

Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Street Corner - at Academy + Westford Streets

STATUE MONUMENT
 BUST FOUNTAIN
 MARKER MILESTONE
 RELIGIOUS SHRINE BOUNDARY MARKER
 GROUP COMPOSITION

Name Revolutionary Monument

Original Owner Town of Chelmsford

Present Owner Town of Chelmsford

Monument has historical connection with the following themes: (See also reverse side)

Date Constructed 1859

Date Dedicated Sept 22, 1859

Agriculture Commerce/Industry
 Architecture Science/Invention
 Art/Sculpture Travel/Communication
 Education Military Affairs
 Literature Indians
 Music Development of Town/City
 Government Religion/Philosophy

Source of Date Watson "History of Chelmsford"

Designer or Sculptor Greely S. Curtis (Boston)

Individual or group responsible for monument if other than owner _____

CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved* Altered _____

IMPORTANCE of monument to area: Great Moderate None _____

MONUMENT endangered by: _____

LOCATION OF INSCRIPTION: Plaque on wall, house, post; base of monument; other _____

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION on monument: Lower part of main shaft
see attached sheet

DESCRIPTION**

Foundation: Pedestal Base None Material granite

Material: Bronze Stone Marble Granite Wood Other Chelmsford granite

Setting (surroundings) Town Corner

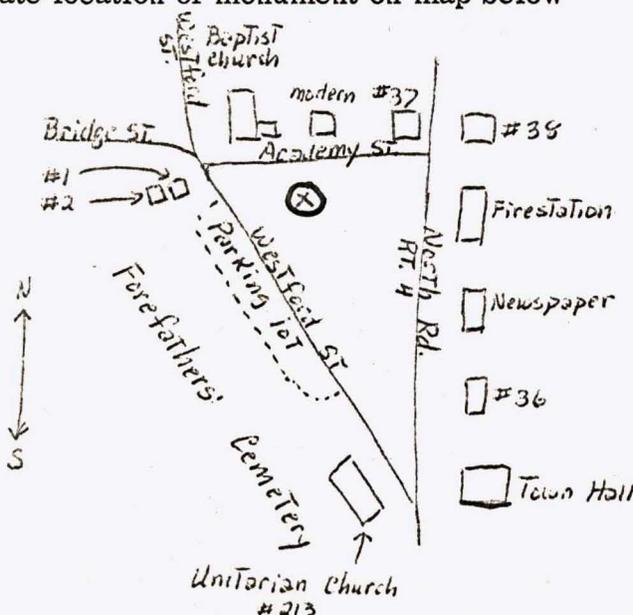
Size (approximate) 27' high, standing on 18' square terrace

Indicate location of monument on map below

Recorder Jane B. Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission
(Name of Organization)

Photo 9-10A Date Received _____



* If the monument has been moved, indicate the original location on the reverse side.

** Describe the monument on the reverse side.

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER AND/OR DESIGN OF MONUMENT

See attached sheet

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF MONUMENT. (Refer to the theme circled on front of form. What happened? Who was important? Comment)

The monument was erected within a few feet of an ash tree, which was there in 1775 but gone in 1973, beneath which "the Chelmsford patriots of that day were accustomed to assemble for consultation on matters pertaining to the public welfare." In a hollow of this tree many were frequently deposited for the use of Revolutionary War soldiers about to enlist in their country's service.

It was built in memory of the many Chelmsford men who served in the Revolutionary War. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in his intended address at the dedication (prevented by illness): "I can easily believe that the soldiers you celebrate deserved your praise These people were original authors of liberty, and not plagiarists, not sentimental nations like the Italians, French, Hungarians, and Germans. These all learned it of our people. Our farmers held the fee of their farms. every man owned his acres." Chelmsford's soldiers went to Concord & Lexington, & 68 took part in battle of Bunker Hill. It is believed that 544 from Chelmsford served in the war, & 8 or 9 of these died or were killed.

REFERENCE: (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

Waters, "History of Chelmsford, Mass." (1917)

"The Chelmsford Memorial", May 2, 1859 (Waters, pg. 843)

Notes by Ralph Waldo Emerson (Waters, pg. 591)

Newsweekly (1955)

Revolutionary Monument

Entire Inscription: The four sides face the cardinal points of the compass.

