

FORM C - MONUMENTS



Town Chelmsford
 Street Vinal Square
 Name World War I Monument
 Original Owner Town of Chelmsford
 Present Owner Town of Chelmsford
 Date Constructed 1922
 Date Dedicated _____
 Source of Date Town Meeting records
 Builder _____
 Designer or Sculptor J.M. Pinard, Lowell
 City _____ Individual or group responsible for monument
 if other than owner _____

CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved* Altered _____
 IMPORTANCE of monument to area: Great Moderate None _____
 MONUMENT endangered by: _____

LOCATION OF INSCRIPTION: Plaque on wall, house, post; base of monument; other _____

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION on monument: North side: (Top)To the glory of God and in grateful memory of the men of Chelmsford who made the supreme sacrifice in the World War 1917-1919 (Lower)The tumult and the shouting dies, The Captains and the Kings depart. Lord God of Hosts, Be with us yet, Lest we forget - lest we forget. (See attached sheet)

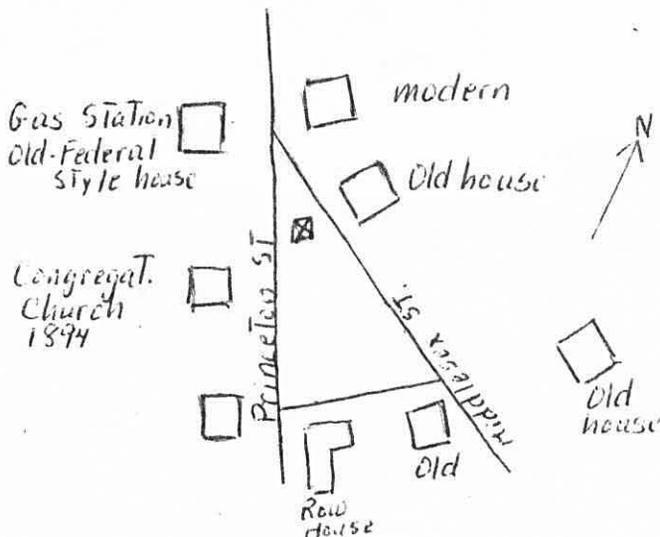
DESCRIPTION**

Foundation: Pedestal Base None Material granite slab
 Material: Bronze Stone Marble Granite Wood Other _____
 Setting (surroundings) It is placed at the north end of Vinal Square
 Size (approximate) ca 15 feet high

Indicate location of monument on map below

Recorder Jane B. Drury
 For Chelmsford Historical Commission
 (Name of Organization)

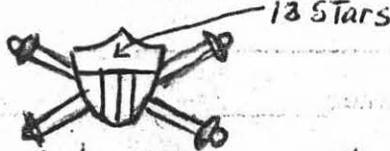
Photo D-73 Date Received _____



* If the monument has been moved, indicate the original location on the reverse side.
 ** Describe the monument on the reverse side.

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER AND/OR DESIGN OF MONUMENT

North Side - upper section



West Side - upper section



South Side - upper section



East Side - upper section

crossed swords

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF MONUMENT. (Refer to the theme circled on front of form. What happened? Who was important? Comment)

In the town meetings of Feb. & July 1922 it was "voted to raise and appropriate \$3000 for the erection of a granite monument on the Common at North Chelmsford (at the same Feb. meeting this common, formerly known as Stevens Corner, was renamed Vinal Square, in honor of Private Alberton W. Vinal of North Chelmsford, who was killed in France) in memory of the men of Chelmsford who gave their lives in the World War" (I)....."while in the military service of the United States."

REFERENCE: (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

Chelmsford Town Meeting Records:
Feb. 13, 1922 -Article 28, 29
July 27, 1922 -Article 5

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No:
Property Name: World War I Monument	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Inscription of Monument: Top part

West Side

Wagoner
Alberton W. Vinal
Enlisted
Co. K 6th Inf. Mass. N.G.
Transferred
101st Eng. Train. 26th Div. U.S.A.
Apr. 13, 1917
Killed in Action at Bouco, France
June 19, 1918

~~South Side~~

South Side

Corporal
George R. Quessy
Enlisted
Btry. B. 2nd F.A. Mass. N.G.
Transferred
Btry F. 102nd F.A. 26th Div. U.S.A.
April 16, 1917
Killed in Action at Gloveaux France
Nov. 1, 1918

East Side

Lieutenant
Egbert F. Tetley
Commissioned
Aug. 15, 1917
Assigned to
Co. C 47th Inf. 4th Div. U.S.A.
Killed in Action at Bazoches France
Aug. 10, 1918

South Side - in lower right corner of the base:

J.M. PINARD MFR.
LOWELL, MASS.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Vinal Square & Monument

Chelmsford Town Meeting, Feb. 13, 1922:

Under Article 28, voted to rename Stevens Corner, so-called, at the North Village, as a memorial to Private W. Vinal, a World War soldier who lost his life in the service; said corner to be known as the Alberton W. Vinal Square.

