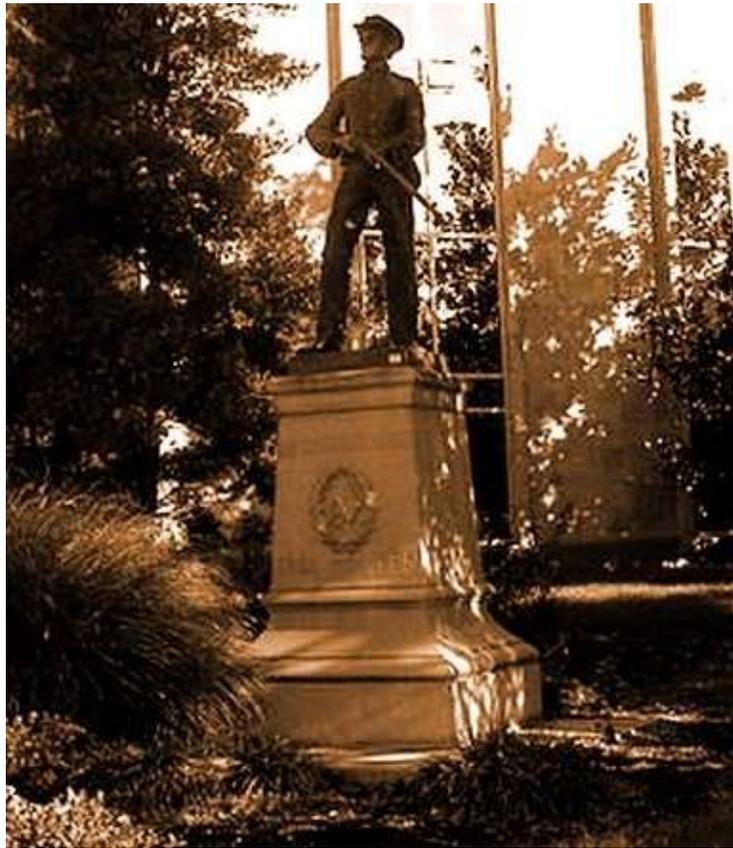


Confederate Statue Scrapbook

Memorial to a Lost Cause

By Jerry Long





DAVIS COUNTY COURT HOUSE, OWENSBORO, KY.







The Confederate Monument in Owensboro, KY:

Formerly located at the southwest corner of the Daviess County Courthouse lawn in Owensboro, the monument was placed in September 1900 by the John C. Breckinridge Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, after several events of fund raising. Over 5,000 people came to witness the dedication, which included speeches and music. Among the dignitaries was the editor of *The Confederate Veteran*, S. A. Cunningham.

The monument consists of two parts. The granite base is nine feet tall, and has carved upon it a wreath encircling the original Confederate flag. The statue depicts a Confederate soldier on alert bearing a rifle and wearing a short jacket and slouch hat. It is seven feet tall and made of bronze. It was made at the John Williams Bronze Foundry in New York, and was sculpted by the Romanian-American "sculptor of the Confederacy" George Julian Zolnay.



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

The Confederate Monument in Owensboro, Ky., was a bronze sculpture atop a granite pedestal, located at the southwest corner of the Daviess County Courthouse lawn, at the intersection of Third and Frederica Streets, in Owensboro, Kentucky.[2] Nearly 122 years after the monument was dedicated in September 1900, the sculpture was removed in May 2022 and placed in a County storage facility, pending a decision on what to do with it.[3] The pedestal was removed in August 2022 and given to the Kentucky United Daughters of the Confederacy, who are relocating the pedestal to a Civil War battle site in Daviess County that they own.

In 1891, the Daviess County Confederate Association began seeding its plans to raise a Confederate monument. Two years later, in April 1893, Daviess County Fiscal Court — the legislative body of the county government — passed a resolution giving the Association permission to place "a monument...in memory of the Confederate dead" on southwest corner the courthouse lawn. Under the terms of the resolution, such a monument could occupy a 10-foot-by-10-foot plot; and Union veterans, who did not have an active monument plan, were extended permission to raise a similar monument on the less-prominent southeast corner of the lawn.

After several years of fund raising by a number of local Confederate groups, including the Association and its women's auxiliary — the latter of which in 1899 became John Cabell Breckinridge Chapter 306 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (U.D.C.) — the monument was placed on the courthouse lawn on 21 September 1900.

