

Sculpture in and around Charlottesville: Confederate Memorials

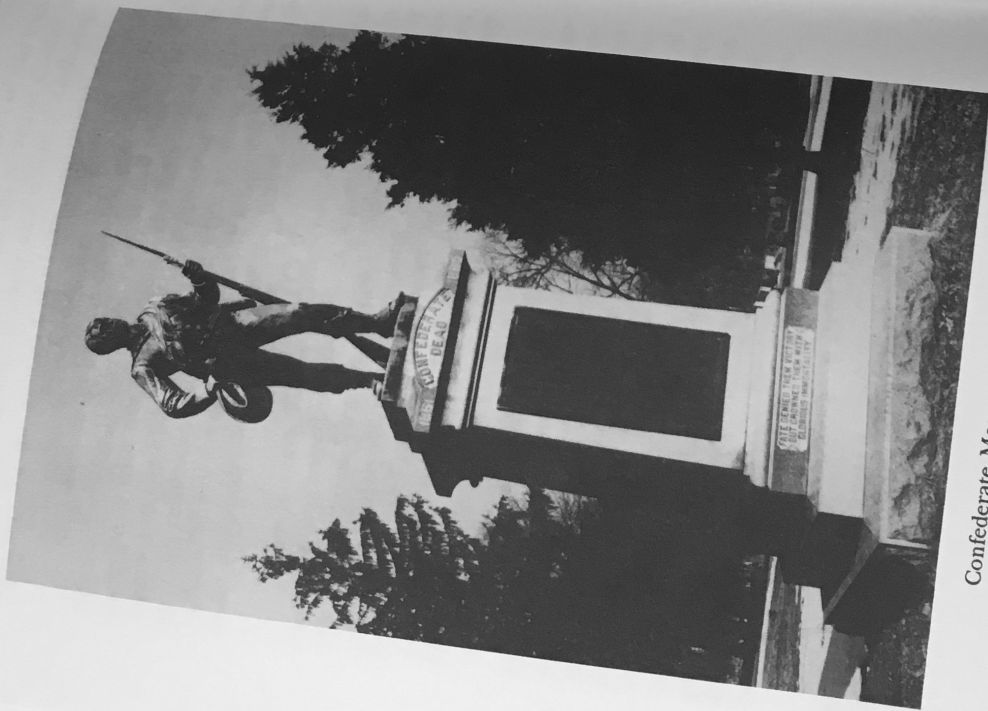
By A. Robert Kuhlthau and
Harry W. Webb

INTRODUCTION

The sculptor Charles Keck, who was personally responsible for two outstanding statues and other smaller pieces in Charlottesville, once remarked that he knew of no town in America of similar size that had been so blessed with monumental sculpture.¹ A tour around the area, with visits to some of its attractions, will reveal a wide diversity of sculptural forms -- statues, busts, shafts, tablets, bas-reliefs, and other objects. These works, by both sculptors world famous and obscure, appear in a variety of media including marble, granite, soapstone, plaster, and bronze.

There are several reasons why the Charlottesville/Albemarle region is so richly blessed. The first is its unique distinction of having so many famous residents during the formative years of our nation. Another is the presence of the University of Virginia, which has attracted a large number of memorials to its famous and loyal sons. Finally, there is Charlottesville native Paul Goodloe McIntire, who deeply loved his city and endowed it with many gifts, including four handsome statues.

Many of these statues and monuments have a fascinating history, which has been told previously only in part



Confederate Monument, University
of Virginia Cemetery
photo courtesy UVA Archives

¹Guest editorial by Stephen D. Campbell, Charlottesville
Observer, 17 March 1988.

B. The Confederate Memorial on Court Square

Although the Ladies Confederate Memorial Association moved with some dispatch in erecting a monument to honor the dead in the Confederate Cemetery, this was by no means the case when it came to honoring other Confederate soldiers of the area. Charlottesville and Albemarle County were among the last of the communities in Virginia to erect a monument.²⁸ The reasons for this are not clear. Nor is it clear just how much informal discussion occurred before official action initiated what would become a nine year endeavor, replete with confrontation and misfortune but happily ending with pomp, celebration and pride.

In February of 1900 the General Assembly of Virginia passed Senate Bill No. 475, introduced by Senator George W. Morris, a Charlottesville attorney who represented Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle and Greene.²⁹ The wording of this Act played a crucial role in the history of the monument's erection:

Be it enacted by the general assembly of Virginia, That the board of supervisors of the county of Albemarle and the council of the city of Charlottesville be, and are hereby authorized, in their discretion, to appropriate out of the county and city funds respectively, under their control, such amounts as said bodies may deem expedient for the purpose of erecting on the court-house square at Charlottesville, Virginia, a monument in commemoration of the Confederate soldiers of Albemarle County as enlisted in eighteen hundred and sixty-one, who lost their lives in battle, in the civil war of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, eighteen hundred and sixty five, on

²⁸Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 28 May 1906.

²⁹Morris had also been responsible for introducing the legislation that provided the funds for rebuilding the Rotunda after the fire and adding the three buildings at the south end of the Lawn. In 1901 he became a judge of the Charlottesville Corporation Court, and he was the presiding judge at the McCue murder trial.

which monument shall be inscribed the names of all Confederate soldiers of said county and city who fell in battle in the service of the Confederate States of America; and for the purpose of placing in the court-house of said county a tablet containing the names of all Confederate soldiers from Albemarle County, giving as far as practicable the companies in which they served, and in what capacity they served; and that said bodies be authorized to make such appropriation as they may deem expedient to ascertain a correct list of those who were killed or mortally wounded in battle, and of all Confederate soldiers of said county, with a view to proper inscription on said monument and on said tablet; and that said bodies be authorized to appoint committees from their own number and from Confederate veterans and sons of veterans of said county to carry into effect the objects aforesaid; and that said board of supervisors of Albemarle County and the council of the city of Charlottesville are authorized, in their discretion, to levy a special tax on the real and personal property of their respective jurisdictions for the purposes aforesaid, provided that the aggregate amount appropriated for the purposes aforesaid shall not exceed the sum of \$2,000.

