



A MEMORIAL

TO THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS OF THE UNITED STATES
WHO GAVE UP THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE WAR OF 1898-99 WITH SPAIN



ERECTED AT ARLINGTON BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA AND DEDICATED
MAY TWENTY-FIRST, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWO



The Monument

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COUNTRY IN THE WAR OF 1898-'99 WITH SPAIN



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NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE
COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA



M C M I I
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M C M I I



To

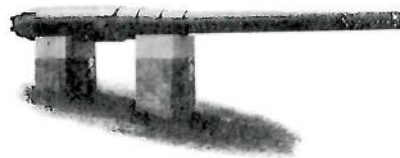
Madam Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend

who was for eight years our President,
honored and beloved, this record of
the Memorial erected at Arlington is
affectionately inscribed in grateful
remembrance of her gracious courtesy,
wise judgment and unvarying kindness

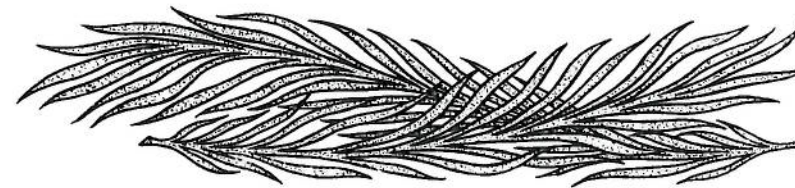
by

The National Society
of the
Colonial Dames of America





*One of two guns from the Spanish war vessel,
Maria Teresa, now at the foot of the monument*



C O N T E N T S

I.

THE BUILDING OF THE MONUMENT

BY

Winifred Lee Lyster

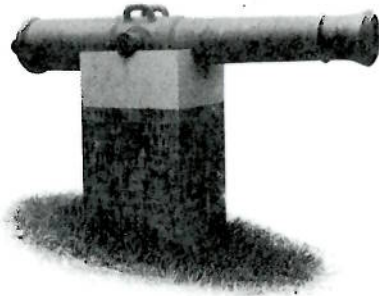
II.

THE DEDICATION OF THE MONUMENT

BY

Anne Hollingsworth Wharton





*One of two ancient cannon from the Spanish Batteries
near Havana, now at the foot of the monument*



The BUILDING OF THE MONUMENT

MADAM President, Officers and Members of the National Council of Colonial Dames :

In making my final report as Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Spanish War Memorial, the first *permanent* work undertaken by us as a National Society, it may not be unfitting to give a brief resumé of the work for the information of the Society at large.

In a report such as this, with time pressing, and much to be done, it is impossible to give more than a bare outline of the work which has been accomplished. Acting by virtue of the authority given her by the resolution passed by the National Council of 1900, the President appointed a committee consisting of one or more members from each state. From this a smaller Executive Committee, with power to act, was chosen. Of this I had the honor to be appointed Chairman. The first circular letter was sent to the State Societies in May, 1900. By December, 1900, a sufficient number of favorable responses had been

received to justify the appointment of a Committee on Estimates and Designs, which was made in January, 1901, as follows:

MRS. ARTHUR EASTMAN CLARKE	. New Hampshire
MRS. HENRY S. DALTON Massachusetts
MRS. ELIHU CHAUNCEY New York
MRS. A. LIVINGSTON MASON Rhode Island
MRS. SAMUEL VERPLANCK New York

How well this Committee has discharged its duties the beautiful monument which we will dedicate to-day testifies more eloquently than any words of mine can do.

Mrs. Harrison of Pennsylvania was added later to the Committee upon the departure of Mrs. Chauncey and Mrs. Dalton for Europe. These ladies had devoted to the Committee the last hours of their stay before sailing, and had previously been for several months most active in forwarding its work. This report would be incomplete without an acknowledgment of the work done by Mrs. Mason of Rhode Island. The monument as it stands to-day is from a design procured by Mrs. Mason, who has been most untiring in her efforts to carry our work to a successful conclusion. She made four visits to Washington in the interests of the Committee, had a personal interview with the President, and several with the heads of the War Department; in fact, she left no stone unturned until permission had been granted to erect the monument at Arlington.