*Should read Private Alberton W. Vinal

Under Article 29, voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3000 for the erection of a granite monument on the Common at North Chelmsford in memory of the men of Chelmsford who gave their lives in the World War, and that the committee be given full power to procure plans and specifications erect said monument and suitable inscriptions thereon; said inscriptions to contain the names of all who made the supreme sacrifice, including the name of Arthur Ayotte and that any further additional names be left to the committee for their consideration. The following committee was chosen to carry out the purpose of this article: E. Ambrose Jenkins, Mark Ingham, John J. Monahan, Williston Carll and John J. Garvey.

Chelmsford Special Town Meeting, July 27, 1922:

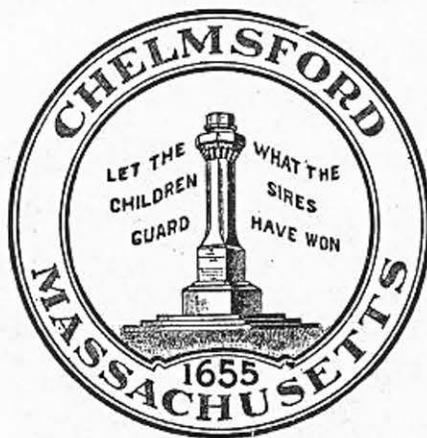
Under Article 5, voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3000 for the erection of a granite monument on the Common at North Chelmsford in memory of the men of Chelmsford who gave their lives in the World War, and that the Committee be given full power to procure plans and specifications, erect said monument and place suitable inscriptions thereon, said inscriptions to contain the names of all who made the supreme sacrifice while in the military service of the United States.

Chelmsford Special Town Meeting, July 2, 1923:

Under Article 4, voted to appropriate from money already in the hands of the Treasury the sum of \$323,76 with which to pay unpaid bills for the grading of the ground around the Monument on the Common at North Chelmsford.

WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION

GIVEN IN HONOR OF THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS
and NURSES of CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
WHO SERVED IN THE WORLD WAR



TUESDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH OF JUNE
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

General Program

- 10.00 A. M.—Parade at North Chelmsford.
- 12.00 (noon)—Dinner served in Tent on Common, North Chelmsford.
- 2.00 P. M.—Exercises on Common, North Chelmsford. Presentation of Medals.
- 6.00 P. M.—Supper served in Tent on Common, North Chelmsford, and in Town Hall, Chelmsford Centre.
- 7.30 P. M.—Community Sing, Common, Chelmsford Centre, under the direction of Albert Edmund Brown.
- 8.00 P. M.—Band Concerts, Common, North Chelmsford, and Chelmsford Centre.
- 8.00 P. M.—Concerts in Chelmsford Centre and North Chelmsford Town Halls.
- 9.00 P. M.—Grand Ball in Chelmsford Centre and North Chelmsford Town Halls.

Welcome

Chelmsford welcomes her returning heroes, the twelve score men and more who on the battle fields of France helped to

“Weave the warp and weave the woof,
The winding-sheet of *Prussia's* race.”

And in thus doing they failed not to

“Give ample room and verge enough
The characters of hell to trace.”

The glory of their triumph is our song today.

No splendid arch is here raised aloft to stand as valor's monument, but builded in the memory of this generation there rises a column beautiful in form and firm in structure which pictures well the mighty work of American arms, the staying of the onrushing wave of Teutonic barbarity, the victory of right over might, the ushering in of a new era of peace and justice for all the world.

In eastern symbolism the Nation is represented by the tree, of which the leaves are the lives of men, renewed generation after generation, and by which the tree breathes and grows. Its fruit, which burdens and exhausts, is the work men do. And so, speaking of our own beloved country, it is true to say

that the leaves of the tree have been for the healing of the nations, our own included, and its fruit, in this instance, shall be preserved as wholesome food for the sustenance of future ages. This fruit has burdened the nation, but its inherent life shall bear other and still better fruit. To the bringing forth of good works our returning soldiers call us.

Those who come not back, those whose dust enriches some part of France, and makes it forever American, speak to us in still louder accents. They make us ask ourselves, "Are we worth dying for?" We must manifest in our lives the spirit they displayed in their deaths; we must live for the things for which they died—Honor, Justice, Righteousness—these must be woven into the warp and woof of the new life of the nation and the world in the golden characters of heaven.