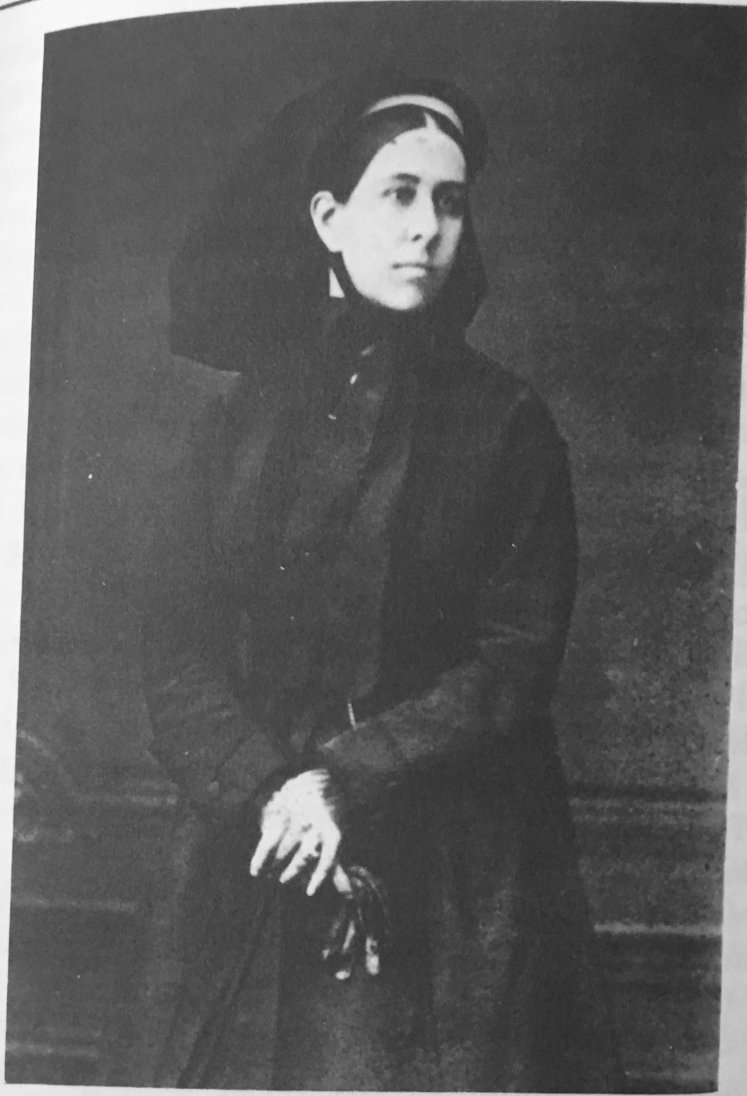
After receiving this authorization, nothing much of importance seems to have happened for almost six years. On January 17, 1906, however, the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, under the chairmanship of R. H. Wood, passed a resolution imposing a tax of two-and-one-half mils per one hundred dollars at the next annual levy of real and personal taxes, the proceeds to be used for the erection of a Confederate monument as authorized by the Act of Assembly quoted above.³⁰ Apparently the supervisors had not done their arithmetic correctly, or the clerk had not understood the motion, for on April 11, 1906, the Board of Supervisors passed another resolution stating that the tax levy for the monument should be two-and-one-half cents (not mils) per

³⁰Albemarle County Supervisors Minutes, vol. 1901-1909 (17 January 1906), p. 166.

one hundred dollars. At this same meeting R. H. Wood, S. A. Calhoun and Micajah Woods were appointed as a committee to "look after the erection of the monument."³¹

The City of Charlottesville decided not to exercise their right to levy a special tax for the monument. Instead, its council appropriated six hundred dollars as a budget item to be recovered from the general revenues of the city. As the planning progressed, it must have become apparent that the total amount of \$2300 of public funds seemed inadequate, because on March 21, 1906, the Albemarle Chapter #1 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) pledged their support to help with the monument project and appointed a committee chaired by Mrs. Charles S. Venable to work with the city and county. Other members of this committee were Miss Norma Doswell, Miss Sallie Doswell, Miss J. E. Irvine, Mrs. G. W. Olivier, and Mrs. C. C. Wertenbaker. They were joined by the county appointees, city appointees R. W. Holsinger, John S. Patton and Dr. H. W. Tribble, and the following appointees of the John Bowie Strange Camp of Confederate Veterans: Judge R. T. W. Duke, L. T. Hanckel, John B. Moon, G. W. Olivier, and Charles H. Walker. Micajah Woods represented both the county and John Bowie Strange Camp.³² This Monument Committee put in many hours during the next few years. These were not always harmonious hours, but the group was held together and inspired by the tenacious perseverance of Mrs. Venable and the outstanding leadership of Micajah Woods.

Mrs. Venable was Mary Southall Brown, the widow of Colonel J. Thompson Brown and the second wife of Colonel Charles S. Venable, Professor of Mathematics, twice chairman of the Faculty at the University of Virginia and an aide to General Lee during the Civil War. Micajah Woods was an Albemarle County native who volunteered for Confederate service at the very beginning of the war, when he was a seventeen year old University of Virginia student. He fought



Mrs. Charles S. Venable

Photo courtesy Albemarle Co. Hist. Soc.

throughout the war, being wounded twice, once at Gettysburg and again at Second Cold Harbor. Following the war he took a law degree at the University of Virginia and served Albemarle County as its Commonwealth's Attorney for forty years. At the time that he assumed the chairmanship of the Monument Committee he was also the Commander of John Bowie Strange Camp, and he was consequently responsible for recommending all applications from Confederate veterans and their families for pensions.

As soon as the county passed their tax levy, the monument became a subject for public discussion. On April

11, 1906, Mr. J. H. Lindsay, editor of the *Daily Progress*, wrote enthusiastically about the plan and suggested that the monument be a semicircular pavilion of granite or marble with a canopy to protect it from sun or rain. There would be three groups of columns, one to represent each of the branches of infantry, cavalry and artillery. He also proposed seats "where the old Confederates can sit, protected from the sun and showers, and tell over again the oft-told tales of their Confederate experiences." Lindsay's idea, although interesting, was a bit grandiose for the available funds, and in the same article he proposed that each child in the city and county participate in this momentous project by contributing ten cents. The *Daily Progress* would publish the names of the contributors and would give each a small American flag as a token of appreciation. Apparently this proposal did not induce much response. The paper contains a couple of short lists of students names but little else, despite Mrs. Venable's public endorsement of the idea.³³

The UDC lost no time in starting their efforts to raise additional money for the monument. They initiated their activities in May of 1906 with a benefit tea and musical at the Meadow Creek Country Club;³⁴ they also began a solicitation of their membership and of the community. By early 1907 they had met their goal of five hundred dollars, and the Monument Committee felt ready to begin discussions with prospective contractors.