The hearty sympathy and co-operation of our honored President, Mrs. Townsend, has been an influential factor to the success of our work. Her eloquent appeal to the New York Society resulted in a contribution of one thousand dollars to the

Memorial fund. Your Chairman has found her at all times a most wise and patient counselor, most generous in the latitude allowed the Chairman in the matter of forming committees and deciding important questions, which had frequently to be done in haste and without opportunity of consultation. Our President's personal influence with the powers that be, certainly went far towards obtaining for us the permission to place our Memorial in a National Cemetery, a privilege which has never before been granted to any Society of women. Not the least gratifying feature of the work of the last two years, has been the reception by your Chairman of letters from persons who have lost friends and relatives in the late war, and the gratification expressed that the Society of Colonial Dames had undertaken to perpetuate in enduring granite the memory of those whose heroism and sacrifices are now part of the history of our country.

Your Chairman desires here to acknowledge not only the indebtedness of the Society, but her own sense of deep personal obligation as well, to Mrs. Harrison of Pennsylvania, who accepted without demur, at the eleventh hour, the arduous duties and responsibilities of Chairman of the Committee on Dedication Ceremonies. A deep personal affliction had necessitated the withdrawal of Mrs. Claiborne of Virginia from this position, to which she had been appointed several months before. Mrs. Claiborne's plans had been well and carefully thought out, but just as the time arrived for their active execution, her resignation became necessary.

Almost in despair at the difficulties of the situation, your Chairman turned to Mrs. Harrison in this extremity. The

appeal was not made in vain, and whatever measure of success attends the dedication ceremonies of our Memorial is owing to Mrs. Harrison's prompt and unselfish acceptance of an arduous position.

When it is remembered that no personal consultations have been possible between your Chairman and the several Committees, whose members were widely separated, all business being conducted by correspondence, it will not seem an exaggerated statement when I say that your Chairman has written over nineteen hundred letters in the past two years on the business of the Memorial. Two hundred copies each of the first circular letter and the two subsequent reports as to the progress of the work were printed and mailed to the National and State officers, and members of the Committees. The total amount contributed to the Memorial fund is \$7265.58. I would say that the first contribution was made by the Virginia Society, and the largest pro rata contribution from the members of any Society was made by the newly organized Society in Texas, which at the time the subscription of one hundred dollars was made to the Memorial, numbered only twelve members.

The contract price of the monument complete, and placed at Arlington, is \$6000.00. The balance over this amount will about meet the expenses of the dedication ceremonies, engraving invitations, etc. Fearing lest the cost of the Record book to be deposited at Arlington, could not be met with the small balance on hand, it has been thought best to leave it for further consideration until such time as sufficient funds may be assured for its completion.

It is hoped that before the adjournment of the Council some

action may be taken in regard to this matter, thereby fully and entirely completing the work as authorized by the resolution under which your Committee have been working.

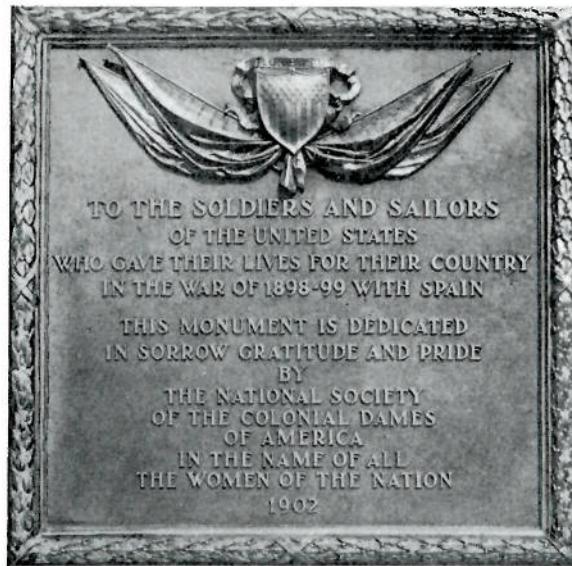
Now, ladies, one word of farewell. If your Chairman has sometimes found the duties of her position arduous, and has had her moments of discouragement, all this is forgotten in the successful accomplishment of our work. Even those who have been least interested cannot but feel a little glow of enthusiasm when it is remembered that, almost upon the very day we complete and dedicate our Memorial, Cuba is declared free. And when the question which was asked the Israelites of old shall be asked of us by OUR children, and our children's children, "What mean ye by these stones?" the answer need be no uncertain one. This monument will not only stand as a Memorial that we hold in tender and grateful remembrance the heroism and sacrifices of our countrymen, but it has no less significance as the result of the combined efforts of women from all sections of a united country, which, God grant, it may ever remain!

The mighty hand which is shaping our destinies is the hand of an impressionist. We are as yet too near the thrilling events of our own time to realize their full significance. The lurid colors of a blood-stained and smoke-begrimed canvas must be looked at through the softening mist of years, when it will be clearly seen that great things were wrought by those in whose memory we consecrate this stone today.

