

# AMHERST'S CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL TABLETS

## ~ History & Description ~

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### History

Amherst's Civil War tablets were donated to the Town in 1893 by a local Civil War veterans' organization – the E.M. Stanton Post 147 of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). Among the 300+ names of Amherst soldiers and sailors inscribed into the face of the tablets are the names of 21 local black residents. Seven of these men served with the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. The first black regiment in the Union Army, the story of 54<sup>th</sup> was told in the movie "Glory." Fourteen black Amherst soldiers served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry. Five of these 21 men were killed during the War--two from the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment and three from the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.

Several other Amherst residents who were later known beyond Amherst are also listed on the tablets – educator William Smith Clark among them. For these reasons, Amherst's tablets have historical value not only to local residents but to the larger world. This heightens the need to site the tablets where residents and visitors can readily find them, and to provide adequate historical interpretive information for the tablets.

### Original Location - Amherst Town Hall

Following their donation to the Town in 1893, the Civil War tablets were displayed in Town Hall. Different sources describe the location differently. One source claims the tablets were "accorded a place of honor in the tower of the town hall building." Another (the record of the Town Meeting vote to allow installation), indicates the tablets were mounted "upon the walls of the ante room of this Town Hall."

According to former Town Manager Allan Torrey, the six tablets were originally wall-mounted in three places:

- The former main entrance foyer (the "ante room") on the first floor facing the Town Common.
- The first floor landing for the northwest stair tower (right next to the foyer).
- The second floor landing of the northwest stair tower.

In 1962, during renovations of Town Hall, all six tablets were relocated to the walls of a hallway in the Amherst Police station in the Town Hall basement. When Town Hall was more extensively renovated and restored in 1997, the tablets were removed and stored for safe-keeping.

## The Tablets

There are six (6) marble tablets in all. Five (5) are large--approximately 56" tall by 73" - 78" long by 1.5"-2" thick. The sixth is a smaller (15" tall x 76" long) dedication tablet inscribed with the simple statement:

*These tablets are to perpetuate the memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of Amherst who served in the War of the Rebellion.*

The tablets are cut from a light-colored marble. Marble is a beautiful but easily-damaged stone. The same relative softness that makes marble easy to carve makes it prone to chipping and breaking. The Civil War tablets already have some damage of this kind.

Marble is a porous stone. In addition to water, it will absorb oils, dirt, rust, ink, etc. It is highly vulnerable to acids of any kind, and will begin to dissolve even in the presence of the low acidity found in sweat or dew. Marble erodes rapidly when exposed to acid rain. Marble can also be damaged by mechanical weathering, air pollution, temperature extremes, UV radiation and repeated handling.

For these reasons, it is important that the tablets be sited and their memorial structure designed so that they are enclosed and protected from the elements, and will be well-secured against unnecessary handling, vandalism or attempted theft.

## Current Status

In response to a request by Amherst resident Dudley Bridges and others in the summer of 2000, the Select Board requested that the Design Review Board (DRB) and Amherst Historical Commission jointly review and offer recommendations on a site to display six (6) marble memorial tablets commemorating Amherst's Civil War veterans. Following an extended series of joint meetings, and work with an architect and Town staff, in May 2001 the Board and Commission jointly recommended the Town Hall grounds facing the Town Common.

## DEDICATION

These Tablets are to perpetuate the memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of Amherst who served in the War of the Rebellion.

Erected by E. M. Stanton Post 117, G. A. R. in 1893.

14.75" x 75.75"  
(1' 2 3/4" tall x 6' 3 3/4" long)

