Who Built the Minnesota Capitol Building?

Project Bibliography

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March 2011

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Introduction

This document is a compilation of most of the sources of information we have consulted in support of the “Who Built the Capitol?” project being carried out by the Labor Education Service of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. This document contains information about the following types of primary and secondary research materials: newspapers, photographs, census records, web sites and books, and was obtained from the Minnesota Historical Society, the Marble Valley Historical Society and Museum, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota Genealogical Society, and numerous individuals. These scraps of information have slowly come together to paint a picture of the lives of the individuals who worked on the Capitol building, and for five men, their deaths on the work site.

Victoria Woodcock, MS, MLIS – researcher, report author

March 2011

Other Researcers:

Randy Croce (Project Director)

David Riehle

John Sielaff

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Photographs

The following photographs are from the Minnesota Historical Society Library Visual Resources Database at:

<http://collections.mnhs.org/visualresources/photocollection.cfm>. Photos arranged according to date.

Search terms:

Minnesota State Capitol Building

Minnesota State Capitol Building construction and dome

State capitol

1. Breaking ground for the new State Capitol Building.

Photographer: Dickey & Strong

Photographic Collection

March 6, 1896

Location no. FM6.141 p1

Negative no. 83

1. Side of State Capitol Building.

Photographic Collection

1900-1901

Location no. FM6. 142 r7

Negative no. 54129

1. Men Working on Base of the Dome.

Photographic Collection

1900

Location no. FM6.145 r12

Negative no. 63698

1. Base of Dome Showing Brickwork and Stone Facing.

Photographic Collection

1900

Location no. FM6.145 r13

1. Base of Dome Showing Brickwork Before Dome is Put On.

Photographic Collection

1900

Location no. FM6.145 r15

1. Men Working on the Capitol.

Photographic Collection

Ca. 1901

Location no. FM6.142 r22

Negative no. 4041

1. Men Working on an Area of the Dome; may be space where

the Quadriga will stand.

Photographic Collection

1901

Location no. FM6.147 r7

Negative no. 8825

1. Men Working on an Area of the Dome; may be space where

the Quadriga will stand.

Photographic Collection

1901

Location no. FM6.147 r8

Negative no. 63697

1. Men Working on Dome.

Photographic Collection

1901

Location no. FM6.145 r8

10. Carved Stone Trim Known as Ancon in the Workshop.

Photographic Collection

Ca. 1901

Location no. FM6.146 r13

Negative no. 8841

11. Minnesota State Capitol construction crew. (at ground

breaking?).

Photograph Collection ca. 1896

Location no. FM6.142 p5

Negative no. 62183

12. Minnesota State Capitol construction scene.

 Photograph Collection ca. 1896

Location no. FM6.142 p6

 Negative no. 62184

13. Laying of the cornerstone, State Capitol

Photograph Collection 7/27/1898

Location no. FM6.141 p12

 Negative no. 15398

14. Cornerstone ceremonies, State Capitol.

Photograph Collection 7/27/1898

 Location no. FM6.141 r8

Negative no. 54130

15. Block of marble for new State Capitol being hauled down East

Fourth Street between Minnesota and Robert.

Photograph Collection ca. 1899

Location no. FM6.142 p2

 Negative no. 16359

16. State Capitol construction.

Photograph Collection ca. 1899

Location no. FM6.142 r33

Negative no. 64317-g

17. State Capitol construction.

Photograph Collection ca. 1899

Location no. FM6.142 r34

Negative no. 63241

18. View of the Minnesota State Capitol during construction in

1899 with streetcar in forefront.

 Photographer: George E. Luxton

Photograph Collection 1899

Location no. FM6.142 p8

Negative no. 97969

19. Side of State Capitol building

Photograph Collection 1900-1901

Location no. FM6.142 r7

Negative no. 54129

20. State Capitol under construction. 7/3/1900

Photograph Collection

Location no. FM6.142 r35

21. Front view, of State Capitol construction ca. 1900

Photograph Collection

Location no. FM6.142 r10

Negative no. 8797

22. State Capitol roof with partial view of surrounding area

toward the west.

Photograph Collection 1900-1901

Location no. FM6.142 r18

Negative no. 8812

23. Construction of State Capitol main portico.

Photograph Collection ca. 1900

Location no. FM6.142 r21

Negative no. 49324

24. View from southeast; shows board fence around State Capitol

construction site.

Photograph Collection ca. 1900

Location no. FM6.142 r25

Negative no. 38516

25. The crew at Biesanz quarry in Winona who did the drilling of

the stone used in the foundation of the State

Capitol.

Photograph Collection ca. 1900

Location no. FM6.144 p1

Negative no. 17201

26. Stone columns to be used on the State Capitol dome, St.

Paul

Photograph Collection 1900-1901

Location no.

