

Westford Recollections

"A Guide for the Tourist and You" (Part II)

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To be used with the Tour Guide Map which appeared in July 3, 1980 "Westford Eagle." The map will be reprinted once again in the "Eagle".

WESTFORD COMMON

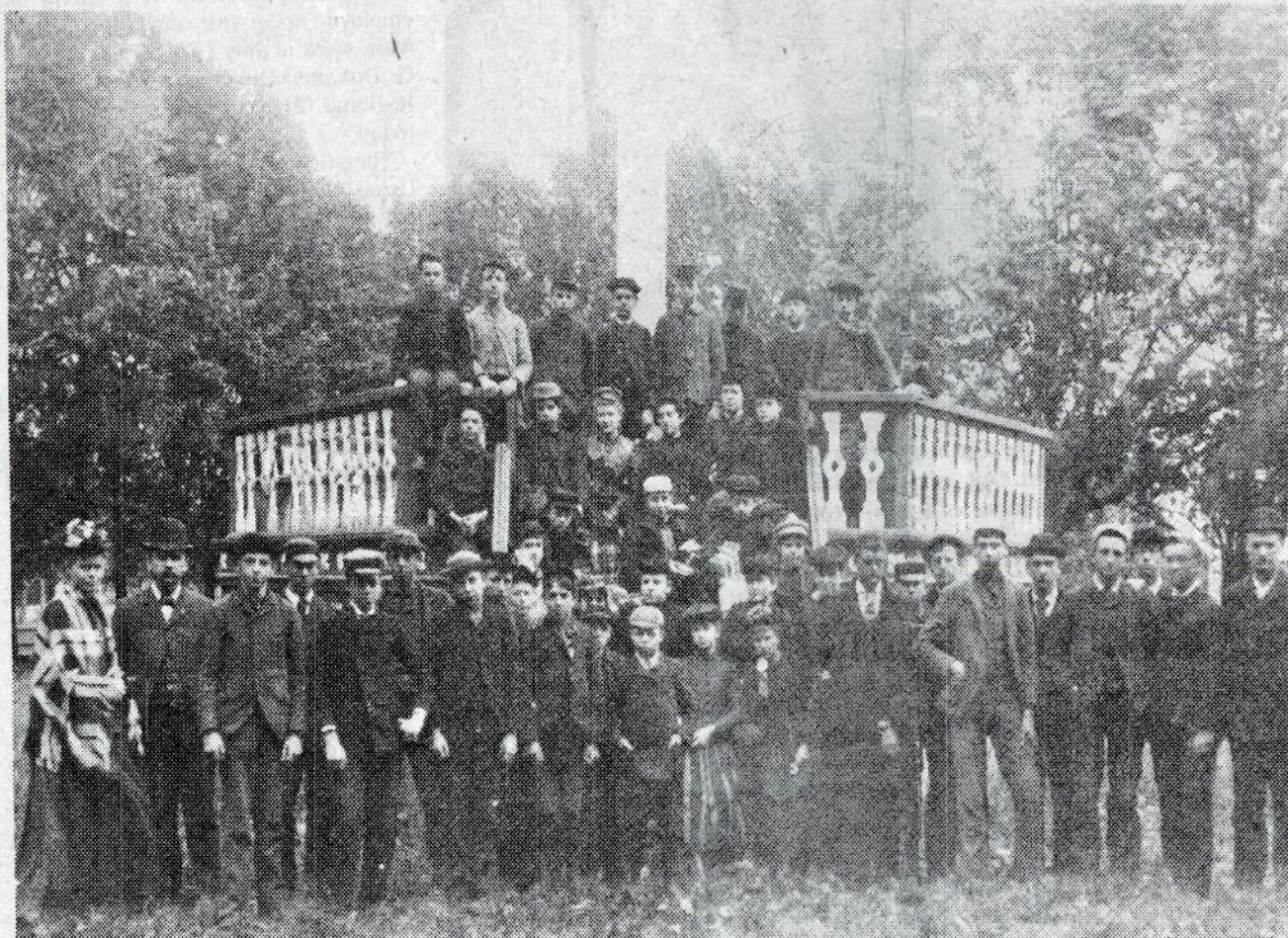
The historic village green remains a beauty spot in the town. It was bought by the town in 1748 for the purpose of a training field. A sum of 20 pounds was paid Joseph Underwood for its purchase. It was from here that the Westford Revolutionaries departed for the Old North Bridge on April 19, 1775. In 1840 public-spirited citizens raised \$102.25 to fence the green with stone posts and rails, without expense to the town. This was removed in 1895. For many years until the late 1930's, a bandstand graced the common; many concerts were given in season. Two Bicentennial additions initiated by local historian, Allister F. MacDougall, were the new flag pole and the stone benches surrounding it, a gift from the Barretto Granite Corp. One bench is marked 1776; the other 1976.

Location: 6&7G - Westford Center
COL. JOHN ROBINSON MARKER

This bronze plaque commemorates Westford's national war hero of the Old North Bridge in 1775. Westford citizens returned from the Centennial in 1875 fired with enthusiasm to erect a monument to him. Another 100 years were to pass. In preparation for the Bicentennial, the Westford Minutemen dedicated this memorial to Col. Robinson in 1968. One hundred and thirty-one men marched from this muster field to Concord Bridge on April 19, 1775. Their steps were retraced during the Bicentennial years by Westford Minutemen, Scouts and townspeople; the route has been established as the Col. John Robinson Trail.

