

Revolutionary Cemetery

Continued from Page 19

Other markers have been placed by the United States government's Veterans' Bureau to designate the graves of those veterans of the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

In 1942, a memorial boulder was installed by The West Fields Chapter - Sons of the American Revolution at the front gate of the cemetery with a plaque naming the 51 soldiers of the Revolutionary War who are buried there. Nearly 18 years prior, the Daughters of the American Revolution placed its own boulder at the cemetery with a plaque to remember fallen soldiers.

The Westfield Bicentennial Committee has designated the cemetery as a "Bicentennial Site." Perhaps the cemetery's legacy is best summed up on the marker of



The Revolutionary Cemetery Ingrid McKinley for This Is Westfield

Nathaniel Baker, who died in 1799 and is interred in the cemetery. It reads, "My glass is run, My days are spent, My life is gone. It was but lent, And as I am, So must you be, Therefore, prepare to follow me."

Monument to World War Veterans

Continued from Page 11

On October 19, 1923, a copper box containing a potpourri of mementos from the era was ensconced in the foundation of the monument.

Among the items inside it were a copy of the ordinance providing funds for the memorial; rosters listing former servicemen and members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion chapters; an American flag and a Westfield service medal; a history of the Town of Westfield and copies of two local publications, including the October 17, 1923 edition of *The Westfield Leader*.

Armistice Day found Westfield buildings draped with red, white and blue bunting and bearing American flags in preparation for the dedication of the memorial to Westfield's war dead.

Preceded by a military parade from Washington School to the Plaza, the afternoon ceremony marked the coming-together of an entire community in remembrance of sons, brothers and friends lost to the "Great War."

In keeping with the solemnity of the occasion, Central Railroad officials ordered the silencing of whistles and bells on locomotives traveling through town during the dedication of the monument.

Among those in attendance were Merton D. Littlefield, by now the Mayor of Westfield, along with members of the Town Council, the Memorial Commission which had headed up plans for creation of the memorial, veterans, other townspeople and families of the men memorialized through the monument.

Presented by Mr. Tubby to the Mayor following the invocation, the monument was formally welcomed with presentations honoring veterans, as well as with the singing of patriotic songs and performances by the Westfield Band.

The memorial was unveiled by Mrs. Charles Wallberg, a Gold Star Mother whose son, Martin Wallberg, was the first of Westfield's Supreme Honor

Men to fall in World War I. He was also distinguished for having carried the first American flag "over the top" of the trenches in the war.

A Westfield native serving with the Canadian armed forces, he was felled



A MONUMENT'S MUSE...An 11-foot statue of Clio, the Greek muse of history, perches atop the 57-foot granite shaft of the monument recalling the sacrifices of war veterans.

by a barrage of artillery at just 19 years old. His flag, which was attached to his bayonet, was retrieved by a fellow soldier and returned to Westfield. It is displayed today in the foyer of the Westfield American Legion post which bears his name.

Seventy-seven years later, the patriotic spirit and commitment to remembrance which led Westfield to erect the monument remain as vibrant as on that Armistice Day in 1923.

These sentiments are poignantly and powerfully reflected as veterans gather at the foot of the still awe-inspiring tribute each year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, as Armistice Day is known today. The monument's presence, and theirs, is an enduring testament to those whose lives — and deaths — gave the world all its tomorrows.

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REMEMBER WHEN?...Even in days gone by, Westfield residents enjoyed skating with fellow citizens and visitors from surrounding towns on the smooth and wintry surface of Mindowaskin Park's pond.

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