At a meeting on May 23, 1907, sketches presented by three firms were considered, and on July 12 the committee voted to accept the design submitted by Charles R. Walsh, proprietor of the Cockade Marble Works of Petersburg. The Walsh firm, established many years earlier by Mr. Walsh's father, Charles M. Walsh, had erected a large number of Confederate monuments in the South and West, including recent ones in Virginia at Amelia Court House and Farmville.³⁵ They had been in business in Petersburg for many

³³Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 16 June 1906.

³⁴*Ibid.*, 28 May 1906.

³⁵*Ibid.*, 12 July 1907.

years and had also manufactured a number of the monuments and headstones in the Blandford Church Cemetery. The Petersburg area had long been a noted source of granite of a quality ideally suited for monuments, with several quarries located south of town near the present site of Central State Hospital.³⁶

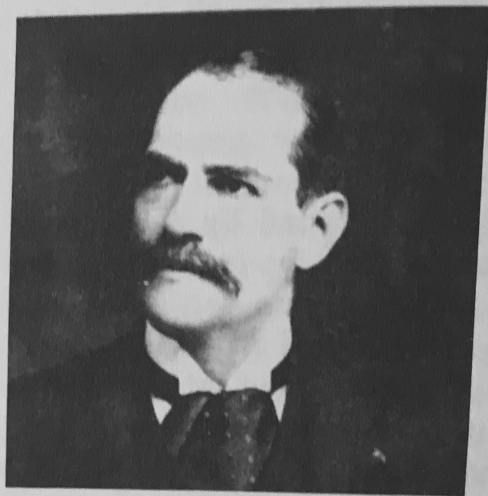
The granite base was to be topped by a "standard bronze figure" of a Confederate soldier "at ready." On the sides of the shaft would be a Confederate battle flag and emblems representing infantry, cavalry and artillery. Captain Micajah Woods, Mrs. James E. Irvine and Miss Sallie J. Doswell were appointed to enter into a contract with Walsh. The monument was to be completed by mid-November 1907 at a cost of three thousand dollars.

In continuing meetings, the Monument Committee decided to make some changes in the plaques and ornamentation of the base, which required a postponement of the dedication date. This posed no real inconvenience; indeed, the new time table would allow the ceremonies to be scheduled for June 3, 1908, when the South would celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Jefferson Davis.³⁷

By early spring of 1908 the pace of committee activities in preparation for the great event began to quicken. Two orators were selected for the dedication ceremonies, and both accepted their invitations. One was Virginia's Senator John W. Daniel, well-known nationally for his oratorical prowess. The other was Carleton McCarthy, an ex-mayor of Richmond who had held his audiences spellbound during his campaign orations. Both orators were Confederate veterans, and Daniel had suffered a wound which crippled him for life. The UDC was given the privilege of selecting the individual to unveil the monument, and they unanimously chose Miss Lettie Woods, "the beautiful daughter of Capt. Micajah Woods,"³⁸ who graciously accepted the honor.

³⁶E. Steidtmann, *Commercial Granites and Other Crystalline Rocks of Virginia* (Bulletin 64) (Charlottesville: Virginia Geological Survey, 1945).

³⁷Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 8 Sept. 1908.



Polk Miller

Finally, a committee was appointed to make the detailed arrangements for the great day.

Funds in hand were still not sufficient to meet the total requirements of the project, and so the ladies of the UDC stepped up their fund raising efforts. They were fortunate to secure the services of Polk Miller, who enjoyed fame throughout the South as a student and interpreter of Negro culture. Miller, who was also a

Confederate veteran and the successful owner of a drug company in Richmond, delivered his interpretive performances extensively throughout the South, sometimes alone and at other times with a small group of singers and musicians. It was with this small troupe that he appeared at the Levy Opera House on the evening of May 5, 1908. The event was well attended and netted one hundred and five dollars for the monument fund.³⁹

Arrangements had been proceeding very smoothly, and it looked as though the Charlottesville-Albemarle area could at last join the other communities of the state in having a fine monument to honor its heroic sons who had made the supreme sacrifice for the "lost cause." Then, like bolts out of the blue, a series of great misfortunes struck. First, in late May Mr. Walsh informed the committee that he could not deliver the monument in time for the scheduled dedication of June 3, claiming that the bronzes would not be ready. Walsh said that he could deliver by July, but the committee decided to take no chances and set the dedication date for October 22, 1908. Having missed the unique opportunity to celebrate the centennial of the birth of the

³⁹*Ibid.*, 25 April 1908; Minutes of United Daughters of the Confederacy (acc.no. 569), Spec. Coll., UVA Library; *Confederate Veteran*, vol. 2 (1884), p. 230, and vol. 3 (1885), p. 7

President of the Confederacy, some consolation remained in the fact that the Virginia Grand Camp of Confederate Veterans would have a reunion in Charlottesville starting October 20, for which the dedication would make a fitting event.⁴⁰

In mid-August the second misfortune befell the committee. Its origins are unclear, but on August 14, 1908, the *Daily Progress* reported that the Charlottesville City Council had adopted a resolution expressing their desire that the monument to the Confederate dead be located on the triangular area in front of the Midway School.⁴¹ A few days later, the editor of the *Daily Progress* joined the fray with an editorial supporting the move:

The courthouse yard is on a back street seldom visited by strangers and with nothing either in location or in surroundings to commend it as a proper site for a monument. On the other hand the Midway Park is on Main Street at the intersection of Main, Ridge and 4th in the very center of the city where any stranger that comes to Charlottesville is necessarily compelled to pass and re-pass. It is no exaggeration to say that more people would be attracted by a monument at Midway Park any day in the year than would see one at the courthouse in a month. Monuments are supposed to be erected to be seen by the public. They pay little tribute to the dead and reflect but meager credit on the living if placed in an obscure and undesirable location.

