



**When they came marching home again**

WWI veterans parading on Main Street. 117 men from Hamilton served their country in the War to End All Wars.

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

Photo: Hamilton Historical Society

*History of ...*

## **Augustus P. Gardner Post, No. 194, of the American Legion**

Nationally, the idea of a WWI veterans organization began in early 1919. The fighting in the "war to end all wars" ended in November 1918. However, for a great many members of the American Expeditionary Force the war was not over, for they were still in Europe. With very little transportation available, they had to wait months to be brought back home. Morale plummeted. The troops needed support back home.

Camps in Europe were informed, by an article in the Mar. 14, 1919 issue of Stars and Stripes, about the formation of a "permanent nation-wide organization...composed of all parties, all creeds, and all ranks, who wish to perpetuate the relationships formed while in military service."<sup>38</sup>

The WWI organization was not the first begun to represent war veterans. Following the War to Preserve the Nation, there was the Grand Army of the Republic. Begun in 1866, its peak membership, in 1890, was half a million. It ceased to exist in 1956, when its last member died.

Many names for the WWI organization were considered, including Veterans of the

Great War, Liberty League, American Comrades of the Great War, Legion of the Great War, and The American Legion. The later had been used by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., in 1914, when he called for an organization to prepare for possible world conflicts.

As constituted at a 1919 convention in Minneapolis, the basic units of the Legion are its Posts. Originally, they consisted of former military personnel, men and women, living in a town, part of a large town or a geographic area. The term Posts comes from the tradition of the military assigning enlisted personnel to installations called posts.

In 2018, 14,000 Posts are in the United States, with nearly 500 in Massachusetts.<sup>44</sup>

The first American Legion Post formed was the Ferdinand Branstetter Post No. 1 in Van Tassell, WY. Branstetter, a Van Tassell resident, died in World War I.<sup>38</sup>

The first charter issued by The American Legion was to the General John Joseph Pershing Post Number 1 in Washington, D.C. It was organized on Mar. 7, 1919, and obtained the charter on May 19, 1919.<sup>38</sup>



**Maj. Augustus P. Gardner**, Commander, 1st Battalion, 121<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 31<sup>st</sup> Div., Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA. Photo,

Later that year, the national Legion ruled that Posts were not to be named after living persons. The General John Joseph Pershing Post 1 became the George Washington Post 1.<sup>38</sup> Not all Posts include the name of a deceased veteran. Post 1, New Bedford was the first Post chartered in Massachusetts.<sup>45</sup>

Unofficially, the Hamilton American Legion Post began soon after Gen. Clarence R. "Daddy" Edwards suggested a post be formed during a talk he gave at the Aug. 30, 1919 Welcome Home Banquet held at the town hall.<sup>39</sup> The Daddy nickname came from his establishing the 26<sup>th</sup> Div., in July 1917. It was also known as the "Yankee Division."

Following the Revolutionary War, Hamilton did not create an organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, nor was a veterans organization established after the Civil War.

Shortly after Gen. Edwards' call to form a post, a small group Hamilton veterans met on the second floor of the fire station on Willow St. They prepared a submission for an American Legion charter.<sup>39</sup>

On Sep. 4, 1919, the American Legion issued a charter to the Augustus P. Gardner Post 194.<sup>39</sup> The first meeting was held on the second floor of the Smith Block on Railroad Ave. (now 52-58 Railroad Ave.) There were 19 charter members, one of whom, Charles E. Grant, remained a Post member until 1967.<sup>39</sup> Soon after, it had 87 members. In WWI, 117 Hamilton men served, of whom 17 died.<sup>39</sup>

In the first years of the Legion, there was a flood of applications for post charters. Posts were assigned a number based on when they submitted their application. The highest assigned number to a Massachusetts Post is 488, in Dennis. (*There have been more Massachusetts Posts, since when an original Post*

*de-activates, its number may be assigned to a new Post.*)

Prior to the war, Augustus P. Gardner, who lived on Main St, near the Ipswich town line, was very active in Hamilton. He was the secretary on the town hall and the South School building committees; served many years as a public library trustee; and in 1917, he was the moderator, at the annual town meeting.<sup>53</sup>

Gardner was elected, in 1902, as the Representative from the 6th Massachusetts Congressional District. In May 1917, he resigned from Congress to enter the military service. He was made a colonel, which at his request was reduced to a major, in order that he could go to France. He was commander of the 1st Battalion, 121<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 31<sup>st</sup> Div., at Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA. He died there of pneumonia, on Jan. 14, 1918.<sup>53</sup>

**(NOTE: The name Augustus P. Gardner also is used by Post 227, in Middleton. It was chartered Mar. 21, 1921.)**

The first Post 194 Commander was Col. George C. Donaldson, who as a major organized the 74th Infantry, 12<sup>th</sup> Div., at Fort Devens. He served as the Post 194 Commander for one year, as did most others that followed, until 2014, when Greg McKenna became the Commander.

A. P. Gardner Post 194, with a membership of nearly a hundred, had difficulty in finding a meeting place. The Post wanted a place of its own, where veterans seeking help could come on a daily basis. Several Post members, led by Silas W. Grant, were able to have the town appoint a committee to find a suitable meeting place for the A. P. Gardner Post 194.<sup>1</sup> Grant was the Post Finance Officer for 44 years.<sup>39</sup>

Realizing that there would soon be a need for a burial detail, A. P. Gardner Post 194 established a rifle squad and color guard the first year it began. The first rifle squad commander was Robert H. Chittick, Jr. He served in this function until 1946, when his son, Robert H. III, was appointed, following his discharge from the army.<sup>42</sup>

In the 1950s, Squad members included: Edward Manthorn, Donald Duclow, Robert Tobyne, Gordon Allen, Donald Greeley. Milt Dunham, Edward Haraden, Merrill Smallwood, Guppy Child, Bob McRae, Neil Mullins, Ray Sanford, Dick Knowlton, Smokey Kosloski, Don Wood, Jim Armstrong and Bob Chittick.

The original weapon was the bolt-action, Springfield M1903, the "ought-three." Following WW2, the Squad switched to the cartridge-fed Garand M1.

Up until 1989, the Squad was all men. Then, Diane Thompson joined. She served to 2012. Her father, James H. Dunn also was a member.<sup>DT</sup>

The duties of the rifle squad, in addition to providing full or partial military honors at funerals for veterans, whose family request their service, include the firing of a three-volley salute at Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies at the Hamilton Cemetery.<sup>42</sup>

Always a stirring part of the ceremony is the removal of the flag from the casket. The honor guard lifts the flag, which has the stars over the left shoulder, straight up and slowly folds it to form a tight triangular bundle, with only the stars are on the top. A few of the rifle shells may be inserted into the back fold, before it is presented to the next of kin, with an expression of gratitude for the sacrifice they have made.

