

Greenwood's Confederate Monument

By John Robert Young

Around the turn of the twentieth century, the South showed great interest in erecting monuments to honor the Confederate cause. Many of the veterans were dead, and the remaining ones were reaching the age at which they realized their mortality. Wives and children wanted to honor their husbands and fathers while they could enjoy the praise. The veterans thought of their friends and brothers who had not come home from battle. From the desire to honor loved ones and to have a memory of their sacrifices perpetuated arose Greenwood County's Confederate monument.

Building the Confederate monument rested on the shoulders of the Ladies Memorial Association. This organization began in April 1898 when W.L. Durst invited a small group of ladies to meet in a lecture room of the First Baptist Church. The group organized and chose officers: Miss Annie Scruggs, who would be Mrs. E.D. Andrews before the monument saw completion, president; Mrs. A.E. Youngblood, secretary; Mrs. W.R. Bailey, treasurer, and eight unnamed vice presidents to assist Miss Scruggs. Mrs. W.K. Hood chaired a committee to write a constitution, which called for monthly meetings. The Ladies Memorial Association had more than seventy members by the end of 1901.¹

In May 1900, the ladies of Phoenix formed a memorial association. Its spark came from inspiration given by L.M. Moore, R.F. McCaslan, and some other veterans at a political campaign meeting. The Phoenix Ladies Memorial Association's founding purpose was to raise money for a monument.²

The ladies of Ninety Six met in the office of the president of the local bank on July 4, 1901, to form a memorial association. Although they elected officers, one finds no further mention of this organization.³

While the Greenwood Ladies Memorial Association always had in mind erecting a monument, their first duty was to plan the program of the annual celebration of Confederate Memorial Day, May 10. A description of the exercises for 1899 will let one know what this entailed. The Reverend R.A. Child, of the Methodist Church, served as chairman of the day. He introduced the festivities in the court room of the Greenwood County Court House. Three hundred school children and fifty veterans formed two special groups in the audience. Following the Reverend Child's remarks, the audience sang "Dixie" and "America." After the Reverend R.H. Nall, of the Presbyterian Church, prayed, Dr. J.C. Maxwell spoke. A veteran himself, he told of his experiences with Kershaw and McGowan's brigades, in which most of the veterans present had served. J.F.J. Caldwell, a local attorney, spoke next. The choir's rendition of "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground" ended the program at the court house because when the Reverend Child spontaneously asked Captain William F. McKinney, a beloved citizen known to all, to say a few words. Child's introduction so touched him that he could only

reply, "Friends, you will have to excuse me. There is a turtle in my throat as big as a cannon ball and I couldn't make a speech to save my life."⁴ Forming a procession of veterans, school children, all other citizens, the gathering marched through the square to the old cemetery on the present East Cambridge Avenue, then to the city cemetery at the end of the present Magnolia Street. At each, they covered the veterans' graves with flowers, wreaths, and crosses.⁵

Continuing to serve as the guiding hand of Memorial Day, the Ladies Memorial Association began earnestly to raise money for a monument. Some of the efforts were appeals for contributions. "Son of a Veteran," as he signed his letter in the Index, asked every son of a veteran to donate one dollar.⁶ The Journal's Phoenix correspondent urged each of the 114 members of the Phoenix Democratic Club to give one dollar.⁷

The Ladies Memorial Association raised most of the money through sales and performances. They remembered the first as the ice cream festival they gave in July 1900 at the court house.⁸ On numerous occasions, they served hot dinners at the court house during court week.⁹ In January 1902, the Ladies Memorial Association raised \$10.25 at an oyster supper.¹⁰

The Phoenix Ladies Memorial Society had success with outdoor gatherings. At a campaign meeting, they sold barbecue and lemonade.¹¹ They gave a picnic at which Colonel James A. Hoyt, a Confederate veteran and newspaper editor, spoke. At this picnic, the Greenwood County Guard drilled in their uniforms, and "two of the most prominent 'nines' in the section" played a game of baseball.¹²

More unusual than a picnic was the mum party the Phoenix ladies gave. If a guest did not speak, or stayed



mum, he received his supper free. If he spoke, he had to pay twenty-five cents for it.¹³

The Greenwood Ladies Memorial Association sponsored an unusual activity, a "Rebecca at the Well" entertainment. It is an allusion to the Bible story, but the author could not learn what one does at this kind of function. At it, the ladies sold ice cream.¹⁴

One could buy presents for Christmas at the bazaar. A.F. McKissick, president of the Grendel Mill, had contributed cloth, which the ladies made into goods to sell. They also offered fancy work, autographs of General John B. Gordon, and hot dinners.¹⁵

