

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL FUND REQUEST**

(FORM CWM #62)

**REQUESTOR INFORMATION** (Please print or type)

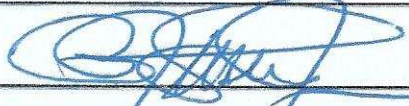
CAMP AND DEPARTMENT NAME: Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54, Department of Massachusetts

NAME/ TITLE OF CONTACT PERSON: Roderick J Fraser Jr., Camp Commander

ADDRESS: 162 Fiat Ave.

CITY: Cranston STATE: RI ZIP CODE: 02910

PHONE(S): 617-201-0105 E-MAIL: suvcwclarioncall@gmail.com

SIGNATURE: 

NAME OF MEMORIAL/MONUMENT William B. Gould Memorial

**NAME, NUMBER & STREET ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR OTHER LOCATION**

34 Milton St., Dedham, MA 02026

LOCATION DESCRIPTION (i.e. corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lincoln St) In Gould Memorial Park

GPS N 42.244 W 71.150 City Dedham State MA ZIP 02026

WAS REQUIRED FORM CWM-61: GAR MONUMENTS/CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS ASSESSMENT SUBMITTED? Y  N

EXISTING MONUMENT  NEW MONUMENT  LAST SOLDIER PROJECT

RESTORATION COST \$ \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT RAISED \$ 200,000.00 REQUESTED \$ 2,000.00

CHECK PAYABLE TO: Mother Brook Community Group

ADDRESS: 183 Grant Ave.

CITY: Dedham STATE MA ZIP CODE 02026

Memorial Grant Committee Use Only					
Grant Request # _____		Amount Approved \$ <u>2,000.00</u>			
Approve	Deny	Table	Name Committee Member	Signature	Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<u>Shane L. Milburn</u>		<u>3/24/23</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<u>Joseph S. Hall, Jr.</u>	Electronically signed 4/12/23 at 98 Mendon Street, Blackstone, MA 01504 (jhall46646@aol.com)	

*Check box, sign, date & return completed email to Committee Chair, who will send to National Treasurer for payment.*



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL FUND REQUEST**

(FORM CWM #62)

**REQUESTOR INFORMATION** (Please print or type)


CAMP AND DEPARTMENT NAME: Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54, Department of Massachusetts

NAME/ TITLE OF CONTACT PERSON: Roderick J Fraser Jr., Camp Commander

ADDRESS: 162 Fiat Ave.

CITY: Cranston STATE: RI ZIP CODE: 02910

PHONE(S): [REDACTED] E-MAIL [REDACTED]

SIGNATURE: 

NAME OF MEMORIAL/MONUMENT William B. Gould Memorial

**NAME, NUMBER & STREET ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR OTHER LOCATION**

34 Milton St., Dedham, MA 02026

LOCATION DESCRIPTION (i.e. corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lincoln St) In Gould Memorial Park

GPS N 42.244 W 71.150 City Dedham State MA ZIP 02026

WAS REQUIRED FORM CWM-61: GAR MONUMENTS/CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS ASSESSMENT SUBMITTED? Y  N

EXISTING MONUMENT  NEW MONUMENT  LAST SOLDIER PROJECT

RESTORATION COST \$                      AMOUNT RAISED \$ 200,000.00 REQUESTED \$ 2,000.00

CHECK PAYABLE TO: Mother Brook Community Group

ADDRESS: 183 Grant Ave.

CITY: Dedham STATE MA ZIP CODE 02026

Memorial Grant Committee Use Only					
Grant Request #		Amount Approved \$			
Approve	Deny	Table	Name Committee Member	Signature	Date

*Check box, sign, date & return completed email to Committee Chair, who will send to National Treasurer for payment.*

MONUMENT/ MEMORIAL INFORMATION

WHEN WAS IT BUILT: 2023 WHO OWNS IT: Town of Dedham, MA

WHO IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE? Mother Brook Community Group

ARE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE? No FROM WHERE: \_\_\_\_\_

ARE OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE? yes FROM WHERE: The Mother Brook Group  
has already raised \$200,000.00 towards the project

WAS A GRANT FROM THE SUVCW PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FOR THIS PROJECT? No

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE WORK THE GRANT IS NEEDED FOR (Be specific, use continuation sheet if needed)

Buld a sculpture of William B. Gould for placement in Gould Memorial Park in Dedham, MA.

Born a slave, Gould escaped and joined the US Navy and served throughout the war seeing ction that included the capture of CSS GEORGIA off th coast of Portugal. After the war, Gould settled in Dedham, MA where he raised his family and became a succesful businessman. Gould joined the Charles W. Carroll GAR post 144 and served as post Commander. Gould passed away in 1923. See attached brochure and letters of support.