The educational value of such a patriotic memorial would be immeasurably enhanced by placing the monument at Midway. Nearly 2000 school children

⁴⁰Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 8 September 1908.

⁴¹This is the site of the current Lewis and Clark statue. At that time a grass plot considerably larger than the present area was there, and it had been improved by the street railway company, which had its offices in the building which still stands on the southwest corner of Ridge and Main Streets.

would see it every day and it would be a continuous inspiration to the youth of the city and county.⁴²

The membership of the UDC had also adopted the position of strongly favoring the move.⁴³ In fact, it is highly probable that the idea started with the ladies, for subsequent communications show that they did not consider the area around the courthouse as one of the nicer places in town. The ramshackle McKee block was adjacent to the courthouse on the west (where the Jackson Monument now stands), complaints abounded about young boys "hanging around" the front of the Levy Opera House located just east of the courthouse, and the Monticello Saloon also faced the square.

The Board of Supervisors remained strongly in favor of keeping the courthouse site, and Micajah Woods offered a rebuttal to the opposition:

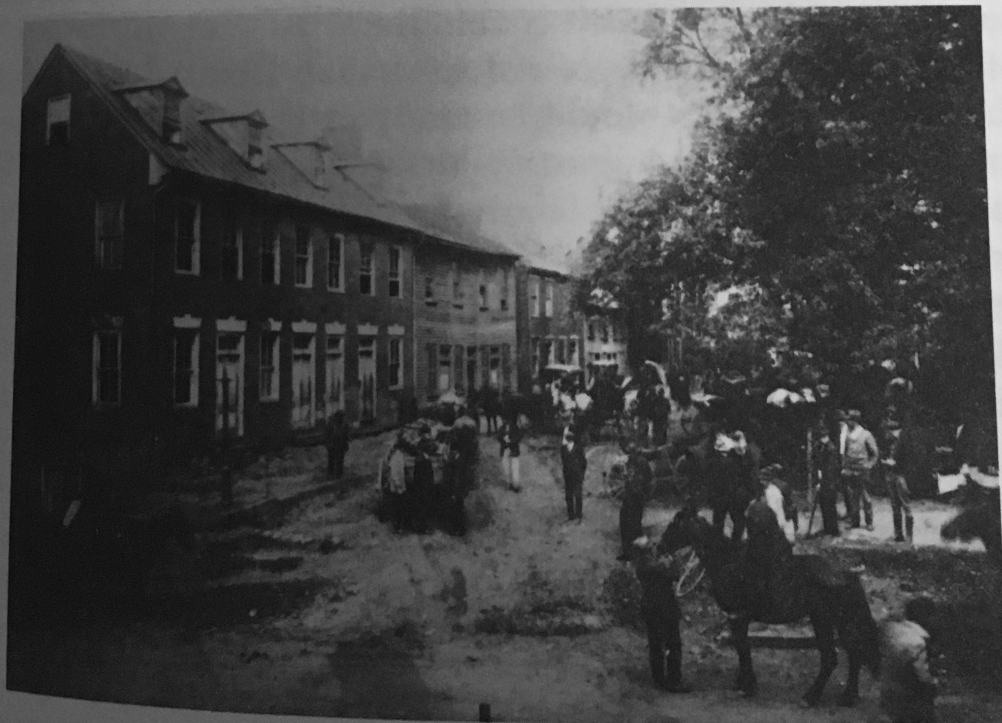
Two years ago, in 1906, the question of the location of the monument was carefully again considered. The Board of Supervisors were unanimous in their opinion that the proper place for the monument was on the courthouse square in front of the common courthouse used by both the county and the city, and the consensus of opinion then was that the location was peculiarly and especially the proper place. The courthouse and public square have been for over 100 years the seat of justice for the county and city. The people of the county in 1861, when the war fires raged, assembled on the courthouse green and in the courthouse and discussed these great questions which resulted in the Civil War, but whatever may happen to Charlottesville in its development, it is likely that the present courthouse and court green will be the place for the assemblage of the people of the county and city for years to come, and certainly no more suitable place could be chosen....

⁴²Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 25 August, 1908.

⁴³Minutes of United Daughters of the Confederacy.



Midway Park and School, photo by Holsinger Studio,
Courtesy Special Collections, UVA Library



McKee Block, photo by Holsinger Studio,
Courtesy Special Collections, UVA Library

The contract for the monument and the pledges for the support have been made with the distinct understanding that the monument is to be erected on the courthouse green.

I am glad to state that artists and experts who have inspected the location have expressed the opinion that it is the ideal place for such a monument.⁴⁴

But before this disagreement over location could be resolved, a third "bolt" struck the scene. The front page headlines in the September 9, 1908, *Daily Progress* exclaimed:

**CONFEDERATE MONUMENT CANNOT BE UNVEILED
IN OCTOBER NEXT - PETERSBURG FIRM GOES
OUT OF BUSINESS**

The accompanying article contained the text of two letters, one from Micajah Woods and another received by Woods from Mr. Charles Plummer who was serving as trustee for the Walsh firm. Since the death of Charles M. Walsh some five years before, the firm had been owned by his widow and managed by his son, Charles R. Walsh, who had made the contract with the local committee. As late as July 27, Micajah Woods had received assurance from young Walsh that the monument would be ready by the planned October unveiling. But on August 7, Mrs. Walsh entered a deed of assignment turning the business over to Mr. Plummer to arrange a settlement with its creditors. The deed provided that outstanding orders would be completed if possible, but Mr. Plummer found that for the Charlottesville monument the granite had not yet been quarried, and he had no choice but to inform Mr. Woods that the company would be unable to perform on this order.

