

# A History of Veterans Honor Rolls in Fryeburg, Maine

I was asked by Fryeburg Historical Society President Thomas Hutchins to compile a brief history of all the veterans memorials that have been so proudly displayed in our little town of Fryeburg, Maine. Fryeburg is the oldest town in Oxford County. It was founded in 1763 by

General Joseph Frye (1712 - 1794) and given to him for his service  
in the French and Indian Wars.



**Grave of General Joseph Frye  
Pine Grove Cemetery  
Fryeburg, Maine  
Diane Jones photo**

Fryeburg was incorporated January 11, 1777. Our town boasts of men who served as far back as the French and Indian Wars. The first mention of a memorial to our veterans was a bronze plaque placed on a boulder in Bradley Memorial Park.



Early photo of Bradley Park before the boulder and plaque was placed  
The cannons were placed there in 1904 and were removed  
During the scrap metal drive in World War II  
Fryeburg Historical Society photo



**Boulder with bronze plaque in Bradley Park  
Diane Jones photo**

The plaque is dated 1920, the same year Mrs. Charles (Minnie Bradley) Mattson gave Bradley Park to the Town of Fryeburg.

The plaque reads:

**Presented to the Town of Fryeburg in the year 1920 as a living memorial to all soldiers,**

**sailors, and marines of Fryeburg who have served their country in times of peril**

**and further to commemorate the original location of Fryeburg Academy**

**where in 1802 Daniel Webster served as preceptor.**

The second honor roll was a wooden one with the names of the veterans were painted on it.

This stood in Bradley Park also where the present memorial is now.

Over time this decayed and plans were set in motion to build a more permanent memorial.



**First Veterans Honor Roll in Fryeburg that listed veterans names  
This stood in Bradley Park  
Fryeburg Historical Society photo**



The third veterans memorial was erected in front of the building on Portland Street,

that housed the post office and the American Legion at that time. The following information was found on

the dedication of that memorial:

Dedicate War Memorial Plaque at Fryeburg  
May 1960

The dedication of the War Memorial Plaque to honor the men and women

of the Town of Fryeburg who served their country and to those

who gave the supreme sacrifice was held May 30 in front of

the Frank W. Shaw Post No. 137 home, American Legion.

Stuart E. Stanley, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen made the opening remarks and presented

the monument to the American Legion. Donald M. Kiesman, Commander of the local post

accepted the plaque on behalf of the legion and dedicated it

to those who served their country.

The dedication read

**In the name of Frank W. Shaw Post, No. 137, Department of Maine, The American Legion,**

**I now dedicate this memorial. I dedicate it to the memory of those who fell**

**in the service of our country. I dedicated it in the name of those who**

**offered their lives that Justice, Freedom, and Democracy might survive**

**to be the victorious ideals of the peoples of the world. The lives of those**

**who have made the supreme sacrifice are glorious before us;**

**their deeds are an inspiration. As they served American in time of war,**

**yielding their last full measure of devotion may we serve America in time of peace.**

**I dedicated this monument to them, and with it,**

**I dedicated this Post to the faithful service of our Country and to preservation**

**of the memory of those who died that Liberty might live.**

The stone edifice was placed in front of the Legion Home and the Post Office and will be lighted that all might know that Fryeburg citizens who served may not be forgotten anytime.

This memorial is now located at the American Legion Home on Bradley Street  
Diane Jones photo

In May 1979 a larger memorial with a complete listing of veterans' names was constructed at Bradley Park. The committee in charge of this was Woodrow L. Palmer, a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War;

Charles H. Hapworth, a World War II veteran, and George H. Roberts, who fought in World War I. The monies were raised by donations from individuals and businesses.

The large memorial was constructed of stone pillars and cap, framed in oak and the

listings were covered with glass and lighted automatically at night. Harold Sanborn

did the metal work, Earl Hill, the electrician installed the lighting and the title lettering was done by Edward Mills. The individual listings were made by Carol Hill at the Fryeburg Healthcare Center. McSherry's Nursery of Center Conway, New Hampshire planted the two yew bushes at either side of the honor roll at no cost. The bushes were donated by Mrs. Dararal Remick in memory of recently deceased veteran Bernard E. Ridlon. There were about 1000 veterans' names listed on this honor roll.



**Veterans Honor Roll in Bradley Park  
Built in 1979  
Collette Monuments photo**

In 2003 the present honor roll was built and dedicated in November.

Over 1200 names are on this honor roll

and it was made by Collette Monuments in Lewiston, Maine.



**New Veterans Honor Roll in Bradley Park  
Dedicated Veterans Day 2003  
Diane Jones photo**

Fryeburg celebrates each year with a Memorial Day Parade and a remembrance of all our veterans who have served our country.

**May No Veteran, Man or Woman, be forgotten for without them our country would not have its freedom and democracy today**

Diane L. Jones, Director  
Fryeburg Historical Society Research Library  
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