WHO EVALUATED THE NEED FOR THE WORK AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? A local  
committee of professional artists (see attached brochure)

WHO WILL DO THE DESCRIBED WORK, AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? Pablo Eduardo -  
a world reknown scultor

WHO WILL RECEIVE FUNDS IF GRANTED? Mother Brook Community Group

LIST WHAT THE CAMP/DEPARTMENT HAS AND/OR WILL DO TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROJECT

Camp 54 and the 1st Military District SVR will participate, along with the 54th MA Co. A

Reenactment group in the unveiling and dedication of the monument.



STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
8TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND REFORM

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2108

2109 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202-225-8273  
202-225-3984 FAX

ONE HARBOR STREET  
SUITE 304  
BOSTON, MA 02210  
617-428-2000  
617-428-2011 FAX

37 BELMONT STREET  
SUITE 3  
BROCKTON, MA 02301  
508-586-5555  
508-580-4692 FAX

1245 HANCOCK STREET  
SUITE 41  
QUINCY, MA 02169  
617-657-6305  
617-773-0995 FAX

LYNCH.HOUSE.GOV

March 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the William B. Gould Memorial Committee's grant request in order to erect a statue of William B. Gould in East Dedham. As the United States Representative from the Eighth District of Massachusetts, I represent the Town of Dedham.

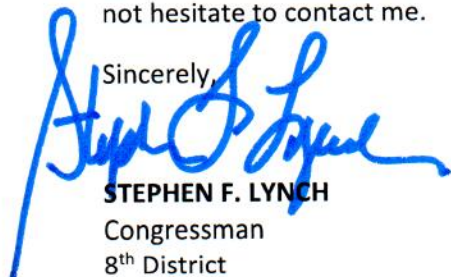
Through his service to his community and to the United States, William B. Gould represents the best of America. After escaping the horrors of slavery, Mr. Gould chose to enlist in the United States Navy and serve his country during the Civil War. He served aboard the USS Cambridge, the USS Ohio, and the USS Niagara, eventually rising to the rank of petty officer.

After the war, Mr. Gould and his wife, Cornelia, settled in East Dedham. There, he rose in prominence both as a tradesman and civic leader. As a plasterer and stone mason, Mr. Gould worked on buildings of great value to East Dedham: schools and churches. Further, the local veterans community recognized his leadership qualities, electing him to serve as their commander and honoring him during parades and civic events.

Erecting a statue of Mr. Gould will not only honor a truly outstanding man, but will serve to inspire subsequent generations to succeed and achieve great things despite facing overwhelming obstacles. This statue of William B. Gould will be a tangible reminder of the possibilities that are available to them, both for personal achievement and public service.

In your search for the most qualified candidates, I respectfully urge that you give the William B. Gould Memorial Committee every consideration for this grant. If I may provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



**STEPHEN F. LYNCH**  
Congressman  
8<sup>th</sup> District  
Massachusetts





THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

March 23, 2021

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Secretary William F. Galvin, Chair  
200 William T. Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Secretary Galvin,

On behalf of the Town of Dedham we are writing in deserving support of the placement of a William B. Gould Statue at the William B. Gould Memorial Park in Dedham. Mr. Gould, 1837-1923 a former slave and Veteran of the Civil War, was recently recognized for his achievements by the Parks and Recreation Commission and renamed a park in the Town of Dedham in his honor.

Chief Petty Officer Gould's journey to Dedham was quite the experience, he was a born a slave in North Carolina and at the age of 24 he escaped by rowing 28 nautical miles down the Cape Fear River in a storm past Confederate Sentries. Upon his arrival to the Atlantic Ocean he was rescued by the USS Cambridge, a member of the Union blockade. After his rescue he enlisted in the Union Navy on the USS Cambridge and was given the rank of First Class Boy. Mr. Gould was later promoted to landsman, ward room steward and achieved rank of Petty Officer but without the authority that came as an officer of the Navy.

Mr. Gould settled in Dedham after the war where he and his wife raised six sons and two daughters. As a resident of Dedham he became very involved in the community. A plasterer by trade, he helped to build St. Mary's Church on High Street and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepard in Oakdale Square. Mr. Gould also served as Commander of the Charles W. Carroll Post 144.

It is for these reasons and many others that a William B. Gould Statue will be a deserving honor in the William B. Gould Memorial Park. Thank you for your consideration, please do not hesitate to call upon our offices with any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul McMurtry".

