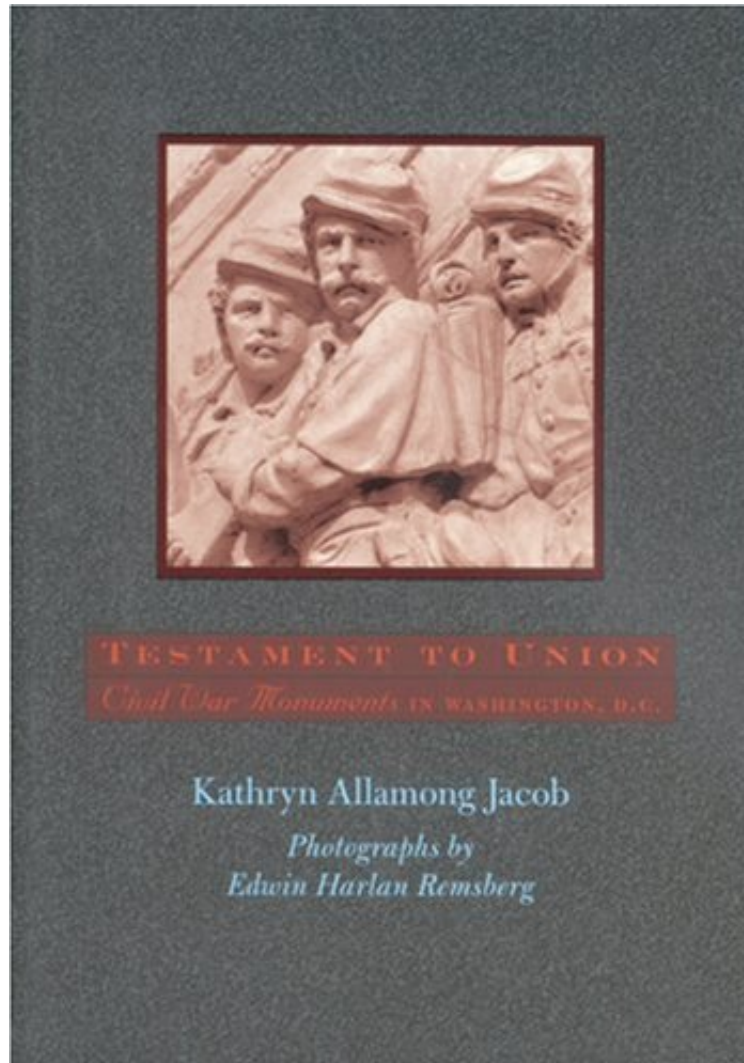


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## Testament to Union: Civil War Monuments in Washington, D.C.

*Kathryn Allamong Jacob*

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**Kathryn Allamong Jacob : Testament to Union: Civil War Monuments in Washington, D.C.** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Testament to Union: Civil War Monuments in Washington, D.C.:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This isn't for a casual reader. I use it ...By shadycrzyThis isn't for a casual reader. I use it as a reference for a blog I write and it gives me in-depth details of the monuments. I live it Washington, D.C. so I always want to know more about the public sculpture.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Must Have for For Your D.C. VisitBy Robert ReddIt is only fitting that a war that defined our country would be the home to many monuments and memorials commemorating said war. It is also only fitting that these

monuments be honored and remembered in a volume that allows readers and historians to learn about them in one convenient location. Author Kathryn Jacob and photographer Edwin Remsberg have done justice to these men and women. After a brief introduction the book is broken into 41 "chapters" each of which tells the story of an individual monument. These chapters are all brief, most being less than five pages. Each entry contains vital information such as location, the name of the sculptor, date erected, and medium. The text for each covers the history of the monument and may include information such as who commissioned and paid for it, symbolism that is incorporated, site selection, biographical information on the sculptor and more. Also included for each is a brief listing of sources for those interested in more information. Each monument receives at least one b/w photo and many have several. The book also includes three appendices: an alphabetical listing of sculptors and their monuments, an alphabetical listing of sculpture names, and a timeline of when sculptures were erected. As of the printing of this book the last sculpture was erected in 1998. It is the African-American Civil War Memorial. Read more about the memorial and museum here. Just a couple of minor quibbles here. I would really like to see the book updated to include GPS coordinates. These are really a must now considering most cell phones are GPS equipped and the majority of travellers will at minimum have a GPS unit if not a smartphone. For me I also found the photos a bit inadequate. This is more a product of the printing and attempts to keep the price down and is no reflection on the photographer. Personally, I would like to see a companion volume with large color plates of the memorials. There is also no map that can help tie these sites together and make visiting several at a time more convenient. Maps are free for the asking just about anywhere in the D.C. area however. These minor issues aside this is a must have for any Civil War historian who is visiting Washington D.C. Without this book there is little doubt travellers would miss the majority of these overlooked sites. For armchair tourists this is an excellent book as well. It can be read in short time frames and does not need to be read in any order. Much to the chagrin of my wife I will be taking this with us on our next visit to the nation's capital. Highly recommended!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Into" the Civil War? Or visiting Washington? You'll want this book

