

First Statue of Great American in Nebraska Gift from School Children



SUPERINTENDENT DAVIDSON DELIVERING HIS ADDRESS.



THE LINCOLN STATUE.



FREDERICK MCCONNELL PRESENTING THE STATUE.

If we work upon marble, it will perish; if on brass, time will efface; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon mortal sinners and model them with principles, with the just fear of God, and with love of our fellow man and love of country, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity.—Daniel Webster.

CONCEIVED in a spirit of reverence, born in love of country, raised in an atmosphere of patriotic devotion, the statue erected to the memory of Abraham Lincoln by the children of the city of Omaha on the campus of the high school stands today the only monument in the whole state of Nebraska dedicated to the memory of a truly great American.

One other statue of a prominent man, an American, has been erected in another Nebraska city, and in a park in Omaha stands a monument erected to the memory of a leading citizen of the land of the Kaiser, but no Nebraska city or class of Nebraska citizens, young or old, has before honored the name and memory of a really great man, a representative American, loved and revered by all. The statue of Lincoln therefore stands out distinctive and unique in that it was purchased by the children of the high school of the city of Omaha.

The youth of Omaha have blazed the way, have taught a lesson in patriotism to their elders, not alone in Omaha, but in the entire state, and to them should truly be accorded the honor of purchasing, erecting and unveiling the first monument to the memory of the first American—Abraham Lincoln, not the father, but the savior of his country. This honor should be accorded the youth of Omaha despite the carving in glaring letters on the base of the statue the announcement that the statue has been copyrighted by the art dealer through whom it was purchased.

Patriotism inspired the high school students in securing the statue of this great man. For years they studied the life of Lincoln and for years they studied the picture of Lincoln, and they came to love the Lincoln of his younger days, the



MISS MONA COWBELL, WHO UNVEILED THE STATUE.

boardless Lincoln as typified in the statue on the high school grounds. Hanging in the hall of the high school is a picture of the great emancipator from which likeness the statue was cast, and it is this picture which hundreds of children in the school have studied the last few years.

A southern first proposed the erection of the statue of Abraham Lincoln. J. F. Woolery, assistant principal, mentioned the matter to Principal Waterhouse of the high school. It met with his approval, and the subject was brought to the students of the school, who in turn became enthusiastic over it. This was several years ago, and for a time the matter was seemingly dropped. On his next visit to Vienna Prof. Woolery visited several sculptors and found out what the cost would be. Two thousand dollars was the lowest price secured, and when this information was brought back to Omaha the faculty members thought the burden would be too great for the school children to shoulder alone, and Mr. Waterhouse called on the art committee of the Woman's club for help. The club agreed to raise the money for the statue if the school children would erect the pedestal. The offer of the Woman's club was accepted, but when the pupils of the school heard of it there arose a storm of protest.

"This is our statue, not the Woman's club, and we want to do it alone," said the spokesman for a delegation of the high school students sent to interview the principal, who told them to go ahead and raise the money. They entered into the work with a zeal and in one short week the money was all raised.

Then the question of the copy for the statue came up, but the pupils pointed to the picture hanging on the wall, the one which they had learned to love as best typifying their ideal statesman, and it was decided to use that picture for the copy for the sculptor. The monument was therefore ordered cast from the famous Heiser portrait, the portrait showing the martyred president without the beard, and because of this unanimous wish of the youth of the city of Omaha the statue unveiled on the forty-third anniversary of the assassination of Lincoln shows him without the beard. Most, if not all, other statues of the war president show him with the beard, the famous St. Gaudens statue in Lincoln park, Chicago, represents him so, and therefore for this other reason the monument in this city is distinctive in another respect aside from being the first to be erected in the whole state of Nebraska.

The statue depicts a honest man, and Lincoln was a honest man. Lincoln in a way grided himself on being a honest man, according to stories of his life. The story is told that one time when he was still a struggling lawyer in the then frontier state of Illinois he made a vow that if he ever met a man homelier than he he would shoot him. One day he met his match in looks. Stopping him on the street, Lincoln looked long and hard at the man and then pulled a gun from his pocket and told the man that his day had come and that he was to be shot.

"Don't shoot me," the stranger replied. "I never saw you before and I know I have never done you any harm."