**Paul McMurtry**  
State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Rush".

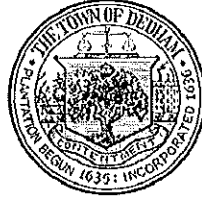
**Mike Rush**  
State Senator  
Norfolk & Suffolk District



Dennis J. Teehan, Chairman  
Dimitria Sullivan, Vice Chairman  
James A. MacDonald  
Sarah E. MacDonald  
Kevin R. Coughlin

Leon I. Goodwin III  
Town Manager

Nancy A. Baker  
Assistant Town Manager



**TOWN OF DEDHAM**  
Select Board

DEDHAM TOWN HALL  
450 Washington Street  
P.O. BOX 306  
DEDHAM, MA 02026

TEL (781) 751-9100

WEB SITE  
[www.dedham-ma.gov](http://www.dedham-ma.gov)

E-mail Address for Select Board

To whom it may concern,

Dedham is a town that has long been proud of its history. From the first public school in America to the oldest wooden house on the continent, we have much to celebrate. One chapter that has long been overlooked, however, is that of William B. Gould. As a community we are working to rectify that and we, the Select Board members of the Town of Dedham, are pleased to offer this letter of support for this grant application.

At a time when Dedham had only two black families living in town, Mr. Gould grew to a position of great prominence in our community. After honorably serving our country in the Union Navy, he set an example for his own young sons and countless others who served in the wars that followed. He was a civic leader, serving in leadership roles in the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization for veterans of the Civil War, and was a founder of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Gould's skill as a plasterer, honed on antebellum mansions during his days of enslavement but perfected in Dedham, earned him contracts for important public buildings, including schools and the cathedral-like St. Mary's Church. And, in a town that still loves its parades, he marched at the head of some when he was able, and was paraded in an open car during his later years.

We continue to invest in the revitalization of the East Dedham community and this grant will support that effort. The Town has identified the arts as an engine for economic development of the neighborhood and this vision has been supported wholeheartedly by the community. Erecting a piece of public art, the first statue of a person in Dedham and in such a prominent location, will serve as a very visible reminder of not only the history of this town and this neighborhood, but the potential for its future as well.

Mr. Gould's unforgettable story serves as an inspiration to all who know it. His rise from slavery in Wilmington to being held in the highest esteem in Dedham is nothing short of



Page Two  
William Gould

extraordinary. For these reasons and more, Dedham Select Board has voted unanimously to endorse this project. We ask that you do as well and that you award this grant to the William B. Gould Memorial Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

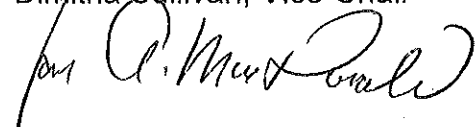
Sincerely,



Dennis J. Teehan, Jr., Chair



Dimitria Sullivan, Vice-Chair



James A. MacDonald



Sarah E. MacDonald



Kevin R. Coughlin

**DEDHAM SELECT BOARD**

Dennis J. Teehan, Chairman  
Dimitria Sullivan, Vice Chairman  
James A. MacDonald  
Sarah E. MacDonald  
Kevin R. Coughlin

Leon I. Goodwin III  
Town Manager

Nancy A. Baker  
Assistant Town Manager



TOWN OF DEDHAM  
Select Board

DEDHAM TOWN HALL  
450 Washington Street  
P.O. BOX 306  
DEDHAM, MA 02026

TEL (781) 751-9100

WEB SITE  
[www.dedham-ma.gov](http://www.dedham-ma.gov)

E-mail Address for Select Board

To Whom It May Concern:

In the nearly 400-year long history of the Town of Dedham, there have been many people who have rightfully earned acclaim. Among those who have called Dedham home include senators, artists, judges, inventors, and plenty of other men and women of local, national, and international note. One most worthy of acclaim is William B. Gould. As the Town Manager of Dedham, I wholeheartedly endorse the current effort to memorialize this remarkable man and ask that you support it with a generous grant as well.

Over the past generation, the East Dedham neighborhood has undergone a transformative demographic shift. Twenty years ago, there were only a handful of non-white students at the neighborhood elementary school. Today, more than half the student population are children of color. To erect a statue in their neighborhood, not just of any man, but a black man who was able to accomplish so much against such overwhelming odds, will undoubtedly serve as an inspiration to them and all those who come upon it.

