

Charles H. Harrub

1835 - 1924

"Moved by the illustrious record of the Pilgrim Fathers, the donor, Charles H. Harrub, in loving memory of his wife, Rhoby S. Harrub, and of her sympathetic accord, dedicates this monument to the townspeople of Waterbury, to keep ever in mind the conquest of hardship and adversity, through virile Christian character, and unflinching loyalty to Almighty God, on which was reared the structure of New England."

Charles H. Harrub was born in Scituate, MA, on March 25, 1835. His mother died when he was two, and young Charles was passed from one relative to another until he ran away at age 14.

After working at various jobs, he became an engineer at the Wamsutta Mills in New Bedford, MA, in 1860. In the same year, he married Rhoby Smith Kirby and was raised as a Master Mason. His Masonic affiliation was lifelong.

When the Civil War broke out, Harrub joined the Union Navy as an engineer on the gunboat USS Genesee, serving under Admiral Farragut and participating in the siege of Port Hudson on the Mississippi River, the longest siege in U.S. military history.

After the war, he became the chief engineer of the SS Georgia, which plied the West Indies, Galveston, Havana, and New York. He also worked on several steamships that traversed Long Island Sound.

In 1878, he came to Waterbury, where he was employed as chief engineer at the Waterbury Brass Company and resided at 81 Elmwood Ave.

He was awarded his first patent in 1882, for a lubricator used on milling machines.

In 1884, during the planning process for the Soldiers' Monument honoring Civil War veterans, Harrub suggested the inclusion of a naval scene, which resulted in a panel depicting the naval Battle of Hampton Roads on the east side of the monument, which is located just west of the Waterbury Green.

After the death of his wife in 1921, Harrub launched plans to build a memorial to her which honored the Pilgrims, whom he greatly admired. He created a commission and donated \$100,000 for the execution of the project, but did not live to see its completion. He died on August 21, 1924.

Herman Atkins MacNeil of New York and Paris was commissioned to build the Harrub Pilgrim Memorial, which was dedicated October 11, 1930. Originally placed at the entrance to Chase Parkway on Riverside St., near Freight St., it was later moved to its present Highland Ave. location in Chase Park in order to accommodate the highway interchange.

In his 175 ton, 60x24-foot monument carved from French granite, MacNeil sought to convey the Pilgrims'



three qualities of courage, character, and the capacity for leadership. The main group of figures – reaching as high as 10 feet – represents the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth and developing a new community in America. Separate panels also depict both hostile and peaceful Indians.

The dedication reads, "Moved by the illustrious record of the Pilgrim Fathers, the donor, Charles H. Harrub, in loving memory of his wife, Rhoby S. Harrub, and of her sympathetic accord, dedicates this monument to the townspeople of Waterbury, to keep ever in mind the conquest of hardship and adversity, through virile Christian character, and unflinching loyalty to Almighty God, on which was reared the structure of New England".

Charles Harrub left his entire estate in a trust benefiting the townspeople of the city he loved so much, Waterbury. Funds from The Charles H. Harrub Trust were used to build the Rhoby S. Harrub Performing Arts Facility in Library Park and make many other civic improvements. The Charles H. Harrub Trust continues to benefit residents of this city and will for many years to come.