

639
4 M3
22
py 1

D 639
.D4 M3
1922
Copy 1

FURTHER REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMISSION APPOINTED TO IDENTIFY THE
GRAVES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF MASSA-
CHUSETTS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR
THEIR COUNTRY IN FRANCE AND ELSE-
WHERE DURING THE WORLD WAR

MARCH, 1922

COMPLIMENTS OF
SILAS D. REED
OF TAUNTON,
SENATOR, FIRST BRISTOL DISTRICT

BOSTON

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
32 DERNE STREET

1922

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
RECEIVED
JUN 8 1922
DOCUMENTS DIVISION

10000 July 15, 1922
D 639
D 4 M3
1922

REPORT.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

GENTLEMEN: — By the provisions of House Bill No. 1631 of the Acts of the year 1921, passed by the Legislature May 9, 1921, the Commission to ascertain the most appropriate methods of caring for the graves of Massachusetts dead in foreign soil, appointed under the provisions of chapter 616 of the Acts of 1920, was revived and continued for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.

The act says: —

The commission, subject to the approval of the governor and council, is hereby authorized to employ a competent American sculptor and a French collaborator to make necessary plans and subjects for a Massachusetts battle monument in the vicinity of the city of Saint Mihiel in France, and may, with like approval, acquire an appropriate site for such monument. The chairman of the commission and the secretary thereof shall visit the proper authorities in France for the purpose of consultation in regard to the selection of a proper site for said monument, and shall also investigate further the location of certain graves of soldiers not identified in its report already filed with the general court.

For the purposes of this act an appropriation of not exceeding \$6,000 was made, to be expended with the approval of the Governor and Council.

The Commission first gave its attention to the selection of the sculptor and his collaborator. From conferences with the Massachusetts Art Commission, held at the State House, June 28 and July 14, the Commission obtained a list of all the American sculptors having Massachusetts affiliations who were judged by them to have done work on public or private order that qualified them to be considered, if the Commission opened a limited competition for the Massachusetts monument. The Art Commission took the trouble, also, to associate with each artist the notable works he had produced, so that the Commission was able to get opinions of the quality of the work of some

of the sculptors, and in some instances even to view their productions.

Even a limited competition was found to be more expensive than could be met by the appropriation of the State.

It remained for the Commission to make a selection from the list provided, and they did so. By unanimous vote, Daniel Chester French, having a studio near Stockbridge, Mass., was chosen. He promptly accepted the honor, and, in a conference with the Commission, suggested as collaborator, Mr. Henry Bacon of New York, the architect of the Lincoln Memorial at Washington. These names were at once presented to the Governor and Council as the choice of the Commission, and they were confirmed Aug. 10, 1921. The Commission learned that Mr. Bacon and Mr. French had been associated for twenty-five years in producing and giving an artistic setting to public monuments that the one or the other had contracted to erect. The statue of Lincoln within the memorial at Washington was the work of Mr. French.

Mr. French approved the suggestion of the Commission that Mr. Bacon should accompany Mr. Robinson as adviser in the selection of the site near St. Mihiel, and the Governor and Council approved the rearrangement of the items in the budget to provide for his expenses. The chairman, the secretary and Mr. Bacon sailed for France August 17, and arrived in Paris August 24.

With as little delay as possible, Mr. Robinson obtained an appointment with Ambassador Herrick, showed his credentials from the Governor of Massachusetts, and left with him a copy of the following letter:—

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, June 20, 1921.

To the Diplomatic and Consular Officers of the United States of America.

GENTLEMEN:— At the instance of the Honorable Calvin Coolidge, Vice-President of the United States, I take pleasure in introducing to you Mr. Walter A. Robinson of Arlington, Mass., chairman of the Memorial Commission for Massachusetts Dead of the World War in Foreign Countries, who is about to proceed abroad.

I cordially bespeak for Mr. Robinson such courtesies and assistance as you may be able to render consistently with your official duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. HUGHES.

Ambassador Herrick, being informed of the business to be furthered in behalf of the Commonwealth, directed his Military Aid to place before Mr. Robinson all the correspondence and agreements entered into by the French Republic and the United States relating to the acquiring of sites and erection of memorial monuments in France in connection with the World War. The conclusion of the matter was that Massachusetts could acquire land anywhere in France by purchase or otherwise, but before it could be used for the purposes contemplated, a formal vote of approval, after investigation and full information given, must be given by the municipal authorities of the town or city in which the land is situated.

This vote and an application for approval must then be filed with the Sub-Prefect of the department in which the town is situated. If he gives his assent, one may proceed to acquire the land desired. With this information in hand, Mr. Robinson, the secretary, and Mr. Bacon proceeded to St. Mihiel. The plan agreed upon for this visit was to traverse all the roads for two or three miles out of St. Mihiel; to examine all possible sites for the memorial; and then to make ourselves and our business known to the mayor of the town for suggestions from him.

