

SKETCH OF THE ORIGIN AND ERECTION
OF THE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE
AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN

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Sketch
of the
Origin and Erection
of the
Confederate Memorial
Institute
at Richmond, Virginia



Prepared by
HON. GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN
Vice-President

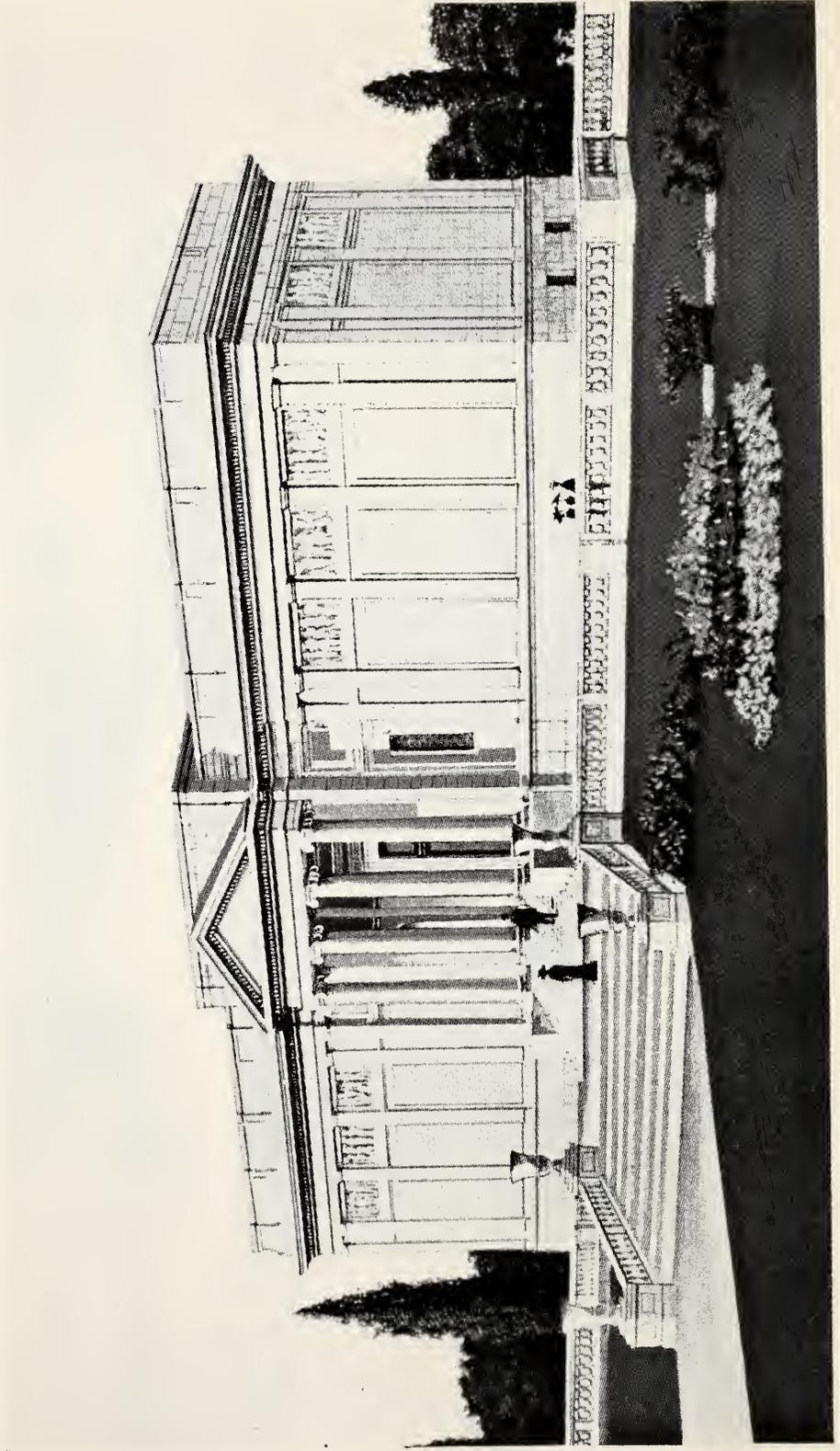
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THE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

Confederate Memorial Institute, Richmond, Va

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Sketch *of* the Origin *and* Erection
of the
Confederate Memorial Institute
at Richmond, Virginia

CHARLES BROADWAY ROUSS

The Confederate Memorial Institute, known as the "Battle Abbey," located at Richmond, Virginia, was the conception of the late Charles Broadway Rouss, who was a gallant private soldier in the Army of Northern Virginia. Mr. Rouss was a native of Winchester, Virginia, and when the War Between the States ended, like nearly all other Confederates, was left poor, by reason of the failure of the Confederacy. But whilst he had lost nearly everything else, he had not lost his love for the Confederate cause and his admiration for the achievements of the leaders and other noble defenders wrought in defence of that cause.

Imbued with that integrity, energy and business capacity which command success, he started life anew by opening a small retail ready-made clothing store on East Broad Street, in Richmond, Virginia. By industry, hardships and by rigid economy, doubtless born of his life as a soldier in the Confederate Army, and by uniform fair dealing, and with that spirit of generosity and loyalty to principle which characterized his whole life, his business soon outgrew the capacity of his little store in poverty-stricken and partially destroyed Richmond, and so he removed it and his family to the great and prosperous city of New York, where in a few years he amassed a fortune. But these changes of circumstances and surround-

