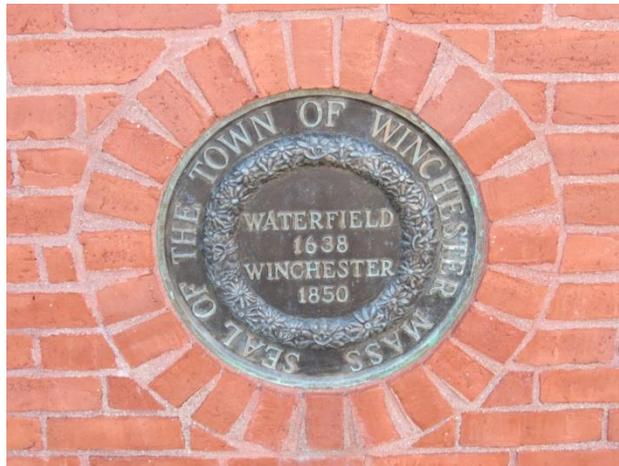


# Winchester's Historic, Commemorative and Memorial Signs & Markers



**26 August 2013**

Benjamin Eid

# Table of Contents

Overview of Memorial, Commemorative and Historic Signs and Markers...2

Map of Signs and Markers ..... 3

## Memorial Markers

BELLINO PARK ..... 4

BORGGARD BEACH..... 5

CHEFALO PARK ..... 6

JAKE CIARCIA FIELD ..... 7

DAVIDSON PARK..... 8

ELLIOTT PARK..... 9

DONALD R. ELLIS – Packer Ellis Courts ..... 10

MARK FRATTAROLI PRIDE PARK ..... 11

GINN FIELD ..... 12

KNOWLTON STADIUM ..... 13

LEONARD FIELD..... 14

MANCHESTER FIELD..... 15

MCDONALD FIELD ..... 17

HERBERT MULLEN PLAYGROUND ..... 18

NUTILE FIELD ..... 19

EDWARD F. O’CONNELL VETERAN’S WAR MEMORIAL ..... 20

WILLIAM S. PACKER – Packer-Ellis Courts ..... 21

QUILL CIRCLE..... 22

SANDY S. RODGERS ISLAND ..... 23

## Commemorative Markers

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL..... 24

CONVERSE BRIDGE ..... 25

MIDDLESEX CANAL ..... 26

SEAL OF WINCHESTER..... 27

TOWN COMMON ..... 28

WAR MONUMENT..... 29

WATERFIELD BRIDGE ..... 30

WRIGHT-LOCKE FARM ..... 31

## Historical Markers

SITE OF THE FIRST HOUSE – Edward Converse ..... 32

JOHN HARVARD’S LAND ..... 33

INCREASE NOWELL’S FARM ..... 34

SQUAW SACHEM’S RESERVATION ..... 35

SYMMES FARM ..... 36

BIBLIOGRAPHY ..... 37

## Overview of Memorial, Commemorative and Historic Signs and Markers

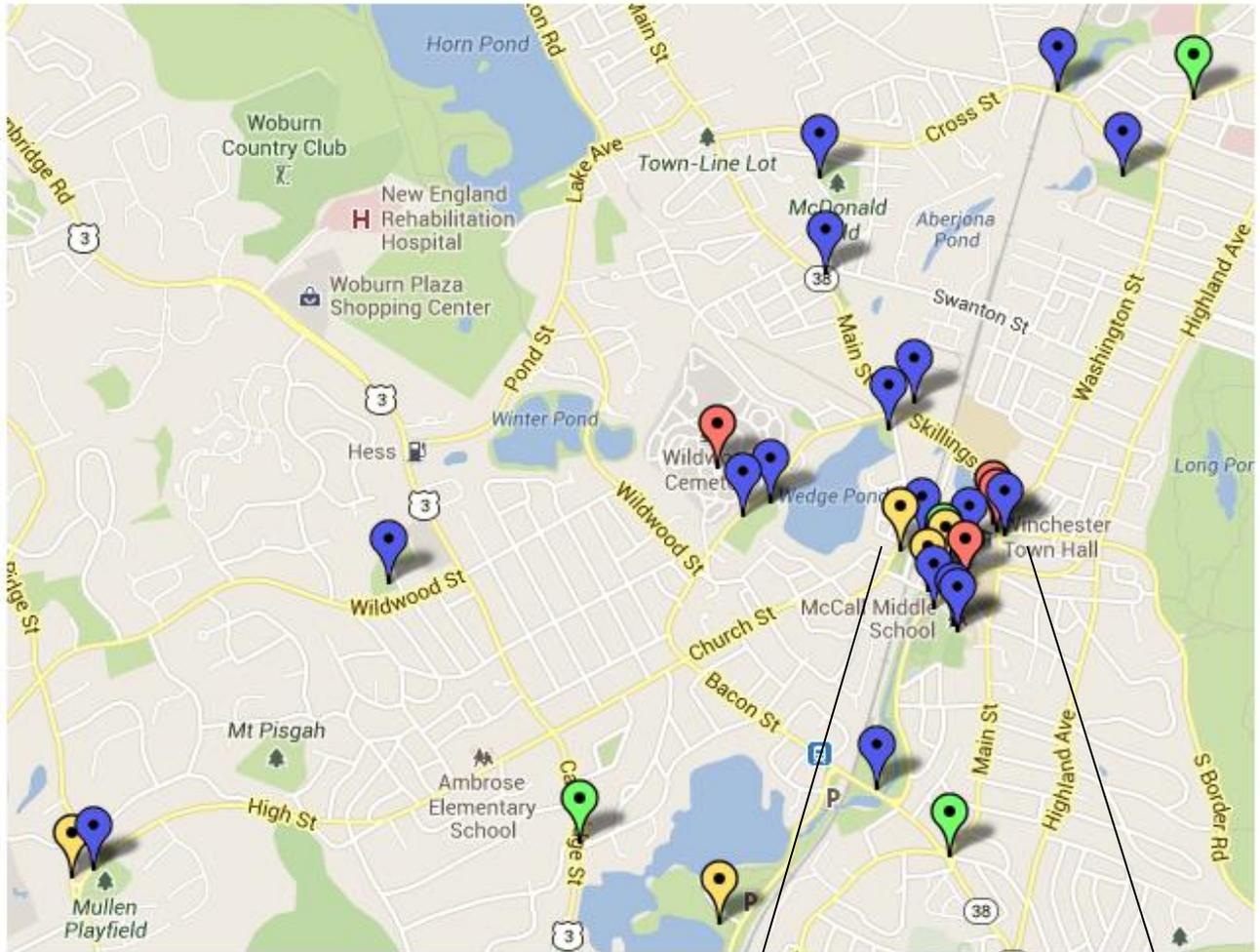
The Town of Winchester is located eight miles north of Boston, Massachusetts on land first purchased by colonists from the Squaw Sachem, the Native American tribal leader who lived in the area. It was first settled by colonist in the 1630's and existed as an extension of surrounding towns until it was incorporated as a town in 1850. The Town sits in a scenic valley, surrounded by lakes and rivers, which irrigated early farms and powered the industries of milling and tanning. In the 1800's, mass transportation came to Winchester in the forms of the Middlesex Canal and the railroad. Today our town is a thriving residential suburb with a highly rated school system, a great government, and an easy commute to Boston. We are lucky to benefit from the contributions of past citizens, while the contributions of current members of the community continue to enrich history.

History surrounds us in Winchester. Since Colonial times, the area was an early development, settled by a party going out of Charlestown. As the community grew, the contributions of many outstanding citizens were noted by residents and the town government. Today, there are more than thirty signs to be found in Winchester, dedicating parks and public spaces to the memory of the town's benefactors or marking the sites of historic events. These plaques and signs are a reminder of the contributions of Winchester's citizens, as well as the history that surrounds us. The following pages give a better chance for people to see the history for themselves, and connect with the town's past. Each page gives an insight into a specific part of Winchester's history, providing information, a GPS location of the marker, and a picture of the sign.

These pages were created for the Town of Winchester, Massachusetts as an Eagle project by Ben Eid, assisted by local Boy Scout Troop 507. Many thanks to the Design Review Committee for their sponsorship, my fellow Scouts who contributed research, photography and writing skills, the Webmaster for the Town of Winchester, Winchester Archival Center, and the Winchester Public Library for use of its resources and facilities.