We chose as the most eligible site a position in front of the Rocks, a natural landmark, monumental in character, about one-half mile from the Hôtel de Ville of St. Mihiel, east of the St. Mihiel-Verdun State highway, and parallel with the Meuse River.

In the afternoon, by appointment, we called upon Mayor Taton-Vassal, and consulted with him regarding the proposed location of a Massachusetts monument near his city. He seemed favorable to the idea and suggested that he go with us to point out a lot which could be acquired with little or no expense to the State. This lot proved to be sightly, and was in the vicinity of the cemetery of the unidentified French dead, numbering many thousands, who had fallen in the various assaults upon the German positions in the effort to recover St. Mihiel. A temporary monument had already been erected in the center of the lot, and was to be replaced in time by a permanent one. The approach to this lot was over the Apremont

road for two miles, and then by a farm road for a mile farther. We thought it inaccessible. Returning to Paris, Mr. Bacon took Mr. Robinson to many of the most noted monuments and memorials in and near Paris, and made many studies of the possibilities of the Rocks as a site for the Massachusetts memorial.

PARIS, FRANCE, Aug. 31, 1921.

DEAR MR. ROBINSON: — After considering all of the sites visited by us in St. Mihiel on the 27th instant, I recommend for the site of the Massachusetts memorial the one we inspected by the Rocks of St. Mihiel on the road between St. Mihiel and Verdun. The names of these two places are in the minds of all Americans, and a memorial placed on the site mentioned above will have its significance enhanced by its close association with these names.

The site I recommend is about one-half mile from St. Mihiel, and is prominently visible from the railway station and easily accessible by the main road to Verdun.

The scenery is monumental in character, and the high rocks behind the site will form a fine setting for the memorial. In the foreground is the Meuse River, flowing parallel to the Verdun road, adding another historic name to the site.

I recommend that an area of land be acquired there, approximately 250 feet long, and of a width extending from the Verdun road to the Rocks. If possible, I further recommend that a larger area be secured so as to include the five rocks shown in the sketch I have given to you, and an area of land on the plateau above the Rocks, this last area to be approximately 100 feet wide. The German trenches are on this plateau just behind the Rocks, and, preserved, would be of historic interest in connection with the memorial.

The above entire area could easily be made into a natural park in the center of which would be the Massachusetts memorial.

This is one of the best sites I have ever seen for a memorial of the character desired.

Yours very truly,

HENRY BACON.

TO WALTER A. ROBINSON, *Chairman,*
Memorial Commission for Massachusetts Dead of
World War in Foreign Countries.

Meanwhile, Mr. Robinson had presented the following letter to Col. H. F. Rethers, head of the Graves Registration Service in Europe: —

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON.

Officers of the United States Army on Duty in France.

The Massachusetts State Memorial Commission for Massachusetts Dead of the World War in Foreign Countries is about to proceed to Europe for the purpose of visiting cemeteries in which the dead of that State are interred.

This Commission desires such assistance in the performance of its mission as can be rendered, and I desire the military authorities now on duty in the countries it may visit to extend all courtesies to the members, and extend whatever material aid is possible in conformity with army regulations.

JOHN W. WEEKS,
Secretary of War.

Colonel Rethers was very willing to detail his liaison officer, Capt. Eugene Le Roch, through whom he had conducted the purchase of land on behalf of the United States for the enlargement of the permanent cemeteries, to guide and assist Mr. Robinson in securing options upon the land that should be chosen for the memorial. Captain Le Roch was furnished with the following letter, that he might not exceed the authority given to the chairman of the Commission by the act of the General Court.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MEMORIAL COMMISSION FOR MASSACHUSETTS DEAD OF WORLD WAR
IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

PARIS, Aug. 29, 1921.

Captain EUGENE LE ROCH, 8 Avenue d'Iena, Paris.

MY DEAR SIR: — Referring to our conversation this afternoon regarding my mission in France at this time. As chairman of the Memorial Commission for Massachusetts Dead of World War in Foreign Countries I am directed to "visit the proper authorities in France for the purpose of consultation in regard to the selection of a proper site for a Massachusetts battle monument, and the Commission is authorized to employ a competent American sculptor and a collaborator to make necessary plans and subjects for this monument in the vicinity of the city of St. Mihiel in France, and may, with the approval of the Governor and Council, acquire an appropriate site for such monument."

