

WALPOLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION



WALPOLE TOWN HALL

135 SCHOOL STREET, WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02081 USA

The Walpole Historical Commission and the Walpole Historical Society are collaborating to commemorate the U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary, 1861-1865/2011-2015), with the intent of honoring those persons from Walpole who took part in the war, as well as those Walpole citizens who were involved with the education of freed African Americans during the reconstruction era. The group is considering publishing an illustrated booklet to educate the public on the contributions made by those persons.



The Walpole Historical Commission (WHC), established by the Board of Selectmen in 1970 under the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 40, Section 8D, is the official advocate for the preservation, protection and development of the Town of Walpole's historical and archaeological assets.

In accordance with this, the Commission feels that the Old Town Hall, the current police station in Walpole, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and where our local Civil War Memorial tablets are located, is a town-owned property that needs our advocacy to preserve its future. It is a bona-fide historical asset of the town of Walpole, and though built in the early 1880s, it was most certainly conceived of and paid for by the generation of Walpole citizens that lived through the Civil War and Reconstruction era. We feel that combining a Commemoration of Walpole's part during the War of the Rebellion and the following Reconstruction era not only honors the men and women who lived through it, especially Walpole's only veteran who died as a POW at the infamous Rebel prison at Andersonville, Private Lowell E. Hartshorn, but also helps raise awareness of the largest and most prominent town-owned historical asset: The Old Town Hall.

Our group would welcome any contributions by anyone having ancestors from Walpole who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Civil War, or participated in the education of freed African Americans during the Reconstruction era. These contributions could be photos, diaries, or anecdotal information. The focus will be on Walpole residents only. We would also like to hear from persons interested in participating in this work.

Private Lowell E. Hartshorn was originally a member of the Massachusetts 44th Regiment, serving 9 months. He re-enlisted in the Massachusetts 56th Veteran Volunteers, one of the first "Veteran" regiments from Massachusetts during the Civil War. He was captured at North Anna, Virginia, by rebel forces in May, 1864, and died of disease at Andersonville Prison in December 1864 at approximately age 20. He was one of nearly 13,000 Union soldiers who perished there, (nearly 750 from Massachusetts) who refused their freedom if they joined the rebel cause, choosing "Death Before Dishonor", as proclaimed on the Massachusetts Monument at Andersonville. His remains lie in grave No. 12299 at the Union Cemetery at Andersonville National Historic Site, Georgia. He was raised on what was called Back Street in West Walpole, later renamed Lincoln Road sometime after the Civil War, in the immediate area around Sleepy Hollow and Lincoln Road.

(pictured at right, the Massachusetts Monument at Andersonville National Historic Site, Georgia).

Michael E. Amaral, Chairman, Walpole Historical Commission

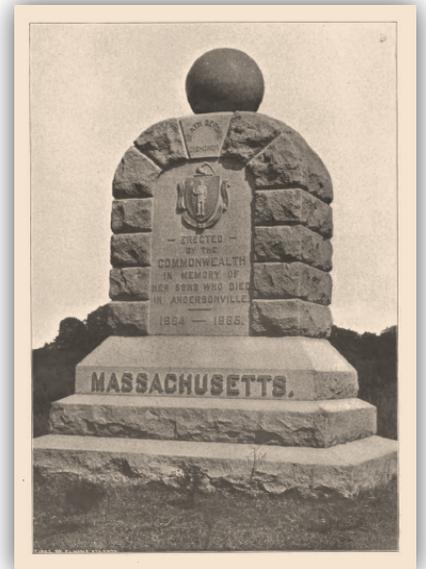
Walpole Town Hall

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