—*By the Rev. Wilson Waters.*



Chelmsford's Roll of Honor

Abrahamson, Frederick E.
Abrahamson, Paul T.
Adams, Adelbert B.
Adams, Alfred E.
Adams, Donald F.
Adams, E. Fred
Adams, Robert H.
Anderson, Alfred
Anderson, Emile
Armitage, Joe H.
Atherton, William G.
Ayotte, Arthur J.

Baldwin, William H.
Ball, Frank O.
Ballinger, Raymond
Barris, Arthur
Barnes, Walter E.
Battye, William
Benson, John A.
Bergsten, George H.
Berg, Ralph A.
Bishop, Frederick J.
Blaisdell, Glen R.
Blakeslee, Marshall E.
Booth, Ira M.
Boulter, Edward P.
Boucher, Leo A.
Boucher, Edmund J.
Boucher, Alfred
Bridgford, Ernest W.
Bridgford, John W.
Brown, William
Buchannon, John J.
Burne, Edwin L.
Burns, Ella M.
Butler, Gordon E.
Byam, Edwin Colby

Cahey, John
Cahey, William
Callahan, Alexander
Callahan, Paul L.
Callahan, Stephen
Carll, Williston
Carll, Arthur N.

Careson, Edward O.
Careson, Herbert W.
Carlson, Nels B.
Clough, Walter F.
Colpitts, Fred M.
Cooke, Archibald
Cooke, Arthur
Corson, Harold B.
Courtney, Alexander J.
Crease, Albert E.
Crocker, James H.
Crockett, Russell L.
Cummings, John J.
Cunningham, John
Curran, Thomas C.
Curran, William M.

Dearth, Emery R.
DeKalb, Francis L.
Devine, Elizabeth C.
Dix, John A.
Douglas, Charles E.
Downing, Henry J.
Duffy, George H.
Duncan, Augustus E.
Dunigan, John J.

Eaton, Olive G.
Elliott, Henry S.
Ellis, Charles A.
Emerson, Breck
Erwin, Joseph C.
Erwin, John P.

Fallon, Joseph T.
Ferris, Valentine E.
Files, Guy G.
Fisher, Austin L.
Fisher, Roy W.
Flodin, Gustaf
Fox, Leo F.
Fox, Edward M.
French, Thomas F.
French, Joseph P.
Frye, Ellsworth W.

Gagnon, Alfred
Gagnon, George E.
Garvey, Frank J.
Garvey, John J.
Gilbert, Frederick
Gill, Jesse B.
Gladu, Claude E.
Gleason, John
Grady, Henry
Graham, Joseph
Graham, John H.
Grantz, Herman
Green, Thomas
Green, James
Green, Harry
Greenwood, Percy C.
Greenwood, Fred R.
Griffiths, William J.
Guillardety, Adalard
Guerin, Albert O.

Haberman, Ralph A.
Hackett, James H.
Hafey, John F.
Hamilton, Thomas
Harris, Everett E.
Harrington, James A.
Harrington, Frances M.
Harrington, John J.
Hartley, Madeline L.
Hazeltine, Guy
Hildrith, Raymond C.
Hill, Elmer R.
Hills, Charles H.
Hills, Arthur H.
Hobson, Frank E.
Hodge, Harold B.
Holbrook, John A.
Hollis, James A.
Howe, James A.
Hylan, Malcolm

Johnson, John E.
Johnson, Wilhelm T.

Kasinsky, James
Kerins, John J.
Kiberd, James
Knox, Harold B.

Labarre, Alfred
LaFrance, Henry J.
Lakin, Edward C.

Lakin, Leroy T.
Lamphier, Malcomb
Lane, Charles W.
Lapham, Nathan G.
Lavell, Joseph F.
Leclerc, Frank
Leclerc, Hector
L'Hereaux, Alpha
Lippincott, Rev. H. L.
Lloyd, Samuel R.
Lafstedt, Adolphus O.
Lafstedt, Magnos
Lyons, Richard A.

McCann, Vincent
McCombs, Chester R.
McCombs, Willis L.
McEnaney, Leo H.
McEnaney, Owen F.
McMaster, Charles H.
McGillian, Charles S.
McGrath, Hugh F.
Manseau, Napoleon T.
Meagher, John J.
Merrill, Harry
Miller, Anthony W.
Mills, Forest A.
Miner, Henry V.
Mullen, James
Murphy, John L.
Monahan, John C.
Monahan, Walter T.
Moore, Claud L.

