What's in a Name?   Honoring Military Service

BROWN STREET

1. Farmer, diplomat, spy, soldier. At the age of 36, Major John Brown died in the Revolutionary War leading an attack at the Battle of Stone Arabia in 1780. He had fought under Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold at the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in 1775 (above). Ordered to Philadelphia to share the victorious news, Brown also denounced Arnold as a traitor. Nobody believed him, but three years later, Arnold switched sides and fought for the British.

BARTLETT AVENUE

2. Bartlett Avenue was named for a genuine Civil War hero from Pittsfield. William Frances Bartlett harbored pro-southern sympathies before the war, but five days after the attack on Fort Sumter, he enlisted to support the struggle to preserve the Union. He was wounded, lost a leg and taken prisoner of war, but continued to re-enlist. He rose to the rank of Major General and commanded the all-Berkshire regiment, Massachusetts 49th.

EASTON AVENUE

3. In 1775, Colonel James Easton owned a tavern in the center of Pittsfield. There, he organized meetings to plan for an attack on the British fort at Ticonderoga in order to seize artillery and munitions. One of the first offensive military actions of the Revolutionary War, the seized weapons would support the defense of Boston after the British abandoned the city two years earlier.

WILLIAMS STREET

4. In 1764, William Williams built a home that doubled as a court on Court Hill, even before there was a street named after him. An officer in the British Army for 19 years, Williams came to the area when it was still known as Pontoosuck Plantation. He claimed the "air suited the settlers and they felt frisky and alert." During the French and Indian War, he led a regiment in the unsuccessful attack on Fort Ticonderoga and helped build a fort to defend Pontoosuck.

VETERANS WAY

5. In 1998, Pittsfield recognized all city veterans who served in the military by renaming the short street leading up to the Veterans Memorial. The monument designed by Henry Augustus Lukeman was dedicated after the first world war as the Peace Memorial. Additional plaques have been added over the years for the veterans who have served in other wars the U.S. has fought including World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.