Magnolia Blooms in Omaha

TO the other glories of the Omaha climate which have given it the right to be classed in the "southern belt" must now be added another distinction, that of being in the "magnolia belt." A genuine magnolia tree is now in full bloom at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Williams, Thirty-eighth and Farnam streets. The bloom first appeared Monday and the specimen was an exceedingly beautiful one, resembling in many respects a colonial bouquet and as fragrant as it was beautiful. The flowers, large and waxy-like, were of a delicately tinted pink at the start, but have now faded to white, and though the blooms are withering now, the tree is yet beautiful and excites the admiration of all beholders.

This magnolia tree is the only one that is known to exist in Nebraska, though several attempts have been made to cultivate them in this state, but without success. The tree is about sixteen feet in height and was planted in its present location ten or eleven years ago by K. C. Morhouse, who still owns the premises. Mr. Morhouse was then general freight agent of the Elkhorn road, and procured the shrub from the south. Planting it on the south side of the house the tree thrives under protection from the cold north winds. It has bloomed two or three times prior to the present year, but not with such massive and striking beauty as at this season.

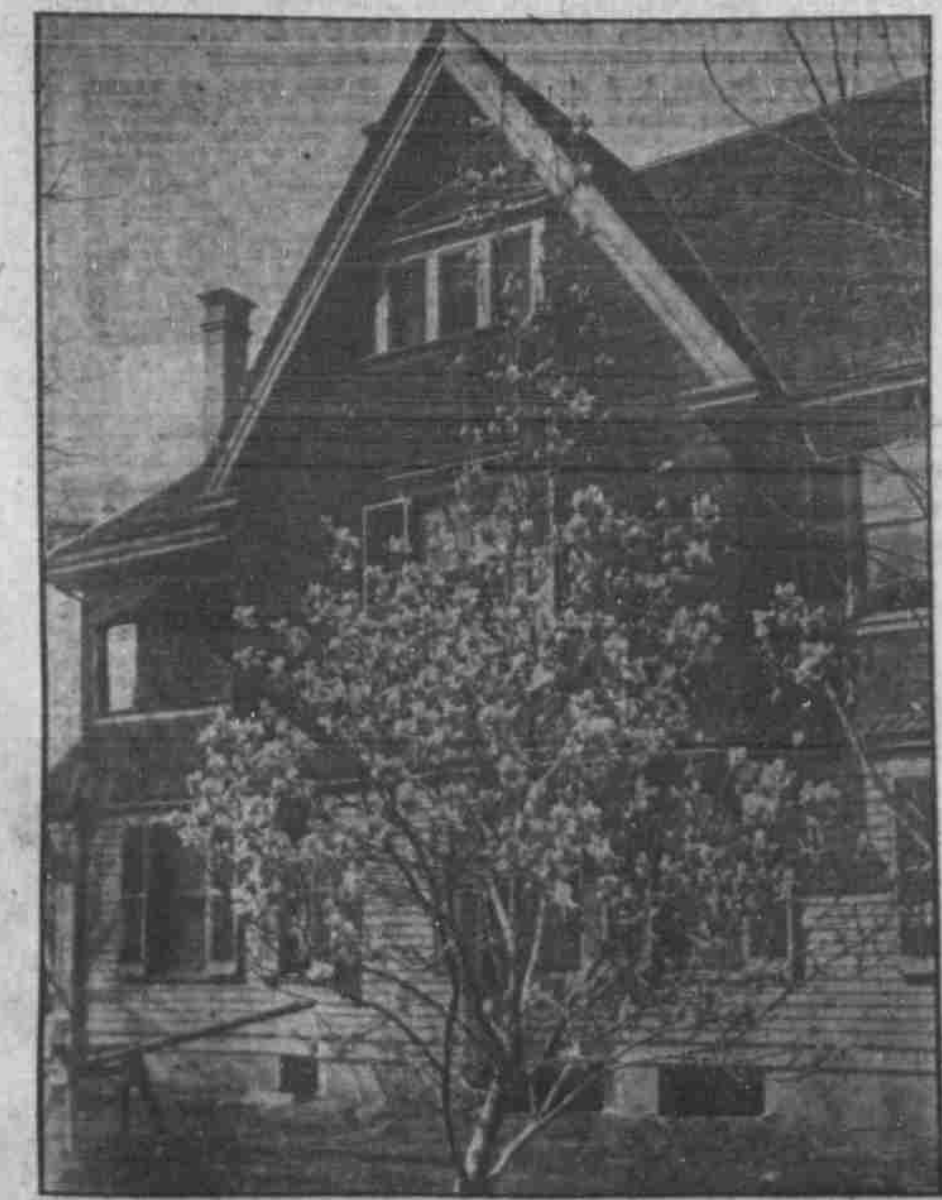
The magnolia tree belongs to the genus of exogenous trees and shrubs, and is a native of the warm parts of North America, thriving best in the latitudes south from Philadelphia and Baltimore and attaining its greatest luxuriance in South Carolina, which bears the name of the magnolia state. There are seven species of the magnolia in the United States. Some are evergreen, others deciduous and all are handsome trees and shrubs, all having large, fragrant flowers. The Omaha specimen belongs to the species of magnolia grandiflora and is of the deciduous order, being leafless in winter, the bloom coming before the leaf. The bark, leaves and seeds of the various species abound in a bitter tonic principle, and have a limited use in medicine.

