



## Charles C. Beaman Fund

1902

### Purpose:

Maintenance of Towns Guide Boards/Signs

### History:

This fund was established by Charles C. Beaman (1840-1900) who owned the Blow-Me-Down Farm situated on the historic Moses Chase property by the Connecticut River. From his frequent carriage drives throughout the area, Mr. Beaman became aware of the need for directional and mileage signs along the main roads. Cornish used funds from this trust to purchase the first electrically lighted sign at the approach to the then Toll Bridge on the Connecticut River – the electricity (paid separately) came from the Mill Brook Dam generator in Windsor. The Lebanon Manufacturing Co, which went into business about 1917, made the required Guide Boards out of cast iron. In 1918, income from this fund was used to acquire the permanent cast iron Honor Roll of World War I soldiers sign (William Beaman, the donor's son, was on that special committee), which is still in service in Veteran's Park in Cornish Flat. Today the funds are used for the reflective metal road signs throughout the town.



Mr. Beaman began the BlowMeDown Farm with an initial parcel of land acquired in 1882. Through subsequent acquisitions the farm expanded to over 1000 acres. Mr. Beaman was a lawyer in New York City and married to Hettie Evarts of New York City and Windsor Vermont. He is widely considered the founder of the Cornish Artist Colony. In his desire to attract artists to Cornish, many with young families, Mr. Beaman often sold or rented them properties for their use as homes and/or studios. On his death in 1900, he left a bequest of \$1000 in his will, which established this trust, with the income to be used to pay for guide boards in Cornish.

John Dryfhout, 2019