With the approval of the Governor and Council Mr. Daniel Chester French of New York has been appointed sculptor for this monument, and Mr. Henry Bacon, the New York architect, has been appointed collabora-

tor, and has been directed to proceed to France with Mr. Robinson to assist him in selecting the site for the monument. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Bacon, in accordance with these instructions, have selected the site in front of the Rocks, a well-known place about nine-tenths of a kilometer from the center of St. Mihiel on the road to Verdun. Mr. Bacon will join Mr. Robinson in recommending to the Governor and Council that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts acquire this site and make the following use of it: erect in front of the third rock from the north a noble monument to the valor of Massachusetts citizens who took part in the World War; lay out the land adjacent to the monument in a beautiful park for the use of the citizens of St. Mihiel. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Bacon are informed that the ultimate disposition of such memorials is to place the monument in the custody of the Ministry of Fine Arts for perpetual care, and the surrounding park in the hands of the local commune for a recreation center. They see no reason to question that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would honor itself and the noble French people who have been the companions in arms and in aims of the United States for more than a century by taking a similar action.

Very truly,

WALTER A. ROBINSON,
Chairman.

Captain Le Roch, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Robinson returned to St. Mihiel, and in the absence of Mayor Taton secured the assistance of the first and second assistants to the mayor, Messieurs Lazilliere and Thonin, and thoroughly canvassed the Rocks and the land adjoining which had been included in the scope of Mr. Bacon's sketch accompanying his letter to Mr. Robinson.

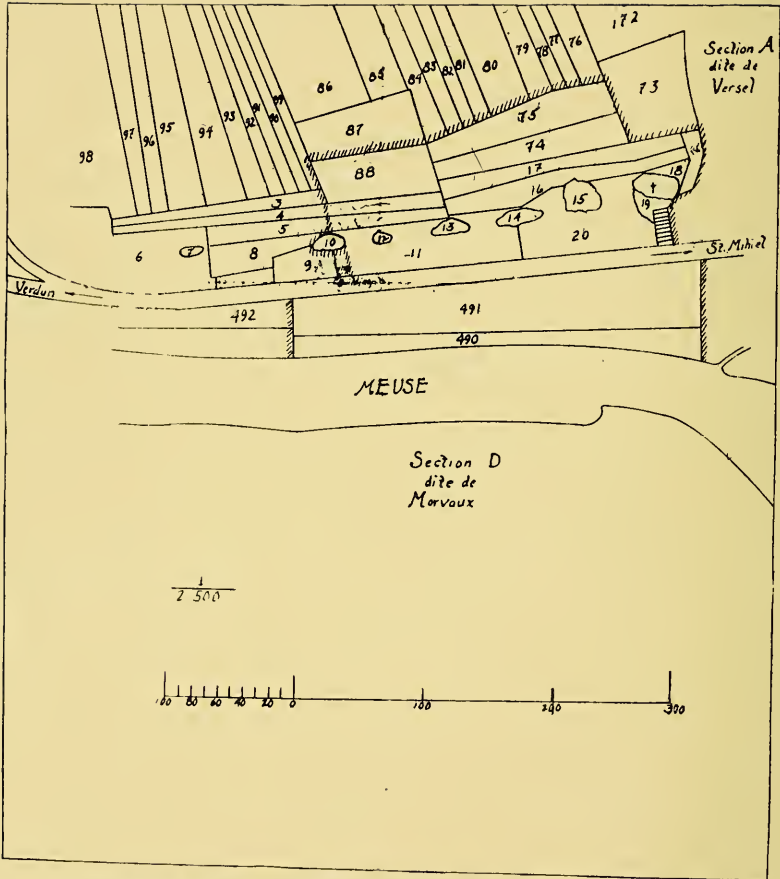
These gentlemen had been informed of the proposed visit and its purpose by the following letter: —

HOTEL CONTINENTAL, PARIS, Aug. 31, 1921.

HIS HONOR MAYOR TATON-VASSAL, *St. Mihiel (Meuse), France.*

MY DEAR SIR: — In accordance with our understanding with you, entered into last Sunday, August 28, Mr. Bacon and myself have arranged to visit your city again next Monday, September 5, coming from Bar-le-Duc by auto in the morning. We shall be accompanied by Capt. Eugene Le Roch, liaison officer of Col. H. F. Rethers, the head of the American Graves Registration Service for European Countries. We desire to place definitely before Your Honor a site for the proposed Massachusetts memorial monument, in securing which we have already the promise of your powerful and hearty co-operation.

Colonel Rethers suggests that it would promote the definiteness of the



Section of Assessors' Map of Estates, St. Mihiel, France.

objects of our conference if you would secure the presence of the Agent-Voyer of St. Mihiel with his road maps of such of the Verdun road as is included in the municipality of St. Mihiel.

With great respect,
Very truly,

WALTER A. ROBINSON,
Chairman.