Naylor, Edwin L.
Nasutowicz, Adam
Nasutowicz, Peter
Nelson, Axel M.
Nichols, George O.
Noble, Lloyd S.
Noble, Henry C.
Nystrom, Carl E.
Nystrom, Gustave A.

O'Brien, Michael A.
O'Neil, Walter E.

Paignon, Pierre
Paignon, Francois J.
Palley, Arthur W.
Park, Quincy B.
Parkhurst, Charles E., Jr.
Pearson, Arthur W.

Perry, John L.
Perham, Sidney C.
Pickard, Ray H.
Pope, George X.
Pope, Leo R.
Prince, Warren T.

Queen, Clifford H.
Quinn, Martin J.
Quinn, Henry G.

Ramsbottom, George
Ramsbottom, Thomas
Reed, Mark W.
Reedy, John J.
Rennard, George O.
Reno, Alfred W.
Roark, Thomas E.
Robarge, Theodore
Robertson, Richard G.
Robinson, Bertram F.
Rouleau, Norton E.
Russell, Frederic
Russell, Robert D.
Rutyna, John
Ryan, William J.

Sargent, Raymond E.
Saunders, John A.
Scoboria, Glendon A.
Scott, Charles
Sheehan, Francis J.
Shevlin, James
Shinkwin, Robert P.
Sigel, Frederick W.
Silk, Nelson Miles
Simard, Alfred

Simard, Emery P.
Sleeper, Joseph N.
Spaulding, Jacob Ira
Sullivan, Joseph F.
Swallow, George N., Jr.
Swanson, Mabel E.
Swanson, Paul F.
Sweeney, Arthur W.
Sweeney, Charles J.
Sweeney, George M.
Sweeney, Edward J.
Sweetser, Hosmer W.

Taylor, William A.
Taylor, Charles A.
Tetley, Egbert F.
Thing, Carey
Trembley, George
Tripp, David
Trubey, Clarence A.
Trubey, Cyril C.
Tucke, Edward D.

Valentine, John H.
Vinal, Alberton W.

Walsh, William
Walsh, Frank B.
Webb, John C.
Welsh, William
Westberg, Carl
Westberg, John
Wheeler, Leslie C.
Wood, Waldo L.
Woodhead, Joseph A.
Wright, Samuel T.



Parade

AT NORTH CHELMSFORD

Chief Marshal, SERGT. WALTER T. MONAHAN

ROSTER OF PARADE

CHELMSFORD POLICE

CHIEF MARSHAL

AIDS

SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND NURSES OF WORLD WAR

SPANISH WAR VETS.

G. A. R.

TRAINING SCHOOL BAND

LOCAL BRANCH RED CROSS

VICTORY GIRLS

STATE GUARD

BAND (STONYBROOK CARBONIZING Co.)

SCHOOL CHILDREN

ST. JOHN'S T. A. S.

DRUM AND FIFE CORPS

CONGREGATIONAL BROTHERHOOD

COURT WANNALANCIT, 171, M. C. O. F.

U. S. WORSTED Co., SILESIA MILLS

CHELMSFORD V. I. A.

ROUTE OF PARADE

Form at Town Hall, Princeton St. Princeton St. to Church St., to Middlesex, to Quigley Ave., to Mt. Pleasant, to Princeton, to Mill St., to Middlesex, to Cottage Row, to Washington, to Newfield, to Groton Road, to Common.

Dinner

SERVED TO SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND NURSES
at 12 (noon) in Tent on Common, North Chelmsford

MENU

ROAST TURKEY

Brown Sauce

Mashed Potatoes

Green Peas

BANANA FRITTERS

Wine Sauce

MACARONI AND CHEESE

Rolls

CRABMEAT SALAD

ASSORTED ICE CREAM

ASSORTED CAKE

COFFEE

SOLOIST

ARTHUR HADLEY, the Celebrated American Tenor

-
- | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---|---|---|----------------|
| (a) | "The Trumpeter" | - | - | - | <i>Dix</i> |
| (b) | "She is Far from the Land" | - | - | - | <i>Lambert</i> |
| (c) | "The Americans Come" | - | - | - | <i>Foster</i> |

Program of Exercises

ON THE COMMON, NORTH CHELMSFORD
at 2 o'clock

"AMERICA"

MARCH—"Soldiers of the Air" *Fulton*

OVERTURE—"Orpheus" *Offenbach*

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

JUSTIN L. MOORE, Chairman, Board of Selectmen.

SELECTIONS—From "Jack o' Lantern" *Caryll*

ADDRESS

COL. EDWARD L. LOGAN, 101st Regt.