The monument consisted of two parts: a pedestal and a sculpture. The granite pedestal is nine feet tall. On the front of the pedestal is the inscription

TO
OUR CONFEDERATE HEROES

above the bas-relief logo of the United Daughters of the Confederacy — a wreath encircling the first national flag of the Confederate States of America ("Stars and Bars") and a figure of the interlocking letters "D" and "C." The Confederate national flag depicted is the 13-star version, adopted by the Confederacy on 28 November 1861 and in use until 1 May 1863. This flag — which added two stars to the 11-star version of the Confederate national flag that had been in use since 2 July 1861 — reflected the Confederacy's claim to having admitted Kentucky to the Confederacy. In fact, although Confederate sympathizers in Kentucky did establish a shadow Confederate government in late 1861, Kentucky's pro-Union state government never joined the Confederacy.

Below the emblem is inscribed

1861—1865

On the rear of the pedestal is the tribute inscription

ERECTED
BY THE BRECKINRIDGE CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
1900

Atop the pedestal was a seven-foot-tall bronze sculpture of a Confederate soldier on alert bearing a rifle and wearing a short jacket and slouch hat. The sculpture was created by the Romanian-American "sculptor of the Confederacy" George Julian Zolnay and was cast at the John Williams Foundry in New York.[2][1]

The dedication ceremony included speeches and music. Unverified reports claimed that some 4,000 or more people attended the event.[5][6] Among the dignitaries present was S.A. Cunningham, the editor of *The Confederate Veteran*, which was the official magazine of the U.D.C. and a number of other Confederate heritage organizations.[2][7]

On July 17, 1997, the Confederate Monument in Owensboro was one of sixty-one different monuments related to the Civil War in Kentucky placed on the National Register of Historic Places, as part of the Civil War Monuments of Kentucky Multiple Property Submission. The only other monument on the list in Daviess County is the Thompson and Powell Martyrs Monument.[8]

In 2012 and again in 2017, there were local grassroots efforts urging Daviess County Fiscal Court to remove the Confederate monument from the courthouse lawn.

Following another such effort in summer 2020, the Court voted unanimously by resolution on 6 August 2020 to remove the monument. The resolution stipulated that the Court establish a 5-member Confederate Monument Relocation Committee within six weeks of the vote, with this committee to recommend a relocation site(s) within six months of the vote and the monument to remain in place until the Court passes an ordinance approving a new location.[9]

In November 2020, the Relocation Committee, chaired by local historian Aloma Dew, recommended that sculpture be relocated to one of two potential sites, the Owensboro Museum of Science and History or the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, and that the pedestal be relocated to a Civil War battle site in Daviess County (Battle of Panther Creek) that is owned by the Kentucky Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.[10]

The Owensboro Museum of Science and History is the only one of the two recommended museum sites to have expressed an interest in the sculpture. Although this museum is a private entity, the City of Owensboro owns the museum's building and contributes funding. In March 2021, the Owensboro Mayor and City Commission reiterated their previously stated position ruling out the Museum as a site for the monument.[11]

In April 2021, the Kentucky Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy sued the members of Daviess County Fiscal Court in Daviess County District Court. Kentucky U.D.C. claimed ownership of the monument and requested — and were granted — a temporary restraining order preventing the monument from being moved until the ownership issue was resolved in court.[12]

In late March 2022, with the case still unresolved, the Southern Poverty Law Center joined the Owensboro branch of the NAACP in placing a billboard on Owensboro's central thoroughfare, Frederica Street, with the message: "Show [heart symbol] for all. REMOVE Owensboro–Daviess County's Confederate Monument." The billboard was up for 30 days.[13][14]

On April 29, 2022, Daviess Circuit Court Judge Lisa Payne Jones granted Daviess Fiscal Court's motion for a summary judgment. In her 16-page judgment, Jones ruled that the Confederate monument is owned by Fiscal Court, and she vacated the earlier temporary restraining order.[15][16][17]

Kentucky U.D.C. had 30 days from the date of the April 29th ruling to file an appeal. On May 25, the group filed notice of its intention to appeal but failed to appeal by May 29 and did not seek to use any other legal remedies at its disposal to prevent Daviess Fiscal Court from exercising its legal authority to move all or part of the monument off of the courthouse lawn.

On May 31, 2022, the sculpture was removed from its pedestal and placed in a County storage facility pending a decision on what to do with it. The pedestal remained in place, with Fiscal Court planning to eventually remove or repurpose it.[18][19]

The next phase of the appeals process was the prehearing conference. The goal of the prehearing conference is for the parties, Kentucky U.D.C. and Daviess Fiscal Court, to try to reach a settlement and avoid further litigation.

