



## **Collection Information:**

**Folder:** Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers, July-October 1905.

**Collection:** Volk, Douglas. Second Minnesota Regiment at Mission Ridge Papers.

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St. Paul, Minn. July 6th 1905.

Mr. Douglas Volk,  
Hewnoaks, Center Lovell, Maine.

My dear Sir:-

Your favor of June 29th received yesterday, six days en route, and haste to reply. The breastworks were built of logs with heavy embankment of dirt in front of them. In front of the works were trees, and brush was placed to impede the advance of the troops in charging on the works. No, there were no sand bags on the works. The artillery men who were manning the Confederate guns wore butternut and grey uniforms with slouch hats. Yes, the Union boys wore blouses with rubber blankets in roll over their shoulders, tied at both ends, making a roll the shape of a horse collar to go over the left shoulder and under the right arm. Yes, the state flag and the Stars and Stripes went over the works about ten feet apart, and about the same time. I think I told you that our men wore slouch hats, plain, without cord or any ornaments. One of two color bearers was shot down on the ridge, ~~and one~~ while going over the works, and the other after we had captured the battery. Yes, the Stars and Stripes were badly riddled and the top of the staff shot off. My drum was mahogany shell with light ash hoops.

Any pointers or any information I can give you, you will please not hesitate one moment in asking for, as I will most cheerfully give you all I possess. Take good care of my Harper. With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

*William Bircher*

# THE WESTERN ARCHITECT

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

ROBERT CRAIK McLEAN  
Editor

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.,

Aug. 11, 1905.

Douglas Volk,

New York, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

Can we have your permission to print your State Capitol Lunettes? Can you send us good photographs or direct where to obtain one? The enclosed circular will explain. Mr. Millet is here and fully approves of our endeavor to publish an adequate illustrative and descriptive capital edition of the Western Architect.

Hoping for a favorable reply, and thanking you in advance for the courtesies asked, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Robert Craik McLean,  
Editor.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION  
OF  
The New Capitol Building

SAINT PAUL, MINN.



The foundation walls are of Winona limestone; basement, or ground floor, St. Cloud granite. The exterior of the building is of Georgia marble. The foundation of the dome is of Kettle River (Minnesota) sandstone. The dome is of Georgia marble. The steps are St. Cloud (Minnesota) granite.

#### FIRST FLOOR.

The facings of walls, arches in rotunda, and facings in corridors and rotunda are Kasota and Mankato (Minnesota) limestone, polished.

The two marble benches, placed one on each side of the central door of main entrance, were presented to the state, for this building, by Mr. John De Laittre of Minneapolis, who has been a member of the Board of State Capitol Commissioners since the appointment of the commission in 1893. These benches were imported from Italy and are very old and rare.

#### GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM.

The wainscot of this room is of oak, elaborately carved, and ornamented in dull gold. The walls above wainscot, and the ceiling, are heavily gilded. A painting by Mr. F. D. Millet, "The Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux," and one by Mr. Douglas Volk, "Discovery of the Falls of St. Anthony by Father Hennepin," are to be placed at the east and west ends of this room. Four other pictures, depicting Minnesota's part in the Civil War, are to be placed in the four large panels.

#### GRAND STAIRCASES.

The stair treads, rails and bases are of Hauteville marble (from France). The balusters are Skyros marble (Greece). The oval panels, in marble, are Breche Violette (Italy), and the dark yellow are Old Convent Siena (Italy). The carved designs around the oval panels are Kasota (Minnesota) stone.

#### SECOND FLOOR.

The facings and arches in rotunda are of Kasota and Mankato (Minnesota) stone; railing of Hauteville marble; the balusters and benches of Skyros marble. The border of red stone in rotunda is Pipestone (Minnesota) jasper. The dark yellow panels are Siena marble. The four columns (two north and two south) are of Ortonville (Minnesota) granite, and the four columns (two east and two west) are St. Cloud (Minnesota) granite. The 36 columns in east and west stair corridors are of Breche

Violette marble (Italy). The casings of the doors and windows are Echaillon marble (France).

