

**SOLDIERS' NATIONAL
CEMETERY,
AT GETTYSBURG.
PENNSYLVANIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649750450

Soldiers' National Cemetery, at Gettysburg. Pennsylvania by Oliver P. Morton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

OLIVER P. MORTON

**SOLDIERS' NATIONAL
CEMETERY,
AT GETTYSBURG.
PENNSYLVANIA**

SOLDIERS'

NATIONAL CEMETERY,

AT

GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

Indiana *Journal* *1861-1865* *Volume*
TO THE LEGISLATURE. *A. M. M. M.*

INDIANAPOLIS:

W. R. HOLLOWAY, STATE PRINTER.

1865.

101
SOLDIERS' NATIONAL CEMETERY, GETTYSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

WASHINGTON, August 10th, 1863.

W. T. DENNIS:

I desire to buy some ground at Gettysburg for a Cemetery for our soldiers. Please ascertain full particulars, price etc. and inform me.

O. P. MORTON.

GETTYSBURG, PA., August 13th, 1863.

To His Excellency, O. P. MORTON, Governor of Indiana.

SIR:—The inclosed circular embodies the plan agreed upon with agents of several States represented here, and it has been submitted to the Governors of all States named in it for their concurrence. It is desirable to have as little delay as possible in getting your reply, as the bodies of our soldiers are in many cases so much exposed as to require prompt attention, and the ground should be speedily arranged for their reception. Pennsylvania has bought a very suitable piece of ground on one of the most prominent parts of the battle field, and His Excellency Governor Curtin, authorized me to say to you, that if your State desires a conveyance in fee simple of your burial ground in the cemetery, Pennsylvania will make a deed to you for it. Otherwise she will hold the title in trust for the purposes designated in the circular.

With great respect, I subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

(Signed)

DAVID WILLS, *Agent.*

GETTYSBURG, PA., Aug. 12th, 1863.

To His Excellency OLIVER P. MORTON, Governor of Indiana.

SIR:—It having been proposed by the Governor of Pennsylvania, that a cemetery be established at Gettysburg, Pa., for the burial of

Union soldiers killed in the second battle there, and the matter having been committed by him to the charge of David Wills of Gettysburg, with authority to apply to the Governors of the several States whose Soldiers were in the battle for their co-operation, and to arrange the details for the carrying out of the project. The following plan is proposed by David Wills, by authority of Gov. Curtin to the several States interested.

1. The State of Pennsylvania to purchase the ground, about twelve acres, on the battle field, near the present Gettysburg Cemetery, and take the title in fee, and the ground to be devoted in perpetuity to the object.

2. All the bodies of soldiers who fell in defence of the Union, to be taken up from the battle field without unnecessary delay and deposited in the cemetery, those that can be designated by name, in graves marked by a small head stone with a number upon it, and the others in a common grave to be marked by some appropriate stone, a record to be kept of the names indicated by the numbers on the stones. The dead of each State where known, to be buried by themselves in the particular lot set apart to the State. The whole expense of this to be carried to a common account.

3. The ground to be enclosed by a well built stone wall from stone found on or near the premises, also a keeper's house to be erected on the lot at a cost of about \$2,000, and the grounds to be tastefully laid out and adorned with trees and shrubbery, all this expense to be carried to a common account.

4. A suitable monument to be erected on the ground at the common expense, at a cost not exceeding \$10,000, if it shall cost more, only that sum to be charged to the common account.

5. All the foregoing expenses stated to be chargeable to a common account, (to-wit: under heads 2, 3 and 4) are to be apportioned among the States having soldiers to be buried in the Cemetery, to-wit: The States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, each State to be assessed according to its population, as indicated by the number of its representatives in Congress.

6. After the original outlay, the ground to be kept in order and the house and fence in repair, by the State of Pennsylvania.

7. It is expressly stipulated that the whole expense chargeable to the common account, shall not exceed \$35,000.

8. Each State may, if it pleases, appoint an agent, who shall act with David Wills, Agent for Pennsylvania, and other State Agents, in carrying out the foregoing plans.

Respectfully submitted, by authority of A. G. Curtin, Governor of Pennsylvania.

(Signed)

DAVID WILLS, *Agent*.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA,)
Indianapolis, Ind., August 20th, 1863.)

David Wills, Esq.,

Agent of State of Pennsylvania, Gettysburgh.

DEAR SIR:—I have received your letter of the 13th inst., with your circular letter of the 12th inst. enclosed, in relation to establishing a cemetery for the burial of Union Soldiers killed in the recent battle at Gettysburgh. The general plan proposed by you, by authority of His Excellency, Governor Curtin, meets with my approbation. On the part of the State of Indiana I will unite with the other States interested in carrying out that plan, subject, of course, to such necessary amendments and modifications as may be hereafter agreed upon by said States.

Some two weeks since I appointed Col. Wm. T. Dennis, of Indiana, temporarily residing at Washington city, to ascertain the terms upon which grounds for the burial of Indiana soldiers killed at Gettysburg, could be obtained, and to collect such facts in relation thereto as would give me a full understanding of the whole subject. Having received no report from him, I shall at once instruct him to visit and confer freely with you, and to take such steps, on the part of this State, as may be immediately necessary for the proper re-interment of our gallant dead.