In 1987, the Rifle Squad took part in 23 funerals, 8 parades.<sup>62</sup>

### 1920s in Search of Recognition

As a subsidiary to the American Legion, some veterans returning from France formed, in 1920, a group called "The Forty & Eight." The name drew from how many Americans soldiers were transported to the front lines. They traveled, tightly packed, in narrow-gauge French railroad boxcars, each stenciled with "40Hommes/8Chevaux." (*capacity to hold either 40 men or 8 horses*). A Forty & Eight member was known as "un Chef de Gare" (*a station master*). Membership was by invitation. Edward A. DeWitt and Albert L. Ham of Hamilton became Chef de Gare.<sup>50</sup> (*The Forty & Eight became an independent and separately incorporated veteran's organization in 1960.*)

In 1920, the town began to annually give funds to the A. P. Gardner Post 194 for its expenses. The amount initially was \$200.<sup>2</sup>

Massachusetts, in 1921, amended its law pertaining to towns providing meeting places for the veterans of foreign wars. Sec. 9c, Chap. 40, General Laws, was amended, to read: "A city or town, may for the purpose of providing suitable headquarters for a post or posts of the American Legion and of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,

lease for a period not exceeding 5 years, buildings or parts of buildings, which shall be under the direction and control of such post or posts, subject to regulations made in cities by the mayor, with the approval of the council and in towns by vote of the town." A town with a valuation of less than \$5 million could annually appropriate not more than \$1,000.<sup>4</sup>

Not having a building of its own, A. P. Gardner Post 194 used several locations for its meetings. Beginning about 1921, meetings were held at the Willow Street firehouse. Several Post members also were firefighters.<sup>39</sup>

A meeting place was not the only concern of the Great War's veterans. Their service needed some form of lasting recognitions. While men from Hamilton had served in the military during wars dating back to the 1600s, the town had not erected any monuments in recognition of such service.

Discussions about building a monument occasionally were held following Wenham's building, in 1878, of a memorial to those who had served during the War of Rebellion. From the Hamlet, the predecessor of Hamilton, 76 men fought in that war, of which 10 died.<sup>39</sup>

Hamilton appointed, in 1922 a committee of three (*one a Civil War veteran, one a Spanish War veteran, and the commander of the American Legion Post*) to erect a memorial to the soldiers, sailors and marines of all wars. It was to be built on the green beside the church on Main Street (*now Bay Road*). The town appropriated \$3,000 for the project,<sup>3</sup> which was completed in May 1924.

From then on, A. P. Gardner Post 194 placed small American flags on all the known military graves and markers in the cemetery.

One of the first groups to come to the aid of the Great War veterans were their wives, mothers, grandmothers and sisters. Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary was originally organized to assist the American Legion. On Feb. 5, 1923, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 194 was chartered. The first President was Mrs. Alice Daley.<sup>39</sup>

Such help was greatly appreciated by the Great War veterans. However, they also wanted the government to pay them for the wages they lost in serving their country. In 1924, Congress passed a law to compensate them, but the certificates issued to the veterans were not to be payable until 1945.





**Rifle squad** participated in 2018 Memorial Day ceremony at Hamilton Cemetery (above), Photo Hamilton Wicked Local,, and 1947, right. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**Burial escort from church on Union St. to cemetery on Railroad Ave., in 1945, for WWII veteran Bernard P. Greeley.** Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

*A. P. Gardner Post 194*

## **CEREMONIES**



**Flags brought into cemetery** by Post 194 Colors Guard. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**Soldiers and sailors monument** was built in 1924. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

Veterans earned payments based on service: between Apr. 5, 1917, and Jul. 1, 1919, they received \$1.00 for each day served in the United States and \$1.25 for each day served abroad. The maximum payment was \$500 for stateside service and \$625 for overseas service (*equivalent to about \$7,500 and \$9,400, in 2018*).<sup>54</sup> In 1919, the workers in manufacturing companies earned about \$4/day.

Hamilton's Great War veterans became active in various town programs. With Hamilton having many people interested in and involved with horses, in 1925, A. P. Gardner Post 194 began to cosponsor the Myopia Horse Show. Begun in 1890, the show originally was held annually on Labor Day. In 1929, the Myopia Hunt Club moved it to Cilly's field (*the schooling field*).<sup>49</sup>

Between 1914 and 1918, the U. S. sent nearly a million horses to Europe. Another 182,000 accompanied the troops.<sup>71</sup> Horses carried men to the front and the wounded to treatment. They carried supplies, food, water, medicine, ammunition and guns. They travelled through foul weather, harsh terrain, combat and often among the dead and wounded. Many died from gunshot poison gas, freezing and exhaustion. After the war, only about 200 returned to the U.S.<sup>47</sup> In 1918, there were 279 horses in Hamilton: there is no record of any being sent to the Great War.

In 1926, several Hamilton men, including Leon Perkins, Commander of A. P. Gardner Post 194 obtained a charter to form a Boy Scouts troop in town. Raymond M. Sanford, Sr. was the first Scoutmaster of the troop, which began with 13 members.<sup>77</sup>

### 1930s

A decade after the end of the Great War, another great battle began, the battle for jobs, the Great Depression, began. By 1932, many veterans were unemployed. An army, called the "Bonus Army," of about 20,000 veterans, likely including some from Hamilton, hopped freight trains, drove and hiked from across the country to post themselves in Washington, within view of the Capitol building, vowing to stay until Congress passed a bill providing full and immediate payment of their bonus certificates.

Coming to the aid of the many Great War's veterans, in 1932, were their sons. The Sons of the American Legion was formed to serve

the needs of their fathers.<sup>34</sup> Hamilton's Sons of American Legion was chartered Jul. 19, 1934.<sup>39</sup>

A significant need was for a suitable meeting place. In the 1930s, with the Willow Street firehouse becoming filled with equipment and supplies, Post 194 required a new meeting place for its many members.

In 1935, Post 194 moved to a couple of rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Hamilton Hardware Store, at the depot. The town paid the rent, \$240, and for the electricity \$28<sup>5, 39</sup> Meetings were held the first Tuesday of each month<sup>39</sup> The rooms were small and the stairs narrow and steep.<sup>72</sup>

After Post 194 left the Willow Street firehouse, the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion began holding meetings there.