POPULAR MEDLEY—"Latest Song Hits" *Remick*

ADDRESS

FRANK SIBLEY, War Correspondent, Boston Globe

INTERMEZZO—"The Blue Mediterranean" *Volpatti*

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS

SUITE—"Ballet Egyptian" *Luigini*

ADDRESS

HON. CHANNING COX, Lieut. Governor of Massachusetts.

SELECTIONS—From "Going Up" *Hirsch*

ADDRESS

COL. T. F. J. HERBERT, 102nd F. A.

FANTASIA—"The Sunny South" *Lampe*

FINALE—"Tone Pictures of the North and South" *Bendix*

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

Supper

Served at 6 o'clock in Town Hall, Chelmsford Centre
and in Tent on Common, North Chelmsford

MENU

COLD HAM

COLD TONGUE

POTATO SALAD

MACARONI CROQUETTES

CHICKEN PATTIES

ROLLS

TUNA SALAD

ASSORTED ICE CREAM

ASSORTED CAKE

COFFEE

Band Concert

ON THE COMMON, NORTH CHELMSFORD

8 to 10 P. M.

Waltham Watch Co. Band, Walter M. Smith, Conductor

“AMERICA”

MARCH—“Stars and Stripes Forever”	<i>Sousa</i>
OVERTURE—“Tantalusqualen”	<i>Suppe</i>
SOLO FOR TROMBONE—“Romance”	<i>Pinard</i>
MR. CHESTER W. HOWARD	
SELECTIONS—From “The Rainbow Girl”	<i>Grabow</i>
POPULAR MEDLEY—“Up to Date”	<i>Snyder</i>
FANTASIA—“The Opera Mirror”	<i>Tobani</i>
Introducing arias from well known grand operas	
DESCRIPTIVE—“A Cavalry Charge”	<i>Luders</i>
BELLET—“The Dance of the Serpents”	<i>Boccallerri</i>
FINALE—“American Fantasia”	<i>Herbert</i>

“THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER”

Concert and Ball

TOWN HALL, NORTH CHELMSFORD

Concert 8 to 9, Dancing 9 to 12

Poole's Orchestra of Boston

1. MARCH—“Over Seas”	<i>Crosby</i>
2. OVERTURE—“Concert”	<i>Gruenwald</i>
3. XYLOPHONE SOLO—Selected	
MR. PHILIP ROBURSH	
4. MEDLEY—“Popular Airs of 1919”	<i>Remick</i>
5. SELECTION—“The Sunny South”	<i>Lampe</i>
6. JAZZ FINALE	
a. “Dixieland in France”	<i>Feist</i>
b. “Down Home Rag”	<i>Sweatman</i>

Community Sing

Under the Direction of ALBERT EDMUND BROWN
On Common, Chelmsford Centre
7.30 to 8 P. M.

Band Concert

Carter's Band, Thomas M. Carter, Conductor
8 to 10 P.M.

1. MARCH—"Gen. Pershing" (new) *Ramsdell*
 2. OVERTURE—"Light Cavalry" *Suppe*
 3. WALTZ—"Till We Meet Again"
 4. SELECTION—"Jack o' Lantern"
 5. FANTAISIE—"Dixie"
 6. MARCH—"Madelon"
 7. SELECTION—"Faust"
 8. INTERMEZZO—"Wedding of the Rose"
 9. SELECTION—"You're in Love"
 10. AIRS OF THE ALLIED NATIONS
 "STAR SPANGLED BANNER"
-

Concert and Ball

TOWN HALL, CHELMSFORD CENTRE
Concert 8 to 9, Dancing 9 to 12
Hoppe's Orchestra of Medford

1. MARCH—"Liberty Forever" *Kern*
2. GEMS—From "Oh, My Dear" *Hirsch*
3. SOLO FOR VIOLIN—Meditation, "Thais" *Massenet*
 MR. BURSTEN
4. WALTZ—"Blowing Bubbles" *Remick*
5. SELECTION—"Follies of 1918" *Stamper*
 "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

In Memoriam of Our Dead Heroes

- 1.—ALBERTON W. VINAL, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Vinal of North Chelmsford. Aged 23 years. 101st Regt. Entered service, April, 1917. Sailed overseas, October, 1917. Killed in action in France, June 19, 1918.
- 2.—PIERRE PAIGNON, son of Commandant Francois Paignon of the French Embassy, Washington, D. C. Aged 23 years. Born in Havre, France. Resided in South Chelmsford. Enlisted in French Army, August, 1914. Killed in action at the Marne, France, July 17, 1918.
- 3.—EGBERT FOSTER TETLEY, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Tetley of North Chelmsford. Aged 24 years. 1st Lieutenant, Co. C, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division. Entered service, May, 1917. Killed in action at Bazoche, France, Aug. 10, 1918.
- 4.—GUTHRIE STUART COLPITTS, son of Mrs. A. C. Colpitts of Chelmsford Centre. Aged 23 years. Co. G, 5th Canadian Militia. Killed in action at Passchendaele, Flanders, Nov. 8, 1917.
- 5.—VALENTINE E. FERRIS, son of Mrs. Emma E. Ferris of Newton, Mass. Aged 21 years. Resided in North Chelmsford. Entered service, April, 1918. Died of pneumonia at Fort Henry, Maryland, October 11, 1918.



