

Soldiers' Monument Re-Dedication Ceremony



Newton Cemetery
Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 1:00 pm



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

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May 18, 2014

Dear Friends,

One hundred and fifty years ago, the citizens of Newton rallied during what was known as the War of the Rebellion and erected a monument to honor the soldiers of Newton who had fallen in service to their country. One of those soldiers, a twenty-one year old named Charles Ward, before enlisting declared, "But, if my country needs my services, I am willing for her sake to make the sacrifice."

Today, as Memorial Day draws near, we pause to remember once again the sacrifices made by the citizens of Newton and the beliefs for which they were fighting – that the country remain whole and undivided, and that every citizen be treated equally.

The ceremony today also recognizes the preservation work that has been done on the monument to ensure, as the Hon. Thomas Rice, Jr. said at the original dedication, "that we may come beneath its shadow and teach our children and children's children to honor and revere the names of those inscribed upon its tablet" now and for years to come.

Best

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Setti D. Warren".

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

100 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

www.newtonma.gov



DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

Soldiers' Monument Re-Dedication

Order of the Day

"Amazing Grace"	Kevin Fitzgerald, bagpipes
Welcome	Mary Ann Buras, President, NCC
Prayer	Rev. Howard Haywood
Address	Mayor Setti Warren
Remarks	David Fleishman, Supt. of Schools
Battle Hymn of the Republic	Brown Middle School A cappella
Gettysburg Address	Maria Koutsouris, Newton North
Meet The Soldiers: LT. Eben White Daniel Sanger Pvt. John B. Rogers Charles Ward	Day Middle School Students: Bronwyn Turner Colin Hoyt Evelyn Chedekel Dustin Ledgard
Role Call	Day Middle School Students: Max Melville, Buthovas Merceron Ben Paton, Sophie Ferreira-Iannone Hayden Weaver, Sophie Chalfin-Jacobs
"Aura Lee" and "Tenting on the Old Camp Grounds"	Highland Singers
History of "Taps"	Lucy Holmes, Newton South
Military Salute	54th Mass. Volunteer Regiment, Co. A
Taps	Alan Mannarino

History

Established in 1855 as a private, rural garden cemetery, Newton Cemetery had existed for just six years before the Civil War began. The Soldiers' Monument was erected in 1864 while the War still raged and is the second oldest monument in the state dedicated to Civil War veterans. The monument was designated as locally significant by the Newton Historical Commission in 2005 and deemed eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

Individual lots owned by the City at the Cemetery were exchanged for the piece of land that the obelisk and entablature now occupy. While some of the soldiers named on the monument are buried elsewhere at the Cemetery, this piece of ground is purely ornamental.

The Soldiers' Monument obelisk and entablature were made by the Mitchell Granite Co. of Quincy, MA and erected at a cost of \$5,220.00. Funding came from private donations by friends of the soldiers, the citizens of Newton and 1100 public school children who donated \$.10 each. History repeated itself this year when public school children again donated coins to fund the monument's long term preservation.

Inscribed on marble tablets within the entablature are the names of 61 fallen Newton soldiers who died while in military service during the Civil War or afterward from wounds or disease during the war.

At the time of its construction, the hillside entablature was supported by iron pins and a stone wall at its rear. Over time erosion, water drainage from the hillside, and the freeze/ thaw cycle, had pushed the wall away from the hill. The top of the entablature and its cannon had been removed to prevent their destruction.

The remaining portion under pressure from the hillside had developed stress fractures and was in immediate danger of breaking apart and falling. To prevent collapse, Newton Cemetery temporarily braced the monument.

With a grant from the Community Preservation Act, the City of Newton Engineering Department served as project manager, overseeing and coordinating the preservation treatments designed by Structures North Consulting Engineers, reviewed by the City of Newton Planning Department and implemented by Cali Corporation of Natick.

A plaque commemorating the re-dedication of the monument has been donated by Newton Memorial Art.

“Tis holy ground –
This spot, where in their graves,
We place our Country’s braves,
Who fell in Freedom’s holy cause
Fighting for liberty and laws –
Let tears abound.