# Map of Signs and Markers

The following map shows the locations of memorial, commemorative and historic signs and markers distributed around the town of Winchester.



**Marker colors:**

Blue: Memorial park/field

Red: Monument

Yellow: Historical

Green: Tercentennial



# BELLINO PARK

**Location:**

The intersection of Main Street and Swanton Street

**GIS Coord:**

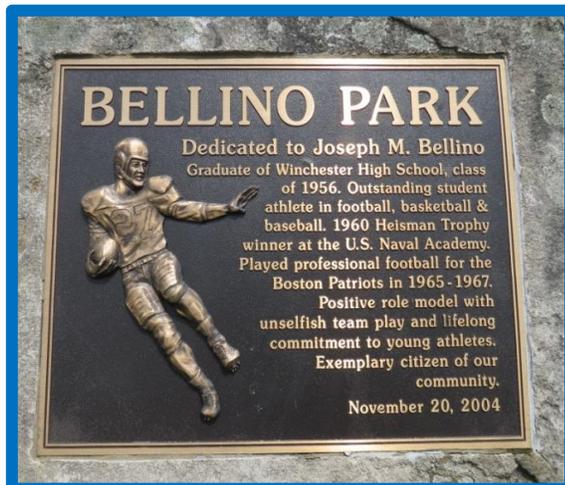
42.46149359,  
-71.14119515

**Biographical information:**

Joseph M. Bellino was born on March 13, 1938 to parents Michele and Sarah Bellino. Bellino lived in Winchester for most of his life, going through the Winchester public schools and graduating from Winchester High School where he was first recognized as a football prodigy.

**Community Engagement:**

Bellino attended the United States Naval Academy. It was at the Naval Academy that Bellino and another Winchester boy, Frank Dattilo, became two of the greatest football players of their time. In one of the Navy's games against the Army, Bellino was able to score three —almost four— touchdowns, a feat that few before him had been able to achieve. In 1960, Bellino won the Maxwell Award, given to him for being the greatest player on the field in that year, scoring 110 points, and gaining a total of 834 yards. Just a few months later, Bellino was the very first Navy player, and 26<sup>th</sup> ever player to win the Heisman Award, one of the most coveted awards in college football. The Heisman Award is given to those who pursue excellence both in football, and in their interactions with others, showing personal integrity. When Bellino graduated from the Naval Academy, his jersey was retired; something the Navy had never done before. After leaving the Navy in 1961, at a rank of Lieutenant, Bellino joined the Boston Patriots (now New England) football team. While playing professional football, Bellino was known for his uncanny ability to outrun almost anyone on the field, and used this to his advantage. When Bellino retired from his professional football career, he returned to Winchester and became coach for the local high school team. Retired now from football, Bellino runs a successful business in the Boston area.



**Commemoration:**

Bellino Park was dedicated in 2006, and was built on part of the Winchester-Woburn loop, a section of railroad that connected Winchester and Woburn's town centers until 1960. Also previously on this site was the water tower of the Beggs & Cobb Tannery that burned down in 1959.

# BORGGARD BEACH

Location:  
Off Palmer  
Street

GIS Coord:  
42.45381634,  
-71.14356957

## **Biographical information:**

Clarence Sorensen Borggaard was born on November 29, 1899 to parents Andrew Borggaard and Jenny Bundgaard. Mr. Borggaard spent most of his childhood in Worcester, Massachusetts. At age 18, Mr. Borggaard went to fight in WWI and became a marine. When he came back, he went to Suffolk University where he studied law. Later, Mr. Borggaard moved to Somerville where he became a lawyer, operated a trucking business and later opened a carnival ride production business. In the 1930s, Mr. Borggaard married Helen Costello, with whom he had two sons and one daughter.



## **Community Engagement:**

Mr. Borggaard moved to Winchester when he was middle aged. He ceased to practice law, focusing his attention on making carnival rides through his company, Rides Inc. of Medford Massachusetts. In Winchester, Mr. Borggaard was very enthusiastic about his town, regularly writing columns for the *Winchester Star*, and being the leading force in the construction of a public swimming area. He believed it was critical for the children of Winchester to have a place where they could learn how to swim, so much so that the revitalization of the beach on Wedge Pond, by the Packer-

Ellis Tennis courts was named after him. Mr. Borggaard was also involved with the Winchester Rotary Club, through which he helped with community service.



## **Commemoration:**

Borggaard died on June 8, 1996, but his name still lives on with the beach he helped to make one of the most beautiful in the entire town. Recently, Borggaard beach has been updated with the introduction of a splash park for children to play in.

# CHEFALO PARK

Location:  
The intersection  
of Washington  
Street and Mt.  
Vernon Street

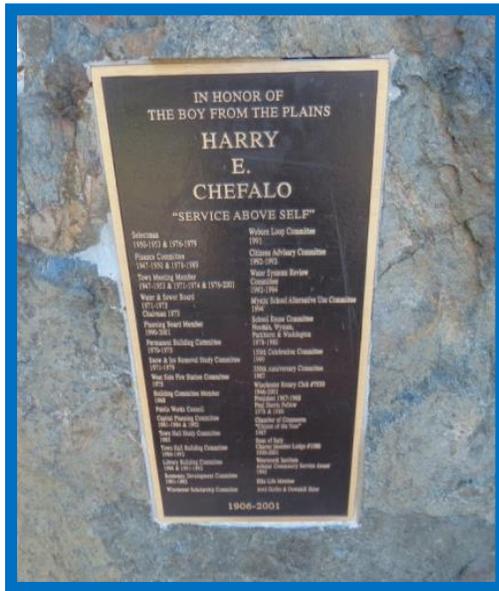
GIS Coord:  
42.45296151,  
-71.1335412

## Biographical information:

Harry Enrico Chefalo was born to parents Vincent and May on August 2, 1906 in Winchester. Chefalo spent his entire life in Winchester. It was where he met his wife, Ruth Lane, and raised his daughters.

## Community Engagement:

At the age of 20, Chefalo founded his plumbing business, which he conducted successfully his entire career. In addition, he served on 22 different committees in the town Government, a remarkable feat of citizenship. In addition to serving the town politically, Chefalo was part of the Winchester Rotary Club, and the Sons of Italy Club, two organizations that give back to the town in many ways. In 1987, Chefalo was unanimously voted to be honored with the Winchester Outstanding Citizen Award, an award given to members of the town who exhibit leadership in giving back to their community.



## Commemoration:

When Chefalo died at the age of 94 on January 30, 2001, the town of Winchester passed a vote to dedicate a public space to his memory. They chose the lot on which Chefalo's former school, the Wadleigh School. To help with this effort, the Winchester Rotary Club dedicated its money and labor to help the town revive the field.

## JAKE CIARCIA FIELD

Location:  
Off of Skillings  
Road, next to  
Winchester High  
School

GIS Coord:  
42.45694382,  
-71.13736792

### **Biographical information:**

John Henry "Jake" Ciarcia was born on June 24, 1933 to parents Harry Ciarcia and Florence Frongillo. John was married to Theresa Brossi, with whom he had four children: one daughter, and three sons. Mr. Ciarcia also served in the military.



### **Community Engagement:**

Mr. Ciarcia lived all his life in Winchester, working as a Town Engineer for 24 years. In addition, he was involved in the construction and improvement of the Griffin Museum, Davidson Park, the Winchester Hospital Parking Garage, and the Jenks Center. In 1986, Mr. Ciarcia was named Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce, an award which is given to citizens who have shown great devotion to the town and their fellow residents.



### **Commemoration:**

A year after he retired in 1994, the Town voted that Skillings Field would be renamed Ciarcia Field in honor of the great service Mr. Ciarcia had shown for the town. Ciarcia died September 21, 2005 at age 72. Located next to Winchester High School, Ciarcia Field is the location for baseball, lacrosse, and soccer games, as well as the training area for football and track and field. In the winter of 2013, the Winchester Hockey Association sponsored a public

outdoor skating rink at Ciarcia Field. The field was created in 1968 when the excess dirt from the excavation of Aberjona Pond was moved into a nearby marshland, which was later flattened to be used as a track and field for Winchester High School.

