



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the City Council Committees on the Army and Navy Monument records

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Repository: City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title: City Council Committees on the Army and Navy Monument records
Collection No.: 0140.012
Dates: 1866, 1870-1871, 1877
Quantity: 0.75 Cubic feet (2 document cases, 1 card file box, 1 flat box)

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Historical note

On 8 March 1866, the Common Council passed an order for the appointment of a joint committee “to take into consideration the expediency of erecting a monument in the city, in some prominent place, commemorative of the fallen heroes who so heroically aided in putting down the Southern Rebellion, and in sustaining the Constitution of our country and the Union of the States.” The Board of Aldermen passed the order on 12 March 1866. On 16 April 1866, the Committee submitted a report that recommended the advertisement for plans and estimates for a

monument. The Committee chose the design and estimate of \$100,000 of Hammatt Billings, of Boston, and recommended "Flagstaff Hill," the highest elevation on Boston Common as the site for the monument. The City Council accepted the design and the Committee advertised for proposals for the work and found that the work could not be done for less than \$160,000. Work was suspended on the monument and nothing was done until 1870. In 1870, the Committee advertised for designs not to exceed \$75,000. The Committee received 16 proposals and chose the design of Martin Milmore. The City Council passed the order for the construction of the monument on 30 December 1870. On 18 September 1871, the cornerstone of the monument was laid. In 1872, Martin Milmore went to Rome and spent the following five years modeling his designs. In January 1877, a Committee was appointed to have charge of the erection of the Army and Navy Monument. In April 1877, Martin Milmore returned to the United States and informed the Committee that he would deliver the monument to the City on 17 September 1877. The City dedicated the Army and Navy Monument on 17 September 1877.

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Scope and Contents note

The Committee on the Army and Navy Monument Collection includes the records of the various City Council committees created during the years 1866, 1870-1871 and 1877. In 1866, a committee was formed to procure designs and select a site for the monument. In 1870, a second committee was created to obtain designs for the monument. In 1871, a committee was created to organize the celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of the monument. In 1877, a committee was created to organize the celebration of the dedication of the monument. The majority of the records are from the Committee on the Dedication of the Army and Navy Monument, 1877. The Collection has been divided into six series: Committee on the Army and Navy Monument of 1866 records; Committee on the Army and Navy Monument of 1870 records; Committee on the Laying of Cornerstone of Army and Navy Monument of 1871 records; Committee on the Dedication of Army and Navy Monument of 1877 records; Oversized material; and Artifacts.

The committee records of 1866 were added to this collection in December of 2001. The committee records of 1866 include designs proposed for the monument and correspondence relating to the designs and selection of a site for the monument. Several of the proposed designs are missing. Most of the proposals are written descriptions. Some sketches are included. One item of interest is the notes recording the opinions on the submitted designs of several prominent citizens of Boston including Samuel Eliot, Francis Parkman, Theodore Lyman, and Charles Sumner.

The records of the committee of 1870 include designs submitted for the monument and a list of persons submitting designs. The designs are written descriptions of what the proposed monument will look like. One submission includes drawings. Several of the proposed designs are missing including those of Martin Milmore, the eventual winner of the competition.

The records of the committee on the laying of the cornerstone of monument of 1871 include orders, correspondence, news clippings, miscellaneous records, and lists of invited guests.

The records of the committee on the dedication of monument of 1877 include orders, correspondence, miscellaneous records, requests for payments, invoices, plans, invitations, tickets, list of invited guests, and programs.

The oversized material includes plans of formation and procession, platforms, and seats. The artifacts include two badges worn by City Council members and members of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) at the dedication ceremony.

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Related Material

"Dedication of the Monument on Boston Common Erected to the Memory of the Men of Boston who Died in the Civil War" published in 1877 can be found in the publications collection.

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Series I: Committee on the Army and Navy Monument of 1866 records, 1866 (7 folders)

Box	Folder	
1	1a	Design proposals, 1866 June
1	1b	Design proposals, 1866 June
1	1c	Design proposals, 1866 June-October
1	1d	Design proposals, 1866 June-October
1	1e	Newspaper clipping from "Boston Transcript", 1866 November 2
1	1f	Correspondence, 1866 October 2-November 8
1	1g	Correspondence and notes, 1866 December 3-6, undated

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Series II: Committee on the Army and Navy Monument of 1870 records, 1870 (2 folders)

Box	Folder	
1	1	Design proposals, 1870 September-October
1	2	Design proposals, 1870 September-October

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Series III: Committee on the Laying of Cornerstone of Army and Navy Monument of 1871 records, 1871 (5 folders)

Box	Folder	
1	3	Records, 1871 January 9-August 16
1	4	Records, 1871 August 21-September 11
1	5	Records, 1871 September 11-18
1	6	Records, [1871]
1	7	Records, 1871 September 8

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Series IV: Committee on the Dedication of Army and Navy Monument of 1877 records, 1877 (31 folders)

Box	Folder	
1	8	Records, 1877 April 30-June 13
1	9	Records, 1877 June 13-July 17
1	10	Records, 1877 July 18-August 10
1	11	Records, 1877 August 13-22

1	12	Records, 1877 August 24-September 3
1	13	Records, 1877 September 3-8
1	14	Records, 1877 September 12-13
1	15	Records, 1877 September 14-22
1	16	Records, 1877 September 22-October 11
1	17	Records, 1877 October 13-November 14, undated
1	18	Records, [1877]
1	19	Records, [1877]
1	20	Records, [1877]
2	21	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 August 13-20
2	22	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 August 21-29
2	23	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 August 30-September 1
2	24	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 September 1-5
2	25	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 September 5-11
2	26	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 September 11-12
2	27	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 September 12-13
2	28	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 September 13-14
2	29	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 September 14-15
2	30	Correspondence - Acceptances and regrets, 1877 September 15, undated
2	31	General Order No. 3 Formation of Procession, 1877 September 11
2	32	Invitation to dinner at Revere House, 1877 September 14
2	33	Invited guests book no. 1, 1877 September 17
2	34	Invited guests book no. 2, 1877 September 17
2	35	Invitations to dedication ceremony, 1877 September 17
2	36	Tickets, 1877 September 17
2	37	Photograph "Statue of Faith" for Plymouth Rock, undated
2	38	Picture Card - Army and Navy Monument, 1877

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Series V: Oversized materials, 1877 (5 items)

Box

3	Seats Franklin Square similar to those on Blackstone Square which fell on 1877 September 17, [1877]
3	Dedication of the Army and Navy Monument Plan of Formation, Route of Procession (colored), 1877 September 17
3	Dedication of the Army and Navy Monument Plan of Formation, Route of Procession, 1877 September 17
3	Plan of platforms, [1877]
3	Plan of platforms, [1877]

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Series VI: Artifacts, 1877 September 17 (2 items)

Box

4 City Council badge, 1877 September 17

4 Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) badge, 1877 September 17

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