



WINIFRED ALICE (BOWLER) WRIGHT

ARMY AND NAVY LEAGUE

“MILFORD IN WORLD WAR II” AND “A GRANITE TOWN”

AUTHOR: “MILFORD IN WORLD WAR II”

She did it for her “boys”. With three of her six children in the war Winnie felt strongly that all of Milford’s boys and girls were her children and wanted to reassure them they’d never be forgotten. Her inspiration was a Milford WWI book by Charles Heald and Baptist Minister Reverend Reese. Coincidentally, a woman asked her to consider starting a Navy League and she did, but then left the national association to start both an Army and a Navy League. Armed with a scrapbook, information on each soldier was gathered and placed in pockets of the scrapbook, courtesy of mothers, sweethearts, letters from soldiers and newspaper articles, but it was hard gathering information from the soldiers themselves as many did not want to talk about the war. With constant address changes from the boys, she was a great comfort to mothers who were worried about their children. Letters of thanks she received from soldiers are now part of the Milford Historical Society’s collection. Winnie’s team never forgot any of the 553 soldiers’ birthdays and sent Christmas boxes containing Milford Cabinets, edible items, cards and letters of appreciation for the duration of the war. Whist parties were organized by Winifred and held in the town hall to fund the project. The Army and Navy League disbanded in December of 1949. Money left in the treasury was divided between the newly formed VFW and the American Legion of Milford.

AUTHOR: “A GRANITE TOWN” History of Milford 1900-1978

Inspiration: Ramsdell’s “History of Milford”. Over the course of 12 years, Alberta Hagar and Winifred read the Milford Cabinet issues dating from 1895 until 1978 when “A Granite Town” was published. William Rotch allowed them to bring home large leather bound volumes of newspapers, making it much easier to research from home. Winifred worked day and night getting the files started as the team of 5 from the Historical Society dwindled to 2. She knew that the information had to be recorded and preserved for the town she truly loved. Her mission was to create a written historical time capsule giving future generations a look back into their home town’s past.

Story provided by Denise Wright Fox, Granddaughter of Winifred Wright