

# Reflections upon a Memorial to the Women of the Confederacy

by John Cantey Knight

*The memorial was erected in 1912 on  
the South Carolina State Capitol grounds:  
Frederick W. Ruckstull, the sculptor.*

Remember the women of the Confederacy  
and their Sir Walter Scott lovers  
kissing with impassioned, parting lips  
and promises of a homecoming.

Remember the women of the Confederacy,  
their smiles full of coquettish grace  
as their defenders rode lightly away,  
shining in the morning of war.

Remember the women of the Confederacy  
in the flush of swift, sure victories  
that brought blood to the cheeks  
and hopes of their heroes' quick return.

Remember the women of the Confederacy,  
worn like fading, war-front letters,  
counting the young men long dead  
at Sharpsburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg.

Remember the women of the Confederacy.  
like the women in Greek tragedies,  
left alone in a conquered country,  
their men buried in Virginia.

Remember the women of the Confederacy,  
their golden hair, their raven tresses,  
tied in tight buns, turning gray  
as the tunics of defeated soldiers.

Remember the women of the Confederacy:  
glory to them in bronze monument,  
the passing of their saddened lives  
upon Columbia's capitol ground.

Remember the women of the Confederacy,  
seated in everlasting remembrance,  
guarded by cherubs and angel,  
shaded by a laurels crown.

Remember the women of the Confederacy  
in collared, simple mourning dress,  
a romance turned to a book of wisdom  
in our great great-grandmother's hands.

*Remember the women of the Confederacy.*