(North Side) ERECTED 1859 LET THE CHILDREN GUARD WHAT THE SIRENS
HAVE WON. G.S. Curtis architect.

(South Side) IN HONOR OF THE TOWNSMEN OF CHELMSFORD WHO SERVED THEIR
COUNTRY IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION THIS MONUMENT IS
ERECTED BY A GRATEFUL POSTERITY. L. Chamberlain builder.

(East Side) LT. COL. MOSES PARKER AND CAPT. BENJ. WALKER WOUNDED AT
BUNKER HILL JUNE 17, 75 DIED PRISONERS IN BOSTON JULY 4 &
AUGT. 75 LT. ROBT. SPALDING DIED AT MILFORD CT. 76

(West Side) JOHN BATES DIED IN ARMY IN CAMBRIDGE DAVID SPALDING JR.
DIED IN ARMY AT TICONDEROGA PELATIAH ADAMS KILLED AT
CHERRY VALLEY NOAH FOSTER SHOT AT CAPTURE OF BURGGOYNE
HENRY FLETCHER KILLED AT WHITE PLAINS

Description of Subject Matter and/or Design of Monymnt:

Erected by a group of prominent citizens known as the Chelmsford Monument Association, which appropriated \$1,788.25. Laommi Chamberlain, local contractor, built it. ,r. Charles H. Dalton, great-grandson of Rev. War officer Col. Simeon Spaulding, was given the entire credit for the inception and completion of the monument.

The design for the monument, submitted for the consideration of the directors of the Association: "From a slight mound rises a terrace of three broad granite steps, square in plan, and intended to elevate the whole structure above the general surrounding level; above it is a square Base, supporting the Main Shaft, the lower part of which is squared to give space for tablets on each side, - the upper part rising in octagonal form. The Cornice is heavy and over-hanging, with arched brackets, common to the warlike towers of the Middle Ages, and producing a battlemented aspect. Above the Cornice, and crowning the entire monument, rises an octagonal block, supporting a bold and simple chaplet of leaves.

The architect, Mr. Greely S1 Curtis of Boston, has endeavored to express in this design, a rough, rugged strength, with solidity and simplicity, avoiding elaborate decorations and highly finished surfaces, as inappropriate in a memorial of the men to whom the monument is to be raised."

REVOLUTIONARY MONUMENT

1857-8

Built by Laomi Chamberlain
Designed by Greeley S. Curtis of Boston
Cost: \$1,788.25 (MM contributions)

Laomi Chamberlain was secretary of The Soldiers Aid Society and Selectman of the Town.

1859

The Monument Association
Organized, constitution adopted and officers appointed 5/15/1859.

1859

Sept. 22, 1959. The Monument was dedicated and
The 205 Anniversary of the settlement of the Town celebrated at the
same time.

The town was decorated with flags and bunting.

A procession was formed at 11 o'clock at the residence of
Charles H. Dalton, Esq., and marched from there to the Meeting House,
"America" was sung by a large choir as an opening hymn, and accompanied
by an orchestra.

Rev. John Parkhurst made a prayer.
Letters were read (one from Ralph W. Emerson, the Poet)
"Auld Lang Syne" sung by Mrs. Martha L. Emerson.

As the procession marched around the square three cheers were given
as they passed the Monument.

In a large tent at the rear of the church a dinner of Pigeon Pot
Pie with dumplings was served. The Pot Pie was cooked in a large
pot hung over a fire built on the ground, back of the church. The
dinner tickets were One Dollar.

There were many notable people in attendance.
The celebration closed at 5:30 p.m.

1909

The 50th Anniversary of the erection of the Monument was celebrated
at the Town Hall 9/22/1909.
Entertainment: a band concert, solos by Edw. Everett Adams,
Address by Solon W. Stevens, Esq., of Lowell.
Benediction was by Rev. C. H. Ellis.

