

SOLDIERS MONUMENT

At the March 2, 1926, New Brighton Council meeting, Chester Bourdeaux, chairman of a committee from the New Brighton Commercial Club, requested approval to erect a monument to World War I service men upon the water tower property along 5th Avenue and that a retaining wall be erected and the property be graded and sodded.

The Village Council instructed the Recorder to get bids for a retaining wall along the west side of the property and appointed a Council committee of Walter Hudoba, a war veteran, and H. L. Robinson to work with the Commercial Club committee to see the project through. Later the Commercial Club was given free use of the Town Hall for dances to raise money for the monument and at a special meeting in June the Council donated \$100 toward the soldiers monument fund.

In July of 1926 the Council approved a bill of \$1172.52 from the Crown Sidewalk Company of Minneapolis for constructing the wall and sidewalk on Village property in the area of the water tower where the soldiers monument was to be installed.

While no further mention is made in records as to completion of the fund drive and erection of the monument, its physical presence overlooking New Brighton's main street for the past 60 years is evidence enough that the project was achieved. Visitors to this bit of New Brighton history and culture discovered that the concrete steps leading up to the site took them to a place of compelling solitude and escape from the teeming Village around them.

The monument is of granite and rests on a rugged base. It bears no dedicatory inscription and the only indication of its significance is suggested by the carvings of crossed flags at the top of the stone on both the east and west sides, and the asterisks, or stars, alongside four of the 85 names, those of deceased veterans. The block type names, which are alphabetical except for a few names out of place at the bottom of each face of the stone, are difficult to read as their carvings blend into the drab gray stone. But the names of most all the old New Brighton area families are here and preserved on the monument in the following order, reading top to bottom:

WEST SIDE

ANDERBERG, GEORGE I.
 ARENDSEE, WILLIAM
 ARNEBERG, BENNIE
 BLANSKI, JOHN P.
 BONA, BERNARD M.
 BONA, JOHN W.
 BROVITCH, PETER
 BUCHER, HERMAN
 BUCHER, WILLIAM
 CLARKIN, JEROME P.
 CREPEAU, BENNIE H.
 DEVINE, HARVEY S.
 ESPENETT, EDWARD L.
 FABIANSKE, JOHN
 FAHEY, HAROLD H.
 FAYMOVILLE, CHARLES J.
 GALLANT, MAURICE
 GANTER, CLARENCE WM.
 GOLDEMAN, GEORGE J.
 GORSKI, HENRY M.
 GORSKI, JOHN P.
 *HAGLUND, EDWARD J.
 HAMRICH, ANDREW
 HANSEN, HENRY
 HANSEN, LOUIS
 HANSEN, HERMAN
 HUDOBA, WALTER
 JENSEN, SIVERT
 *KELLER, ANDREW
 KELLER, MATT H.
 KNOLL, ERNEST E.
 KOALSKA, EDWARD
 KURKOWSKI, GEORGE
 KUSH, SAM
 LANGE, ANDREW
 LEIER, MICHAEL T.
 LEIER, STEPHEN B.
 LESSMAN, FRANK
 LESSMAN, JOSEPH
 LETTENGARVER, WILLIAM
 LIND, CLARENCE O.
 REASONER, CLAYTON M.

EAST SIDE

LINDER, ARTHUR
 LINDER, LEROY
 LUBIEWSKI, FRANK
 MALASKE, FRANK
 MALINOWSKI, FRED H.
 MALINOWSKI, WILLIAM F.
 MILLAM, CRESSWELL L.
 MOGA, JOHN
 MOLITOR, FRANK
 OLCHEFSKI, ANTON L.
 OLSON, DAVID
 *OLSON, WALTER
 PERRON, ELMER F.
 PODLASEK, STANLEY J.
 RASMUSSEN, SEVERIN A.
 REHBEIN, EDWARD A.
 REASONER, SHIRLEY W.
 RICHARDSON, CARROLL H.
 *SCHAFMAN, WALTER W.
 SCHAUB, OTTO E.
 SEARLES, COY B.
 SINNA, ANDREW
 SKIBA, ALBERT
 SKIBA, MARTIN A.
 SOIKA, MARTIN
 SOMMERFELDT, WILLIAM E.
 STEINKE, WILLIAM
 SZTUK, JOHN F.
 SZTUK, JOSEPH
 SWANSON, ANTON
 SZYMCZAK, FRANK J.
 TIMA, ALEXANDER R.
 TONER, HUGH D.
 TONER, WILLIAM H.
 TREAT, JAMES R.
 VOLKMANN, RAYMOND
 WALUM, EINAR
 WEAVER, RUSSELL H.
 WINIECKE, JOSEPH
 ZAMOR, FELIX
 ZAMOR, JOHN J.
 DEVINE, CLARENCE D.
 RYBAK, STANLEY

In 1935 organizers of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post used names of the World War I veterans from the monument for prospective members of the post, which was named after Walter Olson and Walter Schafman, two New Brighton doughboys who lost their lives in World War I. First commander of Schafman-Olson VFW Post No. 724 was William Steinke, a town barber and justice of the peace. The Rev. Max Matz, pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, was the post's first chaplain and later district, state and national chaplain as well. Felix Zamor was the post's first senior vice-commander and Otto Schaub, New Brighton Postmaster, was the post's first quartermaster.



THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT to World War I veterans pictured at its rededication outside the City Hall in 1985. Erected in 1926, the monument was moved to make way for enlargement of the Fire Hall down the street.