

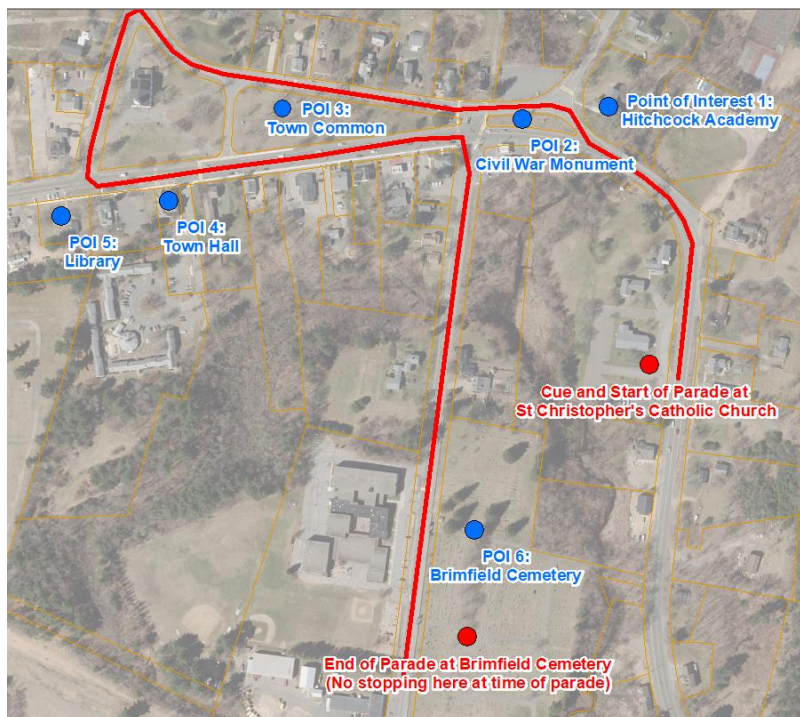
Memorial Day Car Parade- Sunday May 24, Noon

Start at St. Christopher's Church parking lot

Town of Brimfield Memorial Day Committee

Due to the continuing Coronavirus Pandemic we had to close the Annual Parade and related ceremonies to the public. After discussions within the Memorial Day Committee and in coordination with the Board of Selectmen, Emergency Management Director, and the Police Chief we have come up with a Car Parade where you will all be able to view the ceremonies in some phase of completion- depending on how many vehicles participate in the events. *The Cemetery Service will take place but will only be open to the public through our community cable station and social media sites.* Below we have described what you may see, and some of the amazing memorials we have here in Town. **Please note: Nobody is allowed out of their car during the parade. We invite you to visit these locations as Town Facilities re-open and it is safe to do so (correct social distancing).**

This is a Memorial Day event, which should be held with respect to those that have fallen while fighting for our freedoms. Feel free to decorate your cars in red, white, and blue!



The Parade Route:

1. Start at St. Christopher's Church. Please follow the guidance of person assisting to park vehicles in lining up for the event.
2. Turn left onto Rt 20 West.
3. Take left onto Brookfield Rd (passing between Hitchcock Academy and the Civil War Monument).
4. Turn left onto North Main St where you will pass on the north side of The Town Common.
5. Turn left onto Warren Rd.
6. Turn left onto Rt 20 East. As

you are turning you will see to your right the Brimfield Public Library. You will then pass by The Town Hall and the southern side of The Town Common. Finally, we will take a right onto Wales Rd (Route 19 South), and the parade will end as we drive by the Brimfield Cemetery.

The different points of interest (POI's) listed above on our parade route hold many historically important monuments and are locations that are important to the Town. During this time, or once things get back to a "new normal" we invite you to see what they hold. Below is an incomplete list about some of the things you can see.

Points of Interest:

POI 1. Hitchcock Free Academy. From 1855-1954, Hitchcock Free Academy (HFA) was a high school, one of the first to offer a high school education for free, thus the word "Free" in the name. Mr. Samuel Austin Hitchcock was too poor to afford to go to high school but he set off in 1812 with one borrowed dollar to make his fortune and indeed he succeeded, becoming one of the wealthiest men in Massachusetts by the 1850's. Mr. Hitchcock gave back to his hometown by building this school for all of the town's children, and funded it himself for a number of years.

The HFA Memorial Room houses a great collection of glass plate negatives taken by photographers F. Edgar Brown and Walter E. Corbin in the late 19th century and early 20th century with many images of Brimfield scenes and residents. The Memorial Room is a great



look into the past with period furniture, wall hangings, and artifacts.

In front of the Academy is a stone and plaque dedicated to those HFA students who served in World War 1 and includes stars for those among the ranks who were killed in action, including Charles Streeter, from Brimfield.

POI 2. Civil War Monument. Our monument to honor those who fought and died in the



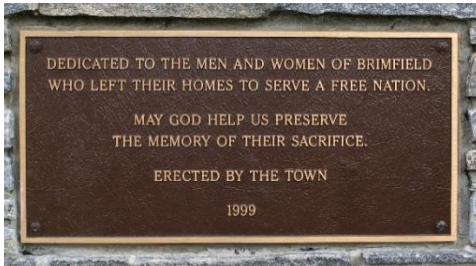
American Civil War (1861-1865) was dedicated by Captain Francis Lincoln on July 4, 1866. Captain Lincoln led the Brimfield Militia and was regarded as a great leader and won the respect and leadership of western Mass militias and battalions. It is one of the earliest monuments for Veterans in the Commonwealth and was spearheaded by Capt. Lincoln. It includes 18 names of Brimfield residents who gave their lives during the War. The parrott guns (commonly referred to as cannons) that are installed around the monument were donated by the US Government at a later date but were all supposedly used in the War. The monument itself is made of granite quarried and carved in Monson.