FM6.144 r14

Negative no. 8835

27. State Capitol construction; in background Charles Engelbrecht,

Builder, St. Paul

Photograph Collection 1900-1901

Location no. FM6.142 r17

Negative no. 8824

28. Artist's studio with sculpted figure that may be an early

model for "Prosperity" on the Quadriga, State

Capitol

 Photograph Collection ca. 1900

 Location no. FM6.132 r4

Negative no. 8840

29. Construction of State Capitol

Photographer:  R. O. Morrison

Photograph Collection, Stereograph

ca. 1900

Location no. FM6.142 r29

Negative no. 53022

30. Baluster columns used in exterior construction, State Capitol,

St. Paul

Photograph Collection ca. 1901

Location no. FM6.146 r10

 Negative no. 8842

31. Quarry site for State Capitol stone, St. Cloud

Photograph Collection ca. 1901

Location no. FM6.144 r1

 Negative no. 8795

32. State Capitol construction.

Photograph Collection ca. 1901

Location no. FM6.142 p3

Negative no. 53039

33. State Capitol under construction.

Photograph Collection

ca. 1904

Location no. FM6.142 r30

Negative no. 2850-A

34. State Capitol under construction.

Photograph Collection ca. 1904

Location no. FM6.142 r31

Negative no. 5376-A

35. Decorators of the State Capitol Photographer: Haas & Wright

 Photograph Collection 1904

Location no. FM6.142 m2

Negative no. 96958

36. Decorators of the State Capitol Photographer: Haas & Wright

 Photograph Collection 1904

 Location no. FM6.142 m3

37. Dedication parade for new State Capitol.

Photograph Collection 1905

Location no. FM6.141 r6

Negative no. 76197

38. Group of men involved in the State Capitol construction;

Zebulon Olson, back row, far right

Photograph Collection ca. 1905

 Location no. FM6.142 p7

Negative no. 62185

39. Portraits of state officials and capitol

employees

Photographer: J. Bowers

Photograph Collection 1905-1906

Location no. FM6.3 h1

Negative no. 43551

Newspapers

The following newspapers are in microform format at the Minnesota Historical Society Microfilm Library, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Search terms:

Hennepin County (Minn.)—Newspapers

Labor Unions—Minnesota—Minneapolis--Newspapers

Minneapolis (Minn.)—Newspapers

Minnesota State Federation of Labor--Newspapers

Ramsey County (Minn.)—Newspapers

Saint Paul (Minn.)—Newspapers

Saint Paul Trades and Labor Assembly (Saint Paul, Minn.)--Newspapers

Trades and Labor Assembly of Minneapolis

**Anchor and Shield (A.O.U.W.) & The AOUW Guide**

Publication dates

Newspapers devoted to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, a fraternal order that sold life insurance to working class white men (no women, no African Americans) and also provided social entertainments for its members. From lists of chapter affiliates, it was probably a large organization. Criteria for joining usually printed on front page.

**Afro-American Advance**

Publication dates: 1899-1905

Articles of interest to African American community in Twin Cities. No mention of capitol construction

**Interurban**

Publication dates

Newspaper coverage of the Hamline area of St. Paul. International, national news. Some neighborhood news. No mention of capitol construction or working men or women.

**Saint Paul Dispatch**

Weekly

1869-1903

-May 7, 1896, page 5/”First Sod is Cut:” ground breaking for capitol building.

-same date and page/ “To A Saint Paul Man:” awarding of foundation contract to George J. Grant.

-May 14, 1896, page 8/Photograph of groundbreaking ceremony.

-May 28, 1896, page 5/”Seventeen Want It: That Many Would Be Superintendent of Construction:” mentions the names of the men who applied for this position.

-July 23, 1897, last page/”On The Grand Order:” full page artists rendering of the interior of the chambers of the Senate, Court, and House of Representatives.

-July 21, 1897 page 5/”Carnival of Fun:” List of events surrounding the laying of the capitol cornerstone.

-July 28,1897 front page/”Stone in Place.”

-August 2, 1897, page 5/”Capitol Building Finances.”

-same date and page/”Of Georgia Marble:” comparison of Minnesota granite and Georgia marble.

-June 25, 1903/”Head Long to His Death:” Death of John Corregan.

-January 2, 1905/”Swarming on the New Hive:” political cartoon showing the opening of the capitol building.

-August 16, 1897, front page/ “It Is Settled:” choice of Georgia marble for the exterior.

**Saint Paul Pioneer Press**

See articles cited in Appendix 3: Accidental Deaths and Appendix 4: People Involved in Building the MN State Capitol

**The Minneapolis Journal**

Publication dates: 1888-1939

-August 3, 1897, pg. 6/ “Home-Grown Stone.”

-same date and page/”That Capitol Stone:” article about organized labor.

-September 1, 1897, front page/”In A Shell of Marble.”

-same date, page 4/” The Capitol Stone:” editorial about out of state materials.

-September 2, 1897, front page/ political cartoon-shows out of work Minnesota quarry man

-August 28, 1897/”No Georgia Marble:” article about organized labor’s opposition to Georgia marble being used in state capitol building construction.

**The Minneapolis Tribune**

-August 4 1902, p. 6/ 400 men working on capitol; “Last marble laid:” Stoneworkers strike over non-union blacksmith

-January 28, 1904/ “All Join Together: Contractors and laborers unite in fight against Capitol Commission” Painting and decorator companies and workers protest against Capitol Commission using outside painters

See also articles cited in Appendix 3: Accidental Deaths and Appendix 4: People Involved in Building the MN State Capitol

**The Minnesota Union Advocate**

Publication dates: February 5, 1897 – December 28, 1900

-April 28, 1897/Local Events: article about how work on the new government building would provide work for local bricklayers.

-June 25, 1897/”Of Native Stone:”article demanding the use of Minnesota stone in the new capitol building construction. “Mass Meeting:” union resolution to support the use of Minnesota stone.

-September 3, 1897/Labor Day issue. A number of articles about female union leaders.

**The Laborer**/ The Socialist Party of Minnesota

1894

No local information on labor or working men in St. Paul or Ramsey county. Consists mostly of national news, a lot of Socialist ideologies explained.