Four years after the first settlers arrived in Dedham, a canal was dug by hand to connect to the Charles River, known today as Mother Brook. For the next several centuries it served as the economic backbone of the town. Though the mills have long since closed, this grant would support efforts to revitalize the neighborhood. The William B. Gould Memorial Park on the banks of Mother Brook is the proposed site of the statue highlights the heart of the East Dedham Arts Overlay District, established by Town Meeting to drive economic development in the neighborhood. Erecting a prominent piece of public art would serve as a strong signal that this commitment remains and would help attract artists and artisans to our community.

William B. Gould personifies the American Dream. Though there are many 'Dedhamites' who would be deserving of the honor, at this moment in the history of our nation and our town it is entirely appropriate that our community honor this man. William B. Gould's life of service to his people, his community, and his nation earned him accolades during his life, and this monument in his honor will inspire those who follow to the same ideals. We hope you will also honor him with your financial support.

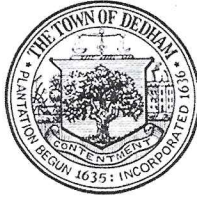
Thank you very much,

  
Leon I. Goodwin III  
Town Manager



**TOWN OF DEDHAM  
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Dedham Recreation  
269 Common Street  
Rec # 781-751-9250  
Pool # 781-461-5991



Robert Stanley  
Park & Recreation Director  
Debbie Anderson  
Parks & Recreation Asst. Director  
Tracey White  
Administrative Assistant

March 18, 2021

To whom it may concern:

We, the elected Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Dedham, strongly endorse the effort to honor William B. Gould and are pleased to submit this letter of support for the Memorial Committee's grant application.

Mr. Gould's record of service, both to his country in the United States Navy and to the people of Dedham as a civic leader, exemplify the values we hope to instill in our young people today. When the Memorial Committee approached us about renaming a park in his honor, and when we saw the level of support and commitment it had from the community, we gave it our enthusiastic support.

The proposed monument will enhance a park that has sat underutilized for far too long. Sitting on the shores of Mother Brook and along a road that connects the two ends of East Dedham together; this monument will not only provide an interesting piece of public art that is sure to draw attention, but it will also serve as an entry point to teach the community about the extraordinary life of William B. Gould.

As Commissioners, we wholeheartedly support this project both individually and collectively. We ask that you look favorably upon the grant application and be as generous as you can for what is a very worthwhile cause. With our great appreciation, we remain.

Yours truly,

Dedham Parks and Recreation Commission  
Tye Donahue – Chair  
Lisa Moran – Vice Chair  
Chuck Dello Iacono  
Alix O'Connell  
Jonathan Briggs

My name is Joseph Hamilton. I am the Veterans Service Officer for the town of Dedham. I am a Marine Corps Veteran and Commander of American Legion Post 18 in Dedham. I have lived in Dedham my entire life. I am amazed that I have only recently found out who William B. Gould is, and what impact he has on our local and American history.

Building a monument to honor, celebrate, and educate the public of William B. Gould is an opportunity that can not be missed. Mr. Gould's impact reaches far beyond our town of Dedham. Mr. Gould's life story is truly an American story.

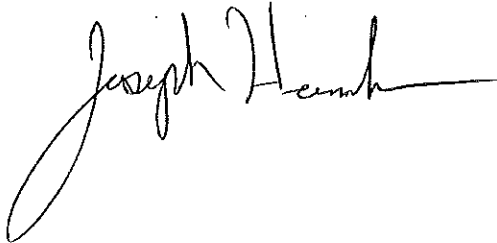
William B. Gould should be celebrated and honored for many reasons. I hope as a town we can capitalize on the opportunity to do what is right for such an important historical figure. His life touches many different fabrics of our country. Escaping slavery, fighting for the Union Navy in the Civil War, and keeping a journal during this time. These are only a few events of Mr. Gould's amazing life.

Joseph Hamilton,

Veterans Service Officer

Commander, Post 18

United State Marine Veteran

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Hamilton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and title.





## Mother Brook Community Group

To Whom It May Concern:

For the last 13 years, the mission of the Mother Brook Community Group has been to support the East Dedham community and the historic waterway that stitches our neighborhood together. On behalf of the entire organization, I am proud to support the William B. Gould Memorial to honor our past and enhance our future. I hope you will award this grant to a very worthy cause and support not only the Gould Memorial, but our neighborhood as well.

When Mr. Gould died in 1923, the Dedham Transcript ran an obituary on the front page under the headline "East Dedham Mourns Faithful Soldier and Always Loyal Citizen." From the news accounts that ran during the half century he lived here, we can tell that Mr. Gould was proud to be from East Dedham and that East Dedham was proud of him. It is fitting that a park honoring him now sits just up the hill from his home and that soon it will be graced with a statue of him.