## SACRED DEAD

### OUR DEAD IN THE WAR TO PRESERVE THE UNION, 1861-1865.

*To die for the Nation is to live.*

Capt. CHARLES V. SMITH 28th Mass.	SANFORD JACKSON 54th Mass.
Capt. SAMUEL WHITE 5th Wis.	MARTIN S. JOHNSON 53d Mass.
Lieut. FRAZAR A. STEARNS 21st Mass.	EZRA KELSEY 27th Mass.
Lieut. GEORGE E. COOKE 37th Mass.	ALONZO W. LATHAM 18th Mass.
Sergt. HENRY C. BALL 15th Mass.	WILLIAM W. LATHAM 27th Mass.
Sergt. PTOLEMY P. CUTTER 27th Mass.	WILLIAM F. LECGETT 37th Mass.
Sergt. HENRY C. PLUMB 21st Mass.	MURRAY B. LOVETT 10th Mass.
Sergt. JOSEPH K. TAYLOR 37th Mass.	EDWARD LYONS 22d Mass.
Corp. GEORGE W. SLOAN 27th Mass.	EDWARD W. MANLEY 27th Mass.
CHARLES B. ADAMS 67th N. Y.	MARCUS T. C. MILES 20th Mass.
SYLVESTER H. ADAMS 21st Mass.	REUBEN MILES 12th Conn.
CHARLES K. BAKER 27th Mass.	CHARLES D. MULLETT 27th Mass.
MILO A. BARTLETT 52d Mass.	LYMAN O. PHELPS 21st Mass.
AUSTIN BARTON 21st Mass.	EDWARD W. PROUTY 15th Mass.
MORRISON BARTON 1st Mass. H. A.	GEORGE L. PUTNAM 10th Mass.
CEPHAS B. BOLIO 1st Mass. Cav.	NORMAN ROBERTS 52d Mass.
LEVI M. BOLIO 27th Mass.	JAMES K. SANDERSON 37th Mass.
HENRY BOWMAN 20th Mass.	GEORGE W. SCOTT 21st Mass.
HENRY E. BOYNTON 1st Mass. H. A.	ARTHUR SEARS 27th Mass.
JASON CHAMPLIN 54th Mass.	LYMAN W. SKINNER 27th Mass.
DAVID L. DICKINSON 1st Mass. H. A.	JAMES W. SPEAR 27th Mass.
FRANCIS H. DICKINSON 15th Mass.	EDWARD H. STANLEY 10th Mass.
JOHN W. DICKINSON 52d Mass.	ETHAN A. TAFT 37th Mass.
MICHAEL DOYLE 28th Mass.	JOSIAH THAYER 10th Mass.
GEORGE A. DRAPER 27th Mass.	HENRY THOMPSON 5th Mass. Cav.
LEVI EDSON 27th Mass.	JOHN THOMPSON 5th Mass. Cav.
JOSEPH GROVER 27th Mass.	JOHN P. W. WHELOCK 52d Mass.
EUGENE P. HERVEY 27th Mass.	ROBERT WILSON 52d Mass.
JARVIS W. JACKSON 5th Mass. Cav.	

56" x 69"  
(4' 8" tall x 5' 9" long)

**INFANTRY**  
2nd - 27th Regts.

	<i>20th Regt.</i>	
	<i>Major</i> JOSEPH F. BARTLETT	
	THOMAS MORAN	
	ROBERT SLOCOME	
	JOHN TAUMANN	
	<i>21st Regt.</i>	
	<i>Col.</i> WILLIAM S. CLARK	
	<i>Sargt.</i> FRANK E. DICKINSON	
	<i>Corp.</i> RICHARD B. LOOMIS	
	<i>Corp.</i> WILLIAM H. WHITE	
	HENRY F. DOUGLASS	
	CHARLES L. GOODALE	
	LEWIS R. HASKELL	
	GEORGE W. NEWELL	
	FARRELL WELCH	
	<i>22d Regt.</i>	
	JOHN McDONALD	
	<i>27th Regt.</i>	
	<i>Surg.</i> D. B. NELSON FISH	
	<i>Chap.</i> CHARLES L. WOODWORTH	
	<i>Capt.</i> TIMOTHY W. SLOAN	
	<i>Capt.</i> AMI R. DENNISON	
	<i>Capt.</i> J. LEANDER SKINNER	
	<i>Sargt.</i> EDMUND BOLTWOOD	
	<i>Sargt.</i> EDWARD B. DICKINSON	
		<i>Corp.</i> SIMON F. PETERSON
		<i>Sargt.</i> HENRY W. PETERSON
		<i>Sargt.</i> FRANKLIN J. JONES
		<i>Sargt.</i> CHARLES L. STUBBS
		<i>Corp.</i> CHESTER DICKINSON Jr.
		<i>Corp.</i> GEORGE M. HOWART
		<i>Corp.</i> WARREN F. KING
		<i>Corp.</i> FREEMAN E. BUTTING
		<i>Corp.</i> JOHN D. PARSONS
		<i>Corp.</i> JOHN SHOALS
		<i>Corp.</i> LINEUS G. SKINNER
		<i>Corp.</i> MEDAD VINTON
		ASAHEL BAKER
		EZRA BAKER
		HENRY J. BARDWELL
		ASHLEY W. BARROWS
		CHARLES H. BARTON
		CHARLES C. BOLIO
		FRANK E. BOLSTER
		JAMES BOWMAN
		ALBERT GATES
		BARTON E. GROSSMAN
		JOHN E. CUSHMAN
		THOMAS DEVIRE
		ELI O. DICKINSON

56" x 75"  
(4' 8" tall x 6' 3" long)

INFANTRY  
27<sup>th</sup> - 52<sup>nd</sup> Regts.

