

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

\_\_\_ Monument \_\_\_ with Sculpture \_\_\_ without Sculpture \_\_\_ with Cannon \_\_\_ standalone Cannon
\_\_\_ Historical Marker \_\_\_ Plaque \_\_\_ Other ( flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

Affiliation

\_\_\_ GAR \_\_\_ MOLLUS \_\_\_ SUVCW \_\_\_ WRC \_\_\_ ASUVCW
\_\_\_ LGAR \_\_\_ DUVCW \_\_\_ Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

E. L. Griggs Post 97, Department of Massachusetts, Grand Army of the Republic

Original Dedication Date September 30, 1906 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the first dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

Belchertown Town Common

The Memorial is currently located at:

Street/Road address or site location

50 Main St. GPS Coordinates 42.278225, -72.401556

City/Village &/or Township Belchertown

County Hampshire State Massachusetts Zip Code 01007

The front of the Memorial faces: \_\_\_ North \_\_\_ South \_\_\_ East \_\_\_ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Town of Belchertown

Dept./Div.

Street Address PO Box 670 (2 Jabish St.)

City Belchertown State MA Zip Code 01007-0670

Contact Person Steven Williams Telephone ( 413 ) 323-0403 ext

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No ID # if known

Empty rectangular box for ID # if known.

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = \_\_\_ Stone \_\_\_ Concrete \_\_\_ Metal \_\_\_ Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.)

Material of the Sculpture \_\_\_ Stone \_\_\_ Concrete \_\_\_ Metal \_\_\_ Other Is it hollow or solid?

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.)

**For Historic Marker or Plaque:**

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = \_\_\_\_\_

**For Cannons with/without monument:**

3-inch Ordnance Rifle

Material of Cannon = \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze  Iron Type of Cannon (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Rifled  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Markings: Muzzle NW. SVB. 86. .408. No. 4 Base Ring/Breech \_\_\_\_\_

Left Trunion blank Right Trunion blank

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes  No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**For Other Memorials:** (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

**Complete for All Memorials**

**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

36 1/2" Height 36" Width 56" Depth or 38" Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

**Markings/Inscriptions** (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

See attached photos

**Environmental Setting**

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

**Type of Location**

Cemetery       Park       Plaza/Courtyard       "Town Square"       Post Office  
 School       Municipal Building       State Capitol       Courthouse       College Campus  
 Traffic Circle       Library      Other: Town Common

**General Vicinity**

Rural (low population, open land)       Suburban (residential, near city)       Town       Urban / Metropolitan

**Immediate Locale** (check as many as may apply)

Industrial       Commercial       Street/Roadside within 20 feet       Tree Covered (overhanging branches)  
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)       Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor \_\_\_\_\_

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Submission of this form requires at least one type of identification so that you may be contacted regarding the information on this form. This information will most likely be in the public domain. Your name is required; please include one (or more) pieces of contact information.

1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification \_\_\_\_\_ Date of On-site Survey November 28, 2025  
 Your Name Nathaniel T. Knight  
 Address 50 Eskett Rd.  
 City Belchertown State MA Zip Code 01007-8902  
 Telephone ( ) 413-687-5720 E-Mail nknight359@gmail.com

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

L. A. Tift Camp 15, Department of Massachusetts, SUVCW

**Supplemental Background Information**

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

Pages 4 & 5 attached to this electronic file are the Monument's Condition and the Narrative forms. Only the Monument's Condition form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

**Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:**

**Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvchw.org (314) 630-8407**

*Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.*

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.**

>This form may be photocopied.<

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**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM  
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT’S CONDITION**

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions.*

**Condition Information**

**Structural Condition** (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments with Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture including the base for Monuments with Cannon. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Base</b>
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? <small>(Look for signs of exterior rust)</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any evidence of structural instability? <small>(Look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any broken or missing parts? <small>(Look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? <small>(Also look for signs of uneven stress &amp; weakness in the material)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Surface Appearance** (check as many as may apply)

	<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Base</b>
Black crusting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White crusting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chalky or powdery stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Granular eroding of stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe... <u>Missing concrete and cobbles</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial?  Yes  No  Unable to tell

**Surface Coating**

Does there appear to be a coating?  Yes  No  Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded  Painted  Varnished  Waxed  Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition?  Yes  No  Unable to determine

**Basic Surface Condition Assessment** (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained  Would benefit from treatment  In urgent need of treatment  Unable to determine

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

3 inch ordinance rifle set into a concrete and cobble base.

