

# Stone Mountain Memorial Will Preserve for Posterity

MEMORIAL IS LIKENED TO GRECIAN TEMPLES ON THE ACROPOLIS

## The Civilization and the Culture of the Old South

At the invitation of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Gutson Borglum, the great sculptor, came to Atlanta to inspect Stone Mountain with a view to determining the advisability of carving upon its precipitous north side a bas-relief portrait of General Robert E. Lee, of the Confederacy. Mr. Borglum had been told of the wonderful advantages Stone Mountain offered for the creation of such a monument, and the idea fascinated him.

But when Mr. Borglum had seen Stone Mountain and studied its majesty and inspiring bulk, he decided that he should not carve upon its face a monument of Lee. As great a leader and man as was Robert E. Lee, the idea came to him that Stone Mountain should be used not for the immortalization of the features of merely a Lee, or to perpetuate the memory of any other one leader or incident of the war between the states, but that the great granite monolith should be defined as the seat for a great eternal memorial of all that the civilization and culture of the south was before the war and became during the war. This landmark of the ages seems to Mr. Borglum to have been set in the midst of things as a fitting memorial for the preservation, for all time, of the people, ideals, deeds—the civilization which developed through generations in its shadow and burst into full flower in the storm of the civil war.

It was two years ago that this idea came to Mr. Borglum. Since then this idea has been not less than a great passion with him. He has worked at it, lived and dreamed a memorial which would adequately and heroically write into the granite page of Stone Mountain the story of the south—a memorial which would be a contribution to American civilization.

### READY TO BEGIN GREAT WORK.

Stone Mountain is ready to begin the actual work of carving upon a monument into the stone, and upon his present visit to Atlanta, he brought with him a number of preliminary sketches of the work he has planned. It is now, therefore, possible to give a concrete idea of what Mr. Borglum has meant by a memorial which would fitly portray the civilization of the Confederacy.

This memorial, Mr. plans, shall consist of the Confederate army, marching in its more prominent figures the likeness of Lee, Jackson, Stuart, Lee and other generals, marching across the face of the mountain.

The body of men carved in this manner will be seen continuous with the rock and far distance back into the heart of the mountain, only to stop and again farther back and higher in the center group. The army will descend into the mountain, and back down into the hills, a great marching battery of artillery. In this manner will be conveyed the impression of a vast army existing in the body of the mountain—of one could not break off

A sketch by Gutson Borglum, sculptor of the Stone Mountain Confederate memorial, showing how the completed memorial will appear on the perpendicular side of the mountain. At that point the mountain is 279 feet high and the face of the mountain is one and one-half miles long. The figures shown are fifty feet high and the entire group is over 2,000 feet long.

Further portions of the mountain's surface and behind the men within. But even in reality there will be visible a great number of features—literally hundreds of them; perhaps a thousand.

While the formation of the entire group will be that of an army, the principal figures will be those of great leaders. A way forward will be two or three line figures on horseback, representing an advance guard of the army. One of these figures may be Lee or Jackson. Following will come a big group of officers, representing hundreds of cavalry. Still another group will represent the infantry. And lastly will follow the artillery. To many of us who have not given thought to such a work as the Stone Mountain Confederate memorial, it is a relief to simply see a sketch of it. Mr. Borglum chooses to carve a piece of such stature on the side of Stone Mountain if only mean little things to our minds that he has a larger job on his hands in merely carving a bas-relief of Lee, and that the memory of a larger number looked at

### A MONUMENT TO THE WHOLE SOUTH.

But this memorial is to be much more than that. Mr. Borglum made no secret of the fact that he has a monument to the whole south and to everything which the movement that produced the confederacy meant. It is not merely commemorative of Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson and "Fighting" Lee and other men who were numbered with those same ideals which animated Lee and Jackson and Stuart, and all that all of these people stood for and were.

It is a heroic idea to be heroically treated. For each such a purpose Stone Mountain is ideally adaptable. The impressive bulk of the mountain forms a grand and majestic background, or stage for a monument carved in relief, high and one and one-half miles long, for such are the dimensions of the perpendicular side of the mountain where the figures are to be cut. The memorial itself will be 2,000 feet long. The figures will be approximately fifty feet in height. All places they will be cut out of the rock to the depth of six and eight feet. The head of a man, for instance, will be four feet high. The head of a horse will be almost as large, as the square formed by the intersection of Whitehall and Alabama streets.

In your imagination enlarge the pictures published with this story to these proportions and imagine them carved upon the steep side of Stone Mountain. Then you may gain some idea of the appearance of the memorial when completed.

Mr. Borglum did not invent the idea of the memorial, he was, and wishes to maintain credit for having done so. In his own statement that the idea, with all its scope and grandeur, was suggested to him by the mountain itself. When he first studied the mountain, then, in his wander, somewhere these great creative abilities began to make their way to the heart of the matter. Little more than Stone did. With the force more than that of Greece, and the development of her ideals, the establishment of freedom and the development of her national life, rather than to establish the order of other nations, have lived the life of Greece, but have not the part of Rome in so far as leaving any record of our civilization unimpaired.



Detail of figures in the Stone Mountain Confederate memorial, done in plaster by Gutson Borglum, the sculptor. This is the first group of eleven figures, work upon which Mr. Borglum expects to start at once. In the circle is shown the figure of a man as he would appear at work on the mountainside in proportion to the size of the figures in the memorial.

from which remains today, perhaps the most genuine Americanization of the nation.

It is a potential, an individual, an almost national, in the face of Mr. Borglum, who is himself not a southerner, that it has preserved on the continent the only large American effort of the early and middle nineteenth century that exists.

It is a memorial and record of the spirit and culture and civilization, then, that Mr. Borglum would leave in the Stone Mountain memorial.

PRELIMINARY WORK COMPLETED.

The preliminary work for this memorial has already been done. Mr. Borglum states that he has the advantage of large sums of money in such as Atlanta has produced such a sum of money as this money from Atlanta, if course, will be forthcoming. Several large donations have already been promised from Atlantians and others throughout the south for all the first group, which will cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000. He says to us: "It will take approximately two years to finish this group."

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