

MAJOR JOSEPH WINSTON.

His Statue to Surmount the Holt Monument at Guilford Battle Ground.

Greensboro Record

The statue of Major Joseph Winston, cast by W. H. Mullins, Salem, Ohio, and which is to surmount the Holt Monument, arrived at Guilford Battle Ground on the C. F. & Y. V. Railroad on Friday, the 7th day of December, 1894.

It is made of composition metal so nearly resembling pure bronze that no one but an expert can distinguish it. The statue is six feet high and represents a soldier in the full uniform of a Major of the Continental line in 1778.

The cocked hat and plume, the heavy silk sash, the buff coat and long vest of that day give it a unique and attractive appearance. The left hand is elevated to a right angle with the body, and is pointing to the enemy, while the right hand grasps a drawn sword. Evidently a charge is being ordered. What is peculiar about the figure is that the eye is so indented and shaded as to give it an excited appearance, full of animation and spirit. The dull, expressionless eye balls, usually seen on both marble and bronze, are entirely changed, and the whole countenance is lighted up with life.

As a work of art it has no equal in beauty in the State. It is a wonder that the discovery of this new composition metal is not more widely known in the South. It is now supplanting bronze and marble in some of the finest parts in the Union. W. H. Mullins has the credit of bringing this kind of work to perfection. It is costly, it is true, but so cheap in comparison with pure bronze as to bring it within the reach of gentlemen of means. The older it becomes and the more exposure it has the more it resembles bronze, and it is as durable as brass. Mr. Mullins has a most accomplished artist and sculptor constantly engaged who can form any model desired, if only an idea of the design is given. He exhibited his wonderful genius in the graceful pose which he has given to the statue of Major Winston and the entire correctness of the military dress which he has placed upon it.

As a whole it is the handsomest piece of statuary in North Carolina and one that would be admired in any collection. The statue was so perfect and so beautiful, as it was being raised from its recumbent position in the case, that it seemed indeed like a resurrection from the grave, and when it stood upright before those present, silence was observed for several minutes, then the president of the Company with his voice trembling with emotion exclaimed: "I cannot command any language which will convey an idea of the joy and pride and thankfulness I feel on this occasion. My emotions are too deep for utterance."

Then with spontaneous feelings of gratitude and reverence the name of Holt came upon every lip. How happy must be the man who had means and magnanimity enough to erect this magnificent tribute to the memory of the heroes who laid deep and strong the foundations of the mightiest government on earth.

When the petty and penurious creatures, who are hoarding their money in selfish disregard of the wants of their fellow men and are wholly neglectful of the memories of those who exchange their blood for the liberty they are enjoying, have crumbled into dust and their names have become "a by-word and reproach among men," the name of Thomas Michael Holt will be still growing in lustre and invoking the reverence of posterity. When the orator and poet shall search for an illustration of philanthropy, the name of Holt will be the first to suggest itself to the mind. His example will be commended to the ambitious and enlightened youth as the noblest type of manhood which they can imitate, and when liberty shall again be threatened by the tyrant and the iconoclast and the sound to arms shall be heard again in the land, nothing will more surely fire the noble heart to deeds of renown, than the hope that if they shall lay down their lives for the cause of freedom there will be those who will imitate the example of Governor Holt in having monuments erected to perpetuate their names and the memories of their heroic deeds.

We venture to say that when this magnificent statue is seen by our people that it will re-awaken our national pride and stimulate us to greater exertions in preserving our noble history. It will excite in the minds and hearts of our youth an ambition to achieve fame by great deeds and to have their names engraved upon granite and bronze.

All honor to our noble Governor who is the first to lead the monumental spirit of the day, to throw off the reproaches which have been heaped upon us.

Light is breaking and soon the wealth of our State will be used for nobler purposes and nobler ambitions than to be called rich and to exhibit itself in gaudy attire before the humbler classes of society. When ignorance and vanity have the misfortune to be rich, there is no combination so repulsive in the eyes of the good and the wise.

May God bless Governor Holt and may many be inspired by this noble and philanthropic deed to imitate his many virtues.