

SPOTLIGHT

Monument honors each sacrifice on altar of freedom

This monthly feature will serve to explain the efforts now under way to replace the Civil War monument and statue of Fame in Sewickley Cemetery and to create a plaza surrounding it in honor of the veterans of all of America's wars.

This effort is borne by Citizens for Soldiers, a group of dedicated residents of the Sewickley Valley, but the success of this project is dependent upon the support of all the people of the valley.

Veterans Day approaches marking the end of World War I, the "war to end all wars" they called it, the armistice occurring on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918.

As we in the Sewickley Valley pause briefly on that day in the midst of our busy lives to remember all veterans, those from before World War I and those in the many conflicts since, the local site that every day most indelibly marks the sacrifice of our country's flesh and blood on the altar of freedom is the statue of Fame in Sewickley Cemetery.

It is appropriate that Fame is present to continually bless our acknowledgement of the price paid by our veterans.

And the addition of new granite markers flush with the ground beside a renewed Fame with the name of each of America's wars will further accentuate the purpose of that place — for memory and honor.

Those soldiers who fell in the Civil War are not forgotten there. It is hoped they will continue to serve as guardians of all the others that deserve to be remembered.

Let us remember herein our Civil War dead, the gift of our communities to the Nation then.

On Nov. 1, 1860, as President G. E. Warner and the board of managers dedicated the new Sewickley Cemetery, they could hardly have imagined that occasion would be followed shortly by a national bloodletting, the Civil War.

Soon fallen soldiers from Sewickley were coming home, or left on some distant battlefield, and were mourned. Many were from a military company formed at the outbreak of the war called the Sewickley Rifles which drilled zealously in the stone Presbyterian Church then nearing completion.

Carried off to battle by rail on July 6, 1861, they became Company G of the 28th. Regiment of Pa. Volunteers.



Company G of the 28th. Regiment suffered:

Andrew J. Gray, who died of disease at Point of Rocks, Md., Jan. 6, 1862, was the first from this regiment to be brought home and buried in Sewickley Cemetery.

Joseph Moore died of disease at Frederick, Md., March 14, 1862. He was buried there.

John D. Tracy, William C. Richey and **John D. Travelli** were killed at the battle of Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862.

Their remains were recovered and brought to Sewickley Cemetery for burial.

Moses Sherman was also killed at Antietam, and his body buried on that bloody field.

Lieutenant William C. Shields, William Painter and **Thomas Smith** were killed at Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863, and their bodies were left on the field. Their burial sites are unknown.

Robert Johnson was killed at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, and buried there.

William Wharton and **Patrick Malone** were killed at Wauhatchie, Tenn., Nov. 3, 1863, and buried there.

James L. Grady and **Henry M. Rhodes** were killed at Ringgold, Ga., December 1863. Grady's body was brought to Sewickley Cemetery.

The body of Rhodes was buried in Allegheny Cemetery.

James Grimes was wounded at Ringgold and subsequently died and was buried there.



Thomas A. Hill returned home and died of disease, June 20, 1865. He was buried in Sewickley Cemetery.

There were also men with a Sewickley connection in other units who died of wounds or disease:

Albert J. White of the 9th. Pa. Reserves died April 25, 1861, and was buried in Sewickley Cemetery.

W. I. Nevin of Hampton's Battery died of disease in Washington, D. C., Sept. 9, 1862, and was buried in Sewickley Cemetery.

William Banks of the 61st. Pa. Regiment and **Theodore Webb** of the 188th. Pa. Regiment were killed at Drury's Bluff, May 6, 1864, and buried there.

George W. Forester and **Robert White** of the 188th. Pa. were killed at

Cold Harbor, July 1, 1864, and buried there.

W. H. Forester (the son of George W. Forester) of the 188th, died at Johnson's Island, Ohio, of disease and was buried at Sewickley Cemetery.

James Scott also from the 188th, died of disease at his home in Sewickley, Sept. 10, 1865, and was buried in Sewickley Cemetery.

John Park died of disease in Washington, D.C., Dec. 25, 1863, and was buried at Sewickley Cemetery.

Harry Black, of the Signal Corps, died Feb. 1, 1864, and **Alexander Black** of the 74th. Pa. died of disease, Jan. 13, 1865.

Both are buried in Allegheny Cemetery.

Lewis B. C. Armer of the 139th. Pa. died of wounds Nov. 25, 1864, and was buried in Butler County.

Captain Alexander McKinney of the 1st. Nebraska died of disease in Sewickley and was buried in Sewickley Cemetery.

In memory of these volunteer soldiers the Civil War monument was raised after the war in 1866.

Superintendent White of Sewickley Cemetery appropriately noted at that time that the monument and statue of Fame would stand "promoting the loyalty and patriotism of coming generations."

The monument bears only the names of 28 of the sons, fathers and brothers of the communities in the immediate Sewickley Valley.

Mentioned in the above listing but not inscribed on the Civil War monument are the names of **Patrick Malone** and **Lewis Armer**.

We can only conclude that they must not have lived locally.

Also the service record of **L. B. Gainer**, who is named on the monument, is not known, but he must have been a resident of the valley to earn inclusion.

Citizens for Soldiers is working hard to keep Fame prominent, proud and as a focus for devotion. Will you not assist us in our efforts?

All donations, large or small, are welcome.

Citizens for Soldiers is a Pennsylvania not-for-profit organization. It has a 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.

The committee meets bimonthly and welcomes your interest and contributions to: Citizens for Soldiers, Fame Fund, P.O. Box 293, Sewickley, Pa. 15143.

Visit us at www.CitizensForSoldiers.org, or call 412-980-6013.