



**CIVIL WAR VETERAN  
CORPORAL JOHN H. FLETCHER  
TO BE HONORED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2014**

Dedication of a Memorial plaque at the corner of Flagg Hill and Summer Roads

On Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm the Boxborough Historical Commission, local veterans and civil war reenactors will gather to dedicate an island located at the intersection of Flagg Hill Road and Summer Road to Corporal John H. Fletcher - Boxborough's only battle fatality of the Civil War. Cpl. Fletcher was serving with the Army of the Shenandoah under Major Generals Sheridan and Wright in the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Company E, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. He was killed in action on September 19, 1864 along with his best friend, Acton's Eugene Hall during the battle of Winchester, Virginia [known as the Third Winchester by the Confederates and the Battle of Opequon Creek by Union forces].

Seeing the 19<sup>th</sup> is the one hundredth fifty year anniversary, we figured the next day a Saturday is a better day for the memorial plaque dedication.

Corporal John H. Fletcher's family homestead was located in the area of Flagg Hill and Summer Roads. Fletcher enlisted in September 1861. Both Fletcher and Hall were members of the Sons of Temperance. A memorial to both young men is located in Hope Cemetery, Central Street, West Acton.

He was 22 years old when he was killed in action. He was less than a month away from being mustered out.

According to records compiled by the Acton Public Library the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment Mass. Volunteer Infantry's first duty was to maintain the occupation of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, New Orleans' river fortifications which controlled the Mississippi River Delta. Their first time they saw actual combat was in June 1863 when the Confederates attacked them at La Fourche Crossing outside of New Orleans. Then in August 1863 they participated in the unsuccessful Sabine Pass expedition, and engaged in various smaller skirmishes on their way north until they met up with the [Union]Army of the Shenandoah in August of 1864. The battle of September 19<sup>th</sup> resulted in the Regiments heaviest losses in a single action. 46 dead include Fletcher and Hall.