



Arnold E. Kahnert Papers

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PROPERTY OF ARNOLD E. KAHNERT, US
ARMY RETIRED 31 MARCH 1950 AGE 44. BORN
7 January 1906 KAUKAUNA, WISCONSIN.
1st Enlistment 6-21-1926 to 6-20-1929
To-day Thursday 9th October 1964- 1964.
My address is 5621-26th Ave So, Mpls, Minn.

Arnold E. Kahnert Ag 58.

Memo. To The C.O.

1. Submitting
for your information
and approval mater-
ial which will be
included in letter
of invitation for Or-
ganization Day to
over 400 former
members of 3rd Inf.

J. C. Rideout
Chaplain USA

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Third Infantry constructs Army Posts.

In 1826 the regiment
assisted in the construction
of Jefferson Barracks.

In the spring of 1827
Colonel Leavenworth with
companies "B", "D", "E" & "H"
ascended the Missouri river
for the purpose of selecting
a site for a new post.
The present site of Ft. Leavenworth
was selected, and the troops
immediately engaged in the
construction of the post which
was called "Cantonment
Leavenworth".

File
Chapel Memorial
Gifts

1020 North St. Peoria, Ill.

June 5, 1928.

Col. W. E. Welch, Commandant.

St. Snelling, Minn.

Dear Sir:-

My sister Abbie Hunt Snelling and I are grandchildren of Col. Josiah Snelling, and we have heard to-day that you are honoring his memory next Sunday by the unveiling of a monument. We are children of Col. Snelling's youngest son, Mr. Josiah Snelling, who was born at the Fort in 1827, and died forty-five years ago. We appreciate the honor you are showing our grandfather's memory, and wish we might be present on this occasion. There are three other surviving grandchildren, Mr. L. W. Hall and Miss Abbie Snelling Hazard of Cincinnati, and Mr. Edwin Hazard of Chicago.

Very sincerely yours.

(Miss) Isabel Snelling.

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February 3, 1926

Subject : Marker for grave of Elizabeth R. Snelling, daughter of
Commanding Officer in whose honor this garrison is named.

To : The Quartermaster, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

1. The grave of Elizabeth R. Snelling, infant daughter of
Colonel Josiah Snelling, who commanded the garrison of Fort Snelling
from the year 1819 to the year 1825, is without suitable marking.

2. This child was the first white child born in the state of
Minnesota. She was born only a few days after the arrival of her
parents at this garrison in 1819, and lived but thirteen months. The
hardships of the then wilderness seemed too great, and her little life
was one of the first sacrifices to the cause of an expanding civiliza-
tion. This grave should have a suitable marking.

3. The children of the garrison are undertaking to raise funds
to place a memorial window to the memory of the Snelling child in the
proposed One Hundred Thousand Dollar Memorial Chapel to be erected at
this station through the generosity of citizens of Minnesota in the
near future.

4. Request, if possible, that you secure authority for the
erection of a properly inscribed stone for this child's grave, so
that it may be placed and dedicated at the services which will be
conducted at this post on Memorial Day next, May 30th, 1926.

Frank C. Rideout
Chaplain, U.S.A.

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February 4, 1926

The Minnesota Historical Society,
Old Capitol Building,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sirs:

Can you give me exact information concerning
the infant daughter of Colonel Snelling's, first Command-
ing Officer at Fort Snelling, who died shortly after the
arrival of her parents in Minnesota.

As nearly as I can find out she was the first
white child born in Minnesota. The little stone at her
grave in the Fort Snelling cemetery is crumbling into de-
cay. As nearly as I can make it out, there are only three
letters "E.R.S." on the stone.

Can you give me the following in particular:

- (1) Full name of child _____
- (2) Date of birth _____
- (3) Date of death _____
- (4) Is it true that she was the first white child born in
the state of Minnesota?

- (5) In what year was the Fort Snelling cemetery located
in its present site/ Or in other words, when ~~were~~ were the
graves of soldiers and others removed from the old burial
place in Fort Snelling, on the brow of the Mississippi, to
the present location south of the garrison on the Minnesota
River?

I will appreciate very much the information
which you perhaps can give.

Yours very sincerely,

Rev. Frank C. Rideout,
Captain, Chaplain U. S. Army
Fort Snelling, Minn.

For release week of February 6th

Saint Paul, Minnesota, February ____ Beneath a crumbling stone at Fort Snelling, rest the ashes of the first white child born in Minnesota.

The brown slab contains no name. Three initials, now almost weathered away, are all that remain to signify that here lies the daughter of Colonel Josiah Snelling, builder of Fort Snelling. Born soon after the arrival of her parents at the Fort, she lived but thirteen months, and for more than a hundred years now has lain in what is virtually an unmarked grave.

But it will not be this way long. Through a plan initiated by the children at the Fort, a new stone is to replace the decaying headpiece at the grave, and an appropriate memorial to the child will be placed in the new chapel to be built at the Fort. To make it possible, the 200 children at the Fort are contributing their pennies.

The plan adds another element of interest to the chapel, whose interior is to recall many of the historical associations of the old Fort.

The campaign for the chapel is meeting with splendid response, Captain Frank C. Rideout, chaplain at the Fort, reports. A committee on preliminary subscriptions working in Saint Paul already has raised about \$12,000, and a similar committee in Minneapolis has raised \$10,000. Members of Unity Church, Saint Paul, have pledged \$3,000. Patriotic organizations, civic associations, and churches throughout the state are aiding in the campaign.

The state committee, headed by Governor Christianson, which is conducting the campaign has designated the _____ (name of your paper) as a representative of the state committee in this community, and

we will be glad to receive subscriptions and forward them to the state headquarters in Saint Paul. This community ought to be well represented in the chapel fund, for Fort Snelling has contributed much to the whole state, and many of our boys train there. Subscriptions should be sent in at once.

Though there are 1,500 soldiers and 500 women and children at the Fort, the War Department cannot build a chapel for them. Forty thousand soldiers in the regular army now are living in tents or dilapidated shacks, and with this material need to meet the War Department cannot get funds for chapels.

Pick up coupons.