Location: 6&7G - Westford Town Common
FLAGPOLE

This sixty-foot fiberglass pole was erected with great celebration on July 3, 1975. The former pole, victim of age and vandalism, was an eighty-foot pine which grew on the farm of Abijah Fletcher near Cold Spring. It was pulled up Depot Street by a team of oxen. Dedicated on May 18, 1861, it served the town for 114 years. With spikes clear to the cradle, it made a good lookout tower for the adventurous boys in the town.



For many years a bandstand stood on Westford's historic Town Common. The turn of the century stand encircled the flagpole. The latest structure stood on the Boston Road side of the Common and was the

Location: 6&7G - Westford Town Common
CANNON

A trophy of the Spanish American War, this cannon came from Morro Castle which guarded the entrance to Santiago Harbor, Cuba. El Morro Castle was ceded by the British to Spain in 1802. Cast in 1809 by the Carron Co. of England, it was probably a token of goodwill from the British government to Spain. It weighs 4800 pounds and was loaned for ornamental purposes as an object lesson to the rising generations of the valor of the American soldiers and sailors. To accompany the cannon, the Navy donated 100-11" shells (cannon balls) of Civil War vintage. At first, piled loosely in pyramids, today they are wisely

welded together. It was great fun to roll the balls down the hill as a Halloween or Fourth of July prank. Note that the balls do not fit the mouth of this cannon.

Location: 6&7G - Westford Town Common

STONE WATERING TROUGH

In 1883 this watering trough, hand-hewn from a solid block of granite, was located beside the Town Hall, here the townspeople stopped to water their horses, quench their thirst and fill milk cans with the good clear water so scarce in the Center before town water was available.

Location: 6&7G - Westford Town Common



This watering trough, hand-hewn from a solid block of granite, was originally located beside the Town Hall. Here townspeople quenched their thirst, watered their horses and filled containers with the good clear water so scarce in the Center before town water was available. (From the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS Series by June W. Kennedy)

WAR MEMORIAL

This eight-sided granite monument stands about ten feet tall and is crowned with a bronze eagle. The first of eight

panels is inscribed as follows: "The Town of Westford Dedicates this Memorial to the Men and Women Who Served the Country from the Pioneers Down Through the World War. Love and Freedom Linked the Generations. The monument is at the east end of the common and was placed in November of 1924. Total cost was \$5,860.93.

Location: 6&7G - Westford Town Common
CAST IRON TROUGH

Donated by the Westford Grange in 1913, horses refreshed themselves in the upper trough where the flowers are found today; dogs drank from the overflow in the lower trough. A special bubbler was attached for thirsty travelers as they passed through town. With the end of the era of driving horses in the coming of the auto, the trough became ornamental.

Location: 6&7G - Westford Town Common
CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

At the west end of the common, located on the small triangular plot is the Soldiers' Monument presented to the town by Col. Edwin D. Metcalf, a Westford Academy graduate. His father, William Metcalf, was the first man to enlist from Westford when President Lincoln called for volunteers at the outbreak of the Civil War. When Edwin returned to Westford at the time of his father's death, he was met at the railroad station by a group of Civil War veterans who escorted him to the church and grave. In gratitude, the monument was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1910. Standing to honor William Metcalf were 23 of the 173 enlisted men from Westford. Following the dedication, dinner was served under a tent on the common with 50 in attendance.

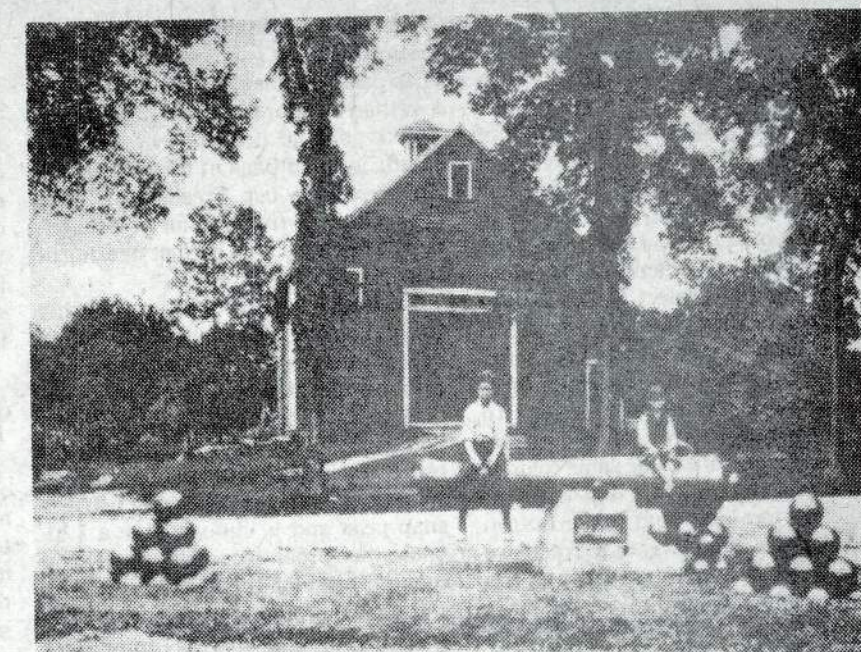
Location: 6G - Described above



The Westford Colonial Minutemen dedicated this memorial to Col. John Robinson in 1968. (From the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS Series by June W. Kennedy)



At the west end of the Common, located on the small triangular plot of land is the Soldiers' Monument set out in 1910 to honor the Civil War participants. (From the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS Series by June W. Kennedy)



Cannon, Captured at Morro Castle, Santiago, Cuba, July 17, 1898, Westford, Mass.

The cannon on Westford Common came from Morro Castle which guarded the entrance to Santiago Harbor, Cuba. It was cast in 1809 in England. (From the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS Series)