Since Mother Brook was first dug in 1639 and the mills began opening, East Dedham has been a working class community. In more recent decades, it has lagged behind other parts of the town in terms of economic development. When the Mother Brook Arts & Community Center opened with seed money from our Community Group nearly a decade ago, we saw the positive revitalizing power the arts could play in our neighborhood.

That is why we were major supporters of the effort to designate the Milton Street-Bussey Street corridor as an Arts Overlay District. At one end of the corridor we have Dedham's first ever public statue in the middle of Mill Pond Park. When the Gould statue is erected on the banks of our beloved Mother Brook, thanks in part to your generous support, we will have the second public statue right in the middle of the corridor. Amazing things are happening in East Dedham, and the arts are a major reason why.

The Community Group believes strongly in this effort, and that is why we have done more than lend our name to it. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we have agreed to hold all the funds raised by the Memorial Committee so that 100% of all funds raised can go towards the project without the Committee having to pay to incorporate separately. It is one small way we can show our support, and we hope you will do likewise.

Thank you very much,

Michele Heffernan  
Chairman



# TOWN OF DEDHAM HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## COMMISSIONERS

### **Chair**

Joseph Borsellino

### **Co-Chair**

Diane Loud

### **Clerk**

Margaret Adams

Robert Blaney  
Oneida Fox Roye  
Michael Buckley  
Aiden Healy

Chris Kelly  
Amy Wax Lafont  
Margaret Mathews  
Diane Barry Preston  
Philjay S. Solar  
I.anna Manos

### **Town Manager**

Leon Goodwin

Dedham Town Hall  
450 Washington Street  
Dedham, MA 02026

[www.dedham-ma.gov/  
government/human-  
rights-commission](http://www.dedham-ma.gov/government/human-rights-commission)

February 24, 2021

To whom it may concern:

The Dedham Human Rights Commission works to ensure that all residents feel welcome to participate in and enjoy life in our community.

As such, we are delighted to offer this letter conveying our enthusiastic support of a grant to create a memorial honoring William B. Gould, a courageous African American man who led an exemplary life of service to his family and community. Mr. Gould's story shines a spotlight on lessons we all need now: bravery in his quest for freedom from enslavement, courage in his Naval service, love of family, dedication to Veterans through his GAR leadership and trade skill aimed at making Dedham a better place to live.

In these times of racial strife, it is more important than ever to lift up the lives of people like William B Gould as beacons of hope and guidance toward a more just and equal world.

If Dedham is fortunate to be awarded this grant, it will allow us to commemorate the life and contributions of William B. Gould with a statue in a new park that bears his name and to teach Dedham schoolchildren about his remarkable life story, outstanding character and contributions to our nation and community.

We can think of no better honor for Mr. Gould, nor no more fitting lesson sorely needed today to teach about dignity, respect for all and compassion for others.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Joseph Borsellino, Chair

*The Dedham Human Rights Commission*

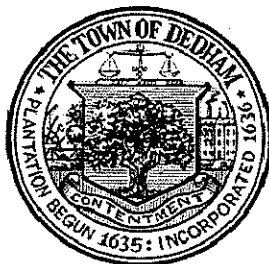




# TOWN OF DEDHAM

## *Park & Recreation Department*

Dedham Recreation Center  
269 Common Street  
Rec 781-751-9250  
Pool 781-461-5991



Robert Stanley  
Park & Recreation Dir  
Debra Anderson  
Asst Dir/Program Dir.  
Tracey White  
Administrative Assoc

To whom it may concern:

In September 2020, the Dedham Parks and Recreation Commission heard a presentation from Brian Keaney and Dan Hart from the William B. Gould Memorial Committee about renaming one of the Commission's parks in honor of Mr. Gould. The Commission was supportive, but wanted assurances that the community would support renaming the park.

In the ensuing weeks, nearly 100 letters of support poured in from across Dedham. In November, just a few days after Veteran's Day, the Commission met again and unanimously voted to rename the 1.3 acre parcel as the William B. Gould Memorial Park. At the same meeting, the Commission again unanimously voted to allow the Memorial Committee to move forward with their plans to erect a statue at the park.

The William B. Gould Memorial Committee has not only the permission of the Dedham Parks and Recreation to move forward with the project, they have the Commission's enthusiastic support. The Commissioners and I look forward to the completion of the project and the unveiling of the statue.