## DAVIDSON PARK

Location:  
Off of Cross  
Street, near  
Brookside Street

GIS Coord:  
42.46750424,  
-71.13083918

### **Biographical information:**

In the year 1877, George Thomas Davidson was born in Boston Massachusetts on August 26. His parents moved to Winchester, living on Thompson Street before moving to Washington Street. In 1899, at the age of 21, he married Eleanor Patterson. They were wed in Troy, New York. The newlyweds resided in Winchester, on Washington Street and raised four daughters and two sons. In 1910, the family moved into a house on Park Street, number 19, which served as Davidson's house until the day he died. Davidson owned and operated a plumbing business in Winchester for nearly 60 years.



### **Community Engagement:**

Davidson was a member of the Second Congregational Church which was across from his home on Washington Street, and he served as a deacon there for many years. For thirty four years he served on many boards and commissions including chairman of the Winchester Community Relief Committee, and was a president of the Winchester Baseball Association. He was elected chairman of the Park Board in 1918, serving in that role until 1946. He would oversee countless town projects throughout his time on the Park Board turning public eyesores into beautiful spaces of property used by the citizens of Winchester. In addition to all of the boards and commissions Davidson was a part of, he is most known for being the first president of the Winchester Rotary Club which became an official organization on April 5, 1927 to help meet the charitable needs of the community. Davidson was a town selectman for three years as well from 1913 to 1916 and chairman of the board in 1916. He was also a member of the Order of Scottish Clan of Woburn, William Parkman Lodge of Masons, and the Winchester Lodge of Elks.



### **Commemoration:**

At the age of 76, Davidson passed away in Winchester Hospital in April, 1954. His name still lives on in Winchester due to his dedication to helping his town to become a better place to live. To honor him the Winchester Rotary Club dedicated what is now called Davidson Park to the memory of Davidson along with a plaque located within the park for all to see. The Park land was created as an effect of the town's river improvement project in the 1930s, when 280,000 square feet of swampland was reclaimed.

# ELLIOTT PARK

Location:  
At the  
intersection of  
Main Street,  
Skillings Road,  
and Main Street

GIS Coord:  
42.45637535,  
-71.13853409

## **Biographical information:**

Alfred Dykes Elliott was born on August 15 1901 to parents George W. Elliott and Katherine Nagle. He was born in Winchester at 13 Middlesex Street. He grew up primarily in Winchester, but moved to Medford in his early twenties, after his father's death.

## **Community Engagement:**

In Medford he met his wife, and when he could, Elliott moved back into Winchester and bought a house on Chesterford Road, where he lived the rest of his years. In Winchester, he became a builder/developer and slowly immersed himself into the community of the town by joining the Winchester Rotary Club and the William Parkman Masonic Lodge, two groups heavily dedicated to giving back to their communities. In the 1930's, Elliott married Mary Elizabeth Coss with whom he had two daughters. Elliott built numerous houses in Winchester. In 1946 he made a substantial addition to the town's housing stock when he bought the Ginn mansion by Beacon street to use as an area for residential development. The homes to be built there were specifically marketed for World War II veterans. Elliott again gave back to the town in 1950 when, utilizing his skill as a builder, he persuaded the Rotary Club to help the town to construct a lodge for the local Girl Scouts to use in the Middlesex Fells Reservation. This construction project became a symbol of the commitment of the Rotary Club to the community, and was completed in record time. Elliott was a director of the Winchester Hospital and Cooperative Bank in addition to being elected as the tax assessor of the town of Winchester, a position which he held for over twenty years.



## **Commemoration:**

Elliott died on March 21, 1964, preceding his wife by three years. After he died, the Rotary Club dedicated a portion of land bought by the town in 1929, near Wedge Pond, as Elliott Park, cleaning up the space with assistance from the Town and providing a plaque affixed to a granite boulder, as is the tradition of historical signs in Winchester, that can still be found there today honoring Elliott as "Mr. Rotary".

# DONALD R. ELLIS – Packer Ellis Courts

Location:  
Off of Palmer  
Street, next to  
Borggaard  
Beach

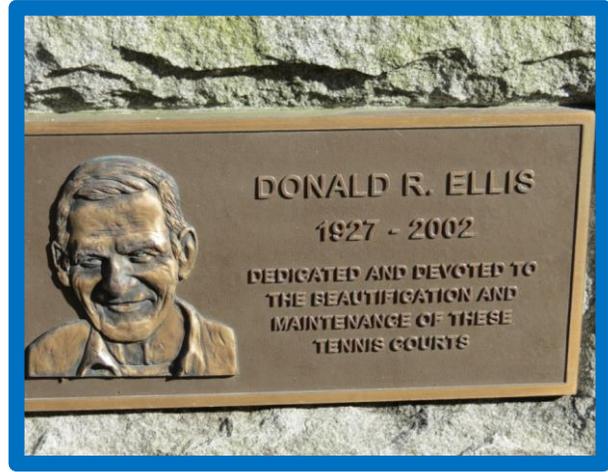
GIS Coord:  
42.45323949,  
-71.14538607

## **Biographical information:**

Donald R. Ellis was born in Winchester on August 22, 1927 to parents Artemas Ellis, and Lila Webb. He stayed in Winchester for much of his life, serving a brief stint in the military at age 18. In 1996, he married his wife, Sandra Erikson in Winchester.

## **Community Engagement:**

Mr. Ellis was particularly known for his enthusiasm for tennis. He loved the game, and served as president of the Winchester Tennis Association in 1974. Ellis not only acted as president, but also was dedicated to keeping the courts in good repair, working on duty for much more time than he was paid for. Over a period of 20 years his background in landscaping provided valuable expertise to the running of the courts. Don Ellis believed that tennis provided an idea opportunity for Winchester residents to meet and spend time with their friends.



## **Commemoration:**

Ellis died on October 11 of 2002, and the Packer Courts were renamed the Packer-Ellis Courts just a month after. The Packer-Ellis courts were built on land originally bought by the town for the creation of a playground in 1917.

# MARK FRATTAROLI PRIDE PARK

Location:  
Behind McCall  
Middle School,  
next to  
Manchester  
Field and  
Knowlton  
Stadium

GIS Coord:  
42.44979007,  
-71.13559151

## **Biographical information:**

Mark F. Frattaroli was born in 1992 to parents Anna and Filippo Frattaroli. He attended Lawrence Academy, in Groton Massachusetts, and was a sophomore there when he died on September 29, 2008 from injuries received in an automobile accident. Frattaroli was sixteen years old.

## **Community Engagement:**

Frattaroli was actively involved in sports. He was an avid wrestler, and was named Junior Captain of the JV Football Team at Lawrence Academy. Frattaroli is remembered for being a kind, caring, and smart young man.

## **Commemoration:**

Mark F. Frattaroli Pride Park was named in his honor. The memorial garden planter commemorated to Frattaroli is behind the McCall Middle School near the entrance to Manchester Field. It provides a peaceful sitting area as well as a reminder of Sachem Pride to sports fans attending events at Manchester Field. The planter is constructed of inscribed bricks which proclaim athletic spirit, or memorialize former Winchester residents. Other memorials to Frattaroli include a community center his family built in Sulmona, Italy, a donation to Winchester Hospital, and an annual fundraising "polar swim."



# GINN FIELD

Location:  
Off of Bacon  
Street

GIS Coord:  
42.44617947,  
-71.13886768

## **Biographical Information:**

Edwin Ginn was born in Orland, Maine on February 14, 1838. He had a typical boyhood for the time, working on the family farm and attending school when possible. Early employment included working as a cook's assistant in a logging camp and spending a year aboard a fishing schooner. He attended Tufts University, graduating in 1869. Ginn married first Clara Eaton Glover, with whom he had three children. After Clara's death he married Margherite Francesca Glebe and had two more children. Ginn died on January 14, 1914 in Winchester.



## **Community Engagement:**

Mr. Ginn founded the very successful publishing company Ginn & Co. with his brother. They focused on textbooks, and published over 800 titles. Ginn wanted to better the world with his riches, so he founded the International School of Peace with a \$1,000,000 pledge. The purpose of the school was to promote peace and stop war in the world. Later the school was converted into the World Peace Foundation. Mr. Ginn also built low-income housing, shared profits with his employees, and opposed the mistreatment of animals.



## **Commemoration:**

Ginn purchased six acres of land near his own estate which he donated to the Metropolitan Parks Committee. This area was later acquired by the town of Winchester from the MPC. Ginn Field was developed as a sports facility and playground as part of a plan by landscape architect Herbert Kellaway. Funding for the complex was provided by Ginn. The field was dedicated in his honor in 1980, and the playground was recently renovated using funding raised by a community initiative.