ings wrought no change in his loyalty and devotion to his people and their cause; and so, after having made princely gifts to his home town, Winchester, the University of Virginia, and other places in the South: at the Confederate Re-union, held in Houston, Texas, in the summer of 1896, he submitted to that great body of Confederates an offer to give the sum of a hundred thousand dollars, upon the sole condition that the people of the whole South would raise a like sum, to be devoted to the erection and maintenance of a memorial building, in which should be gathered and kept for all time, memorials of the Confederate Cause and of the leaders and defenders, both in the civil and military departments of the Confederate government, and to commemorate the achievements, sacrifices and splendid bearing of both the men and women of the South, in their glorious struggle for constitutional freedom and independence. This generous offer on the part of Mr. Rouss was enthusiastically received and promptly accepted by the Convention of Veterans then in session, and a strong committee was appointed to obtain a charter of incorporation and to effect an organization to carry out the project then and there, for the first time, suggested by Mr. Rouss. This charter was granted by a court of the State of Mississippi. It was prepared by an accomplished Mississippi lawyer, but because of some of its provisions, and especially that requiring a very large number of trustees residing in the different States and territories comprising or sympathizing with the Confederacy, it proved to be impracticable and almost unworkable; and this provision for this large number of trustees has been a source of delay and expense from the beginning in the efforts to carry on the work and accomplish the purposes of the corporation. Among other things, it provided for the appointment of a trustee from each of the nineteen States and territories forming or sympathizing with the late Confederacy; and, in addition to these, it also gave to any person or corporation contributing as much as fifty thousand dollars to the enterprise, the right to appoint a trustee to represent such person or corporation. This fixed the number of trustees at

first at twenty, and the following are the names and States represented by them, as named in the charter, namely:

George D. Johnston.....Alabama
John B. CaryVirginia
Robert WhiteWest Virginia
J. A. ChalloranLouisiana
B. H. Teague.....South Carolina
Thomas S. KeenanNorth Carolina
W. H. JacksonTennessee
John A. CaslerOklahoma
John M. Hickey.....Washington, D. C.
D. K. McIntosh.....Mississippi
W. D. ChipleyFlorida
A. G. Dickerson.....New York
(Representing Mr. Rouss)
John GillMaryland
A. E. AsburyMissouri
John B. BriggsKentucky
Clement A. Evans.....Georgia
W. P. Campbell.....Arkansas
S. A. RossTexas
D. M. Haley.....Indian Territory

We believe it to be a fact that (with one exception) every one of these has since died.

ORGANIZATION.

The first meeting of these trustees was held at Lookout Mountain, Tenn., on September 21, 1896, at which meeting the charter was accepted, by-laws adopted, officers elected and an executive committee appointed.

Among other provisions of these by-laws, there was a novel one authorizing these trustees to vote in subsequent meetings by proxy. We think it may be safely affirmed that

there was no subsequent meeting of these trustees held at which a majority *in person* was found to be present, and the statement of this fact alone shows how greatly the appointing of this large number of trustees, residing so remotely from each other, militated against the progress and completion of the great work then and there inaugurated.

The officers elected at this initial meeting were:

GENERAL W. D. CHIPLEY, *President*, from Florida.

GENERAL CLEMENT A. EVANS, *Vice-President*, from Georgia.

And the following Executive Committee, namely:

GENERAL WILLIAM H. JACKSON, *Chairman*, from Tennessee.

GENERAL J. B. BRIGGS, *Member*, from Kentucky.

GENERAL ROBERT WHITE, *Member*, from West Virginia.

GENERAL S. A. ROSS, *Member*, from Texas.

General White was then elected Manager, and the Fourth National Bank of Nashville, Tenn., chosen as Treasurer.

LOCATION OF THE BUILDING.

On July 23, 1898, there was quite a full meeting of the trustees, counting those represented both in person and by proxy, held at the Kimball House, in Atlanta, Georgia. Colonel John B. Cary, the trustee from Virginia, having died, Honorable J. Taylor Ellyson, of Richmond, Virginia, was chosen to fill the vacancy thus created. The most important matter disposed of at that meeting was the selection of the city in which this memorial building was to be located. There was several cities competing for this honor, namely, Nashville, Asheville, Vicksburg, New Orleans, Montgomery, Jackson, Miss., and Richmond, Va. After a full and free discussion, both by the trustees and representatives from each of the cities above named, the board unanimously decided to locate this building at Richmond, the late capital of the Confederacy, and certainly it may be justly claimed that the generosity since

displayed by the municipal government and people of Richmond has fully vindicated the choice of the Board of Trustees in deciding to erect this building in Richmond. No *place* in the City of Richmond was even suggested by the trustees in making this selection, but this whole matter was left by them, with other details, to the determination of the Executive Committee. General Jackson, the chairman of this committee, having resigned, General Robert White, of West Virginia was chosen as his successor, and a more faithful and efficient officer for the work to be accomplished could scarcely have been selected. In a very few years, General Chipley, the president, having died, General Evans, the vice-president, was elected to fill that vacancy; but General Evans, recognizing that the distance of his residence in Atlanta was too great to enable him to properly discharge the duties of his office, he, after a few years of faithful service, also resigned, and the Honorable J. Taylor Ellyson, of Richmond, was elected President to succeed him.

ELECTION OF A SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT.

The first Secretary and Superintendent chosen by the Board to secure the hundred thousand dollars to meet the contribution offered by Mr. Rouss, was Colonel Robert C. Wood. Colonel Wood was doubtless an honest man and an ardent, patriotic Confederate; but, notwithstanding this, and the fact that Mr. Rouss, in his great generosity and zeal, contributed more than five thousand dollars to pay Colonel Wood's expenses in the performance of his task thus undertaken, yet in the several years which he held this position, the records do not disclose that he collected and accounted for one-half as much as Mr. Rouss had contributed to pay his expenses.

JOHN C. UNDERWOOD CHOSEN AS SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT.