Here let them rest –
And summer’s heat and winter’s cold,
Shall glow and freeze above this mold –
A thousand years shall pass away –
A nation still shall mourn this clay,
Which now is blest.

Here, where they lie,
Oft shall the widow’s tear be shed,
Oft shall fond parents mourn their dead,
The orphan here shall kneel and weep,
And maidens grieve where lovers sleep,
A broken tie.

Great God in heaven!
Shall all this sacred blood be shed –
Shall we thus mourn our glorious dead,
O, shall the end be wrath and woe,
The knell of Freedom’s overthrow –
A country riven?

It will not be!
We trust, O God! Thy gracious power
To aid us in our darkest hour.
This be our prayer – “O Father! save
A people’s Freedom from the grave –
All praise to thee!”

A chant read at the dedication ceremony in 1864



Charles Ward



Lt. Eben White

☆Sergeant Major Charles Ward, d. July 9, 1863, 32nd Reg. of MA Volunteers: Wounded at Gettysburg, PA on July 2, 1863 and died 7 days later, only 21 years old. The Grand Army of The Republic named its Newton post (housed in the Masonic Building in Newtonville) after him.

☆Second Lieutenant Eben White, d. 10/21/1863, 7th Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops, Co. B: Killed while trying to enlist free men on a farm in Benedict, MD, owned by John H. Sothoron, a secessionist.

☆Major Henry T. Lawson, d. 10/1/1864, 2nd Regiment, Massachusetts Heavy Artillery: Died in North Carolina of yellow fever.

☆George Hale Nichols, d. 1864, Mass. 32 Regiment, Co. K: Reported missing on 7/2/1863 and held at Libby Prison in Belle Isle, VA. His brother reported that George tried to escape and was shot and killed on March 27, 1864. Other sources claim he died of disease on February 27, 1864.

☆Pvt. William B. Neff, d. 5/12/1864, 32nd Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry, Co. K: Died at Laurel Hill, PA, his body was never recovered.



Henry Lawson



George H. Nichols



William Neff

Soldiers Listed On the Monument

Lt. Eben White	Leopold Hawkes
Orlestus J. Adams	Patrick Haggerty
John Allen	Thomas L. Jackson
George Baker	Albert A. Kendall
George H. Baxter	Jefferson Lakin
William R. Benson	Charles A. Leavitt
Theodore L. Brackett	Michael Martin
Le Roy S. Bridgman	Daniel H. Miller
Eben R. Buck	Stephen L. Nichols
Ruben L. Butler	Albert F. Potter
Thomas W. Clifford	Joseph R. Pratt
Gilbert J. Cheney	William H. Rice
Ferdinand Champion	William J. Rand
Seth Cousens Jr.	Lucius Trowbridge
Fredrick A. Cutter	Edward H. Tombs
William Fell	Michael Vaughn
William N. Freeman	Charles Ward
John Forsyth Jr.	Grafton H. Ward
William L. Gillman	Samuel F. Woodward
Maj. Henry T. Lawson	Thomas C. Norcross
Harvey L. Vinton	Daniel Sanger
William A. Harris	William B. Neff
John Meirs Jr.	Matthew T.H. Roffe
John McQuade	Thomas Duran
George H. Nichols	Lemuel F. Bassett
John B. Rogers	George H. Rich
Lt. Joseph B. Breck	Edward Lyman
William L. Parker	Lowell M. Breck
Elliot Littlefield	Alfred Washburn
Henry C. Harrington	Wm. H. Johnson
	George Kimball

Prayer

God our creator, whose spirit was present on the 23rd day of July, 1864 when the Honorable Thomas Rice, Jr. Chairman of the Newton Board of Selectmen stood in this very spot presiding over the dedication of the Soldier's Monument. In his address he said these prophetic words: "Would to God that the last name had been inscribed-that the sacrifices which we have now made were sufficient to secure permanent peace. But, my friends, such is not the case. We will be called upon to add name after name to this honorable list, before this wicked and shameful rebellion is crushed, as it surely will be; for it cannot be that this great nation, which has achieved its own independence, and has long been the asylum of the oppressed of all other nations, is now to be destroyed by its own internal dissensions."