HENRY E. HARTIN	GEORGE L. FISHER	WILLIAM TARA
WILLARD B. HARTINE	HOMER L. FISHER	BENJAMIN R. FRANKLIN
JAMES F. HAWES	CHARLES MATTHEWS	JOHN A. GLAZIER
HENRY HAWLEY	PATRICK SHEA	WILLIAM G. GRAVES
DWIGHT M. HILL	<i>32d Regt.</i>	CHARLES S. CUNN
WILLIAM J. HOPKINS	CHARLES A. HEALD	ALBERT H. KELLOGG
ELI H. JOHNSON	<i>84th Regt.</i>	JOHN A. LEGGETT
JAMES B. KELLOGG	FRANCIS J. MATTHEWS	CHARLES E. MUNSELL
WHEATON LOVETT	<i>36th Regt.</i>	JOHN SANDLING
CORNELIUS O'CONNOR	<i>Lieut.</i> CHARLES L. GOODALE	WILLIAM J. SMITH
HENRY C. PACKARD	MOSES L. FLANDERS	TIMOTHY SPELMAN
EDWIN H. POTWIN	HENRY C. KENDALL	SAMUEL M. THAYER
JAMES A. PRESTON	JOSEPH RICHARDS	<i>42d Regt.</i>
DWIGHT RUSSELL	CHARLES RILEY	<i>Sergt.</i> GEORGE L. JOHNSON
JACOB L. RUST	<i>87th Regt.</i>	<i>46th Regt.</i>
MICHAEL SALDIS	<i>Col.</i> RUFUS P. LINCOLN	CHARLES L. ALBET
HENRY BEARS	<i>Col.</i> MASON W. TYLER	BENJAMIN F. CONKEY
GEORGE E. SLATE	<i>Sergt.</i> JOHN BESTON Jr.	PETER KING
CHARLES B. SPAULDING	<i>Corp.</i> FREDERICK R. BELL	JAMES W. ROBERTS
JOHN STEARNS	<i>Corp.</i> WILLARD S. COOKE	<i>52d Regt.</i>
LYMAN R. THAYER	<i>Corp.</i> FRANCIS W. FISH	<i>Lieut.</i> LOOL. SAMUEL J. STORRS
GEORGE H. TUFTS	<i>Corp.</i> CHARLES F. TURNER	<i>Lieut.</i> JUSTIN P. KELLOGG
SOLOMON H. WILLIAMS	DENNIS BESTON	<i>Lieut.</i> ADA A. SPEAR
	PATRICK BESTON	

56" x 73"  
(4' 8" tall x 6' 1" long)

INFANTRY ~ 52<sup>nd</sup> - 60<sup>th</sup> Regts.  
 ARTILLERY ~ 13<sup>th</sup> Light - 3<sup>rd</sup> Heavy