And so the Board of Trustees removed Colonel Wood and chose as his successor one John C. Underwood, of Kentucky. The Board, through General Chipley, as its President, agreed to pay Underwood twenty-five per cent. of the amount he might secure for this fund. He started out with a great "flourish of trumpets" and apparent energy and activity and secured the pledges of many large contributors, some of them the most prominent and wealthy men in the country. Unfortunately for the Association, these pledges of these quasi-contributors provided that the contributions represented by them should only be payable when Underwood had secured the hundred thousand dollars he was especially appointed to secure; and since he never secured anything like that amount, or, if he did, he could never be made to account to the corporation therefor, the date of payment of these pledges never arrived; and besides this, Underwood is said to have used many of these pledges as collateral with his bank at Covington, Kentucky, to raise money which he is said to have devoted to his own use. He also made collections from Confederates and Confederate organizations in different States of the South, but the Executive Committee could never succeed in getting from him any satisfactory account of his transactions, or any account of the amount of these collections. As a last resort, the committee threatened to appeal to the courts to *make* him render such an account and settlement, and when Underwood saw that these proceedings were about to be commenced, he assigned his pretended claim against the corporation to one John W. Shaughnessy, of Brooklyn, New York, including in that false and pretended claim twenty-five per cent. of the one hundred thousand dollars voluntarily offered to be contributed by Mr. Rouss, which offer was really the origin of the corporation and which Mr. Rouss was voluntarily paying into the treasury of the corporation, and was so ready and anxious to perform the patriotic undertaking on his part that he agreed to pay ten thousand dollars in advance of the amount secured by Underwood and also paid a part of the expenses

incurred by him. Shaughnessy, as assignee of Underwood, brought suit on this pretended claim against the corporation in the District Court of the United States for New York, and Mr. Rouss having died when he had paid sixty thousand dollars of the one hundred thousand dollars agreed to be contributed by him, and having directed his son and executor, Mr. Peter Winchester Rouss, to pay the forty thousand dollars balance, when due, Shaughnessy, assignee, sued out an attachment in his iniquitous suit and attached in the hands of Mr. Peter Winchester Rouss this balance of forty thousand dollars which Mr. Charles Broadway Rouss had directed his son and executor to pay out of his estate. There were many delays in bringing this suit to a trial, and several years were consumed in bringing these court proceedings to a final conclusion. Mr. Ellyson, as President, and General White, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, were active and efficient in looking after the interests of the corporation in this unfortunate and outrageous litigation, and they spent much time and money in doing this. They were very fortunate in securing as their counsel in these matters Messrs. George Gordon Battle and H. Snowden Marshall, then practicing law at the New York bar under the firm name of Battle & Marshall, both devoted Southerners and both declined to accept any compensation for their arduous and successful work for the corporation.

VERDICT AND JUDGMENT AGAINST THE CORPORATION IN THE LOWER COURT.

The result of the trial of this cause in the District Court was that before an unsympathizing jury and under the instructions of an unsympathizing judge, a verdict was found against the corporation for the sum of sixteen thousand dollars and judgment was rendered on that verdict for that amount and the costs. An appeal was then taken to the Circuit Court of Appeals for that circuit, and this judgment of the court below was reversed, and the whole fraudulent suit brought by Shaughnessy, assignee of Underwood, was dismissed with costs against the plaintiff by the Circuit Court of Appeals.

UNDERWOOD DISMISSED.

Underwood was, of course, dismissed as the representative of the corporation, and what money could be obtained from him and the bank at Covington was turned over to Judge George L. Christian, of Richmond, Virginia, who had been appointed Treasurer, and who held that position for about twenty years, when he had to resign on account of ill health. At the suggestion of Judge Christian, the Virginia Trust Company was chosen as his successor, and the funds then in his hands were turned over to the Trust Company, a strong and most competent Treasurer.

REV. J. WM. JONES CHOSEN TO SUCCEED UNDERWOOD.

The Rev. John William Jones, D. D., the then Chaplain-General of the U. C. V.'s, and a well known and devoted Confederate, was then appointed by the Executive Committee as Secretary and Superintendent, to secure the balance necessary to meet the proffered contribution of Mr. Rouss. Dr. Jones worked diligently and earnestly for about six years; but the conduct of Underwood, as above set forth, had discredited the patriotic undertaking in the minds of the public, and especially in the minds of the Southern people, to such an alarming extent that in the period employed by Dr. Jones he could make but little progress in securing the amount necessary to meet the condition of the contribution offered by Mr. Rouss. Dr. Jones then applied to several wealthy and generous citizens of Richmond and vicinity, and with the amount which had been obtained by him, with the sums secured from Wood and Underwood, made a little over fifty thousand dollars, which was only a little over half the amount necessary to meet the conditions of the contribution offered by Mr. Rouss. An appeal was then made by prominent Confederates, men and women, of the City of Richmond, to the Council of the city to obtain the other fifty thousand dollars, which was

granted by the Council, and Judge George L. Christian appointed a trustee to represent the city on the Board of Trustees, and in that way only, the requisite one hundred thousand dollars was secured.

STEPS TO LOCATE AND COMMENCE BUILDING.

Mr. Peter Winchester Rouss, as the heir and executor of his late father, promptly paid into the treasury of the corporation the forty thousand dollars, balance of his father's proffered contribution, as soon as he could do so after the dismissal of the suit brought by Shaughnessy, Assignee, and as soon as the two hundred thousand dollars had reached the hands of the then Treasurer, Judge George L. Christian, and deposited by him in the banks of Richmond, the Executive Committee, with Mr. Ellyson as President, and General White as the chairman of that committee, began to take steps to find a location for the building in Richmond. Many resident Confederates, and especially many of the ladies interested in Confederate organizations and work, desired the building to be located on the lot then and now occupied by the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, or in that immediate vicinity, and several years were consumed in the discussion and selection of a location in that section of the city. As before stated, the order of the trustees locating the building in Richmond did not specify any place in that city, but resolved:

“(1) That Richmond, Virginia, shall be chosen as the location for the Confederate Memorial Institute; and resolved

“(2) That the Executive Committee is directed to select a site for the building, and to that extent the said committee is empowered to open and conclude negotiations with the people of Richmond through Confederate organizations, or in any manner they may deem best, with power to arrange all matters and details connected therewith which may be necessary to the consummation of the desired object.”

LOCATION OF LOT SUBMITTED TO LEE AND PICKETT CAMPS.