Inspector’s Name Nathaniel T. Knight Date December 10, 2025

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM  
ADDENDUM – NARRATIVE

[Generally used to record the text of monuments, but may be used for any other useful information, such as if the monument has been moved or if you have information about the day of dedication. May repeat use of page as often as necessary.]

The Memorial is *currently* located at: Belchertown Town Common

Street/Road address or site location \_\_\_\_\_

50 Main St.  GPS Coordinates 42.278225, -72.401556

City/Village and/or Township Belchertown

County Hampshire  State Massachusetts  Zip Code 01007

TEXT

See attached photos

Attached Source: Belchertown: Images of America by Cliff McCarthy

Inspector's Name Nathaniel T. Knight Date December 10, 2025

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL FUND REQUEST**

(FORM CWM #62)

**REQUESTOR INFORMATION** (Please print or type)

CAMP AND DEPARTMENT NAME: L. A. Tift Camp 15, Department of Massachusetts

NAME/ TITLE OF CONTACT PERSON: Nathaniel T. Knight, Camp 15 Memorials Officer

ADDRESS: 50 Eskett Rd.

CITY: Belchertown STATE: MA ZIP CODE: 01007

PHONE(S): 413-687-5720 E-MAIL: nknight359@gmail.com

SIGNATURE: *Nathaniel Knight*

NAME OF MEMORIAL/MONUMENT 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinance Rifle Manufactured by Wiard Co (Norman Wiard)

**NAME, NUMBER & STREET ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR OTHER LOCATION**

Belchertown Town Common, 50 Main St, Belchertown, MA 01007

LOCATION DESCRIPTION (i.e. corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lincoln St) Town Common

GPS N 42.3 W -72.4 City Belchertown State MA ZIP 01007

WAS REQUIRED FORM CWM-61: GAR MONUMENTS/CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS ASSESSMENT SUBMITTED? Y XX N    

XXXX EXISTING MONUMENT        NEW MONUMENT        LAST SOLDIER PROJECT

RESTORATION COST \$ 3,736.00 AMOUNT RAISED \$ 0 REQUESTED \$ 2,000.00

CHECK PAYABLE TO: L. A. Tift Camp 15, SUVCW

ADDRESS: 68 Falmouth Rd.

CITY: Chicopee MA STATE 01020-3819 ZIP CODE

Memorial Grant Committee Use Only						
Grant Request # _____			Amount Approved \$ _____			
Approve	Deny	Table	Name Committee Member	Signature	Date	

*Check box, sign, date & return completed email to Committee Chair, who will send to National Treasurer for payment.*

MONUMENT/ MEMORIAL INFORMATION

WHEN WAS IT BUILT: 1906 WHO OWNS IT: SUVCW

WHO IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE? Town of Belchertown

ARE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE? no FROM WHERE: \_\_\_\_\_

ARE OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE? yes FROM WHERE: Department of Mass,  
SUVCW Charitable Foundation, grants sought from both. Applications pending

WAS A GRANT FROM THE SUVCW PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FOR THIS PROJECT? No

DATE: n/a AMOUNT: n/a

DESCRIBE THE WORK THE GRANT IS NEEDED FOR (Be specific, use continuation sheet if needed)

Restoration for Stone Cannon Base, work to include;  
Clean/wash stonework

Remove deteriorating mortor

Rebuild areas with missing and loose stone to match existing  
Repoint areas in need to match

Clean and waterproof stonework

WHO EVALUATED THE NEED FOR THE WORK AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? Adam Smith has  
been a mason for 25-30 years and a construction supervisor for 20-25 years

WHO WILL DO THE DESCRIBED WORK, AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? A. Smith Construction

WHO WILL RECEIVE FUNDS IF GRANTED? L. A. Tiff Camp 15, SUVCW

LIST WHAT THE CAMP/DEPARTMENT HAS AND/OR WILL DO TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROJECT

Camp 15 is doing all of the fund raising through the grant process and will oversee the work as it  
is being done.

## THE CANNON AND THE DISAPPEARING CANNONBALLS

Civil War monuments with Union soldiers facing south are fixtures on many commons throughout New England. Sometimes there is a cannon, also facing south. Belchertown is no exception. The story about the Civil War monument has been told in the *Sentinel* over the past few months and events seeking funds for "Sam's" restoration have received a great deal of attention. But the cannon, erected in 1906, also has a story to tell.

