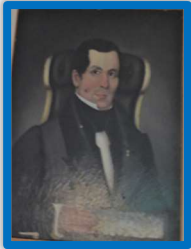




## Jacob Foss Flag Fund

1909



Jacob Foss



Flag poles in  
Cornish Flat, NH



Foss Homestead

### Purpose:

Maintenance of Town's Flags

### History:

This fund was established through one of two bequests from Jacob Foss that provided for patriotic remembrances in Cornish. On his death in 1866, his will gave \$2000 to establish the Foss Trust Fund for the poor (now the Foss-Kimball Fund) and \$1000 for the maintenance of the Town's flags. However, Mr. Foss' will was contingent on the funds being accepted by the Town. The Sargent family of Boston, the family of his deceased sister who would have inherited the flag bequest, contested the will and brought suit in New Hampshire against the bequest to the Town claiming that Cornish could not commit future town meetings to the fulfillment of the provisions of the will. The New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled in favor of the town in 1873 and Cornish accepted the gift.

Jacob Foss was born in Cornish NH in October 1796, the son of Walter and Lucy (Cook) Foss. His family's homestead (pictured) was on Lower East Rd in Cornish. He moved to Massachusetts where he went to work at the Putnam & Pratt distillery in Charlestown. He became very active in the distillery business and later formed the Foss & Gilmore distillery, which became one of the largest in Charlestown. A portrait of Jacob Foss is on display at the Stowell Library in Cornish Flat.

A newspaper account in 1880 noted that the Town of Cornish had nine or ten flag poles in the community. One in Cornish Flat, built by James Tasker in the triangular land parcel in front of the Inn and Store, measured 90 feet in height. Another flag/liberty pole, installed in December 1878, was presented to the citizens of Cornish by Cornish native Isaac Wellman Barnard. This pole, which was 120 feet tall and located at Cornish Center (now the Town Offices), was likely removed from the site following the acquisition of the property by the Town of Cornish in 1994. Through the years the Town budget has always had a line item for expenditures for Memorial Day celebrations and the Foss Flag Fund has supplied miniature Old Glories for each of the town's Veterans' graves.

John Dryfhout, 2019