

**AN ORATION DELIVERED AT THE  
DEDICATION OF THE SOLDIERS'  
MONUMENT IN NORTH  
WEYMOUTH, MASS., ON  
SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1868**

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An oration delivered at the dedication of the soldiers' monument in North Weymouth, Mass., on Saturday, July 4, 1868 by George B. Loring

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**GEORGE B. LORING**

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WEYMOUTH, MASS., ON  
SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1868**



AN  
ORATION

DELIVERED AT THE  
DEDICATION OF THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

IN  
NORTH WEYMOUTH, MASS.,  
ON SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1868,

BY  
HON. GEORGE B. LORING.

*With an Appendix,*

CONTAINING THE OTHER EXERCISES, AND RECORD OF THE DECEASED SOLDIERS.

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WEYMOUTH:  
C. G. EASTERBROOK, — WEYMOUTH WEEKLY GAZETTE PRESS,  
1869.

70336.55

US 13519.10.5

1869, Aug. 25.

W. H. S.

W. H. S. Samsen

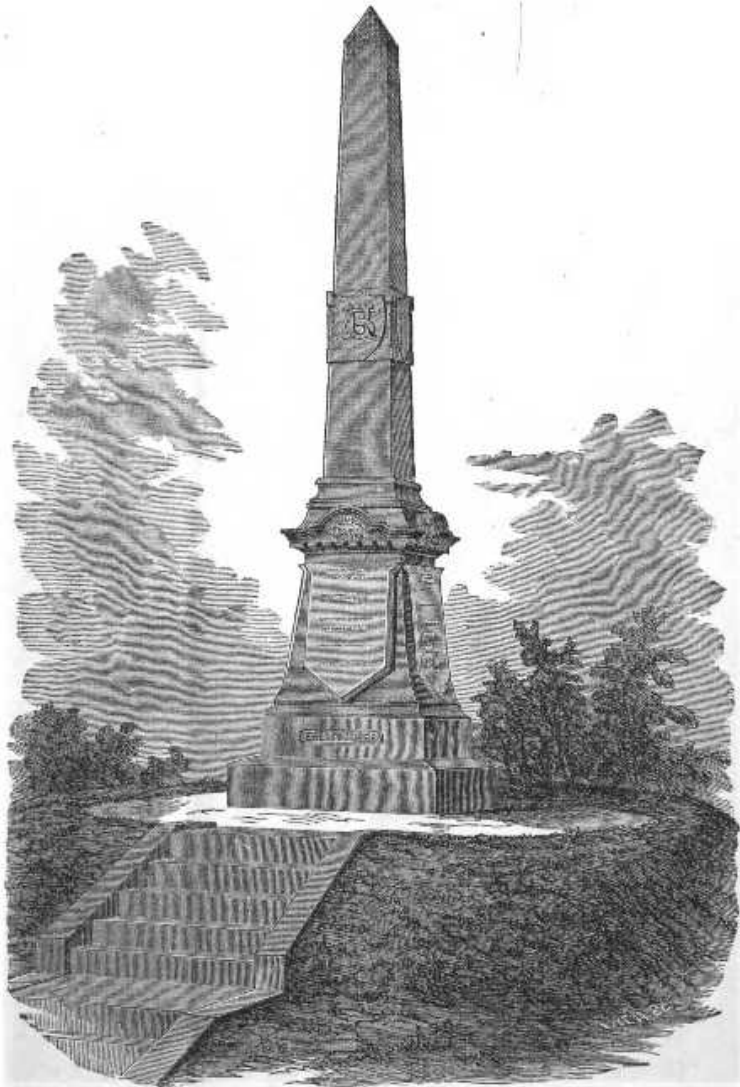
(1866, 1850)

