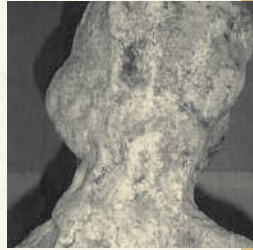


The Civil War Soldiers Memorial

For 133 years, the Goddess of Liberty statue has stood proudly atop the Civil War Soldiers Monument in Washington Square.

The monument was originally paid for by LaSalle County residents through a Monument Fund. The Goddess of Liberty Monument Committee will be following in the footsteps of their forefathers in the launch of a Citizens Call to Action Campaign for the monument's restoration. Donations will fund the statue's replacement, installation of bronze plaques to permanently recognize the fallen and the construction of a small landscaped plaza around the memorial.



A Citizens Call To Action

The Goddess of Liberty Monument Committee is asking all LaSalle County men, women and students to rally around and help revive this vital part of our heritage. Donations are tax deductible. A complete list of names of the fallen soldiers can be viewed at www.cityofottawa.org. Perhaps, you will find your family name among them.

Any donation is appreciated. Those gifting any level below will receive these gifts of gratitude:

LIEUTENANT:	\$150.00	Unframed Authentic Copy of the Original LaSalle County Soldiers Monument Rendering
CAPTAIN:	\$1,000.00	Framed Authentic Copy of the Original LaSalle County Soldiers Monument Rendering
MAJOR:	\$2,500.00	Name on Bronze Plaque
COLONEL:	\$5,000.00	Name on Bronze Plaque
GENERAL:	\$10,000.00	Name on Bronze Plaque

McInhill Memorial Fund: — \$ 2,907.17

A Students Call to Action

LaSalle County students are challenged to raise the balance of what was owed to the monument's Artisan, Edward McInhill, at the time of his death in 1907. Details can be found by visiting www.cityofottawa.org.

History

How did the LaSalle County Soldiers Monument come to be in 1873?

Set in the fray of the Civil War, this story begins in 1862 at the "Battle of Shiloh" and ends in 1864 with the "March to the Sea." It is centered on two main characters — Baptist Minister Zenas Colman and Artisan, Edward McInhill. Even though these men were not soldiers, they grew to be heroes in their own right.

As soon as it became clear that the war would be long-term, Reverend Colman created a concept to erect a lasting memorial for "the LaSalle County men who freely gave their lives for their country in the darkest hour of its history." He held a fund-raising meeting on November 10, 1862 and 100 donations were received. His efforts were interrupted when he left for the battlefields to tend to the dead and dying soldiers. While providing relief, he himself contracted a disease and became infirmed.

1863 – 1864: A Monumental Year

At the turn of 1863, the Monument Committeemen persisted with Reverend Colman's initiative throughout LaSalle County and obtained many pledges. A preliminary location in Washington Square was proposed on November 19, 1863 as President Lincoln was delivering his Gettysburg Address. The final site selection was completed in February of 1864.

Unsung Heroes

On January 14, 1865, the LaSalle County Soldier's Aid Society held a "Donation Sociable" to honor Reverend Colman for his relief aid to the soldiers and the memorial concept. On May 5, 1865, a tribute to the soldiers was paid as they paraded up Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. during the Grand Review of Federal Forces.

Awakening the Enthusiasm

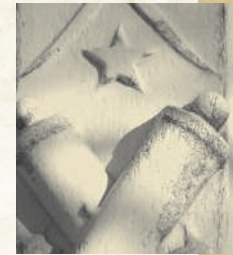
By 1866, the fundraising drive was in peril but was revitalized by the faithful Reverend. However, this turnaround was halted when the canvassers quit in mid 1867. All was not lost as George Houghton was retained as a Financial Agent for which he would receive commissions. While contributions initially increased under his authority, allegations of his forged pledges surfaced. Not surprising, the kind Reverend remained confident that monies were still easily obtainable.

"Let us never rest satisfied till their names are engraven in the enduring marble upon a monument worthy of the man and the cause for which they died."

— The LaSalle County Monument Fund Committee, November 19, 1865

Hopefulness was transposed to hopelessness when Colman was required to resign from the ministry. Suddenly, the pressure of raising money fell more heavily on Houghton's shoulders. In January 1868, he approached the County Board for a \$4,000 gift at which time the Board also proposed a tax levy to pay for the monument. Monies from residents started to flow in liberally.

