



History comes alive at the Buttonwoods Museum!

From Native American settlement to present, the Buttonwoods Museum tells the story of life in the Merrimack Valley. Visit the 1710 John Ward House, the 1814 Duncan House and the 1850 Daniel Hunkins Shoe Shop. Experience our hands-on education programs that make this unique history come alive for families, seniors, and students!

Our programs are diverse, affordable, and customizable. We use crafts, games, lectures, hearth cooking, scavenger hunts, and more to help visitors engage with the past. Topics include early American life, Native American tribes along the

Merrimack River, the American Revolution in Haverhill, Haverhill's shoe industry, and graveyard history at nearby Pentucket Burial Ground.

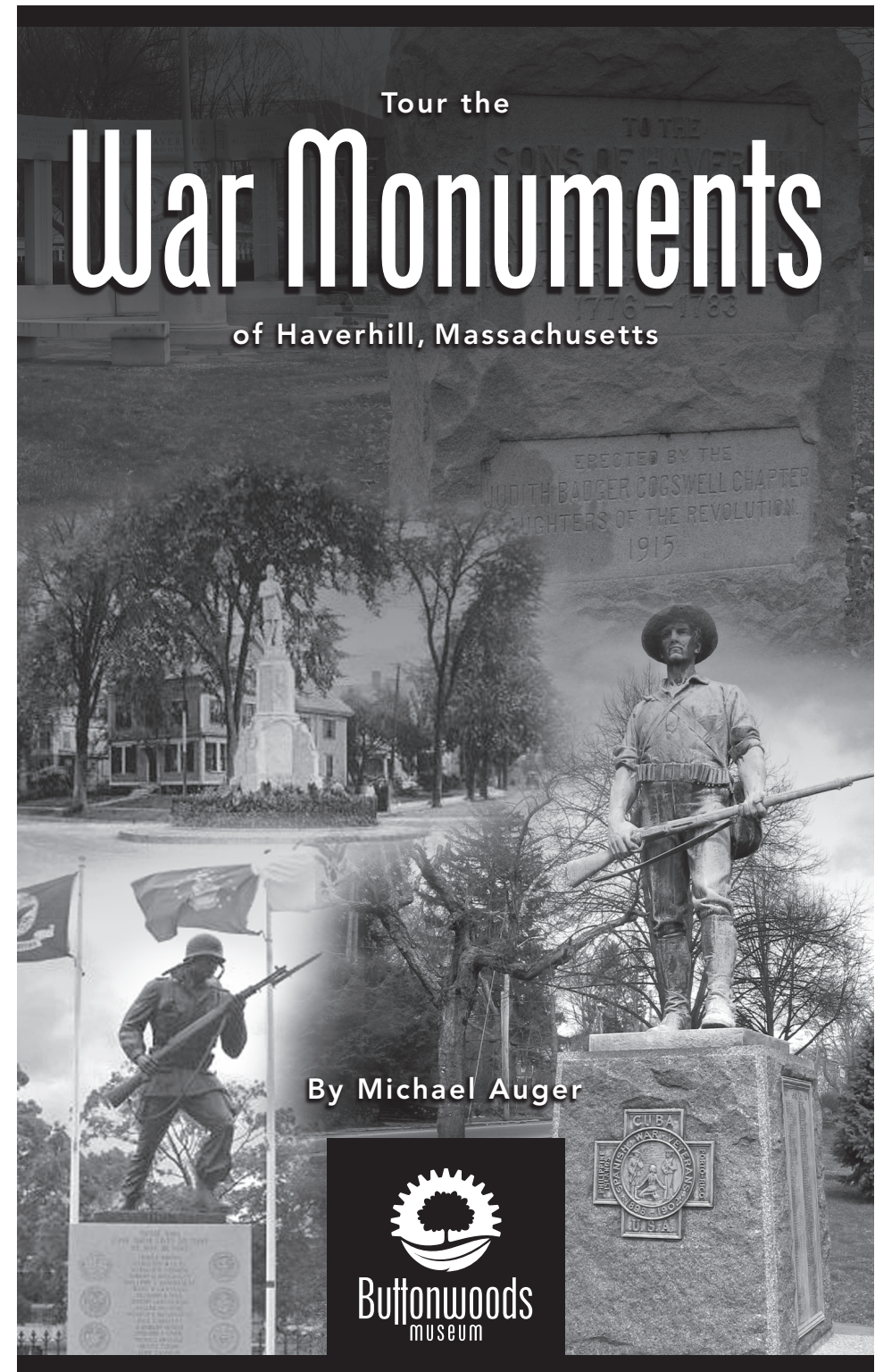
We offer programming for senior citizens, Scout groups, preschool age children (ages 2-5), and students in public, private, and home schools (both field trips and in-school visits). We also liven up school vacations through our public *Past Finders* program, which includes February & April vacation workshops, plus a summer program that has been going strong for more than 21 years!

