

Public Sites and Churches

One of Peterborough's first "summer residents" was Catharine Putnam of Boston who spent summers with her uncle and cousins, the Paysons, as early as 1827, and later moved permanently to town. In 1862 she gave a 2¾-acre tract of land west of Grove Street south of the Nubanusit to the Town for a public park. The area was smoothed and graded, with a picket fence, gates and stiles erected by the 1870s (Smith 1876:218). After the Civil War, a Soldier's Monument was erected in 1869 (dedicated 1870) by the Soldiers and Sailors Mutual Benefit Association. The bronze statue, 6'-7" tall, on a Concord granite base, was sculpted by Martin Milmore (1844-1883). Originally located in Putnam Grove, the statue was moved across the street in 1902 to the front of the GAR Hall (40 Grove).