Micajah Woods was obviously embarrassed by the situation, and his letter carried an apology to the community, recounting the untiring efforts of the committee to provide a worthy memorial and stating his intention to resign as chairman. He then looked to the brighter side by observing

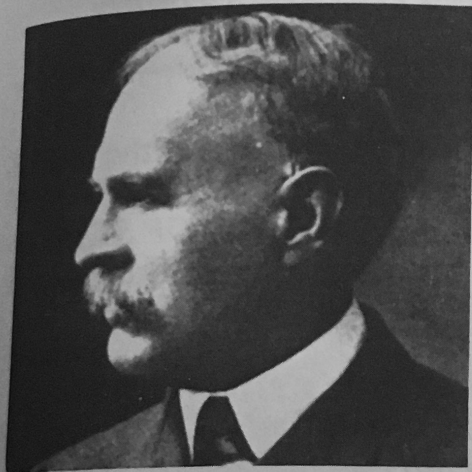
⁴⁴Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 1 September 1908.

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that the planned statue virtually duplicated numerous other such monuments throughout the state and the South. Retaining a new contractor provided the opportunity to acquire a monument "of a more distinctive type and more in accordance with classic standards."



Micajah Woods

The Monument Committee soon met and refused to accept Woods's resignation. As subsequent events transpired he emerged as the dominant figure in the great debate about the site, which now received new impetus because of the delay and the need for a new contractor. Within two weeks the UDC again came out publicly in favor of the Midway site.⁴⁵ Temporarily ignoring the issue, the Monument Committee proceeded

with the selection of a new contractor. On October 7, 1908, the committee signed an agreement with the Kyle Granite Company of Washington, D.C., to supply a monument with a granite pedestal topped by a bronze figure. The piece was to be delivered by April 1, 1909, at a cost of \$3050.⁴⁶ Among the specifications outlined in this agreement were that the granite of the pedestal be "the selected stock of LIGHT BARRE, VT. and quarried at Barre, Vermont, and is to be free from knots, starts, sap or other discolorations." The pedestal would consist of seven pieces of granite. The front, or south side, would contain the words 1861 VIRGINIA 1865 in raised letters, a Confederate flag, and a bronze tablet depicting cannon as a representation of the artillery; the east side would bear a bronze plaque with

⁴⁵*Ibid.*, 19 September 1908.

⁴⁶Micajah Woods Papers (acc.no. 1191), Spec. Coll., UVA Library.

crossed rifles representing the infantry and the chiseled inscriptions:

*1909 ERECTED BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY,
ALBEMARLE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
TO COMMEMORATE THE HEROISM OF THE VOLUNTEERS
OF CHARLOTTESVILLE AND ALBEMARLE COUNTY
and
LOVE MAKES MEMORY ETERNAL*

On the north side would be a bronze plaque with the seal of the Commonwealth and the inscription: *CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS DEFENDERS OF THE RIGHTS OF STATES*; the west side would include a bronze plaque with crossed scabbards to honor the cavalry and the chiseled inscription:

*WARRIORS: YOUR VALOR; YOUR DEVOTION TO
DUTY; YOUR FORTITUDE UNDER PRIVATIONS;
TEACH US HOW TO SUFFER AND GROW
STRONG; LEST WE FORGET.*

The bronze statue and tablets were to be cast by the American Bronze Company of Chicago, the company that apparently was to have provided the same statue to the Walsh Company under the previous agreement. Thus, in spite of the opportunity to make design changes for the better, the actual alterations were minor.

The sculptor of the bronze will probably never be known. During this period of mass manufacture of Civil War monuments, for both the North and South, there were many companies who retained the services of unidentified sculptors⁴⁷ to prepare "standard figures" of soldiers or sailors, and any civic group planning a monument could take its pick from among a number of mass produced statues. Unfortunately, records for these companies are difficult to

⁴⁷In an advertisement in the 1909 *Confederate Veteran* the American Bronze Company states simply that "the models are designed and executed by some of the best sculptors in the country." Several famous sculptors began their careers by doing commercial work of this type, but it has been impossible to establish any linkage between specific foundries and sculptors.

find, and the American Bronze Company is no exception. It was formed in 1888 and was in operation at least as late as 1910.⁴⁸ Among its more notable works are a statue of General Grant in Washington Park, St. Louis, Missouri, and one of Salmon Chase and Edwin Stanton on the capitol grounds in Columbus, Ohio.



"AT READY"

Confederate Statues in Bronze



We furnish
Statues for
ALL KINDS
of Monuments



Write Us For
Prices,
Designs,
etc.

American Bronze Foundry Co.

73rd and Woodland Ave. - - Chicago, Ill.

A comparison of the Court Square monument with others in the South seems to confirm the ubiquity of "standard figures;" the Charlottesville bronze is identical to several

⁴⁸Shapiro, *op. cit.*, p. 165.

others in Virginia and North Carolina.⁴⁹ The monument at Farmville, Virginia, which was done by the Walsh Company, has the same bronze statue, and the general design of the base is similar, differing only in some detail. The Walsh Company also executed a monument at Amelia Courthouse, Virginia, which base is identical to that at Farmville although the bronze statue is quite different.⁵⁰ Bronze statues at the North Carolina communities of Edenton, Fayetteville, Lexington, Louisburg, Oxford, and Shelby also appear identical to the Court Square statue, although the bases vary widely. Perhaps the most convincing argument for the fact that the Charlottesville bronze is a mass produced copy is an advertisement by American Bronze in the *Confederate Veteran* in 1908 showing an image identical to the Court Square statue, entitled "At Ready."⁵¹

With the new monument on order, the committee had to refocus on the controversy surrounding the site, which seemed to intensify day by day. By November 10, 1908, the Albemarle Chapter of the UDC was clearly leading the fight for the Midway site. That day's edition of the *Daily Progress* reported a resolution of the chapter at a recent meeting that demanded a plebiscite on the matter. "Until they are thoroughly satisfied as to the vote, the chapter will not rest content to let so beautiful a monument be sacrificed to so unbecoming a setting as the courthouse square." Various letters appeared in the paper; almost all supported the new location, including one by Polk Miller.

Matters came to a head at two meetings of the Monument Committee early in December.⁵² From the beginning, it was impossible to reach a decision. In favor of the Court

⁴⁹See especially R. W. Widener, *Confederate Monuments: Enduring Symbols of the South and the War Between the States* (Washington, D.C.: Andromeda Assoc., 1982).

⁵⁰Unfortunately, little information survives in these communities about the origins of their monuments.

⁵¹*Confederate Veteran*, v. 16 (1908), p. 140.

⁵²*Charlottesville Daily Progress*, 3 and 5 December 1908.