A total of 114 Brimfield men enlisted for this conflict.

POI 3. Town Common. The Town Common was originally laid out in 1721 and was the location where the active Brimfield Militia would muster and perform training and drills, like many Town Commons throughout the Commonwealth. There are 2 monuments on the Common:



- A granite stone set in the center of the Common in commemoration of those that fought in the American Revolution from Brimfield. As of this writing, I was not able to find a list or count of residents who were involved in the Revolution.



- A large 4 sided memorial listing residents from Brimfield who fought, and in some cases, gave their lives in Vietnam, Korea, and World War 2. This includes the names of Marine Corps Lance Corporal Norman L. Howlett Jr; the only Brimfield resident to be killed in action in Vietnam, Army Private First Class Harold Dwight Johnston Jr; the only Brimfield resident who

was killed in action in Korea, and Army Private Stanley C. Hicks, Jr the only Brimfield resident who was killed while serving in World War 2.

There is also that curious Fountain on the east side of the Common. The Marquis Converse Memorial Fountain was designed, carved, and quarried by the same person in Monson who carved the Civil War Monument (actually he was the son-in-law of Marquis Converse).

POI 4. Town Hall. The Town Hall was built in 1878 and includes a flag pole and monument out in front, which are honoring our World War 1 Veterans and those we lost during that conflict. Inside there are several plaques and wall adornments.

- Marble list of Brimfield residents who fought in "The War of the Rebellion" (The American Civil War).
- Painting of George Washington (worth the trip!)
- Plaque on the left side of the stage (as you are looking at it) dedicated to Army Private Charles M. Streeter who was the only Brimfield resident to be killed during World War 1. His remains are interred in Thiaucourt, France.
- Plaque on right side of the stage is dedicated to Lance Corporal Norman L. Howlett, Jr., who was killed in action in the Vietnam War. His remains are interred at the Brimfield Cemetery.
- Bell tower. The Board of Selectmen voted to commemorate Veterans and Town Officials who pass away by ringing of the Town bell the Saturday following their passing. We will be ringing the bell throughout the parade in honor of those members of Brimfield who passed away while fighting for our freedoms and Country.

POI 5. Brimfield Public Library. This small library holds many treasures. It was built by James D. Lincoln to honor his mother, Sarah E. Danielson and his wife, Eliza T.M. Lincoln. In the Sherman Room (the "museum" room at the back of the library) there are many town treasures, including a display about Lance Corporal Howlett, the only Brimfield resident who passed away while fighting in Vietnam.

POI 6. Brimfield Cemetery. The Brimfield Cemetery has served as a beautiful resting place for our loved ones and neighbors since the earliest residents. It includes many Veterans dating back to the Revolutionary War.

We have 3 Generals buried here, including General Eaton who led our Military to its first foreign battle victory at the "Shores of Tripoli" (of the Marine Corps Hymn) during the Barbary War, General Danielson, who led the Brimfield Militia and led a troop of men on April 19, 1776 (Battles of Lexington and Concord), mustering in Cambridge as they chased the Red Coats back to Boston, and Major General Fitz-Henry Warren who served as the Commander of the Missouri State Militia.

We have many Veterans of past War's interred here, and whose graves should be seen, and names remembered for their tremendous service to our Town and Country.

A list of known members of our community who served our Country and died while fighting a War, and who we honor on Memorial Day and every day (**BOLDED** lines denotes believed to be interred in Brimfield):

- **Frederick Danielson, Sr, American Revolution**
- **Eli Danielson, American Revolution**
- **Azariah Cooley, American Revolution**
- **Elijah Janes, American Revolution**
- Corporal Marcus H. Smith, Civil War, 27th Infantry, Mass Volunteers
- **Private George H. Dimick, Civil War, 27th Infantry, Mass Volunteers**
- Private James Crosby, Civil War, 27th Infantry, Mass Volunteers
- **Private Alonzo W. Latham, Civil War, 18th Regiment, Mass Volunteers (Navy)**
- Henry W. Robinson, Civil War, 27th Infantry, Mass Volunteers
- Corporal Silas Phelps, Civil War, 27th Infantry, Mass Volunteers
- Private George W. Allen, Civil War, 32nd Regiment Company C
- **Private William Kenney, Civil War, 34th Regt of Mass Volunteers**
- **Private Lyman P. Parker, Civil War, 46th Regt of Mass Volunteers**
- **Private Charles E. Alexander, Civil War, 46th Regt of Mass Volunteers**
- **Private John Cronin, Civil War, 29th Regiment of Mass**
- Private Patrick Barry, Civil War, 34th Regiment Company D
- **Private Henry W. King, Civil War, 2nd Regt Mass Volunteers**
- **QM SGT George Paige, Civil War, 7th New York Cavalry**
- **Private Rufus Parker, Civil War, 2nd Regiment Mass Volunteers**
- **Private Edward Parker, Civil War, 21st Mass Company C**
- Private Edgar F. Manning, Civil War, 34th Regiment Mass Volunteers
- Private Alexander N. Manning, Civil War, US Navy
- Private Charles M. Streeter, World War 1, Army (US National Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France)
- **Private Stanley C. Hicks, Jr., World War 2, Army**
- Private First Class Harold D. Johnston, Jr, Korea, Army (St Thomas Cemetery, Palmer, MA)
- **Lance Corporal Norman L. Howlett, Jr., Vietnam, Marine Corps**