

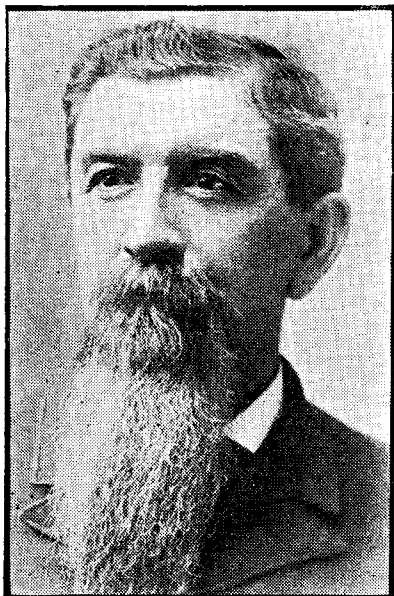


*Col. Leonidas
Lafayette Polk*

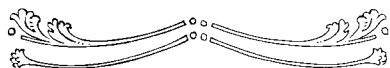
*His Services in Starting the N. C.
State College of Agriculture
and Engineering*



An Address by
CLARENCE POE
Editor of
The Progressive Farmer



COL. L. L. POLK



On July 28, 1926, at the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, the new \$200,000 Animal Husbandry Building, named "Polk Hall" in honor of Colonel L. L. Polk, was dedicated. This sketch of his life and of his services in securing the establishment of the college was given as an address on that occasion.

CITY people write our histories. And because city people write history, it is natural that they emphasize the parts played by city people—natural because those are the parts of which they see most, hear most, and read most. The farmers of North Carolina



CLARENCE POE

as a group have not perhaps made as important contributions to the state's history as they should, have not been so active as they should have been; but even the contributions they have made have too often been neglected by the historians.

One of the most striking illustrations of this fact comes to mind in connection with our meeting here today to dedicate, thirty-four years after his death, a magnificent building named in honor of Colonel Leonidas Lafayette Polk. It is unfortunately true that the average townsman of North Carolina, if asked to name the influences that brought about the establishment of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, formerly the A. and M. College, would mention only the Watauga Club. The Watauga Club was a small organization of patriotic young Raleigh men who banded themselves together forty years ago, and did indeed set an historic and fruitful example by showing what a small number of determined persons can do in the way of arousing public opinion in behalf of an important cause.

Furthermore, I should be the last man to wish to minimize the labors of the Watauga Club of the 80's. There are few men the memory of whose friendship I prize more highly than that of Walter H. Page, W. J. Peele, and others who helped to make the brief and brilliant record of the Watauga Club of the 80's; and I had the privilege some years ago of helping organize another group of leading Raleigh men who meet regularly as the successor of the original Watauga Club to discuss and promote matters affecting North Carolina progress.