If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Thank you very much,

Bob Stanley  
Director  
Dedham Parks and Recreation

Thomas M Sobel  
Chief Administrative Law Judge (Ret.)  
Agricultural Labor Relations Board  
1519 Stewart Road  
Sacramento, CA

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a friend and former colleague of the great-grandson of William B. Gould to support the grant application for a memorial honoring Dedham's William B. Gould.

Gould sought and found freedom for himself and, at continued risk, fought for enduring freedom for others. After the War, all of his sons served what, at least in part because of his own efforts in the Union navy, was now their country, an ethos of public service that has been carried forward in my own friend's career as an educator and a public servant.

The town of Dedham has named a park after him and its school board will include the details of his life as part of Dedham's school curriculum. The addition of a sculpture in the park will serve as a visible reminder of the life and works of this most remarkable man. In his striving for freedom, his dedication to craftsmanship still visible in the work he did in Dedham, and his public-spiritedness, William B. Gould deserves to be seen as an example for all of us.

Sincerely,

s/Thomas Sobel

# *Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish*

25 Avery Street  
Dedham, Massachusetts 02026  
Phone 781-326-0550

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

To whom it may concern:

As the pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Dedham, I would like to lend my full support to the effort to memorialize William B. Gould. He played many roles in the community during the half century in which he lived here, but he had a special role at St. Mary's.

Our Gothic church, designed to be a "cathedral in the wilderness," measures 150' long by 65' wide with a 164' tall bell tower. The apex of the vaulted arch ceiling is 80' and it has the longest aisle in the Archdiocese of Boston. That this beautiful structure has stood for more than a century is in no small part due to William B. Gould.

Mr. Gould was the plasterer who did the interior work at St. Mary's. He crafted the fluted Grecian columns that line the nave and the other intricate detail plaster work seen around the church. His craftsmanship is truly a work of art.

During construction, one of Mr. Gould's employees fell asleep while mixing the plaster and ruined it. Though it would not have been immediately obvious, in time the plaster would have failed and crumbled. Though it nearly bankrupted him, Mr. Gould insisted that all the existing plaster be torn out and replaced at his own expense. Such an act speaks to the character of the man.

That Mr. Gould was able to rise to such a pinnacle of his profession and to gain enough respect as a craftsman to earn such an important commission is impressive in its own right. That he was able to do so after such a degrading and dehumanizing early life in slavery makes it all the more so. Truly this is a man worthy of the honor and respect being proposed by this memorial and I hope you will give your favorable consideration to the grant proposal.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Respectfully Yours,



Rev. Wayne Belschner  
Pastor, St. Mary of the Assumption Church



Michael Metivier  
67 Hewett Rd.  
Windsor, Vermont 05089

February 25, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the William B. Gould Memorial Committee's grant application. As a great-great-great-grandson of Mr. Gould and his wife, Cornelia, I am grateful for the Committee's work and dedication to improving East Dedham and the broader community by honoring my ancestor and educating about his life—efforts to which a statue will greatly contribute.

As you know, the moment we are currently and collectively living through is undergoing a reckoning over which parts of our nation's history we choose to recognize and celebrate. Not only because I am one of his proud descendents do I believe William Benjamin Gould's life is worth celebrating and honoring with a statue, a physical, tactile presence in the community that affirms the values he lived by of equality, service, and justice. It would also be the first monument to a person of color in Dedham.

My ancestor was born into enslavement in 1837 near Wilmington, North Carolina. His mother was Elizabeth "Betsy" Moore, herself enslaved on the peanut plantation of Nicholas Nixon. As a young man my great-great-great-grandfather attained literacy, most likely through the Episcopal Church (the church I grew up in 50 miles west of Dedham in Gardner, Massachusetts, 150 years later), and learned the plastering trade. His labor and craftsmanship was hired out throughout the area. Notably, he hid his initials in the plaster of the now-historic Bellamy Mansion, claiming his own work with pride, forced and unpaid though it was. A statue of William would be additionally fitting by honoring the work of his hands as much as his mind and heart.

William escaped his enslavement along with seven other men in 1862, on the night Abraham Lincoln declared his intention to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. After rowing down the Cape Fear River through the rain on a moonless night, they were picked up by Union Navy, in which William served for the duration of the war, keeping a diary that to this day is the only known Civil War diary kept by a formerly enslaved sailor. After being honorably discharged from service in Boston in 1865, he went straight to Nantucket where he married my great-great-great-grandmother Cornelia (herself deserving of honors!!!). With their growing family they eventually settled in Dedham, where my grandmother later grew up.