Yours, very truly,

(Signed,)

O. P. MORTON,
Governor of Indiana.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA, }
 Indianapolis, Ind., August 20th, 1863. }

Col. Wm. T. Dennis, Washington, D. C.

SIR:—Enclosed I have the honor to hand you copies of two letters received from David Wills, Esq., Agent of His Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania, in relation to the establishment of a Cemetery for the burial of Union Soldiers killed at the recent battle of Gettysburg. The plan proposed by Mr. Wills has been approved, and will be carried out by me, on the part of the State, subject, of course, to such necessary modifications and amendments as may be hereafter agreed upon by the several States interested.

You were instructed by me, by letter of the 10th instant, to ascertain upon what terms a suitable lot of ground, for the burial of Indiana troops who fell at Gettysburg, could be obtained, and to report such facts in relation thereto as would give me a full understanding of the whole subject. Having received no report from you I infer nothing has been done.

I now desire you, as my agent, to proceed to Gettysburg without delay, and confer freely with Mr. Willis, the Agent of the State of Pennsylvania, in regard to his plans. Select a suitable lot in the tract purchased for the cemetery, (if the ground has not already been divided among the States,) and take such steps, on the part of this State, as may be immediately required for the proper re-interment of our gallant dead.

Report to me fully as early as practicable.

Expenses necessarily incurred in carrying out these instructions, together with reasonable compensation for your services, will be paid by this Department.

(Signed,)

Yours very truly,

O. P. MORTON,
Governor of Indiana.

GETTYSBURG, September 15th, 1863.

To His Excellency, the Governor of Indiana:

SIR:—It seems to be the general wish that the stipulation in our circular of details, in reference to the Soldiers' Cemetery here, should be so modified that all should be buried together, and not separated into States. I have given the subject much attention, and have taken

much counsel on it, and am now decidedly of opinion that we should entirely ignore State lines in this sacred project, and bury all together in these grounds as they fell.

There are many reasons for, which I need not now advance. Will it be agreeable to you to have this modification made?

It is contemplated having a consecration of the grounds on the 22d of October next, with ceremonies appropriate to the occasion. The prominent feature in those ceremonies will be the oration, and there seems to be a desire, (and I may add, it meets my hearty approval,) to have Hon. Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, deliver the address. Will it accord with your wishes to have him invited for that purpose?

The time for preparation is short, if he accepts the invitation, and therefore I solicit your immediate reply.

I am with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

(Signed,)

DAVID WILLS,

For A. G. Curtin, Governor of Pennsylvania.

SEPTEMBER 21ST, 1863.

*David Wills, Esq., Agent for A. G. Curtin,
Governor of Pennsylvania:*

DEAR SIR:—Yours of 15th inst., addressed to the Governor of Indiana, is received, and I am directed to reply that whatever arrangement you may make with other States interested, relative to the burial of the Union soldiers who fell at Gettysburg, will be satisfactory.

It will be entirely agreeable to Governor Morton to have the Hon. Edward Everett deliver the oration on the occasion of the consecration of the grounds, 22d October next.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

W. H. H. TERRELL,

Financial Secretary.

GETTYSBURG, October 13th, 1863.

To His Excellency, the Governor of Indiana:

SIR:—Hon. Edward Everett could not be here on the 22d inst., to deliver the oration at the proposed consecration of the Soldiers' Cemetery, but suggested that if we would postpone the time to the 19th of November, he would cheerfully perform the duty. I took the liberty of writing to him that we would do so. The ground will therefore be set apart to its patriotic and sacred purpose on the 19th day of November next, with ceremonies appropriate to the occasion, and Hon. Edward Everett will deliver the address.

Mr. Everett also suggested that it would make the scene more impressive to have the dead interred in the cemetery before that occasion, as the time of the consecration is late in the season, and probably there might be a doubt about getting the work all done before winter sets in, if we postpone the commencement of the removals until after the exercises. I have adopted his suggestion, and am making arrangements to commence the work about the 26th of this month.

The Secretary of War, on my application, ordered the Quartermaster General to furnish us with the requisite number of coffins, and he will commence supplying us on and after the 20th inst., at the rate of one hundred per day.

The Government also, on my application, sent Mr. W. M. Saunders here, who is one of the best landscape gardeners in the country, to design and plat the grounds. He is now at work, and at his suggestion, and in accordance with the desire of many of the States, he is laying it off in lots for each State. He will have the grounds ready by the 26th inst., when we expect to be ready to commence transferring the bodies.

I will give notice to receive sealed proposals for taking up, removing and re-interring the bodies, and have it in two distinct contracts, with full specifications, and require proper securities from the parties to whom the contracts have been awarded.

If you desire to send an Agent here to look especially after the dead of your State, and act generally for you in the matter, please do so by the 22d of this month.

I will have reliable and disinterested men to superintend the removals personally, who will require everything to be done right and with the greatest care.