List of Committees

GENERAL

JUSTIN L. MOORE, Chairman
D. FRANK SMALL
WILLIAM E. BELLEVILLE

FINANCE

Capt. John J. Monahan, Chairman
Herbert E. Ellis
William E. Shedd
Wilbur E. Lapham
James P. Dunigan

TREASURER

Ervin W. Sweetser

PUBLICITY AND PRINTING

Gabriel Audoin, Chairman
S. Foster Whipple
Paul Dutton

DECORATING

Charles E. Bartlett, Chairman
Fred A. Snow
J. Wesley Lyons
William T. Picken
Charles A. Devine
Edward Hoyle
Harry L. Parkhurst

BANQUET

Justin L. Moore, Chairman
Eben T. Adams
David Billson
Samuel Kershaw
John Emerson
Louis H. Jennison
John Toye

MUSIC

William E. Belleville, Chairman
D. Frank Small
John T. O'Connell
Garfield Davis
Herbert A. Russell
Albert A. Ludwig

RECEPTION

George E. King
George C. Moore, Sr.
Mark Ingham
Justin L. Moore
William E. Belleville
D. Frank Small

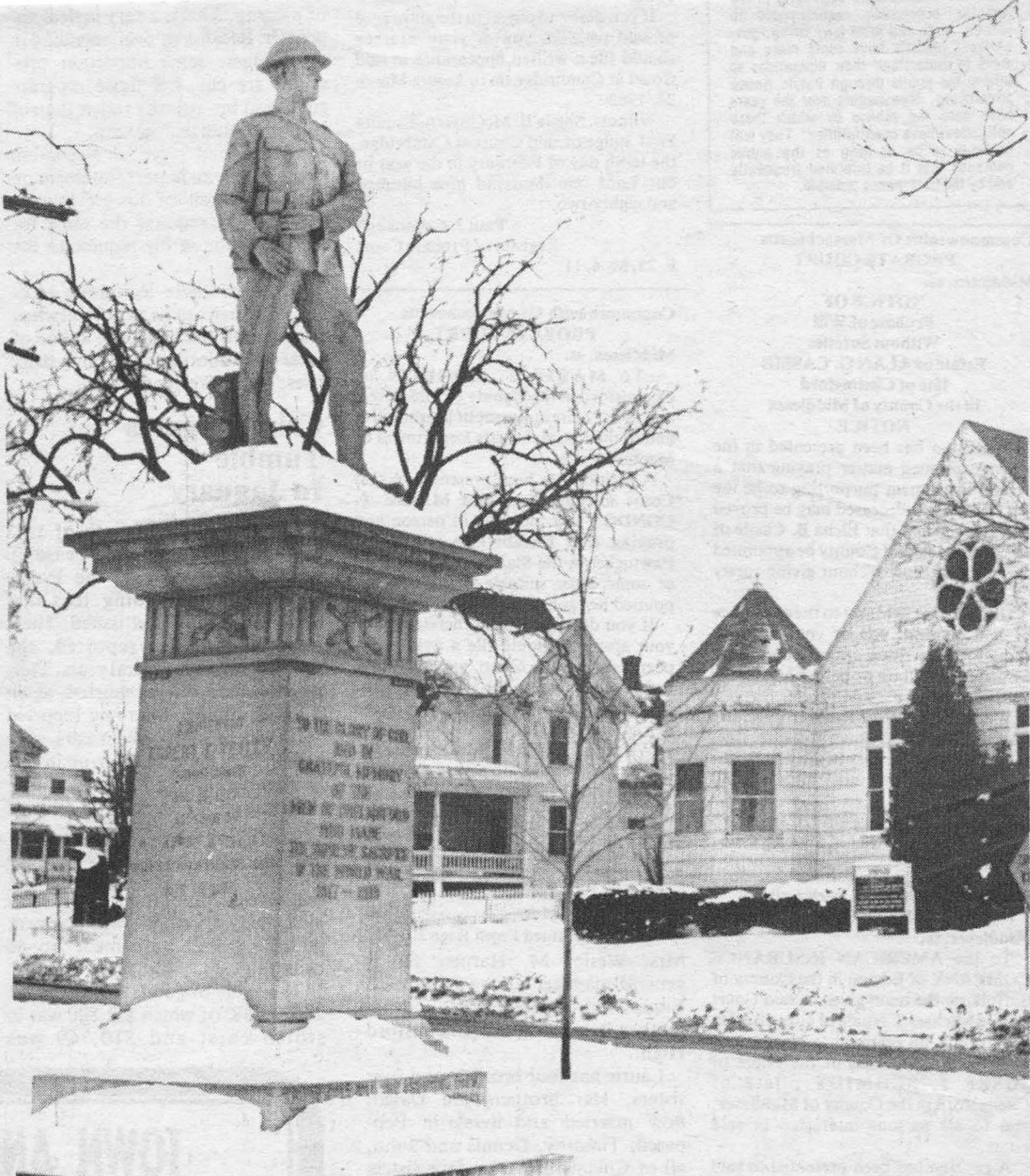
PARADE

D. Frank Small, Chairman
Michael Scollan
Gabriel Audoin
Herbert Waterhouse
Miss Maud Perham
Walter Vickery
Mrs. John Bridgeford
Miss Emma J. Perham
Mrs. Arthur J. Rousseau
Evan W. D. Merrill
J. Adams Bartlett
Ralph Adams