**The Saint Paul Daily Globe**

Publication dates:

Daily

-May 6, 1898, page 4/”Only Lived a Few Hours:” article about the death of Felix Arthur.

-May 21, 1899/” Some Bad Accidents:” article about the injury of William (Vernon)Cole and the death of Michael McNierney.

-April 28, 1900/” One Dead, One Injured:” article about the death of Albert Swanson.

-June 30, 1900, page 2/”Capitol Accidents Fall:” article about the death of Florian Zauner.

-January 3, 1905/full page on the opening of the new capitol building.

**The Saint Paul Union Advocate**

Publication dates:

Weekly

Paper consists of national news items, essays on why organized labor was important-local news largely devoted to local union meetings. Classified ads consisted of union supported business.

-Friday, January 2, 1903/Woman’s issue

-many missing issues. Mostly reprints of articles of national labor interest. Very brief blurbs of local union meetings.

The Union/Official Organ of the Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly

Publication dates: 1894-1907

Weekly

Miscellaneous Records

**Death Records**

Coroner’s Record Books, 1901-1975

State Archives of Ramsey County

Record ID: 001735745

John Carrington (AKA Corigton, Corregan, Bowdin, or Bowden)

Post Mortem Examination Record/J. Ohage, MD

June 25, 1903.

Minnesota Health Department

Death Record Cards 1900

Saint Paul

Ramsey County

Microfilm Roll 12, A-R

Alfred Magnuson (AKA L. Magnuson) Death Card

Minnesota Health Department

Death Record Cards 1900

Saint Paul

Ramsey County

Microfilm Roll 13, S-Z

Albert Swanson Death Card

Florian Zauner (AKA Florane Zauner) Death Card

Labor Union Records

Search Terms

-labor and laboring classes—Minnesota

-labor unions—Minnesota-Saint Paul

**International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 36**

Saint Paul, Minn.

Organizational records for 1903-1907

**Carpenter’s and Joiners Brotherhood of America, Local 87**

Organizational records consisting of:

* Union meeting minute books,
* Local membership and dues records,
* financial records, and daybooks.

Daybooks

Vol. 22

-this is a detailed record of dues payment on the part of union members. Shows name and date of initiation, birth date, and record of payment.

Vol.51

-Membership and visitor records. Names and addresses of members from other locals who have traveled to the Twin Cities to work. Very extensive record. Dated 1899-1920s.

Vol. 58

-Day book summary of expenses. The pages are very full of members names. Many members working at this time.

Vol. 50

Record Book begins in 1885

-Very detailed record of expenses. Shows receipts on the left page expenses on the right.

Vol. 57

Day book

-shows records of payments by members. Very detailed. Includes summaries of payments and expenditures.

Vol. 55

Ledger book-pages cut out

**Bricklayers, Masons, and Cement Blocklayers, Local 1**

Organizational records for 1882-1950.

P-6, Box 2, book labeled Vol.2

* correspondance and related records,
* -traveling cards,
* certificates of deposit,
* secretary’s record books. Some mention of where the men were working but nothing on the capitol site. Does contain the names and addresses of individual members. Also contains lists of men who were delinquent with their dues payments.

-Resolution adopted that supports the use of home materials on new capitol building.

P-6, Box 4, Day Books

Vol. 16

-Account books of the union local #1. Detailed records of local income and disbursements.

Vol. 18

-Names of scab bricklayers and amount of their fine ($50).

Vol. 17

-Extensive record of traveling cards, correspondence.

-Names of members and their dues payments.

Vol. 14

-Names and addresses of union members and names of individual(s) to whom death benefits were to be paid.

Vol. 6

-meeting minutes

Records representing severalMinnesota bricklayers, stonecutters, masons, mosaic and tile layers unionsstored at theMinneapolis office of **Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union Local 1**, 1888-1996

See Appendix 5 for list of all volumes and some entries relevant to Capitol and the local’s address.

Records representing several sheet metal and related unions in Minnesota, 1895-1967,stored at the officesof **Sheet Metal Workers Local 10**, Maplewood, MN

See Appendix 5 for list of all volumes and an entry relevant to Capitol and the local’s address.

**St. Paul Building and Construction Trades Council**

No longer has any records from the Capitol construction era

Address Books

Minneapolis-Saint Paul City Address Books

**Dual City Blue Books, 1897-1898** (Household directories)

This particular book contained the following information:

pg. 3-“Hints on Etiquette”

pg. 24-25-City government officials and their addresses

pg. 25-Fire department

pg. 27-List if all churches

pg. 33-Social clubs

pg. 35-Names and addresses of newspapers

pg. 43-65-Streets and avenues in St. Paul

pg. 247-St.Paul shopping guide

Other Files Relating to Capitol Construction

Minnesota’s New Capitol, America’s Most Artistic Building and the Handsomest West of the Alleghenies

Call # F613.S82 N656 1904-Unavailable

Minnesota Historical Society Sound and Visual Collection/Charles W. Jerome Photographic Albums

Album #- Exterior and Interior Photos of Minnesota Capitol Building

Call # II.16

Specifications of the General Construction, State Capitol Building for State of Minnesota, located in City of St. Paul

Author: Minnesota: Board of State Capitol Commissioners

Call # F613.S8 C2 M6

Minnesota History Society Pamphlet Collection

Pamphlets Relating to the Minnesota State Capitol and Environs

St. Paul, MN 1898

F613. S8 C2

Photos of the grounds surrounding the construction site and later photos of the grounds after the capitol was built. Shows the immediate neighborhoods surrounding the capitol.

