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\$19.95, 264 pgs, trade paper, 6"x9", History

MEN OF GRANITE:

TRUE STORIES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FIGHTING MEN

By William E. McGee

From the Foreword by Fritz Wetherbee:

“When he told me he was researching a history of New Hampshire military heroes I knew it would be done with love and it would be thorough. The fact that it is a delight to read is frosting on the cake. *This book will be a resource to students and historians for years to come. Researchers and teachers will thank Bill McGee for this work. As I thank him.*”

About the Book:

This paperback, non-fiction title contains the true stories of forty-nine of New Hampshire's fighting men from the year's 1755 to 1991. Bill McGee has profiled soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who made significant contributions in service to their country from the French and Indian War to Iraq. There are Medal of Honor recipients, an astronaut, and men who were the namesakes of Army forts, an Air Force base, Army airfields, and Navy destroyers. Discover the admirals, generals, privates, and corporals—submariners, parachutists, and fighter pilots from New Hampshire . . . Granite Staters . . . Men of Granite.

About the Author:

William “Bill” McGee was raised in Milford, New Hampshire and graduated Milford High School in 1955, and the University of New Hampshire in 1959. He served in the New Hampshire National Guard as an Artilleryman, was a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army; and an Army Aviator, rated in both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. He served five years active duty. During his 12 months in Vietnam, he was promoted to Captain and flew over 400 combat missions, rescuing wounded American and Vietnamese soldiers.

McGee is an Eagle Scout and a Silver Beaver. During his forty-five years in Boy Scouting, he has been a Cub den leader, Scoutmaster, and Woodbadge trainer. He has served on the boards of the Lee Scouting Museum in Manchester, NH, and the Hillcourt Scout Museum near Syracuse, New York. As a free-lance writer, he has had his stories and articles published in England, Poland, and in the United States. He makes his home in Liverpool, New York.

Dedication to Robert G. LeBlanc, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of New Hampshire whose own life was tragically cut short on 9-11-2001. **All profits from the sale of this book go to the Robert G. LeBlanc Memorial Scholarship Fund administered by the University of New Hampshire Foundation, Durham, NH.**

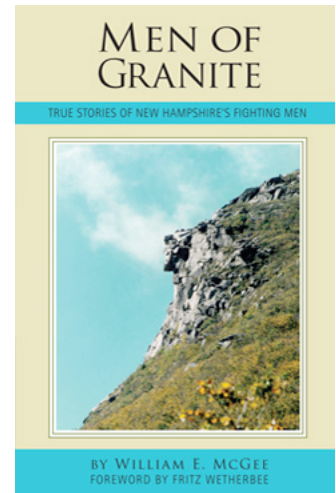
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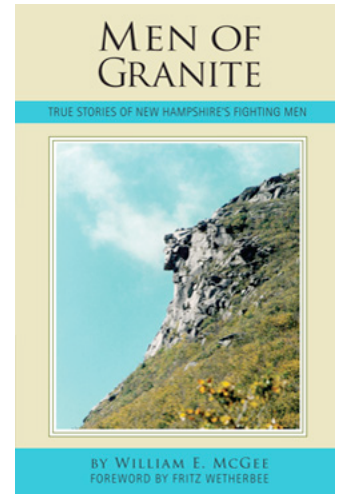
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Q&A with Author William "Bill" McGee

What was the genesis of this project?

Bill: In a sense, I've been writing this book for 30 years. In high school, I learned about Daniel Webster, Horace Greeley and Franklin Pierce, but I never knew about, for example, Colonel Edward E. Cross who commanded an infantry brigade during the Civil War, or Henry Dearborn who had been the Commanding General of the entire United States Army during the War of 1812, or Corporal Rene Gagnon from Manchester, New Hampshire who helped raise the flag over Iwo Jima in World War II. Throughout my life, whenever I've learned about a New Hampshire soldier who contributed something significant to his country, I've made a mental note of it, and I knew that I wanted to write about them someday.



You've organized your book chronologically, giving summaries of conflicts from the French & Indian War to Desert Storm in Iraq, and then telling the stories of New Hampshire men who were involved in those conflicts. How did you decide on this structure, and what were the strengths and weaknesses of it?

Bill: Frankly, if someone had suggested that I write a 'history' book, I never would have started. I wanted to write this book for the average high school student who wasn't necessarily a scholar, and wasn't particularly interested in history. I wanted to make his or her state's history interesting and easy to read and understand. Then, in going from biography to biography, it seemed to make sense to include recaps of wars that would provide a context for what these soldiers did, and would contribute a bit of national and world history. And in my research, I found a lot of little-known facts that I think will make this a valuable book for adults interested in the topic, too.

You have had quite a military career yourself. What did you learn about soldiers, the military, and war in general, as you were writing this book?

Bill: What I learned from being in the military myself is that around 10% of soldiers in a war, or a war zone, actually see combat. Those that actually see combat consider themselves to be survivors. And no one comes home from a war without being changed.

How do you think Men of Granite will be received?

Bill: What I expect will happen after the book's release is to receive letters from some UNH grads who were helicopter pilots in Vietnam and were decorated for amazing deeds and feel they should have been included. If enough people send in their stories, perhaps we'll have to publish a revised edition!

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