In the floors, Joliet (Illinois) stone and Tennessee marble prevail, but other marbles, such as the Numidian (Africa) Siena and White Vermont are used, to give proper designs and coloring.

#### DECORATIONS ON SECOND FLOOR.

The general decorations of the entire building are by Mr. Elmer E. Gamsey, of New York. The picture at the east end of the east corridor is by Mr. Kenyon Cox. The central figure represents "Contemplation" or "Thought." The figures to the right and left represent "Law" and "Letters," respectively. The corresponding place at the west end of west corridor, over entrance to senate, is to receive a painting by Mr. H. O. Walker, "The Progress of the Flame" (or the Transmission of Knowledge from the Past, through the Present, to the Future). The twelve smaller paintings (by Gamsey) in the corridors, are as follows: East—Milling, Stone Cutting, Winnowing, Commerce, Mining and Navigation. West—Hunting, The Pioneer, Sowing, Dairymaid, Logging, Horticulture.

In the rotunda, the four large panels are to be filled with paintings by Mr. Edward E. Simmons, as follows:

1. The American Genius, guided by Wisdom, follows Hope.
2. Wisdom banishing savagery.
3. Wisdom breaking the ground.
4. Wisdom, as Minnesota, distributes her products.

#### SUPREME COURT ROOM.

The marble used is white Vermont; the furniture Mahogany.

There are to be four paintings by Mr. John La Farge, one of which, the "Moral and Divine Law" (Moses receiving the Law on Mt. Sinai), is now in place. The other three will typify the development of Law.

#### SENATE CHAMBER.

The marble used in this chamber is Fleur de Peche (France). The two paintings in the large lunettes are by Mr. Edwin H. Blashfield. The title of the lunette in the north wall is "The Discoverers and the Civilizers led to the Source of the Mississippi." The title of the lunette in the south wall is "Minnesota, the Grain State." The four decorative compositions, "Courage," "Equality," "Freedom" and "Justice," and the general decora-

tions of the chamber, are the work of Mr. E. E. Garnsey. The furniture is Mahogany.

#### SENATE RETIRING ROOM.

The ceiling of this room is in dull gold with panels of gray-blue. The wall panels are in deep crimson, covered with Venetian patterns in dull gold, mantels of oak. Fireplaces and hearths of Red Numidian marble (Africa).

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The marble used in this chamber is white Vermont. The decorations are by Mr. E. E. Garnsey. The furniture is Mahogany.

#### HOUSE RETIRING ROOM.

The beamed ceiling is decorated in colors and dull gold. The walls are wainscotted with oak, and above the wainscot is painted a continuous frieze of tree trunks, foliage and wild flowers. The mantel and fire-place are Red Numidian marble (Africa).

#### THIRD FLOOR.

On this floor are located the galleries of the Senate and House. The decorations in the dome corridors are by Mr. E. E. Garnsey. Opposite each of the arches are circular panels (by Garnsey), representing the Four Seasons. The large lunettes on the north and south walls, (by Garnsey) represent the Farmer, Shepherd, Woodman and Sailor.

#### GENERAL CONSTRUCTION.

The Entire Building is Thoroughly Fireproof Throughout

The exterior marble is backed by brick walls 2 to 4 feet thick. Division walls are of brick. Partitions are of hollow tile. Floors are of same material, arched, and resting upon steel beams. The walls supporting the dome (above the piers) are of brick, 7 feet thick over the arches. Wood floors (in rooms) are nailed to narrow strips, bedded in concrete. The roof is of hollow tile and concrete, resting on steel beams and faced with glazed tile on the exterior. All plastering is done on Expanded Metal lathing.

The Heating and Lighting plant is built on Aurora Avenue, about 300 feet east of the main building, and is connected with it by an underground tunnel (276 feet long), 20 feet below the surface of the ground.