Minnesota Board of State Capitol Commissioners

Call # 113.C.1.8F

113.C.1.9B

113.C.1.10

112.D.1.2F-I

These specific collections contain specifications, bids, and contract awards for all the construction and interior furnishings for the capitol construction. Extensive and detailed.

Call # 113.C.2.1B

In addition to information re furnishings, this particular file contains detailed payroll information from Dale & Baumgartner, and Butler Brothers and the final settlement with Cass Gilbert showing the names of all the contractors and suppliers and the total amount they were paid.

Examples:

Butler Brothers Capitol Extra Work Pay Roll, Bill 11270, 1905

Lists specific jobs, such as fastening gallery seats, replacing broken windows, etc. with names, occupations pay rates and hours.

Dale & Bumgardner (subcontractor) payroll records for New Capitol, November 1904 lists names, occupations, hours, pay rates and total monthly compensation.

Historic Preservation Office

National Registry of Historic Places

Minnesota State Capitol Building

Casiville Bullard House (bricklayer & stone mason)

Minnesota Historical Society/Museum Collections

Oakland Women’s Temperance Union (St. Paul, Minnesota)

c. 1905/Meeting Announcement

Call # 1989.358.2

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Biennial Report, 1899-1900

119.C.4.5.B

Includes information on numbers of people employed, their occupations, working time and weekly wages, inspection reports and accident statistics broken down by occupation.

Labor and Industry Dept., Bureau of Labor Statistics Biennial Reports, 1888-1930

119.C.4.5.B

The 1903-04 Report has detailed information on Minnesota accidents and strikes, including a 1904 lockout in Kasota of International Stone Cutters Union quarry workers by C.W. Babcock, which supplied the limestone for the interior of the Capitol.

Music Collection

Sheet Music for songs from Capitol Construction period

“The Appeal: Grand Triumphal March” by William A. Weir. St. Paul: W.J. Dyer & Bro.

“Minnesota Street Rag March” by Fred Swanson. St. Paul: American Music Publishing.

OTHER ARCHIVES

Fred Danner, Cleveland, MN

Private collection of Kasota, MN area photographs and

documents, including many materials on local limestone industry from Capitol construction period

Georgianna E. Herman Center for Human Resources and Labor Studies Library

**The Penny Press**    
-Dec 9, 1895; pg. 8; Issue 43; col E/ “Labor Federation Workingmen of the State Discuss Matters of Interest to Their Organization” (Opposes use of convict labor in building Capitol)

-April 21, 1896/ Bids on Capitol foundation  
-May 12, 1896; Issue 135; col D/ “Northwest Notes Winona, MN Stone from the Steinbauer quarry...”  
-May 1, 1896;pg. 10; Issue 126; col C/ “George J. Grants Gets It”

Immigration History Research Center, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota

Letters and archives of ethnic organizations.

Materials on Capitol sculptor Carlo Brioschi in the John Vannelli collection. Odone Papers have extensive clippings on the Italian community beginning in early 1900s

Le Sueur County Historical Society

Photos of Charles Babcock, quarry owner

Books and pamphlets on history of area stone industry

Minnesota State Capitol Historic Site Office files

Several folders of notes and references to MHS records on Capitol and contact information for several families whose ancestors worked on the Capitol

Northwest Architectural Library, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota

Books on the Butler Brothers Co. and Minnesota stone

Records of Drake Marble Company and Flour City Iron Works

Two folders of Cass Gilbert-related items including articles from the Improvement Bulletin (See Appendix 7.)

New York Historical Society, Cass Gilbert Collection

Extensive collection of architectural plans, correspondence, other documents and photographs. (See enclosed guide to these records.)

Ramsey County Historical Society

No records on Capitol construction found

St. Paul Public Library – St. Paul Collection

No records on Capitol construction found

Stearns County Historical Society

Extensive collection of photographs, maps, newspaper articles and books on the area granite industry

A Century of Enduring Beauty: Cold Spring Granite Company.

Cold Spring, MN: Cold Spring Granite Co., 2002.

St. Cloud Daily Times

-January 25, 1898,p.2 “May Remove to St. Cloud” Rockville Co.

-September 1, 1898, p. 3/ “Public Auction: Sale of Rockville Granite Company’s Property”

-September 30, 1898 “He Bought the Plant: Henry Alexander Buys the Rockville Granite Co. Outfit”

-February 17, 1913, p. 3/”Rockville Producer Dead” Henry Alexander

Wisconsin Historical Society John R Commons Labor Archive

Extensive collection of many international and local unions’ records, including convention and local minutes. No references to Minnesota Capitol found in one day exploration.

OTHER SOURCES USED

Ancestry,

<http://www.ancestry.com>

Andreozzi, John, Personal note cards copied from 1920 Census for St. Paul listing information on all Italians involved in stone work and other construction trades

Calvary Cemetery Burial Records (John Geary)

Family Search: Free Family History, Family Tree, and

Genealogy Records and Resources from Around the World

<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>

Georgia USGenWeb Archives Project,

http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/pickens/census.html

George Meany Memorial Archives,

http://www.georgemeany.org

Marble Valley Historical Society,

<http://www.marblevalley.org/>

Minnesota Department of Health Barr Library,

Saint Paul, Minnesota http://www.health.state.mn.us/library/about.htm

“Nelson Georgia” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson,_Georgia>

North Georgia Railroad,

<http://www.northgeorgiarailroad.com/default.asp>

Pickens County Library, Pickens County, Georgia,

<http://www.sequoyahregionallibrary.org/>

Scandinavian-American Genealogical Society and the Minnesota Genealogical Society

PO Box 16069

1650 Carroll Avenue

Saint Paul, MN 66116-0069

Stone Quarries and Beyond,

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ga/ga->

photos\_3b.html

Bowles, Oliver. The Structural and Ornamental Stones of Minnesota. Bulletin 663. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1918.