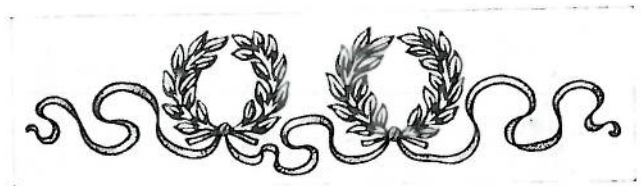
Winifred Lee Lyster,

Chairman Executive Committee

Spanish War Memorial.



The Tablet on the Monument



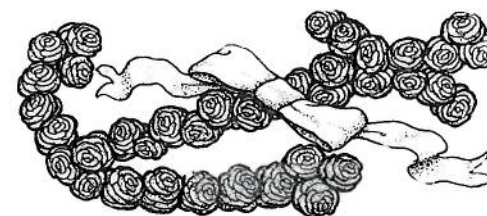
"Fame is the fragrance of heroic deeds."

*"Sleep soldiers! still in honored rest
Your truth and valor wearing."*





The Arlington Dedication



DEDICATION OF THE MONUMENT



*Photo by Pach Bros.
President Roosevelt*

THE time appointed for the unveiling of the monument at Arlington, erected by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in memory of the soldiers and sailors of the Spanish War, was May 21st, the afternoon of the first day of the meeting of the Council of 1902.

The dedication of this monument was the successful culmination of a movement started in the National Council of 1900 by Mrs. Henry F. Le Hunte Lyster, President of the Society of the Colonial Dames of Michigan. To the arduous labor of Mrs. Lyster and her committee is due the success of the undertaking, while for the beautiful and appropriate ceremonies of the unveiling of the monument the National Society owes its thanks to Mrs. Charles

Custis Harrison of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Committee on Dedication Ceremonies, and to Major-General John R. Brooke, who had charge of the military feature of the occasion.



*Elihu Root
Secretary of War*

In the presence of the officers and members of the Council of the Colonial Dames of America, many members of their Society in the District of Columbia and from neighboring States, of officers and members of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of Colonial Wars and other patriotic historic organizations, of the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, the Major-General in command of the Army, two Admirals of high rank in the Navy, one thousand veterans of the Spanish War, two thousand soldiers of the Regular Army, and a large concourse of people, the dedication ceremonies were inaugurated by the singing of the hymn, "Onward Christian Soldier," by the surpliced choir of old St. John's Church of Washington. As the voices of the choristers rose and fell in the stirring lines of this processional, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the Rev. Dr. Doran of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Patrick's took the places reserved for them on the platform, immediately in front of the monument. Mrs. Harrison, Chairman of the Dedication Committee, received the guests of the afternoon, assisted by Mrs. Alexander J. Cassatt, President of the Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames. Upon the platform were seated the

President of the United States, the Secretary of War, the Bishop of the Diocese, Mrs. Howard Townsend of New York, President of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Mrs. Henry F. Le Hunte Lyster, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Spanish War Memorial, the officers of the National Society, Mrs. William Reed and Mrs. J. J. Jackson, Secretaries; Mrs. Samuel Colt of Connecticut, Vice-President; Miss Anne Hollingsworth Wharton, Historian; the Countess Esterhazy, First Vice-President of the Society of the District of Columbia; General and Mrs. Miles, Major-General and Mrs. John R. Brooke and a number of other distinguished guests.



Bishop Satterlee

After the processional, Bishop Satterlee read a portion of the solemn burial service of the Episcopal Church, which was followed by prayer offered by Father Doran, invoking the blessing of the Almighty Father upon the work and upon those who were about to dedicate it to God, to the memory of the heroes of the Spanish War, and to the Nation.

At the close of the religious dedicatory service, the band played "America," and the voices in this vast assemblage arose clear and full upon the still afternoon air, in the inspiring words of "My Country, 'tis of Thee." As the last notes of the national anthem died away, Mrs. Harrison stepped forward to introduce the President of the National Society of the Colonial Dames. Mrs. Harrison said:

"Mr. President and Colonial Dames: We are here to-day to do honor to the memory of our sailors and soldiers who lost their lives in defending our country. As the National Society of Colonial Dames of America is solely a patriotic society of women, what could be more fitting than that we should erect this tribute?"

"It is not unusual to see a smile pass over the faces of our men when they hear of 'the Dames,' but those men must not forget that we represent sires who struggled to give us a form of Government that to-day makes us the Nation of the world.