World War I Memorial, North Chelmsford, Mass.



Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



CMFD-A SNOW-COVERED STATUE, erected in memory of all the men of Chelmsford who lost their lives in World War I, has on one side the information that Lt. Egbery F. Tetley was commissioned on August 15, 1917 and assigned to the 47th Infantry, 4th Division, and died in France August 10, 1918. (Photo by Regina)

No. Chelmsford monument comes alive in words of 'Bert' Vinal's niece

Grandson of English immigrants gave his life during World War I

By DAN SEUFERT
Sun Staff

NORTH CHELMSFORD — At the corner of Middlesex Road and Princeton Street, a granite soldier stands watch over Vinal Square, fashioned in the image of a 23-year-old Chelmsford man who gave his life for his country on a World War I battlefield in France.

"He was very young, too young to die."

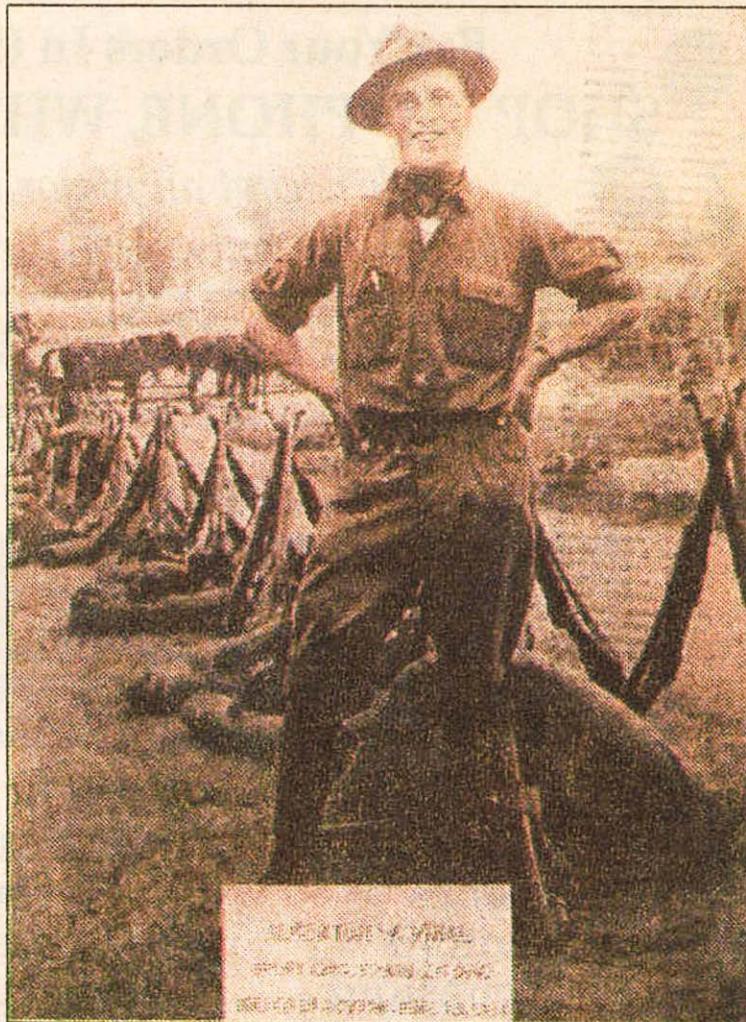
*Edith Hainsworth,
Alberton Vinal's niece*

around town on this Memorial Day, nobody will say much about Alberton W. Vinal. Most of his family is dead and gone, and most everyone else is too young to remember him.