The question as to whether the location should be on or near the lot occupied by the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, or in that section of the city, or in the "West End," was finally agreed to be submitted to the determination of Lee and Pickett Camps, the only two Confederate camps then in existence in Richmond, and the vote of these camps was overwhelmingly in favor of a location in the "West End." This was so indefinite, however, that several years more were consumed in determining where in the West End the location should be fixed. Many wanted Monroe Park; others at the intersection of Grace and Ryland Streets, on a part of what was then the Richmond College campus; others at the intersection of Franklin Street and Monument Avenue, and several years were actually consumed in finally determining at what point in the West End the location should be.

This question was happily determined by the action of the Board of Trustees of the Soldiers' Home, co-operating and uniting with Governor W. H. Mann, and the Legislature of Virginia in tendering to the Confederate Memorial Association about six and one-third acres of the twenty-five acres then belonging to the State and occupied by the Soldiers' Home. This tender of this six and one-third acres was promptly accepted by the Executive Committee of the Confederate Memorial Association on April 5, 1910, and steps were then taken to procure designs for the building and erecting the same on this lot. Designs for the building were then advertised for, and ninety-seven designs were submitted by architects residing in every State in the Union and one from England. When all of these designs were submitted by these several architects, a jury of award, consisting of Mr. Ellyson, Mr. James Knox Taylor, the architect of the Federal Treasury Department, and Mr. William C. Noland, a distinguished architect of this city, were appointed to select that design which, in their judgment, was best suited for the Memorial Building. These gentlemen

selected the design of Messrs. Bissell & Sinkler, architects of Philadelphia. The building contract was awarded to and executed by Messrs. Metzger & Wells, builders, also of Philadelphia, and the grounds were laid off and shrubs and trees planted therein by the famous landscape gardener, Warren P. Manning, of Boston. This lot thus donated by the State and R. E. Lee Camp No. 1, forms a beautiful park, fronting three hundred and seventy-nine feet on the Boulevard, the most fashionable and attractive driveway in the most progressive and attractive section of the city, running back between Stuart and Kensington Avenues, seven hundred and thirty feet, to Sheppard Street, and contains, as before stated, about six and one-third acres of ground, and is now estimated to be worth about four hundred thousand dollars.

CORNER-STONE LAID.

The corner-stone was laid with Masonic and other appropriate ceremonies, on May 20, 1912, General Robert White, Chairman of the Executive Committee, delivering a most appropriate address. The ground for the building was first broken by J. Taylor Ellyson Crump, the young grandson of President Ellyson, and Eppa Hunton IV., whose paternal grandfather was General Eppa Hunton, and whose maternal grandfather was General William H. Payne, both of whom were distinguished officers in the Confederate Army. Even before the corner-stone was laid, resolutions were adopted by the Executive Committee of the Confederate Memorial Association, asking Lee Camp to donate the portraits and archives then owned by the Camp and hung in the portrait gallery of what was then their Assembly Hall, located on Broad Street, between Fifth and Sixth, in Richmond. This application was presented to the Camp on January 10, 1912, but was then laid on the table by the Camp, and it was not until March 14, 1919, that a proposition was made to the Camp, signed by Mr. Ellyson, as President, and Judge George L. Christian, Treasurer and Trustee. The proposition contained

in this application to the Camp by Mr. Ellyson and Judge Christian, asked the Camp to unite with the Confederate Memorial Association and build an annex to the so-called "Battle Abbey," the former paying three-fifths of the cost and the latter two-fifths, this annex to be used by the Camp as a meeting hall and as a gallery for the housing of its portraits and archives. This proposition made by these representatives of the Confederate Memorial Association was subsequently granted by the Camp, although it was not granted without meeting with strenuous opposition from another distinguished Confederate organization, competing for these gifts and by a few members of the Camp as well.

About the time the corner-stone was laid, it was stated by Mr. Ellyson, as President in the "*Confederate Veteran*" and in local papers of Richmond, that the Confederate Memorial Association did not wish to collect Confederate relics of the war, or to compete with the great work accomplished by the Confederate Memorial Literary Society in gathering these relics, but that its efforts would be devoted to the collection and preservation of portraits, paintings and statuary of our Confederate statesmen and heroes, and of statuary mural tablets and books for a library for the use of the future historian.

MURAL PAINTINGS.

Very soon after the completion of the main building, Mr. Ellyson suggested to his friend, Mr. Thomas Fortune Ryan, a wealthy, generous and patriotic citizen of Virginia, that he wished to decorate the walls of the southern room in the building with mural military paintings of some of our great leaders and stirring events of the war. Mr. Ryan readily acceded to this suggestion of his friend, Mr. Ellyson, and offered to contribute twenty thousand dollars for that purpose. Mr. Ryan and Mr. Ellyson then secured for this work the services of Mr. Charles Hoffbaur, a distinguished French artist, then located in New York City. Mr. Hoffbaur promptly agreed to undertake this task and came to Richmond late in 1913 to



GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

Commander of the Confederate Armies and his Corps
Commanders and their Staffs

*(Cut from one of the Mural Paintings by Charles Hoffbauer,
in the Confederate Memorial Institute.)*

begin his work. He had scarcely made a beginning, when the so-called "World War" broke out, about the first of August, 1914. Mr. Hoffbaur was a native Frenchman; was born, and had spent the greater part of his life in Paris. Within a few days after France and Belgium were invaded by German armies, this patriotic Frenchman laid aside his brush and palette and went at once to join his country's colors, both in Belgium and in France, in the capacity of a private soldier, and from that time to the end of the war, like the patriot that he was, he gave his whole heart and services to the defence of his country. Mr. Hoffbaur was decorated several times for gallant conduct on the field, and for a short time he was employed by the French Government to paint scenes for that Government representing those along the front of the French armies. He remained but a few months in this last-named employment, and voluntarily returned to his regiment at the front, and was thus engaged in the defence of his country, and, necessarily, absent from his work in executing the mural paintings here, for nearly five years. As soon as the war was over in Europe and he could get his discharge as a soldier, he promptly returned to Richmond and finished the undertaking he had left to go to the defence of his country, and after working assiduously for nearly two years, completed these mural paintings to the satisfaction and admiration of every one, on the 31st day of January, 1921, and then returned to his home in Paris to execute other works of art there and elsewhere, only awaiting his return, some time in February of that year.

