

**DEDICATION OF THE EQUESTRIAN
STATUE OF MAJOR-GENERAL CHARLES
DEVENS AND OF THE
MONUMENT TO THE SOLDIERS OF
WORCESTER COUNTY IN THE WAR FOR
THE UNION, JULY 4TH, 1906**

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Dedication of the equestrian statue of Major-General Charles Devens and of the monument to the soldiers of Worcester County in the war for the union, July 4th, 1906 by Various

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WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

1907.

**THE STATUE COMMISSION AND
THE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Commission

It was in the fall of 1891 that the first steps were taken in the movement to erect a statue in Worcester in honor of Gen. Charles Devens.

The late Senator George F. Hoar was the originator of the movement; he called a meeting of gentlemen supposed to be interested, which was presided over by the late Josiah H. Clarke with Edwin Brown as secretary, and the following call was mailed to several prominent citizens:

Worcester, Nov. 9, 1891.

Dear Sir:

You are respectfully invited to attend a meeting to take measures for erecting in Worcester a monument and statue to Gen. Devens to be held at the Worcester Club House on Elm Street, Friday, Nov. 13th, at half-past seven o'clock P. M.

Josiah H. Clarke, Chairman,
Edwin Brown, Secretary.

At this meeting a committee of thirty-five gentlemen was chosen to solicit subscriptions for the statue, and the following circular was prepared for distribution:

To the present and former Citizens of Worcester, and friends of the late GENERAL CHARLES DEVENS:

It is proposed to erect a statue, with suitable pedestal, in honor of our late eminent and beloved fellow citizen, GEN.

CHARLES DEVENS. It is supposed that to obtain such a monument from a competent artist will require at least \$15,000. It is desired to raise this sum by subscription. Our beautiful streets and squares are not ornamented by a single statue, except those about the Soldier's Monument, which is the only work of art to which our citizens have contributed. The beautiful Bigelow Monument on the Common was the gift of a stranger. We hope you will be willing to do your full part toward adorning the city, which he so much loved and for which he did so much, with a suitable memorial of a citizen who was its ornament and pride.

The only result of the meeting at this time was a pledge of five gentlemen to contribute three thousand dollars towards a general subscription for the statue.

It was very soon decided, however, that for various reasons the time was not a propitious one for pressing the movement, and no further action was taken till the fall of 1901.

At a meeting of the Fifteenth Regiment Association, held at that time, the matter was again brought up and a committee was appointed to make an effort to raise the necessary funds. This committee consisted of Capt. J. Evarts Greene, David M. Earle, Col. Edward J. Russell, Capts. Amos Bartlett, Thos. J. Hastings and P. F. Murray.

This committee called a meeting of citizens which met in March, 1902, at which a general committee was appointed to have charge of the whole matter of the statute. This committee consisted of J. Evarts Greene, Emerson Stone, Chairman of the County Commissioners, Rufus B. Dodge, Mayor of the City, George F. Hoar, Daniel Merriman, President Wor-

chester Art Museum, Thomas C. Mendenhall, President of the Polytechnic Institute, and Col. Edward J. Russell.

The following Act of Incorporation, received from the Legislature of Massachusetts, was adopted at a meeting held April 4, 1902. By-Laws were adopted and the commission organized.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Two.

AN ACT

To authorize Cities and Towns in Worcester County to contribute towards the Devens' Memorial Monument, and to incorporate the Worcester County Memorial Devens' Statue Commission.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

SECTION 1. Any city or town in the county of Worcester may raise and appropriate, and pay to the corporation hereinafter created, a sum not exceeding one cent on every one hundred dollars of its valuation, for the purpose of erecting in front of the county court house in the city of Worcester a monument in memory of the patriotism and valor of the men of Worcester county in the war for the Union; the monument to be surmounted by a bronze, equestrian statue of the late Major-General and Judge Charles Devens.

SECTION 2. George F. Hoar, J. Evarts Greene, Herbert Parker, Nathaniel Paine, Emerson Stone, Rufus B. Dodge, Daniel Merriman, Edward J. Russell, and the mayor of the

city of Worcester for the time being, and their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation under the name of the "Worcester County Memorial Devens' Statue Commission," with power to cause to be erected the monument above described and to fix the exact position thereof in front of the Worcester county court house in the city of Worcester, and to receive the contributions already collected for said monument and statue and all moneys that may hereafter be contributed for that purpose, and all moneys that may be raised and appropriated by the cities and towns of Worcester county and by Worcester county under authority hereof.

SECTION 3. The County Commissioners of the county of Worcester are hereby authorized to appropriate and pay to said corporation a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.

SECTION 4. Chapter five hundred and six of the Laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-six is hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Officers were elected as follows: George F. Hoar, Chairman; J. Evarts Greene, Vice-Chairman; Nathaniel Paine, Clerk and Treasurer. An Executive Committee, consisting of Daniel Merriman, J. Evarts Greene and Rufus B. Dodge, was appointed. Also a Finance Committee: Emerson Stone, E. J. Russell and Nathaniel Paine.

Steps were at once taken to secure the necessary funds. The County of Worcester appropriated the sum of \$5,000 and the City of Worcester \$7,500, and the following towns of Worcester County made appropriations of nearly \$4,000, in sums from \$25 to \$450:

	Auburn,	
Berlin,	Boylston,	Brookfield,
Charlton,	Clinton,	Dudley,

Grafton,	Harvard,	Holden,
Hubbardston,	Lancaster,	Leicester,
Milford,	Millbury,	New Braintree,
Northboro,	Northbridge,	North Brookfield,
Oxford,	Oakham,	Paxton,
Petersham,	Phillipston,	Princeton,
Royalston,	Southboro,	Southbridge,
Sterling,	Sturbridge,	Spencer,
Sutton,	Templeton,	Upton,
Warren,	West Boylston,	Webster,
	Westboro.	

At a meeting of the Commission, held July 12, 1902, it was voted to contract with Daniel C. French and E. C. Potter for an equestrian statue of Gen. Devens for a sum not exceeding \$30,000, which contract was duly executed, and on November 27, 1903, a model of the statue, submitted by the artists, was formally accepted. Robert D. Andrews, architect, of Boston, was employed to design the pedestal for the statue.

In June, 1904, the Commission voted "that it is expedient that the monument bear an inscription setting forth in substance that the monument surmounted by the statue of their beloved comrade, Maj. Gen. Charles Devens, be dedicated to the patriotism and valor of the men of Worcester County, who fought for their country in the war for the Union."

At a meeting of the Commission, held November 12, 1904, Gen. William F. Draper was chosen Chairman and Daniel Merriman, D. D., Vice-Chairman, to fill the vacancies caused by the deaths of Senator Hoar