On two occasions, the Ladies Memorial Association invited speakers, who gave the association a percentage of the admission fee. Dr. S.A. Steel, a Methodist minister of Nashville, gave a lecture, "Before and After Appomattox."¹⁶ John Temple Graves, a newspaper editor who had "received higher praise, as an eloquent speaker, than any living Southerner," spoke at a benefit to raise money for the monument.¹⁷

"Blind Tom"¹⁸ brought music, as did local musicians. On October 14, 1901, the association sponsored an evening of local music and literary talent in the parlor of the Oregon Hotel. Afterward, the proprietors of the Oregon Book Store and Ice Cream Parlor allowed the association to use their store for refreshments.¹⁹

Mrs. Joel S. Aiken directed Greenwood's theatrical talent in a production of *Those Dreadful Twins*. After the Greenwood audience had enjoyed the play, the cast gave a performance in Ninety Six.²⁰

The Ladies Memorial Association found ways to raise money for the monument, and they led the movement, but men played a role. Lewis M. Moore served as a cheerleader. A Confederate veteran active in civic affairs, he wrote several letters to the Index to implore people to give money. After the war, he wrote, people needed time to recover, but "[n]ow to judge from the cotton mills, fine court houses, fine churches, fine dwellings, in fact it looks as if our people have everything fine now they want, so we think it is now a good time to begin a move to build a monument to perpetuate the memory of those men who lost their lives for this country.²¹ When he attended a campaign meeting at Phoenix at which the ladies sold barbecue, ice cream, and lemonade to raise money, the Index's correspondent described L.M. Moore as a man "whose heart is in the matter."²²

Captain William R. McKinney received the task of soliciting subscriptions for the monument in 1901, and he succeeded in his work. By October 9, he had promises for eight hundred dollars in small donations, and he had "not yet touched the great pockets."²³ One does not doubt that he collected the money. His obituary read, "He was a remarkable man in many respects, exactly honest and upright himself he demanded the same from his fellows."²⁴ Before he went to the subscribers' homes, he prepared them with this notice in the newspaper: "I wish to notify all subscribers to the Confederate monument fund that their subscriptions

are expected; and when I call on them it will help matters a great deal if they are ready..."²⁵

Although one cannot find specific instances of his work, a brief history of the fund-raising efforts read at the dedication of the monument states that G.F. Ross, of Phoenix, also solicited contributions for the monument, much as Captain McKinney did.²⁶

With money in the bank, the ladies were ready to begin building. They sought bids and received one from J.R. Leavell, of Greenwood, and one from O.P. Hammond, of Anderson, who represented a marble company in Macon, Georgia. With advice from C.A.C. Waller, L.M. Moore, J.K. Durst, T.F. Riley, J.P. Brooks, W.H. Bailey, and G.F. Ross, the Ladies Memorial Association hired Mr. Leavell to design and construct the monument.²⁷

Mr. Leavell's design included approximately sixteen feet of a column from the state house and would "have a top cap carved to correspond with the fluted shape of the column, on which the figure of the Confederate soldier will stand. This figure is to be of Italian marble and will be between seven and eight feet high. The carving will be done in Italy... The figure will represent a young Confederate soldier in uniform at 'parade rest.' The column would stand on a base of four sections. Mr. Leavell expected the entire monument to stand approximately thirty-four feet. Later descriptions written after its completion give its height as thirty-five feet.²⁸

The column for the monument came from a shaft which was intended for use on the state house in Columbia. The contractor, however, had broken the column into two parts, rendering it useless for its original purpose.²⁹ Captain John Hampden Brooks, Greenwood's representative in the South Carolina House of Representatives, introduced a bill to have a section of the broken shaft given to the Ladies Memorial Association of Greenwood.³⁰ In February, a joint resolution allowed the secretary of state to donate a portion of the column to the Greenwood ladies.³¹ W.J. Craig, general manager of the Charleston and Western Carolina Railroad had the column shipped to Greenwood without charge. By July 17, 1902, it had arrived and lay on the short platform of the C. and W.C. depot, waiting to become part of the monument.³²

The base of the monument is South Carolina granite. The die, the part above the base in which the inscriptions are carved, is Vermont granite.³³

The statue on top of the monument is special. Rather than being an artist's representation of a soldier, it is a likeness of James Leonidas Waller, carved in Italy of Italian marble from a photograph of him. In exchange for giving his brother this honor, Captain C.A.C. Waller paid for the statue. He said, "he had been wined, dined and a cane presented to him and a hall at Lander College named for him." He wanted his younger brother to be remembered in Greenwood.³⁴

James Leonidas Waller was one of three Waller brothers who served in the Confederate Army. He died in 1861 at the age of eighteen from wounds received at

the Battle of Sharpsburg. Upon his death, his comrades sent this resolution to his mother: "a good companion, a sincere and abiding friend, a gallant and conscientious soldier, a man of unostentatious candor and simplicity of manners, of genuine kindness of heart and ready sympathy for the sick and feeble, whose character stood alike the test of the battlefield and the tedious routine of the march."³⁵

The monument bears three inscriptions:

Our Confederate Soldiers 1861 Patriots 1865 Who animated by the same faith; actuated by the same love of country; beset with the same trials and dangers; endowed with the same fortitude, and fought as heroically to maintain local self government as did the colonial fathers to attain the same, and with them are immortalized in the same halo of glory.