Many who knew the immortal Lincoln meet these objections with proof that the Lincoln of 1861, when he was elected, and the Lincoln of 1862, when the war broke out, wore no beard—even though it were necessary to answer these objections when the children who bought the statue selected the coat and are pleased with the work. A number of veterans of 1861, who knew President Lincoln and who today live in Omaha, go on record as saying that

Lincoln was smooth shaven. General Mendenhall and William Wallace, who knew the great president, have previously been quoted in the public prints as saying that he wore no beard, but when the flag dropped from the statue at the unveiling last Tuesday afternoon a hitherto silent veteran stepped out of the throng and said: "That is a true likeness of Abraham Lincoln, the Lincoln I knew."

The veteran was Dr. W. M. Stone. He served throughout the war of the rebellion, saw the president several times and is positive he was smooth shaven. The last time when Dr. Stone saw Lincoln it was at Harrison's Landing, where the president had gone to see McClellan during the war, and he says that Lincoln wore no beard—and his trousers were not creased. The president was not garbed in the uniform of the army, but aside from that the doctor is of the opinion that his clothes were of the period and that the clothes depicted on the statue are as near being like those worn by the president as any.

The first commemorative statue to be erected in Nebraska was that to the memory of J. Sterling Morton, unveiled a few years ago in his home town, Nebraska City. The greater part of the funds for this monument were raised in Nebraska City, but money also came from other parts of the state, not even raised by one class of citizens, as was the money for the Lincoln statue in Omaha. Soon after the unveiling of the statue of Morton, a bust of Schiller, the famous German author, was unveiled in Riverside park in this city, but, in this respect, was not paid to a great American, though the intention of the people in honoring the name of Schiller can not be questioned.



MAGNOLIA TREE IN FULL-BLOOM AT THE HOME OF C. M. WILLIAMS.

Mathematical Calculation of the Speed of Animals

HOW fast do the animals go? What is the greatest speed of each of the animals, from the horse to the camel, from the ant to the flea? This is the problem which has taxed the brains of more than one investigation, and the results of their work has been gathered together by Prof. Ohlhausen in a most interesting shape.

A riding horse covers forty inches each second while walking; at a jog trot it covers eleven feet a second, while the two-minute horse covers forty-four feet a second. This is quite a contrast to the leisurely Ox which moves over only two feet a second inches a second when hitched to a plow.

The elephant while pulling more than six horses walks over four and a half feet of ground each second, and running as fast as it can cover only eighteen feet a second. The dromedary can cover ninety-three miles in sixteen hours, which represents its day's march, and can do this two or three days together, traveling at the constant rate of eight feet per second. The dromedaries of the sultra have, however, covered 125 miles in twelve hours, or at the rate of nine and two-thirds miles an hour.



CONNOR C. SMITH OF BLAIR, WHO LEADS THE SOPHOMORE CLASS AT KANSAS UNIVERSITY.

Captain of K. U. Debating Team

CONNOR C. SMITH, a Blair (Neb.) boy has been chosen captain of the sophomore debating team in the University of Kansas, where he will lead his team against the freshmen on May day. In years past May day has been made memorable at Kansas university by an annual class fight between

freshmen and sophomores, resulting in many broken bones. Chancellor Strong succeeded in substituting mental in place of the physical warfare and the two classes are now producing poets and songsters who are heralding the coming battle of words. The Nebraska boy was on the Blair High school team which defeated Omaha in debate in 1905.