

The creation of the Peace Monument in Leeds

*From the personal papers of Gen. O. O. Howard, in Special Collections at Bowdoin College,
a letter from his brother, Gen. Charles H. Howard:*

Chicago, Oct. 23rd, 1895

General O.O. Howard

Dear Brother:-

I have your favor of Oct. 21st.....

I have your other welcome letter, in which you stated you had arranged to put up the monument on the great hill in Leeds. I am greatly pleased that you felt you could do that. I have no doubt I can arrange to have you reimbursed from the estate. Am about to foreclose the mortgage and may take some smaller notes but cannot get cash at this time. I will correspond with Dell and the other heirs and I am sure Dell and I will agree to sharing with you this expense and probably the others will.

I am

I like your plan about the monument. Of course you mean to have a marble slab of some kind on which the inscription can be placed. It is much more expensive, as doubtless you are aware, to put inscriptions on granite, and besides that, they do not show well and are apt to be obliterated by moss and the effects of the weather. You say you propose to have the word "peace" prominent out of special regard to brother Rowland and his principles. Let me remind you that Rowland distinctly said to me a number of times that he wanted the monument to be "to the peace of 1865." That was the way in which he wanted the inscription. Not precisely to the peace cause in general but in commemoration of the great consummation, bringing, as we trust, a lasting, perhaps an everlasting, peace to our country, which took place at Appomattox. Why not then have as the most prominent inscription of all, "to the peace triumph of 1865" or "to the peace of 1865" if you like that better, and it seems to me that somewhere it should be indicated that this monument was suggested by Rowland.

Referring again to the matter of expense: You will bear in mind that we have already decided to have a memorial window in the church, and that I was to pay for that, which was to commemorate both mother and Rowland, out of the funds of the estate. For want of cash, I have not been able to give the order but if I live I shall not fail to do so. Owing to the very hard pressure of business matters our paper,** and I may add papers, have not in the ordinary way been meeting expenses in the past two years, although in the long run, I think we shall come up even and perhaps something better by our new land or colony department. But we take many notes and there are thousands of dollars due us on these which are not paid. I mention this that you may not think me ungenerous and backward in offering to share expenses.

I greatly

Affectionately,

C. H. Howard

** General C. H. Howard was Managing Editor of the Farm, Field and Fireside paper in Chicago.

Again from the personal papers of Gen. O. O. Howard, at Bowdoin College:

Chicago, Nov. 14th, 1895

General O.O. Howard

Dear Brother:-

I have been thinking somewhat of the matter of the inscription upon the Leeds monument. I believe I would prefer "let us have peace" to the inscription you suggested, "peace was sure", because the former has a sentiment about it and also a personal and historic significance, as related to General Grant. "Peace was sure" is too didactic for my taste and does not connect itself either with Rowland or any thing historic. I am not quite satisfied with either one alone. Could we not have two: "Let us have peace" in some place as being a quotation, and where you say "erected by Generals O.O. and C.H. Howard" could we not add "and Reverend R.B. Howard, in commemoration of the services of the following patriots on behalf of the Union and the permanent peace established in 1865".# No doubt you may improve upon this, but you see my idea. It would do no harm to connect Rowland with ourselves in the erection because he, as I understand it, first suggested the monument and he was on the ground and canvassed the matter with some of our friends and often talked it over with me. It is probable too that his widow and all the boys would be glad to contribute something out of the estate coming to them in order to have this record appear just as I have given it: that is to say, to have it show that he shared with you and me in the erection of the monument. Please think of it and we will yet get at just the right thing. It seems to me the thought of connection the patriotic services of those patriots, both in the army and navy, with the re-establishment of the Union and permanent peace meets both your idea and Rowland's, and to my mind we owe the great triumph of peace, which I trust will be permanent in our country, to the fidelity of just such men as those whose names will be upon the monument.

Very truly yours,
C. H. Howard

or better, perhaps:

"in commemoration of the Leeds patriots who fought for the Union and to secure permanent peace to their country".

**Also from the personal papers of Gen. O. O. Howard at Bowdoin,
there is an 1895 letter from A. J. Foss:**

Leeds Nov. 16

Gen O.O.Howard

Dear Sir

The monument is set (?upon?) the big Hill
Finished up last Night Was (?2 ½?) days
Drawing and Setting It. I think It looks well. It
does not show much from the Roads for the reason
of the Trees near It. Did you Expect Mr Arnold to
pay for Men & Teams for Drawing & Setting
Monument He Paid \$10.50 But Said he was given
to understand there would be know Bills for
Drewing or Setting Monument If Mr Arnold was
to Pay bills there is some mone that should be Paid
But If It was for you we wer to work for It is all
right. Glad to help you. Theresa is some better so
she goes about the House but not to do House
Work Does some Sewing & Knitting She sends
Love to you & Family

As Ever A. J. Foss

Note:

Adoniram Judson Foss (born Jan. 30, 1832 in Leeds - died Feb. 1, 1907 in Leeds.)

Theresa Maria Howard Foss, his wife, (born May 24, 1835 in Leeds - died Jan. 18, 1897 in Leeds, dau. of Benjamin Franklin Howard and wife Philena Gould.) was a cousin of the Howard Generals.

Both are interred in Chapel Hill/Foss Cemetery next to Foss Church on Rt. 219