Under the rules of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Kentucky U.D.C. had until June 14, 2022, to file a prehearing statement detailing the scope of the appeal it intended to make in the event a settlement could not be reached.[20]

In mid July 2022, Daviess Fiscal Court offered Kentucky U.D.C. the pedestal of the monument, with the stipulation that Kentucky U.D.C. had until the end of the month to accept or reject the offer.[21]

At the regular Fiscal Court meeting of 4 August 2022, Judge–Executive Al Mattingly announced an agreement between the Court and Kentucky U.D.C. under which (1) ownership of the pedestal was to be transferred to U.D.C. and the pedestal relocated to U.D.C.'s Civil War battle site in Daviess County, with the stipulation that any subsequent relocation of the pedestal must be outside of Daviess County, and (2) U.D.C. was to drop its lawsuit and appeal. The relocation was to take place by the end of the month, with Fiscal Court retaining ownership of the sculpture.[22][23][24]

On 26 August 2022, the pedestal was moved off the Daviess County Courthouse lawn and given to Kentucky United Daughters of the Confederacy, who relocated the pedestal to the Battle of Panther Creek site, a Civil War site in Daviess County that Kentucky U.D.C. owns. The site is south of Owensboro on U.S. Highway 431 at Sharp Road, midway between Owensboro and Utica, Ky.[25]

Responding to a request from Daviess Judge–Executive Al Mattingly, the Owensboro City Commission on 6 September 2022 passed a municipal order that would result in the transfer to the County of a small parcel of the City-owned cemetery known as Potter's Field. Subject to the Fiscal Court's approval of this transfer at its next public meeting, the County would relocate the sculpture to this site and would be responsible for the continued maintenance and upkeep of both the sculpture and the site, with the City continuing to own and maintain the rest of Potter's Field.[26][27]

References:

1. "National Register Information System – (#97000708)". National Register of Historic Places. National Park Service. April 15, 2008.
2. Owensboro, Ky. Trailsrus.com, Accessed November 12, 2008
3. "Crews remove Confederate statue outside Kentucky courthouse". ABC News. Retrieved 2022-06-01.
4. Daviess County Archived June 21, 2008, at the Wayback Machine Kentucky Historical Society, Accessed November 12, 2008
5. "Memorial to the Confederate Dead Uncovered to the World, etc.," Owensboro Messenger, 22 September 1900. "There was a large attendance, the audience being estimated at 5,000 to 7,000 people. There were 2,000 chairs, and not more than one-half the audience was seated." See page 15 of the Daviess County (Ky.) Public Library's subject file on George Julian Zolnay here
6. "Confederate Monument at Owensboro," Confederate Veteran, vol. 8, no. 9, September 1900. The Confederate Veteran, the official magazine of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the organization that funded and put up the monument, wrote: "It is estimated that 7,000 people attended the ceremonies." See page 19 of the Daviess County (Ky.) Public Library's subject file on George Julian Zolnay here
7. Brent, Joseph Confederate Monument in Owensboro NRHP Nomination Form (Kentucky Heritage Commission, 1997) p. 1.

8. Joseph E. Brent (January 8, 1997). "National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission: Civil War Monuments in Kentucky, 1865-1935" (pdf). National Park Service.
9. "Fiscal Court votes to remove Confederate statue," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 7 August 2020.
10. "Committee settles on museums as Confederate statue sites," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 12 November 2020.
11. "Confederate statue won't be moved to city property," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 6 March 2021.
12. "Group sues county over Confederate statue," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 21 April 2021.
13. "Southern Poverty Law Center supports removal of Confederate statue," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 30 March 2022.
14. "A small Kentucky town is trying to remove a Confederate statue. That's a big deal," Louisville Courier-Journal, 4 April 2022.
15. Post with PDF download link to "Order on Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment" in Kentucky Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy vs. Judge Executive, Al Mattingly, et al., 29 April 2022, Analog Owensboro (group), Facebook, 2 May 2022.
16. "Judge Jones rules Confederate monument owned by Fiscal Court, can be moved," Owensboro Times, 30 April 2022.
17. "Judge rules county owns Confederate statue," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 3 May 2022.
18. Ryan Richardson, "Confederate statue removed Tuesday morning, base still remains for now," Owensboro Times, 31 May 2022.
19. Keith Lawrence, "Confederate statue removed," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 1 June 2022, p.1.
20. Basic Appellate Practice: A Guide to the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Kentucky Court of Appeals, p.19 (Prehearing Conference Procedure; Timely Filing).
21. James Mayse, "County offers Confederate statue's base to group," 19 July 2022.
22. Ken Silva, "Agreement reached on monument," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 5 August 2022.
23. Josh Kelly, "Base of Confederate statue to be given to UDC and removed from courthouse lawn by end of August," Owensboro Times, 5 August 2022.
24. "Agreement reached: Confederate statue base to be moved," WEHT, 5 August 2022.
25. "Monumental change: Base of Confederate statue removed from courthouse lawn," Owensboro Times, 26 August 2022.
26. "City approves transferring property in Potter's Field to County for housing of Confederate statue," Owensboro Times, 7 September 2022.
27. "Confederate statue going to Potter's Field," Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 7 September 2022, p.A1.



