

City Hall Veterans' Artifacts

April 2014 New Proposal Attachments



- ◆ community letter (new)
- ◆ summary of complementary grant application submitted for Civil War archives (new)

From: parnellsteve@comcast.net [mailto:parnellsteve@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 3:09 PM
To: Alice Ingerson
Cc: Nancy V. Kougeas
Subject: **RE: War Memorial/Veterans' Wing of Newton City Hall**

Dear Ms. Ingerson,

As early as the 1960's, I recall my first of many visits to Newton's War Memorial and Veterans' Wing. This area of dedication reflects the sacrifices made throughout the centuries of the U.S. Military and has always been a historical site dear to me.

Growing up in Newton Centre, as a young boy, my friends and I would frequently visit the War Memorial and imagine what it may have been like to step back in time at Valley Forge. The dioramas so real and those memories still strong. Back then, we could sense the battle of the Civil War and feel the experience of World War I and II. The details of the scenes so intense, you felt as though you could step into the scene. I imagine today, not so different from then, a child standing before War Memorial dioramas and feeling the same sensation.

I continue to visit the War Memorial whenever I'm in Newton. My most recent visit, Fall of 2013, saddened me to witness the deteriorating conditions and years of neglect catching up to this once proud site. In fact, it looked forgotten.

How could we diminish the importance of our Nation's hero's accomplishments?

How tragic would it be to forget those who gave their lives. How unfortunate it would be to witness further decline of this legacy. May this War Memorial continue to stand as a proud, and yet stark reminder of the conflicts this Country faced over the years.

Our efforts must reflect the efforts made by many Newton citizens called to serve their Country. We were so moved, many years ago, by expressing our appreciation and building this sacred Memorial. Please, might we stop and realize those memorialized and acknowledge our commitment to preserving their honor.

Thank you for your consideration to do your part to making this a reality.

Stephen Parnell

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION GRANTS FY 2014

Section I. Project Information

Project Title: Preserving and Making Accessible the Records of Charles Ward Post 62, Grand Army of the Republic, Newton, MA

Project Address: City of Newton Archives, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street, Newton, MA 02459

Applicant Information: City of Newton Archives, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street, Newton, MA 02459 Phone: 617-796-1399 Website: NewtonFreeLibrary.net and

www.newtonma.gov/gov/clerk

Project Contacts:

1. Nancy Kougeas
Title/Role: City Archivist/Project Director
Phone: 617-796-1399 Email: nkougeas@minlib.net
2. David Olson
Title/Role: City Clerk
Phone: 617-795-1202 Email: dolson@newton.ma.gov

Section II:

- A. Project Proposal:--Description of Archival Collection/The Records of Charles Ward Post 62, Grand Army of the Republic

When the Newton residents who fought in the Civil War returned home, they formed the Grand Army of the Republic Charles Ward Post 62 to ensure that those who had died or been injured in the war and the reasons it was fought would not be forgotten. They named the Post after a 21 year old Newton Centre resident, Sargent Major Charles Ward, who had been mortally wounded at Gettysburg.

The records of the post were recently found in a storage room when a section of City Hall was renovated. Previously, it was believed that only 2 books of applications to the Post had survived (These books have been conserved and are in the Special Collections of the Newton Free Library.) The additional records found include record books, minutes, and applications to join the post, a black list of rejected members, letter books, correspondence, financial ledgers and account books, scrapbooks and a few photographs.

The collection provides information about the men who served, adding to what is known about their occupations, regiments and other personal data. It also provides details about Post

members and activities and about Newton during and after the War. The “Black List” gives information about veterans throughout the United States who applied to join posts and gives the reasons they were rejected, for example: “Cruelty to Fellow Prisoners at Andersonville”.

Many of the Civil War Veterans who returned involved themselves in town affairs and government. One scrapbook details the efforts to raise money for a proposed Soldier’s Memorial Hall, “which shall be a credit to the city, besides a fitting tribute to the memory of veterans.” The sketch of the proposed Soldiers’ Memorial Hall in the scrapbook shows a building drawn by Hartwell and Richardson, Architects. While this building was not built, the veteran’s dream was realized in 1932, when a new City Hall was built, incorporating a Veterans’ wing. The scrapbooks detail the hardships of war as well as the energy and dedication of the men who returned home and involved themselves in the affairs of Newton.

Many of the materials are in need of conservation. This proposal includes conservation of the most relevant portions of the collection (the first record book, and minutes as well as the “Black List” of rejected members which lists veterans from around the State and several of the scrapbooks). Several estimates have been obtained to conserve and scan. Once conserved, the scanned documents would be made accessible on the City’s website. The City Archivist will oversee the project and will write a finding aid to the collection.

Timeline of Project: The entire project will be completed within one year from the receiving the grant.

- a) Final selection will be made of the documents to be conserved and they will be sent to a qualified conservator. Estimated time for completion of conservation: 4 months.
- b) The archivist will write a finding aid to the entire collection, highlighting which documents have been conserved—1 month
- c) The Information Technology Department will take the scanned images and the finding aid and place onto the Clerk’s website, where archival materials are now available—3 months
- d) The City Archivist will present one public program (at the Newton Free Library) discussing the content of the documents and their importance to Newton’s History. The documents that have been conserved will be used in this program. To be done in months 9—12 of the project.

- B. Total cost of Project: \$15,000
Grant amount requested: \$7,500
Total cash contributions secured to date: \$3,400
Total in kind contributions secured to date: \$4,100

In-Kind Contributions:

Archivist time to coordinate project/write finding

Aid/plan and hold public program	
60 hours hours/archivists time x \$35.00	\$2,100
Clerk's time – administrative overview of program	
5 hours x \$60/hour	300
IT Department – to place finding aid and scans on Clerk's website:	
20 hours/IT department x \$50.00	1,500
Archival boxes and folders for portions of Collection that will not receive conservation	200
Total:	\$4100

Cash Contributions:

\$3,400 from the City of Newton City Clerk/Archivist Operational Budget

Section III. Attachments

- A. Letter of intent documenting indicating all necessary approvals and permissions to complete the proposed project have been obtained--attached
- B. Photographs –Sent via separate email
- C. Letters of support—Sent via separate email
- D. Letters of commitment for matching funds and in kind services—attached
- E. Municipality—501(c)(3) status not applicable
- F. Completed Project Notification Form—not applicable, document preservation project



Department of Veterans Services
ATTN: Massachusetts Civil War Sesquicentennial
600 Washington Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02111

March 27, 2014

Dear Application Reviewers,

As City Clerk and custodian of the records for the City of Newton, I certify that all of the necessary approvals and permissions required to date to complete this project have been received and approved.

Funding from the Department of Veterans Services as part of the Massachusetts Civil War Sesquicentennial project will assist in preserving and making accessible the Records of the Grand Army of the Republic Charles Ward Post 62.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. A. Olson".

David A. Olson
Newton City Clerk