

Memorial Day in Hopewell Borough - A History

Rev. 6/13/2020

A timeline of the development of Memorial Day / Decoration Day in Hopewell Borough, with a focus on the associated veterans organizations. Grouped by the defining conflicts from the Civil War through the Vietnam War.

Based primarily on Memorial Day in Hopewell / 1868 to 2003 (1-page certificate at Legion)

See also: Hopewell Borough Veterans Organizations - American Legion and G.A.R.

Contents

[Civil War - 1861 - 1865] - Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)	2
1866 - Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Founded	2
May 5, 1868 - Decoration Day / Memorial Day Created - General Logan, GAR.....	2
1881 - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Organized	2
Aug. 25 1887 - Hopewell GAR Chartered - James M. Weart Post, No. 108.....	2
(by 1893 - 1925/1935) Hopewell Sons of Veterans, H. M. Nevius Camp, No. 10 / 23	2
1893 - Hopewell Memorial Day Activities	2
[World War I - 1914 - 1918] - Sons of GAR / Memorial Committee	3
1919 - American Legion Founded.....	3
1920 - 1931 - Sons of GAR Veterans Assumed Operations of GAR Post	3
1921 - ~ 1927 - Hopewell American Legion Post 273.....	3
1932 - Volunteer "Hopewell Memorial Day Committee" Formed	3
1935 - "Hopewell Memorial Day Association" Formally Chartered by Borough.....	3
[World War II - 1939 - 1945] - Hopewell American Legion - Mercer St.	4
Dec. 1, 1945 - Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 338 Chartered	4
Nov. 1948 - First Hopewell Legion Building at 9 Mercer Street	4
[Korean War - 1950 - 1953] - Legion Post Runs Memorial Day	4
1952 - Hopewell Legion Assumed Management of Memorial Day association.....	4
[Vietnam War - 1961 - 1975] - Memorial Day Federal Holiday	4
April 1966 - Hopewell Legion New Building at 44 Van Dyke Road.....	4
[1971 - Memorial Day Becomes Federal Holiday - Last Monday in May	4

[Civil War - 1861 - 1865] - Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)

1866 - Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Founded

- Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.), Founded 1866, Springfield, Illinois
- Fraternal organization of veterans ... who served in the American Civil War

May 5, 1868 - Decoration Day / Memorial Day Created - General Logan, GAR

- Created by General John A. Logan, Commander and a founder of the GAR, May 5, 1868
- Decoration Day - Decorate the graves of soldiers who gave their lives in the Civil War
- Memorial Day - Honors all American soldiers who died in defense of the nation
- Hopewell Herald uses "Memorial Day" from the beginning (1881)
- Hopewell Herald also uses "Decoration Day" through 1949 (sparingly)

1881 - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Organized

- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Organized 1881, chartered by Congress 1954
- Legal successor to the Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.)
- Dedicated to preserving history and legacy of heroes who fought and worked to save the Union

Aug. 25 1887 - Hopewell GAR Chartered - James M. Weart Post, No. 108

- James M. Weart Post, No. 108 - GAR, Hopewell, N.J.; Chartered Aug. 25 1887
- Last Hw Civil War vet died 1930; Hw Museum Records 1891 - 1930, Post lasted until 1935(?)

"From 1897 [87?] until 1920, Hopewell had its own GAR Post 108, named in honor of James M. Weart. In 1920 the sons of GAR veterans assumed operations of the post and continued to 1931 when group disbanded. " [Hw Legion 2003]

(by 1893 - 1925/1935) Hopewell Sons of Veterans, H. M. Nevius Camp, No. 10 / 23

- H. M. Nevius Camp, No. 10, Sons of Veterans
- Two numbers: SUVCW lists Hopewell as #10 and #23 - #23 charter approved 1908 (?)

1893 - Hopewell Memorial Day Activities

Programme of exercises: At 9 am, Memorial Day the Sons of Veterans decorate in Blawenburg.

At 1 pm, all form on the Post grounds and march to the several cemeteries in order:

- Marshall Amos C. Bond - Dolington Cornet Band, 20 pieces - Children with flags and flowers
- James M. Weart Post, G. A. R. - H. M. Nevius Camp, Sons of Veterans
- Careful Lodge, No. 139, Knights of Pythias - Citizens in Carriages.

At 3 pm, procession retires to Post grounds for speaking and other exercises.

The Hon. H. M. Nevius, the one armed soldier, statesman and orator, will be orator for the day.

[HW Herald, 25 May 1893, Thu Page 2]

[World War I - 1914 - 1918] - Sons of GAR / Memorial Committee

1919 - American Legion Founded

- Chartered by Congress in 1919
- Service to veterans, servicemembers and communities

1920 - 1931 - Sons of GAR Veterans Assumed Operations of GAR Post

"In 1920 the sons of GAR veterans assumed operations of the post and continued to 1931 when group disbanded. " [Hw Legion 2003] -- e.g., Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)
Memorial Day activities in this period included GAR, Sons of Veterans, and American Legion [HwHerald]

1921 - ~ 1927 - Hopewell American Legion Post 273

- Hopewell, N. J. American Legion Post 273, Chartered 1921
- Hopewell Legion meetings through 1924, at Columbia Hall; also film showings 50 cents
- Some Memorial Day involvement through 1927, uses Trenton Legion by 1933
- Erected monument in street at Greenwood & Broad 1925, moved to School c1930 [Hw Herald]

1932 - Volunteer "Hopewell Memorial Day Committee" Formed

"In 1931 there was no local organization of these veterans and no program was observed. Then, in 1932, a volunteer veterans and citizens group was formed. It was known as the Memorial Day Committee and operated until 1935. " [Hw Legion 2003]

1935 - "Hopewell Memorial Day Association" Formally Chartered by Borough

In 1935 "the Hopewell Borough Council formally recognized the [Memorial Day Committee] and it was chartered as the Hopewell Memorial Day Association. It was authorized to arrange whatever ceremonies were needed on May 30 to continue the established traditions. "
[Hw Legion 2003]

[World War II - 1939 - 1945] - Hopewell American Legion - Mercer St.

Dec. 1, 1945 - Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 338 Chartered

- Chartered Dec. 1, 1945, 9 Mercer St. 1948, 55 Van Dyke Rd. 1966, Now 19C Model Ave.
- Post application for permanent charter issued March 17, 1947. 72 paid members, 225 in area.

Nov. 1948 - First Hopewell Legion Building at 9 Mercer Street

- First Hopewell Legion Post 339 building at 9 Mercer Street - Fund-raising 11/1948, \$3,000

[Korean War - 1950 - 1953] - Legion Post Runs Memorial Day

1952 - Hopewell Legion Assumed Management of Memorial Day association

The Hopewell Memorial Day Association functioned for 22 years [from 1932?] until 1952 when the Hopewell American Legion Post 339 assumed management of the association. [Hw Legion 2003]

[Vietnam War - 1961 - 1975] - Memorial Day Federal Holiday

April 1966 - Hopewell Legion New Building at 44 Van Dyke Road

- April 24, 1966 - Dedication of new building at 44 Van Dyke Road, membership 294 legionnaires.

[1971 - Memorial Day Becomes Federal Holiday - Last Monday in May

Memorial Day became an official federal holiday in 1971, on the last Monday in May (U.S. Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968)