On November 24, 1868, the Ottawa City Council showed its gratitude to the fallen soldiers and granted permission to erect the LaSalle County Soldiers Monument in Washington Square. With a site procured and everyone feeling more comfortable about reaching the monetary goal, a contract was finally awarded on July 31, 1869 to the firm of McInhill and Hobart at which time they quickly commenced work.



The Dedications

Streatorite, John C. Campbell stirred the appeal of the LaSalle County soldiers when he summoned them to focus on the official laying of the Cornerstone on October 14, 1869. Sadly, three years later, the Monument Fund was stagnating and the citizens were indignant about honoring their pledges because of Houghton's improprieties. By then, the earlier proposed tax levy had been voted down and J.B. Ruger was retained to demand payment from these citizens. Meanwhile, McInhill continued engraving the names of the soldiers and carving the military figures alone since his partnership with Hobart had dissolved.

Ironically, the contractor, McInhill, never received full compensation for his work on the memorial. When he died in 1907, he was still owed a balance of \$2,907.17 for his services. A marker located at Ottawa's St. Columba Cemetery is planned in his memory.

It would be one year later on October 1, 1873, that the Honorable T. Lyle Dickey would preside over a crowd of thousands to dedicate the LaSalle County Soldiers Monument. Dickey declared, "This beautiful shaft of solid marble is designed to perpetuate the memory of those noble dead, that their worth may be known when we all shall be silent in the grave."

This chronicle is an abbreviated version of "A Story in Stone" compiled by Ottawans, David W. Mumper and Donald R. Lavender. A bound copy is available for purchase by contacting 815-433-0161.

Answer the Call to Action today!

Tear off at fold and drop off or mail in with your financial support.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Business Phone

Email

Donation: \$

Optional: In Memory of In Honor of

Payment Method: Check Cash Money Order

Send your contribution to:
The Goddess of Liberty Monument Fund
301 West Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350
815-433-0161

Time has not been kind to the Goddess of Liberty and the years have worn the white marble statue to an unidentifiable state. And, like old soldiers, the engraved names of over 800 fallen soldiers have faded away...

For 133 years, the Goddess of Liberty statue has stood proudly atop the Civil War Soldiers Monument in Washington Square.

The monument pays homage to LaSalle County Civil War Veterans and is the only tombstone for many of those who lost their lives in the Civil War.

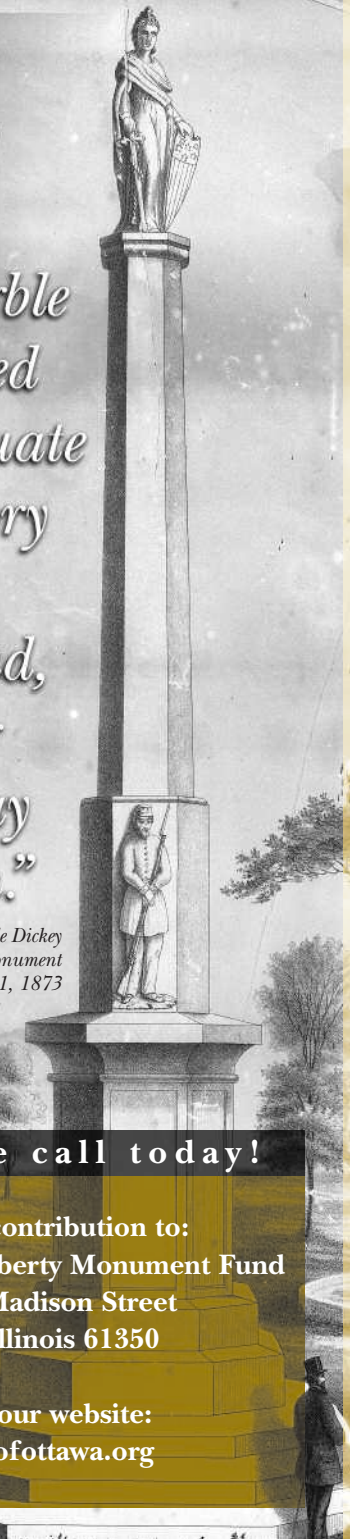
"This beautiful shaft of solid marble is designed to perpetuate the memory of these noble dead, that their worth may be known."

— Honorable T. Lyle Dickey
LaSalle County Soldiers Monument
Dedication on October 1, 1873

Answer the call today!

Send your contribution to:
The Goddess of Liberty Monument Fund
301 West Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Or, visit our website:
www.cityofottawa.org



A Citizens Call to Action

To Restore the LaSalle County Soldiers Monument in Washington Square, Ottawa Illinois

The Goddess of Liberty: A Story In Stone



The Goddess of Liberty Monument Committee