New York 8/25 '06

Alfred Volke  
Clinton County

Bitte forward sketch to  
me now at once if ready

Care Gilbert

Telephone 25-4



CASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,  
79-85 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.

ENDICOTT BLDG.,  
ST. PAUL.

NEW YORK,

Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 1905.

My Dear Volk.

On my arrival I found your charming little sketch and the photograph of the "Father Amunpin". Mrs. Gilbert has not seen the latter yet, but I am writing on her behalf as well as my own to thank you, and to express our appreciation thereof. My family were in town a few days after our arrival from Europe but have now gone down on Long Island to be in the country until the schools open -

With kind regards to Mrs. Volk and yourself

Very truly yours

Cass Gilbert

CASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,

79-85 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.

ENDICOTT BLDG.,  
ST. PAUL.

MINNESOTA CAPITOL.

NEW YORK, Sept. 1, 1905.

Mr. Douglas Volk,  
Hewnoaks,  
Center Lovell, Maine.

My dear Mr. Volk:-

Your letter of Aug. 28th is at hand. The color study for the picture of the Battle of Missionary Ridge, reached me to-day. I have read your letter with much interest and appreciate the suggestion of the historic moment at which the Union Troops turned the captured cannon on the confederates.

Having visited Missionary Ridge, I was so impressed with the peculiar land scape that my judgment is perhaps over swayed thereby. I had, however, formed a rough conception of a composition, which I would like to suggest for your consideration and, by the way, this impression was heightened by a talk I had with Gen'l Bishop about what occurred at the Battle.

The Troops had been sent in to capture some works at the foot of Missionary Ridge. The General said it looked like a hopeless fight, but, that before they went in, he told the men to reserve their fire until they were up to the works explaining to them that they would then arrive close to the enemy with loaded muskets while the enemy's would be empty. The men understood and followed this order and successfully carried the works at the foot of the Hill, then the whole army swarmed up the mountain and fought a soldiers' battle without waiting for orders from the Commander-in-Chief. Gen'l Bishop mentioned also a feature of the Battle formation, which was very suggestive to me, namely, that just before they started on the charge the colors were advanced before each regiment and that as you looked



September 1, 1905.

along the line you could see the slopes of Missionary Ridge with the colors of each regiment rising and falling with the ground as they advanced towards the works. It struck me then that if the picture could be taken at the moment when the charge began, showing Gen'l. Bishop (Colonel as he was then) giving the word to his men and that the tense moment just before the fight could be given great dramatic effect, high up on the Ridge might be seen the smoke of the confederate batteries and the desperate nature of the charge would be borne to the spectator as well as to the troops.

Spirited and interesting as your sketch is, I think it fails to give the impression of the rugged character of the landscape and particularly of the very steep slopes of Missionary Ridge, in other words, your men have captured the breast work and are turning the guns upon the enemy, but in this respect the incident is not different from many that occurred during the Civil War. You feel, of course the desperate nature of the contest, but I cannot appreciate from your sketch that the troops have climbed a mountain in the face of the enemy's fire.

I do not ask you to substitute my conception of the picture for your own, but I would like to have you take it into consideration and if you think well of it adopt it, of course, I do not know what conversation you may have had with Gen'l Bishop and other members of the regiment on this subject and as far as I am concerned, I would much prefer to meet their views than to have my own adopted.

Please let me hear from you about this.

Yours very truly,



Architect.

Minn. Capitol.

CASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,

79-85 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.

ENDICOTT BLDG.,  
ST. PAUL.

NEW YORK, Sept. 7, 1905.

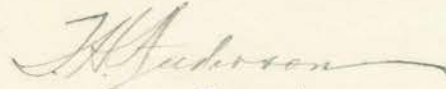
Mr. Douglas Volk,  
Center Lovell, Maine.

