

It is a mistake to think of Mr. Lincoln as an uneducated man. The "kindergarten" and "primary" courses were taken in a Kentucky cabin, with his mother as "principal." Possibly he never learned at his school to make maps, but he did learn "manners and morals." At the age of nine he entered the academy to prepare for college. This "school of learning" was located in a "clearing" on his father's farm, a "little house in the woods" in the State of Indiana. Here his attention was first directed to "physical culture." This study he was not permitted to neglect. The "gymnasium" was well furnished with "apparatus" — axes, wedges, mauls, log-chains, cross-bars, swinging saplings, etc. Then came "nature study out on the campus." He found spring beauties and sweet williams, May-apples and purple grapes, and, out beyond, the prairie grasses and the wild rose. From these, from trees, shrub and plant, from form, color and perfume, came that sense of beauty embodied in those exquisite prose poems which we so much love to read. This branch of study included zoölogy. He learned the names of animals, their nature, habits, instincts, history and language. He knew when the birds mated and how they built their homes, and he learned well the lesson best worth learning from science — to be kind and gentle to all animals.

J. S. Ewing Address to Schoolmasters. Feb. 12, 1909

Iowa Remembers Lincoln

In 1951 Rutgers University Press published F. L. Ballard's *Lincoln, in Marble and Bronze* listing over eighty heroic size statues of the martyred President that have been erected within the continental United States, in Porto Rico, Hawaii, England and Scotland. Illinois leads the states with fifteen. New York had eight, Wisconsin seven, and Iowa was credited with four. Our personal research accounts for *five* located at Clear Lake, Clermont, Jefferson, Sioux City and Webster City. The Webster City bronze is an original by Graniere, the others are all replicas of previously-located creations by outstanding sculptors. Each has artistic merit and serves as a lasting lesson in Americanism.

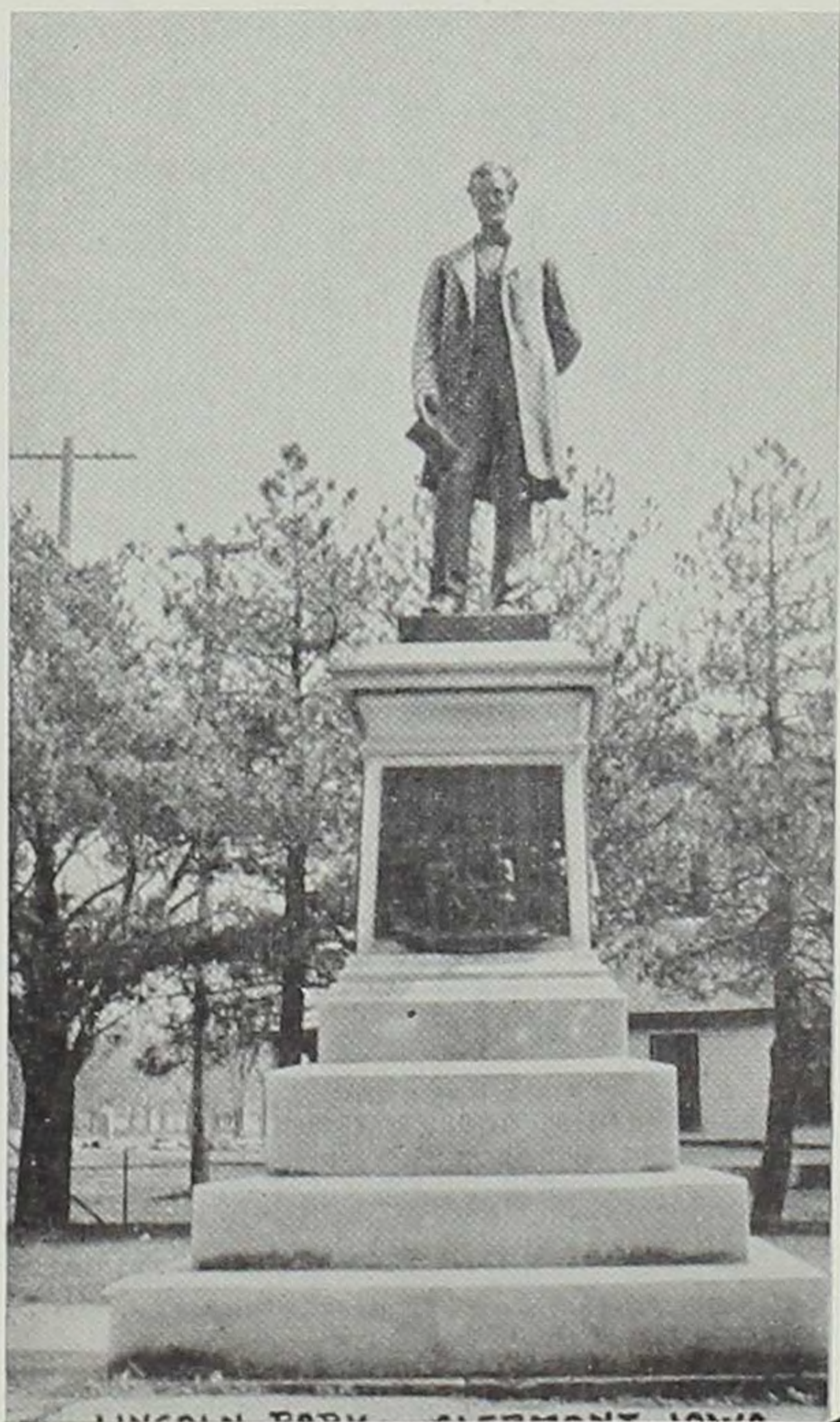
No man, so lacking in physical beauty of face and figure, has been so immortalized in imperishable materials. Other thousands of additional busts and small statuettes in plaster, wood, bronze, marble, granite and limestone are scattered throughout our land. Originally, and at first glance, his figurements were the despair of artists. That uncouth frame and rugged face, variously described as monstrously ugly or strangely beautiful, seemed to many as actually grotesque. The

