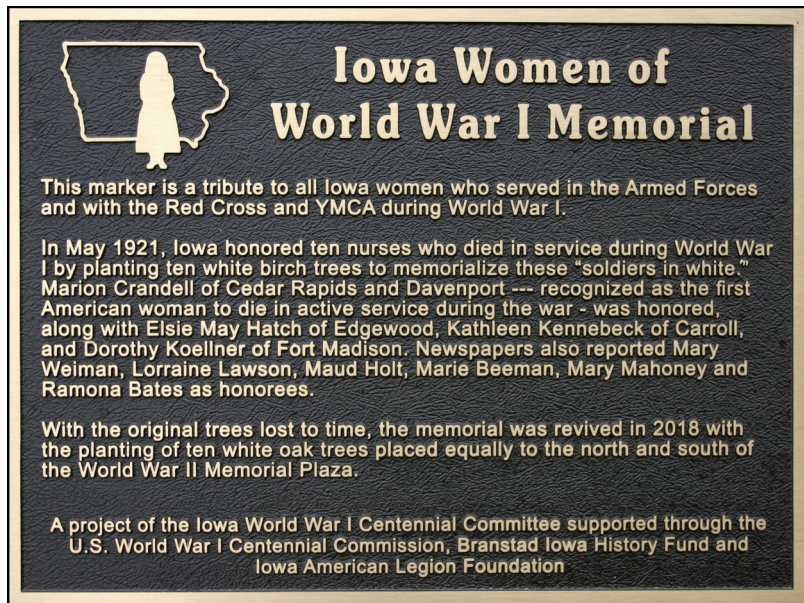


# "Soldiers in White" Memorial Trees and Boulder



## "Soldiers in White" Memorial Trees and Boulder

On Memorial Day in 1921, the State of Iowa honored 10 Iowa women for their service during WWI.

The *Soldiers in White* memorial was a tribute to the 10 Iowa nurses who lost their lives during the war. The memorial included 11 white birch trees planted somewhere on the Capitol grounds. There were 10 trees planted for the Iowa nurses, and the 11th was named for Jane Delano, who was credited with organizing more than 36,000 nurses nationwide.



Unfortunately, the original memorial became lost through the years. Perhaps the location of the trees was never documented. Pictures showing the official tree planting by Governor Nathan Kendall are not helpful in determining the location. Traditionally, white birch trees do not grow well in central Iowa. In any case, the trees were removed or died, and there seems to be no record of the memorial location. There was no permanent marker installed to commemorate the event.

## A New Memorial

The Iowa WWI Centennial Committee recreated this memorial, including a permanent marker, in hopes it will not be lost again.

In the fall of 2018, 10 white oak trees were planted to the east of the Capitol. These trees are near the WWII Memorial between the Grimes State Office Building and East 12th Street. There are five trees flanking each side of the walkway surrounding the WWII Memorial. At the dedication on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at 1:00 p.m., the WWI Iowa Centennial Committee unveiled a large boulder with a bronze plaque near the walkway. This boulder and plaque will be a permanent memorial for the *Soldiers in White* who sacrificed their lives comforting our fighting men in uniform so far away from home.