As part of their commitment "to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States," Post 194, in 1935, sponsored at Hamilton's high school, a competitive examination on the Constitution of the United States. Marguerite Bilodeau was the winner among girls, with George Sprague and Bernard Greeley tied for honors among the boys. They were awarded certificates, at the graduation exercises, by the American Legion's State Commander.<sup>5</sup>

The town government, in 1937, began a Works Progress Administration (*W. P. A.*) program to register all veterans living in Hamilton and the names of veterans buried in the cemetery. Post 194 received a file-card copy of the final report.<sup>7</sup>

The report helped the Post notify all the town's veterans about a significant development in 1938. November 11, the day WWI ended in 1918, became a national holiday. Congress passed an act (*52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a*), establishing "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'"

A. P. Gardner Post 194 led the way, from the town hall to the military cemetery, when Hamilton first celebrated Armistice Day, in 1939. It was a silent march from Legion to cemetery.<sup>39</sup>

One of the Post's earliest cemetery duties was providing a burial detail for veterans. The first likely was that for Ernest F. Day. At 21 yrs., he was buried Jun. 22, 1921, in section #10. He was the son of Isaac and Ella Day.<sup>61</sup>

Through Dec. 31, 2018, more than 800 veterans have been buried in the Hamilton cemetery.

W. P. A., workers, in 1937, placed a bronze marker and a marble headstone on 140 graves of war veterans from the Revolutionary War (74), French and Indian War (1), Civil War (57), War of 1812 (3), and WWI (5).<sup>40</sup>

In 1939, continuing its efforts in support of school programs, A. P. Gardner Post 194 began a high school oratorical contest. Jane Perkins won the contest and participated in a state competition.<sup>8</sup> 2019 marked the 82<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year of American Legion's Oratorical Contest. Since its start, the program has awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships. Nearly 6,000 youth from across the nation participate in the contest at the Post, district and department levels.<sup>51</sup>

### 1940s

Prior to the start of WWII, with the help of the American Legion, an Aircraft Warning System was created using civilian volunteers as air-plane spotters. Organized in May 1941, members of the service received aircraft recognition training. It was maintained 24 hr. every day. More than 400 residents participated.<sup>9</sup>

During WW2, there was an air raid communications center on Willow Street, near its intersection with Asbury Street. The communications center, a wood shack on the roof of the high school, was open all-day, every day. It provided service for both Hamilton and

Wenham.<sup>43</sup> Police chief, Leland D. Thompson and an A. P. Gardner Post 194 member supervised the center. Many Post members were area air raid wardens.<sup>35</sup> In 1943, the selectmen commend the American Legion Post for their outstanding duty, having someone on watch irrespective of weather conditions.<sup>10</sup>

In 1940, with much of the world at war, congress enacted the Selective Training and Service Act. It was the country's first peacetime conscription. The Act required men between 21 and 36 to register with local draft boards. Members of Post 194 assisted the town with Selective Service registrations.<sup>10</sup>

The threat of war became reality in December 1941. Congress declared war, not only on Germany, but also on Japan. The Selective Training and Service Act was expanded to require to men between 18 and 45 to register. Many members of Post 194, veterans of the Great War, became draft eligible.

Another wartime program supported by Post 194 members was scrap metal recovery. A. P. Gardner Post 194 and other town organizations, in 1943, gathered 84 tons of material for the war production program.<sup>10</sup>

Many Post 194 members, having been in the Great War, knew firsthand of soldiers' needs when away from home and the needs of their families.



**Welcome Home Reception** for WWII veterans was held in 1946 at the Hamilton High School.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



WWII also was affecting the town's income. In 1944, with the school on School Street being vacant and having high annual maintenance costs, the town began looking for buyers. The property, about 7,900 sq. ft., and building were offered for sale.<sup>11</sup> With very low offers being made, the town rescinded the offer to sell.

Income also was a problem for A. P. Gardner Post 194. Therefore, in 1946, it was incorporated as the Hamilton American Legion Associates, Inc., a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation (501/c3). With this move, all contributions to A. P. Gardner Post 194 became tax deductible.

One of the veterans planning to return to Hamilton was Gen. George S. Patton. However, he was killed in an automobile accident in Germany. In 1946, in honor of his major role in WWII, the town dedicated the park, at the corner of Asbury St. and Main St., in his name.<sup>12</sup>

After the 1910 fire, Myopia Hunt Club acquired land. In 1941, the town acquired the land, 15.4 ac., from the Hunt Club. The town made little use of the land until 1945.<sup>58</sup> Several citizens, led by Parks Commissioner Ray Sanford, an A. P. Gardner Post 194 member, gathered donations to make the site a town park.

At the dedication, Mrs. Beatrice Patton recommended a Sherman be located on the General Patton Memorial Park.<sup>12</sup> At the request of the town's park department, the United States Army on Aug. 2, 1946 shipped a

tank from the Letterkenny Ordnance Depot, Chambersberg, PA, to the commanding officer at Fort Devens. In the spring of 1947, trucks brought the tank, a Sherman medium tank complete with a 75-mm gun to the park. It weighed about 67,000 pounds. The town did not have to pay for the tank, but paid for its shipping from Fort Devens. The Army Corps of Engineers put a fresh coat of khaki green paint on the tank. Some years later, the hatch was welded shut.<sup>41</sup>

Lacking funds, the town did not build a stable base below the tank, something Mrs. Patton had mentioned would be necessary to establish a permanent foundation for the 33-ton vehicle.<sup>12</sup>

With the return of veterans from WWII, Post 194 was able to restart many of its programs. In 1946, the Myopia Hunt Club and the A.P. Gardner Post 194 resumed the annual horse show, on Labor Day.<sup>49</sup>

Also in 1946, the National American Legion began the Boys Nation program. The annual event teaches delegates about the processes of the federal government through participation in a mock senate. Members write bills and debate that they debate. Delegates represent the major political parties.

