

ROBERT BURTON HOUSE

Robert Burton House, first Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill under the consolidated system, has been identified for more than half a century with this institution. Young Robert House made his mark here as an undergraduate, editing the Carolina Magazine, serving as president of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter, and as a member of the Golden Fleece. After graduate work at Harvard, military service in France during the first World War, and several years' experience as a teacher and archivist, he returned to Chapel Hill to stay in 1926. He was Dean of Administration after 1934 and Chancellor from 1945 to 1957. Of his books, Miss Sue and the Sheriff deals with his early life at home in Halifax County and The Light That Shines presents word pictures of Chapel Hill in his undergraduate years. These books display the warmth, humor, and sensitive feeling for the essence of things which characterize the man. After his "retirement," the classes he taught as Professor of Classics and English Literature were among the most popular in the University. Albert Coates once said that he is "a man in whom the University of North Carolina kindled a fire that is undying." His greatest achievement has been that he, in turn, helped to kindle that fire in many another. It is unlikely that any other faculty member has evoked so wide an affection among the alumni. Last year the University honored him in the dedication of the Robert Burton House Undergraduate Library. Today the University is privileged to honor him yet again, by conferring upon him the degree, Doctor of Letters.