This epigraph appears to be original. Searches through the years for a literary source have revealed none. An article in the Index-Journal of May 18, 1959, states that the Independent Democrats of South Carolina used it on one side of their membership cards in 1956.³⁶

*How sleep the brave who sink to rest
By all their country's wishes blest*

These are lines from an ode written in 1746 by the English poet, William Collins.³⁷

*But their memories e'er shall remain for us,
And their names, bright names without stains for us;
The glory they won shall not wane for us,
In legend and lay
Our heroes in gray
Shall forever live over again for us.*

This is a stanza from the poem "C.S.A.," written by Father Abram J. Ryan and published in 1879.³⁸

By January 1903, J.R. Leavell had the base of the monument on site. By September 24, 1903, he had the pedestal of the monument in place, and he was raising the shaft. By October 22, 1903, he had finished the monument. The ladies of the memorial association were entirely pleased with his work. He had "performed his work well and with little financial profit to himself." They thanked him "for his superior workmanship and faithful discharge of duties."³⁹

The Ladies Memorial Association with help from many sides had raised the money; J.R. Leavell had built the monument. Dedication day had arrived. At two thirty in the afternoon of October 22, 1903, a Thursday, the Greenwood Band, the Greenwood County Guards, and carriages filled with the speakers, the mayor and city council, officers of the Ladies Memorial Association and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, veterans, and citizens left the Oregon Hotel.⁴⁰

When they arrived at the court house, the site of the monument, the dignitaries followed this program:
Chorus. "Tho We Know Not Each Grave," D.H. Magill.
Prayer. Dr. John O. Wil[]son.
Male quartette. "Sleeping," Sweeny.
Introduction of speakers by the Hon. C.A.C.

Waller.

Oration of the day, Judge W.T. Gary⁴¹, Augusta.
Chorus. "Sleep Comrades, Sleep," by F.G. Simkins.
March to the monument.
Ceremony of unveiling by little girls.⁴²
Music. "Dixie," Greenwood Band.
Presentation of Monument to the city and county by Mrs. A.C. Durst, president of the Ladies Memorial Association
Remarks by C.A.C. Waller.
Music, Benediction, Dr. H.A. Bagby.⁴³

The monument honored the veterans of the War Between the States, but the members of the dedication ceremony thought people should learn a lesson from it. Captain C.A.C. Waller said the lesson was "not a lesson of hostility or boasting but the worth of duty."⁴⁴ R.F. McCaslan said, "You upon whose shoulders in a few years the burden of government will rest, as you gaze upon this monument ... drink in inspiration and with your faces eastward looking for the great light of immortality and your backs to the temple of justice, defend its portals with lives of honor, integrity and Christian manhood and there prove yourselves worthy sons of illustrious sires."⁴⁵

This inspiring monument needed one more touch. In December, the ladies asked John R. Leavell to put an iron fence around it, the first public monument in Greenwood.⁴⁶

With the project completed, the ladies tallied their books. Captain C.A.C. Waller said at the dedication that it was a four-thousand-dollar statue.⁴⁷ The author found no other mention of its exact cost. The ladies believed they had raised more than one thousand dollars, including money from the Phoenix ladies. With the money remaining, the Ladies Memorial Association contributed ten dollars to a fund to build a monument to honor Wade Hampton and ten dollars to the graded school for the purchase of books on Confederate history.⁴⁸

The Ladies Memorial Association thought the only thing left to do was to put a wreath or flowers at the monument each Memorial Day. They could not see that anyone would want to move it. In 1927, Joel S. Bailey asked the city to consider moving the monument to a plot of ground across the street from the Bank of Greenwood.⁴⁹ At the court house, he complained, young people hardly saw it, and one always found criminals leaning on the fence around it.⁵⁰ One month later, Arthur D. Park wrote that he looked forward to the time when the railroad tracks would not run through the square. He envisioned a park with trees, shrubs, a fountain, and the Confederate monument.⁵¹ The John McKellar Reynolds Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy supported the move to the square. Mayor Devore Andrews promised to get an estimate on the cost of relocation from City Engineer Brooks Rambo before city council considered the move.⁵²

Z. Estell Creswell Fleming objected. She disagreed

with the description of the people who saw the monument as criminals. Lawyers, judges, county officials, taxpayers, and children using the library next door were certainly not criminals, she wrote. Furthermore, the square was already crowded and would become more crowded. "I would say to those advocating the removal of the monument to seek other channels for their desired activities and let what is already an imposing ornament to the court house grounds stand unmolested, 'with hands off!'" she admonished.⁵³ One does not know the reason, but the statue remained in front of the court house.