e-mail : To Al Mattingly (amattngly@daviessky.org), Daviess County Judge Executive, Owensboro, KY, from Jerry Long, 8 August 2020:

Dear Judge Mattingly,

I have a suggestion for the final resting place for the Confederate Statue. I believe the ideal and appropriate spot is in the Veterans' section of Owensboro's historic Elmwood Cemetery. The following are some factors that support this:

- Elmwood Cemetery is on private property and if housed there the Confederate Statue would no longer be part of the public domain
- Elmwood Cemetery, like the Owensboro Area Museum, is dedicated to the preservation of Owensboro's history and is a perpetual and neutral record of yesterday
- Elmwood Cemetery is home to memorials and many art works; the Confederate Statue is both a memorial and an accomplished art work that deserves to be preserved; and the cemetery directors I believe would see that the Confederate Statue would be an enhancement and worthy addition to the artistic impression the cemetery offers
- The Confederate Statue would still be conveniently accessible to those interested in viewing it
- The Confederate Statue would no longer be located on taxpayer property and in such a public-centered and prominent location as it is now
- The Confederate Statue is a memorial to those who died for the Lost Cause, the majority of whom were not slave owners and who fought for the tainted and rightly ill-fated cause only because of the luck of their nativity; Elmwood Cemetery is the resting place for the highest number of Civil War soldiers in the county and has a section dedicated to the memory of the county's veterans
- If the Confederate Statue was at Elmwood Cemetery it would have some degree of security that it would not have if moved to an isolated spot in the county, where it would likely soon be vandalized; its environment at Elmwood would also be cared for and maintained
- The Confederate Statue's creator, George Julian Zolnay's, father-in-law & mother-in-law, Dr. William F. & Alice Douglas Gillim, are buried in Elmwood Cemetery and no doubt Zolnay visited there several times
- The Confederate Statue's location at Elmwood Cemetery provides a middle ground and equal compromise by both camps surrounding the issue

Jerry Long
 Former Kentucky Room Assistant
 At the Daviess County Public Library

e-mail : From Al Mattingly (amattngly@daviessky.org), Daviess County Judge Executive, Owensboro, KY, to Jerry Long, 8 August 2020:

Jerry, Thanks for the suggestion. I agree that would be appropriate however Elmwood does not want it. Thanks again



The Artist – George Julian Zolnay



The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, vol. 37, James T. White & Company, New York, 1951, pp. 75-76:

Zolnay, George Julian, sculptor, was born in Pecs, Hungary, July 4, 1863, son of Ignatius and Caroline (Vegan) Zolnay. His father, a founder of a pottery works in Pecs, had fought against the Austrians under Lajos Kossuth in 1848 and was thus forced to flee the country when it became part of the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary. George J. Zolnay attended schools in Bucharest, Rumania, and, having decided to become a violinist, applied for and was awarded a scholarship at the Royal Rumanian Conservatory of Music. His father's disapproval, however, led him to give up music as a career and he enrolled in and was graduated at the Royal Art Institute, Bucharest. Previously, while a cadet in a Rumanian cavalry regiment, he became interested in modeling horses and at the close of his service in the army continued his art studies at the institute in Bucharest. He interrupted his artistic career for a brief period as a young man when he went to work in his father's pottery factory, but soon decided that a business career was not to his liking. At about this time a statue of heroic size of the Rumanian patriot Tudor, which he made during a vacation, was purchased by the government and placed in the National Military Academy. He then went to Paris to continue the study of sculpture and later won a place at the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna where he was graduated with high honors and awarded the academy prize, a free studio and cash allowances for working purposes. At this time he created one of his earliest notable works, a pediment for the Carmelite Cloister in Vienna illustrating the verse "Come unto Me all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest," and modeled many of Hungary's most important personages. In 1892 he came to America as one of a committee of three to report on art for his country and to do sculptural work at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, in 1893. Upon the fulfillment of his assignment he determined to remain in the United States, becoming a citizen in 1897. First establishing a studio in New York city, in 1903 he went to St. Louis to install the sculpture exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 and to do sculpture on the Transportation Building. Here he was appointed a professor at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts at Washington University. Resigning his professorship in 1909, he became director of the University City Academy of Fine Arts and in 1914 went to Washington, D.C., to carry out commissions in that city. From 1926 until his death he made his headquarters again in New York city. Among his important works were the large tympanum illustrating the scriptural text "Ye shall