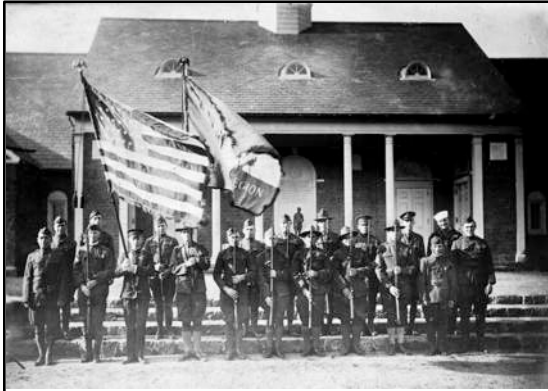
A. P. Gardner Post 194 sends boys every year to the Massachusetts Boys Nation. A longtime leader of the Boys State program, at Post 194, was Robert H. Brooks. In June 2018, Post 194 paid the expenses for two boys to attend the 74<sup>th</sup> gathering at Stonehill College, in Easton.<sup>39</sup>

After WWII, Hamilton's youth also gained the support of Post 194 through its American Legion Baseball program.<sup>39</sup> Following WW2, Bob McRae was involved with a local team of Hamilton and Wenham boys.

In 2007, Post 194 considered restarting the program, but could not get enough financial support for registration fees and team travel costs.<sup>65</sup>



**Dedication, in 1947, of Sherman tank** at Patton Park in honor of Gen. George S. Patton. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**Community Center, Main St.**  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

*A. P. Gardner Post 194*

# MEETING PLACE HISTORY



**2019 A. P. Gardner Post 194 Meeting Center, School St.**  
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



**1935 Hardware Store building, Main St.** became Post 194 meeting place.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**1919 Fire Station, Willow St.** became Post 194 meeting place. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**1947 Adelaide Cole School, School St.** became Post 194 meeting place.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society





**Front door** refurbished in 2013. Photo, Post 194

*A. P. Gardner Post 194*

# MEETING PLACE 2019



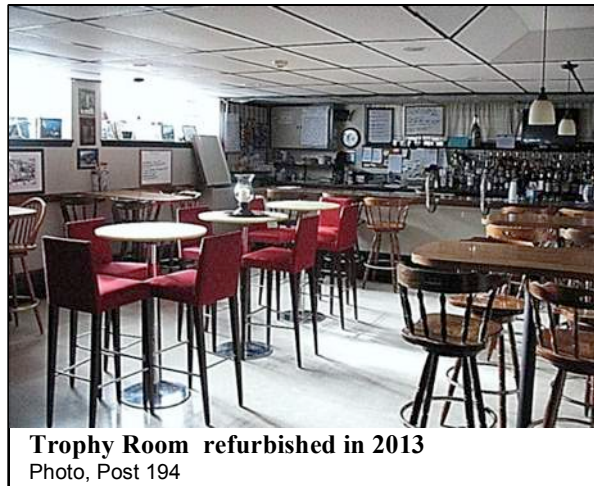
**Back door** refurbished in 2013. Photo, Post 194



**Patton Hall dedicated, in 2013**, after General George S. Patton, Jr. and his son Maj. Gen, George S. Patton. Both were former A. P, Gardner Post 194 members. Photo, Post 194



**Kitchen** refurbished in 2013. Photo, Post 194



**Trophy Room** refurbished in 2013. Photo, Post 194

At the 1947 Annual Town Meeting, voters approved leasing, free of charge, the first floor and basement of the former Adelaide Dodge Walsh school building to the A. P. Gardner Post 194. The Post began holding its public meetings on the first floor, switching from the Community House. The town reserved the use, at all times, of the first floor room and entrance.<sup>12, 39</sup>

Repairs and alterations were completed in 1947. Hamilton formally turned over the building to Henry R. Larchez, Commander of the A. P. Gardner Post 194, on Armistice Day.<sup>13</sup> Soon after, Post members renovated the lower level, creating the Trophy Room and the Card Room. The first floor schoolroom was used for meetings.<sup>39</sup> In the early 1950s, a bar was added.<sup>74</sup>

In ✓ 1953, A. P. Gardner Post 194 placed a new flagpole in front of the building in memory of Leland D. Thompson, a veteran of WWI. He was a charter member of the Post.<sup>39</sup>

Each year, Post 194 gathers unusable flags placed in a box at the Post building, from town and local residents. The flags are burned in a special ceremony, on Jun. 14.

Disposal of unserviceable American flags is outlined in Resolution No. 440, passed by the 19th National Convention of The American Legion, in New York City, September 1937.

The highlight of the 2017 Flag Day Ceremony was the dedication of flags for the Hamilton Senior Center. They were purchased with help from the American Legion Post 194.<sup>70</sup>

The Post demonstrated its strong support of the American flag in 1982, when on a Sunday in 1982 members did not participate in a First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Memorial Day Service. Their action came when told that the American flag could not be brought into the sanctuary.<sup>55</sup>

Flag Day was created in August 1946, by a Congressional Act, to commemorate the adoption of

the flag of the United States, on June 14, 1777. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established Jun. 14 as Flag Day.

### 1950s

Again, in the 1950s, there were Hamiltonians involved in a war.

In 1947, President Harry Truman announced that the United States would assist any country whose stability was threatened by communism. The policy became known as the Truman Doctrine. In July 1950, American troops entered the war on South Korea's behalf against North Korea: 121 men from Hamilton served.

The American Legion, in 1950, expanded its membership to include veterans of the Korean War. One of the 121 Hamilton veterans from this conflict to join the Post was George S. Patton IV.

A reminder of WWI developed in 1950. After all the Great War bonuses were finally paid, the Federal government determined there a surplus remained: it was sent to the municipalities having WW1 veterans. Hamilton's share was \$965.37. It went into Hamilton's Maturing Debt Account, not to the surviving veterans.<sup>14</sup>



**French Government.** In 1951, gave Hamilton two road markers commemorating Gen. Patton's 3rd Army WW2 campaign. Mrs. Patton accepted the gift from the French Consul, standing to her left. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

Another gift to the town in 1951 was from the French Government. Hamilton received two road markers (*in French "terrain marqué par des bornes,"*) commemorating the WW2 campaign of Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.'s 3rd Army from the Normandy beachhead to the German border. There was a road marker for every kilometer.<sup>15</sup> One of the Hamilton markers is from the French town Avaranches and the other from Le Havre.

The selectmen charged a committee of three, including Victor Daly, Commander of A. P. Gardner Post 194, with erecting the concrete markers on the General George S. Patton park entrance on Bay Road.<sup>15</sup> To prevent their being struck by vehicles, they were placed on square, 2-ft. high, fieldstone pillars.

