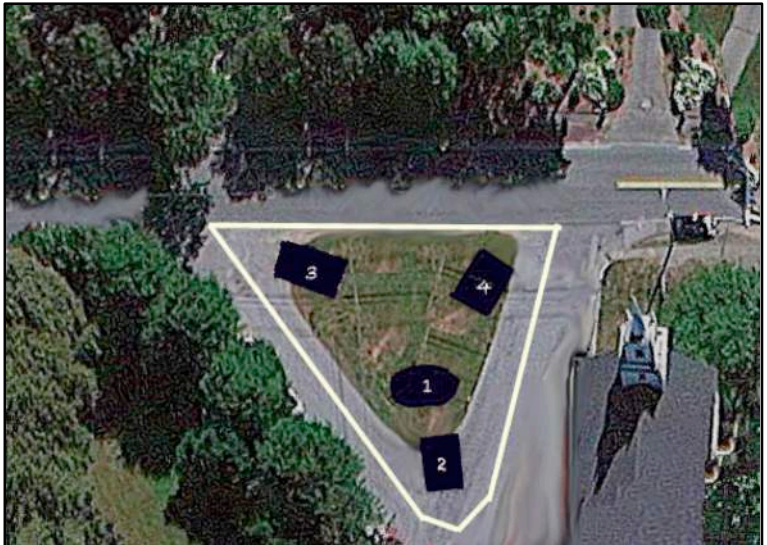
Then, at an Annual Town Meeting held on Mar. 20, 1923, the town voted to have the selectmen appoint a committee of three (*one a Civil War veteran, one a Spanish War veteran, and the commander of the American Legion*), and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to erect a memorial to the soldiers, sailors and marines of all wars, on the church green, as endorsed by the

American Legion, or take any action thereon, as petitioned for by the Augustus P. Gardner Post, 194, of the American Legion, and others.¹

The selectmen appointed members to the committee and charged them with making a recommendation as to the form such a Memorial at a Special Town Meeting to be held on Sep. 5, 1923. Committee members were: Arron D. Bradeen, Chair; Col. Jacob C. R. Peabody (*Spanish American and WW1*), Vice Chair; Victor W. Daley (*WW1 veteran*), Secretary; Finlay D. MacDonald (*Post 194 Commander*), Secretary; Frank P. Trussell and Jeremiah Norris (*drummer in the Revolutionary War*).¹

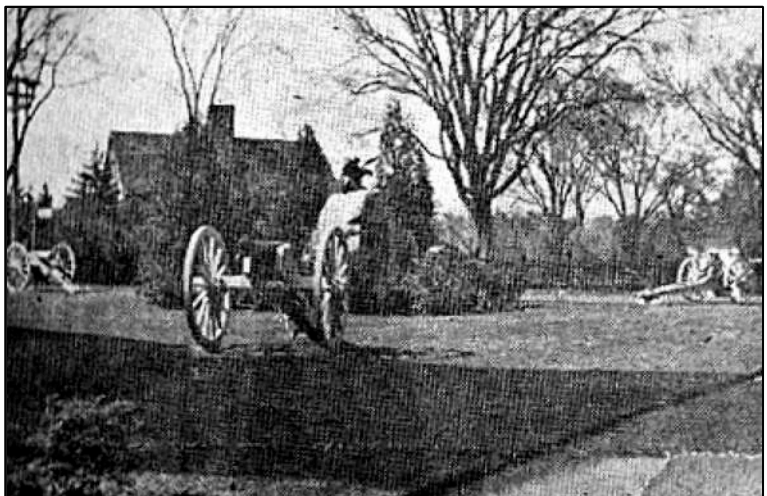
At the Special Town Meeting, the Committee advised that a monument should be built; that it be a granite boulder, with a bronze anchor on top; a bronze tablet with an inscription; and the memorial be placed upon a plot of ground to be called the Soldiers Green, in Hamilton Center. Further, there were to be three cannons (*purchased from the United States Government*) placed at the corners of the plot. The cost of this monument was not to exceed \$5,000.² (*Note: "the bronze anchor" did not refer to a "ship anchor." It was the rod connected to the eagle that was inserted into the boulder.*)

The town approved the Committee's proposal. The Committee was directed to carry out the plan.² For placing the



Soldiers and Sailors' Green originally was larger than it is now and had cannons (2, 3 & 4) at each corner and a memorial bolder (1) near the back. Map, Modified Google Maps, 2015

memorial boulder, the Committee chose a small, triangular green across from the town cemetery and beside the Congregational Church meetinghouse. There were narrow paths of Farms Road (*now Cutler Road*) on each side of the green.



Soldiers' and Sailors' Green cannons were restored by Mrs. Constance Williams in 1936. Photo, Beverly Times.