The 61 men whose names are inscribed on this monument were among the estimated 620,000 to 850,000 who lost their lives in a war of Americans against Americans, families killing families. One million, two hundred and forty thousand men and women have died in all the wars combined that our country has fought. Approximately 50% of all casualties were from the Civil War.

Today as we rededicate this monument in honor of those Newton soldiers that have and continue to sacrifice their lives to protect our freedoms, we pray fervently for the allusive peace that men and women of good heart desire.

Now as we gather in this sacred place we are thankful to God for the blessing of courage and dedication of those that have died to ensure the legacy of freedom that our forefathers defined in our Constitution and Bill of Rights. We can build monuments of stone and inscribe their names for the ages but the greatest praise we can give them is to be good stewards of the freedom that we enjoy and they died for. Each of us has an obligation to speak out for the rights of all of the citizens of the world.

On this beautiful spring day we gather in this peaceful place of rest, with the soothing aroma of the new birth of nature, the mating calls of birds and the gentle ripples on the ponds, we cannot forget the brutality of the battle fields that those we honor today died on. The carnage of battles such as Gettysburg, Shiloh, Stones River and Chancellorsville shocked people around the world. That is why this monument is so important. Not only does it honor those who died to protect the rights of all but it should be a salient reminder that all men are truly created equal and that the wars we wage should be against the evil that dwells in the hearts of men. General Robert E. Lee said, "It is well that war is so terrible, else we should grow too fond of it." We have not arrived at that point and still find the countries of the world reverting to wars that never resolve the problems.

This monument dedicated ten months before the last battle of the war by a grateful community that desired to demonstrate their sincere appreciation and admiration for the men who gave their lives to protect the Union and affirm the words of the founding fathers that "all men are created equal." Today, 150 years later we still suffer from the shrapnel of the hatred that continues to plague this country. What will be the legacy of this dedication; I pray that it will be that the citizens of Newton remain steadfast in our love of country, the rights and opportunity for all of its citizens and that God continues to bless and guide us now and in the years to come. Amen.

Rev. Howard M. Haywood
Myrtle Baptist Church, West Newton



Acknowledgments

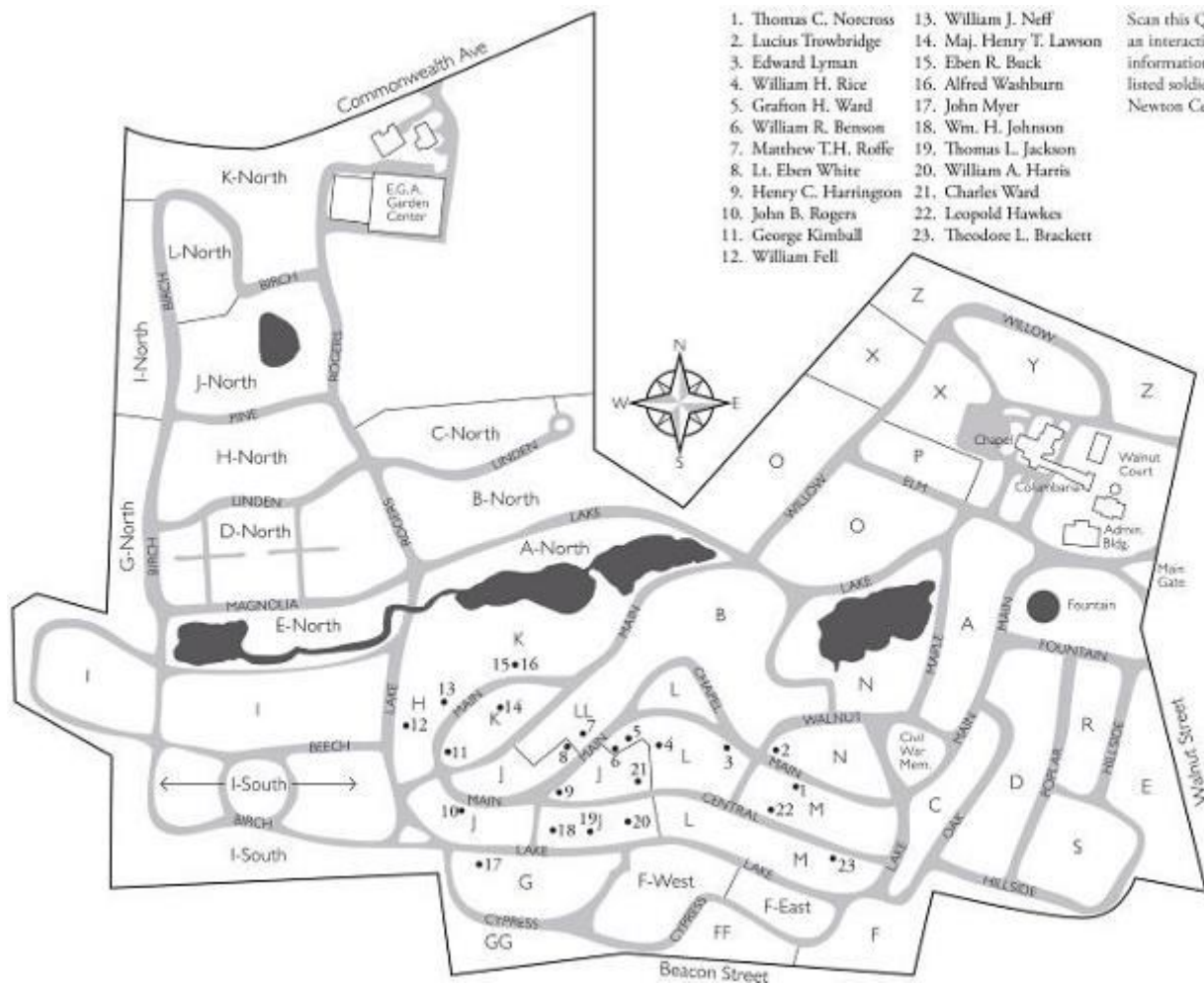
The Re-dedication of the Soldiers' Monument Committee is:

Susan Albright	Alderman At Large, Ward 2
Mary Ann Buras	President, Newton Cemetery
Sara Leavitt Goldberg, co-chair	Archivist, Historic Newton
Katy Hax Holmes, co-chair	Senior Planner
Maria Koutsouris	Newton North High School
Steven Linsky	Former Alderman, Ward 2
John MacGillvray	Veterans' Affairs
Tim Matthews	Day Middle School
Tom Shoemaker	VFW Post 440
Brian Yates	Alderman At Large, Ward 5

And wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their support:

Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development; Marty's Liquors; Cindy Spittel, Newton Memorial Art Company; Anthony "Fatty" Pelegrini; First Call Transportation; Newton North High School Graphics Department; Kayla Hardy Design; Plant-A-Smile 4H Club*; Makepeace Digital Imaging; Newton Tents; City of Newton IT Department; Instasign; Sean at Citizen's Bank, Four Corners branch; Ed Zielinski and Charles River Country Club; Phil McNulty, Newton Free Library; Historic Newton; Linda Plaut, Mayor's Office for Cultural Affairs; Kristin Smith, Brown Middle School; our families for their unwavering patience; the CPC for making the preservation of the monument possible; and a huge thank you to the staff and management of Newton Cemetery for hosting this historic event.

*The Plant-A-Smile 4H Club hopes you enjoy the interactive map they have created using ArcGIS software as part of a grant awarded to them by Esri.



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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Thomas C. Noscross | 13. William J. Neff |
| 2. Lucius Trowbridge | 14. Maj. Henry T. Lawson |
| 3. Edward Lyman | 15. Eben R. Buck |
| 4. William H. Rice | 16. Alfred Washburn |
| 5. Grafton H. Ward | 17. John Myer |
| 6. William R. Benson | 18. Wm. H. Johnson |
| 7. Matthew T.H. Roffe | 19. Thomas L. Jackson |
| 8. Lt. Eben White | 20. William A. Harris |
| 9. Henry C. Harrington | 21. Charles Ward |
| 10. John B. Rogers | 22. Leopold Hawkes |
| 11. George Kimball | 23. Theodore L. Brackett |
| 12. William Fell | |

Scan this QR Code for an interactive map with information about the listed soldiers interred at Newton Cemetery.