

**THE SEVENTY-SECOND
REGIMENT, PENNSYLVANIA
VOLUNTEERS, AT BLOODY
ANGLE, GETTYSBURG**

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The Seventy-second regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers, at Bloody Angle, Gettysburg by
Various

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VARIOUS

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PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,
AT
BLOODY ANGLE,
GETTYSBURG.

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1874

COMMITTEE ON MONUMENT.

JOHN REED, SYLVESTER BYRNE,
FREDERICK MIDDLETON, JULIUS B. ALLEN,
CHARLES W. DEWITT.

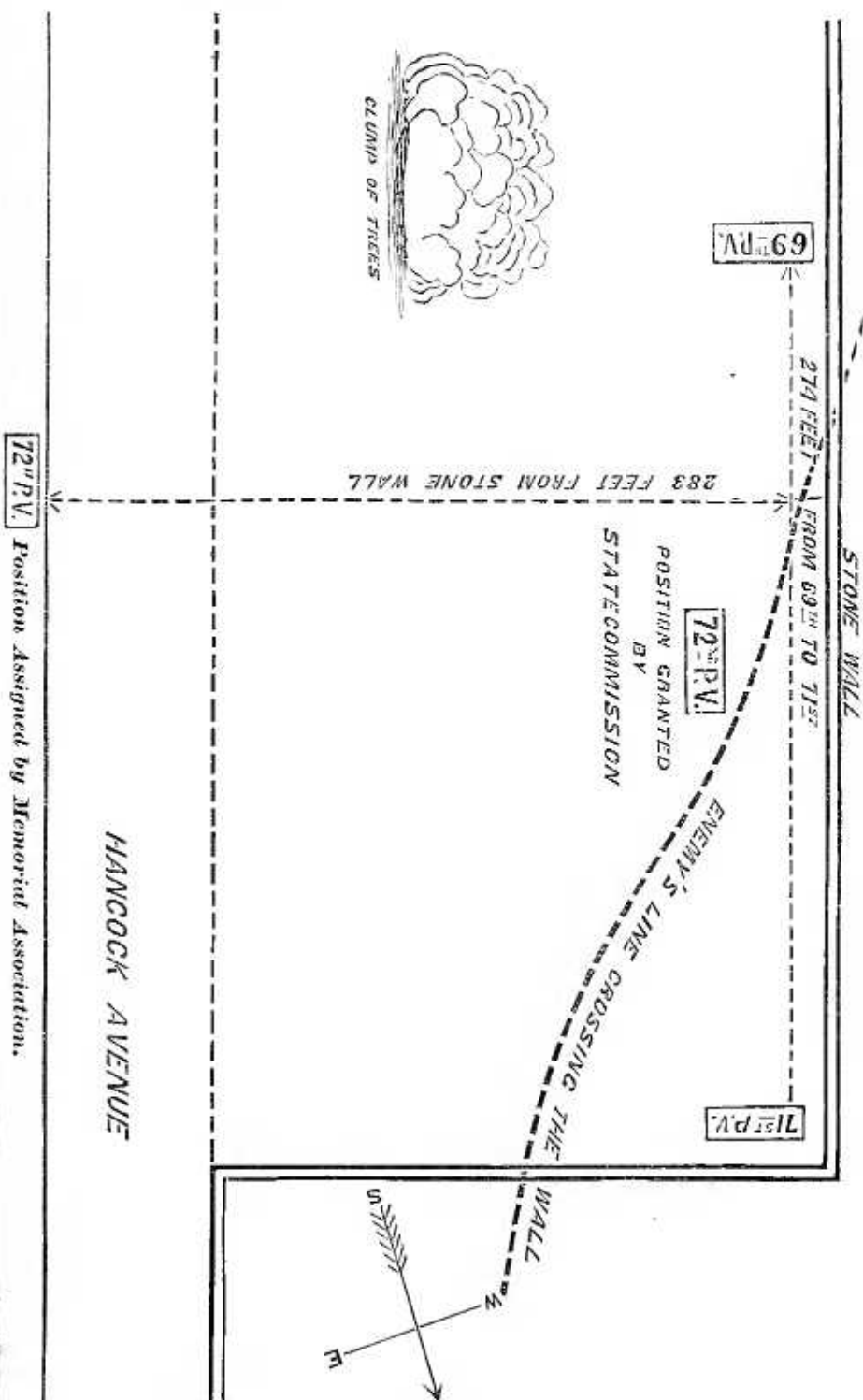
JOHN REED, *Chairman.*

SYLVESTER BYRNE, *Secretary.*

FREDERICK MIDDLETON, *Treasurer.*

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DIAGRAM OF BLOODY ANGLE, GETTYSBURG.



ORDER OF EXERCISES.

PENNSYLVANIA DAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1889.

DIRGE, by the Band.