By Donald M. Bishop

This fascinating and valuable book describes the 41 Civil War monuments in the District of Columbia, nearby Maryland, and northern Virginia -- the equestrian statues on Washington's traffic circles, the "Emancipation" statue of Lincoln and a freed slave, Arlington Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, the "Arsenal Monument" to 21 women killed in 1864 while making cartridges for the Union Army, and many others. It's both a guidebook and a history. In each chapter, author Katherine Allamong Jacob covers the event or individual honored, the movement to erect a monument, the selection of a sculptor, design and construction, and the dedication ceremony. She introduces artists once widely known and honored -- Daniel Chester French, Felix de Weldon, Gutzon Borglum, Henry Merwin Shrady, and Vinnie Ream Hoxie among them -- to a new generation. Considered together, the 41 chapters add up to a long essay on historical memory. "Statues were, and are, more than the sum of their metal and stone parts," wrote Jacob in the introduction. "Public monuments yield cultural power. Each one carries a heavy load of invisible ideological baggage. Mundane as they may appear, ubiquitous as they may be, public monuments constitute serious cultural authority ... they impose a memory of an event or individual in the public landscape that orders our lives. These monuments confer a legitimacy upon the memory they embody.... And by imprinting one memory, they erase others." "The Civil War was a defining event, breaking American history into a "before" and "after." Every American needs to understand the war's origins in slavery, expressed in sectionalism, and the political, economic, legal, and social dimensions of how the Union and the founding ideals of the nation were challenged by secession. Studying these monuments provides a lens. Every American needs to understand the course of the war -- its events from Fort Sumter to Gettysburg to Appomattox. It was noble and vile, the last of the old wars and the first of the new. It chewed up lives on a scale unprecedented in history. It bought out the best and worst in men. These monuments can help visitors know more of the conflict. And all Americans need to understand the war's legacy -- the changes it worked in American history. This means Americans need to consider how the war has been remembered and interpreted. It is in this last area that this volume is so valuable. When most of the monuments were unveiled, for instance, the history of slavery, secession, and Jim Crow had been muted in a "lost cause" narrative. "Testament to Union" helps reveal the treatment of the war by subsequent generations. In a book full of instructive stories, this reader's favorite comes from Jacobs' narrative of the dedication of the "Nuns of the Battlefield" monument, opposite St. Mathew's Cathedral, in 1924, close to 60 years after the war ended. "One of the first speakers noted the poignancy of the fact that so many years had elapsed before the sisters were honored that not one who had nursed the Civil War soldiers remained to hear the tributes," she wrote. "From out of the crowd of hundreds of nuns seated in front of the platform arose a 'surviving nun of the battlefield,' who 'walked stooped and with head bowed up to the platform to thunderous applause.' After a hurried consultation, Archbishop Curley of Baltimore announced that the elderly nun was Sister Magdeline of the Sisters of Mercy. She received a long ovation." "Oh, to have been there!" -30-

This book tells the stories behind the many District of Columbia statues that honor participants in the Civil War. Organized geographically for easy use on walking or driving tours, the entries list the subject and title of each memorial along with its sculptor, medium, date, and location. 92 photos.

Reading this book makes me want to jump in the car, drive down to Washington and look at these monuments with new eyes. It provides a wonderful example of what historic travel is all about and the way it can add a whole new dimension to a visit... Jacob takes what could have been a dry topic and turns it into a fascinating behind-the-pedestals look at 41 Civil War monuments in the nation's capital. (Tom Huntington, Editor *Historic Traveler* Fall 1999) Rich and fascinating and packed with the kind of detail that can only come with total immersion in a subject, *Testament to Union* is a Washingtonian's jewel hoard... We are, in short, in the hands of a master of anecdote, who leads the reader from one end of the town to the other by the stories and histories behind the sightless faces of the sculptured heroes and their attendant figures. (Duncan Spencer *Washington Times* Vol. CVII, No. 1, 1999) Readable and well illustrated... Each entry sets the memorial in its political and artistic context and traces the story of its design, construction, and dedication. These accounts are well researched, vivid, and revealing, as Jacob weaves in human stories about controversies, sponsors, and sculptors. (Catherine W. Bishir *Journal of Southern History*) Jacob's book is a handsomely produced catalog of the Civil War monuments located in the Washington, D.C., area, with excellent new photographs. (Kirk Savage *Public Historian*) Jacob's remarkable volume vividly animates our understanding of the resonant connections between art and history within a politically charged civic matrix, and she skillfully conveys the complexities inherent in historical commemoration. (Betsy Fahlman *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*)

From the Back Cover Washington's Civil War sculptures bear silent witness to the struggle to preserve the Union. They are the fruit of conscious efforts to shape the nation's memory of that struggle. First published in 1998, *Testament to Union* is a wonderful guide to these powerful public monuments. Kathryn Allamong Jacob offers individual descriptions of forty-one sculptures, providing a lively and informative guide to some of Washington's most beautiful and moving works of art. Updated with a map of the featured monuments, this new edition of *Testament to Union* is an essential resource for tourists, long-time residents, and anyone interested in the Civil War or public art.

"Reading this book makes me want to jump in the car, drive down to Washington and look at these monuments with new eyes. It provides a wonderful example of what historic travel is all about and the way it can add a whole new dimension to a visit." -- *Historic Traveler*

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Kathryn Allamong Jacob is curator of manuscripts at the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University. She is the author of *Capital Elites: Society in Washington, D.C. After the Civil War*. Edwin Harlan Remsberg is a photographer who lives in Fallston, Maryland. His photographs appear in *Maryland's Vanishing Lives*, also published by Johns Hopkins.

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