References see Waters Hist. P. 588-9 to 593

Revolutionary Monument

Waters, pg. 588: The Chelmsford Monument Association

Mr. Charles H. Dalton of Boston, having suggested the idea of erecting a monument to the memory of the Revolutionary patriots of Chelmsford, the following gentlemen met at the house of Deacon Otis Adams, on the evening of Friday, March 25, 1859, to discuss the subject: Capt. Josiah Fletcher, Otis Adams, Dr. J.C. Bartlett, Gardner Fletcher, William Fletcher, E.K. Parkhurst, J. Richardson Fletcher, C.H. Dalton, E.H. Warren.

Deacon Adams was chairman, and E.H. Warren, secretary. The result of this meeting was a public meeting of the citizens held at the Town Hall, with the same officers, on the 15th of April, and the Chelmsford Monument Association was formed. Mr. Dalton presented a patriotic preamble and resolutions, and a constitution was adopted. Willard Parker, M.D., of New York, was chosen president, and J.C. Bartlett, M.D., H.W.B. Wightman, Esq., Capt. Asa Hodman, and R. W. Emerson, Esq. of Concord, vice presidents. The recording secretaries were E.H. Warren and G.A. Parkhurst, and the corresponding secretaries, J. Richardson Fletcher, C.H. Dalton, Esq., and J.F.K. Adams. Deacon Otis Adams was treasurer.

The executive committee were: Capt. Josiah Fletcher, John C. Dalton, M.D., Gen. Benjamin Adams, Hon. J.G. Abbott of Lowell, Major Joseph Manning, Matthias Spalding, M.D., of Amherst, N.H., Gardner Fletcher, Esq., Christopher Roby, Esq., Alpheus Spalding and William Fletcher.

A Prospectus for the Chelmsford Monument was issued and signed by John C. Dalton, Willard Parker, J.G. Abbott, Benj. Adams, R. Waldo Emerson, Matthias Spalding, William Fletcher, Joseph Warren, Otis Adams, Josiah Fletcher, Joel Adams, Samuel F. Wood, Alpheus Spalding, Owen Emerson, Amos Carlton, Gardner Fletcher, and Joseph Manning.

By the 10th of August, 954 persons had contributed \$1,675 and the contract for the monument had been awarded to Laommi Chamberlain, a Chelmsford contractor, who was the lowest bidder. The monument was to be completed by September 15, and to be of Chelmsford granite.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| The contract price for the monument was | \$1,373.00 |
| For cutting the inscriptions | 80.50 |
| For plans, drawings, printings, etc. | 173.88 |
| | <u>\$1,627.38</u> |
| Balance unappropriated | 58.00 |

Some incidental expenses were expected to require more than this balance. The whole amount received was \$1,788.25.

The Association continued to meet annually until 1877, after which occasional meetings were held, the latest being in 1909 to prepare for the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the Monument.

In 1893, the Association took charge of the flag and flag-staff on the Common, and in 1894, it was voted that all lineal descendants of the original members from this time henceforth forever shall be regarded as bona fide members. Any citizen of Chelmsford may become a member. Mr. J.R. Fletcher was treasurer for 32 years. The present officers are: Joseph E. Warren, president; George O. Spaulding, vice president; G.T. Parkhurst, treasurer; Paul Dutton, secretary; Arthur M. Warren, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Harry L. Parkhurst, executive committee.

In the Adams Library hangs a large poster (framed), which, at the time, informed the public of the approaching "Inauguration of the Chelmsford Monument," and must have attracted considerable attention, as

it gave the Order of Exercises with the names of expected speakers, and announced a dinner, to be served in one of Yale's tents on the Common, by a Boston caterer. Tickets to the dinner were sold at one dollar. Otis Adams was chief marshall. A pigeon pot-pie was cooked in a big pot hung over a fire built on the ground back of the Unitarian church, and everybody had a pigeon and a dumpling.

The four sides of the monument face the cardinal points of the compass.

Inscriptions On The Monument.

(North Side)

Erected

1859

Let the children Guard
What the sires have won.