THE JOHN BARTON PAYNE PAINTINGS.

In 1920, Hon. John Barton Payne, late Secretary of the Interior in President Wilson's Cabinet, a native of Virginia, and an ardent Confederate sympathizer, devoted to the history and traditions of his mother State, offered to donate to that State a large number of beautiful paintings, some of them by the "old masters," and nearly all of them beautiful and valuable. This tender was made by Judge Payne to the Commonwealth, through Governor Westmoreland Davis. Governor Davis, as required by law, referred these paintings to the Art Commission of the State, and that commission readily advised the acceptance of the gift thus tendered to the State. There was no place in Richmond in which to place these paintings and without a suitable place, the gift could not have been consummated at all. Judge Christian, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Confederate Memorial Association, seeing this, promptly came to the rescue of the State of Virginia and offered the north room of the "Battle Abbey" as a gallery in which to place these paintings until the State could build a suitable place for them. The Governor and Judge Christian, and other friends in and out of the Legislature, secured from the State an appropriation of four thousand dollars to put this room in a suitable condition for the reception of these paintings, and this room is now decorated with them, and is a most beautiful and attractive place. This action of Judge Christian was subsequently approved by the Executive Committee, and the motives for securing these paintings in this place at this time were:

First.—That without the tender of this room, the gift to the State could not have been consummated at all.

Secondly.—It was most desirable to have this attraction in the building until other gifts could be secured; and

Thirdly.—Because it was hoped by the Executive Committee that these paintings would form the nucleus for the erection of an art gallery in Richmond in the not distant future.

LEE CAMP ANNEX.

Having secured from Lee Camp the gift of its portraits and archives, it was, of course, necessary to build the annex in which to place them, and which had been submitted to the Camp by the proposition of Mr. Ellyson and Judge Christian, and favorably acted on by the Camp.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on September 10, 1919, the proposition of Mr. Ellyson and Judge Christian to build this annex according to the terms of that proposition, was unanimously approved by that Board, and the Executive Committee was authorized to make the expenditure of money and to do whatever was necessary to be done to complete the building of this annex, and committees, both from the Confederate Memorial Association and from the camp, were appointed and empowered to erect this annex. Messrs. Baskerville and Lambert, reliable and competent local architects, were selected by this joint commission of the Camp and Memorial Association, and a contract to complete this undertaking was awarded to Messrs. A. M. Walkup & Co., of Richmond, and the work begun in March, 1920. It was thought at the time by the architects and contractors that this work could be completed in about six or eight months, but it has been greatly retarded by strikes, causing inability to get materials and by the disorganized conditions of labor and the transportation companies, existing throughout this and other countries. It is hoped and believed now that this annex, and indeed all the work necessary to the completion of both the memorial building and annex will be finished and adorned during the summer of 1921; and when this great undertaking is accomplished, it is confidently believed that the three rooms of this memorial building, with the splendid grounds on which they stand, will be the most beautiful, lasting and fitting memorial of the Confederate Cause and the bearing and achievements of the men and women who espoused that cause, to be found in the world.

J. TAYLOR ELLYSON AND GENERAL
ROBERT WHITE.

It is due to the late J. Taylor Ellyson, of Richmond, as President, and General Robert White, of Wheeling, W. Va., as Chairman of the Executive Committee, that the praise due to each of them should appear in this sketch, because these two gallant soldiers and useful and patriotic citizens have been criticised by many who were ignorant of the fact of the great delay which has occurred in the completion and opening of this memorial building. Mr. Ellyson was one of the most gallant and devoted Confederate soldiers that enlisted and fought in the Confederate armies. He was a useful, enterprising, patriotic and devoted citizen of Virginia. For twenty-five years, as Chairman of the Democratic Party, he led that party to victory. He filled for three terms of four years each the office of Lieutenant-Governor of the State, and also for several terms the office of Mayor of the City of Richmond and President of the Common Council, and he would never have been chosen to succeed that gallant and patriotic member of the board, Colonel John B. Cary, if it had not been recognized that he would be a worthy successor to Colonel Cary. The delays which have occurred in the completion of this memorial building were absolutely unavoidable and insurmountable, and no one, we believe, suffered by those delays and the disappointments incident to them as did Mr. Ellyson. Indeed, we do not hesitate to say that we believe they contributed to the ill health which caused his death. It seems to have been a strange and sad Providence that this gentleman and patriot should have passed away on the very day that Mr. Hoffbauer's telegram came, announcing that he would be in Richmond to complete his work of art as soon as he could possibly get his discharge from the French Army, and that Mr. Ellyson, who had done so much, and suffered so long in trying to complete the memorial building in all of its details, was thus denied the pride and pleasure which would have come to him in witnessing the consummation of his task in that behalf.

And the same is true, to a great extent, of General White, the Chairman of the Executive Committee for so many years. General White was a gallant officer in the Confederate Army. He was driven by the enemy from his home in West Virginia, where comparatively few were loyal to the Confederate Cause. When the war ended, he was forbidden to practice his profession as a lawyer in order to make a living for those who were dependent on him. But later he became the Attorney-General of the State of West Virginia, and by his ability, devotion to principle and fidelity to duty in all the spheres of life in which he was placed, there was no man in his State, or indeed in the South, who occupied a more exalted position than did General White.

JUDGE GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN.

