

ELIZABETH C. WETHERELL, CIVIL WAR NURSE, TO BE HONORED IN WARE

Elizabeth C. Wetherell, a nurse during the Civil War who gave her life caring for countless sick, wounded, and maimed soldiers, will be honored at a public ceremony to take place on October 13, 2018, at Ware's historic Aspen Grove Cemetery.

Elizabeth and her husband, Lothrop, lived in Ware in the mid-1800s. After Lothrop's death in 1854, Elizabeth moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where she operated a school for girls. The opening shots of the Civil War, fired at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, changed her life.

As the war progressed and casualties mounted, the Western Sanitary Commission, entrusted with the care and well-being of Union troops west of the Mississippi, furnished hospitals and recruited women nurses to minister to the war wounded. Answering the call, Elizabeth moved to St. Louis, where she was assigned to work in one of that city's hospitals. In 1862, the Commission procured hospital boats to transport sick and wounded soldiers from fields of battle up to St. Louis. Elizabeth was assigned to serve as head nurse on one of those vessels, the steamboat *Empress*. From the performance of her duties and exposure to infection, Elizabeth contracted a fever, and died on July 8, 1862. Upon learning of her death, the Commission formally lauded the service and sacrifice of this brave and noble woman.

The ceremony on October 13 will dedicate a stone marker honoring Elizabeth, recently installed by the Ware Cemetery Commission. It is adjacent to a monument, erected by the town in 1867, commemorating soldiers from Ware who died in the Civil War. Commencing at 12 noon, the ceremony will take place at the marker and monument, located near the cemetery entrance on Pleasant Street in Ware. It will be followed by a tour of the cemetery. The public is invited. Further information may be obtained from the Ware Cemetery Commission, 413-967-9626.