

ONE PATRIOTIC WOMAN  
NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN  
State - May 10, 1932.

State 5-10-32



MRS. MARY AMARINTHA SNOWDEN.

Mrs. Reed Stoney, ever alive in love for South Carolina and the South, having in mind the general concentration at Memorial day upon the men of the Confederacy, would not have forgotten the women, and as equal in love and devotion and in accomplishment, she sends the photograph of Mrs. Mary Amarintha Snowden published above.

In the State House is a marble tablet placed there by the general assembly of South Carolina and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Of Mrs. Snowden, Joseph W. Barnwell, than whom no greater patriot ever lived in South Carolina or more truthful man, said: "Mrs. Mary Amarintha Snowden, whom I knew well, was the most remarkable woman. I think, whom this community, in her time, produced."

Mr. Barnwell wrote the inscription on the tablet in the State House, which is as follows:

"In memory of Mary Amarintha Snowden, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Saylor Yates, born September 10, 1819, died February 23, 1898. President of Calhoun Monument association, president Ladies' Memorial association. Founder of the Confederate Home school of Charleston, S. C.

"Rich in the gift of persuasion to

noble ends, undaunted by no obstacle in the pursuit of her high purpose, by her unquenchable ardor in aid of the suffering soldier of the Confederacy, by her zeal to keep his memory sacred, by her toil for the nurture and education of his daughters, she won the admiring love of her generation.

"This stone is erected by the general assembly of South Carolina and the United Daughters of the Confederacy."

The following will explain itself: Gettysburg, April 14, 1871.

I will furnish the remains of the South Carolinians at Baltimore, at \$3.25 apiece, each to be separately encased in a close rough box about two feet long, nine inches wide and eight inches deep. For any which may require a larger box I will charge nothing more in addition than the extra cost of the larger box.

I shall require half of the pay in advance and the other half when the remains are ready to be shipped from Gettysburg.

I will furnish the remains at the above rates exclusive of any compensation which may be demanded by any persons on whose land any may be buried. Dr. R. P. Weaver, M. A. Snowden.

"Balto., April 21, 1871, Recd. at Charleston street Wharf, 56 boxes, marked, 'M. A. S. Charleston, S. C.', in good order. F. C. Jacobs."

The foregoing are indices to an incident in the patriotic, patient, persistent activities of one of the greatest citizens South Carolina has ever produced, whose memory should ever be recalled on Memorial day.

The agreement and the receipt mark the successful accomplishment of an effort made to bring back to South Carolina what remained of soldiers of this state who had fallen and been buried at Gettysburg, Pa.

In the month probably, of April, 1866, Mrs. Snowden and a few friends in Charleston had formed. "The Ladies Association of Charleston to Commemorate the Confederate Dead." This was probably the first Confederate Memorial association ever formed. The getting of the remains marked the end of tedious negotiations with the government and the satisfying of rapacious inimical land owners. What remained of 84 bodies of South Carolinians "who fell at Gettysburg" were brought to Charleston. "Eight hundred head stones have been erected in the grounds, besides many others which have been erected elsewhere." A monument with inscriptions in bronze was raised to honor and perpetuate their memory. In a few words the record is stated. The months and years of patient, persistent effort, the thousands of dollars raised from an impoverished people, the overcoming of prejudice and enmity, they are only recorded in the heroic endurance of the lives of Mrs. Snowden and her associates.

But all this is but one phase of her life.

There is the Calhoun monument in Charleston, funds for which she as leader and others began to collect in 1854, and the invested securities of which she saved by sewing them into her skirts and carrying them about her person when Sherman passed through Columbia, where she was then a refugee. Well may William D. Porter have written her in 1872, when he sent her a memorial volume printed by order of the legislature in 1851 of Calhoun: "If any person in the range of my acquaintance is distinguished above all others for ardent devotion to the memory of our great statesman, Mr. Calhoun, and by long, faithful and unwearied endeavors to erect a memorial worthy of his name and public services, you are that person."

There are other results of her patriotic work, but only one other is mentioned—the Confederate Home college.

From an address by John P. Thomas, Jr., of Columbia, delivered at the time of the unveiling of the tablet to her memory in the State House, this is taken: "This institution (Confederate Home college), the only one of its kind in the Southern states, was founded August 12, 1867. On that day, Mrs. Snowden, the only president which the institution ever had up to the time of her death, secured the promises which were the means, of beginning this beneficent enterprise. In conjunction with her sister, she mortgaged her home to

secure the funds for the first year's annual rental."

Mrs. Snowden and Miss Ann Pamela Cuninghame (the savior of Mount Vernon) roomed together, as girls, at the Barhamville school of Doctor Marks, near this city. Probably no two more noble women ever roomed together.

Mrs. Mary Amarintha Snowden was the mother of Dr. Yates Snowden of the University of South Carolina.