

The Confederate Soldier Monument

As early as January 1905, the W. E. Jones Camp 709 of the united Confederate Veterans formed a committee to decide on an appropriate memorial to their fallen comrades from Washington County.

The committee chairman was Judge J. W. McBroom, the commander of Camp 709 was John G. White and the committee adjutant was Thomas K. Trigg.

Having decided to erect a monument, designs were requested and fundraising was begun.

By May 12, 1905 the committee members at that time: Judge McBroom, Daniel Trigg, Judge Reuben M. Page, State Senator John C. Stanfield, James L. White and Frank S. Robertson, promised to raise \$100.00 each.

The president of the Anna Stonewall Jackson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Mrs. Alexander (Elizabeth Litchfield) Stuart, requested that the U.D.C. chapter be allowed to join the committee to aid in the erection of a monument to the fallen soldiers.

The U.D.C. raised nearly \$1,000.00. The Washington County Board of Supervisors donated \$2,000.00. Senator Stanfield passed legislation which allowed the Board of Supervisors to donate an additional \$1,000.00.

In 1906, Virginia sculptor 37-year-old Frederick William Sievers was chosen to create the monument—his first commissioned statue.

Sievers came to Abingdon to supervise the erection of the monument, which occurred on May 30, 1907 at the center of the intersection of Main and Court Streets. The statue of a common soldier faced north. Sievers copyrighted the work on August 27, 1907.

On June 3, 1908, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, the monument was dedicated by Miss Elizabeth Stuart, the daughter of the U.D. C. president.

After many years in the road, the monument had been hit by automobiles and was considered a traffic hazard. On May 14, 1936, the monument was moved to the grounds of the courthouse, where it currently resides.

Since facing the statue to the north would have put the soldier's back to the street, it was decided to face the statue to the east.

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