

LINCOLN LORE

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PACIFIC COAST MEMORIALS TO LINCOLN

To San Francisco belongs the honor of erecting America's first statue of Abraham Lincoln. It was dedicated on April 14, 1866, just one year after the assassination of the president. Pietro Mezzaro was the sculptor and his work stood in front of the old Lincoln school at Fifth and Market Streets.

The statue occupied this site for forty years but on April 18, 1906, the great fire that swept the city did not spare the Lincoln statue. This early attempt to portray Lincoln revealed him as an orator and was a portrait of much action.

In the stone base on which the statue stood was the following inscription:

Abraham Lincoln

Born February 12, 1809

Elected President of the United States

March 1861

Re-elected March 1865

Died April 1865

It is evident that the inauguration date instead of the election date is used on the above tablet.

San Francisco, California

Former pupils of the Lincoln Grammar School in co-operation with the Grand Army of the Republic working under the name of the Lincoln Monument League, sponsored a movement to acquire another Lincoln statue to take the place of the one destroyed by the great fire.

The State of California made an appropriation of \$25,000 for the monument with the understanding that a like amount should be raised by the Lincoln Monument League.

Haig Patigian was selected as the sculptor and his study portrays Lincoln in marked contrast to the oratorical characterization of the original work of Mezzaro.

A receptive attitude is portrayed in

the new statue of Abraham Lincoln. This figure is located in front of the City Hall in San Francisco's Civic Center. The subject is seated in a large chair of somewhat ornate design. He leans slightly forward, one hand on his knee, the other holding a lapel of his coat. Grave, reflective attention is depicted in the quiet pose of this Lincoln who succeeds the declamatory Lincoln of other days.

Los Angeles, California

In Ella Buchanan's work, which she titles "The Young Lincoln," her subject stands hatless by the stump of a tree. In his right hand he holds an axe, his fingers gripping it close to the head. The gaunt figure is clad in a hickory shirt, open at the throat, and heavy boots of pioneer days. His thick, wind-blown hair is piled above his noble brow, and his gaze is directed whereon is perched a baby squirrel, crouching against the left palm of the kindly woodsman. The pose of the body is that of a workman weary with his task, pausing to snatch a moment's breathing space, while upon the lean, homely features there is an expression of tenderness and compassion.

"The Children's Lincoln" is another study by Miss Buchanan. It is wrought after the well-known picture of the President, with his little son, Tad, standing by his side. Both are looking at a large, open book which the father is holding on his lap.

Ella Buchanan was born in Springfield, Illinois, which may account for the many studies she has made of Abraham Lincoln. She studied under Charles J. Mulligan who was himself a noted Lincoln sculptor. A number of her studies are to be found in the west.

Long Beach, California

The name of Pacific Park was changed to Lincoln Park subsequent to the erection in the park of Abraham Lincoln memorial monument, which was unveiled on July 3, 1915, and dedicated to the veterans of the Civil War.

On every Memorial day an exercise in honor of the unknown soldier is conducted at the Lincoln monument.

The statue was made from a block of Raymond granite by Peter Bisson and is copied from the famous St. Gauden's work in Lincoln Park, Chicago. A stand has been substituted to the right of the figure instead of the chair which appears in the original St. Gauden's work.

A monument was proposed by the president of the Sons of Veterans for the erection of a Lincoln statue. The large pedestal serving as a Civil War memorial and the Lincoln statue used as a crown for it allowed both objectives to be realized in this effort.

Los Angeles, California

A study of Lincoln by Julia Bracken Wendt, of Los Angeles, is located in Lincoln Park, of that city. It was the gift of Dr. Norman Bridge, and represents Lincoln in his earlier law days in Illinois. The face is beardless, and the figure stands in an attitude of stern attention, with its arms folded.

Mrs. Wendt was born in Illinois and for five years was associated with Lorado Taft in his studio. Many of his studies in oil occupy prominent places on the Pacific Coast and in late years she has become a teacher of sculpture.

Spokane, Washington

A military Lincoln was created by Alonzo Victor Lewis at the direction of the Lincoln Memorial Association of Spokane, Washington, for a statue to be dedicated in that city on Armistice day, 1930.

This Lincoln statue departs from the usual, and shows the Emancipator in the dignified role of Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army. The figure is standing at attention, a military cape is flung over one shoulder, and the familiar stove pipe hat held in the right hand. The base of the monument is ten feet high, and is surmounted by the bronze figure measuring twelve feet.

Funds for the statue were contributed by citizens of Spokane and their friends. The school children gave more than six thousand dollars toward the costs of this \$25,000 work, which is located in Spokane's business district.

As early as 1812 the daughters of the G. A. R. formulated plans for a memorial and later on the G. A. R. suggested that this memorial should take the form of an heroic Lincoln statue.

Tacoma, Washington

Alonzo Victor Lewis, the sculptor of the Lincoln at Spokane, has another study of Abraham Lincoln at Tacoma. Lewis is a resident of Seattle and has many notable statues to his credit in the state of Washington.

Portland, Oregon

Lincoln as he appeared at the time of the Gettysburg address is outlined in the work of George Fite Waters, American sculptor and student of Rodin. This impressive work is located in a park directly in front of the Masonic Temple in the city of Portland, Oregon. The statue is ten feet high, mounted on a four-foot marble base, and shows Lincoln standing in the familiar pose, head inclined slightly forward as though in deep thought, shoulders stooped, and a sad but kindly expression on the face.

The work was presented to Portland in 1928 by Dr. Henry Wado Coe, who had also presented the city with an equestrian statue of Roosevelt.