O'Sullivan, Thomas. North Star Statehouse: An Armchair Guide to

the Minnesota State Capitol. St. Paul: Pogo Press, 1994.

Thompson, Neil, B. Minnesota’s State Capitol: The Art and

Politics of a Public Building. St. Paul: Minnesota

Historical Society Press, 2005.

**Videotaped Interviews**

Capitol Dome 2010 Restoration Construction Site

Jason Alferness, Laborers Local 563

Rickey Klande, Bricklayers Local 1

Sean Cotton, Structural Engineer, HGA Architecture

Ginny Lackovic, Architect, HGA Architecture

Harley Meyer, Dome Restoration Project Superintendent,

JE Dunn Construction Co.

Kevin Schenemann, Laborers Local 563

Paul Schwartz, Bricklayers Local 1

Steve Youngstrom, Bricklayers Local 1

Descendants of Capitol Construction Era Workers

Alvin Bous, grandson of stonecutter

Elaine Olson Ekstedt and Linda Olson, great granddaughters of Zebulon Olson Capitol crane operator

Howard Vetter, Chairman Vetter Stone, grandson of Capitol construction era quarry worker Bernard Vetter

Jim Vetter, Manager, Vetter Stone

ACKNOWLDEGMENTS/CONSULTANTS

Hyman Berman, History Professor Emeritus

University of Minnesota

Barbara Bezat, Asst. Archivist

Northwest Architectural Archives, Andersen Library

University of Minnesota

Michael J Bjornberg, AIA  
HGA Architects and Engineers

Tom Blanck

Architect, Member of Cass Gilbert Society

Capitol Commission Photo Album, other photographs, research

Kathy Burns

Society Coordinator

Le Sueur County Historical Society

Elaine Challecombe, MLS, Curator

Lois Hendrickson, Assistant Curator

Wangensteen Library of Biology and Science

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Brenda Carriere, Director

Georgianna E. Herman Center for Human Resources and Labor Studies Library, University of Minnesota

Fred Danner

Cleveland, Le Sueur County, MN

Private collector: photographs and documents on the history of Kasota, MN area

Julie Davis

Researcher, MN State Capitol Historic Site

John Decker, Asst. Dir. Of Archives

Stearns County Historical Society

Paul Elliott Dahl, Library Director

Barr Library , Minnesota Department of Health

Darian Flansburg

Scandinavian-American Genealogical Society

Brainerd, Minnesota

Linda Gieger

Mimi Jo Butler

Marble Valley Historical Museum

Nelson, Georgia

Sharon Jenson, Community Relations Director

Cold Spring Granite Company

Ginny Lackovick

Architect

HGA Architects and Engineers

Harley Meyer

Capitol Dome Restoration Project Superintendent

JE Dunn Construction Company

Harry Melander, President

Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council

Marjorie Pearson, Historian

Cass Gilbert Society

Deborah Miller, Reference Specialist

Minnesota Historical Society

Brian Pease, Site Manager

Minnesota State Capitol Historic Site

Peter Rachleff, History Professor

Macalester College

Amy Spong  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
Department of Planning and Economic Development,

City of Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Howard Vetter,

Chairman, Vetter Stone, Mankato MN

James Vetter, Vetter Stone, Mankato MN

Appendix 1

Minnesota Historical Society/Museum Collections-Furniture

[**Minnesota Historical Society Museum Object Call #: 1990.53.1**](http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-11042?func=item-global&doc_library=SYS01&doc_number=001716713&year=&volume=&sub_library=MHS)

[**Minnesota State Capitol armchair.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-11044?func=service&doc_number=001716713&line_number=0012&service_type=TAG%22);)

1905 (Cleveland, Ohio : Marble and Shattuck Chair Co.).

**Physical Details**

1 item : wood, leather ; 97 x 53 x 46 cm.

[**Minnesota Historical Society Museum Object Call #: 1988.250.9 1**](http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-12201?func=item-global&doc_library=SYS01&doc_number=001718235&year=&volume=&sub_library=MHS)

**Title**

[**Chair from Minnesota State Capitol.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-12203?func=service&doc_number=001718235&line_number=0011&service_type=TAG%22);)

**Publisher**

1905.

**Physical Details**

1 item.

**Local Note**

Classification no. FU02C

[**Minnesota Historical Society Museum Object Call #: 1988.250.17 7-9, 19**](http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-12484?func=item-global&doc_library=SYS01&doc_number=001718234&year=&volume=&sub_library=MHS)

**Title**

[**Armchairs from Minnesota State Capitol.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-12486?func=service&doc_number=001718234&line_number=0011&service_type=TAG%22);)

**Publisher**

1905.

**Physical Details**

4 items.

**Local Note**

Classification no. FU02C

**Location/Available**

[**Minnesota Historical Society Museum Object Call #: 70.151**](http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-12680?func=item-global&doc_library=SYS01&doc_number=001717658&year=&volume=&sub_library=MHS)

**Title**

[**Slant-front desk.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-12682?func=service&doc_number=001717658&line_number=0011&service_type=TAG%22);)

**Publisher**

1905.