When John C. Underwood was dismissed because of his misconduct and evil machinations, Judge Christian was elected, without his knowledge, Treasurer of the Confederate Memorial Association. He filled that position for nearly twenty years, and during that time, although nearly three hundred thousand dollars passed through his hands as Treasurer, he refused to receive one dollar in the way of compensation for the work and the responsibilities incident to his office, and even when the Trustees offered to pay his expenses in attending on the meetings of the Association, held at the several places in which the Re-unions of the Confederate Veterans were held, from year to year, he refused to accept these expenses, preferring to pay his own way. He only resigned the position as Treasurer when the condition of his health had become so precarious that he felt it necessary for him to do this, and he then practically selected his own successor, the Virginia Trust Company, of which we have heretofore spoken.

When Mr. Ellyson died, on the 18th of March, 1919, as before stated, Judge Christian was the only surviving trustee then living in Richmond, or in the State of Virginia; and so

the administration of all the assets and affairs of the Confederate Memorial Association, with more than seventy-three thousand dollars in cash and good securities in the treasury, fell on him. He was then just recovering from a long and serious illness, and this condition of his health, together with sufferings from wounds received in battle, warned him that his physical strength was unequal to the task then devolving on him alone. He would gladly have shifted these responsibilities to other and abler shoulders, and indeed tried to do this, but found no one who would consent to undertake this great task. To have allowed the failure of this great and patriotic undertaking—the actual money value of the assets of the corporation then estimated to be worth nearly, if not quite, a half million dollars, would have been a reflection on the people of the South, and especially on the people of Richmond and Virginia, that would have been a disgrace to that people throughout many coming generations. Judge Christian, therefore, determined to try to carry this work to completion. He first secured the appointment of Honorable John Lamb, a gallant Confederate soldier, and for sixteen years, the able and efficient representative of the Richmond district in the Congress of the United States, as Trustee, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Ellyson, and he then got Mr. Peter Winchester Rouss, of New York, to appoint Mr. Alvin M. Smith, a son of a one-armed Confederate soldier and a prominent, able and enterprising business man of Richmond, as his Trustee. These two appointments secured a majority of the Executive Committee residing in Richmond, and better and more helpful appointments could hardly have been secured. The work of Captain Lamb, who was subsequently made the Superintendent and Secretary of the corporation, has been of inestimable value both to Judge Christian and to the corporation, and Mr. Smith has also been zealous active and efficient in doing all he could to advance the work and affairs of the corporation.

After filling several vacancies then existing in the Board of Trustees, a meeting was called to be held in Richmond on September 10, 1919, principally to reorganize the corporation

by the election of the necessary officers and executive committee and to make the appropriations necessary to build the annex and carry on and complete the great work for which the corporation was designed. Although all the trustees then in existence were informed by letter of the condition of the affairs of the corporation and of the proposed appropriation and other steps necessary to build the annex and to finish the work necessary to the completion of the memorial in all respects, only four of these trustees who are non-residents of Richmond could be secured to attend in person, the rest, and a majority, being represented by proxy. At this meeting, General Julian S. Carr, a gallant Confederate and a conspicuously prominent and patriotic citizen of the "Old North State," was, on the motion of Judge Christian, elected President, to fill the vacancy in that office caused by the death of Mr. Ellyson, and it is due to General Carr to say, that he is a worthy successor of that able and faithful officer, and has done all that any one could have done, residing at a distance, to advance the work of the corporation.

A BOARD OF LADY MANAGERS AUTHORIZED.

At this same meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized the appointment by the Executive Committee of a Board of Lady Managers, and the appointment of this board, and the zeal, energy and taste which have been exhibited by its members, have contributed in a great degree to the progress and completion of the task begun and assumed by this corporation. The Board at this same meeting also elected Judge Christian as Vice-President, Captain John Lamb as Secretary and Superintendent, and the following executive committee, namely:

General Carr, the President, Chairman ex-officio; Judge Christian, Vice-President; Captain Lamb, Superintendent and Secretary; Mr. Alvin M. Smith, of Richmond, Va., and General B. H. Teague, of South Carolina, being the other members of the Executive Committee. General Teague has

since died, and General C. M. Reed, of Anderson, S. C., has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by his death. The Virginia Trust Company was also elected Treasurer at the same time.

The names and residences of the other trustees are as follows:

Colonel J. R. Miller, Eustis, Fla.; General W. J. Beahan, New Orleans, La.; Colonel R. M. Sneed, Oklahoma City, Okla.; General William M. Epps, Knoxville, Tenn.; Honorable Thomas M. Owen, Montgomery, Ala.; General John A. Webb, Jackson, Miss.; Judge Peter W. Meldrim, Savannah, Ga.; Captain J. M. Hickey, 2403 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.; Honorable W. C. Ratcliffe, Little Rock, Ark.; Doctor Samuel M. Austin, Lewisburg, W. Va.; General C. M. Reed, Anderson, South Carolina; Reverend H. M. Wharton, D. D., Baltimore, Md.; Major John H. Leathers, Louisville, Ky.; Colonel John B. Stone, Kansas City, Mo., and General K. M. Van Zandt, Fort Worth, Texas.

The following are the names of the Board of Lady Managers, all of whom reside in Richmond, namely:

Mrs. Chiles M. Ferrell, President; Mrs. Thomas P. Bryan, Vice-President; Mrs. George L. Christian, Treasurer; Mrs. Hugh Antrim, Secretary; Mrs. J. Taylor Ellyson, Mrs. A. D. Williams, Mrs. Frederick W. Scott, Mrs. Coleman Wortham, Mrs. Kate Pleasants Minor, Mrs. O. Herbert Funsten, Mrs. Granville G. Valentine, and Miss Adele Williams, all of whom have been most zealous, useful and efficient in carrying to completion the work in which they have so earnestly and patriotically enlisted.

TABLETS.

Mr. Ellyson caused two bronze tablets to be placed, one on either side of the large doors as you enter the Memorial Building:

“THE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE.
“TO COMMEMORATE THE VALOR OF THE BRAVE
“MEN WHO FOUGHT, AND THE HEROIC SACRI-
“FICES OF THE NOBLE WOMEN WHO SUFFERED
“FOR THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE, THIS MEMO-
“RIAL IS ERECTED.”

