

THE OLD HOME TOWN

BY STANLEY



In and About the City

DR. PLATO DURHAM SEEKING TO STOP BORGILM STRIFE

North Carolinian Takes Lead in Effort to Bring Sculptor Back to Task, Charlotte Observer.

Rev. Plato Durham, D. D., widely known North Carolinian and professor of church history at Emory University, Atlanta, passed through Charlotte yesterday en route to Gastonia, and while here spoke optimistically over the prospect of reconciliation between Gutzon Borglum sculptor, and the Stone Mountain Memorial Association.

On his own initiative, Dr. Durham, who is a director of the association, set out ten days ago to effect such reconciliation, traveling through a number of eastern states and later holding a conference with Mr. Borglum. Everywhere Dr. Durham has found prevailing a sentiment which would wipe out the recent bitterness and strive to realize the idealistic conception as originally planned. Dr. Durham will report to the memorial association upon his return to Atlanta today, and is hopeful that a generous reception will be given to his proposal to forget past differences.

In a carefully prepared statement for the newspapers, Dr. Durham thus set forth his views of the situation:

"I and many others have been interested to bring the distressing controversy in reference to Stone Mountain to a close. The continuance of the bitter debate endangers many things which we hold to be of supreme value, among them, the very meaning of the memorial itself. The spirit in which the American people greeted and blessed the inauguration of the great memorial was fair and high. The soul of Lee challenged the idealism of a world. It is unthinkable that misunderstanding and bitterness should would and kill so fine a spirit and defeat so noble an endeavor.

"Feeling this keenly, I of my own motion, have appealed both to the executive committee and Gutzon Borglum to let the bitterness of the past go, to begin again, and, inspired by the people's blessing, to bring to completion the great task.

"In an extensive journey through the eastern section of the nation, I find this wish overwhelming among the people. Yesterday in Washington I found emphatic proof of this. Among others, Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, assured me that in all the discussion of the affair he had heard no single voice in or out of the senate in disagreement with this view. There is without doubt even a passionate people that this controversy be settled in the high spirit of which I speak.

"There is still great hope that the discussion may be lifted above the level of recrimination, that something of the high spirit in which the work was conceived may enter in to change the present unhappy situation, that the fulfillment may match the dream.

"I say in simple justice the response of Gutzon Borglum to this presentation was great, both in spirit and expression. I say also in equal justice that it is my belief that the response of the association will be generous and worthy of their work.

Dr. Durham was once a member of the staff of The Charlotte Observer, and has many warm friends here. He was also pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in this city from 1906 to 1908. He is a native of Shelby and still retains his membership in the western North Carolina conference, and is assigned by this conference as professor at Emory. Yesterday he was en route to Gastonia to perform the marriage ceremony for his nephew, John Durham, to Miss Torrence, of Gastonia.

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H. C. Morton Appointed County Commissioner of Stanly County

Stanly News-Herald.

Hamilton C. Morton, of this city, was on last Saturday named by Clerk of Court Hon. J. A. Little, as county commissioner to succeed Commissioner R. Lee Morrow, who handed in his resignation at the regular meeting the first Monday of March. He accepted the honor and the responsibilities going with the office and is now one of Stanly's commissioners, vested with the powers, privileges and responsibilities of that position.

Mr. Morton's appointment has met with general approval throughout the county. He is known to most of the people of the county, and is exceedingly popular. He is held in very high esteem and is known to be progressive, honest and capable. He will make an ideal successor to the very capable gentleman whom he succeeds in office.

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