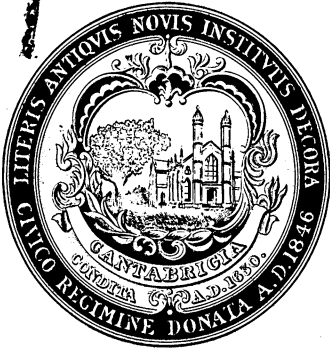




*Office of the Mayor  
Cambridge Massachusetts*

*19*

To the Honorable City Council:-

I feel it a duty to notify you of the death of Major General William A. Bancroft, which occurred at his home in this city on last Saturday, March 11th. I do this in order that suitable action may be taken as a tribute of respect to his memory.

General Bancroft was one of our foremost citizens having spent the greater part of his life in our midst. He had become famous as an athlete in the earlier years of his life, and later had risen high in the military service having been retired from active service with the rank of Major General. He was widely known as a leading street railway expert, and studied railway problems for many years, finally holding the position as head of one of the greatest railway systems in the whole country.

It is, however, as an official in the public service that we know him best. In 1882 he became a member of the City Council, and in the years 1883, 1884 and 1885 he represented a district of Cambridge in the Massachusetts Legislature. Again in 1891 and 1892 he was a member of and president of the Board of Aldermen, and during the years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896 he was Mayor of the city, up to this time having held the office as Mayor for a longer period than any of his predecessors.

During his term as Mayor, many large and important enterprises, permanent and lasting, were undertaken, the more important of which may be mentioned as the creation and development of the wonderful Park System, and provision for an additional water supply; both of which are valuable assets to the city today and of everlasting benefit to the citizens.

In the year 1896 was undertaken, under his direction, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the city, and the publicity that the city received in its business interests at that time was the beginning of an industrial

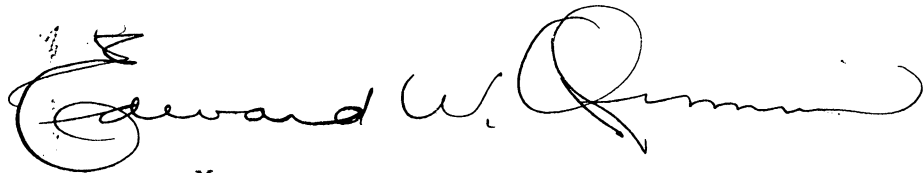
development which has continued to grow steadily until today our city is classed not alone as an educational center and residential city, but among the foremost industrial cities of New England.

Another matter that may be mentioned and for which he, more than any other, is responsible, is calling attention to the fact that to Cambridge belongs the distinction and honor of sending the first company of volunteers for service in the Civil War. For the purpose of perpetuating this event, he formed the First Volunteers Citizens Organization to pay tribute to the surviving members of the first volunteers each year on the anniversary of their enlistment on April 17, 1861.

General Bancroft was a generous man, and in whatever success he may have had during these four years as chief executive, he gladly acknowledged the cooperation of the City Council as well as the loyal support of the various executive boards, heads of departments, and subordinate officials and employees.

The public service of such a man in the interest of Cambridge and its citizens is well deserving of praise. I therefore recommend that suitable action be taken by your Honorable Board as a fitting tribute to such service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward W. Quinn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the title "Mayor.".

Mayor.

COMMUNICATION

from the Mayor, transmitting

~~one from notice of death~~

Major General Wm. A. Baneroff

See = 7

In City Council MAR 14 1922

Referred to Special Committee

Frederick H. Bunker

City Clerk

Shea

Graswold

Skilton

McLurthy

Drinkwater

Brown

Barrett



# City of Cambridge

*In City Council*

March 28, 1922.

## WHEREAS:-

The City Council has been informed by a communication from His Honor the Mayor that an eminent citizen of Cambridge, Hon. William A Bancroft, mayor of the city in the years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896, has passed away, it is fitting and proper to record its tribute of respect to his memory. By his death a familiar personality has been removed from our mortal view but the salutary influence of his bright example of civic virtue will long be felt in this community.

Mr. Bancroft was born in Groton, Mass., April 26, 1855 and was educated in the schools of his native town and later at Phillips Exeter and Harvard College. During his college days he was famous as an athlete, and later devoted much time to the military service of the state where he rose to the ranks of Major General in the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. For years he was recognized as an expert on street railway matters and until shortly before his death served as head of one of the great street railway systems of the country.

He was called many times to fill positions in the government of the city and state and successfully served as councilman, alderman, representative and mayor. During his term as mayor he organized the First Volunteer's Citizens Association for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the men who first volunteered their services in the Civil War on April 17, 1861.

In grateful recognition of the usefulness of the life that has been brought to its close it is hereby

RESOLVED:-

That the City Council of the City of Cambridge offers its tribute of esteem and regard to the memory of Hon. William A. Bancroft, mayor of the city in the years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896. We hold in remembrance the potent appeal of this strong personality, stalwart in person, of commanding air, the personification of firmness in character, directness in thought and resolution in will. His value as a citizen may not be lightly measured, for he gave willingly of his time and the service he rendered was marked with quality and strength.

MAR 28 1922

In City Council

*Adopted by unanimous rising vote*

City Clerk

Executive Department MAR 31 1922 191

Approved

*Edward W. Quinn*  
Mayor

Mayor's Records, Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

City of Cambridge,  
MAR 3<sup>0</sup> 1922

Presented to the Mayor

for approval.

proval.  
Frederick H. Burke

City Clerk

[illegible]

# City of Cambridge

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*In City Council*..... March 28, 1922.....

*The*            *Special*

*Committee* on Resolutions on the death of  
Hon. William A. Bancroft.

~~to which~~

## *Reports*

Recommending the adoption of the  
accompanying resolutions.

For the Committee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James T. Barrett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "For the Committee."

REPORT of the **3**  
*Special* Committee on *Resolutions on*  
*the death of Hon Wm. A*  
*Bancroft*

*March 28, 1922*