The choice of the green across from the cemetery was very appropriate. For it was here, as reported by Janice P. Pulsifer, in her book, "Changing Times, Hamilton, Massachusetts, 1850-1910," "News of the outbreak of the Civil War reached Hamilton on April 18, 1861. Historian Saford was present on April 24th, when "citizens, aroused with the spirit of patriotism inherited from the fathers of the days of 1775 and '76, gathered on the green in front of the meetinghouse, where the stars and stripes were raised on a liberty pole, which had just been erected. A salute was fired and patriotic speeches were made by Allen Washington Dodge, Daniel E. Saford, Benjamin C. Putnam of Wenham, and others." ¹⁵

Only two cannons, both smoothbore Civil War guns, initially were placed on the green. In 1926, the third cannon, a WW1 German gun, was added as a gift from Colonel Jacob C. R. Peabody. ⁴ The gun carriage had metal seats on each side of the barrel, on which young people enjoyed sitting and pretending to fire the weapon. ²⁰

The WW1 cannon, at the peak of the triangular lot, pointed back toward Farms Rd. (*Cutler Rd. now*) On the corners of the flat base of the lot, facing on to Main Street, one cannon pointed north toward Ipswich and the other pointed toward south, toward Wenham. ²⁰

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument was completed at a cost of \$4,764.85: \$235.15 below the amount approved. However, the dedication ceremony cost was \$322.98, resulting in an overrun of \$88.83. Expenses for the dedication ceremony included: a band (\$137.50), build-

ing a platform (\$103.18), transportation (\$10) and cleanup following the event (\$21). The town's Advisory Board voted to take the added cost from the town's Reserve Fund. ²

A couple dozen WW1 veterans were honored at the ceremony, most dressed in uniform, as were 15 veterans of the Civil War. There also was a group of Civil War and Spanish War veterans. ²⁴

Barbara Trussell Knowlton, great, great, great, granddaughter of Capt. Joseph Patch of Hamilton unveiled the monument. Patch served at Bunker Hill. Judge Alden P. White of Salem gave the dedicatory speech, in which he described the history of the green on which the monument stood. ²²

Care of the Monument was given, in 1925, to the Park Commission. Money (\$350) was added to the town's budget. ³ The Park Commission informed the selectmen, in 1926,

that a curbstone should be placed around Soldiers Green, or at least on the sides bordering on Farms Road. Vehicles were running over the grass and coming close to hitting the monument. However, the curbing was not approved. ⁴

In 1927, the selectmen were informed that the evergreen trees around the Soldiers Memorial would soon grow so large as to dwarf the remainder of the shrubbery and also the Monument. Nathan Matthews, Jr. of Hamilton, at his own expense, replaced the evergreen trees with arbor vitae. The change improved the background of the boulder, and was expected to reduce the likelihood of the evergreens overcrowding the shrubs. ⁵ (A

SOLDIERS MEMORIAL COSTS	
Hauling and placing boulder	\$2,059.00
Designing and casting eagle, tablet and anchor	1,530.00
Planting around stone	600.00
Architects fees*	455.00
Repairs to gun carriages	70.00
Freight on guns	28.35
Gun plates	22.50
Total	\$4,764.85
Dedication ceremony	322.98
Total	5,087.83

* *Smith & Walker of Boston and Salem, architects*

former mayor of Boston, and a strong supporter of parks, lived on Main Street.)

In order to preserve the wheels on the cannons, cement foundations were placed on four corners of the green in 1929 (cost, \$251.55).⁶ However, the weight of the carriage and barrel on the wheels, with time caused problems.²⁰ To keep the wheel problem from recurring, jacks were put under the carriage so the full weight of the cannon was not on the wheels.²⁰

Once again in 1932, the Parks Commission asked for approval for curbstone to be placed around two sides of the Green. Nothing was done.⁷

Two years later, 1934, the guns at Memorial Green were painted. The Parks Commission reported that to preserve the shrubs around the boulder it would be necessary, in 1935, to remove some of the taller bushes that were killing the lower growing varieties. Also, once again the Commission called for curbing to be placed along at least two sides of the Green. Nothing was done.⁸

The only work done at the green, in 1935, was cutting the grass. In their annual report, the Parks Commission said

the wooden wheels on the cannons were beginning to rot and needed to be replaced. Also, once again the Commission called for curbing to be placed along at least two sides of the Green. Nothing was done.⁹

The cannon wheels problem was solved in 1936: Mrs. Constance Williams paid to have new wheel placed on the guns. A long-time supporter of the monument, Mrs. Williams had aided in securing the cannons from the War Department.¹⁰

Persistence had its reward in 1938. The town approved the installation of curbing on the southwest side of the green. WPA funds, not tax dollars, paid for the work.¹¹

