



South Carolina Monument (Chickamauga Battlefield)

Norman Dasinger, Jr., January 1, 2021

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An archival photo of the unveiling of the monument in 1901 | [LOC](https://www.loc.gov)

In 1893, the General Assembly of South Carolina appointed a committee to locate the position of troops from the state that fought in the battle of Chickamauga, which took place September 19–20, 1863, in northwest Georgia. In 1894, a commission was established to select a suitable site for a monument to all South Carolina soldiers that participated in this battle. After the location was determined, the legislature in 1900 appropriated \$10,000 for the creation of a monument, and on May 27, 1901, it was dedicated. Gov. Miles B McSweeney, a former newspaper publisher from Hampton, South Carolina, gave the keynote address. He remarked that day: "It is, my countrymen, to such men as those who bared their breasts on many a battlefield to the belching fire and lead of the enemy that we come to dedicate this monument. It is a privilege which we enjoy to have such a heritage as they have left us."

The monument was originally capped with a bronze, 13-foot-high palmetto tree, emblematic of South Carolina. The tree leaves could not withstand storms, and the tree was taken down for repair in 1903. It was replaced, but the leaves were still structurally weak, and in 1905 the tree was removed and replaced with an obelisk.



South Carolina Monument today | Waymarking.com



Detail on cannoneer on South Carolina Monument | NPS

Between the soldiers on one side of the obelisk is a circular seal of the State of South Carolina.

The tall monument sits upon a commanding hill in the north Dyer Field. It was Gen. Joseph B Kershaw's men who attacked a Union position on this site and eventually passed over en route toward Union Gen. George Thomas's defensive line on Snodgrass Hill. Perhaps the most famous soldier to have moved upon this site was Richard Kirkland, of the 2nd South Carolina. Sergeant Kirkland is better known as the "Angel of Marye's Heights," for the humanitarian act of giving water to wounded Federal soldiers at the battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 13, 1862. Kirkland would die near the site of the South Carolina monument as part of Kershaw's pursuing Confederates.

Inscriptions on the monument:

(Front bottom left of each figure): AMES FOUNDRIES/CHICOPEE, MASS.

(Front (east) of base): SOUTH CAROLINA/TO HER FAITHFUL SONS AT CHICKAMAUGA/SOUTH CAROLINA/ERECTS THIS MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE/THE VALOR THEY PROVED, AND THE LIVES THEY GAVE/ON THIS GREAT BATTLEFIELD

(Cornerstone on left side of base): ERECTED/1901

(Back of base): List of brigades and batteries engaged, and the numbers of casualties of each.



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