

# Hard Feelings: Historic Black Perspectives on Confederate Monuments

## Introduction

Monuments and memorials to Confederate soldiers and leaders began appearing in the United States shortly after the Civil War ended. As historians have noted in previous research, many of these monuments came in waves when white supremacy was on the rise, especially during post-reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights era. The advocates and dissenters of the commemoration of Confederate monuments have remained vocal throughout history, continuing with each generation to our present day.

This project focused on the early Black voices discussing these monuments, which have always been a point of contention in both local and national political spheres. We searched through over 150 Black owned or Black operated newspapers for these opinions. We built a large collection of perspectives, news reports, images, cartoons, and advertisements from these historic newspapers.



Tampa Bay Times - September 3rd, 1973



"Scrutinizer" in The Chicago Defender - October 14th, 1916

## Methods and Materials

We sifted through four different archives: The Library of Congress, ProQuest, Newspapers.com, and Digital NC. Our definition of monuments or memorials included statues, plaques, sculptures, places named after Confederates, and the appearance of the Confederate flag itself. Using keywords to assist our search, we carefully went through each result and found the articles of interest. We compiled the articles into categories of "editorials," "news," "images," "cartoons," and "other" according to the newspaper the articles came from. Some archives had overlap in coverage of certain newspapers and were given special attention to ensure no article missed our search.

Olivia also found materials of interest at the Rubenstein Library at Duke University and the Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill. She visited these libraries and look through physical materials which she created indexes for. She also made an index of digitized addresses by white supremacist Julian Shakespeare Carr, accessed through UNC's digitized collection.

### Keywords

Monument	Memorial (Or War Memorial)
Statue	Sculpture
Courthouse	Plaque
Bronze	Confederate Flag
Confederacy	Confederate
United Daughters Of The Confederacy	United Confederate Veterans
Sons Of Confederate Veterans	Jackson, Stonewall
Lee, Robert	Stuart, Jeb
Davis, Jefferson	Maury, Matthew Fontaine
Mammy; Mammy Movement	Statuary Hall; Hall Of Fame
Tillman, Benjamin	Stone Mountain

### MONUMENTS OR JUSTICE—WHICH?

CONFEDERATE VETERANS AT THEIR REUNION at Jacksonville, Fla., recently passed a resolution urging that monuments be erected in the capital of each slave-holding state to commemorate the fidelity to their masters by the slaves during the

The Chicago Defender - May 30th, 1914

## Results

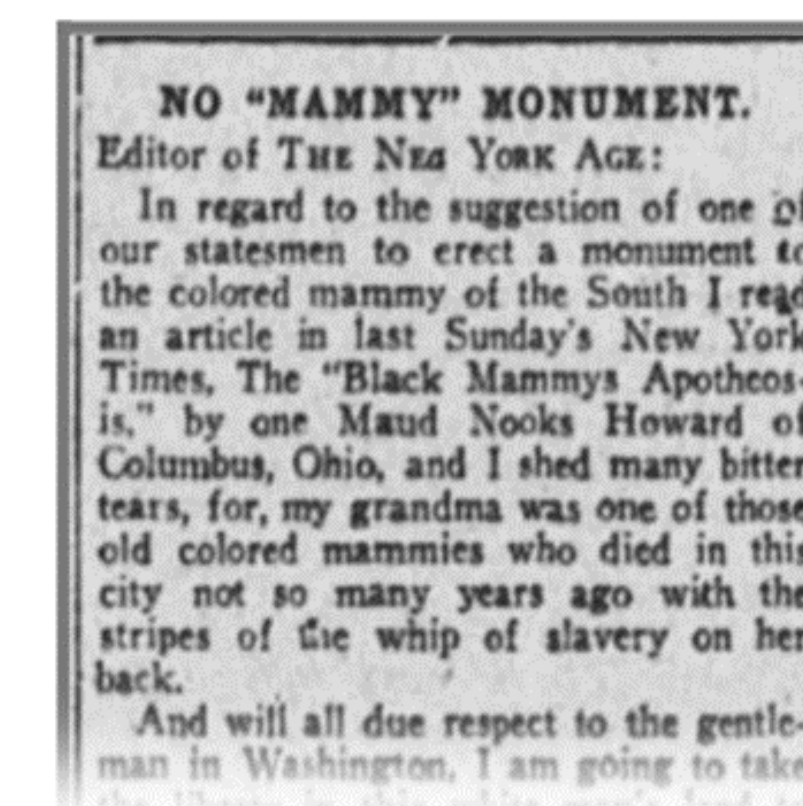
We built a comprehensive archive of articles relating to confederate monuments from historic Black perspectives. We catalogued nearly 2,150 articles and discovered major themes in Black discussion of the Confederate monuments when they were originally erected.

