

of representatives of the congress and copies to the members of the said senate and house of representatives from this state; also to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislatures now in session in the several states, requesting their co-operation.

Approved Feb. 9, 1901.

CHAPTER 407.

H. F. No. 132.

A Memorial of the legislature of the State of Minnesota to the congress of the United States for the establishment of a National park and military cemetery at Fort Ridgely.

Memorial to congress to establish national park and military cemetery at Fort Ridgely.

Your Memorialist respectfully represents:

That about the year 1853, the United States government erected Fort Ridgely on the frontier of the Territory of Minnesota, for the protection of the white settlers from the Sioux Indians. That in 1862, the said Indians broke out in open rebellion against the whites and the government, and massacred more than one thousand persons before they were defeated and suppressed. That during such rebellion they attacked Fort Ridgely and besieged it for about nine days, during which time it contained many white refugees, and was successfully defended by volunteer troops and citizens. That Captain John F. Marsh, of Company "B" of the Fifth Minnesota volunteer infantry was in command of the fort when the war commenced, and with half of his company left for the Indian agency a few miles distant to protect the whites, and was with twenty-three of his men killed by the Indians, all of whom, with the United States interpreter and many other soldiers and citizens, are buried at the fort. That the State of Minnesota has erected a handsome and conspicuous monument in the center of what was the parade ground of the fort, and also an appropriate monument in the graveyard to commemorate the siege of the fort and the death of the soldiers and citizens who fell in its defense. That the fort itself has become entirely demolished by neglect and abandonment by the United States. That the people of Minnesota, by reason of the events connected with the fort, have become much attached to the spot and believe that its successful defence by Captain Timothy J. Sheehan, who commanded the fort during nine days' of siege, was largely instrumental in saving the

state from the horrors of savage invasion, and confining the war to the border. They also believe that the graves of the soldiers and citizens who gave their lives to their country, should be protected by the government, and that measures should be taken to supply a decent and proper place to receive the remains of many of the surviving defenders who desire to be interred with their comrades at the fort, and they have organized an association to promote those ends, called "The Fort Ridgely National Park and Historical Society" which has a large and influential membership.

Your Memorialist further represents that an act had been introduced in the congress of the United States, and is now pending in that body asking that the war department be empowered to acquire a tract of land to include the site of the fort, and the old burying ground, of adequate size for a small park and national cemetery, and to appropriate a sum sufficient to carry out such purpose, and your Memorialist prays that your honorable body may speedily pass such act.

And your Memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray.

Approved Feb. 15, 1901.

State of Minnesota,
Department of State.

I, P. E. Hanson, secretary of State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing memorials and resolutions, passed by the legislature of 1901, have been compared with the enrolled copies of said memorials and resolutions deposited in the office of the secretary of state, and that they are true and correct copies of said enrolled memorials and resolutions, and are an official publication thereof.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of June, A. D. 1901.

(Seal.)

P. E. HANSON,
Secretary of State.