Please see **MONUMENT/11**

Down the street on Groton Road is the local American Legion Post that also bears his name. And in nearby Riverside Cemetery, an old gravestone marks the point where his remains were entombed.

But if you ask



Alberton Vinal poses in military uniform in this picture, which hangs on the wall at the American Legion in Chelmsford.

No. Chelmsford monument comes alive in words of 'Bert' Vinal's niece

MONUMENT/From Page 1

Even some of Vinal's relatives know little about him. "I don't think you'll find anyone remembers him," said Thomas Sugden, 77, of Chelmsford, one of Vinal's nephews. "Just about everyone who was related to him or knew about him is gone."

But not everyone. Edith Hainsworth remembers. Though too young at the time to remember him, she said she learned about her famous uncle from family members, primarily her mother.

"Just before he left for the war he had me on his knee," said Hainsworth, Vinal's niece, who's about to turn 81. "He was a very likeable fellow. Everybody called him Bert."

Bert Vinal was the grandson of English immigrants, said Hainsworth, a North Chelmsford native. His father, Thomas Bridgeford Sr., was a sheepherder who came to Chelmsford looking for work. He left his family behind because he couldn't afford the ship fare across the Atlantic. He found work at the old Moore's Scouring Mill in North Chelmsford. The owner of the company, George C. Moore, then paid the fare for Bridgeford's wife and 10 children.

One of Bridgeford's daughters, Elizabeth, married Fred Vinal and settled in North Chelmsford. They had three children: two daughters and a son, Alberton, whom they nicknamed Bert.

Born on Jan. 11, 1895, Vinal went to Chelmsford schools and worked as a milkman. "There weren't many choices for a young man back then," Hainsworth said. "The work world was hard before World War I."

Like many young men at the time, Vinal enlisted in the military when the war started. He joined Company K, 6th Infantry of the Massachusetts National Guard, and was made a wagoner. He was soon transferred to the 101st Engineering Train of



Edith Hainsworth, left, holds snapshot of her cousin, Alberton Vinal, in uniform. Beside Hainsworth is Barbara Reed of Lowell, a distant cousin of Vinal.

SUN/BOB WHITAKER

the U.S. Army's 26th Division, and was a member of the well-known Yankee Division.

On April 13, 1917, he was sent to fight the Germans in France. He drove an Army truck. "He didn't have much training, and he hadn't been in the service long enough to get any rank, but he wanted to serve his country," she said.

On June 19, 1918, he was driving across a battlefield in Bouco, France, when he was hit by enemy fire and killed. The history books don't say whether bullets, mortars, or mines took his life. Hainsworth wasn't sure, either.

"All I know is he was very young, too young to die," she said.

Edith Vinal, one of Bert Vinal's sisters, was a registered nurse who treated soldiers who came home with injuries at Ayer Hospital.

After the news of his death reached home, Vinal's mother, Elizabeth, was named the first president of the Chelmsford

American Legion Unit. She became Chelmsford's first Gold Star Mother of World War I because Vinal was the first Chelmsford soldier killed in the war.

Soon after, the American Legion Post No. 313 was named after him, and the granite statue of him was erected in what would become Vinal Square. A plaque in the square is dedicated to Vinal and two other Chelmsford soldiers who died in World War I: Lt. Egbert F. Tetley and Cpl. George R. Quessy.

Now, almost 80 years after his death, Vinal's life story is all but forgotten, but veterans still revere his name.

"We still look up to the man as an inspirational person, even if we don't know that much about him," said Donald Quebec, the adjutant of American Legion A.W. Vinal Post No. 313.

And Edith Hainsworth remembers the man. "He never married, but he was a very handsome man," she said. "It's too bad he died so young."



VINAL

IN MEMORY OF
ALBERTON W. VINAL
WAG 101ST ENGINEERS TRAIN
BORN IN CHELMSFORD JANU 1895
DIED IN FRANCE JUNE 19 1918

1871 JOHN WARREN VINAL
1872 ELIZABETH BRIDGEFORD

HATCH

WOODS



Vinal Square

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Vinal Square

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TO THE GLORY OF GOD,
AND IN GRATEFUL MEMORY
OF THE MEN OF CHELMSFORD
WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
IN THE WORLD WAR.
1917 - 1919

AND BLESS.
THEIR
SOULS

Vinal Square WWI Monument

5/1/2005 F. Merriam