We look forward to your visit!
For more information,
go to buttonwoods.org or
call 978-374-4626!



Buttonwoods
museum

Connect with History Together



Tour the **War Monuments** of Haverhill, Massachusetts

By Michael Auger



Buttonwoods
museum



The Buttonwoods Museum Mission

To collect and preserve the history and culture of Greater Haverhill, while educating the public through on-site and outreach programs.

Our Purpose

The Haverhill Historical Society (HHS) was established in 1897 and opened the Buttonwoods Museum in 1904. The economic, social and cultural history of the Merrimack Valley is embodied in the Museum site and buildings, placed on the National Historic Register in 2005. The Buttonwoods Museum houses over 20,000 objects relating to Haverhill history: ceramics, glassware, textiles, portraits, furniture, shoes and shoemaking tools, Native American stone tools, pottery fragments and bone implements.

The Museum staff and volunteers serve a wide range of constituents from pre-school age to elders at the site and through outreach programs. These programs make use of the collections, site, structures and historic themes to provide hands-on experiences. The geographic service area includes all of Essex county, as well as southern New Hampshire.

In addition, the Museum serves as a regional Visitors' Center for the Essex National Heritage Area, introducing local and international visitors to the historic, cultural and natural resources within the 34 communities of Essex County and providing information for travelers.

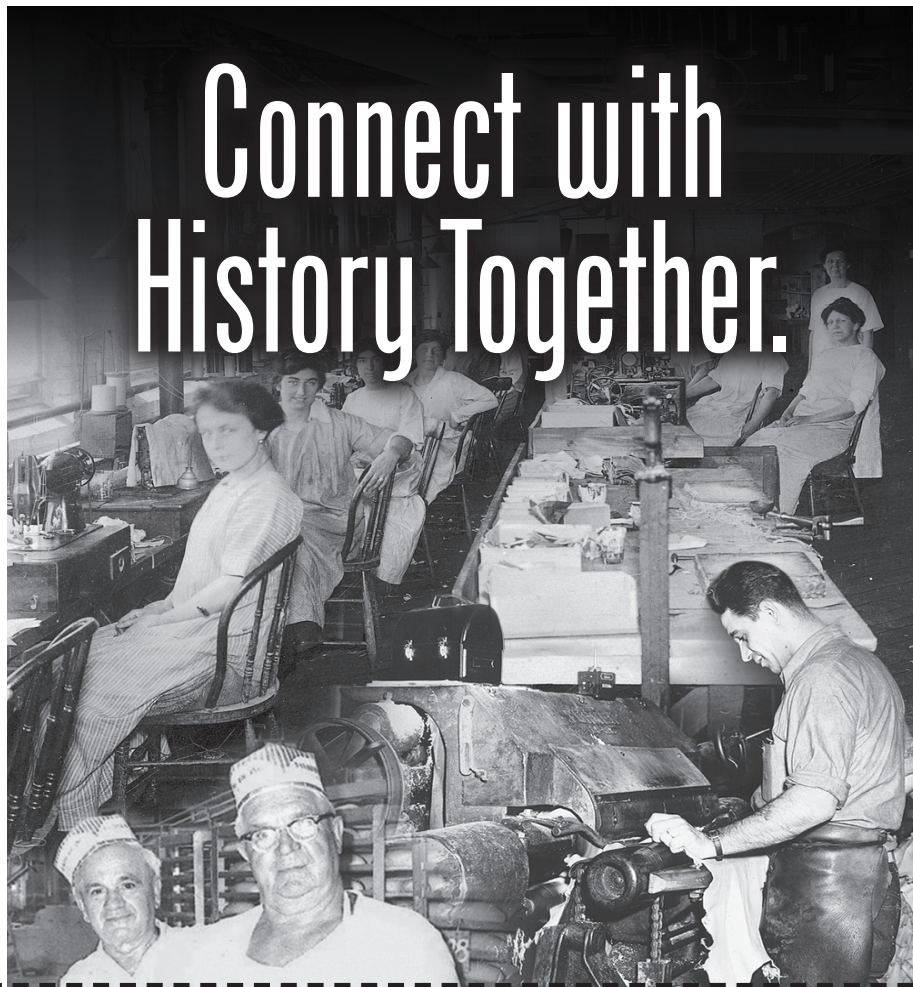
For more information or to become a museum member, contact us at 978-374-4626 or email us:

info@buttonwoods.org (General Info)

programs@buttonwoods.org (Education Programs info)

Pamphlet design provided and donated by

 **spinleaf**
logo branding | multimedia design
spinleaf.net



Connect with History Together.

Become a Buttonwoods Museum member today!

Membership entitles you to special benefits. For a complete listing of benefits at each level, go to buttonwoods.org. Your support helps us to care for the museum and run public/education programs including our summer camp. Sign up online OR send this form with payment to *Buttonwoods Museum*.

Member Level: ☐ Senior \$25 ☐ Individual \$30 ☐ Family \$50
☐ Benefactor \$100 ☐ Inner Circle \$250 ☐ Corporate \$1,000+



Buttonwoods
museum

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____



Monuments

and memorials can be found in all forms, shapes and sizes; they serve to commemorate important ideas, events or people. In Haverhill our war monuments occupy spaces that allow them to be viewed on a daily basis; their locations along busy thoroughfares offer evidence of their importance to the people who worked to have them erected. As grand and impressive as they may be, we often ignore them while rushing about with our daily routine and duties, that is why it is so important that you made time to view them today, so that word might spread about their significance and history and that we share this information with coming generations.



1 Gale Park

The site selected for the World War I memorial had originally been the site of the Ayer house built in the early 1700s. In 1872 it was sold and became an orphanage called the Children's Home. In 1884 the Children's Home was moved to the Gale Building and the Ayer House was torn down. After the demolition this area became Gale Park and a fountain was installed as its centerpiece. The fountain was later moved to the shores of Kenoza Lake where it remains to this day.

The city of Haverhill and its World War I veterans had made several attempts to build a memorial to honor those who served their nation during the "war to end all wars" but always seemed to run into stumbling blocks. Initially the city fathers wanted to honor the veterans by giving scholarships to Haverhill and St. James High School's graduating seniors. It was an idea the veterans received rather coldly. The Haverhill Gazette wanted to build a pool and dedicate it to their services. This also received a rather lukewarm reception. A compromise was reached when the veterans and city fathers decided to refurbish Tilton Tower and make it the city's World War I monument. Over \$100,000 was allocated for the project and plans were drawn up for the memorial. Before work could begin the Stock Market Crash of 1929 struck and put the project in limbo.

In 1956 after over a quarter of century of debate, the Haverhill War Memorial Commission decided to erect a monument. After considering four sites, the monuments location was finally



5 Basiliere Bridge

I saved the Vietnam Memorial for last for several reasons. I hope after seeing the city's other war memorials it might encourage fundraising to correct this travesty. We should all be outraged by the lack of respect shown to the veterans of this conflict. It is particularly stunning to me because originally Haverhill was ahead of the curve when honoring Vietnam veterans. The Basiliere Bridge was named for Haverhill's first Vietnam casualty which happened during the early years of the engagement, the flagpole and plaque which list the 13 lost from Haverhill during the war was added at a later date. The plaque states: *"The city of Haverhill is grateful to those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the Vietnam Conflict"* but the state of this memorial along with its insignificance surely suggests something else.