(South Side)

In Honor

of the

Townsmen of Chelmsford
who served their Country
in the

War of the Revolution

This monument is erected

by a

Grateful Posterity

(East Side)

Lt. Col. Moses Parker
and

Capt. Benj. Walker
wounded at Bunker Hill
June 17, 75

Died Prisoners in Boston
July 4 & Augt. 75

Lt. Robt. Spalding
Died at Milford Ct. 76

(West Side)

John Bates

Died in army in Cambridge

David Spalding Jr.

Died in army at Ticonderoga

Pelatiah Adams

Killed at Cherry Valley

Noah Foster

Shot at Capture of Burgoyne

Henry Fletcher

Killed at White Plains

The Town appropriated \$400 for the celebration at the dedication of the Monument.

At the dedication, Dr. Willard Parker of New York made the address. Letters from Ralph Waldo Emerson of Concord, and Benjamin P. Hunt of Philadelphia were read, stating that ill health prevented them from attending. In place of Mr. Emerson, the Hon. J.S. Keyes responded for his fellow townsman, expressing great regret that his friend could not be present.

Waters, pg. 591: Dedication Of Monument

A contemporary report says:

Thursday, Sept. 22, 1859, was a great day in this Town, it being celebrated as the 205th anniversary of its settlement, and the day appointed for the dedication of the Monument to the Revolutionary Soldiers. Mr. Beals of Boston had, the evening previous, decorated the neighborhood with a profusion of flags. The morning was stormy, which prevented hundreds from attending. However, it rained but little during the exercises in the meeting house and tent. The procession formed at eleven o'clock at the residence of C.H. Dalton, Esq., which was formerly the home of Col. Simeon Spaulding, who was Colonial Representative, 1771-1775; Representative to the Provincial Congress, 1775-1778; Chairman, Committee of Safety, 1776; Commissioner to adjust War Act, 1778; Delegate to form New Constitution, 1779. Died, 1785, aged 72. These facts were displayed on a tablet above the door of the house, which was gaily decorated with bunting. The procession moved to the meeting house, where an orchestra of string instruments and a large choir led the people in the singing of "America" as the opening hymn. Hon. H.W.B. Wightman, president of the day, then welcomed the assembled company, making some reference to the history of the Town, and giving Mr. C.H. Dalton the entire credit of the inception and completion of the Monument.

A prayer was made by the Rev. John Parkhurst, chaplin of the day. Ode, written by John C. Dalton, Jr.

Mr. Wightman then introduced Dr. Willard Parker of New York.

The band played a short piece, and then Hon. Charles R. Train spoke.

Letters from Ralph Waldo Emerson, H.P. Hunt and others were read.

The Brigade Band filled the intervals with sweet music.

Ode, Air: Auld Lang Syne by Mrs. Martha L. Emerson.

At the appointed time, the procession formed at the church and marched round the square. When passing the Monument, three hearty cheers were given. At the large tent in the rear of the church, a sumptuous dinner was served, and toasts were given. The tent was decorated with numerous patriotic mottoes.

Gov. Banks and Ex-President Pierce were not present, nor was Judge Abbott.

Deacon Otis Adams responded to the toast, "The Ladies," but, contrary to his usual gallantry, he forgot the ladies and gave some traditions relating to the men of the Revolution.

S.N. Merrill, Mayor Cook, Thos. P. Parker of Boston, G.S. Curtis, architect, Hon. F.J. Parker of Boston and Hon. Linus Child spoke.

The exercises closed about 5:20 P.M.

Some time ago, Dr. Edward Waldo Emerson kindly supplied the writer with the following notes (since published with Emerson's Journals) which his father, Ralph Waldo Emerson, had written, evidently for his intended address at the dedication of the Monument in Chelmsford in 1859.

"I know well the town in which they lived; the landscape which they saw. I spent an autumn and winter among these hills and plains. I knew where the chestnut first spread its brown harvest on a frosty morning for the boys; where the apples covered the ground with white fruit. I saw the last fires that burned in the old limekiln. I knew the ripples of the Baptist Pond, and the woods that grew where the corn is now ripening.

