



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 3

Special Commission for the Marking of General Henry Knox's Route from Fort Ticonderoga to Cambridge Records, 1924-1929: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Special Commission to Provide for the Marking of the Route in Massachusetts over which General Henry Knox brought Guns and Ammunition from Fort Ticonderoga to the Colonial Army at Cambridge in the years 1775 and 1776.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 3

Extent: 1 box (1 linear foot)

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About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Marc Widershien and Brenda Howitson, November, 1984. Updated by Abigail Cramer, March, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents the work of the special commission to mark General Knox's route from Fort Ticonderoga to Cambridge.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, financial records, newspaper clippings and photographs concerned with the Special Commission. Included is information about the

placing and dedication of granite markers in each of the 26 towns through which Knox's route could be traced, with an additional marker on the Massachusetts border.

Correspondence is with libraries, politicians, private citizens and companies bidding on the making and placing of the markers. Newspaper clippings record the work of the Commission in the Massachusetts' communities. The collection offers insight into the Commission's efforts to coordinate the commemoration of Knox's journey with communities in New York and Massachusetts.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Commission was established under Chapter 29 of the Resolves of 1925. The special unpaid Commission consisted of the State Treasurer William Youngman; State Librarian E.H. Redstone; and Adjutant-General Jesse F. Stevens, who were authorized to "purchase and supervise the erection of suitable markers in all the cities and towns on the route in the Commonwealth over which General Henry Knox brought the cannon and ammunition captured at Fort Ticonderoga to General Washington at the camp of the colonial army in Cambridge." The Commission's purpose was to "arrange such markers in such a manner as to secure a permanent memorial and recognition of the 150th anniversary of the evacuation of Boston by the British."

At the time of the American Revolution, Henry Knox was a Boston bookseller. At the outbreak of the hostilities in the spring of 1775, he enlisted in the colonial army. He fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill, acting as aide to General Ward, and then aided in constructing the defenses of the camps around Boston. The army was in pressing need of artillery, and Knox proposed to Washington the plan of bringing heavy cannon and stores from Fort Ticonderoga, New York, near the Canadian frontier. He set out with a squad of mounted men on November 15, 1775. In the face of great difficulties, he obtained 55 guns, with 23 boxes of lead and a barrel of flints, loaded them on sleds, and reached Cambridge safely in late January, 1776. Knox's courageous work enabled General Thomas to take possession of Dorchester Heights, which resulted in the evacuation of Boston by the British forces.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The collection is entirely in English.

Container List

| Box # | Folder # | Folder Title | Date |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Resolves establishing Commission; information concerning General Knox and the towns in which markers were placed | 1925-1927 |
| 1 | 2 | Financial records of Commission; copies of vendors' catalogs | 1926-1927 |
| 1 | 3-10 | Correspondence (8 folders) | undated, 1924-1929 |
| 1 | 11 | Newspaper clippings | 1926 |
| 1 | 12 | Miscellaneous pamphlets and photographs | ca. 1926-1928 |