

## Veterans' Day November 11, 2015

The older students at the Jennie Blake School participated in a special program for Veterans' Day, presented by the Hill Historical Society members.



HONORING  
THE MEN AND WOMEN  
OF THIS COMMUNITY  
WHO SERVED IN  
THE ARMED FORCES OF  
THE UNITED STATES

1928  
THIS MONUMENT  
WAS ERECTED BY  
THE CITIZENS OF HILL  
AS A MEMORIAL  
TO HER LOCAL SONS

The original Veterans' commemorative stone was erected on Main Street in the Old Village in 1928. It honored Hill residents who had served in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the World War. In 1940, it was moved up to its present location in front of the pond on Crescent Street.

It should be noted that the title on that original marker states that it honors those who served in "the World War" (would that the 1928 hope that the fighting would really be "the war to end all wars"!).

*This photo was taken  
at the dedication of the  
original monument in  
the old village in 1928.*

From the archives of the  
Hill Historical Society



In 1999, Hill Eagle Scout Brent Stanley spearheaded the massive project to research all veterans who had served in conflicts since World War I for the purpose of up-dating the Hill Veterans' monuments. The final research results of all the non-computerized records were presented at the Town Meeting in 2000. Brent also campaigned to raise the needed funds to pay for the additional stones and engravings.

A ceremony was held on Veterans' Day 2000 to re-dedicate the two complementary granite markers and bronze plaque that honor those Hill residents who had served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam conflict.

Previously the students had received photos of the many men and women who had served in the Second World War. Most of these are pictured in uniform, and some are in their "civies".

One of very funny photos shows Forrest "Foddy" Wilson and Glen Eaton dressed up rather strangely) and seated on a tandem bicycle. They were helping to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary party honoring Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Gilbert (parents of Rachel Francis, another WWII veteran) by riding between aisles in the Town Hall Auditorium while singing "On a Bicycle Built for Two". It just goes to show the spirit of patriotism AND fun that has characterized those who lived in Hill.



The students held a post-card photo of Dana Rounds identified as being "somewhere in France". His small pocket diary recorded his experiences, detailing the boredom of the soldiers that was punctuated with the fierce fighting.

Dana Rounds returned to Hill after the war to run the village store with his wife.

Also included in the program was the reading of an essay that Dana Rounds wrote for a "Big Moment" contest dated April 9 (probably after returning home in 1919). This wonderful account shows the courage, the camaraderie and the true grit of "our boys".



### “Ducking a Creeping Barrage”

During the days of the middle to latter part of the month of July 1918 the Machine Gun Co., 103<sup>rd</sup> Inf. together with all of the other fighting units of the 26<sup>th</sup> Division saw some tough fighting in the Belleau Woods section. On the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> the two remaining members besides myself of the Third Squad of this Co. were very glad when we received orders to dig in for the night and try to get some much needed rest. We dug a shallow trench and piled in one on top of the other and stayed in that position most of the time during the rest of the night to protect ourselves from the heavy shell fire of the rear guard of the then hard pressed Germans. About 5:30 on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> the artillery of the German Army started a creeping barrage in our direction. As it came nearer and nearer to our positions Lieutenant Mason who was in charge of our section gave the order to fall back about 100 yards to a ravine from which we could get some natural protection. (Incidentally this was the last order that Lieutenant Mason ever gave as he remained to see that all his men fell back to the protecting ravine and was caught in the barrage and gave his all there. A brave man and a fine officer.) When we received the order to fall back we all scrambled from our holes and started for the ravine. We had hardly got away from the hole when the Fellow who had been lying on the bottom fell and seemed unable to regain his feet. The other fellow and myself thinking that that he had been hit by sharpnel (shrapnel) from one of the shells which were falling all around us called to him that we were coming to help him. Before we could get to him he regained his feet and went by running like anyone can with High Explosives behind them and possible protection in front of them. He had not been hit but had temporarily lost the use of his legs due to the fact that our weight had been on them most of the night causing them to go to sleep. It was a Big Moment for me when I realized that my Buddy had not been hit.