"Plain homely land, sandy fields which the Merrimack washes, but the sun and stars do not disdain to fill it with magnificence in June, and with sublime lights in autumn. And I can easily believe that the soldiers you celebrate deserved your praise. For I had an acquaintance with the young men and young women who grew up here in a poverty I suppose as severe, with manners as hardy and plain; And I know that their feeling was as tender and their intellect as vigorous as that which opens under softer skies, and in city palaces. I read and conversed with friends here, children of the soil, who showed that force of thought, and that sense of right, which are warp and woof of which greatness is woven; that curiosity for knowledge and that delight in intellectual conversation which is the purest joy of Youth, and the beginning of all national greatness. I suppose it is fair to judge the tree by its fruits, the fathers by the children.

"These people were original authors of liberty, and not plagiarists, not sentimental nations like the Italians, French, and Hungarians, and Germans. These all learned it of our people. Our farmers were all orthodox, Calvinists, mighty in the Scriptures, had learned that life was a preparation, and "probation," to use their word. They read no romances, but with the pulpit, on one hand, and poverty and labour on another, they had a third training in the town meeting. They held the fee of their farms; no patron, no ground rents, and great proprietaries, but every man owned his acres.

"We go to Plutarch and Montaigne for our examples of character, but we might as well go to Pliny and Varro for oaks and firs, which grow as well in our own dooryards and cow-pastures. Life is always rich, and spontaneous graces and forces elevate life in every domestic circle, which are overlooked, whilst we are reading something less excellent in old authors. I think as I go through the streets, each one of these innumerable houses has its own calendar of saints, its unpublished anecdotes of courage, of patience, of wit, cheerfulness, for the best I know were in the most private corners.

"Everything draws to its kind and frivolous people will not hear of its noble traits; but let any good example of this secret virtue come accidentally to air, like Florence Nightingale, and you will have parallels in every direction.

"From the obscurity and casualty of those examples which I know, I infer the obscurity and casualty of the like balm and consolation and immortality in a thousand homes which I do not know, and all round the world. Let it lie safe in the shade there, from the compliments and praise of foolish society. It is safer so. All it seems to demand is that we know it when we see it. This is no mean reward. If an intelligent and generous witness, passing by, sees our plight and so much as exchanges a searching glance of sympathy, "Well done, brave heart!" it is better than the thunder of theaters, and the world full

of newspapers, which only echo each other."

Waters, pg. 593:

The fiftieth Anniversary of the Dedication of the Monument took place in the Town Hall on September 22, 1909, at 2 o'clock. The programme included a band concert; Selection by the Adams orchestra, and vocal solos by Edward Everett Adams (descendants of Deacon Otis Adams, at whose house the preliminary meeting was held in 1859); Singing by the school children under the direction of Miss Mary B. Raynes; Introductory remarks by the President, Joseph E. Warren; Prayer by Rev. L.D. Greene; Remarks by Josiah Richardson Fletcher, only living member of the original officers; Address by Solon W. Stevens, Esq.; Remarks by invited guests; Singing by audience of Ode written by Mrs. Martha L. Emerson for the Dedicatory Exercises in 1859; and Benediction by Rev. C.H. Ellis.

Waters, pg 832: Notes and Corrections

Page 589. The designer of the Revolutionary Monument was Greely S. Curtis, a well-known Boston architect. The model showed a higher base, and immediately above the machicolation, a stone which was left out when the monument was built. The inscriptions on the monument are all in capital letters.

Waters, pg. 843: The Revolutionary Monument (from the Chelmsford Memorial, May 2, 1859)

"The design for the Monument, submitted to the consideration of the Directors of the Association, is intended to be characteristic of the Men and Times of the Revolution; - plain, massive, and in keeping with the material, the native granite of Chelmsford, in its rough state.

From a slight mound rises a terrace of three broad granite steps, square in plan, and intended to elevate the whole structure above the general surrounding level; above it is a square Base, supporting the Main Shaft, the lower part of which is squared to give space for tablets on each side, - the upper part rising in octagonal form. The Cornice is heavy and over-hanging, with arched brackets, common to the warlike towers of the middle ages, and producing a battlemented aspect.

Above the Cornice, and crowning the entire monument, rises an octagonal block, supporting a bold and simple chaplet of ~~leaves~~ oak leaves.

