

# **FOUR ADDRESSES**

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Four Addresses by Mildred Lewis Rutherford

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**MILDRED LEWIS RUTHERFORD**

**FOUR  
ADDRESSES**



South ✓

250

# FOUR ADDRESSES

by

MISS MILDRED LEWIS RUTHERFORD  
OF ATHENS GEORGIA

HISTORIAN GENERAL  
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF CONFEDERACY  
1911-1916

*Author of*  
*The South in History and Literature*  
*American Authors, Etc.*



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*Arranged and Printed By*

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# Address

Delivered By

Miss Mildred Lewis Rutherford

Historian General  
United Daughters of the  
Confederacy

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The South in the Building of  
the Nation

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Washington, D. C.  
Thursday, November 14th, 1912



**LOAN STACK**

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**By**  
**J. STANDISH CLARK**

## The South in the Building of the Nation



HERE comes to me a memory—the memory of our Dr. J. B. Lamar Curry, and what he said years ago, that history as it is now written is most unjust to the South, and history if accepted as it is written, will consign the South to infamy.

Who is responsible for the South's unwritten history? Surely we cannot blame the northern historian. His duty is and was to record the facts as they are given to him; and if we of the South have not given him these facts, how can we hold the historian of the North responsible? (Applause). The fault we find with the northern historian, (of course there are a few exceptions,) is not so much what he has said against us as what he has omitted to say. (Applause).

Unless we, Daughters of the Confederacy, will look into this matter and see where the trouble lies we will still have this history untrue to us. As long as the Book Trust controls our Boards of Education and northern text-books continue to be used in southern schools to the exclusion of southern text-books, we will realize that the history of the South will never be known to the coming generations. (Applause).

We cannot in the South compete with the North in publishing houses. Therefore, we cannot sell books at as small a cost as they can be sold by northern publishers. This throws the responsibility upon the moneyed men of the South, who have not thought it worth while to spend their means in having publishing houses for southern text-books so that we can compete in prices with northern text-books. We must not blame the manufacturer of books at the North because he is pushing his interests in the matter of his books. You would do it and I would do it.

No, Daughters of the Confederacy, too long have we been indifferent to this matter. Only within the last fifteen or twenty years have we really awakened to the fact that our history has not been written. The institutions of the South, especially the institution of slavery, about which clustered a civilization unique in the annals of history, have never been justly presented from the southern point of view. Thomas Nelson Page, more than any other one writer, has thrown side-

lights upon this institution which have revolutionized the thought of the world. And so we are greatly indebted to him!

Daughters, are the books of Thomas Nelson Page in your libraries, especially his "Old South?" Are these books given to your children to read? Are your children encouraged to read these books? If not, they should be. You cannot expect the North, and you cannot expect other nations to know by intuition the greatness of the South. Ah! how often the vision comes before me of the passing years, and I see our inertness and indifference and I see more—the future years filled with keen regret and self-reproach.

I am here tonight, Daughters, yes, daughters of Confederate heroes, to plead with you, to urge you to a more aggressive and progressive campaign in collecting and preserving this history. We have now living amongst us some who lived during the old plantation days—some who can now tell us from their own experiences what that institution of slavery was, and what it meant to them and to the negroes under their control. In those days we never thought of calling them slaves. That is a word that crept in with the abolition crusade. They were our people, our negroes, part of our very homes. There are men and women still living who know these facts and who can give them to us, but they are fast passing away, just as are the men and women who lived during the War Between the States. Are we getting from these men and women the facts which only they can give us, or are we indifferent and not willing to take time and not willing to take the trouble to get this information? Let me say tonight that if we still continue to let the years pass by, without giving attention to this subject, the history of this period will ever be unwritten.

Now you say, "What can we do?" What can we do? Anything in the world we wish to do. If there is a power that is placed in any hands, it is the power that is placed in the hands of the southern woman in her home. (Applause). That power is great enough to direct legislative bodies—and that, too, without demanding the ballot. (Applause). As you are, so is your child, and as you think, so will your husband think, (Laughter and applause) that is, if you are the right kind of mother and wife and hold the confidence and love of your husband and children. Your children are to be the future leaders of this land. Are you training these children yourself or are you relegating that power to someone else? Something is radically wrong with the education of the present day. We