# KNOWLTON STADIUM

Location:  
Off of  
Manchester  
Field, directly  
behind McCall  
Middle School

GIS Coord:  
42.44986303,  
-71.13566851

## **Biographical Information:**

Henry Theodore Knowlton was born on April 26, 1908 to parents Edwin Knowlton and Lottie Mills here in Winchester. When Knowlton was in his mid-late twenties, he moved out of his hometown to teach around New England, but never settled down in one place for very long, until he came back to Winchester.

## **Community Engagement:**

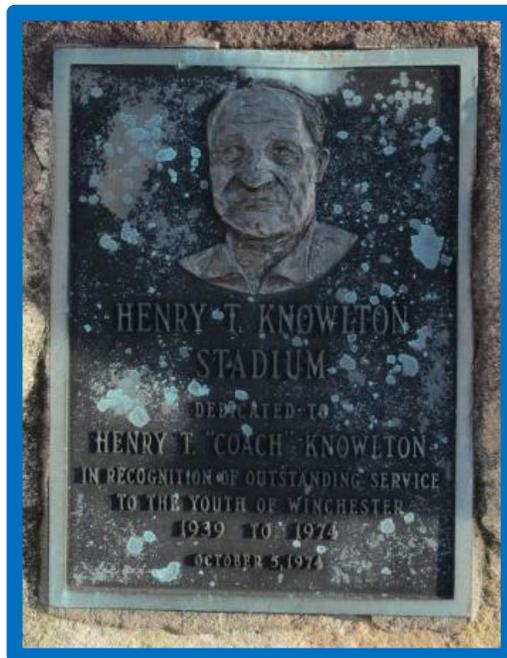
Back in Winchester, he became Director of Physical Education

and Football Coach at Winchester High School (WHS), establishing a fine record of wins, inspiring students, alums, and townspeople with his winning spirit. In 1961, Coach Knowlton was only the third person to receive the High School Football Coach of the Year Award from the Association of New England Football Officials. He received this award for not only having a fabulous record of wins, but also for holding the ethical brazier high and improving the lives of those he taught. At the presentation of this award, coach Knowlton said that receiving the award both gave him the thrill of his life, and made him feel very humble, as he felt that there were so many others who were more or equally deserving of the award. The town of Winchester loved coach Knowlton so much that they presented him with a new car at the beginning of one of the home games. Just five years later, beloved Coach Knowlton retired from his position of Head Coach of the football team with a record of 215 wins, 74 losses, and 17

ties, having led Winchester to four undefeated seasons over 27 years. Despite leaving the team to a new coach, Knowlton still stayed on as the Director of Physical Education, and the Director of Athletics for the town of Winchester. Knowlton ended his career as a coach on a high note, winning the last game of the season with a seasonal record of 5-3-1.

## **Commemoration:**

Knowlton died at the age of 72 on June 20, 1982. A section of Manchester Field was dedicated to Coach Knowlton just before Winchester faced Burlington in March of 1971. Today, Knowlton Stadium has received an update to the stands and green, now featuring enlarged stands and an Astro turf playing field for field hockey, soccer, and of course football.



# LEONARD FIELD

Location:  
Off of  
Washington  
Street near Cross  
Street

GIS Coord:  
42.464617,  
-71.12673535

## **Biographical Information:**

Augustus M. Leonard was born on August 27, 1895 to parents Mark Leonard, and Catherine Crowley in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and moved to Winchester soon after his birth. A popular member of Winchester High School class of 1914, “Gus” commenced work after graduation in the real estate field, where he was known for honesty and integrity.



## **Community Engagement:**

Leonard enlisted in the military May of 1918, joining the 314th Infantry Regiment of the 79<sup>th</sup> Division. Despite being given the option of staying in the States, Leonard decided that he would rather serve his country directly, and went to fight on the front lines. For a time Leonard was stationed at Fort Slocum, and later Fort Mead, where he received his training as a soldier. Leonard was sent to the front lines of WWI after just two months. Leonard’s time in the Army was cut short, as he died on September 28, that same year, to fragmentation from a shell blast. Mercifully, the fragment that killed Leonard passed through him so quickly that he was only alive for a few seconds after, allowing him a painless death. When Leonard died, the 314<sup>th</sup> was pushing for more ground in the area of Meuse Argonne, in Nantillois, close by to one of the sites of the battle of Verdun. Even though he may have died, Leonard’s fellow soldiers, fighting alongside the 313<sup>th</sup> and 316<sup>th</sup> regiments were able to advance the furthest into the front lines, past the Meuse River. Leonard was buried where he died, but later, his body was brought back to Massachusetts and reburied in Winchester.



## **Commemoration:**

Leonard was given a true military funeral when his remains returned to Winchester. Leonard had a field dedicated in his honor by the Legion Post, a society dedicated to honoring those of Winchester who fought in wars. Although the field was dedicated in Leonard’s honor, it was several years until the field received a plaque mounted on a granite boulder for all to see. Attractions at the field include soccer, tennis courts and a playground. Previously, the field was adjacent to a swimming area that

was made out of an old flood expansion area for the Aberjona River. However the swimming area was closed in the late 1980s due to water quality issues.

# MANCHESTER FIELD

Location:  
Off of the  
Mystic Valley  
Parkway, behind  
McCall Middle  
School

GIS Coord:  
42.45062433,  
-71.13643786

## **Biographical Information:**

Forrest Clyde Manchester was born in 1859 to father Albert B. Manchester and mother Elizabeth S. Sessions, in Randolph, Orange County, Vermont. He studied law at Boston University, and was admitted to the bar in 1885. That same year, he married Minnie L. Beard; they had one child, born in Winchester. Mr. Manchester was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eighth Congressional District Committee. He was also a progressive voice in the Republican Party representing Winchester in the State Legislature. He was one of Winchester's first park commissioners, and in addition was appointed a member of the Metropolitan (Boston) Park Commission by Governor Wolcott in 1898. He died from tuberculosis shortly after, in 1899. It is thought that bad clams were at fault. Mr. Manchester was 40 when he died, and lived in Winchester for only 10 years.



## **Community Engagement:**

The park itself was the personal project of Mr. Manchester, and its road to development would have been blocked if not for him. As part of a landscaping and beautification master plan, a recreational and athletic field was proposed where Manchester Field stands today. This site consisted of light industry (tanneries and currier shops) and a busy rail yard, all of which would need to be removed to make way for the park. Many residents did not want the businesses currently on the plot where the park was to be located to move, for fear of losing vital industries to nearby towns. These residents tried to convince the business owners not to move, telling them that the park was there for the upper classes' enjoyment and nothing more. The measure for a park was defeated.

At another meeting later on, the measure was taken up again and passed by a considerable margin. The park was delayed for another year because previously garnered funds were not available, notably those from the Boston City Council. The park was not finished until 1902, almost 10 years after it was proposed. Mr. Edwin Ginn helped in purchasing land from the businesses, promising to hand it over to the town when the park was in development, which he did. Overall, the park was a fantastic success, and is still named Manchester Field to this day. Mr. Manchester was an integral part of Winchester social life from when he arrived to when he died.



**Commemoration:**

Before the field's first restoration, it was an industrial area with factories and a train yard which encompassed both present day Manchester and Ginn field. Mr. Manchester was able to muster the support and funding for this project from: the city of Boston— because it wanted control over the Aberjona, the Metropolitan Park Commission—because they were interested in the creation of a parkway, and the town of Winchester—because it was interested in removing the factories and beautifying the land. In 1931, a memorial to Manchester was erected at Manchester Field. It is a bronze tablet, affixed to a large boulder near the park entrance from Mystic Valley Parkway. In 1940, the field was redesigned to accommodate the movement of the Aberjona River and the parkway so they were parallel to the train tracks by Ginn Field. The Field's usefulness has only expanded over the years, such that it now includes Knowlton Stadium, a newly placed track and field facility, the Mark Frattaroli Pride Park, basketball courts and a skateboard park.

# MCDONALD FIELD

Location:  
Between Wendel  
Street and Hill  
Street

GIS Coord:  
42.46393186,  
-71.14081639

## **Biographical Information:**

Elizabeth Cullen was born first generation in America on March 5, 1885 to parents James Cullen and Mary Maraghy in Winchester. In 1906, she started her career as a teacher in Woburn at Rumford School. At age 32, she was wedded to William Ellsworth McDonald Jr. on November 27. The newlyweds lived with her parents, and then moved to 10 Hill Street in Winchester. She and William raised their three children there.