The architect, Mr. Greely S. Curtis of Boston, has endeavored to express in this design, a rough, rugged strength, with solidity and simplicity, avoiding elaborate decorations and highly finished surfaces, as inappropriate in a memorial of the men to whom the monument is to be raised.

It is entirely different in design, - as it is in character, - from any of the Revolutionary monuments yet erected; and from its originality, completeness, and dignity, has been much admired by those who have seen it.

Its extreme height, if the full design shall be carried out in the construction (and this only depends upon the liberality of the members of the Association) will be about twenty-seven feet, with a terrace of thirty feet square in plan, and the main shaft four feet in diameter."

A writer in the same sheet hoped to see, on that venerated spot (the site of the Monument) hallowed by the associations of former days, an appropriate, tasteful monument, dedicated to the memory of those who were wont to assemble there* in "the time that tried men's souls," to counsel and encourage one another, and to consecrate to the sacred cause to which they had pledged themselves a liberal share of their scanty substance.**

Let us do something worthy of our relation to a town which, in its generous sympathy and appropriations for the public welfare and patriotic supply of the sinews of war, in the eventful period of our country's struggle, was equalled by few and surpassed by none.

Another item from the same paper:

Dr. Matthias Spalding of Amherst, N.H., in his ninety-first year, and one of the few remaining links connecting the present time (1859) with the infancy of our country, as a nation, still retains a vigorous memory and hearty interest in all that relates to his native town. He writes, "I am interested to learn that a meeting of the residents of Old Chelmsford is to be held this week, to provide means and measures for the erecting of a monument, commemorative of those patriot citizens who lost their lives in defense of their country's freedom, during the Revolutionary War. The infirmities of four-score and ten years have not effaced from my recollection, the scenes and feelings of that eventful period. Though but a small boy when the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought, I remember the anxiety and alarm which it excited, for we children all expected to be killed. My father, Col. Simeon Spalding, was summoned home, I think from the General Court, to join the forces at (Cambridge). My (step-)brother Wilson was in the battle, and I have heard him often say, that he fired "till the gun was so hot he could only hold it by the stock." There were frequent consultations at my father's, Col. Parker's, Capt. Walker's, and other resolute and patriotic men. The report of the cannon was heard distinctly at Chelmsford, and we children, left alone with our mother, were glad to learn before my father's return, that the battle was over. I remember well the deep interest felt in the incidents and final issue of the subsequent struggle. I recall with pleasure the names of my fellow-townsmen who were actually engaged in the cause of American Independence, and their determined bravery."

*Within a few feet of the spot on which it is proposed to erect the monument, stands an ash tree, which was there in 1775, beneath the branches of which the Chelmsford patriots of that day were accustomed to assemble for consultation on matters pertaining to the public welfare.

**In a hollow of this tree money was frequently deposited for the use of the patriot soldier about to enlist in his country's service.

Revolutionary Monument
Chelmsford Newsweekly (1955)

"The Revolutionary Monument in the Center Common was dedicated on September 29, 1859. An informal meeting of 13 interested citizens to consider the possibility of erecting such a monument had been held in March, and in April, a public meeting was held at which the Chelmsford Monument Association was organized 'for the purpose of erecting a granite memorial upon the public common, and dedicating the same, both in honor of the Chelmsford men of 1775, who not only enrolled themselves in the army of the Revolution and in eight instances, at least, met a soldier's death; and also of those men and women who, with equal courage and devotion to the cause of their country, supplied with liberal hands the wants of the army, and sheltered with pious hospitality many of their countrymen, driven from their homes by British soldiers:!. . . . Deacon Otis Adams, then living in the house on Academy Street opposite the present fire station, the chairman of the original committee, was elected treasurer of the Association to receive contributions from the townspeople. Charles H. Dalton, for whose family Dalton Road was named, was the original projector of the monument and served as a corresponding secretary. His residence at the corner of Dalton Road and North Road was the home of Col. Simeon Spaulding, the leading figure in Chelmsford during the Revolution, who had served not only as town treasurer and selectman but as Colonial representative, 1771 - 75, member of the Provincial Congress, 1775-78, and delegate to the convention to form a new constitution, 1779.