great thatch of wild hair, the flopping ears, prodigious mouth, thin gaunt cheeks were so, but his eyes and smile were beautiful and touched with the magnetic gleam of genius. In February, 1865, Clark Mills made a life mask of the bearded Lincoln which sculptors since then have used to advantage.

The first Lincoln statue to be erected in Iowa was presented to the town of Clermont by former governor William Larrabee, a resident of Clermont for sixty years. It stands in a little park along Highway 18 just across from the railway depot. Dedicated on June 19, 1903, it is the work of George E. Bissell, who served during the Civil War with a Connecticut regiment and as a navy paymaster. Bissell studied for two years in Paris, Florence, and Rome, and later operated studios at Poughkeepsie and Mount Vernon, New York.

The original Bissell statue stands in Edinburgh, Scotland, and was the first Lincoln to be placed outside the United States. It was erected in 1893 as a memorial to the 79th New York Highlanders, of the Army of the Potomac, who were distinguished by

Bissell Statue — Clermont



their peculiar Scotch caps with two quills thrust through one side. Its erection was instigated by Wallace Bruce, American Consul at Edinburgh from 1889 to 1893. A two hundred and fifty man guard of honor led by pipers of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders participated. At the base of the Scottish statue below Lincoln is the bronze figure of a slave and also the regimental colors. These, of course, are lacking in the Clermont reproduction.

