

**JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY
2311 MEMORIAL AVENUE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501**

(434) 846-0501

"THE GRAVE OF A GEORGIA VOLUNTEER"

The Richmond Enquirer, in 1871, contained a letter from "York" at Stribling Springs, Augusta County, Virginia. The letter described the discovery of the grave of an unknown soldier from the Twelfth Georgia Regiment. While on "an excursion...with a large party of ladies and gentlemen," Mrs. Mary Ashley TOWNSEND discovered the grave. A prominent writer, Mrs. TOWNSEND penned "The Grave of A Georgia Volunteer" to mark the event. The newspaper printed both the letter and the poem, which apparently was copied for a Mrs. WALTERS [WATTERS?] by one Minnie FLETCHER.

[*Confederate Veteran*, Vol. 3 No. 8 (August 1895), p. 248; "The Grave of A Georgia Volunteer," Mss., MS2094, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA.]

MARY ASHLEY VAN VOORHIS TOWNSEND (1836-1901)

Mary Ashley Van VOORHIS was born in 1836 in Wayne County, New York. She married Gideon TOWNSEND and moved to New Orleans, where she began her writing career. A prolific writer, she wrote poems for the laying of the cornerstone of Tulane University, for the opening of Howard Memorial Library, for the Confederate Reunion of 1892, and for several monument dedications. She also wrote a novel, books of poetry, short stories and essays. Mrs. TOWNSEND died 7 June 1901.

[*Confederate Veteran*, Vol. 12 No. 8 (October 1904), pp. 477-478.]