Necessity forced the next consideration of a move. While the old court was being demolished and the new one built on the site in 1965, the court house committee, headed by W.H. Nicholson, Jr., decided, with the approval of the local chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, to take down the monument and store it. It would be returned to a suitable spot on the court house grounds when the new building was completed. Finding someone who knew how to dismantle the monument and who had the equipment to do it would be difficult.⁵⁴

The monument still did not move, however. The

old court house came down; the new court house went up; the monument remained in place. Not until May 10, 1967, Confederate Memorial Day, did Fowler "Buddy" Hanna, foreman, and Paul Wilson, crane operator, move the monument from its site on Monument Street to its new home at the side of the new court, facing Park Street.⁵⁵

The monument still stood, and a shadow of the Ladies Memorial Association still existed. When the association had almost finished raising money for the monument and arranging for its erection, the ladies reorganized themselves into the Robert A. Waller Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the mother of two more chapters which would eventually thrive in Greenwood. The memorial association continued to exist under this name for a few more years, but eventually it faded.⁵⁶

The Confederate monument began as a memorial to veterans of the War Between the States, built so that remaining veterans could see it during their lifetime. It still honors the men who held the Confederate cause in their heart. Now, it honors, too, tireless ladies who worked, encouraged, and inspired the Confederate monument.

Footnotes

1Index. October 22, 1903.

2Index. May 24, 1900; October 22, 1903.

3Index. July 25, 1901.

4Index. May 18, 1899.

5Ibid.

6Index. May 23, 1901.

7Index. September 18, 1901.

8Index. July 5, 1900; October 22, 1903.

9Journal. November 6, 1901; March 13, 1902; November 16, 1902; November 6, 1901.

10Index. January 16, 1902.

11Index. August 23, 1900.

12Index. August 15, 1901.

13Journal. November 13, 1901.

14Index. May 31, 1900.

15Index. December 3, 1903.

16Journal. November 6, 1901.

17Index. July 3, 1902.

18"Blind Tom" Wiggins, a slave, was born blind "and more than idiotic" near Columbus, Georgia. As a child, he would sneak into his master's house and play piano pieces he had heard. In 1862, he was taken to New York, where he had a career giving concerts, both in the United States and Europe. He died in 1901 in poverty in Hoboken, New Jersey. Journal. November 27, 1901; June 17, 1908.

19Index. October 10, 1901.

20Index. June 25, 1903; Journal. July 1, 1903.

21Index. May 17, 1900; May 24, 1900; May 31, 1900.

22Index. August 22, 1900.

23Index. October 3, 1901; Journal. October 9, 1901.

24Index. September 10, 1908.

25Index. January 16, 1902.

26Index. October 22, 1903.

27Index. October 7, 1902; November 6, 1902.

28Index. November 6, 1902; Index-Journal. September 14, 1957; May 22, 1965.

29Keowee Courier (Pickens, S.C.). February 24, 1904.

30Index. January 3, 1902.

31Spartanburg also received a piece of the column for use in its monument. Journal. January 22, 1902.

32Index. February 27, 1902; July 17, 1902.

33Index-Journal. September 14, 1957.

34Index-Journal. February 1, 1928; February 16, 1928.

35Index. October 8, 1903; October 29, 1903.

36Index. October 22, 1903; Index-Journal. February 24, 1965.

37Ibid.

38Ibid.

39Journal. January 21, 1903; Index. September 24, 1903; October 22, 1903; November 19, 1903.

40Index. October 22, 1903.

41Judge W.T. Gary was a brother of General Martin Witherpoon Gary. Index. October 29, 1903.

42The girls who unveiled the monument were Louise Allen, Helen Blake,, Augusta Duckett Calhoun, Margaret Calhoun, Elizabeth Cobb, Ellafaire Hood, Annabelle Hood, Helen Major, Annie Brooks Marshall, Ella Nickles, Sallie Maxwell Stallworth, Mattilde Youngblood. Index. October 22, 1903.

43Index. October 22, 1903.

44Ibid.

45Index. October 29, 1903.

46Journal. December 23, 1903; Index. October 29, 1903.

47Index. October 29, 1903.

48Journal. January 20, 1904; Index. October 22, 1903.

49The location would have been slightly north of Riley Street.

50Index-Journal. May 10, 1927.

51Index-Journal. June 11, 1927.

52Index-Journal. January 19, 1928.

53Index-Journal. February 16, 1928.

54Index-Journal. May 22, 1965.

55Index-Journal. May 11, 1967.

56Index. May 28, 1903; Index-Journal. April 7, 1938.