



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSIONS Vicksburg Monument Commission

An Inventory of Its Reports and Drawings

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota-Vicksburg Monument Commission.
- Series Title:** Reports and drawings,
- Dates:** 1901-1907.
- Abstract:** Reports of the two commissions appointed to plan a monument to Minnesota soldiers who participated in the Vicksburg campaigns during the Civil War, and blueprints and sketches of the monument and markers.
- Quantity:** 2 items and 8 rolls in 1 box and 1 partial box.
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA-VICKSBURG MONUMENT COMMISSION

The Minnesota-Vicksburg Monument Commission was established in 1901 (Laws 1901 c121) when a legislative act authorized the appointment of a commission to recommend the construction of a memorial in the National Military Park in Vicksburg, Mississippi, honoring the troops from Minnesota that participated in the Civil War campaigns in Vicksburg (Nov. 1862-July 1863). The military park was established by the U.S. Congress in 1899.

Four commission members, Minnesota veterans of the Vicksburg campaigns, were appointed by the governor to investigate the former battleground, and to submit a report of their recommendations for the memorial's location by January, 1902. The commissioners traveled to Vicksburg and met with the National Park Commission to determine the most suitable site for the memorial. They received no compensation, but the act provided for their travel expenses to Vicksburg.

Pursuant to the commission's report, a legislative act in 1903 (Laws 1903 c136) provided for the construction of a memorial. No appropriation was made to defray the construction costs until 1905 (Laws 1905 c337 s33). Three of the four commissioners continued to serve on the commission, at the governor's appointment, with no compensation. They held meetings periodically to discuss and decide upon the memorial's design and dimensions, construction

materials, and inscriptions. Construction began in 1906 after the plans had been approved by the Vicksburg Park Commissioners and the U.S. Secretary of War.

The memorial consisted of a white granite obelisk with a bronze statue of a woman, representing peace, at its base, and six engraved bronze markers of red granite stone, situated throughout the park, commemorating Minnesota soldiers who were killed in battle. The commission contracted with the Van Ambringe Granite Company, Boston, to construct the obelisk, and hired William Couper, a sculptor from New York City, to design the statue.

The memorial was completed in 1907. The commission disbanded shortly after the dedication ceremonies in May, 1907.

List of commission members, 1901: Lucius F. Hubbard, Christopher C. Andrews (secretary), John B. Sanborn (president), Henry S. Hurter.

List of commission members, 1907: Christopher C. Andrews (secretary), Lucius F. Hubbard (president), Thomas P. Wilson (replaced by John B. Sanborn, 1904). John B. Sanborn served as president of the commission, 1903 to 1904.

RELATED MATERIALS

A volume of handwritten minutes of the commission, 1901-1907, is in the Christopher C. Andrews papers (Volume 123).

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' monuments--Mississippi--Vicksburg.
Soldiers--Minnesota.

Places:

Minnesota--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Siege, 1863
Vicksburg National Military Park (Miss.).

Persons:

Andrews, C. C. (Christopher Columbus), 1829-1922.
Couper, William.
Hubbard, Lucius F. (Lucius Frederick), 1836-1913.
Hurter, Henry S.
Sanborn, John Benjamin, 1826-1904.
Wilson, Thomas P., 1841-1918.

Organizations:

Van Ambringe Granite Company (Boston, Mass.).

Types of Documents:

Blueprints.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item, or volume and page, here.] Minnesota-Vicksburg 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	Box	
116.A.3.7	part	Report to the Governor, October 31, 1901. 6 p. Typescript report of the commission's inspection of the battlefield and recommendations for a monument. The text of this report is also included in the 1907 published report (below).
116.A.3.7	part	<i>Report of the Minnesota-Vicksburg Monument Commission to the Governor of Minnesota : with sketch of the service of the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Minnesota Infantry and the First Minnesota Battery in the campaigns of Vicksburg, November 1862-July 1863</i> / L.F. Hubbard, C.C. Andrews, T.P. Wilson, commissioners. [Minnesota : s.n., 1907?]. 64 p., [1] folded leaf of plates : ill. ; 24 cm. 2 copies. This report discusses the actions of Minnesota troops in the Vicksburg campaigns; reports on the planning and construction of the monument; and reports on the dedication ceremonies, including texts of addresses by Minnesota governors Lucius Hubbard and John A. Johnson and Mississippi governor James K. Vardaman. It also includes texts of the 1901 and 1903 Minnesota laws appointing the monument planning commissions and of the Congressional act establishing the Vicksburg National Military Park; a map of the park; and photographs of the memorial.

One copy is inscribed to General F. B. Wood "With the Compliments of The Commission.: Another copy of this report is cataloged in the MHS Library collections. Also published under the title: *Minnesota in the campaigns of Vicksburg, November 1862-July 1863.*

- 126.J.4.1 (do) 1 box Blueprints and Renderings, [1905?]-1906. 8 rolls in double oversize box.
- Preliminary and final blueprints and renderings, prepared by the Van Ambringe Granite Company, depicting various elevations and sections of the obelisk and markers.
- Blueprints showing front and side elevations, center line section, and other details of obelisk, April 1906.
- Blueprints of the front and side elevations, and sectional elevations (nos. 1 and 2), of the obelisk; blueprints of the markers. Undated.
- Blueprint of sectional elevation no. 3 of the obelisk, undated.
- Blueprint showing side elevation of the obelisk, undated.
- Blueprint of center line section and other details of the obelisk, undated.
- Blueprint showing center line section and other details of the obelisk, February 1906.
- Rendering of the obelisk, undated. Water-colors on heavy paper.
- Rendering of the markers (tablets), undated. Water-colors on heavy paper.