

QUEENSBURY CIVIL WAR (SOLDIERS) MONUMENT

By John Strough

The History of the Queensbury Civil War Monument

1865: Harriet Wing (who lost two sons to the war) donates \$150 from the Ladies Patriotic Association for “a suitable monument in our village cemetery”.

1866: Town Board of Queensbury appropriates funds for building of monument. The work of construction of the monument is awarded to R.T. Baxter, a Glens Falls dealer in marble and monumental work.

1867: James and Amanda Sisson deed a triangular piece of land at the intersection of Glen and Bay Streets for \$1,000 to the Town of Queensbury as a site for a monument. This was also the site of the first home of Edward Wing, brother of Abraham Wing, founder of the Town. Also at this site, women piled bread here for American soldiers in the American Revolution (a town pump was found at this site near an old well).

Work on the monument begins.

Erected as a tribute to the 644+ men who volunteered from the Town of Queensbury to serve in the Civil War. The obelisk names 8 officers, 2 military agents from Queensbury, 33 killed or wounded enlisted men, and 39 enlisted men who died from disease during the Civil War, 1861-65. Recent research has located an additional 13 other names which were originally omitted. These names will be added in the future.

42 feet in height and 100 tons, its sub-base is made of local marble, the base is Maine granite, and the three tiers, shaft and eagle were sculpted from Dorchester sandstone from New Brunswick. The Eagle on the monument is the work of John Townsend of So. Britain, Connecticut. It has a 5 foot wing span.

1868: Monument was completed at a cost of \$12,000. Monument costs exceed Baxter's expectations by \$4,100. The Queensbury Town Board refused his requests for more money.

1872: The monument was formerly dedicated.



Photo Courtesy Kenneth C. Zirkel, Wikipedia

1882: Queensbury Town Board declares that monument lands not to be used for any other purpose.

1908: The monument became the property of the City of Glens Falls when it was chartered.

1967: The monument is cleaned and sealed with silicone and the Eagle is repaired with lead reinforcements.

1996-99: Monument restored. The eagle was removed, replaced with a terra cotta replica, and placed in the City's DPW shed off Dix Avenue.

The Eagle's Nest

2011: John Strough began his pursuit of the eagle with the intent of placing it in the Town Office Building. Asked Mayor Jack Diamond if that was something he would consider. The mayor said he would consider it.

2011/12: When meeting at Civic center hockey games, John Strough would remind Jack of his desire to have the eagle for display in the Town Office Building. Reminding Jack that the eagle was using storage space desperately needed by the City.

May of 2012: Mayor Jack Diamond agreed to loan the eagle to the Town of Queensbury.

June 2012: Eagle is moved from the Glens Falls DPW shed to the Town's HW Department shed.

June 15, 2013: Eagle is mounted and ushered into the Town of Queensbury's Town Office Building.