After dinner, at Hôtel de Ville, an assessor was present with his books, and with the assistance of the superintendent of streets, Captain Le Roch drew the following plan of the land involved, the "hatched" part being the boundaries of Mr. Bacon's sketch plan. The numbers on the parcels on the accompanying map are those on the books of the assessors, and following the map is a list of the owners of the several properties and the area of each. These have been changed into the English measure of surface-square yards.

List of Estates included in Options.

NO. OF PARCEL.	Owner.	Area in Square Yards.	Value in Francs (stated in Option).	Value in Dollars (Franc, October, 8 cents).
4	M. Ruse Henri	2,760	10,914	10,000
75	M. Ruse Henri	4,038		
88	M. Ruse Henri	4,116		
5	M. Berard	2,760	1,500	120
8	M. Richard	2,760	10,508	85,000 ¹ 25,000 ²
9	M. Richard	2,760		
11	M. Richard	4,988		
10	City of St. Mihiel	462	4,608	Free.
12	City of St. Mihiel	378		
13	City of St. Mihiel	576		
14	City of St. Mihiel	636		
15	City of St. Mihiel	996		
19	City of St. Mihiel	1,560		
16	M. Ruse	2,760	5,520	3,000
17	M. Ruse	2,760		
20	M. Perrin	1,635	18,000	1,600
20 ³	Mmes. Garet	1,637	35,000	2,800
74	M. Lavignon	4,038	4,000	320
490	Mme. Moinet	576	10,536	20,000
491		9,960		
		48,146	201,500	\$16,280

¹ Three new stone buildings.

² Land.

³ A café.

Nearly 10 acres, including gift of nearly 1 acre from the city of St. Mihiel.

At this point the next step seemed to be to employ a competent notary to see if the owners of the land would agree to give up their holdings at a reasonable price. Mr. Georges Leclerc was selected, he being the oldest advocate in St. Mihiel, and a member of the Municipal Council. He was endorsed by the executive of the city as thoroughly reliable. Returning to Paris Mr. Bacon and the chairman conferred for several days, and were confirmed in their decision that the lot they had chosen at St. Mihiel was pre-eminently fitting for a Massachusetts memorial monument. Mr. Bacon started for home September 8, and on that date Mr. Robinson sent the following letter to the mayor of St. Mihiel:—

PARIS, Sept. 8, 1921.

To the Mayor of St. Mihiel (Meuse).

DEAR SIR:— During a recent visit I informed you of the intention of the Massachusetts State to erect a monument to the memory of the soldiers of that State who fell on the battlefield.

It seemed that the most suitable district for the erection of that monument was that of St. Mihiel, where American troops co-operated with the French forces in the fight for the reduction of the salient and the deliverance of St. Mihiel, and Mr. Bacon and I thought that the spot to be selected would probably be found just outside your town.

The place which has been chosen is situated at the foot of the cliffs, 900 meters north of St. Mihiel along the Verdun road.

The intention of the Committee, of which I am the chairman, is to erect a monument surrounded by a park which will be offered to the town of St. Mihiel to make use of after it has been completed. Thus the presence of 40,000 soldiers of the Massachusetts State among the 600,000 American soldiers who fought around St. Mihiel will be commemorated.

I have handed to Mr. Lazilliere, first "adjoint" of St. Mihiel, a rough sketch of what the monument is to be. I will send you a detailed plan of same in due time.

The ground which would be required, both for the erection of the monument and the laying out of the park, will include the following plots of the cadastral plan: Section A, called "de Versel" plots Nos. 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 73, 74, 75 and 88; Section D, called "de Morvaux" plots Nos. 490 and 491.

I would ask you kindly to let me know:—

1. Whether the municipality of St. Mihiel will give its approval to the scheme of the erection of the monument and laying out of the park.

2. Whether the municipality of St. Mihiel will place at the disposal of our Committee plots Nos. 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 19 which belong to the town, it being understood that the Rocks classified by the "Commission des Sites" will not be disturbed.

As soon as I have your approval I will apply for the necessary authorizations to the Minister of Fine Arts.

Believe me, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

WALTER A. ROBINSON,
Chairman.

During the next four weeks after his appointment, Mr. Leclerc reported progress, and assured the chairman that in his judgment the entire site could be secured.

On September 24 the action of the mayor and council of St. Mihiel was received in the following document: —

(TRANSLATION.)

THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE.

CITY HALL OF THE CITY OF ST. MIHIEL.

A PART OF THE RECORDS OF THE BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE COMMUNE OF ST. MIHIEL.

CENTRAL LAW COURTS OF THE MEUSE.

MEETING OF SEPT. 22, 1921.

