

The Civil War Monument

The Civil War Monument, at the corner of S. Third Street and University Avenue, Lewisburg was formally dedicated on July 4, 1901 in a festive program that included a large parade, music and speeches.

Thousands of people from neighboring towns came to the celebration.

The Philadelphia & Reading Railway ran special excursions to Lewisburg. A train left Catawissa at 9 AM stopping at Bloomsburg, Rupert, Mooresburg, Pottsgrove, Danville, Milton and West Milton, with a 10 PM train returning via the same route. A train from Lewisburg carried participants to Winfield, Clement and Sunbury, and another served people from the western end of Union County.

The ladies of the Lutheran, Christian and First United Evangelical churches offered luncheon prior to the celebration, and restaurants and taverns were prepared to feed those attending. Free ice water was provided by the local citizens, lemonade and soda were for sale, and the enterprising Rockefeller Bros. of Sunbury had a train car of cold beer on hand.

More than 1000 people marched in the parade, which traversed the borough of Lewisburg, ending at the corner of S. Third Street and University Avenue, for the dedication of the monument.

Captain Roland Stoughton Camp, Sons of Veterans, and nearly every camp within 50 miles, sent a delegation to the parade. Companies A, Lewisburg; C. Milton; E, Sunbury and F, Danville of the 12th Regiment N.G.P., formed a battalion for the parade, under the command of Lieut. Colonel W.F. Barber and staff Adjutant Taggart, Lieut. Godcharles and Lieut. Drumheller.

Fire companies came from Sunbury, Milton, Mifflinburg, Shamokin, Hughesville, Danville, Northumberland, Selinsgrove, Montoursville, S. Williamsport, and Lewisburg, plus firemen's bands from Adamsburg, Cowan, Stoes and Swengel.

The Lewisburg Band played and there were vocal performances of the "Star Spangled Banner" and "My Country 'tis of Thee."

Miss Katherine Shriner, daughter of Civil War veteran Josiah Shriner, Sgt, Co. A, 131st P.V. and 51st P.V., unveiled the monument.

John H. Harris, President of Bucknell University spoke: "It is forty years since the men of Union County went forth with others for the accomplishment of a great work.....Comrades of the Grand Army and fellow soldiers, the cause for which you fought was a righteous cause.....This monument will stand not only as a memorial of the past and as a thank-offering by the present but as a prophecy of the future, a grateful tribute to those who fought and to those who fell" in the preservation of the Union.

The monument is a 45-foot tall pillar of Vermont granite. Two larger-than-life copper figures stood at the base, a Civil War soldier holding a gun and a sailor holding a sword. Time

and vandals took their toll on these seven-foot statues and they were removed and stored in the county courthouse basement for more than 25 years, until 1995 when funds were raised to complete their restoration.

On July 4, 1995 (50 years after the end of World War II) the monument was rededicated and renamed the "**Union County Soldiers and Sailors Monument**" in honor of all veterans of military service.

Each year, the Lewisburg Fourth of July parade continues the tradition of honoring our country and military.



Monument Ceremony in 1901



Monument Today