## **Community Engagement:**

In 1911, Mrs. McDonald stopped teaching at a public school and started teaching Americanization courses out of Winchester High School. These classes were to teach new immigrants how to assimilate into their new communities. Possibly one of the factors of her decision to teach Americanization was that her parents had immigrated to America from Ireland in the 1800s. Although many of McDonald's pupils spoke little or no English when they came to her, she was known for being such an effective teacher that within a year, she went from teaching one night a week to five. Even through WWI, McDonald taught her classes, sometimes going to her students' houses to comfort them in the hard times. In addition to teaching, McDonald had an intense love for politics, and was known to be a regular at town meetings even before



women had the ability to vote. McDonald was strongly a Democrat— known to many as “Mrs. Democrat.” However, she was not purely partisan; she supported anyone if she believed they were in the right, whether or not the majority agreed. Many town offices were gained or lost by her dedication.

## **Commemoration:**

To the great sadness of Winchester, McDonald passed away on March 31, 1965 at age 80. In 1969, the field previously known as the Loring Avenue Playground was rededicated in her honor, and renamed McDonald Field.

# HERBERT MULLEN PLAYGROUND

Location:  
Off of  
Lockeland Road,  
by Ridge Street

GIS Coord:  
42.44201005,  
-71.17311158

## **Biographical information:**

Herbert Stanley “Babe” Mullen was born to parents Arthur J. Mullen and Clara G. York in 1906. He and his wife, Claire E. Hodgkins, had two children, a girl and a boy. Mr. Mullen lived in Winchester all his life and served the town in various ways, most notably as superintendent of Parks and Recreation from 1947 until his retirement in 1976. He died in 1980 after a long and full life. He was survived by six grandchildren.



## **Community Engagement:**

In addition to serving as Park Superintendant, Mr. Mullen was a special police officer, a member of Town Meeting and an honorary member of the Rotary Club. His retirement was celebrated with dinner and dancing, including speeches from notable people in the town.

## **Commemoration:**

On November 13, 1982, the Town of Winchester dedicated Mullen Field with a bronze plaque affixed to a large boulder. His career of beautifying his home town is remembered by a broad playing field with room for multiple soccer matches, a baseball diamond, a playground, and a hill beloved for winter sledding.



# NUTILE FIELD

Location:  
Off of  
Wildwood Street  
by Albamont  
Road

GIS Coord:  
42.45124214,  
-71.15956341

## **Biographical information:**

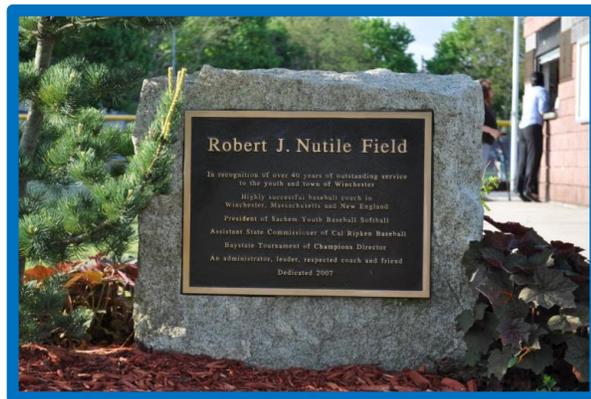
Robert John Nutile was born in Winchester, in 1949 to parents John and Edith Nutile. He grew up playing baseball through the Winchester youth program and continues to reside in Winchester as an adult. In 1977, he married Susan Marie Casey, also of Winchester.



## **Community Engagement:**

Mr. Nutile is strongly connected to Winchester, having lived in Winchester almost his whole life.

He embodies the spirit of volunteering, having donated his time to Winchester youth in the baseball program for over 40 years. His dedication to the kids he worked with showed to all of those around him, between the success of the teams he coached to the stories he tells about kids going back to the early 1980s. Mr. Nutile's accomplishments include two regional championships of Little League, one in 1982 and the other in 1992. He also served as the President of the Winchester youth baseball league, or SYBS, for 12 years. In 2012, Mr. Nutile was given the Lefty Gomez Volunteer Award, by Babe Ruth Baseball. The winner is selected from more than one million volunteers to youth baseball around the world.



## **Commemoration:**

In recognition of Nutile's contributions to the town, Town Meeting voted to name the collection of baseball fields near Mahoney's on the West side of town after him on April 24, 2007. Later that year, Winchester hosted the Regional tournament on Nutile Field. This can be seen as a symbolic salute to Nutile, to his work ethic, love of baseball, and devotion to the kids he coached.

The field was donated by Mahoney's Garden Center in the 1940s. Since then, the playing fields have transformed a swampy area into a centerpiece of the town's baseball program.

# EDWARD F. O'CONNELL VETERAN'S WAR MEMORIAL

Location:  
Next to Town  
Hall, 71 Mt.  
Vernon Street

GIS Coord:  
42.45295327,  
-71.13387099

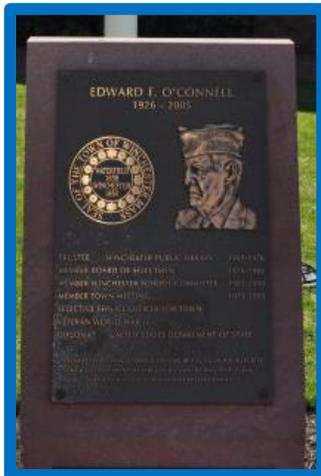
## **Biographical information:**

Edward F. O'Connell was born August 26, 1926. With his wife, Barbara, he raised his family in Winchester. Mr. O'Connell served our country in World War II as a technical sergeant in the US Army. He died March 1, 2005.

## **Community Engagement:**

Mr. O'Connell helped organize and run Winchester's Veteran's Day and Memorial Day Celebrations for over 30 years.

As a veteran himself, he was very committed to honoring and supporting veterans so that their contributions are remembered. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Winchester VFW. In addition to his work with veterans, Mr. O'Connell supplemented his career in academics and diplomacy by serving on the Board of Selectmen, Board of Library Trustees, and the School Committee. After O'Connell passed away in 2005, his widow, Barbara O'Connell continued the family tradition of organizing the parades.



the various wars and conflicts that have occurred since the Civil War. The park-like plaza is a place to visit and remember, as well as a place for memorial ceremonies on Veterans and Memorial Days.

## **Commemoration:**

On October 3, 2009, the newly-constructed plaza was dedicated to Mr. O'Connell's memory. The honor roll of veterans consists of six monument tablets which match the building materials from the adjacent Town Hall. There are over four thousand names of veterans who have represented Winchester in serving our country in

## WILLIAM S. PACKER – Packer-Ellis Courts

Location:  
Off of Palmer  
Street next to  
Borggaard  
Beach

GIS Coord:  
42.45323949,  
-71.14538607

### **Biographical information:**

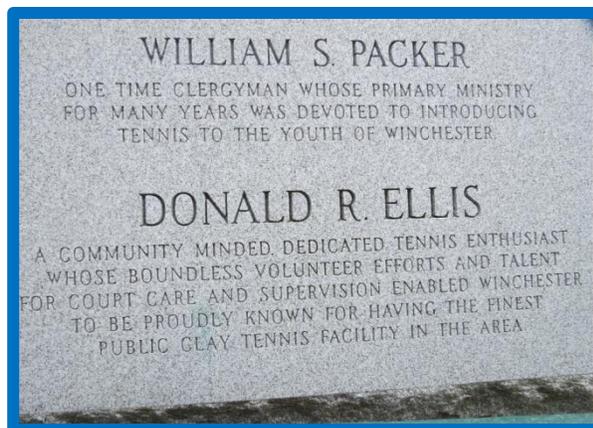
William Satterlee Packer was born on September 13, 1876 to parents William S. Packer, and Mary Jones in Baltimore, Maryland, and moved to Massachusetts in his 20s. Here he married his wife, Mary Frost, with whom he had five children. While in Massachusetts, Packer moved around frequently, staying in first Waltham, then Suffolk, then Arlington, and finally settling down in Winchester where he officially worked as a rector at the Church of Epiphany and wrote editorials for the Boston Globe.



