

The Spirit Lake and Okoboji Monument

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

Recommended Citation

"The Spirit Lake and Okoboji Monument." *The Annals of Iowa* 2 (1895), 69-73.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.2013>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

THE SPIRIT LAKE AND OKOBOJI MONUMENT.

Ever since the cruel massacre by Sioux Indians around the lakes in Dickinson county, in 1857, there has been a strong public feeling that some adequate memorial should be erected, not only to perpetuate the names of the pioneer settlers who sadly lost their lives, but of the men of the Relief Expedition who gallantly marched thither under Major William Williams, of Fort Dodge. The stories of the massacre and of that notable march have been often told, as they will be in coming time, and we need not attempt their rehearsal here. At the opening of the Legislature of 1894, Mrs. Abbie Gardner-Sharp, who was carried into barbarous captivity by the Indians, came to the Capitol and remained through the session. Largely through her efforts, heartily seconded by Senator A. B. Funk, who resides at Spirit Lake, a bill was passed appropriating \$5,000 for a monument. The law provided for "a special commission composed of five members appointed by the Governor of the State to carry out the provisions of this act." Governor Jackson approved the bill March 30, and appointed the following persons as commissioners: Ex-Governor Cyrus C. Carpenter and Hon. John F. Duncombe of Ft. Dodge, Mrs. Abbie Gardner-Sharp and Hon. R. A. Smith, of Okoboji, and Charles Aldrich, of Boone. The commission was organized by the appointment of Governor Carpenter, Chairman, and Mrs. Sharp, Secretary. A suitable location having been secured without expense to the State, a contract for the

erection, for \$4,500, of a granite monument, 55 feet high, with a large bronze tablet on each of its four sides, was let to the N. P. Peterson Granite Company of St. Paul, Minnesota. The monument was completed about the middle of March. It is a beautiful shaft, built in alternate sections of rough and polished Minnesota granite. This material is hard and durable, susceptible of a high polish, somewhat resembling Scotch granite, containing, however, less of red and more of gray and black than the imported article. The site selected is near the Gardner cabin. The four large bronze tablets are inscribed as follows:

EAST TABLET.

The pioneer settlers named below were massacred by Sioux Indians, March 8-13, 1857. The barbarous work was commenced near this spot, and continued to Springfield (now Jackson), Minn.

Robert Clark,
Rowland Gardner,
Francis M. Gardner,
Rowland Gardner, Jr.,
Carl Granger,
Jos. Harshman,
Isaac H. Harriott,
Joel Howe,
Millie Howe,
Jonathan Howe,
Sardis Howe,
Alfred Howe,
Jacob Howe,
Philetus Howe,
Harvey Luce,
Mary M. Luce,
Albert Luce,
Amanda Luce,
Wm. Marble.

James H. Mattock,
Mary M. Mattock,
Alice Mattock,
Daniel Mattock,
Agnes Mattock,
Jacob M. Mattock,
Jackson A. Mattock,
Robert Mathieson,
Lydia Noble,
Alvin Noble,
John Noble,
Enoch Ryan,
Bertell A. Snyder,
Joshua Stewart, wife and two
children,
Elizabeth Thatcher,
Dora Thatcher,
George Wood.
Wm. Wood.

WEST TABLET.

Roster of the Relief Expedition. Fort Dodge, March 24, 1857,
Major William Williams, commanding.

