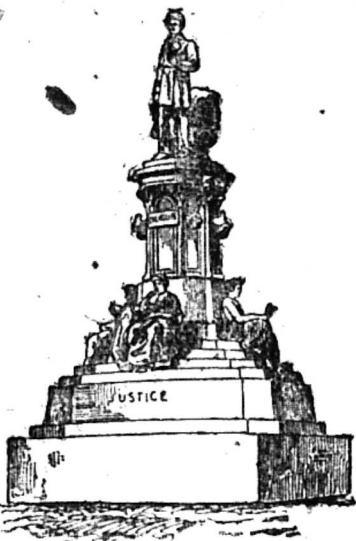


JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN

THE MONUMENT ERECTED TO THE GREAT STATESMAN.

**Facts Regarding the Calhoun Family—
Some of the Living Representatives—
Interesting Extracts from Private Letters,
Hitherto Unpublished.**

From the fact that several of the descendants and relatives of the late Hon. John Caldwell Calhoun are residents of Atlanta and vicinity, a strong local interest attaches to the unveiling of the monument to the memory of the great statesman in Charleston to-day.



THE CALHOUN STATUE.

The movement to erect the monument was set on foot in 1834, at which time eleven ladies met in Charleston, formed an association for the purpose of raising the necessary funds, and earnestly went to work. By the end of that year \$8,000 had been raised, and canvassers were sent out to augment the sum. Money came from the rich and poor alike, for each of his old constituents was eager for a part in honoring his memory, and by the close of 1860 the fund had reached \$20,000. Then came the war, which naturally produced a temporary suspension of the enterprise, but it was not lost sight of or forgotten, amidst the general wreck of fortunes that followed. The present happy consummation of the cherished wish of the past thirty-three years is due to the intelligence and zeal of the treasurer of the association, Mrs. M. A. Snowden, who had invested the fund in securities, the market value of which, in 1883, was \$51,917.77. Four years prior to this time, thirteen gentlemen of Charleston, with Major Henry E. Young as chairman, accepted the appointment as a committee to take charge of the work, and a contract was made with Mr. Albert E. Harnish to execute the statue and design the pedestal at a cost of \$44,000. The contract called for a bronze statue of Calhoun, to be placed on a pedestal of Carolina granite, and four allegorical figures of Truth, Justice, Constitution and History. The figure of Calhoun is fourteen feet high, and represents him addressing the Senate. The monument has been placed in Marion Square, opposite the South Carolina Military Academy, on Calhoun street. The dedicatory address was made by Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar.

The several biographies which have been written of the distinguished statesman are all exceedingly deficient in their mention of the genealogy of the family and the living representatives. Judge W. L. Calhoun, of Atlanta, is in possession of a family record handed down to him by his father, the late Hon. James M. Calhoun, from which the following is gleaned:

The Calhoun family who were originally from Scotland, emigrated to Ireland and settled in Donegal county. James Calhoun and his wife, Catharine, were the first who came to America, and they settled in Pennsylvania. In 1769 four brothers and one sister—William, John, Ezekiel, Patrick and Catharine—moved from Pennsylvania to Abbeville district, South Carolina, and settled near each other, about twelve miles west of Abbeville court house. For many years the neighborhood was called "Calhoun Settlement." February 1, 1769, Catharine, the mother, was killed with twenty-two others, by the Indians, near Long Cane, S. C. From the families of the above the Calhouns of the South descended. Among them have been many who gained honor and distinction, either as soldiers or statesmen, in the service of their country, and they are all more or less noted for those sterling traits of character which were so thoroughly developed in the man whose memory is being so highly honored to-day.

Most distinguished of them all, however, was John Caldwell Calhoun. He was the son of Patrick Calhoun and Martha Caldwell Calhoun, and

district, South Carolina, and settled near each other, about twelve miles west of Abbeville court house. For many years the neighborhood was called "Calhoun Settlement." February 1, 1763, Catharine, the mother, was killed with twenty-two others, by the Indians, near Long Cane, S. C. From the families of the above the Calhouns of the South descended. Among them have been many who gained honor and distinction, either as soldiers or statesmen, in the service of their country, and they are all more or less noted for those sterling traits of character which were so thoroughly developed in the man whose memory is being so highly honored to day.