My dear Sir:-

Your telegram of the 5th to Mr. Gilbert was duly received regarding sketches for the Minnesota Capitol picture, and certificate. Mr. Gilbert has been ill and away from the office since last Saturday, and has requested me to reply. Your telegram was received too late to make certificate for presentation to the Board at the meeting this month, as they were to meet last Tuesday.

Mr. Gilbert wishes me to ask if you wish him to send your sketch to the Board, so that the members,- and especially Mr. Corliss,- can see it? He always advises against sending other than quite finished sketches before non-professional committees, as they do not understand them, and before forwarding it, would like to hear from you again.

Yours very truly,

  
Secretary.

A.



ASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,  
35 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.



Mr. Douglas Volk,  
Center Lovell,  
Maine.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1905

Mr. Douglas Volk

Center Lovell Me.

Dear Sir - Your favor of 13<sup>th</sup> Ult. was duly received and has been too long unanswered. I have delayed from day to day hoping that I might decide to go to Chattanooga to the Army of the Cumberland meeting. I find that I cannot prudently go. This is my "Hay-Fever" season and that trouble originated with me in the Chattanooga Campaign 42 years ago and has revisited me annually ever since - is particularly aggravating if I happen to be in that vicinity. So much to my regret I shall miss the meeting this year - when I spoke to you of joining you there I suppose the meeting was to be in October.

I enclose a circular recently received from which it appears that the meeting is to be on the 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September.

I wish you might be there, as you would meet many of the men who climbed The Ridge Nov. 25. '63.

I note what you say about the picture now in progress, and approve all your suggestions.

ST. PAUL, MINN., ..... 190 .....

Answering your questions - I wore that day the ordinary uniform of a Lieut. Col. of Infantry with the soft black hat as I remember. I went up with the boys on foot. As horses could not climb the face of the ridge, covered with "entanglements" they were all sent round by the "drag-road" leading up the face of the ridge from south to north a little to our right and they came up soon after we had gained the ridge.

I carried a sword - or rather a cavalry sabre with steel scabbard, and an army revolver in my belt. I do not remember actually using either. My men had been instructed not to waste time or cartridges by firing during the ascent - at the enemy fully protected by the log breastwork - but to get there with loaded guns if possible.

So the assault on our part was a grim steady climb taking what came our way until near the top when a sudden rush & a short contest and all was ours.

I greatly regret the unexpected death in June last of Genl H.V. Boynton, whom I hoped you might meet.

Very truly Yours J.W. Bishop

OFFICE OF  
J. W. BISHOP  
228 ENDICOTT BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MINN.



Mr. Douglas Volk  
Center Lovell  
Maine



CASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,

79-85 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.

ENDICOTT BLDG.,  
ST. PAUL.

MINNESOTA CAPITOL

NEW YORK, Sept. 13, 1905.

Mr. Douglas Volk,  
Hewnoaks, Center Lovell,  
Maine.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Sept. 9th reached me on the 12th. AS you suggest I will not attempt to answer it in detail owing to press of business. I am shipping your sketch of the Missionary Ridge picture to you to-day as requested. I appreciate all you say about the composition and your study of the subject. I am particularly interested in the fact that you had a conference with Gen. Bishop, Mr. Corliss, Capt. Donahower and others, <sup>that they</sup> and agree as to the incident which was to be depicted and the particular moment in the action which was to be illustrated. This being the case I withdraw my suggestions, especially as I am very anxious that it should be satisfactory to the members of the regiment. I suggest therefore that when you have brought the sketch to a condition which you think would be satisfactory to show to them, that it be forwarded to Mr. Corliss in the care of the Board of Capitol Commissioners, and if he and the representatives of the regiment approve it, it can then be taken up with the Board of Capitol Commissioners without delay and I have no doubt that the Board will concur in the views of the regimental representatives.

I am writing Mr. Corliss and also to the Board of Capitol Commissioners to-day making this suggestion.

Yours very truly,

G/M



CASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,  
79-85 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.



Mr. Douglas Volk,  
Hewnoaks, Center Lovell,  
Maine.