Square site were the four representatives of the county. Their argument was that they were bound by the authorizing act of the General Assembly as to the location, and it would take too long to obtain new legislation. The other members favored a public poll to determine the proper location. At the second meeting the "Midway faction," having eight of the thirteen votes present, moved that Midway be adopted as the site. Capt. Woods refused to allow a vote on the matter since the issue had already been decided by law. Thus, as the *Daily Progress* reported: "On the question of the monument site, the result showed how five votes and a technical advantage can sometimes beat eight votes."

Although the decision was made on the basis of strict interpretation of the law, the legislation contained other stipulations that were not met. For example, it authorized the raising of a sum of public money not to exceed \$2000, while \$2300 actually came from such sources. It also called for the names of all those memorialized to be inscribed on the statue and on tablets in the courthouse, neither of which was done. Finally, it authorized the appointment of committees from specific groups, but the UDC was not included.

The question was settled, but the issue would not go away. The UDC, when asked by Woods if they wanted to withdraw their financial support since the decision was contrary to their choice, rose to the occasion and stated that they would continue their support no matter where the monument was located. Yet Mrs. Charles Venable wrote a personal and impassioned plea that the untiring efforts of the UDC in taking the initiative to create this monument entitled them to some privileges in selecting the site.⁵³ Furthermore, the Albemarle Chapter of the UDC, in their official report on the monument affair, stated:

We were met, however, by unyielding, if not bitter, antagonism. The sentiment of the committee favored Midway Park, and a vote, if allowed, would have easily disclosed this fact, but this being denied, and not wishing to add discord to an undertaking of so sacred a character, we ceased further argument,

⁵³*Ibid.*, 15 December 1908.

though we left the meeting with the feeling that we had been overwhelmed by unfair and arbitrary methods.⁵⁴

Meanwhile, Polk Miller wrote again to the *Daily Progress* stating his belief that the public was so strongly in favor of the Midway site that they could tell the county to keep their money and could then raise the needed funds by subscription. He volunteered the first contribution of twenty-five dollars.⁵⁵ Only one voice was heard to support the Court Square decision. This came from the Goss-Grigsby Camp of Stony Point, who stated that they had raised fifty dollars for the cause from their community, and it was raised with the understanding that the monument would be on Court Square.⁵⁶ This was about the last heard publicly on the "great issue."

By mid-January of 1909 the Kyle Granite Company informed the committee that delivery could come as early as the third week in February, so the emphasis quickly shifted to making plans for receiving the monument and for its dedication. On February 17, 1909, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors ordered that the watering trough in front of the monument site be removed.⁵⁷ On March 6th word was received that the monument had been shipped, and it arrived in town on March 10th.

In the meantime the Monument Committee was busy with preparations. Through the efforts of congressmen representing the area, the federal government gave two Napoleon cannon for placement on either side of the monument, and the Southern Railway agreed to deliver them free of charge.⁵⁸ The guns, which arrived on April 22, were manufactured in 1863 in the Boston area, one by the Henry

⁵⁴*Ibid.*, 12 January 1909.

⁵⁵*Ibid.*, 1 January 1909.

⁵⁶*Ibid.*, 12 January 1909.

⁵⁷Albemarle County Supervisors Minutes, 1901-1909 (17 February 1909), p. 366.

⁵⁸*Ibid.* (21 April 1909), p. 379.

H. Hooper Company and the other by the Cyrus Alger Company (also called the South Boston Iron Works).⁵⁹ These were very popular smooth-bore guns used by both sides during the Civil War, but they had been developed a decade earlier in France and were named after Emperor Napoleon III. They were widely regarded as the "workhorse" of Civil War artillery because of their maneuverability and effectiveness, both at long range and in close operations against onrushing infantry.⁶⁰

Now, after long delay and with the dedication approaching, the UDC found that Miss Lettie Woods would no longer be able to perform the unveiling. Fortunately, another of Micajah Woods's daughters, Miss Sallie Stuart Woods, was available and agreed to perform that service. The orators originally selected were still available and agreed to the new date of May 5, 1909, which was the anniversary date of the organization of the Monticello Guard (Company A, Nineteenth Virginia Regiment).

The first order of business in making physical preparations for the dedication was to lay the cornerstone for the monument. The base would cover a copper box containing a number of items important to the community. A committee consisting of Judge Duke, John S. Patton, C. H. Walker, Mrs. C. C. Wertenbaker, R. H. Wood and Captain Woods was appointed both to arrange for the articles to be deposited in the box (*see Table 1*) and also to take charge of the unveiling ceremonies. Members of the Monument Committee, the Daughters of the Confederacy, the John Bowie Strange Camp of Confederate Veterans, and city and county officials met at the Red Land Club at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, March 15, 1909, to convey the copper cornerstone box to the foundation of the monument.⁶¹

⁵⁹Letter from Hampton P. Howell, Jr., to Joseph Goldsmith and Bernard Chamberlain, 10 February 1972, Virginia Historical Society.

⁶⁰D.S. Thomas, *Cannons: an Introduction to Civil War Artillery* (Gettysburg, Pa.: Thomas Publications, 1985), p. 28.

⁶¹Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 13 March 1909.

Table 1: Contents of Copper Box
in Base of Monument⁶²

- (1) Roster of the officers and members of the Albemarle Chapter Number 1 of the Daughters of the Confederacy of the County of Albemarle, and a short history of said Chapter.
- (2) Roster of all members, living and deceased, of the John Bowie Strange Camp of Confederate Veterans, known as Number 464 in the United Confederate Veterans Organization, and a short history of said Camp.
- (3) Brief history of the movements resulting in the erection of the Confederate monument, giving the names of the various officers and committees and showing the amounts contributed respectively by the County of Albemarle (\$1800), the City of Charlottesville (\$600), and by the Albemarle Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy (\$650).
- (4) List of all the officers of the County of Albemarle and the City of Charlottesville.
- (5) List of the officers and members of the R. T. W. Duke Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans, Number 583, deposited by R.T.W. Duke, Jr., Commander of said Camp.
- (6) Pamphlet containing the history of the County of Albemarle.
- (7) Pamphlet containing illustrated views of Charlottesville, Virginia.
- (8) History of the University of Virginia.
- (9) Address delivered by R.T.W. Duke, Jr., at the laying of the cornerstone of Christ Episcopal Church, comprising a history of the church.
- (10) *Southern Almanac* for the year 1909.
- (11) Copies of the *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, March 12 and 13, 1909.
- (12) Proceedings of the 20th annual meeting of the Grand Camp of Confederate Veterans, Department of Virginia, held October 23-25, 1907, in Norfolk, Va.
- (13) Envelope containing one Confederate note for \$50, one Confederate note for \$5, a silk badge of the John Bowie Strange Camp, C.V., and a brass

⁶²Micajah Woods Papers.

souvenir badge replicating the Confederate battle flag, contributed by Micajah Woods.

