

Done

**Memorial Park Dedication
Westville Corners, N.Y.
June 7, 2003**

Town Historian Jean L. Goddard

This is a day of remembering the men and women of Westville who have served in all wars. These memorial stones stand as recognition of their patriotism and dedication, specifically in World War I and World War II.

After a great deal of searching by several members of the Westville Historical Organization, historians from neighboring towns and myself the origin of the World War One Monument remains a mystery. I propose this to be a challenge to the town's historical organization for further research in the future.

I searched the Westville Town Board Records from February 1917 to February 1958 and there is no mention on either the WW1 or the WW2 Monument.

However, we do know from articles in both the Malone Telegram and the Fort Covington Sun that on Sunday afternoon, October 24th, 1948, at 3:15, a large group of people from Westville and nearby towns gathered at the new War Memorial Park at Westville Corners. The event was the official dedication ceremony of the park and the monument to Westville's World War 2 veterans.

Fred Fallon, who was town supervisor, announced the program. The ceremony was opened by the color guard of the Salmon River Post of the American Legion, Fort Covington, in charge of Major A. C. Eldred. The color guard marched into position before the new monument and stood at attention while the Fort Covington high school band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

The Rev. W.H. McKirdy gave the invocation and the Rev. Father Capron of Constable gave an inspiring and challenging address to those gathered.

This project was carried out by the Westville Grange as part of it's Community Service Project. The committee in charge of the project was Mrs. Louis Riendeau, Mr. George Rockhill, Mr. Wellington Rockhill, Mrs. Warren Mount and Mr. John Ellsworth. Mr. Ellsworth was master of Westville Grange .

The Westville project ranked 17th out of Granges in N.Y.State and the Westville Grange received a reward for its outstanding service.

The book of town minutes did render some other interesting information, pointing to the fact that Westville has always been faithful to honor its veterans.

On June 5th, 1953, Robert Wilson made a motion that was seconded by Earl Rowley to pay Willard Brockway for mowing the park at Westville Corners and burning grass at the Riverside Cemetery the amount of \$13.50.

It also mentions that on December 7, 1953, George Chapman made a motion to pay a bill of \$5.75 to Fort Covington Legion for flags placed on veterans graves in the town of Westville.

On March 7th, 1955, George Chapman again made a motion to pay an outstanding bill from 1954 in the amount of \$6.58 to the American Legion in Fort Covington for flags placed on veterans graves in the town of Westville.

The original site of these monuments, as many town residents know, was on a triangular piece of land just south of this spot. When the late town historian Ola Stockwell was alive, she related me that the road on the southern side of this "diamond" as it became known, was originally used only to reach Ordway's blacksmith shop, the barnboard building which still stands today.

Eventually it became a road plowed and maintained by the town, intersecting with the Trout River Road. Little more information is known how it passed from Ordway property to the town of Westville - another project for the historical organization.

Minutes from September 15th, 1955, mention the Village Green at Westville Corners where the Westville Town Board granted permission to the Presbyterian Church to place a sign on the Village Green.

In 1996 changes were made to this road by New York State. The monuments were moved, wrapped in styrofoam and stored by the side of the Presbyterian Church. In 1997 they were placed in this location.