



**DEDICATION OF VETERANS' MARKER**  
**GENERAL ANDREW P. FERNALD**



MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 31, 2024  
2:00 P.M.  
52 GOODWIN RD.

Andrew Pepperell Fernald Veterans Stone Dedication  
Fernald Family Cemetery ~ Goodwin Road ~ Eliot, Maine  
Memorial Day ~ May 30, 2011

It was a bright day that greeted the town as it gathered at 9AM to witness the Memorial Day parade and then befittingly observe the day at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. John Lippincott representing the American Legion chaired the program. He began by reading an invitation to the townspeople to the dedication of a Veterans stone for Revolutionary War officer Andrew Pepperell Fernald, later that day.

At 2pm, assembled at the Fernald gravesite at 52 Goodwin Road were an estimated 150 members of the Fernald and related families, neighbors, and friends from near and far.



Up on the hill, amidst the alfalfa and grasses swaying gently in the field and the bright sun, the Grand Union Flag flew proudly as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of York County manned the cannon. It was a picture from another world, a time long past leaving one to wonder what waited on the other side of that hill, as it disappeared into the sky.





Ray Faulkner and his compatriot Jackson Yeaton, re-enactors and members of the Eliot/Elite Military Timeline Honor Guard, portraying a Revolutionary War militiaman and Continental soldier, respectively, stood at attention throughout the

service flanking the podium where Maj. Gen. Lee Downer, USAF. (ret.) presided. The Eliot Police Department Honor Guard, commanded by Police Chief Theodor Short presented the colors, followed by the National Anthem, sung by Joan Feldmeier of the Ranger Chapter of the D.A.R., Portsmouth, NH. Maj. Gen. Downer welcomed all those present, acknowledging officials from the town and legislature, including selectmen Roland Fernald and Roberta Place; members of the Fernald family, neighbors and guests from both the D.A.R. Ranger (Portsmouth) and Margery Sullivan (York) Chapters.





Excerpts from a letter sent by Representative Michael H. Michaud were read, in part saying “Albeit long overdue, today Andrew Pepperell Fernald has finally received the proper memorial that he deserves. We owe General Fernald and every individual who has served us, living or deceased, our highest regard, respect, and honor – and the assurance that their commitment to our nations’ freedom will never be forgotten.”



Steve Waters of Eliot American Legion Post 188 gave the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance.



Eric Christian, member of the Historical Society, read a paper outlining the life of Gen. Fernald. He said, in part, "The purposeful life of General Andrew Pepperell Fernald began on February 20, 1753. He was born the son of Dennis Fernald and Sarah Frost in a large new home built by his father on 50 acres of land that his mother Sarah received as a dowry from her father, Charles Frost III. On April 30, 1776 Andrew P. Fernald was appointed as Adjutant of the 2nd York County Regiment of the Massachusetts State Militia upon the recommendation of Colonel John Frost and Major John Shapleigh who described him in their appointment request as an "able and skillful person". On January 9, 1777 Adjutant Andrew P. Fernald marched with Colonel John Frost's 2nd York County Regiment which was reinforcing the Continental Army for three months during their winter camp along the Hudson River north of New York City. General Washington's troops had forced the British and Hessian troops back into defensive positions in and



around New York City after recent victories in Trenton and Princeton, NJ ... In March of 1777 Andrew P. Fernald and the rest of the men under Colonel Frost's Regiment were honorably discharged and marched back to Kittery to continue their former lives as farmers, merchants, and tanners. After a three year break, the events of the American Revolution called Andrew P. Fernald back to duty as he was promoted to Captain in the 2nd York County Regiment on June 23, 1780 and ordered into active service on July 6, 1780 to command a company of Massachusetts State troops along the Hudson River north of New York City. Captain Fernald was discharged on September 22, 1780 and began a 300 mile return march to Kittery, precisely one day before Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point was exposed.



He was 30 years old as the war ended. He turned his attention to farming, his tanning business, growing his family, and keeping active in the State Militia. He also began the first introductory steps in a remarkable life of public service. By 1791, at age 38, Andrew P. Fernald was the Upper Parish's

choice to serve as moderator of parish meetings. His public service also included his appointment as Town Clerk from 1791 to 1800. Andrew P. Fernald also served as Selectman from 1793 to 1796. He served as a Representative to the Massachusetts General Court from 1799 to 1800 and although not formally trained as a lawyer, Andrew P. Fernald Esq. served for seven years as Justice of the Peace. After his service during the Revolutionary War, Andrew P. Fernald continued to serve with the York County Militia. His career rise in the militia mirrored the rise in his personal and public life. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel and commander of the 2nd York County Regiment at age 36 on October 1, 1789. Almost eleven years later on May 4, 1800 he was appointed



Brigadier General and commander of the 1st York County Brigade, 6th Division of the Massachusetts State Militia. And thus he was known for the remainder of his life as “General”. Of all the accomplishments of General Andrew P. Fernald’s life, probably the most significant in the minds of generations of Eliot inhabitants, was his work on the Incorporation of the town of Eliot in 1810. For it was almost entirely his persuasive argument that convinced the majority of the inhabitants of the Upper Parish of Kittery to send him, along with Captain Elisha Shapleigh to Boston to persuade the General Court to vote in favor of our

separation from Kittery.”



Lillian Miller and her sister June Phillips, who are 3<sup>rd</sup> great grand-daughters of General Fernald, unveiled the marker,



followed by the placing of a wreath by 5<sup>th</sup> great grand-daughter Hannah Olmo and then the placing of the American flag by 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson Andrew P. Fernald III and Justin Fernald, 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson.



The shots rang out as members of Eliot American Legion Post #188 gave salute to honor this Revolutionary War veteran





and the cannon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of York County, standing ready, responded with 3 booming shots.



The solemn sound of “taps” echoed across the field from the horn of Marshwood music student Courtney Schoff; the colors were retired and thus brought to a close the service for the dedication of a Veterans Marker for General Andrew Pepperell.





Maj. General Downer closed the ceremony, conveying special thanks to Eric Christian and Rosanne Adams-Junkins for their work in bringing the event about. Following the service the guests mingled to enjoy lemonade and cookies and the fife playing of Robert Harrison. As Eric Christian said “We remember General Andrew Pepperell Fernald and his legacy today, and hope the dedication of his grave marker will help to preserve his memory for future generations of his descendants as well as the citizens of the town he played such an important role in creating.”











Photography:  
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