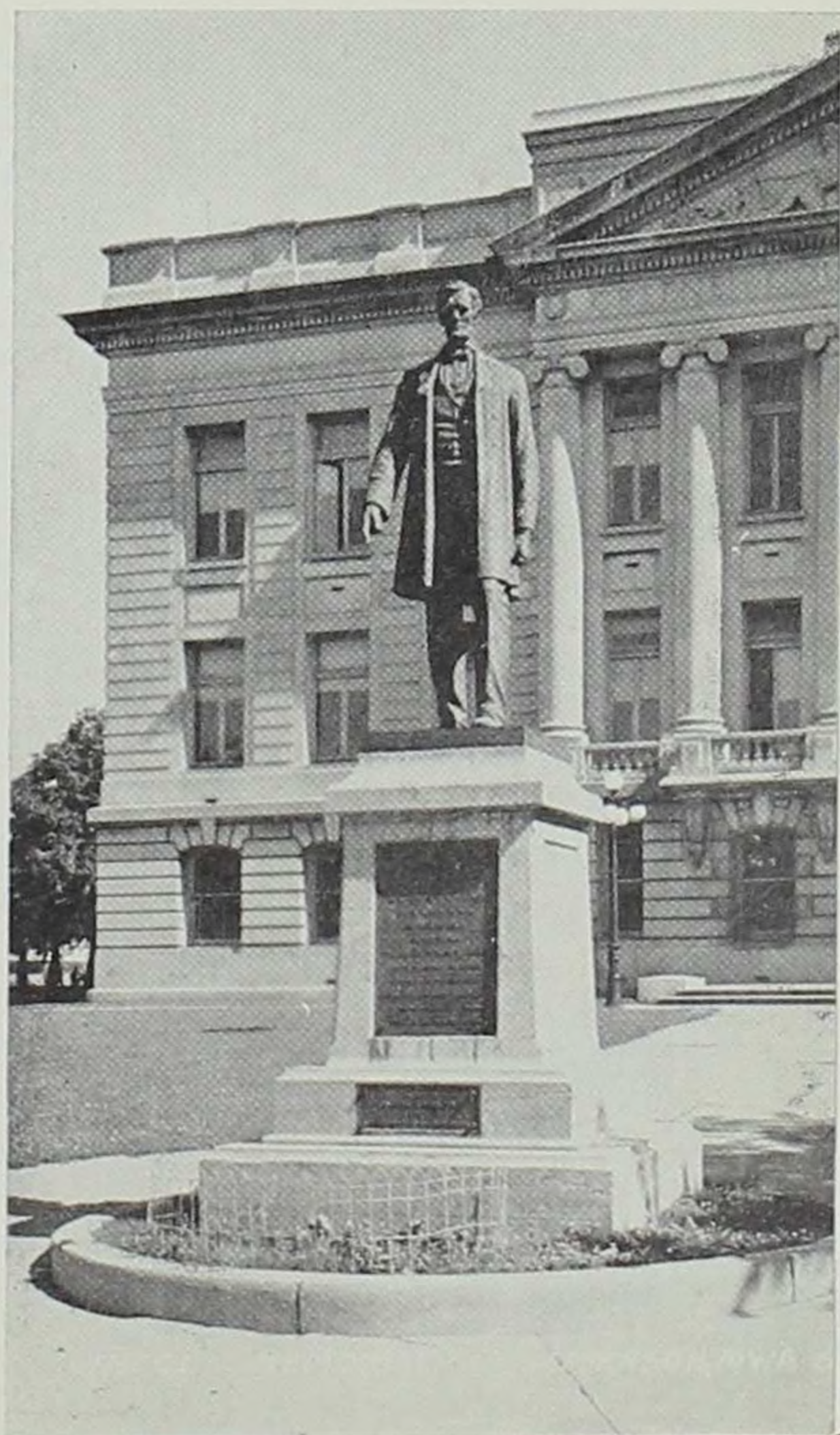
Governor Larrabee admired the statue while visiting in Edinburgh and arranged with Bissell for a replica as a memorial to be dedicated in memory of the soldiers and sailors of Fayette County. Life size, the bronze surmounts a base of granite ornamented with four attractive tablets in bold bas-relief. One shows Grant and Lee at Appomattox, one the Navy at Mobile, another a soldier leaving home and the fourth the victory at Shiloh. The bearded, frock-coated President, right foot advanced, a small scroll in one hand, the other behind his back, is well and pleasingly delineated.

In 1902 Cincinnati, Ohio, honored Old Abe by erecting the monumental work of W. Granville Hastings, who had come to America from England at the age of twenty-three. The young artist died at Mount Vernon, New York, at the age of thirty-four, some six months before his Ohio monument was unveiled. The bronze figure as he conceived it is of quiet dignity with the left foot and

right hand well advanced. The hand holds a small manuscript. Replicas have since been placed at Bunker Hill, Illinois, and at Jefferson and Sioux City in Iowa.

The one at Jefferson, located in front of the Greene County court house and facing Highway 30 was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wilson who hoped that residents of Greene County and tourists on the Lincoln Highway would "come under the spell of that calm and dignified face and rugged features." It was dedicated on September 21, 1918, in conjunction with the Des Moines conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. Taking part in the program were Methodist Bishop Mathew S. Hughes, the Jefferson Drum Corps, thirty G.A.R. members, and Michael F. Healy, the eloquent though blind lawyer of Fort Dodge. George H. Thomas Post of the Grand Army had charge of the unveiling and Parley Sheldon of Ames represented the Lincoln Highway Association. It was the original intention of the donors to mount the statue on a base of Vermont marble but due to delays in filling the order, a contract for a temporary base of cement

Hastings Statue — Jefferson



and kellastone was given Allen Cooke. This contractor builded so well that his work has never been replaced.

