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Book Review - Atlanta's Stone Mountain: A Multicultural History

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Off the Shelf

Atlanta's Stone Mountain: A Multicultural History by Paul Stephen Hudson and Lora Pond Mirza. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2011. ISBN 978-1-59629-682-4 Price: \$15.59

This work is truly a multicultural history. The authors drew on diverse sources to discuss the geological history of Stone Mountain; they talk about Native American life in the area, and give an overview of Stone Mountain's history since black and white settlers arrived. They do not focus on just one aspect of the mountain's history. They cover the Civil War, the lives of African Americans in the area, the KKK connection, the famous carving, and Stone Mountain's overall history as a park and tourist attraction, including a guide to exploring the mountain today. The book has varied photographs and drawings, some in color, of the past and present at Stone Mountain, including a map of the modern-day Natural District. The only flaw I found in the book is that this map could have been larger, and placed at the beginning of the book so readers would have access to it from the beginning. The chapter, "Time Capsule in Granite: The Confederate Memorial Carving, 1914-1970," is especially interesting. The authors discuss politics, funding, and the engineering and artistic challenges involved in creating the largest relief sculpture of this type in the world. They drew on David B. Freeman's *Carved in Stone: The History of Stone Mountain* and other secondary and primary sources to provide a shorter, but detailed enough, history of this unusual tribute to the Confederacy. This book would be suitable for a high school, public, special, or academic library. The authors make complex topics easy to understand, and provide an annotated list of sources used in each chapter that could be explored by those who want to dig deeper.

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