(14) Pamphlet containing roster of the Albemarle Light Horse, Company K, 2nd Virginia Cavalry, C.S.A.

(15) Pamphlet containing ordinances of the City of Charlottesville.

(16) *History of the County of Albemarle* by the Rev. Edgar Woods.

(17) Postal cards showing views of Charlottesville, the University of Virginia and "Monticello."

(18) Envelope containing cut of the coat of arms of the State of Virginia, contributed by C.H. Walker.

(19) Masonic Text Book.

(20) *Alumni Bulletin* containing catalogues of the University of Virginia.

(21) Pamphlet containing the Roll and Organization of the Red Land Club.

On the first day of May, Mayor E. G. Haden issued a proclamation declaring May 5th a holiday for city employees, and he expressed the hope that the school board would do the same for its students.⁶³ All was in readiness for the great day, and as usual, the ceremony was to be preceded by a huge parade. H. Clay Michie was to be the Grand Marshal and plans were carefully laid:

The Marshal and Staff and Monticello Guards will form at the Dispensary [on University Avenue across from the Corner] at 10 A.M. sharp. The procession will then form as follows: Mounted Police, General Marshal and Staff, Monticello Guards, Albemarle Chapter Daughters of the Confederacy and their invited guests and orators of the day in carriages; Faculty and Students of the University of Virginia. The procession will then march to the railroad bridge at Union Station where it will be met by the Albemarle Band, the R.T.W. Duke Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Pritchett-Salmon Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans, who will fall into the procession in the rear of the Monticello

⁶³Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 30 April 1909.

Guards to act as escorts to the procession. The procession will then march to the Midway School Building, where the John Bowie Strange Camp of Confederate Veterans and other organizations of Confederate Veterans, mounted and unmounted will fall in line at the rear of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Charlottesville Fire Company will fall in line in the rear of the Faculty and Students; the School Children in the rear of the Fire Company. The procession will then advance to 5th Street. On the head of the column reaching 5th St., Widow's Sons Lodge No. 60. A.F.& A.M. will fall in behind the Marshal and Staff. The County officials, and the Board of Supervisors and the City officials and City Council will follow the Masons. As soon as the first mounted carriage reaches Market Street the Confederate Veterans who have not been able, or owing to disability cannot come to Midway School Building and who have assembled in front of the Armory, will fall in the rear of the John Bowie Strange Camp and in front of the first carriage, and the column will then proceed to Court House Square, when the Monticello Guards will file right on Jefferson Street and form around the Court House Square, as near to the railing as possible and to the right of the entrance. The Sons of Veterans will file left on Jefferson Street, as near the railing as possible. The County and City officials and the Veterans will then enter the enclosure and be seated in the space assigned to them, the Masons having previously taken their position inside of the roped enclosure. The Daughters of the Confederacy, their invited guests, the orators and School Children will then proceed to the stations assigned to them. The other persons in line will then take such positions as may seem best to them.

The colored men, who served faithfully as cooks and body servants during the war are invited to join in the procession and participate in the exercises, and they will report at 10 o'clock to Humphrey Shelton, in front of Midway School Building, and a place will be assigned to them.

It is hoped to have the exercises commence promptly at The Monument at 11 o'clock A.M.⁶⁴

As an inducement to encourage the University of Virginia students to participate in the parade, *College Topics* reported that both Uncle Peter and Uncle Henry, popular black workers at the University, would march with the students, and the group would be led by James McConnell playing his bagpipes.⁶⁵

The Widows' Sons' Lodge No. 60 A.F. and A.M. was in charge of exercises at the monument. Such a ceremony was markedly uncustomary for the Masons and required special approval of the Grand Worshipful Master of the State. Normally, the Masonic Order had limited its public exercises to the laying of cornerstones and the burial of the dead. Now, for the first time, they would be involved with the dedication of a monument.

J. H. Lindsay, editor of the *Daily Progress*, described the festivities of the great day. He characterized the crowd as one of the largest ever seen in Charlottesville and claimed that there were twelve hundred school children in the parade, all carrying Confederate flags.⁶⁶ As Miss Woods drew the veil from the monument, the Monticello Guard fired a salute. This was followed by a salute of thirteen guns from the Napoleon canon.

Captain Carleton McCarthy of Richmond was the first speaker at the ceremonies.

[He] began his address with a graceful tribute to truth.... He claimed for the Confederate dead far

⁶⁴Program of Order of Procession--Confederate Monument Unveiling: Wednesday, May 5, 1909, Pamphlet File, Charlottesville-Albemarle Historical Collection, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library.

⁶⁵University of Virginia *College Topics*, 1 May 1909. McConnell, then a student, later became a World War I hero when he was killed in air combat while serving in the Lafayette Escadrille. The statue of "The Aviator" by Gutzon Borglum, located between Alderman and Clemons Libraries, is dedicated to his memory.

⁶⁶Richie, p. 190.

more than courage, devotion and sacrifice, insisting that their cause was a righteous cause, their service intelligent and honorable, and their principles fixed in eternal truth.... Touching on emancipation as one of the great results commonly claimed for the war, Captain McCarthy contended that slavery was not abolished, but changed in form and degree, and in its victims. It is more widely distributed than the slavery of the blacks, since it is a change from blacks to all, and from one section to the whole land. The real freedom is to come out of the past through the reestablishment of the public virtues which unhallowed and wicked power had destroyed. The overthrown ideals of civic virtue and patriotic sacrifice must be restored and the noble history of this State reenacted in the lives of their growing sons....⁶⁷

Senator John W. Daniel's address recounted many of the campaigns of the Civil War.