**Physical Details**

1 item ; maple ; 88 (h) x 76 x 62 cm.

**Summary**

Small maple desk used by the Minnesota state legislature has a leather writing surface, rear gallery, and post and ball decoration. Two drawers below the desk top. Base has four turned wood legs and a low shelf with railing.

**Local Note**

Classification no. FU02F

[**Minnesota Historical Society Museum Object Call #: 1978.49**](http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-12980?func=item-global&doc_library=SYS01&doc_number=001717401&year=&volume=&sub_library=MHS)

**Title**

[**Mahogany kneehole desk.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-12982?func=service&doc_number=001717401&line_number=0011&service_type=TAG%22);)

**Publisher**

[1905]

**Physical Details**

1 item ; mahogany, brass ; 80 (h) x 92 x 168 cm.

**Summary**

Mahogany kneehole desk used by governor’s Executive Office Aide, W.F. "Billy" Williams in the Governor’s Reception Room, Minnesota State Capitol, 1905-1957. Symmetrical desk has a tier of four drawers on each pedestal with carved handles, and a sliding wood tray with a brass pull above each tier. Center drawer above kneehole has carved ornament and a brass keyhole rosette. Drawer interiors are notched for insert dividers. Desk has a plinth base and plain exterior sides.

**Local Note**

Classification no. FU02F

[**Minnesota Historical Society Museum Object Call #: 1981.5.2**](http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-13269?func=item-global&doc_library=SYS01&doc_number=001718263&year=&volume=&sub_library=MHS)

**Author**

[**Gilbert, Cass, 1859-1934, designer.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-13271?func=service&doc_number=001718263&line_number=0011&service_type=TAG%22);)

**Title**

[**Leather and mahogany desk chair.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-13272?func=service&doc_number=001718263&line_number=0012&service_type=TAG%22);)

**Publisher**

1904.

**Physical Details**

1 item : mahogany, leather ; 106 (h) x 66 x 52 cm.

**Summary**

Brown leather and mahogany desk chair has a leather upholstered back and seat and eagle’s head arm ends. The swivel base is cross shaped with claw feet on casters. Chair is one of the original furnishing pieces of the Minnesota State Capitol, designed by Cass Gilbert. A small brass tag under the right arm is marked "#584".

**Local Note**

Classification no. FU02C

[**Minnesota Historical Society Museum Object Call #: 1992.150.1 A-E**](http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-13702?func=item-global&doc_library=SYS01&doc_number=001716455&year=&volume=&sub_library=MHS)

**Title**

[**Cabinet and bookcase from state office.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-13704?func=service&doc_number=001716455&line_number=0011&service_type=TAG%22);)

**Publisher**

[ca. 1900]

**Physical Details**

1 item with 5 units : oak, glass ; approx. 199 x 43 x 107 cm.

**Summary**

Cabinet or bookcase of quarter-sawn oak consists of five stacking units: bottom three are hinged double door cabinets with handles at center with holders for labels, top two sections are glass-front barrister’s bookshelves. The latter have "STATE OF MINNESOTA" and "Shaw-Walker" labels, also "1569" in white ink inside one door. Unit has a "376519" state property tag. Used in the secretary of state’s office but not an original example of Cass Gilbert furniture.

**Local Note**

Classification no. FU02J

[**Minnesota Historical Society Museum Object Call #: 1990.200.1**](http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-14057?func=item-global&doc_library=SYS01&doc_number=001716837&year=&volume=&sub_library=MHS)

**Title**

[**Wooton desk from Governor’s Reception Room in Minnesota State Capitol.**](javascript:open_window(%22http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/1F6GN1ABMYYDIA45XHGFC3ESA6NHHSFYA1LDULV8J165PA261K-14059?func=service&doc_number=001716837&line_number=0011&service_type=TAG%22);)

**Publisher**

[early 20th century] (Indianapolis, Ind. : Wooten Desk Co.).

**Physical Details**

1 item : wood ; 79 x 142 x 85 cm.

**Summary**

Double pedestal desk of unidentified wood made by the Wooton Desk Company, Indianapolis, Ind., early 20th century. Desk top is molded and now has an inset replacement; skirt sides are plain. Desk has a center drawer at front flanked by two smaller drawers, each drawer has two ornate brass drop handles. Desk was used in the Governor’s Reception Room, Minnesota State Capitol Building, Saint Paul, Minn.

**Local Note**

Classification no. FU02F

Appendix 2

List of Contractors on the Capitol Construction, 1896-1905

From Minnesota State Capitol Commissioner’s Board/Minnesota Historical Society Library

In chronological order

Call # 113.C.1.8F

Date Category Note

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Architect | Contract with Cass Gilbert |
| August 1896 | Excavation and Foundation | Contract with George Grant Co. |
| January 1897 | Structural Iron and Steel for basement floor | Universal Construction Co. |
| August 1897 | General Construction | Butler-Ryan Co./final statement of general construction |
| Aug-Oct 1897 | Concreting: Sub basement | Lauer Brothers. |
| March 1900-Dec 1902 | Dome construction | Butler-Ryan Co. |
| July 1901-Nov 1905 | Steps and terraces | Butler-Ryan Co. |