The cannon was originally installed on the Common at the instigation of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The story goes that the GAR had always wanted a cannon to go with the monument, which was erected in 1885. A letter written by Mrs. Cornelia Holland and published in the *Belchertown Sentinel* in May 1933, provides a glimpse into its history:

*Mr. David Shumway said the Grand Army had always wanted a cannon on the common, but had no funds to place it there. He said to me, "Would you go ahead and raise the money to defray expenses if I can get one?" He wrote to Congressman Gillette and he replied that the only one of the size we could handle was in one of the Western States and if we wanted it, he would deliver it free of charge to the Belchertown station. I consulted the Grange and the [Women's] Relief Corps and with their aid planned a supper, the Grange giving the use of the hall. We raised about 40 dollars. If I remember rightly, Dwight Shumway and George Akers with their horses took it from the station to the common and drew the stone for the foundation—all as a gift. Mr. Spencer put in the foundation at a reduced rate. I think Mr. Clafin put up the balls at a cost of five dollars and at that time there was a pile at each corner.*

Her memory was right on target, for newspaper clippings in the Springfield papers chronicled the story over the summer of 1906. One clipping said that the cannon had arrived at the railroad station and would be brought to the village probably soon. Another said, "The cannon was brought to the Common today and is somewhat smaller than it was supposed to be, but when mounted it will be much more imposing. It will point toward the south when in position." Another article was more critical:

*The much talked of piece of ordnance that was presented to Belchertown by the Government has at last found its resting place. The size of the gun is quite disappointing to the people, who expected to see a large affair, believing that cannons were all large, because they are said to have "volleyed and thundered."*

*Like all new things  
been many remarks  
now that the cannon  
carriage on which  
to putting up the  
been done to get  
held to dedicate  
known, the people*

There was a dedication  
was on hand to make  
gun to Selectman N  
commander of the G  
the Ocean" and "Ne  
Miss Frances Fletcher  
on the Common.

The cannon and cannon  
guard Belchertown Comm  
under the watchful eyes of  
the Civil War soldier. Not  
the old flagpole, which wa  
once a ship's mast.

## Spring

*Like all new things which disappoint the expectations of some people, there have been many remarks that savored of criticism, as the effect is rather disappointing, now that the cannon is mounted. Some of the people criticize the form of the carriage on which it rests. This is made of cobblestone cast in cement. Previous to putting up the stone carriage, the foundations were put in and much work has been done to get the gun mounted. It is understood that a patriotic meeting will be held to dedicate the new field piece and after this is done and the history of it is known, the people will better understand what it is.*

There was a dedication on September 30, 1906. Congressman Frederick Gillette was on hand to make the presentation and gave an address. He presented the gun to Selectman Nelson Randall, who in turn presented it to O.K. Shumway, commander of the GAR. A chorus from the high school sang "Columbia, Gem of the Ocean" and "Nearer, My God, to Thee." The audience sang "America" and Miss Frances Fletcher gave a reading. Thus ended the first chapter of the cannon on the Common.



The cannon and cannon balls guard Belchertown Common under the watchful eyes of the Civil War soldier. Note the old flagpole, which was once a ship's mast.

U.S.















**NO  
TRESPASSING**

# A. Smith Construction

Adam Smith  
96 Gold St  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**ESTIMATE**  
EST0047

**DATE**  
Oct 7, 2025

**TOTAL**  
USD \$3,736.00

TO

## Town of Belchertown, Buildings and Grounds Department

290 Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 306  
Belchertown, MA 01007  
mbock@belchertown.org

DESCRIPTION	RATE	QTY	AMOUNT
Restoration for Stone Cannon Base	\$0.00	1	\$0.00
- clean/wash stonework.	\$3,300.00	1	\$3,300.00
- remove deteriorating mortar.			
- Rebuild areas with missing and loose stone to match existing.			
- Repoint areas in need to match.			
- clean and waterproof stonework			
Materials-	\$436.00	1	\$436.00
Portland Cement, lime, mason sand, stone, waterproofing.			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			\$3,736.00
<b>TAX (0%)</b>			\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>USD \$3,736.00</b>









GETTYSBURG





