AMHERST'S CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL TABLETS
~ History & Description ~

History

Amherst's Civil War tablets were donated to the Town in 1893 by a local Civil War veterans' organization—the E.M. Stanton Post 147 of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). Among the 300+ names of Amherst soldiers and sailors inscribed into the face of the tablets are the names of 21 local black residents. Seven of these men served with the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. The first black regiment in the Union Army, the story of 54th was told in the movie “Glory.” Fourteen black Amherst soldiers served in the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry. Five of these 21 men were killed during the War—two from the 54th Regiment and three from the 5th Cavalry.

Several other Amherst residents who were later known beyond Amherst are also listed on the tablets—educator William Smith Clark among them. For these reasons, Amherst’s tablets have historical value not only to local residents but to the larger world. This heightens the need to site the tablets where residents and visitors can readily find them, and to provide adequate historical interpretive information for the tablets.

Original Location – Amherst Town Hall

Following their donation to the Town in 1893, the Civil War tablets were displayed in Town Hall. Different sources describe the location differently. One source claims the tablets were “accorded a place of honor in the tower of the town hall building.” Another (the record of the Town Meeting vote to allow installation), indicates the tablets were mounted “upon the walls of the ante room of this Town Hall.”

According to former Town Manager Allan Torrey, the six tablets were originally wall-mounted in three places:

- The former main entrance foyer (the “ante room”) on the first floor facing the Town Common.
- The first floor landing for the northwest stair tower (right next to the foyer).
- The second floor landing of the northwest stair tower.

In 1962, during renovations of Town Hall, all six tablets were relocated to the walls of a hallway in the Amherst Police station in the Town Hall basement. When Town Hall was more extensively renovated and restored in 1997, the tablets were removed and stored for safe-keeping.
The Tablets

There are six (6) marble tablets in all. Five (5) are large—approximately 56" tall by 73"-78" long by 1.5"-2" thick. The sixth is a smaller (15" tall x 76" long) dedication tablet inscribed with the simple statement:

*These tablets are to perpetuate the memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of Amherst who served in the War of the Rebellion.*

The tablets are cut from a light-colored marble. Marble is a beautiful but easily-damaged stone. The same relative softness that makes marble easy to carve makes it prone to chipping and breaking. The Civil War tablets already have some damage of this kind.

Marble is a porous stone. In addition to water, it will absorb oils, dirt, rust, ink, etc. It is highly vulnerable to acids of any kind, and will begin to dissolve even in the presence of the low acidity found in sweat or dew. Marble erodes rapidly when exposed to acid rain. Marble can also be damaged by mechanical weathering, air pollution, temperature extremes, UV radiation and repeated handling.

For these reasons, it is important that the tablets be sited and their memorial structure designed so that they are enclosed and protected from the elements, and will be well-secured against unnecessary handling, vandalism or attempted theft.

Current Status

In response to a request by Amherst resident Dudley Bridges and others in the summer of 2000, the Select Board requested that the Design Review Board (DRB) and Amherst Historical Commission jointly review and offer recommendations on a site to display six (6) marble memorial tablets commemorating Amherst’s Civil War veterans. Following an extended series of joint meetings, and work with an architect and Town staff, in May 2001 the Board and Commission jointly recommended the Town Hall grounds facing the Town Common.
DEDICATION

These Tablets are to perpetuate the memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of Amherst who served in the War of the Rebellion.

14.75" x 7.75"
(1' 2 3/4" tall x 6' 3 3/4" long)
SACRED DEAD

OUR DEAD IN THE WAR TO PRESERVE THE UNION.
1861-1865.
To die for the Nation is to live.

Capt. CHARLES W. SMITH 29th Mass.
Capt. SAMUEL WHITE 8th Wis.
Lieu. FRANZ A. STEARNS 21st Mass.
Lieu. GEORGE E. COOKE 37th Mass.
Sergt. PTOLEMY P. CUNTER 27th Mass.
Sergt. HENRY C. PLUMB 21st Mass.
Sergt. JOSEPH K. TAYLOR 37th Mass.
Corp. GEORGE W. SLOAN 27th Mass.
CHARLES B. ADAMS 67th N.Y.
CHARLES K. BAKER 27th Mass.
MILO A. BARTLETT 52d Mass.
AUSTIN BARTON 21st Mass.
MORRISON BARTON 1st Mass. H. A.
CEPHAS B. BOLIO 1st Mass. Cav.
LEVI M. BOLIO 27th Mass.
HENRY BOWMAN 20th Mass.
HENRY E. BOYNTON 1st Mass. H. A.
JASON CHAMPLIN 54th Mass.
DAVID L. DICKINSON 1st Mass. H. A.
FRANCIS H. DICKINSON 15th Mass.
JOHN W. DICKINSON 52d Mass.
MICHAEL DOYLE 28th Mass.
GEORGE A. DRAPE 27th Mass.
LEVI EDSON 22nd Mass.
JOSEPH GROVER 27th Mass.
EUGENE P. HERVEY 27th Mass.

