

These heavy expenses would be materially lessened were these improvements, herein prayed for, made.

For the past five years a steamboat has been running on that portion of the river above named, during the times of high water in the river, but for more than half the time during the summer season such navigation has been obstructed by the impediments in said river.

The rapidly increasing settlements on the Upper Mississippi river, and the new towns building up, is a further reason which is respectfully urged in favor of the improvement of said river.

And your memorialists would further represent that enterprising citizens in this Territory have expended large amounts of money in building steamboats, which, as yet, they have been unable to use except in time of high water, but which could be used the entire season, could a small appropriation be had to improve said river.

Your memorialists therefore ask the appropriation of forty thousand dollars for the improvements of the Mississippi river between the points above mentioned. Or in case your Honorable Body should not think proper to appropriate money, then we respectfully ask that your Honorable Body may donate three townships of land to the Territory of Minnesota for the purpose hereinbefore named.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

CHARLES GARDNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
JOHN B. BRISBIN,  
*President of the Council.*

APPROVED—February eighteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

W. A. GORMAN.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original Memorial on file in this office.

J. TRAVIS ROSSER,  
*Secretary of Minnesota Territory.*

## NUMBER XV.

*A Memorial to Congress for an appropriation for the construction of a Road from the Mississippi to Fort Ridgley.*

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled: That the interests of the general government, as well as the prosperity of our Territory, demands a direct connection by a good road, between the Mississippi below Lake Pepin and the Valley of the Minnesota.

Memorial for  
Road

That in the infancy of settlements, as in our Territory at this time, the people are unable to construct expensive roads connecting important points, without assistance from the general government.

That the distance by land from Wabashaw, below Lake Pepin, to Fort Ridgley, on the Minnesota river, is but a trifle greater than from St. Paul to Fort Ridgley.

That supplies for the troops at Fort Ridgley, and for the Indian tribes

on the Minnesota, which now are obtained in Iowa and Wisconsin, and transported by way of St. Paul to their points of destination, could in a short period, if a good road was opened, be obtained in the southern portion of our Territory, and transported by land direct, at a cost much below the prices which government is now obliged to pay.

That a military road has already been constructed from Wabashaw to the Cannon river, on the line of the road from that point to Fort Ridgley.

That the construction of a Road from some point on the Mendota and Wabashaw Road to Fort Ridgley, would open to settlement a large district of heavily timbered land that is now almost impenetrable, thus securing to the government, in the sale of those lands, a measure far exceeding any expenditure necessary for the construction of the road.

Your memorialist therefore respectfully ask your honorable body to make an appropriation sufficient to open and construct a good wagon road from some point on the Mendota and Wabashaw Road, between Red Wing and Cannon River on the most direct and feasible route to Fort Ridgley, on the Minnesota river.

And as in duty bound your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

CHAS. GARDNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*  
JOHN B. BRISBIN,  
*President of the Council.*

APPROVED—March first, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

W. A. GORMAN.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original Memorial on file in this office.

J. TRAVIS ROSSER,  
*Secretary of Minnesota Territory.*

## NUMBER XVI.

*A Memorial to Congress for an Amendment of that part of the Trade and Intercourse Laws that relates to the payment of damages for depredations committed by Indians upon the property of the Whites.*

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled: Your Memorialists would respectfully represent:

Memorial for a  
change in the  
Trade Laws

That the country in Minnesota Territory, purchased by the United States from the Dakota Indians, has now become settled to a considerable extent, by persons variously engaged, but principally in the pursuit of agriculture. That these settlements extend from the north line of the State of Iowa, and from the mouth of the Minnesota river, up to the Dakota Reservation.

Your Memorialists would further represent, that from the very recent removal of these Indians from their former homes and hunting grounds to their present location, and from the fact that arrangements to subsist them by agriculture, are at present so limited and imperfect, in connection with their roving and unsettled habits, it is not to be expected that they will remain on their own lands, and cultivate the soil, for many years to come.