

PTE Alexander Gilbert Re-Dedication Service War Monument

On Tuesday, November 11th, 2008 the Town of Come By Chance held a Remembrance Day service for the re-dedication of the war monument for Alexander Gilbert.

Dave Drover and Weldon Gilbert contacted us in April of 2007 to see if the Town would be interested in restoring the monument that was located at Jimmy Gilbert's meadow, which is across the river. The Town was more than happy to take on this project. Not too long after that, Ron White and Isabelle Johnston contacted the Town with interest in having the monument restored as well. Each party did not know the other, due to each being related to Alexander Gilbert on different sides of the family.

The project was a result of many hours of work put in by many people. Ralph Slade, and his sons Patrick and Luke, made the journey across the river to find the monument. With so many years having gone by and with the monument being broke in two, it took some time to find the monument. After they found the monument Ralph helped our staff bring it across the river, but it was in deplorable condition. There were pieces broke off and it was turned black, gray & green. We then set out to find someone to restore the monument. After many phone calls to various marble places, Eddie Howlett from Muir's Marble Works in St. John's graciously offered to do the restoration and because of what it was for, he also offered to do the work for free. The monument was in good hands. Eddie and his staff did the clean up by hand and the result was fantastic. The monument was in its original color and with only a few nicks for character. Not only that, but he had two of his guys come out to professionally install the monument. We cannot thank Mr. Howlett enough for his contribution.

Then came the planning for the service: There were so many people who we would like to thank for their help. First we would like to thank Reverend Don Stiles and Reverend Glenn Small for their help with the planning of the service and their participation; also, Major Helen Guy for her prayer and blessing. A special thank you goes out to Marcus Mulrooney, Patrick Slade and Dusty Gilbert (a relative of Alexander Gilbert) for their readings. A huge thank you is extended to Cliff and Glenda Butler for their help with planning the service and for the participation of 2978 Hibernia Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps for the Marching on of the Color Party and the participation of the cadet band. Also we would like to thank the Tidy Town committee for the beautiful wreaths that they made for the wreath laying. We would also like to thank our staff for all their hard work and dedication to this project and a huge thank you to our Town Manager, Brenda Mulrooney, who went above and beyond for this project.

The Town acquired the services of GB Signs to design and construct a history board to tell the story of PTE Alexander Gilbert. We extend a warm thank you to Ray & Gord for their exceptional work and extra effort.

Finally, we would like to thank the family of PTE Alexander Gilbert. Since this project began, we have had the privilege of meeting many members of the family and getting to hear stories of Alexander Gilbert and his family. The family has also given the Town precious articles such as Alexander Gilbert's medal and his family Bible so that the Town can display it in our Town Hall.

We welcome all visitors to come and check out the war monument and history board (history board to be installed soon) located next to St. Paul's Anglican/United Church in Come By Chance and to drop by our Town Hall to see the artifacts of PTE Alexander Gilbert.