A ceremony dedicating the monument was held inside the City Hall auditorium, with a 21 gun salute taking place outside across from the Elks Club. George S. Patton's son himself was among the dignitaries present along with Haverhill native and Deputy Secretary of Defense Donald J. Atwood. In 1995 another ceremony was held to commemorate the 50th year anniversary of the war's end. On May 8, 1998 a closing ceremony took place at which time the copper eagle was placed on top of the obelisk. Two flagpoles, a concrete walkway with a medallion containing a large bronze star were also added at this time. Medals were "minted" to commemorate the closing ceremonies, with one being sent to President George Bush who now displays it among the archives in his presidential library.

Each side of the monument is engraved; on one side is the dedication: *The Monument is in honor of the men and women of Haverhill who served from 1941-1945.* A second side reveals a quote from George Washington. The third side has a quote from poet John Greenleaf Whittier, with the last side (facing the street) featuring an eagle and the symbols for the four armed services branches that served during the war (the Air Force was not a branch till after this conflict).



Donald J. Atwood, Deputy Secretary of Defense and Haverhill native attended the dedication ceremony of the WWII monument.



narrowed down to either GAR or Gale Park, with this site finally winning out and eight designs were submitted to the War Memorial Commission. The Atwood memorial preliminary drawings with a proposed semi-circular design, with six pillars, three on each side of a broader center section, caught the eyes of the commission and the veterans committee. It would stand at a height of 13 feet and be 23 feet wide. The overall memorial would consist of 1,450 square feet of cement walks with two benches inside a partial enclosure formed by hedges. A flagpole would rise from a pedestal in the center of the enclosure. Two color cement was used to form a star on the floor of the enclosure.

The beautiful granite monument honors those who served their country in World War I. The memorial flagpole's base lists the men from Haverhill who served in the conflict including



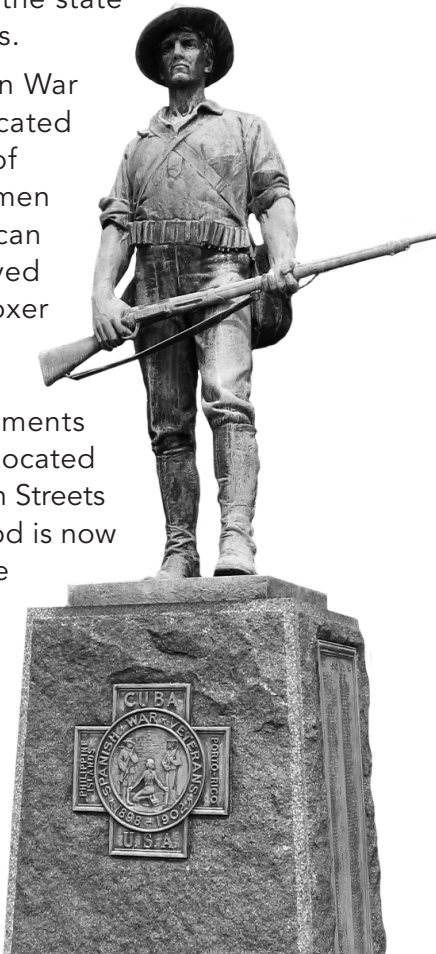
World War I Monument erected 1956.



the 104 names of those who died during the war. The center of the memorial features the following inscription: *"Victory – In the days of triumph and peace it is wise to remember the cost of victory. Let us resolve that the sacrifices made by these men shall not be in vain. Let us, the living, pledge ourselves to preserve and protect for their children and ours the freedom and liberties for which they gave their lives."* The memorial was paid for by refunds to the city of unused bonus money that the state legislature had voted the veterans.

The Hiker or Spanish-American War monument was erected and dedicated on October 24, 1926 by the city of Haverhill. Besides honoring the men who served in the Spanish-American War it also honors those who served in the China Relief Expedition (Boxer Rebellion, 1898-1902) and those who fought in the Philippine Insurrection. This is not the monuments original location, originally it was located between Winter, How, and Emerson Streets across from where Bradford Seafood is now located. It was moved despite the objections of the Spanish American veterans because a "hot dog emporium was spoiling the public's view" of the monument.