Minn. Capitol.

CASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,

79-85 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.

ENDICOTT BLDG.,  
ST. PAUL.

NEW YORK, Sept. 28, 1905.

Mr. Douglas Volk,  
Center Lovell, Maine.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your contract for painting the picture entitled "The Second Minnesota Regiment at the Battle of Mission Ridge", and to your application for a first payment on account of same, I would request you to kindly execute the enclosed Bill of Sale (in duplicate) and forward the original to me here in New York; the duplicate copy kindly mail to me at my St. Paul address,- 524 Endicott Bldg. In executing the same, please see that all blank spaces are filled in properly, your signature witnessed by two witnesses, and your acknowledgment taken before a Notary Public.

This bill of sale is a formality required by the Board of Capitol Commissioners and is in accordance with the terms of your contract, the Board accepting a bill of sale in the case of the artists, in lieu of a bond.

Yours very truly,

Cass Gilbert.

Per

*W. Anderson*  
*Duty*

A.

*Enc.*

The regular date for the meeting of the Board is Tuesday, October 3rd, though it may be postponed. I would suggest, however, that the Bill of Sale be executed and forwarded at once.



Minn. Capitol.

CASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,

79-85 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.

ENDICOTT BLDG.,  
ST. PAUL.

NEW YORK, Oct. 16, 1905.

Mr. Douglas Volk,

37 West 34th Street,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

At request of Mr. F. E. Hanson, Secretary of the Board of Capitol Commissioners, St. Paul, who does not have your present address, I enclose herewith certificate and voucher covering first payment to you on account of your contract for the "Mission Ridge" picture for the Minnesota Capitol. Mr. Hanson requests that you kindly receipt the voucher and forward same direct to him. It is customary, in all Government and State work, to receipt for payment in advance. When the receipted voucher has been returned to Mr. Hanson, a warrant will be issued to you for the \$900.00. Mr. Hanson's office is in the new State Capitol, St. Paul. I will be glad if you will also let me know that the voucher reaches you promptly.

Yours very truly,

Cass Gilbert.

A.

Per 



CASS GILBERT,  
ARCHITECT,  
79-85 WALL STREET,  
NEW YORK.



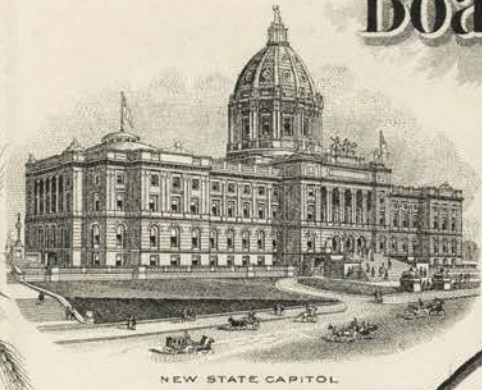
Mr. Douglas Volk  
37 West 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York

GOVERNOR JOHN A. JOHNSON.  
(EX OFFICIO) PRESIDENT.

CHANNING SEABURY,  
VICE PRES.

E. E. CORLISS,  
JOHN DE LAITRE,  
G. A. DU TOIT,  
C. H. GRAVES,  
H. W. LAMBERTON,  
EDGAR WEAVER,

COMMISSIONERS,  
FRANK E. HANSON,  
SECRETARY.



NEW STATE CAPITOL

# Board of STATE CAPITOL Commissioners.

St. Paul, Minn. Oct. 19 1905

Mr Douglas Todd

37 West 34<sup>th</sup> St New York City

Dear Sir:

Yours of 16<sup>th</sup> received with vouchers. I

have you herein Auditor's Warrant \$116 927

\$900<sup>00</sup> covering said vouchers. Kindly

acknowledge.

Very truly

Frank E. Hanson  
Secy

From  
BOARD OF STATE CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS,  
St. Paul, Minn.



Mr. Douglas Vail  
National Auto Club  
37 West 34 St.  
New York City