



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

## CIVIL AND INDIAN WAR HISTORY COMMISSION

### An Inventory of Its Records

#### OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

<b>Agency:</b>	Minnesota. Civil and Indian War History Commission.
<b>Series Title:</b>	Records,
<b>Dates:</b>	1889-1900.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Proceedings of this commission that arranged for publication of <i>Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars</i> , accompanied by a report on its investigation of statements regarding the battle of Nashville, and related miscellany.
<b>Quantity:</b>	3 folders in partial box.
<b>Location:</b>	116.A.3.7

#### ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL AND INDIAN WAR HISTORY COMMISSION

The Civil and Indian War History Commission was established by the Minnesota legislature in 1889 (Laws 1889 c278) to provide for the preparation and publication of troop rosters and a historical narrative of the services of all organizations of troops (battalions, regiments, batteries, and companies) from the state that had participated in the Dakota Conflict and the Civil War (1861-1865). Six commissioners were chosen by state military organizations, and the commissioners in turn chose William Lochren, former captain of the First Minnesota Infantry Volunteers, as chairman and Christopher C. Andrews, former colonel of the Third Minnesota Infantry Volunteers, as secretary and editor of the history. The commissioners received no salaries, but the commission received a legislative appropriation to cover the costs of publication.

Each military organization furnished the commission with a narrative history of its actions during the two wars, and lists of participating troops. The first edition of the book, entitled *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, was published in 1890.

In 1891, a second legislative act (Laws 1891 c151) authorized the publication of a second volume of *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, containing official reports and correspondence, and including revisions and corrections to the first edition. The same six members served on this commission. Much of the second volume, published in 1899, was derived from the *Rebellion Records* of the United States War Department; military

correspondence of the offices of the Minnesota governor and the adjutant general; and annual reports of the adjutant general.

The members of the commission met periodically to discuss matters relating to editorial policy, production, and distribution of the histories. Ten thousand copies of each volume were printed and distributed to all surviving soldiers who participated in the wars, or to a surviving widow or family member; and to state government officials, public colleges, libraries, state institutions, and the state historical society.

The commission ceased meeting after the publication of the second volume, and both of the laws relating to the commission were repealed in 1905 (see Reports of the Revision Commission; Statutes 1905 c111).

Copies of both volumes of *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars* are held by the Minnesota Historical Society.

List of commissioners: William Lochren, chair; Christopher Columbus Andrews, secretary and editor; Judson Wade Bishop; Charles Eugene Flandrau; Lucius Frederick Hubbard; John Benjamin Sanborn.

## RELATED MATERIALS

Volume 7 of the papers of Christopher C. Andrews contains notes on troop organizations, etc., that may have been used in writing *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*. The papers of William Lochren include two folders of correspondence relating to the writing and publishing of these two volumes, and to his writing of the history of the First Minnesota Regiment. Both of these sets of papers are in the manuscripts collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

A volume of speeches by Lucius F. Hubbard discussing Minnesota participation in various Civil War battles and campaigns is in the Minnesota Historical Society library.

## INDEX TERMS

*This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.*

### Topics:

Culture--Minnesota.  
Dakota Indian--Wars, 1862-1865.  
Military--Minnesota.  
Publishing.

### Places:

Minnesota--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Regimental histories.

**Persons:**

Andrews, C. C. (Christopher Columbus), 1829-1922.  
Bishop, J. W. (Judson Wade), 1831-1917.  
Flandrau, Charles E. (Charles Eugene), 1828-1903.  
Gere, William B.  
Hubbard, Lucius F. (Lucius Frederick), 1836-1913.  
Lochren, William, 1822-1912.  
Rose, C. A. (Charles A.).  
Sanborn, John Benjamin, 1826-1904.

**Titles:**

Minnesota in the civil and Indian wars, 1861-1865.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:**

*[Indicate the cited folder title and item and page here].* Minnesota Civil and Indian War History Commission. Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.  
*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

**Accession Information:**

Accession number(s): 395; 999-18

**Processing Information:**

PALS ID No.: 0800000106 (history); 0800001025 (records)  
RLIN ID No.: MNHVG0004-A (history); 1589-A (records)

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note the location number shown below.*

**Location**

116.A.3.7                      Record of Proceedings, April 24, 1889 - May 6, 1899. 1 volume (94 pages).  
Minutes of the commission's meetings record discussion and decisions relating to editorial policy, printing, binding, and distribution of the two-volume history, *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861-1865*.

## Location

116.A.3.7

Report, 23 June 1893. 55 leaves in folder.

A typescript report submitted to Governor Knute Nelson by the Civil and Indian War History Commission, regarding a controversy over carrying of the national and state colors by members of Company C, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, at the Battle of Nashville, 16 December 1864.

An allegation that the version printed on page 582 of *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars* contained incorrect information was to be investigated by the commission and the commission's findings added as an addendum after page 582 of the report. After taking testimony from surviving witnesses, the commissioners concluded that the official published report did not require amendment.

The typescript report contains the following parts and attachments:

Transmittal report, 23 May 1893 (1 leaf).

Typescript of the state legislature's concurrent resolution ordering the investigation (2 leaves).

Transcript of testimony received by the commission, 16 May 1893 (37 leaves).

There is no page numbered 14; however, it is unclear whether a page is actually missing.

Minutes of 23 May 1893 afternoon meeting (4 unnumbered leaves, typed).

Deposition of Gen. Lucius F. Hubbard, undated (7 leaves).

Typed transcript of letter of Wm. B. Gere to Capt. T. J. Sheehan, 18 April 1893 (1 leaf).

Typed transcript of letter of Gere to C. A. Rose, 18 April 1893 (1 leaf).

Handwritten letter of Gere to C. C. Andrews, 9 May 1893 (2 leaves).

Remainder of minutes of meeting [23 May 1893?], including transcript of article from St. Paul Dispatch (2 leaves).

## Location

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Miscellaneous Records, 1890-1900. 6 items in folder.

Two invoices and two letters from the Pioneer Press Company regarding printing costs and delivery of *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861-1865*; a photocopy of a notice published to solicit printing bids (1890); and a copy of a letter sent to commanders of various military organizations regarding troop rosters (1890).