Also in 1951, the Women's Auxiliary of A. P. Gardner Post 194 began an annual contest to select a girl from the junior class to attend Girls State at Bridgewater State Teachers' College. Janice Blenkhorn won the contest.<sup>15</sup>

A year later, 1952, A. P. Gardner Post 194 joined the state American Legion in holding a contest among all school students to write about Americanism Activity. A series of subjects were suggested to the students, pertaining to duties and obligations of a citizen with regard to the Constitution of the United States. Shirley Semons won the local contest and took part in the district contest where she won second place.<sup>16</sup>

Fighting in the Korean War halted, in 1953. Two men from Hamilton died during the conflict: PFC Robert H. Morrow and PFC John A. Stelline, died.

A. P. Gardner Post 194 expanded its outreach to Hamilton's young people, in 1954, when it began a scholarship awards program, which the Post has continued every year since.<sup>32</sup> In 2018, A. P. Gardner Post 194 awarded two \$500 scholarships to graduating high school students.

At the 1954 Annual Town Meeting, Post 194 gave two flags, an American and a Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the high school for display in the War Memorial Gymnasium. They were given in memory of two Hamilton young men who lost their lives in Korea. The Post 194's Firing Squad participated in the ceremony with the rifle shots and the playing of taps, from outside the hall.<sup>69</sup>

## 1960s

In December 1960, Post 194 hosted a Christmas party for 75 children. Children were treated to a movie, food and candy. Assisting in the program was the Sons of the American Legion Post 194.<sup>24</sup>

Earlier that month, Post 194's focus on "being there for the town's children" reached a high point. Robert McRae, a WWII veteran and Chairman of the Community Service Committee, suggested A. P. Gardner Post 194 build a pool on Patton Park, at no cost to the town build. The Post approved his suggestion, at their next meeting.<sup>46</sup>

Volunteers from the Post built the 35 ft. x 75 ft. pool in 23 months. They provided more than 2,000 hours of labor. On Jun. 24, 1962, the A. P. Gardner Post 194 gave the pool to the town. The total cost was about \$10,000.<sup>46</sup>

The pool was open until the end of August. During mornings, there was free swimming and instruction for the children under the park program. The pool was open, for a nominal charge, to the public in the afternoons and evenings. Attendance, during afternoons was excellent. However, unseasonably cool evenings kept the overall attendance figures below expectations. The town received \$1,570.75, the total receipts, A major part of the maintenance work was done by A. P. Gardner Post 194 volunteers.<sup>19</sup>

Speaking for the Post, at the opening ceremony for the pool, McRae echoed a mission of the American Legion when he said, "We want to do something really worthwhile for all the children of the town."<sup>46</sup>

Hoping the town might "do something really worthwhile for all" the veterans, A. P. Gardner Post 194 approached the Hamilton selectmen, in 1961, with a proposal to purchase the School Street building. By selling the building to the Post, the town no longer would pay for its annual \$1,000 maintenance.<sup>33</sup>

Hamilton sold the building and property, in 1962, to the Hamilton American Legion Associates, Inc., for \$5,000. A provision of the sale allows the town to buy the property for \$5,000, if the Post decides to give it up.<sup>20,30,57</sup>

A. P. Gardner Post 194 members built a poolroom and a lounge in the basement. They also refurbished the former classroom on the first floor to be a meeting room.<sup>75</sup>



The Post 194 American Legion Pool was a great joy to the people of Hamilton. However, the country again was at war.

In 1961, the Vietnam conflict began (*since Congress never declared war against Vietnam, it was not a war*). From Hamilton, 222 men and women were in the military during this conflict. In March 1973, the last American combat soldiers left South Vietnam: military advisors and Marines remained to protect U.S. installations.

In 1973, the Vietnam conflict ended. Vietnam veterans did not receive a welcome home, as had previous veterans. People seemed uncomfortable when with them. They were not questioned about their experiences.

More than 3 million Americans served in the conflict, of whom nearly 58,000 died, more than 1,000 are missing, and more than 150,000 were seriously wounded. From Hamilton, 226 were Vietnam veterans. Two men from the town died: Robert L. Crosby and Robert S. Gates.

In April 1975, the last Americans escaped the U. S. embassy in Saigon. Two marines died during a frantic helicopter evacuation.

The rumor mill has long been the source of information in the military. Those in the navy call it "scuttlebutt."

In 1966, Post 194 decided there was a need for a better means of getting the word out. The Post began a newsletter was issued a couple of times a month. It ended in mid 2006.

## 1970s

The 1970s began with Post 194's continued support of Patton Park projects. The town moved, in 1972, two of the three cannons that were at the Memorial Green on Bay Rd. to an entrance to Patton Park. A. P. Gardner Post 194 volunteers assisted in placing the cannons. <sup>xx</sup> This continued an on-going involvement of the Post with the guns. Previously, in 1966, Post 194 worked with several high school students in repairing cannon wheels. <sup>HS</sup>

In 2004, A. P. Gardner Post 194 paid to have the cannons remounted to provide greater safety for children climbing on them. The remounting also reduced stress on the wood wheels. The town paid for the wheels to be repaired. <sup>64</sup>

Another youth-oriented program begun by Post 194, was when Donald Greeley, in 1961, began investigating the introduction of a new Boy Scout troop in Hamilton. At the time, Troops 10 and 35 were closed to new membership due to their large enrollments. <sup>81</sup>

A decade later, in 1972, Post 194 obtained a charter from The Boy Scouts of America. The troop designation was #123 and its meeting place was the Post building on School St.

An early supporter of Hamilton's Boy Scouts was John E. Cox, Jr. Born in Hamilton, in 1896, he was a WW1 veteran, serving in the Army Air Service. A railroad car conductor, in civilian life, and a member of A. P. Gardner Post 194, he was active with the Boy Scouts and was on the Finance Committee, and was the Water Superintendent. <sup>15</sup>



**Town hall plaque in memory** of Hamilton servicemen who died during Korean conflict.  
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



**Town hall plaque in memory** of Hamilton servicemen who died during WWII.  
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



**Post 194 Swimming Pool**, built in 1961, by Post members.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

*A. P. Gardner Post 194*

# YOUTH SUPPORT



**Boy Scout Charter for Troop 123** issued to A. P. Gardner Post 194 in 1972.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**Boys State 2017** held at Stonehill College, Easton, MA. Photo, Wicked Local Marion, MA



**1**  
Photo: Hamilton Historical Society



A major change came, in 1973, to the way the military builds its defense forces. Since 1940, during both peacetime and periods of conflict, in addition to volunteers (*regular army*), men were drafted (*draftees*) to fill military vacancies. The draft system ended in 1973, when the United States Armed Forces moved to an all-volunteer, RA, military.