The curbing was not able to protect the green in 1946. On April 3, a car crashed into a cannon. The driver's insurance paid \$89.70 for the repair of the grass and cannon.¹²

This was not the only time someone damaged the cannons. One night, in 1958, a guy thinking he was funny, hooked a rope from his car's rear bumper on to one of the cannons. He dragged the gun north on 1A, until, just past Gardener Street, the wheels fell off the carriage. The barrel and part of the carriage were salvaged. To prevent this from recurring, the Parks Commission bolted the cannons to their concrete bases.²⁰

In 1949, Ray M. Sanford, a Park Commissioner, reported at the Annual Town Meeting: "We have only one man, who does all the work in the Park Department. He has charge of Patton Park, Soldier's Green. Walsh Park, Asbury Park and the two triangles on Miles River Road."¹³



Wreath placed at Soldiers' and Sailors' Green, 1973, by Fire Chief Lawrence Lamson. American Legion Post 194 Commander Percival Burton saluting. Legion Color Guard is at back.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.

The size of the triangular green was significantly reduced in 1955, when the town unanimously voted to widen the roads on both the south and north sides to allow two way traffic. With the reduction, the cannons had to be removed: they were transfer to Patton Park and placed near the army tank. Also removed was the curbing. The Hamilton Annual Town Reports do not provide specific information as to when the shrubs on the green were totally removed. The last mention of the Green, in Hamilton's Annual Town Reports, was 1955. ¹⁴

The memorialized soldiers' and sailors'

Records of those from Hamilton that served in wars prior to 1924 are not complete. From various sources, provided both at the time and in subsequent years, the names of the great many are recorded, including 17 who died (**their names are in bold**).

French-Indian Wars (1754-1763)

From the Hamlet area of Ipswich: Nathaniel Adams, Thomas Adanis, John Baker, John Boynton, Dr. John Calef, **Antipas Dodge**, Robert Dodge, Benjamin Glazier, Abraham Hobbs, **John Jones**, Stephen Lowater, John Marshall, Elija

Maxey or Maxwell Benjamin Pinder, William Poland, Ebenezer Porter, **Joseph Symonds**, John Whipple, Stephen Whipple, and Joseph Whipple. ¹⁵

Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

Janice Pulsifer, in her book "Changing Times," wrote: "Military companies kept the "military spirit" alive in Hamilton: in the early 1805, the Washington Hussars; in the 1850s, the Washington Guard. An enrollment and dues list for 1853, the only existing record of the Guard, shows: James H. Annable, private; Albert Cressy, private; Frederick Henderson, private; Austin S. Kinsman, private; George Kelly Knowlton (*then 13*) fifer; Francis Marshall, private; John C. Mordough, private; George E. Norris, captain; Jeremiah Norris, drummer; Dudley H. Porter, private; Nathaniel W. Saunders, private; Oliver Saunders, private; John S. Webber, lieutenant; and John L. Woodbury, private. ¹⁵

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

From the Beattie's "Chronicle of a Country Town," we find that in the War of 1812, three Hamilton men served: John Butler, Levi Knowlton, and Thomas Woodbury, III. ¹⁶

Civil War (1861-1865)

In Hamilton's 150th anniversary brochure, there is a list of 113 men who served in the Civil War, but no source is given. It omits the three Navy men, but seems to contain all men who were Hamilton residents "at one time or another." ¹⁵

Augustus H. Andrews, Nathaniel Appleton, Tristram Appleton, 2d, Zeno Appleton, George W. Barker, Francis Barry (*Berry*), George W. Bow-



Civil War veterans attended 1924 dedication of the memorial monument. 116 men from Hamilton served in the war. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.

en, Henry P. Brewer, John Brewer, Francis W. Brown, Isaac W. Brown, **Elam W. Burnham**, **James A. Chase**, Joseph C. Conant, Allen Webster Dodge, Alphonso Dodge, **George W. Dodge**, **Isaac K. Dodge**, John T. Dodge, Joseph W. Dodge, **Thomas Jefferson Dodge**, **William Ham Dodge**, Nathaniel M. Foss, Richard Foss, James E. Gowen, Samuel Groten, Charles F. Hawkins, Edward Hill, Hiram D. Hood, Peter H. Jowder, **Austin S. Kinsman**, Ira P. Knowlton, John H. Knowlton, Thomas Manning, John C. Mordough, David Morris, Reuben Morris, Josiah Oliver, James W. Patch, Charles Porter, Livermore D. Riggs, Charles E. Riva (*River, Rivers*), George Rowe, Nathaniel W. Saunders, Oliver H. Saunders, George Smith, **Alvah Tibbetts**, Daniel Trow, Arthur B. Trussell, David B. Wallis, John Weeks, Alonzo L. Whipple, Samuel A. F. Whipple, **John E. Whittredge**, and John L. Woodbury.^{15, 18}

