

Petersburg National Battlefield VirtualCache Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Site 3: Massachusetts Monument

N 37° 13'6.569

W 77° 22'57.743



Dedicated on this field November 13, 1911, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts erected this monument to honor all of its men who served and sacrificed on the fields of battle in Virginia between 1861-1865. During the period of time when the entrance to the Crater battlefield was off of Crater Road this was the memorial that first greeted visitors.

The Massachusetts Monument commemorates soldiers and sailors killed in Virginia between 1861 and 1865. This monument has been the means of bringing together veterans of the North and the South. After the Massachusetts Legislature had appropriated funds for its erection, a commission was sent to Virginia to arrange necessary details, and established friendly relations with the A.P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans in Petersburg. The next year Massachusetts veterans entertained the Petersburg veterans and later returned the visit. On a gala night in the Petersburg armory, when veterans were swapping stories above buried hatchets, Colonel James Anderson, chairman of the Massachusetts Commission, told of the many commendatory letters that had come to him after the visit of the Southern soldiers. But, he added, a lady from Paterson, New Jersey, had written chiding him for permitting a 'vile band of Rebels' to walk through the streets of a fair Northern city to the tune of that 'rebel song, Dixie.' Colonel Anderson returned the letter to its sender with these words appended: 'There will be Confederates in Heaven. If you don't want to associate with Confederates, go to Hell.'

Visit Instructions: Transcribe what is written on the monument plaque or make a rubbing of the plaque. Be careful not to get pencil or crayon on the monument