In 1974, the people of Hamilton, at the Annual Town Meeting, unanimously voted to rename the selectmen's meeting room the Meeting Room. Albert Lougee, A. P. Gardner Post 194 Commander, said this was to honor all those who served in the military during past conflicts.<sup>22</sup>

The walls of the Memorial Meeting Room have plaques with the names of those who died in WW2, and the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts.<sup>22</sup> The room also has a plaque for the veterans of WW1.

### 1980s

In 1980, the honor roll to WWII veterans, at the front of the town hall, erected in 1943, was in poor condition from weathering. An effort, led by Post 194 members to build a permanent memorial for the Vietnam veterans. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund was established.

There also was, at that time, a national effort to construct a Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. On Aug. 26, 1982, the American Legion gave a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington. The Legion was the largest single contributor to the project. More than \$8 million was raised.

Dedicated on Nov. 13, 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has the names of the more



1990, A. P. Gardner Post 194 provided a concrete slab for the Patton Park WW2 tank.  
Photo, Q00

than 58,000 killed or missing in action during the conflict, including two from Hamilton.

There was, in 1982, a new part to the Memorial Day in Hamilton ceremony that drew upon the Vietnam war. The Green Beret song was played.

In 1966, "The Ballad of the Green Berets," sung by Special Forces soldier Barry Sadler, was the No. 1 song on music charts. The song commemorated those of the U.S. Special Forces fighting in Vietnam.

Post 194 member Albert Lougee requested the playing of the song, which the Legion continued to play the Green Beret song at future Memorial Day services.

Albert Lougee, a WWII veteran, was very proud of his military service and for many years spoke to Hamilton school children about the meaning of Memorial Day.<sup>59</sup>

The 1980s ended on a sour note for the American Legion's efforts to protect the American flag. The U. S. Supreme Court, in 1989, ruled against the American Legion's campaign for a constitutional amendment protecting the American flag. The Legion formed the Citizens' Flag Honor Guard and it later became the Citizens Flag Alliance.

### 1990s

Post 194 was successful, in 1990, in setting right the tank in Patton Park.

In 1946, when Mrs. Beatrice A. Patton spoke at the placement of a Sherman tank on the General Patton Memorial Park, she said the 33-ton tank needed a permanent foundation to keep it from sinking into the ground.<sup>12</sup> Forty-four years later, in 1990, A. P. Gardner Post 194 provided a concrete slab for the tank.<sup>26</sup>

Two small markers, near the tank, honor the memory of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army and the 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Div., which spearheaded Gen. Patton's attack against the Germans.

At that time, A. P. Gardner Post 194 had a record high membership of 350.<sup>68</sup> Members were involved in many Hamilton programs.

A. P. Gardner Post 194 provided a color guard and rifle squad for the town's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade on Oct. 17, 1993, The Post also had a float, one of 25: it carried some past Post commanders. The parade marched 2.3 mi. beginning at the regional high school and ending at Union Street.<sup>60</sup>





**1937 Memorial Day**, Main St. at railroad crossing.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**1940 Memorial Day**, Main St., near #560.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**A. P. Gardner Post 1944** assembled at depot for 1925 Memorial Day Parade. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

*A. P. Gardner Post 194*

## **PARADES**



**1918 July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade on Main St.** Mrs. William Daley with aviator son, Walter, to her right, and naval son, Frederick. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

At the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Post's membership was still near its record high. Post members, in 1999, were: 119 WW2, 75 Korean War, 89 Vietnam, 17 Lebanon/Grenada, and 10 from Panama, Gulf, Bosnia, et al. With regard to branch of service, there were: 133 Army, 56 Air Force, 100 Navy, 25 Marines and 16 Coast Guard. <sup>63</sup>

### 2000s

The 21<sup>st</sup> century for A. P. Gardner Post 194 began with continued support of the town's young people. Members re-plumbed and installed new handicap fixtures and other upgrades to the swimming pool bathhouse. Town officials thanked the Post their on-going support of the park pool. <sup>36</sup>

Also needing attention were the French markers at the Patton Park entrance. After 60 years of outdoor exposure, the poured concrete markers had become very worn. Several Post 194 members, including Neil Chagnon and Al Lougee, began efforts to restore the markers.

In 2004, A. P. Gardner Post 194 placed protective winter covers over the markers. Prior to being enclosed by the tent-like covers, the Liberty Road Milestones were restored by preservationist Louise Freedman. <sup>27, 62</sup>

The WWII honor roll also was weather-worn. In 2004, John Haraden, A. P. Gardner Post 194 Commander, appointed a committee to prepare a proposal for a permanent WWII Honor Roll. Committee members were: Robert MacRae, Gardiner Morgan, and Edward Haraden. Morgan died and was replaced by Henry Stelling. <sup>71</sup> A new list of veteran names had to be developed, since no one had saved the old honor roll panel that had stood at the front of the . <sup>71</sup>

The committee worked closely with the selectmen and, after several years, developed a design. <sup>71</sup>

In 2006, in Phase I, a granite veteran's honor roll was placed on the green. On the side facing the town hall, there are the engraved names of the 333 men and women, who served in WW2, including 12 who died. In Phase II, engraved names of 349 men and women who served in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts were added to the side of the monument facing away from the town hall.

The WW2 Honor Roll cost about \$45,000. Donations came from the Hamilton/Wenham Rotary Club (\$10,000); the A. P. Gardner Post 194 (\$10,000); townspeople (\$15,000); and the town government donated \$10,000 for site preparation and landscaping. <sup>71</sup>

In 2014, Post 194 added a Riders section. Their aims are to: participate in parades and other event supported by the American Legion; promote motorcycle safety programs; and provide a social atmosphere for Legion members who share the same interest. American Legion Riders Chapter 194 Charter was approved at the 2014 American Legion of Massachusetts Convention, our Charter was presented to us on Nov. 22, 2014 at the A.P. Gardner American Legion Post 194 in Patton Hall. First 6 Charter Members Douglas Tinsley, Brandon Cummins, Shawn Tinsley, Robert Munroe, Jeffrey Da Silva, Carlos Goulart and Chris Woodin. The first American Legion Riders section was established, in 1993: Post 396, Garden City, MI.

### 2010s

Hamilton's monuments and plaques list the names of all those that died while in military service. However, many others were wounded during the service to defend the country. They were awarded the Heart medal.