know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" and the bust of Edgar Allen Poe (q.v.) for the University of Virginia; a bronze statue of Jefferson Davis (q.v.) and monuments to Winnie Davis and her sister, Margaret Hayes, in Richmond, Va.; the **Confederate Soldiers' Monument, Owensboro, Ky.**; the statue of Sam Davis (q.v.), the Confederate scout, Nashville, Tenn; the design for it large monument representing the history of the Texan Revolution for Galveston; the frieze of the restored Parthenon of Athens and the Kiwanis World War Memorial, both in Nashville; the monument to Pierre Laclede and the Confederate Monument in St. Louis, Mo.; the Labor Monument in New Bedford, Mass.; Duncan Jacob Memorial, Louisville, Ky.; groups on the U.S. Custom House in San Francisco; Andrew T. Still (q.v.) Monument, Kirksville, Mo.; and the statue of Sequoyah (q.v.) placed by the state of Oklahoma in National Statuary Hall, Washington, D.C. Versatile in his work, Zolnay executed with equal success a dainty silver statuette and a colossal statue embodying all the force and spirit of the battlefield. In addition to the large works mentioned above and a number of others, Zolnay was especially noted for his sculpture portraits in which he endeavored to portray not only a more physical likeness, but also the spiritual qualities of the model. His portraits included Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, Fitzhugh Lee, David R. Francis, James Whitcomb Riley (qq.v.), and the noted composers, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Mozart, and Wagner. Zolnay founded the St. Louis Artists' Guild (pres. 1906-10) and was one of the organizers of the National Arts Club, New York city, and the Arts Club of Washington D.C. He belonged to the Internationale des Arts et Sciences of Paris, France, the National Art Center and the Cosmos and National Press clubs of Washington, D.C., and the St. Louis (Mo.) Club. In 1900 King Charles I of Rumania conferred on him the Order of Merit, First Class. He played the violin with exceptional skill, and spoke and wrote seven languages fluently. Zolnay was married in Owensboro, Ky., Nov. 26, 1902, to Abigail Bowan, daughter of William F. Gillim of that city, a physician, and had two daughters: Elizabeth, who married (1) George Thomas Summerlin, Jr., and (2) Horace Benjamin Smith; and Margaret, who married (1) John Churchill Newcomb and (2) John Hone Auerbach. He died in New York city, May 1, 1949.



Owensboro, KY Newspaper Articles about George Julian Zolnay
Abstracted by Jerry Long

- Owensboro Messenger – 1897: 9/14 p.1 (in Owensboro to make a sketch for Confederate monument)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1897: 9/19 p.6
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1897: 7/25 p.5 (will visit in Owensboro this week, famous sculptor from New York City, an ex-Hungarian Army officer, came to this country at the time of the World's Fair)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1897: 9/13 p.1 (invited to make a sketch for the Confederate monument to be erected in Owensboro)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1897: 9/19 p.5
- Owensboro Messenger – 1898: 3/1 p.2 (sculptor)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1898: 4/19 p.5
- Owensboro Messenger – 1898: 11/1 p.8