I did not learn of my family's heritage until 2010, part of a shared legacy in this country of familial estrangement due to racism, passing, and pain. I cannot say enough how much it has meant to me to learn about William and Cornelia's lives not only as my ancestors, but as reminders of how much the past influences and informs the present, and how our lives and histories are more complex and intertwined than we know. The work of the WBG Memorial Committee is so appreciated and important as a step toward pushing us past a pat, rote, whitewashed version of history to something more honest and true.

Thank you so much for your consideration of their grant application, and for all that you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Metivier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael Metivier

March 7, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I am very pleased to offer this letter of support of the William B. Gould Memorial Committee's grant application. My name is Patricia Sánchez-Connally and I am one of the co-founders of the Anti-Racism Coalition of Dedham. Currently, I lead the Equity & Student Success Working group-which seeks to ensure that our schools are diverse and inclusive. Our group works with parents, community members, elected officials and members of the district administration to make sure that all of our students see themselves represented in the classroom.

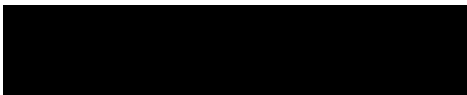
William B. Gould lived an extraordinary life and was a civic leader in Dedham for many years. Enslaved in North Carolina until he was 24, Gould escaped by rowing 28 nautical miles down the Cape Fear River at night past Confederate sentries. Once he reached the Atlantic, Gould was picked up by the USS Cambridge and enlisted in the Union Navy. During his three years of naval service, Gould kept a diary. Today it is the only known diary of a formerly enslaved sailor. Gould settled in Dedham after the war and raised two daughters and six sons. The sons would all serve in the military during WWI or the Spanish-American War. Gould was commander of the Grand Army of the Republic and a founder of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

As a resident of East Dedham and a mother to two young Black boys having a statue of Mr. Gould would bring much pride to our community. It is not often that we, as people of color, are able to celebrate our contributions to society. Honoring him with a statue will do much to improve East Dedham and the spirit broader community.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Patricia Sánchez-Connally, Ph.D.



To Whom It May Concern:

As a Dedham resident for more than 30 years, I am very pleased to offer this letter in support of the William B. Gould Memorial and their grant application. Mr. Gould had an inspiring life story and is very worthy of recognition.

The courage he showed escaping from slavery was impressive enough, but to do it in the midst of a war was even more so. Serving honorably in the Union Navy is enough to earn all of our thanks and from his diary, the only one of its kind, we know that he stood up in battle with a clear understanding of why he was fighting: to protect and free from bondage the friends and family members he left behind in Wilmington, as well as the millions like them throughout the south.

Mr. Gould eventually settled in Dedham with his wife, Cornelia. As a young woman, Cornelia was purchased out of slavery but still had to suffer the indignity of riding in the train's baggage car on her trip north. Though they must have been rather isolated living in a town with few other black people, the Goulds were well respected in Dedham and held positions of authority within the community.

The story of William B. Gould, his wife, and family, is nothing less than inspirational. Erecting a statue of Mr. Gould with signs to tell their story will uplift not only those who are moved by his story, but the entire neighborhood as well.

This is a very worthy project that will do much to edify and elevate the East Dedham neighborhood. I urge you to support the project with a generous grant. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Karen Abbisso



3/8/2021

To whom it may concern:

I am very pleased to offer this letter of support of the William B. Gould Memorial Committee's grant application. I live in East Dedham and serve as an elected Town Representative for the precinct that may one day be the site of this statue. The neighborhood is very excited about the meaning and importance of this honor!

William B. Gould lived an extraordinary life and was a civic leader in Dedham for many years. Enslaved in North Carolina until he was 24, Gould escaped by rowing 28 nautical miles down the Cape Fear River at night past Confederate sentries. During his three years of naval service, Gould kept a diary. Today it is the only known diary of a formerly enslaved sailor. He became a civic leader in Dedham including as the commander of the Grand Army of the Republic and a founder of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Honoring him with a statue will do much to improve East Dedham and the broader community. Dedham, and East Dedham in particular, is rapidly diversifying. This precinct has become a diverse community of people of all colors and countries who have a sense of pride in the neighborhood. This would be the first monument to a person of color in Dedham.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Nicole Keane*

Nicole Keane

**To whom it may concern:**

**I am very pleased to offer this letter of support of the William B. Gould Memorial Committee's grant application. I live in Dedham and serve on the board at Mother Brook Arts and Community Center and also the Mother Brook Community Group.**

**William B. Gould lived an extraordinary life and was a civic leader in Dedham for many years.**

**Honoring him with a statue will do much to improve East Dedham and the broader community.**

**Thank you very much for your consideration. Sincerely,**

**Kevin Scollan  
70 Thomas St.  
Dedham**



**William B. Gould**

Slave. Patriot. Citizen.