### **Community Engagement:**

This career was not his greatest passion however— he had a dear love for tennis. Packer taught tennis to almost anyone who was willing to learn. His expertise was extended to the young and old, and most everyone in Winchester had him to thank for their skill at the game. Packer, was excited to have youth play any active sport, and was enthusiastic in helping Winchester High School extend its physical education unit for girls. In addition, Packer helped the town to install a skating rink, by suggesting that instead of clearing off a patch of a lake, they remove the posts of the tennis courts off of Palmer Street, spray water over the entire area, and run a pipe to the courts as to allow the rink to be sprayed regularly as long as it was not damaged.

Packer not only taught tennis, but also played it; he competed in as many tournaments as he could around Boston, and frequently won them. Packer also served as Winchester Park Commissioner, through which office he assisted in the improvement and construction of new tennis courts and other recreational facilities for the town.



### **Commemoration:**

Packer died in January, 1957. The tennis courts off of Palmer street, which he had suggested be used as a skating rink were named after him because of his tireless dedication in promoting tennis in Winchester, his love for the game, and his love of Winchester.

# QUILL CIRCLE

Location:  
In the rotary at  
the center of  
town

GIS Coord:  
42.45280939,  
-71.1370128

## **Biographical information:**

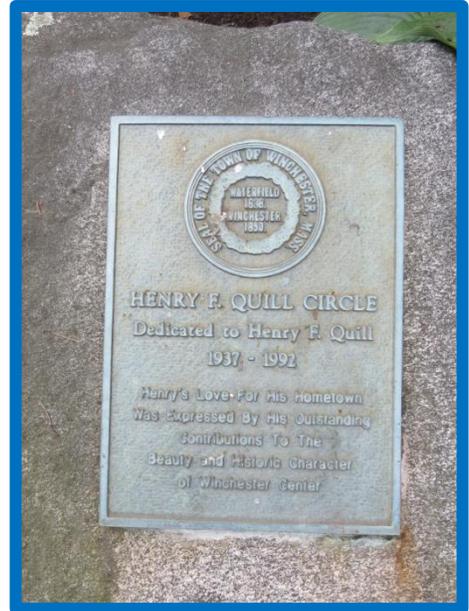
Henry Francis Quill Junior was born to parents Henry and Margaret in Winchester on August 10, 1937. He attended both Boston College and Suffolk University Law School, after which he went to work for the Cohen and Galvin law firm where he specialized in probate affairs. After spending several years working there, Quill left and started to work with Lawrence Murray and moved to Winchester. It was here in Winchester where he married his wife, Elinor Doherty with whom he had seven children.

## **Community Engagement:**

In 1972, Quill won the Outstanding Young Men of America Award, which was given each year to 8,000 men in America for outstanding service to their town and community. Quill served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce, and on the Park Committee.

## **Commemoration:**

Quill died on July 27, 1992, due to a tragic heart attack while on vacation.



# SANDY S. RODGERS ISLAND

Location:  
Behind Town  
Hall

GIS Coord:  
42.45247052,  
-71.13489216

## **Biographical information:**

Sandra (Sandy) Sheppard was born on July 28, 1937 to parents John Sheppard and Rose Jackson in Greenwich Connecticut. She married Alan G. Rodgers in 1959, and moved to Winchester in 1962, working as a landscape designer and philanthropist.



## **Community Engagement:**

Rodgers loved her new town, and helped to restore a small island behind the library to one of the most photogenic places in Winchester. In addition to helping the town with restoration projects, Rodgers served on the boards of many town committees, and received the Chamber of Commerce's 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Outstanding Citizen award. Many residents of Winchester are familiar with one of Rodgers' initiatives: the Adopt-an-Island program, where local businesses and citizens adopt a traffic island, and beautify it with various assortments of flowers and landscapes. While working with the Design Review Committee, Rodgers was able to receive funding to restore a field dedicated to another of Winchester's benefactors, Alfred Elliott, creating a field for him off of Main and Lake Street. In addition to the individual projects she worked on, Rodgers was able to inspire many others to take up the flag in the quest to beautify Winchester's parks and gardens.



## **Commemoration:**

Rodgers left her beloved husband and three children on March 30, 2003, after fighting a losing battle with cancer. To remember her, Winchester dedicated the beautiful island Rodgers worked on in her honor, naming it Sandy S. Rodgers Island.

## CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL

Location:  
Within  
Wildwood  
Cemetery

GIS Coord:  
42.45544,  
-71.14610

The construction of the Civil War monument found in Wildwood Cemetery was the first of several projects put on by the town of Winchester to honor its veterans. The monument was built using cannons donated to the town by the US government in 1883. These are arranged in a tripod atop a foundation with the names of the soldiers from Winchester who died in the Civil War.

It was finished in time for Decoration Day, now called Memorial Day. Because at the time of its construction it was the only war memorial in the town, the area it was built on became known as “the soldier’s lot.”



## CONVERSE BRIDGE

Location:  
On Main Street,  
crossing over the  
Aberjona River,  
to and from the  
Mystic Valley  
Parkway

GIS Coord:  
42.4517216,  
-71.13603356

Deacon Edward Converse built the first house in 1640 in what is now Winchester, and on the banks of the Aberjona River. Near his house he built a mill to harness the power of the Aberjona to grind corn. In 1641, colonial records indicate that a bridge was built across the river at this site, replacing a fording spot known as King's Ford. The bridge was built in the winter and for many years was known simply as the Main St. Bridge although over ensuing years it became known as Converse Bridge.



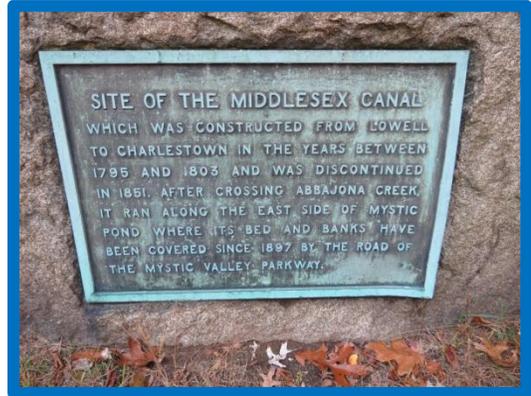
The bridge was very utilitarian, and constructed of concrete. In 1914, the town of Winchester decided to replace the Converse Bridge, as well as the Waterfield and Walnut Street Bridges, some of which were falling apart with age and use. The town hired landscape architect and engineer Herbert J. Kellaway to draw up plans for the bridges and create a park-like area around Mill Pond. In 1914-15 the dam was replaced with the current semi-circular design. During 2013, the Converse Bridge and Mill Pond Dam received additional repairs as part of ongoing projects to prevent flooding of the Aberjona River.

# MIDDLESEX CANAL

Location:  
Town Forest and  
at the  
intersection of  
Fletcher, Palmer,  
Wildwood, and  
Willow Streets

GIS Coord:  
42.43970663  
-71.14548495

Anyone who has lived in the town of Winchester has driven over the old canal hundreds of times and crossed it in one place or another a thousand times or more. But, few know the canal's story; what a story it could tell. It cut the town roughly in half running north to south, and was used as a barge canal connecting the Merrimack River with the port of Boston. When operational it was 30 feet wide, 3 feet deep, with 20 locks each 80 feet long and between 1- and 11 feet wide. It also had 8 aqueducts. The canal was one of the first civil engineering projects of its type in the United States, and was studied by engineers working on other major canal projects such as the Erie Canal. A number of innovations made the canal possible, including hydraulic cement, which was used to mortar its locks, and an ingenious floating tow path to span the Concord River.



The route of the canal was first surveyed in August of 1793. The basic plan was for the canal's principal water source to be the Concord River at its highest point in North Billerica, with additional water to be drawn as needed from Horn Pond in Woburn. The canal descended six miles to the Merrimack River in East Chelmsford (now western Lowell) and 22 miles to the Charles River in Charlestown. Freight boats required 18 hours to make it from Boston up to Lowell, and 12 hours down, thus averaging 2.5 miles per hour; passenger boats were faster, at 12 and 8 hours respectively (4 miles per hour). These speeds were maintained to prevent wakes from damaging the canal sides.



The canal was no longer economically viable after the introduction of railroad competition, and the company collected its last tolls in 1851. Although the canal is no longer running, the residents of Winchester and surrounding towns still can enjoy the old landmarks the canal left behind along with the history encapsulated in the canal's story.