With vigor and felicity..., [Daniel] revived the romance of the struggle with Lee, Jackson, Forrest and many others as the heroes of his moving tale. It was inevitable that he should use the witchery of his eloquence in praise of the Confederate soldier and of the Confederate women, who, more than the soldier, in his view, deserved to be remembered with eternal gratitude for their sacrifices....⁶⁸

The ceremonies concluded with brief but eloquent remarks by Representative Samuel Warner McCall of Massachusetts, who would be the featured orator that evening at a reunion and banquet honoring the Albemarle Light

⁶⁷*Ibid.*

⁶⁸*Ibid.* Several years later, a fine bronze of Senator Daniel by the eminent Virginia sculptor Sir Moses Ezekiel, who did the Jefferson statue at the north front of the Rotunda, was placed along Fort Avenue in Daniel's home town of Lynchburg, Va.

Horse.⁶⁹ McCall had previously been a Boston newspaper editor and later became governor of Massachusetts. His selection as the orator for the reunion of a Confederate unit seems strange, and no contemporary sources account for it. Perhaps the explanation lies in his well-known reputation as an orator; certainly it was not because he had been a Congressional leader in the movement for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.



Court Square, photo by Holsinger Studio,
Courtesy Special Collections, UVA Library

⁶⁹Richie, *op. cit.*, and others identify McCall incorrectly as S.J. McCall, but he is named correctly in the *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, 5 May 1909.

At the dedication, Representative McCall gave the veterans what they wanted to hear. He paid tribute to General Lee and the splendid Army of Northern Virginia, stating that if the Union could not be overthrown by the magnificent courage and brilliant leadership of the Southern Army, then it seemed safe forever.

After the exercises were concluded the visiting camps of Veterans and Sons, over a thousand strong, marched to the armory of the Monticello Guard on Market Street, where they enjoyed a delightful luncheon served by a committee of the R. T. W. Duke Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

That evening a gala affair, the Albemarle Light Horse reunion and banquet, took place at the Colonial Hotel.⁷⁰ Captain Micajah Woods was the toastmaster. Among the distinguished guests were General Thomas T. Munford, the old commander of the Light Horse, Senator Daniel, S. A. Cunningham of Nashville, editor of the magazine *Confederate Veteran*, Colonel W. T. Poague of Lexington, Virginia, in whose battalions were one or more Albemarle artillery companies, and Judge Samuel Williams of Abingdon, Virginia.⁷¹ The ranks of the Light Horse clearly were thinning. Only fifteen were able to answer this muster; five years earlier the number had been about thirty, while a grand reunion at Fry's Spring in 1897 had seen fifty members gather.

General Munford, who at the age of seventy-eight was described as appearing much younger, delivered a beautiful and touching address to his old comrades. Senator Daniel and Judge Williams also made remarks. Representative McCall, the featured speaker, exhibited the wit and elegance for which he was noted. But the theme of his oration can hardly have appealed to his audience. Although he honored

⁷⁰This building, which still stands on Court Square at the corner of East Jefferson and 6th Street, was for many years the leading hotel in Charlottesville.

⁷¹Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, 6 May 1909. For a fuller history of the Light Horse, see R.G. Magruder, "Albemarle Light Horse, Troop K," *MACH* 45(1987), pp. 1-18.

the South for its love of home rule and domestic control, as a disciple of Chief Justice Marshall he strongly believed that the Constitution of the United States and the laws made under it were the supreme law of the land. Thus, while the rights of the states should be carefully guarded, no state had a right to leave or break the Union. Nevertheless, his remarks were liberally applauded. Were the old Confederates beginning to mellow a bit, or was it that they were simply in a good humor? The *Daily Progress* reported that the banqueters, all feeling happy, dispersed at about 9 o'clock after being inspired by liquids that flowed from the Monticello Wine Company and words that flowed from the orators.

Perhaps the banquet ended with the recitation of a poem written about the monument by W. Sam Burnley.⁷² Certainly it would have been appropriate, as the following excerpt shows:

It is pleasing to see you, brave comrade up there,
 Picketed here on the old Court House Square.
 Your companions here gathered in the dark days of
 yore,
 And nobly went forth to fight and endure;
 Went forth for States Rights, went forth for the
 South -
 And undaunted they charged to the cannon's grim
 mouth.

Yes, when we weigh and consider, we all must
 declare,
 'Twas proper to place you on the old Court House
 Square -
 For 'twas here that you came at war's first alarms
 You volunteered here at the first call to arms.
 Here shall you stand while the years wing their
 flight,
 The defender of Home and the Champion of
 Right....

You were fashioned by Yankees, thrice happy the
 thought;

⁷²Micajah Woods Papers.

They clothed you in bronze and well have they
wrought -
In the dread days of conflict you taught them to
"feel,"
By daring and doing the thrust of your steel.
Though fashioned by Yankees, the work was well
done -
You inspired the chisel by the glories you won....

A health to you comrade, a wreath for your brow,
You stood by us then, and we'll stand by you now.
Your cause will aye live in song and in story,
Sublime in its sadness, immortal in glory.

C. The Rotunda Tablets

After the unveiling of Caspar Buberl's fine statue in the Confederate cemetery in 1893, the Ladies Confederate Memorial Association turned their attention to "devising means to memorialize in some way commensurate with their peerless worth the student heroes sacrificed in the war."⁷³ Early plans were quite ambitious. The first called for a grand alumni memorial hall. Charles Kent, Professor of English Literature at the University, writing in the *Confederate Veteran* of August 1898, described this proposed edifice as "...a miniature Parthenon sometime to adorn one of our beautiful knolls.... On the walls and around the rooms of this memorial hall will be portraits and busts of our distinguished dead, and in the archives will be preserved the precious mementos of their lives and achievements."

Professor Kent also noted that the transept opposite the organ in the University's handsome new chapel had been left blank for a bronze plaque of sufficient size to accommodate the names of its fallen heroes. When it became clear that the funding for the memorial hall was beyond reach, a grand arch at the entrance to the University was proposed.

⁷³The principal source for this account is: "The Presentation of Tablets in Memory of the University Confederate Dead, May 23, 1906," *Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia*, New Series, vol. VI, no. 1 (May 1906).

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