

# GEORGE WASHINGTON STATUE

Hosted by: the Newburyport Preservation Trust



*"The statue links the present with the past, and reminds us of the important part taken by this ancient town in the Revolutionary struggle. It is the gift of one of her successful sons, whose repeated acts of generosity associate his name with his native place, and manifest his interest in its welfare."*

**Donor - Daniel Ingalls Tenney (1800-1881)**

**Sculptor - John Quincy Adams Ward (1830-1910)**

**Pedestal & Enclosure Design - Rufus Sargent (1812-1886)**

**Dedication - February 22, 1879**

The statue is eight feet tall, cast in bronze by George Fischer & Brother, New York, and mounted on an eight-and-a-half-foot granite pedestal, carved by M.T. Jameson & Co. of Rockport, Maine.



*Daniel Ingalls Tenney*

*Daniel I. Tenney was born in Newburyport, the oldest child of a housewright. In 1809 he helped his father pull a hand tub to a fire downtown, where his father collapsed and died. During the War of 1812 he walked to Boston to work for an uncle. Later, he joined his younger brother in New York City as a silversmith and jeweler, a prosperous business he continued until 1856. He never returned to live in Newburyport but, between 1863 and 1879, he gave three gifts to the city, and helped purchase a ship built by John Currier, Jr., named the Daniel I. Tenney.*

*J. Q. A. Ward, born in Ohio, was a prominent sculptor based in New York. His many works include, The Good Samaritan Ether Monument in Boston Public Garden (1867) and nine monuments in New York City parks completed between 1866 and 1893. He designed another statue of Washington for the Federal Hall National Memorial on Wall Street, unveiled in 1883. Ward first gained recognition in 1856, assisting Henry Kirke Brown with the equestrian statue of Washington at Union Square.*



*John Quincy Adams Ward*

*Rufus Sargent, born in Amesbury, was a Newburyport architect known throughout New England. Local buildings he designed include St. Anna's Chapel, 166 High Street (1863); Institution for Savings, 93 State Street (1871); and the Kelley School, 151 High Street (1872).*

Tenney commissioned Ward to complete the statue within two years. On October 7, 1878, he formally asked the city to accept and locate it "on the triangular spot at the east end of the Bartlet Mall." The request was granted within a month, and November 1878 is the date carved on the pedestal. The dedication, however, was on George Washington's birthday, February 22, 1879. The year was also the 90th anniversary of Washington's visit to Newburyport.

The City Hall ceremony featured a cornet band, choral selections, prayers, poems and speeches. After Mayor John J. Currier accepted the statue, a procession of police, militia, city officials and guests went to the Mall for its unveiling. "As the drapery fell, the Mayor, rising in his carriage, said: 'I now propose three cheers for our benefactor, Daniel Ingalls Tenney, of New York.'" This was followed by a thirteen gun salute while a band played Hail to the Chief. Tenney, in poor health, was unable to travel to Newburyport to attend.

On March 3, 1879, the City Council ordered the publication of a 100-page commemorative booklet, Presentation of the statue of Washington to the City of Newburyport, which is the source of the quotes in this panel, and is available at the Newburyport Public Library Archival Center.