

First Confederate Memorial



The Confederate Memorial in Indian Mound Cemetery at Romney, West Virginia, is considered the first official memorial to Confederate dead to be erected anywhere in the United States of America.

In the early spring of 1866, citizens of Hampshire County decided to form an association to honor the Confederate dead. Eventually they adopted a formal organization and on June 1, 1866, held the first ceremony to honor the Confederate graves in Indian Mound Cemetery.

Later, they ordered a monument listing the names of all county citizens who died in the American Civil War. The monument was formally dedicated on September 26, 1867.

A little known fact about the Confederate Memorial. Shortly after the Civil War, Federal law prevented any monuments being made that would honor the Confederate States of America. As a result, the monument had to be brought in secretly. The monument was brought into the county at night and then had its last two commemorative words chiseled in on location, so as to avoid the possibility of being seized in transit from where it was created. The inscription says, "The daughters of Old Hampshire erect this tribute of affection to her heroic sons who fell in defence of Southern Rights."

Each year, Confederate Memorial Day in Hampshire County recalls the sacrifice and suffering of men and women on both sides of the Civil War.