And the other bears the inscription:

“THIS TABLET IS A MEMORIAL TO CHARLES
“BROADWAY ROUSS, A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER
“WHOSE GRACIOUS GENEROSITY MADE POSSI-
“BLE THE ERECTION OF THE CONFEDERATE
“MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, AND WHOSE ABIDING
“INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF THE CONFED-
“ERATE STATES WILL ALWAYS BE CHERISHED
“BY A GRATEFUL PEOPLE.”

LEE CAMP PORTRAITS.

The portraits gathered by Lee Camp and donated to this Association are the most complete and valuable collection of portraits of Confederate statesmen and heroes to be found in the world, and these, when hung in the annex (as they are expected soon to be), will prove one of the most attractive features of this Memorial Building. To the one hundred and fifty, or more, of these portraits, those of Mr. Ellyson, the Honorable John Lamb and Colonel Robert White, ought surely to be added by their several friends in commemoration of their gallantry and devotion to the Confederacy, as well as for the splendid work they accomplished in behalf of this memorial. We cannot be too appreciative of the action of Lee Camp in donating this important and unique addition to this Memorial Hall.

ANSWER TO CRITICISMS.

Twenty-five years having elapsed since the date of the proffer of Mr. Rouss to contribute \$100,000.00 to found the Confederate Memorial Institute, provided only that the people of the rest of the South would contribute a like amount to effect that purpose, has not unnaturally, caused much criticism and some censure of the Board of Trustees having control of this matter, and especially of those at the head of that board and most active in the consummation of the task committed to it. Much, if not most, of these criticisms have doubtless, as is usual, emanated from those who are either misinformed or who have contributed little and done less to help in the patriotic work involved in this undertaking. It should be remembered in considering these criticisms, in the first place, that although Mr. Rouss has actually paid the amount proffered by him from time to time, and always kept \$10,000.00 in advance of the contributions realized from all other sources, and in his great generosity actually advanced several thousand dollars more, in expenses paid by him to the agents appointed by the Board to collect the \$100,000.00 contemplated to be secured from the Southern people to match the \$100,000.00 given by Mr. Rouss, yet not a dollar of Mr. Rouss' proffered \$100,000.00 could be expended in building this memorial until a like sum was *first actually obtained from other sources to match that proffered by him and paid into the treasury of the corporation; and the performance of this condition precedent was not actually effected until 1910, fifteen years after Mr. Rouss' offer, and only then by the munificent contribution of \$50,000.00 made by the city of Richmond.* Indeed, without this contribution from Richmond it is impossible to conjecture when this work could have been begun.

These criticisms have not only been made of Virginia and Virginians, but they have been especially levelled at the late President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Ellyson, who was the representative of Virginia and President of the Board, from April 26, 1906, until his death on March 18, 1919.

We think a simple recital of what Virginia and Virginians and their representative, Mr. Ellyson, as President of the Board, have contributed to the success of this patriotic undertaking is a complete answer to all these criticisms, and, therefore, we make this recital with both pride and pleasure.

First.—The originator and largest contributor to this project was Mr. Charles Broadway Rouss, a Virginian.

Second.—The Board of Trustees of the Soldiers' Home, established and owned by R. E. Lee Camp No. 1, Confederate Veterans, of Richmond, together with the cheerful aid and co-operation of the Governor and legislature of the Commonwealth, gave and conveyed six and one-third acres of land in the heart of the most beautiful and growing section of the city of Richmond, now estimated to be worth at least four hundred thousand dollars, for the site of this memorial building.

Third.—The city of Richmond, as before stated, contributed \$50,000.00 of the \$100,000.00 necessary to be raised to meet the \$100,000.00 offered by Mr. Rouss.

Fourth.—Lee Camp contributed its splendid portrait gallery of at least one hundred and fifty portraits of distinguished Confederate soldiers and statesmen, and its archives, to adorn the walls of this Memorial Hall and for a library. It has also agreed to contribute two-fifths of the cost of building the annex to this memorial building, on the walls of which these portraits are to be hung.

Fifth.—Mr. Thos. F. Ryan, a Virginian, contributed \$20,000.00 to have painted the splendid mural paintings which now adorn the walls of the southern room of this building.

Sixth.—Hon. John Barton Payne, a native of Virginia, gave the splendid paintings which now adorn the walls of the north room of this Memorial Building, to the State of Virginia, which State has loaned these paintings to the Confederate Memorial Association for an indefinite period, and also contributed out of its treasury four thousand dollars to put that room in proper condition to receive and exhibit these paintings.

Seventh.—Exclusive of the contribution of Mr. Rouss, the largest individual gifts to this corporation were made by wealthy and patriotic citizens of Richmond and its immediate vicinity.

Eighth.—And last but by no means least, twelve noble and patriotic women of Virginia have voluntarily consented to devote their time, talents and services to take charge of and keep in proper condition the grounds and building of this Association.

Now, as to the criticisms of Mr. Ellyson, the late President: The first two representatives appointed by the Board of Trustees to secure the \$100,000.00 necessary to be obtained to meet the like sum contributed by Mr. Rouss, the first of whom, after occupying the position for nearly two years, accomplished practically nothing, and the second of whom occupied it for several years and caused so much delay and trouble to the corporation, as herein before explained, were appointed by the Board prior to the time Mr. Ellyson was made a trustee, and neither of them was a Virginian.

As soon as the \$200,000.00 necessary had been secured, and paid into the treasury, which, as before stated, was not until 1910, Mr. Ellyson, then the President, and General White, of West Virginia, Chairman of the Executive Committee, advertised for designs for the contemplated building. Ninety-seven designs were offered and the award to the architects who had submitted the best design was made on May 15, 1911. The corner-stone was laid on May 12, 1912, and the building was completed in 1913.