Call # 113.C.1.9B

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Aug 8-10, 1901 | Marble carving | Purdy & Hutchinson |
| Sept 1901-May 1904 | Roofing and skylights | Butler Bros. |
| Oct 1901-Dec 1905 | Mechanical equipment  -elevators  -boiler plant  -power house and tunnel  -plumbing  -electrical generation plant  -electrical wiring  -call bell  -telephone and conduit  -heating and ventilation | WI Gray Co. |
| Nov 1901-Aug 1904 | Timbrel arches | Guastavino Co. |
| Feb 1902-Dec 1903 | Fireproofing, metal furring, lathing, and timbrel arches | Butler-Ryan Co. |
| Feb 1902-Sept 1905 | Plastering | Butler-Ryan |
| March 1902-June 1906 | Ornamental Iron Work | Flour City Ornamental Works |
| March 1902 | Interior Woodwork | Butler Bros. |
| Oct 1902-Feb 1905 | Interior stone and marble | Butler Bros. |
| April 1903-June 1905 | Painting and glazing | Bazile & Partridge |
| May 1903-Sept 1905 | Artist’s contracts and bills of sale | Blashfield  French  Garnsey  LaFarge  Millet  Pyle  Simmons  Volk  Zogbaum |
| May 1903-Nov 1904 | Elevators | Otis Elevator |
| June 1903-Feb 1905 | Fireproof vault doors | Diebold Safe and Lock Co. |
| Aug 1903-April 1907 | Metal shelves and cases | Van Dorn Iron Works |

Call # 113.C.2.1B

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dec 1903-Feb 1905 | Furniture, cabinet works, furnishings, draperies, carpets | Field Schlick & Co.  Mannheimer Bros.  Schuneman & Evans  Herter Bros. |
| July 1904-April 1905 | Electrical light fixtures and registers | Sterling Bronze Co.  Mitchell Vance Co.  Winston Bros. |
| Oct 1904 | Asphalt roads and walkways | Barber Asphalt Co. |
| May 1905-1906 | Sidewalks, curbs, and paving | Barber Asphalt Co. |
|  | Metallic fixtures in govenor’s vault | Art Metal Construction Co. |
| June 1906-June 1907 | Approaches and sidewalks | Butler Bros. |

**REFERENCE INFORMATION ON SELECTED COMAPANIES**

Flour City Ornamental Iron Works

Northwest Architectural Archives, Manuscripts Division

213 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Guastavino Company

See Wikipedia entry for Guastavino tile and Rafael Guastavino

The records and drawings of the Guastavino Fireproof Construction Company are held by the Department of Drawings & Archives in the [Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avery_Architectural_and_Fine_Arts_Library) at [Columbia University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University) in New York City.

Bazile and Partridge

Bazille and Partridge, Incorporated -- Paints and Varnishes, 69-73 East Fifth, St. Paul.

 Photographer: Charles P. Gibson

 Photograph Collection 1920-1926

 Location no. MR2.9 SP3.1B p46

Negative no. 1167-B

Field Schlick

Papers at Minnesota Historical Society

Call # P2473

Mannheimer Brothers/Schuneman’s Inc., company records

Minnesota Historical Society

BC1.1/.S393

Herter Bros.

Papers at the The Winterthur Library

The Joseph Downs Collection of Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera

<http://findingaid.winterthur.org/html/HTML_Finding_Aids/COL0093.htm>

Mitchell, Vance Company

<http://books.google.com/books?id=ZJi9P1eCf3MC&pg=PA96&lpg=PA96#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Wooten Desk

*Wooton Patent Desks: A Place for Everything & Everything in its Place*J. Camille Showalter and Janice Driesbach, editors Minnesota History Center Library

**Appendix 3: Capitol Project Accidental Deaths**

Information File Updated 12/11/2010

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Felix Arthur | John Beirsack | Albert Swanson | Alfred Magnuson | Florian Zauner | John Corrigan |
| Other Names | Phelix Arthur[[1]](#endnote-1) | John Biessack  John Prershek |  | L. Magnuson[[2]](#endnote-2)  Alfred Magnuson[[3]](#endnote-3) | Florane  Zauner[[4]](#footnote-1) |  |
| Place of Birth | Nelson, GA[[5]](#endnote-4) |  | Sweden | Sweden, immigration year 1896[[6]](#endnote-5) | Germany | Minnesota (adopted by Patrick M McMahon family) |
| Birth Year | 1873 | c. 1861 | c. 1870 | April 1877 | April 1860 | C. 1885 |
| Parents | Charles Arthur  Julia Beaver[[7]](#endnote-6) |  |  |  |  | Natural Parents:  Edward and Mary Corrigan  Adopted Parents:  Patrick and Molly McMahon |
| Ethnicity | white | White | White | white | white | white |
| Occupation | Stone polisher[[8]](#endnote-7) |  | Mold caster[[9]](#endnote-8) | Stone mason[[10]](#endnote-9) | Laborer[[11]](#endnote-10) | Laborer[[12]](#endnote-11) |
| Address | Minnesota  Georgia: Pike County, GA | 491 Wabasha Street,  Saint Paul | 3801 Fourth Street North, Minneapolis[[13]](#endnote-12) | 607 Jackson St, Saint Paul, MN | 686 West Water Street, St. Paul[[14]](#endnote-13) | 798 Park Avenue, St. Paul[[15]](#endnote-14) |
| Source of Accident Details | St. Paul Globe[[16]](#endnote-15)  Minneapolis Tribune[[17]](#endnote-16) | Saint Paul Pioneer Press, October 17, 1898 | St. Paul Globe[[18]](#endnote-17) | St. Paul Globe[[19]](#endnote-18) | St. Paul Globe[[20]](#endnote-19) | St. Paul Globe  [[21]](#endnote-20) |
| Death Date | May 5, 1898 | October 20, 1898 | April 27, 1900 | June 30, 1900 | August 4, 1900. | June 26, 1903 |
| Death Place | State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota | State Capitol  Construction Site,  Saint Paul, Ramsey Co., MN | State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota | State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota | State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota | State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota |
| Cause of Death | Internal injuries-caught in fly wheel of stone polishing machine | Skull Fracture suffered from a fall | Fractured Cervical vertebra[[22]](#endnote-21) | Fractured skull[[23]](#endnote-22) | Severe injuries from a fall | Skull fracture, Cervical vertebra fracture[[24]](#endnote-23) |
| Death Certificate |  |  | Death Certificate Card | Death Certificate Card | Death Certificate card | Coroner’s Record Book |
| Grave location | Bethesda Baptist Church, Nelson, GA | Wisconsin (?) | Minneapolis Pioneers and Memorial Cemetery  Burial Date: 4/30/1900  Grave 4F-N 5R  Lot 4  Block 3 | unk | unk | St. Rose of Lima Cemetery, Cherry Grove, Goodhue County, MN  Section 59 |
| Grave photo | Yes[[25]](#endnote-24) | No | Will obtain in spring 2011 |  |  | Will obtain in spring 2011 |