The Municipal Council of the Commune of St. Mihiel came together at the usual place of the meetings in answer to a notice made in the form and method prescribed by article 48 of the law of April 5, 1844, under the presidency of Mr. Taton, the mayor.

There were present: Messrs. Taton, Lazilliere, Thonin, Adnet, Leclere, Chabert, Douillot, Laurent, Deloison, Richard, Ravier, Motlet, Bernard, Cauderlier, Lombard, Ralx, Douillet, Duvan and Laumont.

Absent members: Messrs. Mann, Simon and Henry.

Memorial Monument. — The Municipal Council, after having had presented to them the correspondence relative to a memorial monument which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts proposes to erect at St. Mihiel, and having listened to the explanations of their president, desires earnestly to address to the State of Massachusetts, to the Memorial Commission, and to the distinguished Commissioners, Mr. Walter A. Robinson and Mr. Henry Bacon, the most warm and sincere expression of their heartfelt gratitude.

They unite whole-heartedly in the single thought of admiration and remembrance of the 40,000 young men of the State of Massachusetts who in a magnificent advance and with the most splendid heroism contributed to the reduction of the salient of St. Mihiel, and co-operated in the deliverance of this little martyr city.

The Municipal Council returns to the Memorial Commission its most hearty thanks for the particularly flattering choice made by it of our city

for the definite site of the monument destined to commemorate the bravery of her soldiers, and also to consecrate anew the name of the city of St. Mihiel as a symbol in America of the Great Allied Victory of September, 1918, and of the final triumph of the principles of right and justice.

We are happy and proud of this new evidence of the fraternal ties which will unite forever the Grand Republic beyond the Atlantic and the city of St. Mihiel.

The Municipal Council votes unanimously: —

First, to give its approval, without reserve, to the plan to erect a monument and to lay out a park at the north gateway of the city upon the State road to Verdun.

Second, to place at the immediate disposal of the Committee on the memorial parcels numbered 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 19, which are the property of the city, it being understood that there will not be made any modifications of the general aspect of the Rocks which are listed by the Commission of Sites, for their pastoral and picturesque character, as well as the historic associations connected with them, live in the hearts of our people, and have always called forth the admiration of travelers.

The members present have assented to these votes by their signatures. This is vouched for by the signature of the mayor.

TATON-VASSAL,
Mayor.

It was now necessary to address the Sub-Prefect of the Meuse for his approval of the Massachusetts project. Here follow a translation of the letter sent to him October 5 and his answer received October 17.

PARIS, Oct. 5, 1921.

To the Sub-Prefect of Commercy (Meuse), Hon. TOUCAS-MASSILLON.

MY DEAR SIR: — The State of Massachusetts has decided to erect in France a monument to the memory of the soldiers of that State dead on the Field of Honor. The site chosen for this monument is in the environs 800 meters north of St. Mihiel by the side of the St. Mihiel-Verdun road at a place called the Rocks.

The Municipal Council of St. Mihiel, at a special meeting of Sept. 22, 1921, has promptly granted the authority desired to erect a monument and to place at the use of the Memorial Committee certain parcels of land which are the property of the city.

I would be very much obliged if you would grant me, in the name of Massachusetts, the authority to have this monument erected, and to lay out a park which, after completion, may be offered by the State of Massachusetts to the city of St. Mihiel.

You will find enclosed: —

1. A rough sketch indicating the land of which the State of Massachusetts desires to make purchase. An outline plan of the monument has

been sent to the mayor of St. Mihiel. When the detailed plan has been completed, I will forward it to you in order to give you full information of the bearings of the present request.

2. A copy of the vote of the Municipal Council of St. Mihiel.

Please accept, Mr. Sub-Prefect, the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

Very truly,

WALTER A. ROBINSON,
Chairman.

REPUBLIC OF FRANCE.

SUB-PREFECTURE OF COMMERCE.

COMMERCE, Oct. 15, 1921.

MY DEAR MR. ROBINSON:— In reply to your letter of October 5 I have the honor of informing you that, following a careful examination at St. Mihiel of the plan of a monument which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts intends to erect in the environs of that city, I have to-day transmitted to His Excellency the Prefect of the Meuse your request and the vote of the Municipal Council of St. Mihiel, asking for his approval.

At the outset I have called the attention of the Prefect to your request to have an early decision of this question.

Permit me to join my thanks to those of the city of St. Mihiel. It is a great honor to my department that you have chosen this city, whose name is closely connected with the glory of the American armies, to commemorate the memory of the soldiers of Massachusetts dead upon the Field of Honor.

Be willing to accept, my dear sir, the assurances of my high consideration.

Very truly,

TOUCAS-MASSILLON,
Sub-Prefect.

On the same date word came that Mayor Taton had called a special meeting of the Municipal Council for Monday, October 17, to honor officially the representatives of Massachusetts. He begged them to dine at his house in the evening with the Sub-Prefect and other guests.