## SEAL OF WINCHESTER

**Location:**

The intersection of Mt. Vernon and Washington Street, in the Jenk's Center parking lot

**GIS Coord:**

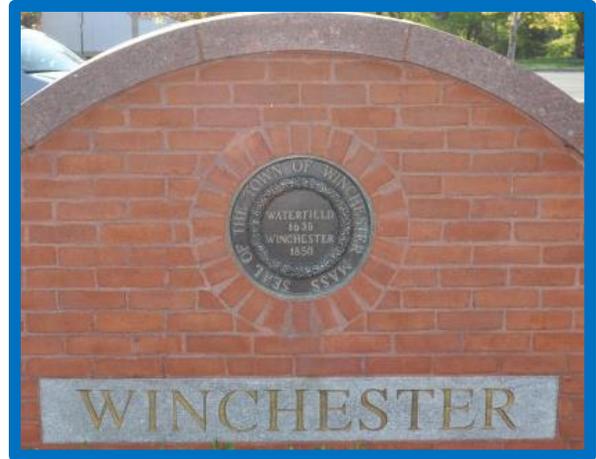
42.45328089,  
-71.13406034

**The Town Seal:**

The seal of Winchester is used on hundreds of public documents each year within the town government. The seal used today is only the second seal used in the history of Winchester; the first was designed in April of 1890, but there are no public documents that can be seen with the old seal on them.

The seal used today was designed by Edmund Garrett, and accepted just six years later in June of 1896. The new seal features two dates surrounded by a wreath of water lilies and field daisies: 1638 and 1850, commemorating when the town was first settled and when it was incorporated.

The first settlers of Winchester lead by Edward Converse arrived in 1638 from Charlestown where they created a mill by the Aberjona River. They named the area Waterfield, and it became a subset of Woburn for many years, in 1850 the area, along with sections of Medford and Cambridge, was named Winchester, and became recognized as its own town. Today, a bronze cast of the seal can be seen across from the Town Hall, mounted in a graceful brick wall donated by Ann Blackham, a realtor in Winchester.



## TOWN COMMON

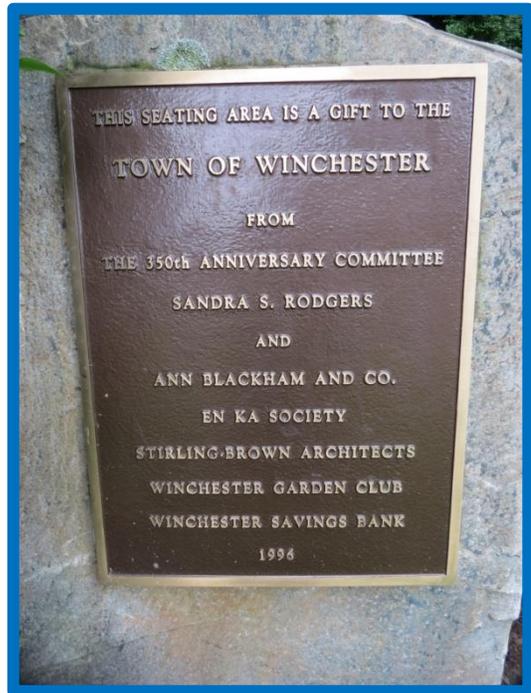
Location:  
Off of Church  
Street, by  
Waterfield Road

GIS Coord:  
42.45237659,  
-71.13800431

### ***The Common:***

Winchester's town green has been a beautiful place for many years. It was started when the town bought a portion of the old Converse Farm, cut off from the rest by the town's train tracks in 1867 for \$7,000. Briefly, it was a beautiful meeting place but over time, fell into disrepair. In 1875, \$750 was set aside to restore the green to its former glory, and for several years, the Common was kept in good health, with the introduction of a fountain, several trees, and keeping the lawn trimmed.

For several years, the fountain was stocked with goldfish of various sizes, some of them being quite large, by Park Commissioner Charles Lane; however they were removed because children would throw rocks at them. At times, the Common fell into disrepair, but due to budget issues, no effort was put forth to improve it. Pressure from the Village Improvement Association and later on the Rotary club encouraged the town to refocus on the park. Several trees were planted, another fountain put in, and the grass replanted. Today the common looks as good as it ever has, with a plaque dedicated to the benefactors who donated to the improvement of the Common, placed in 1988, and is a popular meeting place, just as the town intended.



## WAR MONUMENT

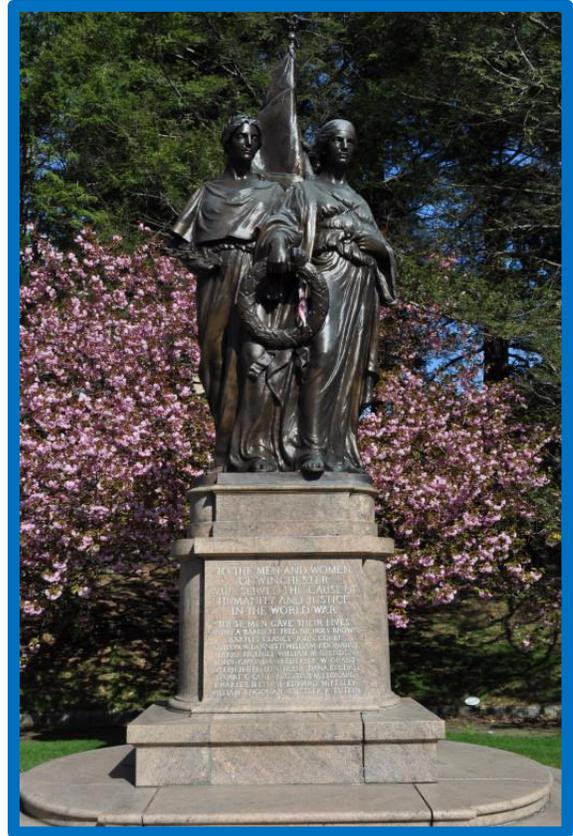
Location:  
At the  
intersection of  
Main Street and  
the Mystic  
Valley Parkway

GIS Coord:  
42.45300248,  
-71.13395373

During World War I, Winchester kept an honor roll of all members who enlisted to fight overseas. After the war was over, it was put into motion that a permanent memorial be erected to commemorate all members of the honor roll. At first, it was suggested to build a sports house on Manchester Field, something that could be used as well as a reminder of the lives taken in the Great War. However, this idea was soon overruled as it was agreed that such a construct would not show proper respect as those who the memorial was dedicated could be forgotten in its use.

A new committee was put to work which after two years of debate hired well known sculptor, Herbert Adams whose work has been displayed in the Massachusetts State House, the Library of Congress, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the National Gallery of Art, to design a statue. After some time, Adams presented his design of two elegant female figures, holding a wreath of laurel and a sheathed sword, both gracefully cloaked and standing atop a pedestal on which the names of those who served in the war would be carved.

The memorial was expected to be costly, and so the town looked for private donations to fund the monument's construction. Sadly, very little donations were found, and the project would have failed all together had it not been for Lewis Parkhurst, and the students enrolled in the Winchester public schools, who had taken particular interest in the erection of the monument. Eventually, a section of the high school, now Lincoln School, was set aside to be the site of the monument. On October 3, 1926 a ceremony was held to dedicate the monument, which included thirteen American Legion Posts marching in the parade and a salute by rifle squad at the moment of the unveiling.



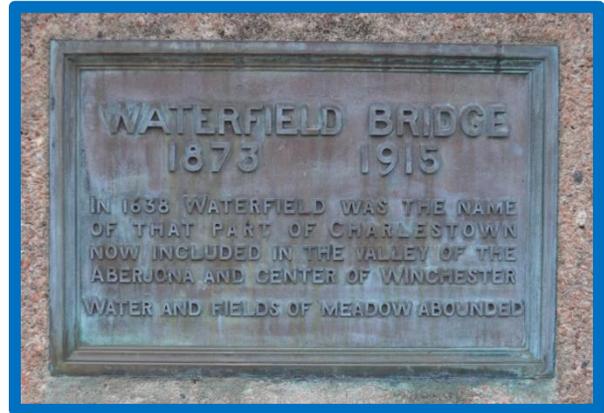
## WATERFIELD BRIDGE

Location:  
On Waterfield  
Road, crossing  
the Aberjona  
River, to and  
from the Mystic  
Valley Parkway

GIS Coord:  
42.45109013,  
-71.13672204

This bridge was named Waterfield in recognition of the early name of this town. It was named for the fields of water lilies that grew in boggy areas. In 1914, the town of Winchester decided to replace the Waterfield Bridge, as well as the Converse and Walnut Street Bridges, some of which were falling apart with age and use. The town hired landscape architect and engineer Herbert J. Kellaway to draw up plans for the bridges and create a park-like area near the center of the town following the Aberjona.