The Hiker or Spanish-American War monument erected in 1926.



4 Post Office Square

Likewise Haverhill's World War II monument is a result of its war's veterans whose saw most of their comrades' die before their bravery was honored and memorialized. The monument was primarily the dream of Nicolas Hideriotis a D-Day survivor who was moved by the continuing attrition of his fellow Second World War veterans. Chapter 20 of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) donated \$16,000 for its construction. The foundation of the monument was donated by James A. Mahoney & Sons. The fence encircling it was donated by Haverhill Ornamental Iron Works. It was also sponsored by the Haverhill 350th Anniversary Committee, The Haverhill Community Events Commission and the Demoulas Foundation.



The monument was constructed with Barre Vermont Granite. The monument has two time capsules buried under granite blocks. The capsules are scheduled to be opened in 2090, a hundred years after the monuments dedication. They contain a book entitled *"Haverhill in World War II"*, historical articles written by a columnist from the Haverhill Gazette, and a variety of war memorabilia.

World War II monument dedicated in 1990.



that built and designed the World War I Memorial. The statue was designed by Haverhill architects Garry Sharpe and Daniel Nadeau. The engraved bricks and granite blocks bought during fundraising were laid by Tri-Ad Associates. The monument was dedicated November 3, 2002, fifty years after the outbreak of the war. It stands 15 feet tall, including a nine foot statue of a soldier holding an M-1 rifle, surrounded by eight flag poles, five symbolic of each branch of the military and the other three flags for state, country, and the United Nations. The memorial honors the memory of 16 Haverhill victims of the conflict, along with the names of another 842 men and women from Haverhill who served in Korea. Before the monument was built, a simple plaque in City Hall honored the 16 who had sacrificed their lives.

The effort to build this monument was inspired by veterans who had seen more and more of their comrades die before the city honored their deeds. One committee member (Fiorino F. Brienza) joined the war effort and was shipped to Korea five days after the birth of his first child. He served 11 months on the battlefield during which time he became a squad leader and earned three Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and Company Infantry Badge with three stars. On the monuments dedication he said, "The monument will be a firm reminder that democracy is not lost and that those who fought did not die in vain."



Korean War Memorial dedicated in 2002, fifty years after the outbreak of the war.



Close-up of the plaque that lists those who gave their lives in service to their country.

The veterans felt Gale Park was not a central enough location for the monument.

The monument features a soldier in period dress set upon a granite block/obelisk. The four sides of the base each have a plaque which lists pertinent information. The plaques list those who gave their lives in service to their country. Disease was the biggest killer among the names listed on the memorial, with the action in the Philippines producing the most battle casualties, including Charles C. Cook of Bradford who was publically executed by Tagal insurgents.

Cook is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Bradford in Lot 308 Grave 5 on Palmetto Road. His grave stone contains the story of his capture and execution. It is a story that took the Army several months to straighten out and must have caused several heart aches for his parents. Initially there was confusion over Cook's identity, it seems his company contained two Charles Cooks and both of them were missing. There was one from upstate New York along with the one from Bradford, eventually the one from New York turned up in a hospital suffering the effects of malaria. From here at least three stories were told to Cook's family of his final days.

After reading these accounts I want to believe the account of Cook's fellow prisoner of war, who was the lone survivor of the "massacre." He wrote Cook's parents telling them they were friends and acquaintances who were each captured in separate engagements but came to be held together by the insurgents. The insurgents were being pursued by





the American forces as the Americans closed in on the insurgent lines, Cook, the survivor, and another American were tied up and left in no man's land between the two armies. The survivor insisted the insurgents wanted them to be killed by friendly fire. As the Americans came within sight of the prisoners a fire fight ensued at which time the prisoners were all wounded. The survivor credits Cook with encouraging him to escape as he had less significant wounds. He makes his way to the tree line where he watched the rest of the engagement from a tree's branches. He stated the insurgents shot the wounded Americans as they lay still bound. When the Americans reach the prisoners of war, Cook is still alive, he asks that they tell his father "He died bravely." Cook is buried in Manila after his body was recovered. His family asks for the return of his body and a year later his body returns to Bradford in a steel casket. The casket is placed in the family home and mourners pay their respects till Cook is reburied in Elmwood a week later.