The monument, of Chelmsford granite, about 30 feet high and weighing 60 tons, was erected at a cost of some \$1700 contributed by 954 persons. At the dedication, a parade, headed by Deacon Adams, marched from the Dalton house to the Unitarian church where the ceremonies were held because of rain. Dr. Willard Parker of New York was the orator of the day; the Lowell Brigade Band played; two odes especially composed for the occasion were sung, and there were other speeches. Dinner was served inside a large tent on the Common to over 500 persons. 'A pigeon pie was cooked in a big pot hung over a fire built on the ground back of the Unitarian church, and everybody had a pigeon and a dumpling.' The monument was 'handsomely decorated with banners and streamers' and under its cornerstone was placed a copper box containing an almanac for 1859, a History of Lowell, Lowell and Boston newspapers, and other papers. After the Civil War it was customary for several years to decorate the monument on Memorial Day, and the churches took turns, in friendly rivalry, with the decorations. The Chelmsford Monument Association continued to carry out its original purpose of maintaining the monument about 1930, when the officers asked the Chelmsford Historical Society to take over its affairs. Among its properties now in the Society's rooms is the beautiful blue and gold flag of the Association, carried in Memorial Day parades, and the record of the meetings held and contributions made before the Monument was built.

Chelmsford's part in the Revolution, commemorated by the monument, was no small one. Her soldiers went to Concord and Lexington, and 68 of them took part in the battle of Bunker Hill. Lt. Col. Moses Parker and Capt. Benjamin Parker died from wounds received there, and 12 other men were wounded. Chelmsford men were in the army at Ticonderoga, Saratoga, Valley Forge, White Plains, at Burgoyne's capture, and elsewhere. It is believed that 544 from this town served in the war, and 8 or 9 of these died or were killed.

Besides sending her sons, the town aided the Revolutionary cause by giving supplies of grain to the suffering poor of Boston, and invited those who were destitute and homeless there to make Chelmsford their home. From Boston's original letter of acknowledgement for this offer and for the grain, it appears that in 1776, 106 persons from Boston and Charlestown were

sheltered free of cost by Chelmsford people. The town also voted large sums of money throughout the war for the use of the Provincial and Continental Congresses, besides giving much-needed supplies of blankets, clothing, etc. for the army. These are only fragmentary indications of the whole-hearted interest and the great sacrifices made by those who supported this cause in Chelmsford and throughout the colonies.

The first verse of the Dedication Ode follows, written by a native of the town, and sung during the dedicatory exercises by a full choir to the tune, Hail to the Chief:

'Lofty and lone its gray column uplifting,
So may it stand through centuries shifting,
'Til its glistening sides are with moss overgrown.
So may it always stand,
Ever to guard the land,
Summer and winter, in sunshine and cold;
Hewn from its granite bed,
Raised to the honored dead,
Freedom's defenders, the heroes of old.' "



Revolutionary Monument Between 1859 and 1866 Courtesy of Chelmsford Historical Society



IN HONOR
OF THE
TOWNSMEN OF CHELMSFORD
WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE
WAR OF THE REVOLUTION
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED
BY A
GRATEFUL POSTERITY

LT. COL. MOSES PARLER
AND
CAPT. GEN. WELLES
KILLED AT BLENHEIM
JUNE 23, 1704
DIED PRISONER IN BOSTON
JULY 16, 1776
LT. ROBT. SPALDING
DIED AT HUDSON (NY) CO.



250 Anniversary Celebration, 1905 Courtesy of Chelmsford Historical Society



Revolutionary Monument 1955 Courtesy of Chelmsford Historical Society



Revolutionary Monument July 3, 2003 F. Merriam



LT. COL. MOSES PARKER
AND
CAPT. BENJ. WALKER
WOUNDED AT BUNKER HILL
JUNE 17, 75.
DIED PRISONERS IN BOSTON
JULY 4 & AUGUST 15
LT. ROBT. SPALDING
DIED AT MILFORD CT. 76.

Revolutionary Monument 10/18/2008 Don Miffitt