#### DESCRIPTION OF MONUMENT.

##### THE

##### Monument

is of Quincy granite,  
and rises to the height of  
twenty-five feet, resting on a  
foundation of granite blocks, eight  
feet square and five feet deep. On the four  
sides of the top of the pedestal are cut four panels,  
in which are set four shield shaped tablets, of the best of  
white Italian marble, on which are inscribed the names of the  
ninety-nine deceased patriot soldiers of Weymouth. On the four tympanal  
of the die of the pedestal are the following devices and mottoes:—  
On the East side, "They Died for their Country."—"1861 to 1865."  
On the South side, two Sabres crossed.  
On the West side, "Weymouth to her Heroes."—"Erected 1869."  
On the North side, two Cannons crossed.  
On the shaft of the Monument are four shields. The one on the East side contains a  
Wreath; on the South side the Stars and Stripes; on the West side the letters  
U. S., in monogram; and on the North side thirteen Stars. The  
mottoes are also written, and the devices also raised.  
The shaft is a square tapering  
column.



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, WEYMOUTH, MASS.

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## ORATION.

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FELLOW CITIZENS :

We have assembled here to-day under circumstances which no man of this generation had a right to anticipate. The Fourth of July, the great birth-day of our Republic, was transmitted to us by our fathers, laden with a wealth of associations and memories, which seemed to be an inheritance as ample as Providence in its supreme wisdom would ever vouchsafe to its most chosen people. The heroism of our revolutionary fathers, unmatched in history, gave inspiration to our people through all the changes and trials of three quarters of a century. The august form of Washington presided everywhere, inspired our orators, guided our statesmen, illumined our land. The profound declarations of Jefferson were the gospel of our nationality. Around the sacred scenes of the revolution we loved to linger ;—with Pickering and his little band on that solemn Sunday afternoon at North Bridge ; with the valiant yeomanry of Concord and Lexington. and Parker's dying words ; with Prescott and Warren on the bloody morning of Bunker Hill ; with Washington, toiling and suffering and praying and trusting in God from Dorchester

Heights to Yorktown; with all the victories and defeats which immortalize that great struggle for national existence. In any moment of unpatriotic indifference, we could inflame our hearts with the burning words of Adams, and Henry, and Otis. In an hour of unreason and irritation, we could turn to the wisdom and calmness and magnanimity and humanity out of which was born our Constitution. Around the birth of our Republic stood an assembly of great men—great in their own day and generation, but greater still as time went on and demonstrated the grandeur of the work which they accomplished. There were none so low, none so base, none so arrogant, none so oppressive, none so inhuman, none so unchristian, that they did not, on this day at least, rise into the sublime faith that "all men are created equal." There were none so down-trodden and oppressed that they could not, on this day at least, find comfort to their souls, and discern through the gloom, a radiant and inspiring future. As we surveyed the past, all the attributes of a free, and educated, and just, and brave, and wise, and powerful people, were presented to us by example and precept and tradition. And as we looked forward into the future, the development of these great national faculties into a republic of human equality and justice, for which Washington drew his sword, and which Jefferson conceived, rose before our delighted vision, with a grandeur hitherto unknown among the nations of the earth.

And now, my friends, we have all this and more. To the traditions of the great war for National Inde-

pendence, we add today the memories of the great war for Human Freedom. The anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is the anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg, when the immortal truths of that Declaration were vindicated by a loyal people in arms. As we celebrate the birth of our nation, we may also celebrate its redemption. And while the heroes and the heroic events of the Revolution crowd upon our minds, the great men and the great deeds of our own time add their inspiring influence and give us new assurance of the immortal vigor of a government founded on "equal and exact justice to all men." By the side of THOMAS JEFFERSON, the Great Apostle of Freedom, now stands ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the Great Martyr of Freedom. By the side of WASHINGTON, the Father of his Country, stands GRANT, the Savior of his Country—the heir of that sword which was unsheathed for the cause of popular freedom and right, and was restored to its scabbard when the great work was accomplished;—the two commanding military minds, whose modesty, and patriotism, and wisdom, have taught mankind that a great Captain may add to his greatness by being obedient to the voice of a free and enlightened people—and that the sword and the sceptre may be disjoined. We remember now with pride the battle-fields of the revolution; but to this pride we add the tenderest emotions of our hearts, as we rehearse the gallant deeds performed by our sons and brothers in defense of the Flag, and with affectionate hands strew flowers upon their new-made graves. We heard the gun which was fired