Three Medal of Honor winners (2 from the Spanish-American War and 1 from the Philippines) were in attendance at the monument's dedication. The monument is the work of artist Theodora Alice Ruggles Kitson who worked for Gorham Company Founders. The Hiker also exists as at least 51 other monuments including the original which was erected at the University of Minnesota. Haverhill's Hiker was the 15th produced; there are a dozen more replicas in Massachusetts with another in Manchester, New Hampshire.



*Sculptor of
The Hiker,
Theodora Alice
Ruggles Kitson.*

*The sale of
engraved
granite blocks
and bricks
helped raise
the money
needed to
complete the
monument*



Civil War veterans. It also included a pair of drinking fountains each two and a half feet from the ends of the benches. The monument with its seats sat at the entrance to Winnekenni Park for more than 15 years while relocation work on Route 97 was underway before being returned to their rightful place in 1973. In 1974 the Band Shell behind the benches was dedicated and added GAR Park.

In 1996 the Haverhill Korean War Veterans Chapter 288 began a mission to raise more than \$105,000 to pay for the monument that stands at the top of GAR Park. Besides raising the funds they were very much involved in the design of the monument. The Korean veterans also gave presentations at local schools to educate students about the so called "forgotten war." During a six year campaign they raised money from donations from the local population and business community. The sale of engraved bricks and granite blocks which were incorporated into the monuments construction and a dinner/dance helped raise the remaining \$30,000 for its completion.

The Demarais Post VFW secured designs for both the Korean and Vietnam Memorials. The Korean War Monument was built by the same family business (Atwood's Memorial)





The canon's wheels and trunnions (the "handles" on the side of the canon) were severely damaged. Someone in City Hall authorized the damaged canon's sale for scrap at Tombarello and Sons Junkyard in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Several citizens objected including Gary Herbert an Atkinson resident who had grown up in Haverhill. Herbert made a deal with the Haverhill mayor (George Katsaros) to repair the canon and the canon was trucked to Herbert's rented home in Atkinson, New Hampshire.

When it was discovered it would cost \$600 to repair each wheel along with an additional cost for repairing the trunnions, the city's insurance company refused to pay for the repairs, the project was dumped. But only Herbert and Katsaros knew where the canon was being kept. In the ensuing years Herbert bought a new home nearby and Mayor Katsaros died, all the while the canon sat behind the barn slowly being covered by weeds and debris. Luckily for the city a hunter stumbled upon it in the fall of 1985, he had recalled a newspaper story about the canon's disappearance and made the connection. Because of his discovery the canon was refurbished and rededicated in its present location.

It seems many of the city's monuments have been moved or relocated. The monument unveiled at GAR Park's dedication is another example of this. This memorial to the Major How Post of the GAR consisted of circular benches surrounding a plaque honoring the



Former Mayor George Katsaros while serving in the Army.



Others can be found as far away as Los Angeles, California, West Palm Beach, Florida, Birmingham, Alabama and Wichita Falls, Texas. Because of the great number of "Hiker" monuments and their diverse locations, "the Hiker" castings have become part of an important study regarding the effects of the elements, including acid rain on our nation's monuments.

The last monument at Gale Park was erected to honor our nation's women veterans. The black marble monument was unveiled September 20, 1999 during a dedication ceremony. It was erected in less than a year's time from the moment the idea was first proposed; in sharp contrast to most of the city's memorials which often took years of debate and argument before finally being built.



Women Veterans monument unveiled in 1999.



2 Monument Square

The city dedicated perhaps its grandest monument July 4, 1869, less than four years after the end of the Civil War. It was placed in the center of town at the intersection of two busy streets/routes, Main Street or Route 125 and Kenoza Avenue or Route 110, facing the existing City Hall at the time. The placement of the monument and the swiftness of its erection is an indication of the war's importance to the city's population, a proclamation to the sacrifices made to preserve our nation.

