

Mrs. Plane Leading Movement For Monument to Confederacy Which Will Be World Wonder

Eighty-five years young, Mrs. C. Helen Plane, honorary president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, organizer of the Atlanta chapter and president of the Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial association, is actively leading the movement for a monument to the confederate heroes which will not only be marvelous from an artistic standpoint, but one of the wonders of the world.

Stone Mountain, in solid granite mass, stands ready to tell in the sculptor's art the drama of the confederacy in all the intensity of the cause, the heroism of the men who gave their lives to that cause, and finally the great spirit which has grown out of the confederacy and animates the civilization of the new south of today.

"The story of the proposed monument is familiar to the patriotic men and women of the south, as it was indorsed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy at their last general meeting," explained Mrs. Plane, in an interview relative to the monument and the association.

Mr. Venable's Generosity.

"Mr. William H. Terrell first conceived the idea of a confederate monument at Stone Mountain. I had the pleasure of bringing the news of Mr. Venable's generosity in donating that part of the Stone Mountain reservation to the monument, and the Atlanta chapter took the initiative in organization for the development of the movement.

"Mr. Gutzon Borglum, whom I believe to be the greatest American sculptor, has been commissioned to make the design for the proposed monument. Since visiting Stone Mountain with him, seeing his preparatory plans for the design and hearing his discussion of it, I believe my selection of him is the greatest inspiration I have ever had. He combines with the genius of the artist the patriotic appreciation of what the confederate war has meant to the south, and always will mean. I thought my love for the confederacy and my determination to perpetuate the memory of it as long as I lived could not be realized any more fully than it was when I organized the Daughters of the Confederacy here, and have worked in it. But since hearing Mr. Borglum discuss the theme of the confederacy and the marvelous way in which he proposes to develop that theme in all its greatness in art, I feel that my life will be prolonged by the new inspiration he gives me, and that I must live on to see the heroes of the confederacy have a monument which will be worthy of them and a wonder of the world.

"Mr. Venable's generosity seems led on by the same spirit, and his more recent assurance that, beside the actual mountain of stone, there will be a park at the base of the mountain, adds a new inspiration to the movement. And his family, who reside in the little vine-covered house at the base of the monument, are putting their affectionate, as well as patriotic, interest in the movement, and are proving a factor to enthruse the patriotic women of the entire state. His sisters, Mrs. James N. Ellis and Mrs. Frank Tucker Mason, and his nieces, Mrs. Arthur Kellogg and Mrs. Walter Gordon Roper, are members of the Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial association. They are Daughters of the Confederacy, and by inheritance, daughters of that old cavalier stock which gave the south the men and women who made possible the heroism of the confederate cause."

Mr. Borglum's Plan.

The plans as discussed by Mr. Borglum, when he met Wednesday afternoon with the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Stone Mountain Memorial association, were evolved after two visits to Stone Mountain, one several weeks ago, and one within the last week, when he was the guest of the Venable family at Stone Mountain. He had studied the mountain in its environment and possibilities from every angle and at every hour of the day. He has seen it as the sun has risen over it; he has seen it at sunset, and he has seen it by moonlight, and with the artist thought and eye he has conceived the plan.

Briefly reviewing the great monuments in history, Mr. Borglum showed in his talk Wednesday afternoon that in size and wonder of proportion the mountain of granite afforded an opportunity which art had not had before through which to express itself. He showed how no single figure would be adequate in the monument; how no one group could satisfy the scope of the subject, and how finally the scheme for the monument must follow the contour of the mountain; must be a succession of groups of figures, heroic in size and expression.

His Views.

"The only fitting memorial to the south of '64, built by the equally great south of today, is to reconstruct as we can the great character of those days, and in colossal proportion carve them in high and full relief in action, mounted and on foot, moving naturally across its face to the east," said Mr. Borglum, in discussing his plans.

"These figures should be in scale with the mountain; they must be visible and readable at a distance of several miles; their likeness recognizable and maintained. The groupings would represent the official heads of the south, including officers, cavalry, artillery and infantry. Portraits should include the foremost men in the different branches of the service.

"The size of the figures can only be definitely determined after the work has begun, but they will be approximately 35 to 50 feet. This is possible. In its effect it would stand alone in memorial and monumental work in the world. It could be done in sections and presented to the world by a kind of installment, beginning with the principal figures—say, Lee, Jackson and Johnson as a group, and later another group, dividing the work into parts."

State Representation.

In further discussion of the detail of the plan, Mr. Borglum said: "I also propose to cut into the face of the mountain, at the very base, and directly under the central group of Lee and Jackson, but hidden in the forest and invisible from the spectators on neigh-



Photo by Francis E. Price.
MRS. C. HELEN PLANE,
President Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial association and honorary president United Daughters of Confederacy.

boring hills, a huge colonnade of twelve columns, one for each of the confederate states. Back of these columns I propose to create a room reaching 60 feet into the mountain and running the entire length of the colonnade, this room to be dedicated to the Daughters of the Confederacy and to be used by them for their archives holding a complete history of the confederacy."

When Mrs. Lamar, president Georgia division, U. D. C., heard Mr. Borglum's plan for the monument she made an address stirring with patriotism and appreciation, but declared that only the sculptor himself could properly bear the message of the great monument to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, assembling in California in annual convention this fall. She explained that the general order had already indorsed the project of the monument, but they have still to see the plans designed for it.

She was authorized by the Stone Mountain Memorial association to ask for the time to present Mr. Borglum to the convention that he might present directly to them the design for the monument.

The Sculptor's Ideal.

Gutzon Borglum can interpret his ideals in literature as well as in stone. In giving his idea of what he believed an appropriate monument to Abraham Lincoln should be he wrote in the September number of The Fra:

"When we make a monument to Abraham Lincoln we will draw a picture of a man who comes out of the colonial period, born in 1809, while Jefferson still lived. A simple, honest, sincere, inspired, true creature that knew the straight road and went right through and brushed the unimportant aside. You will pick the particular giants who built this country—Hamilton, Washington, Jefferson, Franklin. Those men will have an honorable place in that monument, and out of that group, going way back into the early eighteen hundreds, will arise this boy. We will assemble Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Seward, Stanton, and you will see him associated with them down through the friezes that will ornament this temple whenever it is built. You will see him a barefoot boy before the chimney fire, reading. You will see him log-splitting, wrestling, telling his stories. You will see him when war was declared. You will see him writing the emancipation. You will see him at Gettysburg—and the central figure of all the acts in between—and then the great tragedy. On the other side of the monument you will see struggling, honestly pushing forward the southern cause, Lee, Stuart, Jackson, Early, Johnson, and then you will see them all uniked and the whole thing will close.

"That is a monument to Abraham Lincoln. That is the sitting for him. That is the tribute to his life and work. That is the service that we must render our great men in portrait statue. That is the monument for Lincoln, the beloved. That is an American monument."