

History of Henry S. Perham Park in Chelmsford

As depicted in a photo of a float from the Chelmsford 4th of July parade of approximately 1924, **Henry S. Perham Park** was apparently dedicated and presented to the Town in the 1920s. The initial plot of land was given to the Town in 1923, and expanded in 1924 with a \$779 acquisition by eminent domain.

The Lowell Sun of May 29, 1925 reported on plans for the Memorial Day presentation by the Westlands Girls Club of a flag for the pole at Perham Park. On November 11, 1949 (Armistice Day) the Sun reported on a parade from the Westlands School to Perham Park for a ceremony dedicating a monument to veterans of all wars.

The small artillery piece that sits under the flagpole is a 57mm anti-tank gun from World War 2; research continues as to exactly when and how it was acquired.

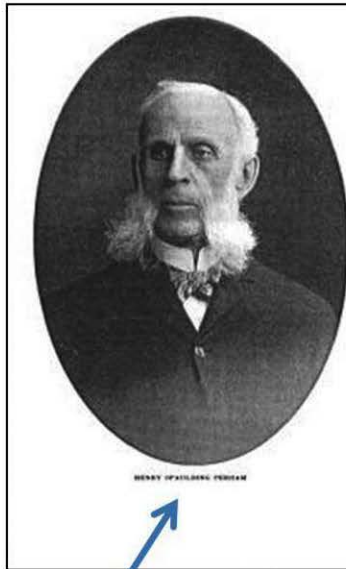


Photo of Henry S. Perham opposite title page in Waters' History of Chelmsford

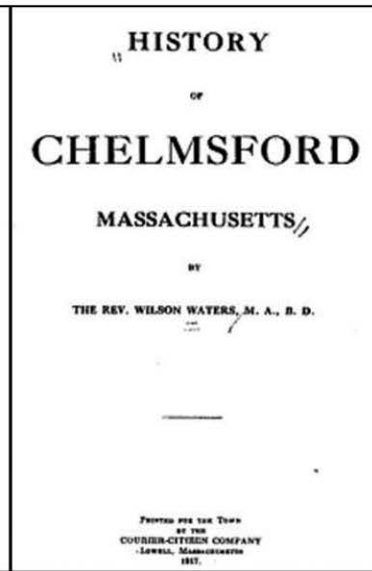
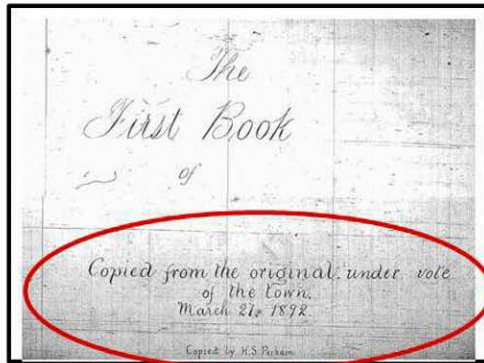


Photo of Henry S. Perham as a younger man



The First Book of Chelmsford Town Records Copied from the original under vote of the Town Copied by H.S. Perham, March 21, 1892

Perham Park was named for **Henry Spaulding Perham**, honoring his work as an early historian of the Town. A great-great-great-great-great grandson of Edward Spaulding, one of the early settlers and leaders in the town, Henry S. Perham (1843-1906) was responsible for preserving the earliest town records by carefully copying them by hand. At the time of his death in 1906, he was working on an updated History of Chelmsford, a work that was completed in 1917 by the Rev. Wilson Waters, who gave due credit to Mr. Perham in the book's introduction.

Introduction to the Rev. Wilson Waters' History of Chelmsford, crediting the role of Henry S. Perham in the work's origin.

INTRODUCTION.

THE work of preparing a history of Chelmsford was undertaken by Mr. Henry S. Perham in 1904, at the request of the Town. Mr. Perham, a native of Chelmsford, whose ancestor was one of the early settlers, had written a sketch of Chelmsford for Hurd's History of Middlesex County, published in 1891; and at the Quarter-Millennial celebration in 1905, he delivered the historical address which was printed in the Report of the Proceedings. At the time of his death, in 1906, he had written so much of the contemplated history as appears in the first chapter of this volume under the title, "The Beginning." This, with whatever other material (consisting of a few notes, some correspondence, and occasional addresses in manuscript), was found among his papers, came into my hands, when, in 1907, I was asked by the Town to take up the work interrupted by the lamented death of Mr. Perham.

I reluctantly accepted the task, realizing the labor involved and the time it would take from other pressing duties. I have endeavored to bring the work to completion in a manner as nearly consonant with that of my predecessor and as worthy of the subject as the imposed conditions and my own limitations would allow. I have traversed the whole field, verifying the quotations made by Mr. Perham, although this was hardly necessary in the case of such an accurate historian, and have searched diligently for the facts now presented to the reader. I am aware that further years of work might yield some things of interest not unearthed, and perhaps give better finish to the



PRESENTATION OF THE
HENRY S. PERHAM PARK
TO THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
"LET THE CHILDREN GUARD WHAT THE SIRE'S HAVE WON"



PLAGUE PRESENTED--During the dedication ceremony held at Perham Park Armistice Day, T.W. Emerson, chairman of the Board of Selectmen accepted the plague in behalf of the townspeople from William Ayotte. Pictured above, left to right, Rev. Warren M. Chandler, Pastor of the Central Baptist Church; Rev. John Zuromskis, St. Mary's Church; Commander Raymond Ayotte, Selectmen T.W. Emerson; William Ayotte, Mrs. James Grant and Mrs. Elizabeth Vinal.

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OF THOSE WHO SERVED
IN THE ARMED SERVICES
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