



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSIONS Minnesota Monument Commission

An Inventory of Its Reports

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota Monument Commission.
- Series Title:** Reports,
- Dates:** 1916-1922.
- Abstract:** Reports of the commission submitted to the legislature, summarizing the activities of the commission, the memorial dedication ceremonies, and the battle or event being commemorated. Included are dedication speeches by commissioners and various officials, photographs of the memorials, and lists of Minnesota soldiers buried at the cemetery sites, located in Little Rock, Arkansas; Memphis, Tennessee; Andersonville, Georgia; Nashville National Cemetery, Madison, Tennessee; and Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri.
- Quantity:** 3 items.
- Location:** 116.A.3.7

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA MONUMENT COMMISSION

The Minnesota Monument Commission was established in 1913 (Laws 1913 c282) when a legislative act authorized the appointment of a commission to recommend the construction of memorials honoring Minnesota soldiers who served in the Civil War and were buried in national cemeteries in several cities in the South. Construction of the memorials was funded by several various legislative appropriations: memorials in Little Rock, Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, and Andersonville, Georgia (Laws 1915 c374 s42); the memorial at the Nashville National Cemetery in Madison, Tennessee (Laws 1919 c463 s11); and the memorial in Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri (Laws 1921 c510 s27).

Five commission members, serving without compensation and appointed under the provisions of the law, studied monuments in local cemeteries, and invited sculptors to submit designs. They selected John K. Daniels, a sculptor from St. Paul, to design the monuments.

Memorials in Memphis, Little Rock, and Andersonville were completed in 1916 and each consisted of a bronze statue of a Union soldier on an inscribed pedestal of Minnesota granite.

Each of the memorials in Madison and Jefferson Barracks, completed in 1921 and 1922 respectively, consisted of a bronze statue of a female figure holding a wreath on an inscribed granite pedestal.

List of commission members: Christopher Andrews (chair), Henry B. Dike, Levi Longfellow, Thomas P. Wilson, Colin F. MacDonald (secretary).

RELATED MATERIALS

Copies of the individual reports are also cataloged separately 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:

Military.
Soldiers—Minnesota--Registers.
Soldiers' monuments—Arkansas--Little Rock.
Soldiers' monuments—Georgia—Andersonville.
Soldiers' monuments—Missouri—Jefferson Barracks.
Soldiers' monuments—Tennessee—Madison.
Soldiers' monuments—Tennessee—Memphis.

Places:

Minnesota--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Nashville National Cemetery (Tenn.).

Persons:

Andrews, C. C. (Christopher Columbus), 1829-1922.
Daniels, John K.
Dike, Henry B.
Longfellow, Levi, 1842-1926.
MacDonald, Colin F., 1843-1919.
Wilson, Thomas P., 1841-1918.

Organizations:

Minnesota Commission Appointed to Erect a Monument in the Nashville National Cemetery at Madison, Tenn.
Minnesota Commission Appointed to Erect a Monument in the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks, Mo.
Minnesota Commission Appointed to Erect Monuments in the National Cemeteries at Little Rock, Arkansas; Memphis, Tennessee; Andersonville, Georgia.

Types of Documents:

Photographs.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item, or volume and page, here.]. Minnesota Monument Commission.
Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location

116.A.3.7

Report of the Minnesota Commission Appointed to Erect Monuments to Soldiers in the National Military Cemeteries at Little Rock, Arkansas; Memphis, Tennessee; Andersonville, Georgia/ C.C. Andrews, Thomas P. Wilson, Henry B. Dike, Levi Longfellow, C.F. MacDonald, commissioners. [Minnesota: s.n., 1916?]. 74 p., ill.; 24 cm.

This report documents the dedication ceremonies of Minnesota monuments honoring its fallen soldiers at the three above named Civil War sites in the southern United States. Dedication ceremonies were held in the autumn of 1916 in Little Rock, Arkansas (September 22), Memphis (September 23), and Andersonville (September 26). Documentation of each ceremony covers around twenty-five pages each and consists of an invocation by a member of the clergy, speeches from several of the Minnesota Monument Commission members, and acceptance remarks of national cemetery officials. The Little Rock ceremonies also witnessed remarks by the Governor of Arkansas and the Mayor of Little Rock, as well as Governor Burnquist of Minnesota (he also spoke briefly at Memphis). Each section also contains photographs of the monument, as well as lists of the Minnesota men buried at each cemetery. The men are listed by regiment and then alphabetically thereunder. The October 1916 report of the Commission also is included.

Report of the Minnesota Commission appointed to Erect a Monument in the Nashville National Cemetery at Madison, Tennessee/ C.C. Andrews, Henry B. Dike, Levi Longfellow, commissioners. [Minnesota, s.n., 1921 ?]. 32 p., ill.; 24 cm.

This report documents the dedication ceremonies of May 18, 1921, of the Minnesota monument at the Nashville National Cemetery in Madison, Tennessee. Speeches by Minnesota commission members Andrews, Dike, and Longfellow discuss the roles of Minnesota regiments in the Battle of Nashville on December 15-15, 1864. Also included are remarks by Governors Preus of Minnesota and Taylor of Tennessee and H.E. Pond, superintendent of the cemetery. An invocation, three photographs and a list of the Minnesota men, listed by regiment, buried in the cemetery also are included in this booklet. A three page report of the commission, dated June 1921 also is included.

Report of the Minnesota Commission Appointed to Erect a Monument in the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri/ C.C. Andrews, Henry B. Dike, Levi Longfellow, commissioners. [Minnesota: s.n., 1922 ?]. 38 p., ill.; 24 cm.

This report included the June 17, 1922, report of the Commission concerning dedication ceremonies of the Minnesota monument at the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri on May 15, 1922. Included are a list of the 164 Minnesota men (listed by regiment) buried at Jefferson Barracks, two photographs of the monument and grounds, and speeches of Minnesota monument commission members, various G.A.R. officials, several confederate veterans, as well as the superintendent of the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. The remarks of Minnesota governor Preus and a telegram from Missouri governor Hyde (expressing regrets) also are included. The speeches discuss the critical role that Missouri held for the Union and why so many Minnesota men were stationed and eventually died in that state during the Civil War.