- Owensboro Messenger – 1899: 3/10 p.2 (designs Daughters of the Confederacy statue)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1899: 10/8 p.8 (his bust of Edgar Allen Poe unveiled at University of Virginia)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1899: 11/13 p.1 (has gained enviable reputation from the masterly execution of the Jefferson Davis memorial unveiled at Richmond, VA on 9 November 1899, his Edgar Allen Poe memorial at the University of Virginia also added largely to his laurels, recently knighted by the King of Romania due to the acclaim he has brought his native land)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1899: 11/15 p.2 (will arrive in Owensboro tonight to confer with the Daughters of the Confederacy about the monument for the courthouse yard)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1899: 11/16 p.1 ("An Artist's Work")
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1899: 11/19 p.1 ("Contract Closed")
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1900: 3/8 p.4 (went to Frankfort, where he expects to build a monument for Goebel), 3/11 p.1 (signed contract for construction of the Confederate monument in Owensboro, the total cost will be about \$3,500)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1900: 4/19 p.1 (ground broken for Owensboro's Confederate monument), 5/9 p.1 (pedestal for Confederate monument arrived yesterday)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1900: 8/29 p.2 (lettering for Confederate monument is being done, bronze statue will arrive in Owensboro on September 11)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1900: 9/5 p.1, 9/12 p.2 (Confederate statue arrives in Owensboro)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1900: 9/19 p.1
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1900: 9/20 p.1
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1900: 9/21 p.1 (Confederate monument dedicated)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 4/20 p.5 (Confederate monument in Owensboro is begun)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 8/29 p.8
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 9/5 p.3
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 9/9 p.4&5
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 9/14 p.3
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 9/19 p.1
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 9/20 p.8
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 9/21 p.5
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 9/22 p.1&3 (Confederate monument in Owensboro is unveiled)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 11/15 p.2 (in competition for monument to victims of Maine explosion), 1901: 10/17 p.11 (decorated by King Charles of Romania)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1901: 10/26 p.10 (King of Romania gives him the Order of Merit)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1902: 11/18 p.1 (will marry Miss Abbie Gillim, on 26 November 1902 at the home of the bride's parents, Dr. & Mrs. W. F. Gillim, on Frederica Street in Owensboro)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1902: 11/23 p.11 (he has lived in the US since 1893)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1902: 11/26 p.4 (married this morning, will reside in New York, known as "the sculptor of the Confederacy")
- Owensboro Messenger – 1902: 11/18 p.1 & 11/27 p.4 (married Miss Abby R. Gillim on 26 November 1902 at home of her parents in Owensboro)

- Owensboro Messenger – 1902: 11/30 p.5 (celebrated Confederate hero, John C. Kennedy, attends his marriage)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1903: 9/8 p.5 (bust of late Louisville mayor, Charles D. Jacobs, by Zolnay, to be erected in Cave Hill Cemetery)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1903: 10/6 p.2 (superintendent of sculpture at World's Fair)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1903: 9/8 p.4 (exhibiting his bust of Charles D. Jacob, former mayor of Louisville)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1903: 10/6 p.1 (appointed superintendent of sculpture at the World's Fair)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1903: 10/26 p.8 (praises the St. Louis World's Fair)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1905: 2/26 p.1 (elected president of St. Louis Artists Guild)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1906: 8/15 p.2 (to work on Francis Fountain in Richmond, KY)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1909: 1/10 p.2 (Sam Davis statue at Nashville by him to be unveiled on January 20)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1914: 12/8 p.3 & 4 (Confederate monument by him dedicated at St. Louis)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1917: 8/8 p.4 (completes statue of Dr. Andrew H. Still at Kirkwood, MO)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1926: 11/28 p.4B (noted sculptor has gained national fame)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1949: 5/3 (sculptor of the Confederate Statue dies in New York City)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1950: 8/27 p.2B (James Gamble Stuart, now 83, model for Owensboro's Confederate monument)
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer – 1976: 6/3 ("A weathered hero maintains his vigil")
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer – 1990: 7/22 p.1A ("Statue's condition raising concerns")
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer – 1990: 10/20 p.1C ("Soldier's new face unveiled", Confederate monument is restored)
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer – 1994: 7/5 p.96S ("Soldiers Monument: Monument honors Daviess soldiers", a work of famed Hungarian-American artist George Julian Zolnay; its unveiling on 21 September 1900, drew a crowd of more than 5,000; Zolnay was born in Pecs, Hungary, on 4 July 1863 & died in New York in 1949; his works still stand in major cities from San Francisco to Washington, DC, they include the Pierre Laclede Monument & Confederate Monument, both in St. Louis, Jefferson Davis Monument in Richmond, VA, Sam Davis Monument in Nashville, Edgar Allan Poe Monument at the University of VA, Sequoyah statue in the US Capitol & the War Memorial & sculpture for the Parthenon in Nashville; Nashville's Sam Davis Monument was used as the model for the Owensboro work; Davis was known as "the boy hero of the Confederacy", when the Union Army hanged him for treason in November 1863, the 21-year-old Tennessee scout became a southern martyr, he had been sent to deliver papers behind enemy lines that November, when he was captured, they called Davis a spy and found him guilty of treason when he refused to betray his commanding officer; Davis rode to the gallows on his coffin, his last words were: "I would die a thousand deaths before I would betray a friend or my country"; monuments were erected in Davis' honor on the Capitol grounds in Nashville and in his hometown of Pulaski, TN; Zolnay had a special relationship to Owensboro, his wife,

