

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Ladies Memorial Associations

By **Anderson R. Rouse**, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year
Janney, Caroline E.	<i>Burying the Dead but Not the Past: Ladies' Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

Books

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year "Title," in Journal ##, no. # (Date): #.
Bishir, Catherine W.	"A Strong Force of Ladies': Women, Politics, and Confederate Memorial Associations in Nineteenth-Century Raleigh," in <i>The North Carolina Historical Review</i> 77, No. 4 (October 2000): 455-91.
Cashin, Joan E.	<i>First Lady of the Confederacy: Varina Davis's Civil War.</i> Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006.
Confederated Southern Memorial Association	<i>History of the Confederate Memorial Associations of the South.</i> New Orleans, LA: The Graham Press, 1904.
Cox, Karen L.	<i>Dixie's Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture.</i> Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2003.

Faust, Drew Gilpin	<i>This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War</i> . New York: A. A. Knopf, 2008.
Foster, Gaines M.	<i>Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South, 1865 to 1913</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.
Janney, Caroline E.	“‘The Right to Love and to Mourn’: The Origins of Virginia’s Ladies Memorial Associations, 1865-1867,” in Edward L. Ayers, Gary W. Gallagher, and Andrew J. Torget, eds., <i>Crucible of the Civil War: Virginia from Secession to Commemoration</i> . Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 2008, 165-88.
Rable, George C.	<i>Damn Yankees!: Demonization and Defiance in the Confederate South</i> . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2015.
Storey, Margaret M.	<i>Loyalty and Loss: Alabama’s Unionists in the Civil War and Reconstruction</i> . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2004.
Whites, LeeAnn	<i>The Civil War as a Crisis in Gender: Augusta, Georgia, 1860-1890</i> . Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1995.
_____.	“‘Stand By Your Man’: The Ladies Memorial Association and the Reconstruction of Southern White Manhood,” in LeeAnn Whites, <i>Gender Matters: Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Making of the New South</i> . New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005, 85-94.

Other Sources

Name	Description
<i>History of the Wake County Ladies Memorial Association</i>	This booklet was published at Raleigh North Carolina in 1938 and can be viewed on line at: https://archive.org/details/historyofwa

	kecou00will
<i>Our Confederate Dead</i> , by the Ladies' Hollywood Memorial Association	This booklet was published at Richmond Virginia in 1916 and can be viewed on line at https://archive.org/details/ourconfederatede00ladi

Scholars

Name	Email
Anderson R. Rouse	arouse@g.clemson.edu

Topic Précis

In the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, Ladies Memorial Associations (LMA's) formed throughout the South to remedy a practical problem—across the South, and, indeed, on battlefields dotting the whole United States, the bodies of Confederate soldiers were poorly buried, often in shallow graves, where erosion, animals, and farmers' plows could unearth their remains. While Congress had initiated reinterment campaigns and established national cemeteries to catalogue and provide a final resting place for Union soldiers' remains, War Department burial efforts deliberately ignored the Confederate dead. This neglect and the desire to honor and properly bury their dead was the initial impetus for LMAs. Mostly composed of elite white southern women, LMA's acted as a surrogate for the dismantled Confederate. Ladies Memorial Associations also focused on the memorialization of Confederate dead and helped to preserve Confederate nationalism and laid the foundations for the Lost Cause. Commemoration efforts were expressed in two main ways, the erection of monuments and the celebration of Memorial (or Decoration) days. LMA's led the movement to build monuments to the Confederate dead and were among the first organizations to erect these monuments. Ladies' Memorial Associations also used Memorial and Decoration days to inculcate respect for the Confederate dead and the Lost Cause in southern children. The Ladies' monument building efforts proved to be the theater for a struggle between men and women for control of Confederate nationalism. In the end the Ladies (as they called themselves) prevailed. Preserving Confederate nationalism remained, to a large extent, the role of women, from the LMAs of the 1860s and 1870s to the United Daughters of the Confederacy in the 1890s and beyond. Ladies' Memorial Associations, created from women's grief over the loss of their husbands, sons, brothers, and fathers, and the end of the Confederacy, became one of the most important groups in the campaign to honor the Confederate dead and celebrate the Lost Cause. Through Confederate cemeteries, Memorial and Decoration Days, and monuments, LMAs kept the Confederate tradition alive.
