

Ebensburg Borough

VETERANS PARK OF CAMBRIA COUNTY- On September 3, 1915, this park was dedicated “To the memory of the soldiers and sailors from Cambria County, Pennsylvania who fought in defense of their country.”



A distinguished panel of fourteen Civil War Veterans from across Cambria County met in 1912 to make plans for the memorial’s design. After meeting with the project’s financial backer, David E. Park, the panel chose the obelisk design and placement of 3,500 names of Civil War veterans on the bronze tablets at the monument’s base.

County veterans organizations, including the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), suggested an additional 2,000 names be included, representing veterans from all previous wars. “Let us have all the names from the American Revolution through the Civil War, or no names at all.” –*Cambria Freeman*, Aug. 9, 1912.

The memorial now lists names of veterans of the American Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War and Spanish-American War. Another news article of the day stated: “We want the children of our schools, as they pass by the monument, to know that this county gave her best men, volunteers at that, to defend our country.”

The county commissioners appropriated \$7,000 in 1913 to erect the sixty-three foot tall grey granite monument. David E. Park, a Pittsburgh banker who owned a summer home in Ebensburg, moved the project forward with the donation of \$5,000. Construction work was awarded to Jones Brothers of Barre, VT. The granite was donated by Jones Brothers, whose father, Seward Jones, was a Civil

War veteran born in Ebensburg. The statue of the Civil War “armed sentinel” was manufactured by Gorham Co. Foundry, Providence, RI.

The original name of the 1913 park is: Soldiers & Sailors Park of Cambria County. It has been the site of numerous veteran’s parades, dedications and memorial observances. It is also the site of a community time capsule buried in 1975 during the time of the United States Bicentennial (1976).



On June 14, 2011 (Flag Day) the name of the park will be officially changed to Veterans Park of Cambria County. Coincidentally, the year 2011 commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (1861-1865).

The restored site features a semi-circle of six flags, with the United States flag flanked by flags representing the five branches of the military, honoring all who have served in any military capacity- wartime or peacetime, overseas or stateside.



Soldiers and Sailors Park of Cambria County circa 1915

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