the former Abigail Rowan Gilliam, was an Owensboro native, her family lived in what is now the Campbell Club on Frederica Street; Zolnay, a graduate of the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna & the National Academy of Bucharest, was once decorated by the king of Romania; in 1892 he moved to New York City where he lived until 1903, while there, he helped start the National Arts Club, when he married they moved to St. Louis in 1903, where he was in charge of the sculpture division of the art department at the 1904 World's Fair, they moved to Washington, DC in 1913 and later returned to New York; an accomplished violinist & composer, he won a gold medal for sculpture at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904 & another gold medal at the Portland Exposition in 1905; the impetus for the Owensboro memorial began on Dec. 6, 1889; Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, died in New Orleans that day; some 50 former Confederates gathered at the Daviess County Courthouse to mourn his passing; from that meeting, the Daviess County Confederate Association was formed and members began planning a memorial to the Confederacy; three years later, they voted to erect the memorial; in April 1893 at the first meeting of Daviess Fiscal Court, which replaced the old Court of Claims, magistrates granted Confederate veterans permission to erect their memorial on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn, they also gave advance approval to any Union veterans to erect a statue beside it, none ever did; finally, the John C. Breckinridge Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy took over the project; in December 1894, when the fund stood at \$1,600, the ex-Confederates staked off 40 square feet on the courthouse lawn for their statue; three years later, a plaster model of the proposed monument arrived from New York; Zolnay was paid \$3,500 for his work)

- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer – 2017: 8/16 p.1A ("Local debate reignites over monument: Petition asks that it be moved to museum", George Julian Zolnay, a New York-based Hungarian immigrant, was awarded the contract to build it, and he did so with the help of his understudy, Owensboro-born James Gamble Stuart; Zolnay is known to this day as the "Sculptor of the Confederacy," but some of his better-known works include a bust of poet Edgar Allan Poe, housed at the University of Virginia; he also contributed work to the Parthenon in Nashville, which mirrors the original in Athens, Greece; Zolnay, who was regarded as one of the premier sculptors of his time, met his wife in Owensboro while working on the Confederate statue, and the two were married at the courthouse on 25 November 1902)
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer – 2020: 7/18 p.1A ("Bosley offers Frederica property for Confederate statue"),
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer – 2020: 8/7 p.1A ("Fiscal court votes to move Confederate statue")



Owensboro Daily Messenger.

VOL. XXI.

OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 22, 1900.

NO. 327

BRONZE AND GRANITE

Memorial to the Confederate Dead
Uncovered to the
World.

VAST THROUG WITNESSES THE
UNVEILING OF THE MON-
UMENT.

Daughters of the Confederacy See
the Fruition of Their Earn-
est Work.

TWO STIRRING SPEECHES MADE

Notwithstanding the threatening weather, the Confederate monument unveiling ceremonies Friday morning were a decided success. There was a large attendance, the audience being estimated at 5,000 to 7,000 people. There were 2,000 chairs, and not more than one-half the audience was seated. The platform was handsomely decorated with the Confederate colors. The three flags of the Confederacy were a part of the decorations—the battle flag, the review flag and the official flag. The banners of Rice E. Graves camp of Confederate Veterans and W. T. Aull camp of Sons of Veterans were also displayed on the platform.

The throng which assembled to hear

Mr. Lockett first discussed the slavery issue resulting in the secession of the Gulf states, and which brought about the civil war. He briefly touched the struggle of the South for independence, but after defeat came out of the losing struggle with honor unsullied, a fact recognized by the enduring monument today unveiled to the present and future generations. The erection of the monument "reflects the highest credit upon this city and county," said Mr. Lockett. "It shows that this people are not of the class which makes success the test of merit, but of that highest class which looks into the motives of human conduct and approves or condemns the deed as the motive is good or bad." He paid a high compliment to the brave women of the South. His tribute to the Confederate soldiers was very beautiful and touching.