At the council meeting Notary Leclerc placed in Mr. Robinson's hands the signed options upon the land desired for the monument and park. The cordiality of the felicitations addressed to Massachusetts could not be surpassed in heartiness, and the addresses were given with French fervor and eloquence.

On a previous page is a table giving the proprietors of the parcels and the values of their holdings in francs as appear in the options the Commonwealth holds, binding for six months from about the middle of October, 1921. It will be noticed that in some cases there is a single owner for several pieces of land, and that the land upon which the six rocks stand and the Rocks themselves are to be a gift to the Commonwealth by the city of St. Mihiel.

(TRANSLATION OF OPTION.)

PROMISE TO SELL BY THE FAMILY PERIN.

The undersigned:

First, Madame Victoria Aubriot, without business, dwelling at St. Mihiel, widow of M. Peter Perin;

Second, Mr. Sir Gaston Perin, architect, dwelling at St. Mihiel;

Third, Madame Eugene Perin, without business, widow after separating from the body of Eugene Timmerman, dwelling also at St. Mihiel;

Fourth, M. Peter Lucien Perin of Brichamcourt and Madame Yvonne Hersent, his wife, who also assents living together at Art sur Meurthe (M. and Mlle.);

Fifth, M. Georges Yules Claude Perrin of Brichamcourt and Madame Alice Mary Henrietta Espern, his wife, who also assents living together in the same place;

Sixth, Madame Louise Georgette Perin, without business, dwelling at Chaumont, widow of Mr. Arsine Jalaine;

Agree by these presents, jointly and severally, among themselves, and until April 1, 1922, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (United States of America) the right to acquire the following real estate: —

City of St. Mihiel, Garden.

The garden situated at St. Mihiel, under Calvarie, between the property Gavel, the garden Noryeux and the hill Calvarie, cadastre, Section A, recorded page 20.

Possession.

Entrance into possession will be given upon the carrying out of the agreements by a legal act.

The price agreed upon is eight thousand francs in cash, payable upon the completion of the legal formalities.

The sale, if it takes place, will be consummated by a legal act before Mr. Leclerc, notary at St. Mihiel, chosen by State that acquires the property.

Done at St. Mihiel the 1st of November, 1921, and at Art sur Meurthe the 30th of November, 1921.

Read and approved.

V. PERIN, AUBRIOT.

G. PERIN.

E. WALAINE.

E. ZIMMERMAN.

P. PERRIN OF BRICHAMCOURT.

Y. PERRIN OF BRICHAMCOURT.

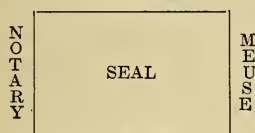
BARON PERRIN, BRICHAMCOURT.

A. PERRIN, BRICHAMCOURT.

Certified copy of the original made by Mr. Georges Leclerc, notary at St. Mihiel, at his residence (Meuse), done at St. Mihiel, Dec. 6, 1921.

G. LECLERC.

Mr. G. Leclerc



St. Mihiel

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MASSACHUSETTS WAR MEMORIAL, ST. MIHIEL, FRANCE.

SITE.

The site proposed for the Massachusetts war memorial near St. Mihiel is a splendid one. From the Meuse River it rises to a high plateau about 300 feet distant from the river. At the edge of this plateau, parallel with the river, is a series of six huge cliffs, or rocks, behind which are the trenches occupied during the war by the Germans who were forced to vacate them shortly before the armistice.

About 100 feet in front of the Rocks, and parallel with them and the river, is a fine military road connecting St. Mihiel and Verdun, running lengthways through the property.

The site proposed for the memorial faces the road and river, and is on the axis of the fourth rock from the town of St. Mihiel which is only one-half of a mile away.