That same year Mr. Ellyson secured, through his friend, Mr. Ryan, the offer to pay for and have executed the mural paintings, and the noted French artist, Mr. Charles Hoffbaur, was selected by him for this work, and actually began his work that year. He was engaged in this task in August, 1914, when his country, France, was invaded by the armies of Germany, and as was his paramount duty, he laid aside his brush and palette and enlisted in the defense of his country, and continued

in this defense until he secured his discharge from the army of France early in 1919. On the day of Mr. Ellyson's death, Mr. Hoffbaur sent him a cablegram announcing his determination to return to complete his task as soon as that could be accomplished. These paintings were finished on the 31st day of January, 1921, after nearly two years of continuous and most assiduous and painstaking work on the part of the great artist.

Mr. Ellyson attended every meeting of the Board of Trustees of the organization from the time he was made a member of that Board until his death, that his health enabled him to attend, and his reports to each and all of these meetings during his presidency of the Board show in clear and concise language the condition of the affairs of the corporation, what had been accomplished and what was contemplated to be done in the future. He superintended the erection of the building, which is now pronounced a "classic" by everyone, and caused the park in which it was located to be beautifully laid out and trees, shrubbery and flowers planted to adorn that park. He and Judge Christian joined in the petition to Lee Camp to secure from it the donation of its portraits and archives just four days before his death.

In a word, Mr. Ellyson, who when his term of office as President commenced, found only the promise of Mr. Rouss to contribute the \$100,000.00 for this patriotic undertaking partly performed, and with about one-fifth of the amount to be contributed by the rest of the Southern people collected and paid into the treasury, although encountering many difficulties which necessarily arose in the progress of the work, he, with the aid and co-operation of a few of the trustees, left the main building practically completed, assets of the corporation, some of them of priceless value, and real and personal assets estimated to be worth nearly a half million dollars. The only delays which have occurred have been such as no human agency could have overcome.

We think instead of criticism, Mr. Ellyson well deserves from the people of the South the plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

APPEAL.

Mr. Ellyson caused to be made in the park in which this memorial is placed, a "Court of honor," in which he designed to have placed statues representing the distinguished soldiers and statesmen of the several Southern States. These statues will be in sight of Monument Avenue, on which has been already erected monuments to President Davis, Generals Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson and J. E. B. Stuart, and within easy reach of the monuments to the private soldiers and sailors of the Confederacy, General A. P. Hill, General Wickham, ex-Governor William Smith, Mr. Joseph Bryan, Dr. Hunter McGuire, the Howitzer monument, the splendid group with Washington at their head, surrounded by Henry, Jefferson, Marshall, Nelson and Lewis, representing the heroes and statesmen of the Revolution, and another statue of "Stonewall" Jackson, contributed by Englishmen, in testimony of their admiration for his genius, character and achievements. All of these adorn the streets and parks of the capitol of the late Confederacy, and it is our earnest desire that statues of the heroes and statesmen of the several other States of the Confederacy shall also adorn the park of this, our especial and fitting memorial, situated in that city, which was the capitol and citadel they did so much to defend and to consecrate with their blood their deeds of heroism, sacrifice and devotion.

Our appeal is then, to each and everyone of the States comprising the late Confederacy, that they will appropriate at least the sum of \$10,000.00 to secure statues of their most distinguished sons, and to create an endowment fund for this memorial, and by doing this, render lasting, although tardy, justice to the men and women of the South who did and dared so much in defense of the Cause, which President Davis defines to be "the rights of our sires, won in the war of the Revolution, the State sovereignty, freedom and independence bequeathed by them to us, their and our children forever," and of whose deeds a distinguished son of Massachusetts has already written, "Such splendid character and achievements

were not all in vain, for although the Confederacy fell as an actual physical power it lives eternally in its just cause, the cause of Constitutional liberty." And to whom

"In seeds of laurel in the earth, the blossom of their fame is blown;
And somewhere waiting for its birth, the shaft is in the stone."

APOLOGY.

Perhaps it is due that an apology should be made for the length of this paper; but it has seemed to the writer that it was due, both to the Trustees and to the public, that the latter should be informed of the causes of delay and the insurmountable difficulties which the Trustees and officers have had to encounter in the discharge of their duties incident to the completion of this memorial. The Trustees, or at least those who are living and who have taken an active part in the fulfillment of their task, believe confidently that when this Memorial Building and grounds are completed and inspected by the public, they will be pronounced worthy of the cause and people they intended to represent. Certainly the location and the buildings are beautiful, in the most imposing and beautiful part of the city, on the principal pleasure drive, within two blocks of Monument Avenue and the several statues erected thereon and adjoining what is believed will be in the not distant future the location of the Governor's Mansion and, probably, an art gallery, of which the Payne paintings may form the nucleus.

NO COMPENSATION

It is also due to the officers, members of the Executive Committee and of the Lady Board of Managers, to state that no one of them receives any compensation of any kind, either in the way of traveling expenses or otherwise, for anything they have done or may do in the completion of this great memorial, and that the efforts of each and all of them in this behalf are purely and simply a "labor of love."

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE NOT A "LOST CAUSE"

We thank God that although more than a half century has elapsed since the surrender of the Confederate armies, the cause of the South is not considered by some of the men and women now living who espoused that cause a "lost cause," but that the principles represented by it are still vital, and that this beautiful memorial will soon be in readiness to keep that fact alive forever. We, therefore, adopt the language of our own Virginia poet, Bishop Tucker, himself a gallant Confederate, where in his beautiful poem, entitled "Compensation," he says:

"Ah! the world has its praise for the men who prevail,
For the victors who triumph by wrong and by might;
But the heart has its love for the vanquished who fail;
Yet battled for right.
And their names they will shine when the conquerors pale
Like stars in the night.

For the laurels of triumph are lost like the wave,
Like the foam of the billows that break on the shore,
But the laurels of love, men cherish and save,
Whilst truth shall endure.
They will garland the home, though the fallen and brave
Have passed through the door."

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Christian, George Llewellyn, 1841-1924
Sketch of the origin and erection of the



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