"Why should not we in a modest way help to promote that patriotism which our ancestors struggled for?"

"From every State in the Union loyal women have collected funds for the erection of this memorial tablet, and to-day it is our pleasure to present it to the Nation.

"Mr. President and Colonial Dames, I present to you our National President, Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend."

Mrs. Townsend arose and bowed graciously. General Schofield, who was to read her address, saluted the President, the rope securing the canvas was pulled, and the covering slid to the base of the monument, revealing a symmetrical column of white granite, which arises from a plain base studded on four sides with bronze stars, the whole surmounted by a polished globe encircled with a band of thirteen stars, upon which stands a bronze eagle with drooping wings and head hung as if in sorrow for the heroic sacrifices that the monument commem-



General Schofield



General Brooke

orates. The place of the ceremonies and the site of the monument is the centre of that section of the cemetery where lie buried nearly one thousand soldiers of the Spanish war, and all about the monument are the modest white headstones that mark their graves. Flags draped the column, and were crossed on three sides of the base, leaving the bronze tablet on the front visible.

From the battery stationed in the field beyond boomed the first gun of the salute. When the last of the thirteen guns had been fired, General Schofield read Mrs. Townsend's address.

"We meet here to-day on ground hallowed by our illustrious dead, who have passed onward from the strife of earth to the higher life beyond of peace and happiness. We gather here to honor anew the memory of our noble soldiers and sailors, who, at the call of their country, gave their lives willingly for the cause of freedom. As heroes they died, and as heroes they live for all time on the page of history and in the hearts of a grateful and united people.

"We, members of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, representing the original Thirteen Colonies, in honoring the noble deeds, the patriotism and self-sacrifice of our ancestors, now do homage to the same virtues in these heroes of our own day, who were alike faithful to duty, to their country, and to their God.

"In raising this monument, as our tablet reads, as a tribute

'in Sorrow, Gratitude, and Pride,' we present it to our Government at Washington, which so graciously conferred the honor upon us, a patriotic society, of placing it in these sacred grounds of Arlington.

"May our beloved country, in her unity and strength, in her prosperity and peace, in her vast undertakings and great achievement, ever merit the protection and blessing of the God of our Fathers."

The applause that greeted Mrs. Townsend's remarks had scarcely ceased when it broke out anew as President Roosevelt stepped forward and made his address, which he prefaced with these words:

"Mrs. President and members of this Society, and you, my comrades, and, finally, officers and men of the Regular Army, whom we took as our models in the war four years ago:

"It is a pleasure to be here this afternoon to accept, in the name of the Nation, the monument put up by your Society to the memory of those who fell in the war with Spain; a short war, a war that called for the exertion of only the merest fraction of the giant strength of this Nation; but a war the effects of which will be felt through the centuries to come, because of the changes it wrought.

"It is eminently appropriate that the monument should be unveiled to-day, the day succeeding that on which the free Republic of Cuba took its place among the nations of the world, as a sequel to what was done by these men who fell, and by their comrades in '98."

The singing of "the Star Spangled Banner" followed the President's address, after which Bishop Satterlee pronounced

the benediction, and the choir left the platform, singing as a recessional, "Nearer, my God, to Thee." At the close of the dedication ceremonies, when the noble granite monolith, forty-four feet high, stood clearly outlined against the blue sky, from its commanding bluff above the Potomac, where it dominates the section in which the dead of the Spanish war rest from their labors, many paused to read the appropriate words of the inscription of the bronze tablet upon the side of the monument:

TO THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
OF THE UNITED STATES
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE WAR OF 1898-99 WITH SPAIN
THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED
IN SORROW GRATITUDE AND PRIDE
BY
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE COLONIAL DAMES
OF AMERICA
IN THE NAME OF ALL
THE WOMEN OF THE NATION
1902

Suddenly, in the pause which followed the last lines of the recessional, taps were sounded, the signal in camp that the day's work of the soldier is ended, that the night's rest has come, and also the last solemn sound that the soldier hears over the grave of his commander or comrade. And so on this beautiful hillside of Arlington we leave these, our countrymen, who have lived life's little day and fought a good fight for freedom

and humanity, to sleep their last sleep, surrounded by the Nation's dead, with the noble shaft rising above them that seems to guard and tenderly overshadow those whom the women of our Society, in "Sorrow, Gratitude, and Pride," would thus honor.

Anne Hollingsworth Wharton,

Historian of the National Society

of the Colonial Dames of America