From US Census Records

From The Saint Paul Globe, Saturday, June 30, 1900

From Minnesota Health Department Death Record Cards 1900, A-R, Roll 2

Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia

From US Census 1990, Ramsey Co, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

From US Census 1880 for Georgia, Pickens County. Family was enumerated in Grassy Knob District (GMD 1099) of Pickens County, Georgia. National Archives, Micro Publication, T9, Reel 161.

From Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia

From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 18, 1900.

From US Census 1900, Ramsey Co, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, August 4, 1900, pg. 2.

From St. Paul Globe, Friday, June 26, 1903, pg. 7.

From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 28, 1900.

From St. Paul Globe, Saturday August 4, 1900, pg 2.

From The Saint Paul Globe, Friday, June 26, 1903

From St. Paul Globe, Friday, May 6, 1898.

From Minneapolis Tribune, May 6, 1898.

From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 28, 1900.

From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, June 30, 1900, page 2.

From St. Paul Globe, Saturday August 4, 1900, pg 2.

From The Minneapolis Tribune, Friday, June 26, 1903, page 4.

From Health Department Death Record Cards,1900, St. Paul, S-Z Roll 13.

From Health Department Death Record Cards, 1900, St. Paul, A-R, Roll 12.

From Coronor’s Record Books, 1901-1975/Ramsey County, Record ID: 001735745.

From Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia

NOTE: The Minnesota State Capitol Commission and Cass Gilbert papers both report the accidental deaths of six workers on the Capitol construction.

It is possible that one of the accidents was a fall by Vernon Cole (aka William) whose 70-foot fall was reported on May 20, 1899. The height of the fall and severity of skull and spinal injuries led a physician quoted in a newspaper article to say that William (Vernon) was unlikely to survive. There was no follow-up article and the Commission may well have counted him among the job’s fatalities. However, he did live until 1950 at age 69 and was married.

The other possible sixth death may have been Michael McNierney, a teamster who was hauling sand for an unnamed construction project within a few blocks of the Capitol, who was crushed to death when his load overturned. He died the same day as Cole’s accident. The articles for both are " A Chapter of Accidents" and "His Life Crushed Out,"  
Minneapolis Tribune, May 21, 1899, page 7. It is also possible that a sixth worker did die working on the Capitol and remains to be found.

The sixth death was John Biersheck, of Saint Paul, Minnesota. He died as the result of a fall on October 20, 1898.

1. From US Census Records [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. From The Saint Paul Globe, Saturday, June 30, 1900 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. From Minnesota Health Department Death Record Cards 1900, A-R, Roll 2 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. US Census 1900, Ramsey County, Saint Paul, Minnesota [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
5. Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
6. From US Census 1990, Ramsey Co, Saint Paul, Minnesota. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
7. From US Census 1880 for Georgia, Pickens County. Family was enumerated in Grassy Knob District (GMD 1099) of Pickens County, Georgia. National Archives, Micro Publication, T9, Reel 161. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
8. From Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
9. From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 18, 1900. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
10. From US Census 1900, Ramsey Co, Saint Paul, Minnesota. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
11. From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, August 4, 1900, pg. 2. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
12. From St. Paul Globe, Friday, June 26, 1903, pg. 7. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
13. From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 28, 1900. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
14. From St. Paul Globe, Saturday August 4, 1900, pg 2. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
15. From The Saint Paul Globe, Friday, June 26, 1903 [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
16. From St. Paul Globe, Friday, May 6, 1898. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
17. From Minneapolis Tribune, May 6, 1898. [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
18. From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 28, 1900. [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
19. From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, June 30, 1900, page 2. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
20. From St. Paul Globe, Saturday August 4, 1900, pg 2. [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
21. From The Minneapolis Tribune, Friday, June 26, 1903, page 4. [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
22. From Health Department Death Record Cards,1900, St. Paul, S-Z Roll 13. [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
23. From Health Department Death Record Cards, 1900, St. Paul, A-R, Roll 12. [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
24. From Coronor’s Record Books, 1901-1975/Ramsey County, Record ID: 001735745. [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
25. From Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia

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    Minneapolis Tribune, May 21, 1899, page 7. It is also possible that a sixth worker did die working on the Capitol and remains to be found.

    [↑](#endnote-ref-24)