PRAYER, by Rev. William H. Clark, Pastor of the Second Reformed Church in America, 7th and Brown Streets, Philadelphia.

ADDRESS, by Comrade John Reed, on behalf of the Monument Committee.

ORATION, by Capt. William W. Ker, of the 73d Reg. Penna. Vols.

SALUTE, three volleys, by the Guard of Post 51 G. A. R.

ADDRESS,

BY COMRADE JOHN REED.

Ladies and Gentlemen :

It is due to you and to our comrades here assembled, that the Monument Committee of the Seventy-Second Regiment should explain why our monument remains unbuilt, why we are unable to dedicate it, and why we hold these exercises in this place to-day. Gettysburg is in Pennsylvania, and the battle of Gettysburg was the great and decisive struggle of the War of the Rebellion. It is true that regiments and commands from other loyal States participated in it, and bravely performed their part; but it was Pennsylvania's battle-field, and Pennsylvanians have more than a common interest in it. The grounds on which the battle was fought are now owned by the Gettysburg Battle-Field Memorial Association, which was incorporated "to hold and preserve the battle-grounds of Gettysburg, on which were fought the actions of the first, second and third days of July, 1863, with the natural and artificial defenses, as they were at the time of said battle, and by such memorial structures as a generous and patriotic people may aid to erect, to commemorate the heroic deeds, the struggles and the triumphs of their brave defenders; and to erect and promote the erection, by voluntary contributions, of structures and works of art and taste thereon, adapted to designate the spots of special interest, to commemorate the great deeds of valor, endurance, and noble self-sacrifice, and to perpetuate the memory of the heroes and the signal events which render these battle-grounds illustrious." This corporation is composed of shareholders, some of whom are citizens of this State and others of other States, and is managed by a Board of twenty-one Directors, elected

by the shareholders, to which are added the Governors of such States as shall, by legislative appropriation, contribute funds for the support of the Association; and if the Governor of any State is unable to be present at the meetings, he has the power to substitute a citizen of his State to represent his State. The Legislature of our State has contributed large sums of the public money to aid this corporation; but Pennsylvania has only a voice in common with all the other States in the management of its affairs or the direction of its work. Around this field you see numbers of monuments and tablets. Some of them were erected by the survivors of regiments or commands, and others by the Legislatures of States; but each was intended to mark the place where a command fought, or to designate a spot of special interest. These monuments and tablets are not now the property of the persons or States that erected them, but belong to the Memorial Association, and may be moved from place to place, at the whim or caprice of the Board of Directors; and indeed, I am informed that some of them have been moved from their original positions to make way for so-called improvements.

The Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania determined to erect monuments of its own to mark the spot where each Pennsylvania command was engaged in the battle, and it was intended that these monuments should remain the property of the State, and should not be in any way under the control of the Memorial Association. For this purpose, in 1887 an act was passed, requiring the Governor to appoint five Commissioners, to co-operate with five of the survivors of each Pennsylvania command, and select and locate a monument, in bronze or granite, to mark the spot where that command was engaged in the battle of Gettysburg, and appropriated the sum of fifteen hundred dollars to pay for each monument. The five Commissioners were appointed, and myself and four others were selected by our comrades of the Seventy-Second Pennsylvania to represent our Regiment, and to co-operate with the Commissioners in the selection and location of our monument. The Commissioners were competent

gentlemen, who went about their work with great deliberation, and gave our claims patient and careful consideration. There was no difficulty in selecting the monument which you see before you, and as the fifteen hundred dollars appropriated by the Legislature were much less than the contract price, our comrades contributed the necessary amount. There were many witnesses—probably fifty of them—examined, and a great deal of testimony was taken by the Commissioners to enable them to determine the proper location, some of the witnesses being our own men and others being men from other regiments and Cushing's Battery, but all of them being men who were present at the battle and saw what they testified to; and after hearing the testimony and proofs, the Commissioners unanimously decided that here in this angle was the place where we fought, was the place where we were engaged in the battle, and that our monument should be erected upon this spot. It is generally supposed that the Legislature of our State has the right to erect a public building, or a public monument, and to designate the person who shall erect it, and the spot upon which it shall be erected, and to take the land of any citizen or corporation for that purpose; but when we notified the Memorial Association of the place selected by the Commissioners, and asked for a permit to build it there, the Board of Directors refused to give it, claiming that they had a right to overrule the decision of the Commissioners, that they had the right to select any other spot, that they were the owners of the land, and that no person, not even the State of Pennsylvania, had a right to erect a monument on that land without their consent. They did make some concession, for they informed us that they would permit us to erect our monument away back there, 283 feet in the rear. You see they have laid out a carriage-drive along there, which they call Hancock Avenue, and they want us to put our monument on the other side of that Avenue, so that people can drive along and see all the monuments without getting out of their carriage. Of course we would not accommodate them by putting our monument on a spot