Due to traffic problems in 1999, the monument was moved 40 feet east from its original placement, and no longer faces City Hall which has also changed its location over the years. A wrought iron fence that originally surrounded the monument now encircles the Korean War Monument in GAR Park. The monument is made of pure white Sicilian marble and stands 26 feet tall overall. It is topped with a statue of a soldier 8 feet 4 inches in height. It represents a volunteer soldier with musket at parade rest. The monument actually consists of 12 marble pieces: the 4 canons, the soldier, 3 lower pieces and a 4 piece base, that interlock with each other. The monuments base is engraved on its sides with the names of the 183 veterans who lost their lives during the war.



Haverhill's grandest monument in its original location.

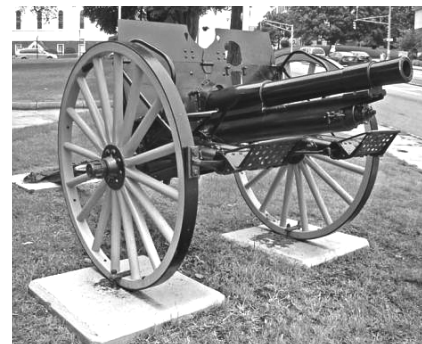


hauled by horse driven (8 horse team) dray to its present location. In an interesting side note, during the move the wind broke a branch from one of the trees in the park which startled the horses and caused them to stampede down Main Street until their bridles and reins become entangled around a hitching post.

The boulder itself is nine feet high, five feet across and is three foot thick and stands upon a base of solid cement six feet deep. A copper box 11" by 7" with a depth of 6" was placed under the monument; it contains portraits of Abraham Lincoln, President Woodrow Wilson, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Paul Revere, U.S. Grant and other noteworthy Americans. The box also houses a 1915 Farmer's Almanac along with other mementos related to war veterans. The sitting president, Woodrow Wilson was invited to attend the dedication but sent his regrets.

GAR Park also is home to a canon honoring Spanish American War veterans. It was originally used for coastal defense of Narragansett Bay

and was given to the city at its request. The canon itself has a checkered past. In 1973 a contractor was working in City Hall. He parked his truck pointing south on Main Street and though he claimed to have checked the tires, the driverless truck headed down Main St. (Route 125). The truck jumped the curb at GAR Park and slammed into the canon.





3 GAR Park

GAR Park has existed in Haverhill for most of the city's history; at one time it was the city common, used for grazing animals and as parade grounds for the local militia. The park was actually called the Great Ox Common in 1654, but before its dedication in 1925, it was referred to as City Hall Park in town records. GAR refers to Grand Army of the Republic which was an organization of Civil War veterans.

Even before the parks dedication as GAR Park it had served as location for city monuments. The first statue in America to honor a woman (Hannah Dustin) was installed here and the city's latest monument is located across the street from GAR Park in front of the library (Global Peace Monument).

Though Hannah Dustin is not considered a war monument we could get away with calling it a monument for the series of Indian Wars leading up to the French and Indian War which preceded the American Revolution. Technically the Revolutionary War Monument, erected by the Judith Badger Cogswell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1915 commemorates our nation's first war.

The 20 ton boulder (monument) was hewn from the hills of New Hampshire, being quarried and cut by Elmer S. Atwood at his quarry in Milford, New Hampshire. It was shipped to Haverhill by the Boston & Maine railroad and



Revolutionary War Monument erected in 1915.



The monument after it was moved in 1999 due to traffic issues.

The monument's artist (C.H. Weeks) was actually a former mayor of Haverhill whose business was on Main Street across from the common (GAR Park) not far from where the monument was located. The soldier on top was meant to represent a Haverhill resident, Major Henry Jackson who died in battle in 1862. Weeks is said to have used his son as a model in his creation of the monument. Jackson was so beloved in the city that his death actually started a conversation and movement for a monument even while the war was still raging on.

Weeks himself was a prolific artist. He is responsible for creating monuments, headstones, tablets, and memorials of a variety of materials and designs, including American and imported marble, American and Scotch granite, Nova Scotia free stone, etc., etc. He had commissions throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont.