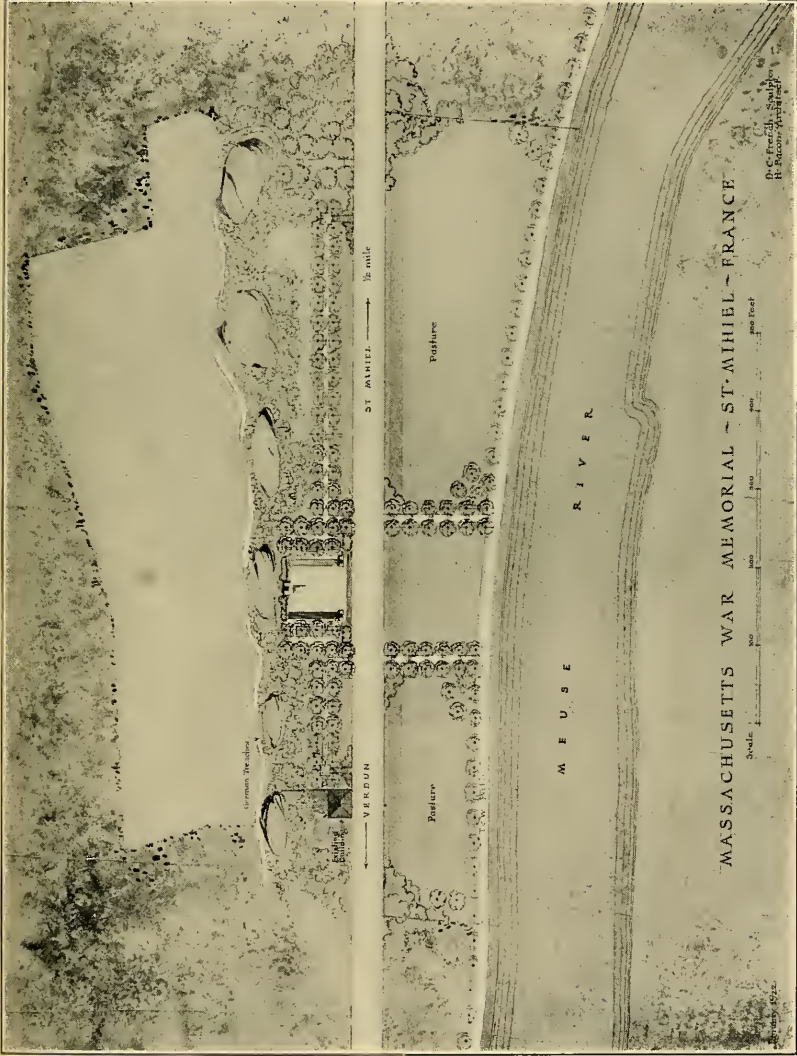
The general idea proposed for the memorial site is to create a space flanked by groves of trees in front of the Rock, which will form the background for a monumental piece of sculpture. The large scale of the Rock and its surroundings will make an impressive setting for the memorial.

The whole area of land included in the site is approximately 10 acres, and no better position in France could be selected for a war memorial.

MEMORIAL.

Steps and terraces lead up from the road to the Rock, and near the Rock rises a pedestal 14 feet long and 8 feet wide, shaped and decorated like an altar, which is surmounted by a bronze-winged figure 16 feet high with arms stretched out in benediction over a recumbent bronze figure draped with the flag of the United States. This recumbent figure rests on a low pedestal placed at the base of the altar, and surrounding it is a series of tablets on which are inscribed the names of the dead. The seal of the State of Massachusetts ends the series of names.

The total length of the masonry treatment along the roadway is 250 feet, and the depth is 90 feet. The central terrace, paved with pebbles laid in rectangular panels, is 58 feet wide and 78 feet deep.



Drawing of Park and Site.

