

# STEVENSON TABLET FOR SARANAC LAKE

Gutzon Borglum to Make Memorial Design for Cottage Where Author Stayed.

WROTE 'BALLANTRAE' THERE

Also What Are Considered His Greatest Essays—Memorial to be by Popular Subscription.

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SARANAC LAKE, N. Y., July 25.—The Saranac Lake Stevenson Memorial Committee, organized here a short time ago for the purpose of commemorating suitably in tablet, urn, or animated bust the sojourn in this village of Robert Louis Stevenson during the Winter of 1887-88 and the fact that here he wrote what have come to be considered his greatest essays, has just made public its plans and progress.

It is announced by the committee that Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor, who is best known for his work in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the massive Lincoln bust in the Capitol at Washington, and his "Mares of Diomedes," at the Metropolitan Museum, has agreed to exercise his high talent in the designing of this latest memorial to the man who, under the south gable of Andrew Baker's cottage in the Adirondacks, penned in "A Christmas Sermon" a man's creed—"to be honest, to be kind; to earn a little and to spend a little less; to make upon the whole a family happier for his presence."

It is expected that the tablet, which will have a somewhat unusual inscription and a bas-relief of Stevenson as he appeared when he was "a rank Saranacker—a wild man of the woods," will be ready for unveiling in the early Fall.

The history of this memorial movement is rather interesting. Than Saranac Lake there is no place where Stevenson ever lived in his romantic life that has a greater right or duty to erect some memorial. Stevenson arrived in New York for the second time in 1887, intending to go to Colorado for his health. Through the advice of friends he changed his mind and came to Saranac Lake, where Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau had recently started in America the outdoor treatment of tuberculosis which is now accepted the world over as the nearest approach to "cure."

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Stevenson, Lloyd Osbourne, and, later, Stevenson's mother rented the Baker cottage on the outskirts of this village. Here, during the ensuing Winter, he wrote most of the famous essays published in Scribner's during 1888, including "A Christmas Sermon," "The Lantern-Bearers," "Pulvis et Umbra," "Beggars," "Gentlemen," "A Chapter on Dreams," &c. His genius at this time seems to have been at its zenith.

While at this cottage he used to tramp up and down a small section of the veranda when his mind was working. Part of the tablet inscription will be his own words about this habit and its results. It was thus that he conceived the plot of "The Master of Ballantrae," just as some years later Thomas Bailey Aldrich, in a cottage on the other side of the Saranac River, got the plot of "The White Feather" "out of a clear sky."

"I was walking on the veranda of a small cottage in which I lived outside the hamlet of Saranac," to quote Stevenson. "It was Winter; the night was very dark; the air clear and cold, and sweet with the purity of forests. For the making of a story here were fine conditions. 'Come,' said I to my engine, 'let us make a tale.'"

This was the genesis of "Ballantrae," most of which he wrote in the Baker cottage.

The idea of the Saranac Lake memorial is primarily due to Robert Hobart Davis of the Munsey publications. Visiting Saranac Lake some years ago, he asked Stephen Chalmers, the writer, who is resident here, why the people did not wake up to the fact that every place where Stevenson had lived and worked had some memorial, and that Saranac Lake, where he wrote his most enduring work, had none. Last Winter Mr. Chalmers, in a lecture delivered by him on "Mr. Stevenson of Saranac Lake," brought up the same challenge. Shortly afterward a committee was formed to raise money for the memorials. Mr. Davis was called into consultation. He, in turn, captured the enthusiasm of Gutzon Borglum, whose labor is to be one of love for Stevenson and all his works. The expenses connected with the memorial are to be met by popular subscription.

Dr. Lawrason Brown is chairman of the Stevenson Memorial Committee, and to him, at Saranac Lake, communications should be addressed.