

OAK HILL SOLDIERS MONUMENT HISTORY

MEMORIAL DAY.

Program for Memorial Day Exercises by Grand Army and Relief Corps.

The 30th of May, the day set apart to pay tributes of respect to our soldiers dead, falls on Saturday this year and the Grand Army Post and Relief Corps have made arrangements for its proper observance. The program as arranged is:

The members of the Post and Relief Corps will meet at their hall at 10 a.m., for distribution of bouquets, and proceed to Greenwood cemetery. Assemble at the gates at 10:30, form in line and march to soldiers monument, where the usual memorial services will be held.

Dinner will be served in the G. A. R. hall for the members of the Post and Relief Corps and their families. Ten cents will be charged.

At 1:30 p.m., the Post will form in front of the G. A. R. hall and march to Oak Hill cemetery, where a soldier's monument will be unveiled and dedicated. The dedicatory address will be delivered by the Post commander, Hon. W. B. Perrin, followed by the unveiling of the monument and the flag salute given by the pupils of the intermediate department under Miss Linna Noble.

Addresses will be made by Miss Grace Bullen and C. E. Luce.

Miss Agnes Ernwine will give a recitation and there will be music by a mixed quartet.

Speakers from abroad are expected.

A detail from the Grand Army Post will visit Beck Cemetery [now Riverton], arriving there at 9 a.m., to decorate the soldiers graves in that burying ground.

The pupils of the schools are invited to attend the dedicatory exercises at Oak Hill.

-The Nashua Reporter and Weekly Nashua Post – May 21, 1903 -

THE SOLDIER'S MONUMENT.

We had the pleasure of a drive out to beautiful Oak Hill cemetery yesterday in company with Geo. W. Hawkins, president of the board of trustees, to view the new soldiers' monument, just erected. The monument is a beautiful piece of statuary, represent a soldier standing with a gun at parade rest. The monument stands at almost the highest point in the cemetery and faces the north with a 30 foot drive around the park in which it stands. On a foundation of cement is set a base of granite on which is a block of marble with the words, "In Memory of our Deceased Soldiers." Above this is the figure of the soldier, six feet two inches in height and cut in one piece from Bedford Granite. The figure alone weights 1,500 pounds. It is as fine a monument to the

memory of our departed soldiers as can be found in any cemetery around, and those who selected it made a good selection.

-The Nashua Reporter and Weekly Nashua Post – May 28, 1903-

America's Departed Heroes Remembered by Their Living Comrades.

The Thin Line of Blue.

Not as they marched in days of yore.
When strong in war's array;
Not with the same swift eagerness
They press along the way.
For there is weariness of age,
In numbers they are few;
Instead of hosts there now is seen
A weak thin line of blue.

The drummers beat a slower time
For those now following;
The trumpeters their ardor check
And mark the slower swing.
For to the blue-clad ranks behind
There's slackening of pace.
And painful is the stride that once
Was made with ease and grace.

But though these heroes' heads are gray
And slower is their tread.
The same old spirit animates
As when they boldly led.
And though they lack the old-time dash,
Their hearts are just as true
As when they with comrades marched,
A mighty host in blue.

And so again the treasured flag,
Though dimmed by time and torn,
Is taken from its resting place
And by them proudly borne.
Again they march to beat of drum,
Though lacking swing of yore,
And rev'rently they deck the graves
Of comrades gone before.

Again come back the memories
Of those long years of strife.
When comrades all around them fell
To save the nation's life.
And tears are coming to their eyes
As once again they view

The lines of thickly-clustered graves
Of those who wore the blue.

The line of blue is thinning out,
The heroes feeblers grow.
Their heads now show the signs of age,
Their steps are short and slow;
But still they march to beat of drum,
Still reverently they pay
Their tribute to the nation's dead
When comes Memorial Day.

-Pittsburg Chronicle Telegram.

There was no smiling sun nor balmy air on Saturday morning to greet those who came to town to enjoy a holiday and to help by their presence at the exercises the remembering of our honored dead who sleep beneath the sod. However, it matters not much to the rapidly lessening quota of comrades yet remaining with us whether or not the skies are dark and the wind chilly. Much used to exposure, the grizzled vets were our in force to step again to the sound of fife and drum and to deposit their tribute of flowers on the flag-marked spots in our cemeteries which mark the last resting places of the growing army. The Grand Army Post was ably assisted in paying tribute of love to their departed comrades by their noble auxiliary, the Relief Corps.

A detail of veterans visited the Beck Cemetery [Riverton Cemetery] at 9 o'clock, and at 10:30 memorial exercises were held at Greenwood, where an appropriate address was delivered by Rev. A. D. Stevens.

More elaborate exercises were held in Oak Hill cemetery in the afternoon on account of dedicating the handsome new soldiers' monument, a description of which we gave in our last issue, and which now adorns that beautiful cemetery. After a patriotic song by a quartet and invocation by Rev. Edwin Ewell a detail of pupils from Miss Noble's room of the Nashua Schools marched around the shaft, each pupil carrying a flag, and executed their beautiful flag drill and salute, as the monument was unveiled. Wm. B. Perrin, commander of the local post, followed with a dedicatory address. Other addresses commemorative of the event, by C. E. Luce and Miss Grace Bullen, and a recitation by Miss Agnes Ernwine, interspersed with music, were leading features of the dedication.

The ritualistic memorial ceremony by the post and the decoration of graves concluded the program of the day.

-The Nashua Reporter and Weekly Nashua Post – June 04, 1903