"Many of the articles presented Confederate monument controversy as only affecting Blacks and as a symbolic issue alone. However, the erection of these Confederate monuments was spurred by institutional racism, which affects everyone in the United States regardless of race. Additionally, the problem is not just the monuments' existence but that people wanted them up in the first place and why. Further investigation into how language places people within this issue—or removes them from it—could shed light on why the Confederate monument controversy has been drawn out for over a century."

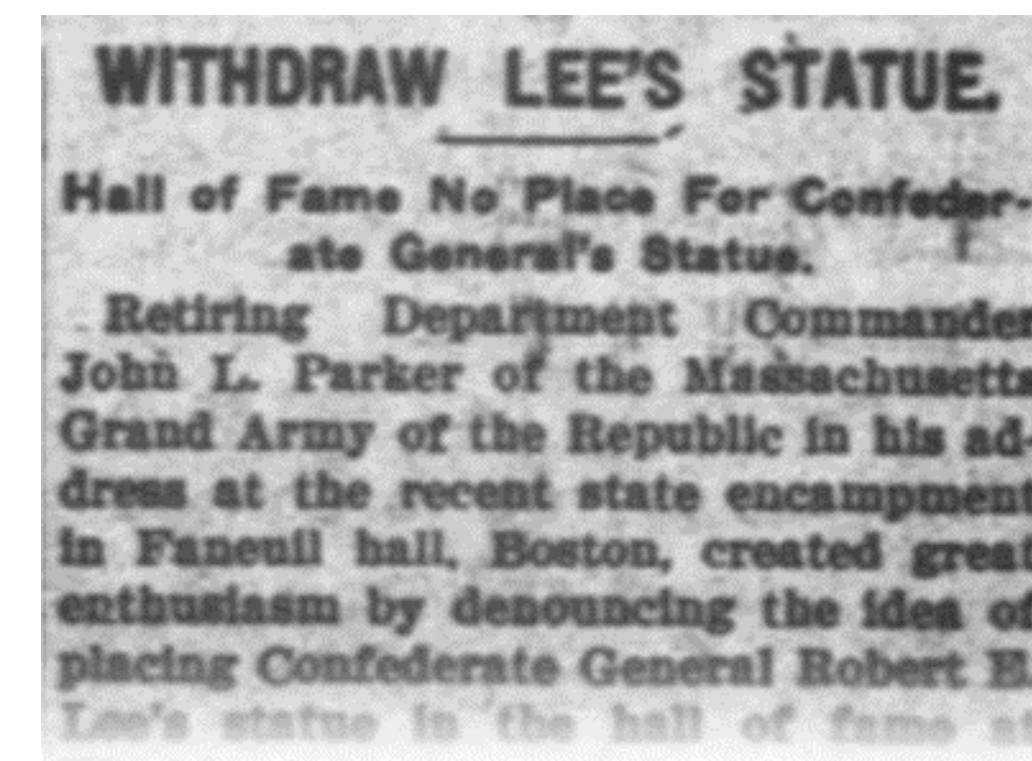
- Olivia Haynie

"Confederate monuments are not just symbols of hatred and white supremacy, they are active players of it. Lynchings, cross burnings, and KKK rituals are rudimentary parts of the existence of confederate monuments, where they were not passive symbols but an active site to promote white supremacy. Beyond individual instances of racism, their collective existence is a monument to the spirit of white supremacy and the systemic racism that grips this country and its history."

- Justin Seward



Mattie Fagan in the New York Age - February 3rd, 1923



The Broad Ax - April 23, 1910

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