In 2012, the town designated Asbury Street as part of the National Purple Heart Trail System, in recognition and honor of the men and women wounded or killed in line of their military duty. Leading the project were Selectman Jenifer Scuteri and A. P. Gardner Post 194 members Wayne Lougee and Jack Craigen (*a Purple Heart recipient*). Currently (2016), sections of roads in 45 states, as well as Guam, are part of the Purple Heart Trail. <sup>82</sup>

As it neared being 100 years old, the American Legion building on School Street needed many improvements.

The building became handicap accessible in 2009 through a gift from the estate of Philip Hansbury, an American Legion member. An elevator provides access the Trophy Room, in the basement, and to the function hall, on the first floor. Access to the elevator is via the building's side entrance.

A major refurbishing program began in 2013. Exterior changes included:



**Town designated Asbury Street**, in 2012, as part of National Purple Heart Trail System, in recognition and honor of the men and women wounded or killed in line of their military duty.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

*New front entrance* - Stained wood door and side panels replace formed solid panel door. Adelaide Dodge Walsh School overhead panel refurbished.

*New back entrance* - Full glass door replaces door with glass panel. The former inner door is gone.

*New side entrance* - Full glass door and side panels replace solid door that had no

side panels.

*New front upper façade* - A pentagon star is on both sides of the second floor windows.

*New windows* – Installed throughout basement and first floor and the second floor, except for the front three.

Improvements on the first floor included:

*New kitchen* - Major improvements include: new stove/oven, refrigerator, sink, counter tops, lighting, ventilation, storage cabinets and food preparation areas.

Patton Hall's new projection system - Added were a ceiling-mounted, wireless projector, a cabinet-enclosed screen; and surround sound system.

Improvements in the basement included:

Trophy Room pub – New seating and tables

Game room – Enlarged by removal of wall

Rooms in the Post building now are: in basement, Trophy Room Pub, gaming (darts and billiards) room, an office and rest rooms; on first floor, large kitchen, Patton Hall and rest rooms; on second floor, an office, and a large theater/auditorium.

Later that year, A.P. Gardner American Legion Post 194 dedicated and named the recently refurbished first floor event hall after General George S. Patton, Jr. and his son Maj. Gen, George S. Patton. Both were former A. P, Gardner Post 194 members. On display are one of WWII Gen. Patton's field jackets

and various photos relating to him. The Legion offers Patton Hall to the community for functions.

In January 2014, Greg McKenna became the 76<sup>th</sup> Commander of A. P. Gardner Post 194. He had served 30 yrs. in the Army Special Forces (*Green Beret*), retiring as a master sergeant.<sup>79</sup>

Commander McKenna, in 2015, brought Post 194 into the modern age of communications, when he established an A. P, Gardner Post 194 computer website: [apgardnerpostHamilton.org](http://apgardnerpostHamilton.org). He



**Granite veteran's honor roll** placed, in 2006, on town hall green has on side facing street names of 333 men and women, who served in WW2, including 12 who died. Photo, J. Hauck, 2014



was the first web master. The site provides details of the many services offered by the Post, its history, recent developments and contacts for assistance.

Also in 2015, the town, through the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Reserves fund, continued its program of restoration and rehabilitation of the Post's nearly 100-yr. old former school building. The CPA provided \$97,100 for the project, which began with refurbishing windows and the floor of the first floor meeting room.<sup>66</sup> In 2016, the building's exterior was restored using donations and work contributed by a Troop 35 scout earning an Eagle Scout Award.<sup>xx</sup>

The many improvements in the A. P. Gardner Post 194 building on School St. allowed the town, in 2018, to designate it as a community storm shelter. When electrical power is lost during a storm, the Post's building will be open to house those that lose power. The building has a "full building" automatic standby generator that provides power for all electrical and electronic devices.

A. P. Gardner Post 194's involvement with and support of school programs remained strong in 2018. Members marched, on Memorial Day, to the Hamilton's Bessie Buker; Cutler; Winthrop grade schools and to the middle and high school. The Post continued its Youth-oriented programs: Boys State, Boy Scouts, and a high school scholarship award.

Also in 2018, following several years of efforts by Post 194 members, Hamilton's Robert

C. Cronin, in 2018, received the French Legion of Honor for his participation on a minesweeper in the 1944 D-Day invasion. Cronin served on a minesweeper that cleared the waters off of the Normandy beaches. The French government awards the Légion d'honneur to D-Day veterans from many countries to honor and thank those who fought and risked their lives to secure France's liberation during the World War 2.

### Semper Servientes

As they were while in the military branches, members of A. P. Gardner Post 194 remain in service to the needs of people in Hamilton.

Hamilton's American Legion Post 194 joined with Ipswich's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1093, in 2016, at a veterans benefits meeting at the Legion's School Street facility. Post 1093 provided attendees with information on VFW programs, including emergency relief grants, Sport Clips college scholarships and GI Bill benefits assistance, local programs including partnership with the YMCA of the north shore, local Team Red White & Blue activities and the use of medical marijuana for treatment of visible and invisible war wounds. At the event, veterans also learned about local, state and federal programs for veteran employment, housing, disability benefits, loan services, health care.<sup>80</sup>

Membership in the A. P. Gardner Post 194 increased in 2017, when, 28 members of Wenham's Lt. Norman Prince Post 182 joined the ranks of Post 194. The Wenham post was chartered in ✓ 1922.

One of the longest members of A. P. Gardner Post 194 is Morley Piper. He joined in 1948. In WW2, he left the army as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., with 115 Inf. Rgt., 29th Infantry Div. Born in 1925, in Canton, IL, he moved, with his wife, Wanda, to Hamilton in 1947. In 1949, Piper began the Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle: he was the first editor. He was a member of the school committee for 17 yrs., most of which as its Chair.<sup>74</sup>



On side facing town hall are names of 349 men and women who served in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Photo, J. Hauck, 2014

At the start of 2019, only 18 of the WW2 members remained.

In 1992, the last WW1 member of Post 194 Edward A. DeWitt died. He had also been a selectman for 23 years. The last Post 194 Charter member to die was Horace S. Cook: he died in 1992.