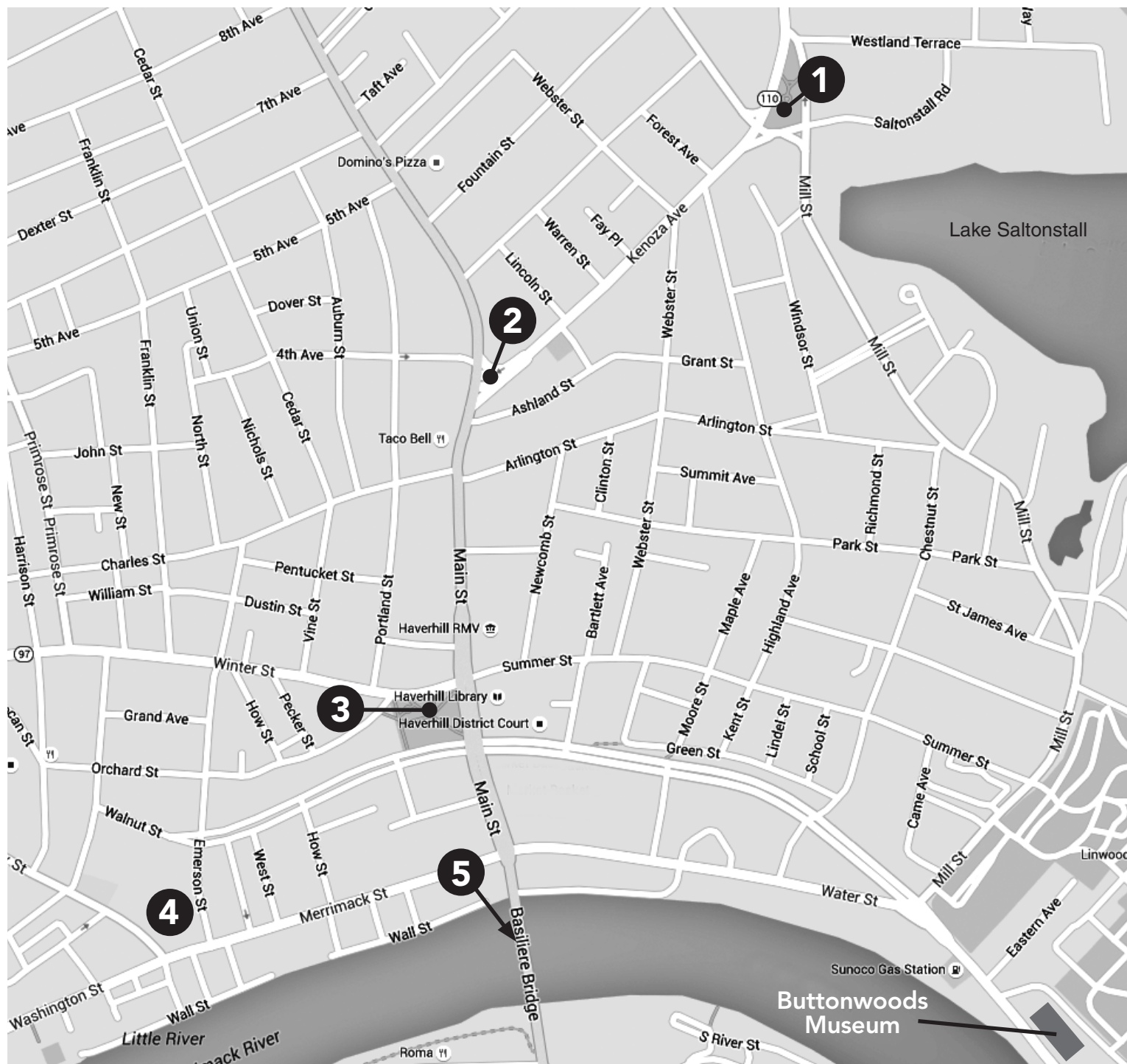
In an interesting side note, on the day of the monuments dedication in 1869 one of the veterans listed as deceased on the monument arrived to take part in the ceremony. Oops!





Monuments Map

- 1** Gale Park
- 2** Monument Square
- 3** GAR Park
- 4** Post Office Square
- 5** Basiliere Bridge



Become a museum member
at buttonwoods.org!