

# A Guide to the Leesburg Confederate Monument Collection , 1901-1908

Leesburg Confederate Monument Collection 1901-1908  
1901-1908

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A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library SC 0042  
Thomas Balch Library  
2006

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## History

**Processed by:** Emily Hershman

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Leesburg Confederate Monument Collection , 1901-1908

**Subtitle:** Leesburg Confederate Monument Collection

**Collection:** SC 0042

**Author:** Emily Hershman

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2006 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

**Publisher:** Thomas Balch Library

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Beth Schuster, 30 June 2009

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection number

SC 0042

### Language

English

### Abstract

The Leesburg Confederate Monument Collection consists of assorted memorabilia and research regarding the memorial, including a photocopied photograph and copyright of the monument, a timeline of its construction, a biographical sketch of Frederick William Sievers, a photocopied program from its unveiling ceremony, various newspaper articles describing the event, and a photocopied postcard of the monument sent to the sculptor's daughter, Lillian Gladys Sievers (1916-2002).

### Collector

Becky Fleming

**Extent**

9 items

**Repository**

Thomas Balch Library

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection open for research .

**Use Restrictions**

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

**Acquisition Information**

Becky Fleming, Round Hill, VA

**Processing Information**

Processed by Emily Hershman, 5 June 2009

**Preferred Citation**

Leesburg Confederate Monument Collection (SC 0042), Thomas Balch.

## Accruals

2005.0093

## Alternative Form Available

None

## Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Related Material

None

## Bibliography

Ancestry Library, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com) Find a Grave Memorial, <http://www.findagrave.com> Leesburg Confederate Monument Collection (SC 0042), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

## Other Finding Aid

None

## Technical Requirements

None

## Biographical Information

Sculptor Frederick William Sievers (1872-1966) was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and obtained his early education in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1893, Sievers moved to Richmond, Virginia. There he secured a job as a picture frame assembler and attended evening courses at the Virginia Mechanics Institute. After saving money to study in Europe, Sievers attended the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Rome and the Academie Julian in Paris. In 1902 he returned to the United States, receiving his first commission for the Confederate Memorial at Elmira, New York, in 1906. A year later, he was selected by the Loudoun Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy to construct the Confederate Monument in Leesburg. The statue of the Confederate soldier was unveiled on May 28, 1908, and remains on the Leesburg courthouse lawn. In 1910, the Virginia State Commission chose Sievers' model for the Virginia Memorial at Gettysburg over those of 35

other sculptors; the monument was unveiled in 1917. Soon after the completion of the Gettysburg memorial, Sievers moved back to Richmond, where he resided until his death in 1966.

## Scope and Content

The Leesburg Confederate Monument Collection consists of assorted memorabilia and research regarding the memorial, including a photocopied photograph and copyright of the monument, a timeline of its construction, a biographical sketch of Frederick William Sievers, a photocopied program from its unveiling ceremony, various newspaper articles describing the event, and a photocopied postcard of the monument sent to the sculptor's daughter, Lillian Gladys Sievers (1916-2002). These items are in good condition and may be photocopied.

The first article in the collection is a biographical sketch of Sievers that recounts various facts and events of his life, particularly in terms of his educational credentials and major works of art. Further biographical information is provided in a brief article by Ulrich Troubetzkoy (1914-2003), which denotes Sievers as a sculptor "famed for his monuments to Confederate war heroes." The process of the Leesburg monument's construction in the context of Sievers's career is noted in the timeline, which begins in 1899 with his first studio in Rome and concludes with 1917 with the dedication of the Virginia monument at Gettysburg. A January 24, 1901 article from *The Mirror* records a meeting of the Confederate Veterans and the Loudoun Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy in which "some progress was made towards raising funds" for the erection of the memorial. Also compiled in the collection is a photocopy of the monument's original copyright, signed by Sievers on 27 August 1907. He describes the memorial's subject as a "Confederate infantry man standing in act of cocking musket." The photocopy of the title page from the program of the 1908 dedication portrays a small depiction of the statue. An accompanying June 1908 article of *The Mirror* refers to the unveiling ceremony as an "all-around success" and "an honor to the citizens of Loudoun County." A photograph and descriptive caption of the monument in the 14 June 1970 issue of *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* characterizes it as "a popular camera subject" that "attracts much interest from tourists." Lastly, the photocopy of an undated postcard of the statue proclaims it to be "the pride of Leesburg" which "stand[s] guard over the local scene."

The biographical sketch, timeline, newspaper articles, copyright notice, and postcard are the only items in this collection.

## Contents List

**Folder 1: Timeline, Copyright notice, and Newspaper Articles Regarding the Leesburg Memorial , n.d.**

**Folder 2: Biographical Sketches of F. William Sievers, Postcard to Lillian Sievers , n.d.**