Since its formation, many A. P. Gardner Post 194 members have served the town in various capacities: selectmen, moderators, planning board, school committee, parks committee, public works department, library committee, treasurer, town clerk and board of health. Among the longest serving were:

- Standish Bradford, Finance Committee
- Robert H. Chittick III, Fire Dept.
- Bernard A. Cullen, Welfare Agent
- William J. Daley, Planning Board
- Edward A. Dewitt, Selectman
- Albert L. Ham, Electrical Inspector
- George G. Haraden, Town clerk
- Albert P. Lougee, Parks Commission
- Ernest E MacGregor, Dept. Public Works

- Maynard G. MacGregor, Cemetery Manager
- Robert A. MacRae, Fire Dept.
- Theodore W. Maione, Dept. Public Works
- Leon S. Perkins, Building Inspector
- Ray M. Sanford, Parks Commission
- Lester F. Stanley, Town hall custodian
- Leland D. Thompson, Dept. Public Works & Police Dept.
- Richard Vitale, Recreation Dept. -
- Oliver Wolcott, Moderator

In 2019, at its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, A. P. Gardner Post 194 has 159 members. These include veterans of WWII (9), Korea (22), Vietnam (94), Lebanon/Grenada (12), Panama (3) and middleeast (19).

The 2019 membership is 45% of what it was at its peak, in 1989. Nationally, American Legion Post membership, for several decades, has been in decline and member age is increasing. This reflects a decrease in the number of veterans.

The ranks are thinning, but determination and dedication remain strong.

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## WW1 Honor Roll in Town Hall Memorial Room



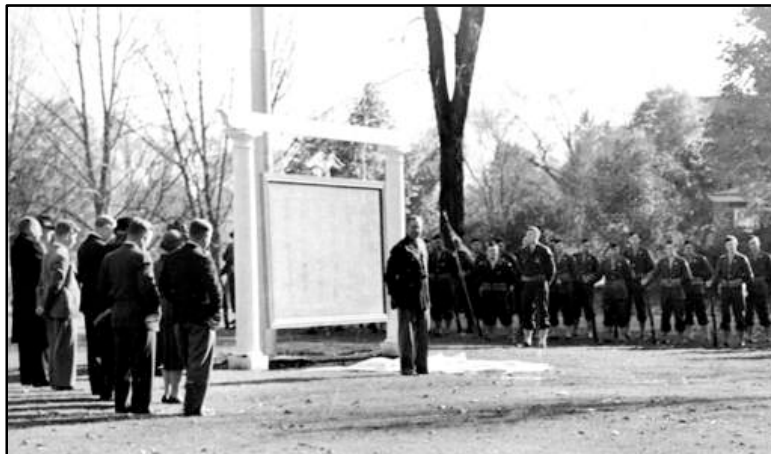
Randall E. Adams  
 Carl C. Anderson  
 Samuel Anderson  
 William A. Anderson  
 Clarence C. Baldwin  
 Ralph C. Berry  
 Charles R. Brown  
 William L. Brumby  
 John Burke  
 John F. Burns  
 Albert C. Burrage, Jr.  
 Percival W. Burton \*  
 John H. Caverly  
 Lawrence C. Caverly  
 Robert H. Chittick, 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  
 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 P. 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. Varnum  
 Gordon C. Vaughn  
 William J. Wallace  
 Percival D. Whipple  
**Reginald Young**

\* A. P. Gardner Post 194 Charter members  
 Bold face, died while in service



**WWI Honor Roll** erected at front of town hall in 1919.  
 Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**A. P. Gardner Post 194  
Commanders**  
*(ital indicates died)*

Name	Years
<i>George C. Donaldson</i>	1919- 20
<i>Walter Green</i>	1921
<i>Victor V. Daley</i>	1922
<i>Finlay MacDonald</i>	1923- 24
<i>Leon Perkins</i>	1925- 26
<i>Oliver Wolcott</i>	1927
<i>Harold Daley</i>	1928- 29
<i>Frank Withee</i>	1930- 31
<i>Baynard Tuckerman Jr.</i>	1932- 33
<i>James Danforth</i>	1934- 35
<i>Percival Burton</i>	1936- 37
<i>Henry Jackson Sr.</i>	1938- 39
<i>Edgar Andrews</i>	1940- 41
<i>Sydney Hill</i>	1942- 43
<i>John Ostron</i>	1944- 45
<i>Gordon Allen</i>	1946
<i>Henry Larchez</i>	1947
<i>Richard Preston</i>	1948- 49
<i>Benjamin Robertson</i>	1950
<i>Larry Lamson</i>	1951
<i>Albert Lougee</i>	1952
<i>Francis O'Hara</i>	1953
<i>Bernard A. Cullen</i>	1954
<i>Ray M. Sanford Jr.</i>	1955
<i>Louis Valade</i>	1956- 57

<i>Robert McRae</i>	1958
<i>Raymond Higgins</i>	1959
<i>Allen B. Clark</i>	1960
<i>Henry J. Stelling</i>	1961
<i>Harold Johnson Jr.</i>	1962
<i>Robert J. Butman</i>	1963
<i>Albert L. Ham</i>	1964
<i>William D. Davison</i>	1965
<i>John B. York II</i>	1966
<i>Richard J. Sevigney</i>	1967
Joseph R. Gates	1968
Wilfred E. Vaillancourt	1969
Kenneth Forward	1970
<i>Stephen D'Arcy</i>	1971
Richard Collins	1972
<i>Albert Ham</i>	1973
Gordon Lamson	1974
George Harrigan III	1975
Anthony Heath	1976
<i>George Ricker</i>	1977
John Mollet	1978
<i>Robert Auen</i>	1979
John Caron	1980
Edward Dolan	1981
John Caron	1982
Charles Cook	1983
Frank Flint	1984
James Stelling	1985
<i>Dean F. Gould</i>	1986
<i>Anthony R. Maione</i>	1987
Arthur A. LaCombe Sr.	1987- 88
Anthony Heath	1988- 89

Paul H. Sedgwick	1989- 90
Robert E. Pelletier	1990- 91
Robert N. Gilbert	1991- 1992
Robert N. Gilbert	1993- 1994
Francis B. Gajewski	1994- 95
Francis B. Gajewski	1995- 96
<i>Edward J. Carr Jr.</i>	1996- 97
Robert N. Gilbert	1997- 98
Anthony P. Duignan	1998- 99
Philip B. Perkins II	1999- 2000
<i>William O. Morrow</i>	2000- 01
Neil R. Chagnon	2001- 02
Mark W. Sheppard	2002- 03
John E. Haraden	2003
Scott D. Sheppard	2004
Scott D. Sheppard	2005
Bill Tyack	2006
Anthony P. Duignan	2007
Robert N. Gilbert	2007
Jerry S. Bennett	2009
Jerry S. Bennett	2010
Mal Bybee	2011
Mal Bybee	2012
Greg McKenna	2013
Greg McKenna	2014
Greg McKenna	2015
Greg McKenna	2016
Greg McKenna	2017
Greg McKenna	2018



**Commanders Diner, 1964**, attended by 35 past Commanders.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society