The town's records of "the enrollment of men enlisted from this town" give twenty additional names: three Hamilton residents who served in the Navy: Collins I. Andrews, Charles A. Dodge, and Elias Haskell; and seventeen presumed non-residents: Michael Clark, Andrew J. Crowell, Manning C. Davy, John S. Dodge, Cassius M. Flagg, Richard Hargrave, Charles H. Henderson, George H. Henshaw, Levi C. Hutchinson, Michael Joyce, Edward Lane, Osmond W. Matthews, Alexander von Palen, George Parkhurst, Moses P. Quimby, Owen Short, and Ivory W. Thomson.¹⁵

Spanish-American War (1898)

From Pulsifer's "Changing Times," six Hamilton men served in the Spanish-American War of 1898: Julian M. Dodge, Augustus Peabody Gardner, Walter Hazlett, George Albert Ingalls, William Morris, and Roland K. Smith.¹⁵

WW1 (1914-1918)

From the WW1 Honor Roll that is on the wall in the town hall Memorial Room, come the names of the Hamilton residents that took part in the "War to End All Wars:" Randall E. Adams, Carl C. Anderson, Samuel Anderson, William A. Anderson, Clarence C. Baldwin, Ralph C. Berry, Charles R. Brown, William L. Brumby, John Burke, John F. Burns, Albert C. Burgence, Jr., Percival W. Burton, John H. Caverly, Lawrence C. Caverly, Robert H. Chittick, Jr., Julian Codman, William J. Collins, Horace S. Cook, John E. Cox, Jr., Stephen I. Cross, Frederick M. Daley, Harold A. Daley, Victor W. Daley, Walter F. Daley, Charles H. Davis, K. Stoughton Davis, Alvah I. Day, Ernest F. Day, Norman L. Day, William M. Diggins, Patsy Divino, Lewis H. Dodge, George C. Donaldson, Alexander E. Dukett, Hugh Duran,



WW1 veterans attended the 1924 dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. 117 Hamilton men served in the War to End All Wars. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.

Peter Duran, Lester S. Durkee, Olaus Eckhoff, William F. Elder, Lester C. Feener, Cornelius C. Felton, Hiram T. Folsom, Peter E. Fraser, Amos W. A. Fuller, Michael Gallagher, **Augustus Peabody Gardner**, Joseph Geary, Clarence W. Gibney, James N. Gibney, William Goodhue, Leo F. Gorman, Charles E. Grant, Silas W. Grant, Walter Green, Edward H. Haraden, Rudolph H. Haraden, Samuel T. Haraden, John M. Hickey, James C. Hodgson, **Lester G. Hodgson**, Gustave F. Holm, James J. Hughes, William T. Jones, Patrick Joyce, Peter Koloski, William M. Lander, Burton A. Low, Gardner B. Low, Finley D. MacDonald, Harry R. MacGregor, Francesco Macri, **Samuel P. Mandell**, Paul Marcepoil, Arthur McGinn, Daniel P. McGinley, John J. McGinley, Cedric B. McGlauflin, Charles A. McGlauflin, James J. Merrill, Harold Merry, George L. Meyer, Jr., Robert Mullins, John M. O'Leary, Everett E. Parsons, Irving L. Peatfield, Frank K. Perkins, Ephraim A. Pitman, Hiram H. Pitman, James E. Poole, Harold E. Porter, George Price, Herbert Price, William Price, James H. Proctor, Thomas E. Proctor, 2nd, Frank H. Ramsdell, Neil W. Rice, Arthur Richardson, Reginald C. Robbins, George R.

Small, Joseph H. Smith, Jr., Alvin F. Sortwell, Michael J. Sullivan, William Taylor, **William W. L. Taylor**, John Thompson, Leland D. Thompson, Reginald Toner, Joseph Tucker, Bayard Tuckerman, Jr., Clarence L. Varnum, Roy E. Varum, Gordon C. Vaughn, William J. Wallace, Percival D. Whipple, **Reginald Young**.

Although the above list has no names of women, Anna M. Sharpe was appointed a nurse on March 29, 1918, and served overseas from Jul. 21, 1919, to Aug. 9, 1919.¹⁶

In total, the above lists show that 275 Hamilton residents served in the defense of our country during these conflicts. Of these valiant patriots, 17 died.

In his 1908 book, "Orthodoxy," George K. Chesterton wrote, "Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die." There is no greater example of Chesterton's comment than the men and women who served in the armed forces, especially those during a time of war. We must never allow our thanks and honor of each one fade.

Jack E. Hauck, November 2015

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