<p>           GEORGE K. HOWE            GEORGE K. HOWE            WILLIAM L. BLISS            WATSON W. COWLES            SHAS O. JOHNSON            LEWIS A. BARTLETT            GEORGE H. BARTON            GEORGE H. BELL            TRUMAN BOWMAN            PEREZ R. BROWN            CHARLES CLAPP            AMARIAH DICKINSON            GEORGE DICKINSON            WILLIAM B. FALES            HORACE HALING            JAMES HARDAKER            J. CHAPIN HASTINGS            CHARLES E. HAYWARD            FREEMAN L. HOLDEN            CHARLES O. HOWES            HENRY HUBBARD            DWIGHT H. JOHNSON            WILLIAM F. JOHNSON            BENJAMIN F. KELLOGG         </p>	<p>           MICHAEL MALONEY            EDWARD O'CALLAHAN            JEREMIAH O'CALLAHAN            PATRICK F. O'TOOLE            ALBERT ROBERTS            GEORGE H. ROBERTS            EDWARD M. ROLPH            CHARLES C. SMITH            GEORGE P. SPEAR            JAMES H. WHEELLOCK            JOHN WHITE  <i>53d Regt.</i>            GEORGE H. PARMENTER  <i>54th Regt.</i>            CHARLES A. FINNEMORE ✓            FRANCIS M. JENNINGS ✓            WILLIAM H. H. JENNINGS ✓ Corp            ALEXANDER TAYLOR ✓            JAMES THOMPSON ✓  <i>60th Regt.</i>            MYRON D. CLARK  <i>Veteran Reserve Corps.</i>            JAMES W. BRYANT            JOHN MANNING            BERNARD McGUIRK         </p>	<p>           JOHN MORAN            JOHN RUSH            DAVID WITHERELL            FRANK WOOD  <i>13th Light Art.</i>            JOHN KENNEDY            NICHOLAS STANKOFF  <i>1st Heavy Art.</i>            Sergt. ERASMUS W. PERCIVAL            Sergt. JAMES A. PIERCE            BENJAMIN P. ALLEN            EDWIN W. BALL            FREDERICK GROVER            WESLEY W. HORTON            FRANCIS B. SMITH  <i>2d Heavy Art.</i>            JOHN HILLIS            EDWARD P. DICKINSON            ROBERT HOCK            HENRY L. LOVETT            THOMAS F. MURPHY            REDMOND WELCH  <i>3d Heavy Art.</i>            JAMES KELLEY         </p>
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56" x 78"  
 (4' 8" tall x 6' 6" long)

ARTILLERY ~ 29<sup>th</sup> Unattached Heavy  
 CAVALRY ~ 1st-5th  
 NAVY  
 OTHER

<p><i>29th Unattached Heavy Art.</i>                  HENRY C. DICKINSON  <i>1st Cavalry</i>                  Capt. JOHN W. HOWLAND                  Corp. EDWIN H. PIERCE                  EDWARD P. CRAY                  WILLIAM E. HOBART                  GEORGE W. SHATTUCK                  ANDREW J. UFFORD                  BYRON H. WILLIAMS</p>	<p>LORENZO SUGLAND                  CHARLES H. THOMPSON                  CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON                  CHARLES WATERS                  WILLIAM WILLIAMSON  <i>1st Bat. Frontier Cavalry.</i>                  SAMUEL H. BURKE</p>	<p>CHARLES MCCORMLEY                  JOHN NELSON                  HENRY L. NEWELL                  JAMES PIERCE                  STEPHEN C. SCOTT                  CORNELIUS WHITE</p>
<p><i>2d Cavalry</i>                  CHARLES DOW  <i>4th Cavalry</i>                  HENRY CASSON                  JAMES KELLEY                  DENNIS McSWEENEY                  SAMUEL W. RICHARDS Jr.                  CHARLES SMITH</p>	<p><i>U. S. Navy.</i>                  Master's Mate WILLIAM B. MILES                  Surg'n Steward EDWARD H. ADAMS                  FRANK S. BEAMAN                  CHARLES P. BOYNTON                  WILLIAM BURNS                  WILLIAM CHALLINER                  JAMES A. COLTER                  JOHN FITZSIMMONS                  THOMAS GLEASON                  SAMUEL HAY                  JOHN HUDSON                  PETER JOHNSON                  THOMAS KEEFE                  URANUS LAWRY                  JOHN LEAR                  FRANK MARTIN                  PATRICK McCULLUM</p>	<p><i>Other Organizations</i>                  Maj. AMI B. DENNISON 2d U.S.C. Cav.                  Capt. CHARLES L. STORRS 32d U.S.C.T.                  Lieut. EDMUND BOLTWOOD 1st U.S.C. Cav.                  Lieut. GEORGE B. COOLEY 44th Ill.                  Lieut. HENRY M. McCLOUD 99th U.S.C.T.                  Acting Asst. Surg. THOMAS WENDERSON                  Sergt. HENRY M. COOLEY 14th Conn.                  Sergt. HENRY M. McCLOUD 12th Conn.                  AUSTIN S. COOK Bat. G. U.S. Art.                  ERASTUS COY 15th Ill.                  LYMAN E. MOODY Mich. Sharpshooters                  CHARLES F. RUSSELL 3d Ill. Cav.</p>
<p><i>5th Cavalry</i>                  Corp. CHARLES TURNER                  SAMUEL FREEMAN                  WINSON JACKSON                  WILLIAM JENNINGS                  HOWARD E. PAXEN                  JOSEPH J. SOLOMON</p>		

56" x 78.5"  
 (4' 8" tall x 6' 6 1/2" long)