Most distinguished of them all, however, was John Caldwell Calhoun. He was the son of Patrick Calhoun and Martha Caldwell Calhoun, and was born near Calhoun's mills, in Abbeville district, S. C., May 18, 1782. He married his cousin, Florida, daughter of John Ewing Calhoun and Florida Calhoun, and they had six children—Andrew P., Anna, Patrick, Cornelia, John Caldwell James and William Lowndes—all of whom are now dead. Hon. John C. Calhoun died March 31, 1850.

Mrs. Margaret Calhoun, now living, is the widow of the late Andrew P.; their children are Patrick, John C. and Miss Margie Calhoun; these grandchildren of the eminent statesman are all living near Atlanta, excepting John C., who is a resident of New York. John and Benjamin Putnam Calhoun, of Palatka, Fla., are also grandchildren; the only other grandchild was William Lowndes Calhoun, who died recently. Dr. A. W. Calhoun, Judge W. Calhoun and Mr. A. E. Calhoun, of Atlanta, are also related.

The life and public services of Hon. John C. Calhoun are familiar to every student of history. He made his debut as a speaker December 19, 1811, (when a member of Congress and not yet thirty years of age) in support of his committee's resolution authorizing immediate and active preparations for war with Great Britain and in answer to Hon. John Randolph. In editorial comment upon it the Richmond Enquirer said: "We hail this young Carolinian as one of the master spirits who stamp their names upon the age in which they live."

His eminent services in the popular branch of Congress ended March 3, 1817, and in December following he was appointed Secretary of War, under President Monroe; in 1824 he was elected Vice-President, and March 4, 1825 took his seat as presiding officer of the United States Senate; re-elected Vice-President in 1833 on the ticket with Gen. Jackson; in December, 1832, he was elected to the United States Senate, which was the scene of his proudest triumphs. He was known as the head and front of the nullification cause, and he honored in the designation, although it was very unpopular, and denunciation, abuse and misrepresentation was heaped upon him in consequence.

In March 1843, he resigned his seat in the Senate and returned to the privacy of his beautiful home at Fort Hill; in 1844 he accepted the appointment of secretary of State, under President Tyler but retired after the election of Mr. Polk in 1845; re-elected to U. S. Senate in 1846. His last great effort was his speech on the slavery question, March 4, 1850; being too ill to deliver it, it was read in his presence by his colleague, Judge Butler. His voice was heard for the last time in debate, March 13th following in defence of his proposition to amend the constitution. About six o'clock on the morning of March 31st, 1850, the golden cord was severed, and his spirit passed "like the anthem of a breeze, away."

The character of this eminent statesman in public life was absolutely pure. He was invariably governed by his sense of right and justice, and always firm and prompt, manly and independent in his opinions. His sentiments were noble and elevated, and in manners he was affable and dignified. He was kind and charitable, frank and honest, and faithful to his friends; attached with equal tenacity, to his principles and prejudices and he never shrank from the performance of a duty. His devotion to the South was not so much the result of sectional prejudice as the natural consequence of his honest views with reference to the theory of State and national governments. The soil of South Carolina contains no nobler dust than that of John Caldwell Calhoun.

The distinguished Senator conceived a strong attachment for the late Hon. James M. Calhoun, of Atlanta; when the latter was a young man and had emigrated from the Calhoun settlement to Decatur, he corresponded with him regularly, and his letters were full of the wisest admonition and the most kindly solicitude. These letters, with other historical papers, were treasured as valuable family relics, and when Sherman's army entered Atlanta during the late war, they all narrowly escaped destruction. The Federal soldiers, having taken possession of the Calhoun mansion, on Washington street, with that natural abandon so common to a veteran soldier, and, no doubt, in ignorance of the value of the papers, scattered these sacred mementoes on the ground. A faithful negro servant, who knew of the manner in which his master prized them, quietly gathered up all that he could find, and, placing them in a box, secretly buried them in the ground, and thus they were preserved.

The purity of John C. Calhoun's character in public life has never been better portrayed than by the following extract, which is taken from one of these letters, dated at his home, Fort Hill, S. C., 17th July, 1839:

"My political course has indeed been one of great difficulty, as any man's must be who honestly performs his duty without regard to personal consequences. But I have no cause to complain. I selected mine with a full view of the consequences, looking for reward, not to the popularity of the day, but to the approbation of my own conscience, and to the unbiased opinion of after times."

The same letter contains the following encouraging words: "You have, indeed, struggled through many difficulties, but the greater the ob-