During 2013, the Converse Bridge and Mill Pond Dam received additional repairs as part of ongoing projects to prevent flooding of the Aberjona River.



# WRIGHT-LOCKE FARM

Location:  
78 Ridge Street

GIS Coord:  
42.44166096,  
-71.17418792

## **Biographical information:**

Philemon Wright was born on September 3, 1760 to parents Thomas Wright and Elizabeth Chandler. The Wright family had chosen to move to America in 1630 and ended up living in Charlestown. Several years later John Wright went with the forty men led by Edward Converse to establish a new community in what is today Winchester. John staked out a claim of land, which for generations was the main food source of the Wright family.



Philemon Wright was born 180 years later, and the first known record of him other than a birth certificate was his record of serving in the revolutionary war, where he became a sergeant at the age of 17. While Wright grew in age, he realized that his small farm would not be enough to support the growing needs of his family, and so went to explore Montreal, Canada, in an attempt to gain more land. After going to Canada to explore several times, Wright hired two men to carve out a piece of land. When he left, Wright sold his land to his neighbor, Josiah Locke. When the Wright family arrived at their new land, they were greeted by a friendly Native American tribe, who were awed by the tools used by the party. Eventually they adopted Wright as a brother-chief. Over time, the small settlement became a village that village became a town, and that town became a city known as Hull. Wright lived in the city as an active member of the community until his death in 1839.

## **Commemoration:**

In 1980, Canada presented the plaque to commemorate Wright's exploration and settlement of Canada to Bertha Hamilton and Sarah Thornton Wright, a direct descendant of John Wright, to be placed outside of the farm owned by first the Wright family, then the Locke family for generations.



## SITE OF THE FIRST HOUSE – Edward Converse

Location:  
On Main Street,  
by Converse  
Bridge and  
Converse Place

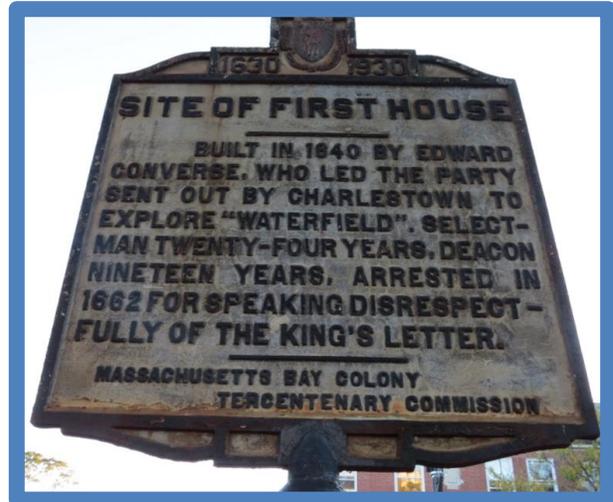
GIS Coord:  
42.45192345,  
-71.13614366

### **Tercentennial Markers:**

In 1920, the state of Massachusetts had its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Tercentennial markers were placed in celebration of this by the State Department of Public Works to commemorate the history of how Massachusetts was settled, and how the towns came to be.

### **Text of Tercentennial Marker:**

Built in 1640 by Edward Converse, who led the party sent out by Charlestown to explore "Waterfield." Selectman twenty-four years, deacon nineteen years, arrested in 1662 for speaking disrespectfully of the King's letter.



## JOHN HARVARD'S LAND

Location:

At the  
Intersection of  
Washington and  
Forest Streets

GIS Coord:

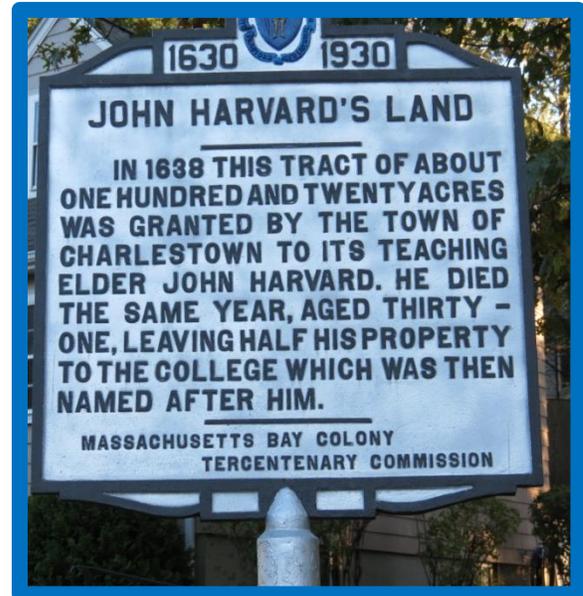
42.46731489,  
-71.12534584

### **Tercentennial Markers:**

In 1920, the state of Massachusetts had its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Tercentennial markers were placed in celebration of this by the State Department of Public Works to commemorate the history of how Massachusetts was settled, and how the towns came to be.

### **Text of Tercentennial Marker:**

In 1638 this tract of about one hundred and twenty acres was granted by the town of Charlestown to its Teaching Elder John Harvard. He died the same year, aged thirty-one, leaving half his property to the College which was then named after him.



## INCREASE NOWELL'S FARM

Location:  
No longer  
known

### **Tercentennial Markers:**

In 1920, the state of Massachusetts had its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Tercentennial markers were placed in celebration of this by the State Department of Public Works to commemorate the history of how Massachusetts was settled, and how the towns came to be.

### **Text of Tercentennial Marker:**

Increase Nowell, nephew to a Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, and an original officer of the Massachusetts Bay Company, emigrated with Winthrop, settled in Charlestown and served as assistant of the Colony until his death in 1655. This farm was granted to him in 1638.

No photo of this marker is available because the marker is missing.

## SQUAW SACHEM'S RESERVATION

Location:  
Previously  
located on  
Cambridge  
Street near  
Upper Mystic  
Lake (sign now  
removed)

### **Tercentennial Markers:**

In 1920, the state of Massachusetts had its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Tercentennial markers were placed in celebration of this by the State Department of Public Works to commemorate the history of how Massachusetts was settled, and how the towns came to be.

### **Text of Tercentennial Marker:**

The Squaw Sachem of the Nipmucs sold (1639) all her people's land excepting "the ground west of the two great ponds called the Mysticke Ponds, for the Indians to plant and hunt upon, and the weare above the ponds for the Indians to fish at."

No photo of this marker is available because the marker is missing.

## SYMMES FARM

Location:

At the intersection of Bacon, Grove, and Main Streets

GIS Coord:

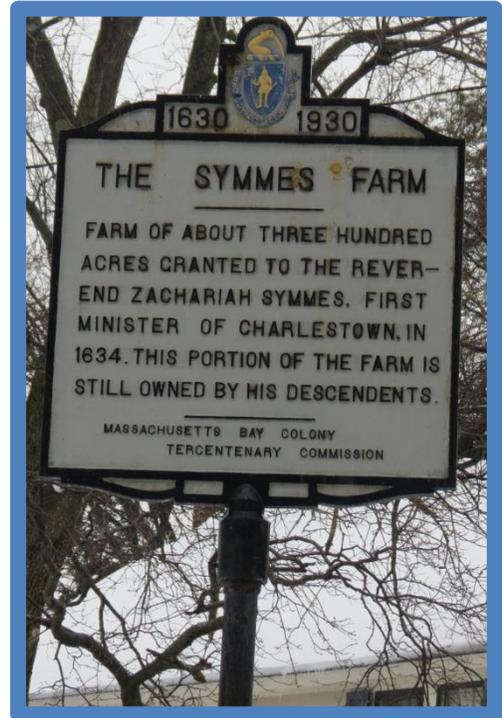
42.44258362,  
-71.13568546

### **Tercentennial Markers:**

In 1920, the state of Massachusetts had its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Tercentennial markers were placed in celebration of this by the State Department of Public Works to commemorate the history of how Massachusetts was settled, and how the towns came to be.

### **Text of Tercentennial Marker:**

Farm of about three hundred acres granted to the Reverend Zachariah Symmes, first minister of Charlestown, in 1634. This portion of the farm is still owned by his descendants.



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