Hon. Thos. S. Pettit made a short talk in which he said the monument was not entirely paid for, and that a collection would be taken up among the people present to pay the balance due. Mrs. Asa Bosley, Miss Rose Levy, Miss Mary Hite, Miss Beulah Bibb and Messrs. Tom Jones, Ben T. Field and J. F. Hite were named as a committee to go among the audience and take up the collection. A nice sum was realized.

Uncovered to the World.

Will Athy blew the bugle call, after which Mrs. Sarah S. Moorman, who stood on a pyramid in front of the monument, pulled the cord which released the veil and exposed the statue to the audience. She was assisted by little Misses Sue Roberta Watkins, Edwina Howe, Robin Brashear and Marie Ford, each of whom with a Confederate flag stood on the four corners of the base of the monument. There was a great cheer, and two cannon, under command of John Carlisle, began to boom.

After the ceremonies closed at 11 a. m. the old Confederates hung about

fall at Hollywood cemetery in Rich-
mon, Va.

The statue was cast at the John Williams bronze foundry, of New York, and is an exceptionally successful piece of work. The pedestal weighs 3,300 pounds and the bronze about 900. Before being shipped from New York the statue was viewed by a number of well known artists and art critics, and it elicited a great deal of admiration for its fine conception and truthfulness to life. It was considered by these men of authority in art matters that this statue is one of Mr. Zolnay's best pieces of work. Mr. Zolnay is known as the "sculptor of the Confederacy."

The monument stands seventeen feet and two inches in height, not including the base, the pedestal eight feet and six inches, and the statue seven feet and eight inches.

The monument stands in the southwest corner of the court house yard, and faces the southwest. On the front view of the pedestal is the inscription, "To our Confederate dead 1861-1865." Also the emblem of the Daughters of the Confederacy. On the northwest side is the following inscription, "Erected by the Breckinridge chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, 1900."

To the daughters of the Breckinridge chapter is due the credit for the monument. Over ten years ago they conceived the idea of a Confederate monument on the public square, and they went earnestly to work to successfully carry out that idea. How well they have succeeded after years of faithful toil is fully attested by the handsome monument unveiled Friday morning.

A Credit to Old Soldiers.

The old Confederate soldiers of De-
viens county and their friends are to be congratulated upon the successful completion of the handsome monument that has yet been erected to the memory of Confederate soldiers in the state of Kentucky. When it is remem-



bered that the old Confederate soldiers, on their return from the war, found themselves penniless, all of their property having been absolutely swept away during the progress of the war, and when it is further remembered that without the aid of pensions or other governmental aid, that these men have founded and established homes, and not infrequently built up fortunes by their enterprise, industry and integrity, there is little room left to doubt that the old Confederate soldier of Kentucky is the very highest type of our citizenship and that to him this and coming generations will owe a debt of gratitude which it can scarcely be hoped will ever be paid.

While the monument is not elaborate, the workmanship is of the very best, and is one of the finest pieces of art ever erected in the state. Mr. George Julian Zolnay, of New York, the sculptor who designed and executed the work, erected the Jeff Davis and Winnie Davis monuments at Richmond, Va., which critics say are the finest statues ever erected in the United States.

A Gallant Soldier.

Mr. Thos. S. Pettit read a letter from Capt. A. R. Taylor, of Louisville, expressing his regret at being unable to attend the unveiling and adding a

sentiment for the Confederate soldiers.

The old Confederates present received the reading of the letter with applause.

Capt. A. R. Taylor is a nephew of the late Camden Riley, Sr. He is a graduate of Yale college, and now one of the most prominent lawyers of the St. Louis bar. He and his brother, John Taylor, went with Capt. Noel's company from Daviess county to the Confederate army. John Taylor, the younger of the two brothers, who was a very gallant soldier, was killed in one of the series of battles in front of Atlanta. Capt. A. R. Taylor, during the latter part of the war, recruited a company of cavalry in Daviess county, of which he became captain, and distinguished himself during the closing days of the Confederacy as one of the most capable and gallant officers in Forest's command. After the close of the war he was the first county attorney elected by the Democratic party in Daviess county. Before the term of his office expired, he resigned, married Miss Anna Radd, and moved to St. Louis, where he has since resided.

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Dedication of the Confederate Statue, 21 September 1900, in Owensboro, KY. Cover photograph of Confederate Veteran, vol. 8, no. 9, September 1900. Photograph by L.M. John of Owensboro, Ky. Confederate Magazine was the official joint magazine of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and a number of other Confederate heritage organizations.





One-half of the Confederate Statue at new home in Owensboro's Potter's Field - 17 October 2022