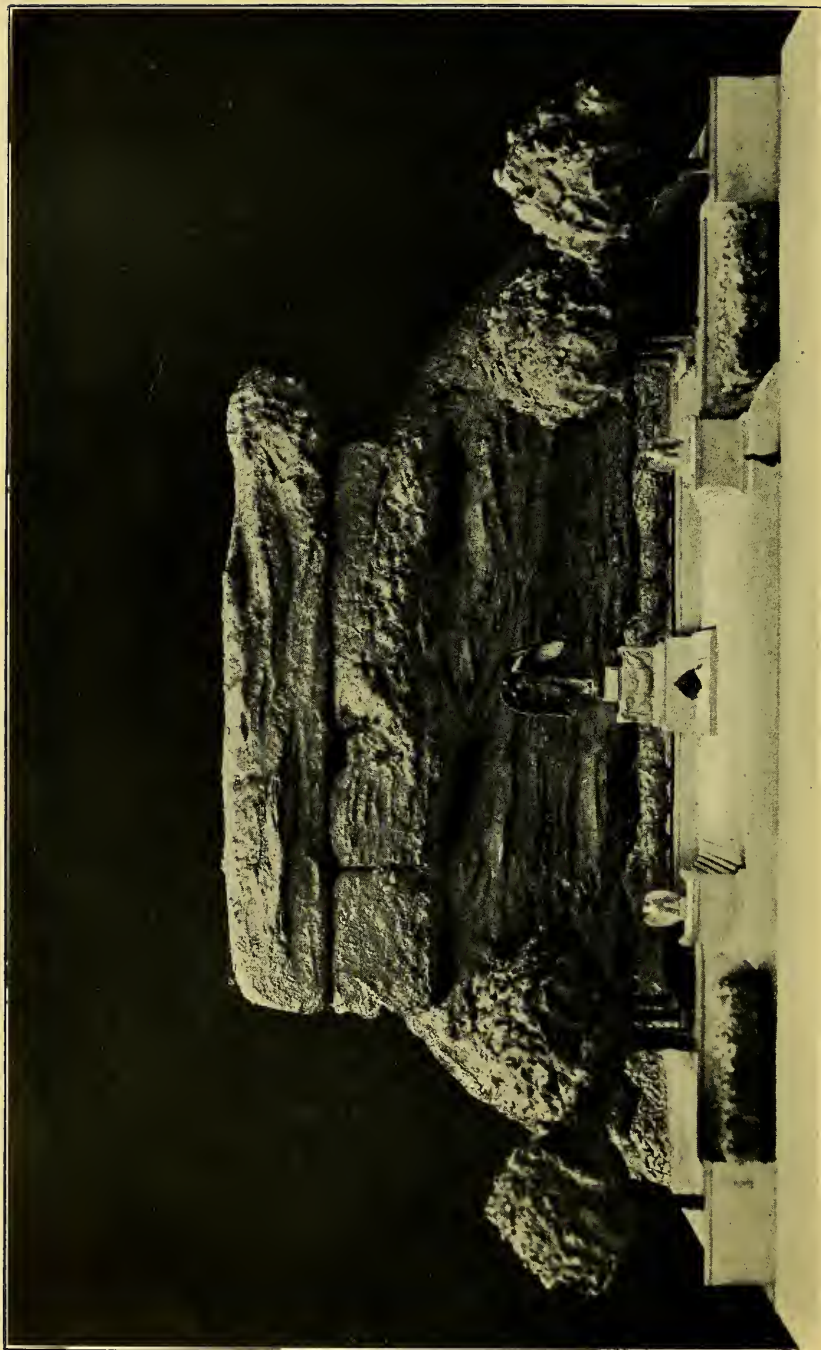


The Angel of Benediction.



Memorial, Near View.





Memorial in Place.

The height of this terrace above the roadway is 4 feet, and the top of the winged figure is 40 feet above the roadway. It is planned to have all of the stone work (except the retaining wall on each side of the monument along the road, which will be of French local stone) of American granite, cut in this country with a rubbed surface to bring out the color.

WORK SURROUNDING MEMORIAL.

The present aspect of the grounds surrounding the memorial between the roadway and the plateau above the Rocks is such that little should be done in the way of artificial treatment. The scheme proposed provides for a simple promenade bordered with trees leading from each side of the upper terrace of the memorial to the extremities of the lot, where access to it is had by steps from the roadway. The landscape around the base of the Rocks should not be disturbed, as it is well grown with good-sized trees, and is in character with the rugged rocks rising above them.

The grounds between the roadway and the river are now used as vegetable gardens. The proposed plan shows a large open grassed space in the center, bordered on each side with a double row of trees, between which are steps leading down from the roadway to the lower level of the towpath along the Meuse. This open space provides a good vista of the memorial from the opposite side of the river, and this vista is essential, as the memorial will be in full view from the railway line, to and from St. Mihiel.

IDENTIFICATION OF GRAVES.

Under the provisions of the bill that directed the chairman and secretary to "investigate further the location of certain graves of soldiers not identified in its report already filed with the general court," the Commission reports that they completed the identification of the graves of all Massachusetts soldiers in France with the exception of a few graves in two or three cemeteries in which exhumation for concentration into the permanent cemeteries was going on. Photographs were taken of all the markers. These have been developed and two copies of each made, one of which has been sent to the next

of kin and the other filed as a permanent record of the work of the Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Commission recommends that, in accordance with the provisions of House Bill No. 1631 of the Acts of 1921, quoted above, the Governor and Council approve the site for the memorial monument at St. Mihiel (Meuse), France, which has been bonded in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and direct the Commission to acquire the property, in the event that the Legislature has appropriated money for that purpose.

The Commission further recommends that the plans and subjects now on exhibition in Boston, presented by the sculptor, Mr. Daniel Chester French of Stockbridge, Mass., and Mr. Henry Bacon, architect and collaborator of New York, be approved, and that the Commission be revived and continued, and directed, in co-operation with Messrs. French and Bacon, to secure estimates of the cost, in detail, of laying out the proposed park at St. Mihiel, of preparing the immediate site for the monument in the park, of modeling the monument and casting it in bronze, of cutting the stones for the court and steps, of cutting and carving the pedestal, by Massachusetts workmen, and of all other items of expense likely to be incurred until the monument is in its place at St. Mihiel, and that the report of their findings be submitted to the General Court on or before May 1, 1922.

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER A. ROBINSON, *Chairman.*
AXEL E. ZETTERMAN.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 020 914 231 4 ●