SANFORD JACKSON 54th Mass.
MARTIN S. JOHNSON 53d Mass.
EZRA KELSEY 27th Mass.
ALONZO W. LATHAM 18th Mass.
WILLIAM W. LATHAM 27th Mass.
WILLIAM F. LECCETT 37th Mass.
MURRAY S. LOVR 10th Mass.
EDWARD LYONS 22d Mass.
EDWARD W. MANLEY 27th Mass.
MARCUS T. C. MILES 20th Mass.
REUBEN MILES 12th Conn.
CHARLES D. MULLETT 27th Mass.
LYMAN D. PHELPS 21st Mass.
EDWARD W. PROUTY 15th Mass.
GEORGE L. PUTNAM 10th Mass.
NORMAN ROBERTS 52d Mass.
JAMES K. SANDERSON 37th Mass.
GEORGE W. SCOTT 21st Mass.
ARTHUR SEARS 27th Mass.
LYMAN W. SKINNER 27th Mass.
JAMES W. SPEAR 27th Mass.
EDWARD H. STANLEY 10th Mass.
ETHAN A. TAFT 32nd Mass.
JOSIAH THAYER 10th Mass.
HENRY THOMPSON 5th Mass. Cav.
JOHN P. W. WHEELOCK 52d Mass.
ROBERT WILSON 59th Mass.

56" x 69"
(4' 8" tall x 5' 9" long)
INFANTRY
2nd – 27th Regts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>John F. Bartlett</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Joseph F. Bartlett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles L. Goodale</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Moran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles E. Brown</td>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Glocome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Tyson</td>
<td></td>
<td>John Talmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William H. White</td>
<td></td>
<td>William H. White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry F. Douglass</td>
<td></td>
<td>Charles L. Goodale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lewis R. Haskell</td>
<td></td>
<td>George W. Newell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farrell Welch</td>
<td></td>
<td>John McDonald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John S. McDonald</td>
<td></td>
<td>Edward B. Dickinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George D. Nelson</td>
<td></td>
<td>D. B. Nelson Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles L. Woodworth</td>
<td></td>
<td>D. B. Nelson Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timothy W. Sloan</td>
<td></td>
<td>D. B. Nelson Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amzi R. Demire</td>
<td></td>
<td>D. B. Nelson Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J. Leander Skinner</td>
<td></td>
<td>D. B. Nelson Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edmund Boltwood</td>
<td></td>
<td>D. B. Nelson Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edward R. Dickinson</td>
<td></td>
<td>D. B. Nelson Fish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

56" x 75"
(4' 8" tall x 6' 3" long)
# INFANTRY

27th – 52nd Regts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>56&quot; x 73&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(4' 8&quot; tall x 6' 1&quot; long)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INFANTRY ~ 52nd – 60th Regts.
ARTILLERY ~ 13th Light – 3rd Heavy

MICHAEL MALOBEY
EDWARD O'CALLAHAN
JEREMIAH O'CALLAHAN
PATRICK F. O'TOOLE
ALBERT ROBERTS
GEORGE H. ROBERTS
EDWARD M. ROLPH
CHARLES C. SMITH
GEORGE F. SPEAR
JAMES H. WHEELOCK
JOHN WHITE
53rd Regt.

GEORGE H. PARMENTER
54th Regt.
CHARLES A. FINNEMORE
FRANCIS H. JENNINGS
WILLIAM H. H. JENNINGS
ALEXANDER TAYLOR
JAMES THOMPSON
60th Regt.

MYRON D. CLARK
Veteran Reserve Corps.
JAMES W. BRYANT
JOHN MANNING
BERNARD McGUIGRICK

JOHN WILLS
EDWARD P. DICKINSON
ROBERT HOCK
HENRY L. LOVETT
THOMAS F. MURPHY
REDMOND WELCH
3rd Heavy Art.

JAMES KELLEY

56" x 78"
(4' 8" tall x 6' 6" long)
ARTILLERY ~ 29th Unattached Heavy
CAVALRY ~ 1st-5th
NAVY
OTHER

56" x 78.5"
(4' 8" tall x 6' 6 1/2" long)