



Veterans' Memorial Fund

1985



Veterans' Memorial Park



Civil War Monument



World War I Honor Roll



World War II Monument

Purpose:

Maintenance of Veterans Memorial

History:

Veterans' Memorial Park, in front of the former Baptist Meeting House in Cornish, has been used by the Town of Cornish for Independence Day celebrations as well as other events since the War of 1812 on land donated in 1818 by Horace Weld (1792-1859). A granite monument: "Soldier at Parade Rest" by Alfred J. Dingle of the Sunapee Granite Co, Newport, NH was installed in the park in 1889 and dedicated in 1891 following a major local fund-raising effort. The names of the soldiers from Cornish who were lost in the war were engraved into the panels on each of the four sides of the base. At the time of the nation's entry in World War I, Cornish purchased a monumental black cast iron frame made by the Lebanon Machine Co, NH and placed in Veterans' Memorial Park as a memorial to Cornish residents who served in the war. The memorial has name plates for each Cornish resident who served in the war, including one soldier (Cyril Hunt) who died in the war highlighted in gold leaf. Similar honor rolls were added to the park for World War II (wooden), and one for the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars (granite, not shown). The Beaman Trust fund was the original source of funding for these memorials.

However, by 1984 the condition of the wooden WWII honor roll had badly deteriorated, and Cornish Grange #25 and other individuals responded with donations to the Town. These funds established the Veterans' Memorial Trust in 1985. In 2003, an additional \$15,000 was raised from the 2002 Town Meeting for a granite panel made by Cremation Art of East Montpelier, VT to replace the wooden World War II Honor Roll. Note that on the World War II monument are the names of two Cornish residents with established named trusts (Charles C. Beaman and James C. Kibbey). The maintenance of the monuments in the park is overseen by the Cornish's Veterans' Monument Committee. In 2018 funds were also voted at the March annual Town Meeting to restore the 100-year-old cast iron World War I memorial, which was completed by Daniel Grenier of Washington, Vermont, in time for the Memorial Day commemoration on May 30, 2018, the 100th anniversary year of the Great War.

John Dryfhout, 2019