# William B. Gould

## MEMORIAL

34 Milton Street  
East Dedham, Massachusetts

[www.GouldMemorial.org](http://www.GouldMemorial.org)



# about the project

In the summer of 2020, the world watched as Confederate statues were toppled across the United States and the country continued its racial reckoning in the wake of the death of George Floyd. Dedham did not have any Confederate monuments to tear down, so instead we decided to build something up: a statue of an American hero, a community leader, and an inspiration to all, William B. Gould.

The project expanded as time went on, including naming a park in his honor and teaching his story to students in the Dedham Public Schools. Renamed on Veteran's Day 2020 and unveiled the following year by his great-great-great-grandchildren, the William B. Gould Memorial Park is on the same street as the house the Goulds called home for three generations.

The park, which will house the statue when complete, is along a busy thoroughfare in East Dedham, the town's most ethnically diverse and economically disadvantaged neighborhood. It is also in the middle of the town's only Arts Overlay District, established to continue the revitalization of the neighborhood through the arts.

*When complete, the project will not only honor the memory of an inspirational man—and his remarkable family—BUT WILL ALSO INJECT MORE THAN HALF A MILLION DOLLARS INTO A COMMUNITY THAT NEEDS THE INVESTMENT.*

about  
William B.  
Gould



William B. Gould was born into slavery in antebellum North Carolina. During a rainy night in 1862, a 24-year-old Gould escaped with seven other enslaved men by rowing a small boat 28 nautical miles down the Cape Fear River.

Just as dawn was breaking, the men reached the Atlantic Ocean and caught sight of the USS Cambridge blockading the coast. The Union Navy ship rescued the men and Gould enlisted in the Navy.

Gould was promoted several times during his service, which lasted throughout the war. He was involved in two major engagements in his service, including the taking of the CSS Georgia off the coast of Portugal. Gould kept an extraordinary diary during his service, one of only three known to have been kept by a formerly enslaved sailor.

With his wife, Cornelia, Gould settled in East Dedham after the war and raised a family of six sons—all of whom served in war—

and two daughters. Though his was one of only two black families in the town, he quickly became a respected business and community leader.

Gould spoke in schools and at assemblies on veterans' issues, and his brothers-in-arms elected him to serve as the commander of the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic. As a tradesman, he won important commissions for public buildings and earned the respect of his fellow townsmen for insisting they be of the highest quality. A pew is dedicated in his honor at the Church of the Good Shepherd, where he was a founder.

When Gould died in 1923, the news made the front page of the local newspaper. Born into a world where he was no more than chattel, he overcame overwhelming odds, served his country and community with honor, and today is an inspiration for all those who follow.

## about the statue



The statue of William B. Gould depicts him as an older man, as he would have been known to the people of Dedham. He is seated with one foot forward, reminiscent of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

1 On his lap lies his open diary and 2 draped over the back of his chair is the jacket he wore as commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. 3 Gould's hands are those of a working man, and 4 by his feet is the toolbox he used to construct some of Dedham's most iconic buildings

After a nationwide search, the design committee selected Pablo Eduardo's design from among four finalists. Eduardo's work, including other naval veterans, can be seen in Boston, across the United States, and around the world. A Bolivian immigrant, Eduardo is a world-renowned artist and a former Dedham resident.

*Plans are underway to unveil the statue on the 100th anniversary of his death on MEMORIAL DAY, 2023.*

## about the park

William B. Gould's journey to freedom began on the shores of the Cape Fear River. Gould Park, located just 0.5 miles from his home on Milton Street, sits on the banks of the historic Mother Brook and nods towards that extraordinary escape.

Two new plazas are being constructed at the park to house a larger-than-life bronze statue. Selections from his extraordinary diary will be inscribed into the granite along with an overview of his life. Signage will tell the Gould family story, from slavery to Stanford University professor in just a few generations.

On the lower plaza, a backless bench will allow viewers to read the inscription on the crescent moon retaining wall, or turn around and peer out at the natural beauty of Mother Brook. Two new walkways will be built through the wildflower meadows, and lights in the custom bronze railings will illuminate the upper plaza at night.

- A. Reflection bench overlooking Mother Brook
- B. Granite retaining wall, inscribed with the Gould story
- C. Granite reveal, inscribed with quotations from the diary
- D. Larger-than-life bronze statue
- E. 34 Milton Street