COMPANY A.	COMPANY B.	COMPANY C.
C. B. Richards, Capt.	J. F. Duncombe, Capt.	J. C. Johnson, Capt.
F. A. Stratton, 1st Lt.	James Linn, 1st Lt.,	J. N. Maxwell, 1st Lt.
L. K. Wright, Serg't.	S. C. Stevens, 2d Lt.,	F. R. Mason, 2d Lt.
Solon Mason, Corp.	W. N. Koops, Sergt.,	Harris Hoover, Sergt.
	Thos. Callagan, Corp.	A. N. Hathway, Corp.
PRIVATES.	PRIVATES.	PRIVATES.
W. E. Burkholder,	Jessie Addington,	Thos. Anderson,
G. W. Brazee,	A. Burch,	James Brainard,
C. C. Carpenter,	Hiram Benjamin,	T. B. Bonebright,
L. D. Crawford,	D. H. Baker,	Sherman Cussady,
Julius Conrad,	Orlando Bice,	W. L. Church,
Henry Carse,	Richard Carter,	Patrick Conlan,
— Chatterton,	A. E. Crouse.	H. E. Dalley,
Wm. Defore,	R. F. Carter,	John Erie,
J. W. Dawson,	Michael Cavanaugh,	John Gates,
Wm. Ford,	Jer. Evans,	E. W. Gates,
John Farney,	John Hefley,	Josiah Griffith,
John Gales,	O. C. Howe,	James Hickey,
Andrew Hood,	D. F. Howell,	H. C. Hillock,
Angus McBane,	A. S. Johnson,	M. W. Howland,
Wm. McCauley,	Jonas Murray,	E. D. Kellogg,
Michael Maher,	Daniel Morrisey,	W. K. Laughlin,
E. Mahan,	G. F. McClure,	A. S. Leonard,
W. P. Pollock,	A. H. Malcombe,	W. V. Lucas,
W. F. Porter,	Michael McCarty,	F. R. Moody,
B. F. Parmenter,	J. N. McFarland,	John Nowland,
L. B. Ridgeway,	Robt. McCormick,	J. C. Pemberton,
Winton Smith,	John O'Laughlin,	Alonzo Richardson,
R. A. Smith,	Daniel Okeson,	Michael Sweeney,
G. P. Smith,	Gaernsey Smith,	Patrick Stafford,
O. S. Spencer,	J. M. Thatcher,	A. K. Tullis.
C. Stebbins,	W. Searles,	
Silas Vancleave,	John White,	
R. U. Wheelock,	W. R. Wilson,	G. R. Bissell, Surg.
D. Westerfield,	Washington Williams,	G. B. Sherman, Com'y.
	Reuben Whetstone.	

NORTH TABLET.

(Iowa Coat of Arms.)

ERECTED BY ORDER OF
THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE STATE OF IOWA,

1894.

SOUTH TABLET.

MEMORANDA.

Miss Abbie Gardner, Mrs. Margaret Ann Marble, Mrs. Lydia Noble,
and Mrs. Elizabeth Thatcher, were carried into captivity.

Mrs. Marble was rescued May 21, and Miss Gardner
June 23, 1857, through the efforts of Gov. Sam.

Medary and Hon. Charles E. Flandreau, of
Minn. Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Thatcher
were murdered by the Indians.

Capt. J. C. Johnson, of Webster City, and William E. Burkholder, of
Fort Dodge, were frozen to death on the return march,
in Palo Alto county, April 4, 1857.

PERSONS WHO FLED FROM THE ATTACK ON SPRINGFIELD (JACKSON),
MINN., AND WERE RESCUED BY RELIEF EXPEDITION.

John Bradshaw, David Carver, Mrs. S. J. Church and two chil-
dren, Eliza Gardner, George Granger, Mrs. Harshman and chil-
dren, — Harshman (son of the preceding) and wife, Morris
Markham, Mrs. Wm. Nelson and child, Jareb Palmer,
A. P. Shiegley, J. B. Skinner and wife, — Smith
and wife, Dr. E. B. N. Strong, wife and two
children, John Stewart, Drusilla Swan-
ger, J. B. Thomas, wife and
five children.

The work upon this monument is believed to be of the best quality, and it has seemed fully to meet the expectations of all who have seen it. The task of preparing the inscriptions has been a most difficult one, owing to the lapse of time and the insufficiency of records. In many cases dependence has been of necessity placed upon the memories of living persons, which, after more than a third of a century, are in danger of being confused; but it is believed that these tablets contain the names of all who lost there lives in the massacre, or participated in the Expedition. And thus the State has rendered a just and generous tribute to their memories. Many of the men in the Expedition afterward volunteered in the Union armies and several of them fell in defense of their country. At the date of this publication it seems probable that the Commission will complete its labors by turning the monument over to Gov. Jackson on the 4th of July next.

ARTICLES AND PORTRAITS.

We present the first of a series of articles on the life and military services of the illustrious Major General John M. Corse, by his distinguished townsman, the Rev. Dr. William Salter of Burlington, author of many works of Iowa history and biography. The reader will find these articles very interesting and valuable, presenting ampler knowledge of General Corse than has hitherto been accessible. It is appropriately illustrated by portraits of Generals Corse and Sherman. For the use of the latter we are indebted to the courtesy of the editor of the *Midland Monthly*.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.