

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(NEW DRAFT)

SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 3

In Senate, Jan. 8, 1919.

On motion by Sen. Deering of York taken from table and on further motion of same senator referred to committee on military affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

P. F. CRANE, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

RESOLVE, relating to equestrian statue of Major General Oliver O. Howard, and a standing statue of Brevet Major General Joshua L. Chamberlain at Gettysburg.

WHEREAS, Oliver O. Howard, a native of Maine, entered the military service of the United States in the war for the Union as colonel of the Third Maine Infantry, and passed through the various grades of promotion to the rank of major general, and to the command not only of a corps, but of an army,—the Army of the Tennessee; and whereas, his distinguished services, notably at Gettysburg, where his conduct was

such that he received the thanks of congress, his name being coupled with that of General Meade in the action of congress;

Also whereas, Joshua L. Chamberlain, a native of the State of Maine, entered the service of the United States in the war for the Union as lieutenant colonel of the Twentieth Maine Infantry, and passed through the various grades of promotion to the rank of brevet major general; and whereas, his distinguished services, notably at Gettysburg, holding securely against heavy assaults, the extreme left of the Army of the Potomac at Little Round Top; later at Petersburg, where, severely wounded, he was promoted on the field by General Grant; and still later, at Appomattox, when, by order of General Grant, he was designated to receive the formal surrender of Lee's Army;

Therefore, be it resolved: That it is due to the memory of both of these Maine soldiers, and to the honor of the State of Maine, which they faithfully served on great battlefields, that their patriotism and valor should be suitably commemorated.

Resolved: That the governor be and is hereby authorized
2 to appoint a commission of three persons to serve, with-
3 out pay, who shall select and decide upon designs for a
4 suitable bronze equestrian statue of Major General Oliver
5 O. Howard, to be erected on a site to be selected by said
6 commission; and a suitable bronze standing statue of Brevet
7 Major General Joshua L. Chamberlain, to be erected on a
8 site already selected, with proper pedestals therefor; both
9 statues to be located on the battlefield at Gettysburg; and

10 who shall contract for and superintend the construction and
11 erection of said statues, subject to and in accordance with
12 the rules and regulations of the authorities of the United
13 States having in charge the Battlefield of Gettysburg, all
14 at an expense not to exceed the sum of fifty thousand dol-
15 lars. The commissioners shall biennially make a report of
16 their action to the governor and council.

Resolved: That the sum of ten thousand dollars be and
2 hereby is appropriated for the year nineteen hundred seven-
3 teen, and a like sum for each of the years nineteen hundred
4 eighteen, nineteen hundred nineteen, nineteen hundred
5 twenty and nineteen hundred twenty-one to defray the
6 necessary expenses incurred by the commission for the
7 foregoing purposes; which said sums or so much thereof as
8 is necessary shall be paid from time to time on proper vouch-
9 ers certified by the chairman of said commission to the state
10 auditor.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

At the battle of Gettysburg the State of Maine had one regiment of Cavalry (1st), three batteries of Artillery (2nd, 5th, and 6th), nine regiments of Infantry (3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 16th, 17th, 19th, and 20th), together with the 10th Maine Battalion (3 Companies) and Company D. U. S. Sharpshooters, recruited from Rockland and vicinity.

October 3, 1889, appropriate memorials, erected on the Gettysburg battlefield by the State of Maine in honor of these various organizations, were dedicated with appropriate services in the presence of the Governor of Maine, a large number of the survivors of these organizations, many of the citizens of the state and representatives of other states. It was a day of thrilling interest, vividly recalling the important part that Maine had on that great battlefield.

During the battle Pennsylvania had on that field three of her sons in high command,—Meade, Reynolds and Hancock, Meade, in command of the Army of the Potomac, Reynolds, commanding the left wing of Meade's army and Hancock, commanding the Second Corps. Equestrian statues of all three, in prominent places on the battle lines, have long been the appropriate memorials of these distinguished sons of the Keystone State. There are like memorials at Gettysburg of other prominent officers, sons of other states, who had a part in the conflict that was waged on those Gettysburg fields and along those Gettysburg heights. Maine, also, had a conspicuous part in that great conflict. After Gen. Reynolds was killed on the first day of the battle, Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard was in command of the whole field from about eleven o'clock in the forenoon until about half past four o'clock in the afternoon; and because of his services, especially in selecting the lines on which the battle of Gettysburg was successfully fought, he received the thanks of Congress in the same resolution in which thanks were extended to General Meade. Another distinguished son of Maine, Maj. General J. L. Chamberlain, then a colonel in command of the Twentieth Maine, held the extreme left of the Union line at Little Round Top, and the services which he and his regiment rendered there at a critical period in the battle make a brilliant page in the history of Gettysburg's peril and triumph. Both Howard and Chamberlain have long been

honored by names of avenues on the battlefield—Howard on the line of the Eleventh Corps and Chamberlain between the two Round Tops.

In 1911, The Maine Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States asked the Governor of Maine to appoint a commission for the purpose of selecting sites at Gettysburg for suitable memorials of each of these distinguished sons of Maine. Governor Plaisted appointed such a commission, and the sites were selected. In accordance with the rules governing such memorials at Gettysburg, equestrian statues are designated for army and corps commanders, and bronze statues for officers in less prominent commands. In the report of the Gettysburg National Park Commission for 1916 there is a reference to the visit of the Maine commissioners in 1911, but the remark is added that no action in Maine has been taken concerning the memorials.

The present seems to be an opportune time for such action. Should it not be taken now? It was in connection with Maine regiments that Howard, as colonel of the Third Maine, and Chamberlain as lieutenant colonel of the Twentieth Maine, went to the front representing Maine, and the traditional loyalty and valor of Maine. Both reached higher and higher commands, Howard, when McPherson was killed at Atlanta, being placed by Sherman in command of the Army of the Tennessee, and accompanying Sherman in his march through Georgia and thence to Washington; Chamberlain, being made a brigadier general by Grant on the battlefield when seriously wounded, and later receiving with his division at Appomattox as a major general, the formal surrender of Lee's army by direction of General Grant.

The Maine Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States presents this statement of facts in the belief that the State of Maine will honor itself, as well as these two distinguished sons, by the erection of appropriate memorials of Howard and Chamberlain at Gettysburg.

It is estimated that the entire expense for pedestals and statues will not exceed \$50,000 and that five years will be required for their completion. It is therefore requested that the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated for the year 1917, and a like sum for the years 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921.