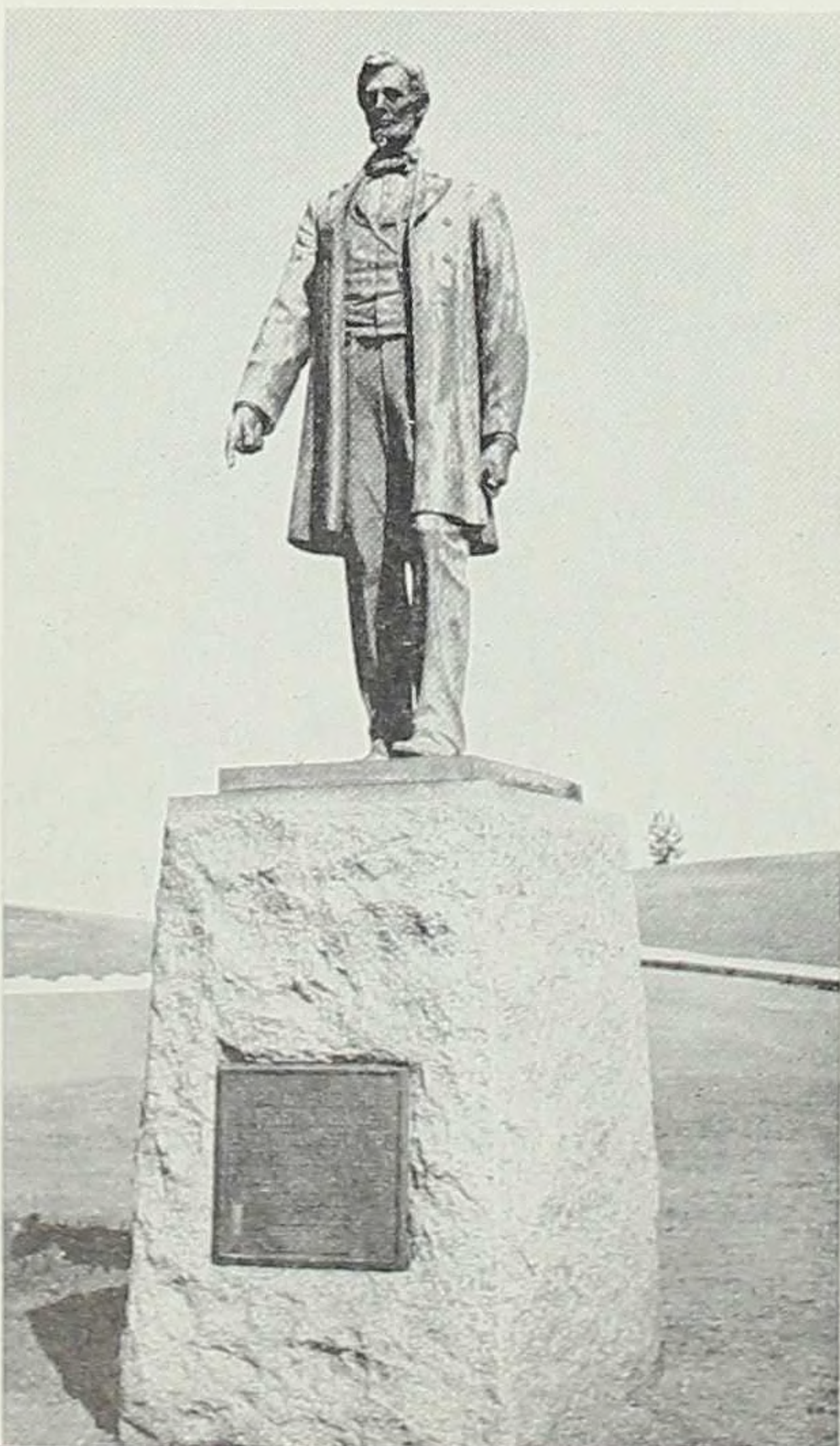
At Sioux City on April 5, 1924, similar services were held at Grandview Park for a seven foot, seven inch reproduction of Hastings' Lincoln mounted on a seven foot pedestal of Minnesota granite bearing the concluding words of the Cooper Union address: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

This memorial set among blooming flowers and a spreading lawn was the gift of John Adam and Elizabeth Magoun. John was born in Boston in

1861 but came to Sioux City as a child and was for many years president of the Sioux National Bank. It has been said that the shoulders of this statue are broader and the chest more massive than was Lincoln's but the artist has given the work a more than ordinary understanding of Lincoln's character and of the second inaugural address which it depicts. It, like all the Iowa memorials, has infinite merit and dignity.

George Etienne Graniere,

Hastings Statue — Sioux City

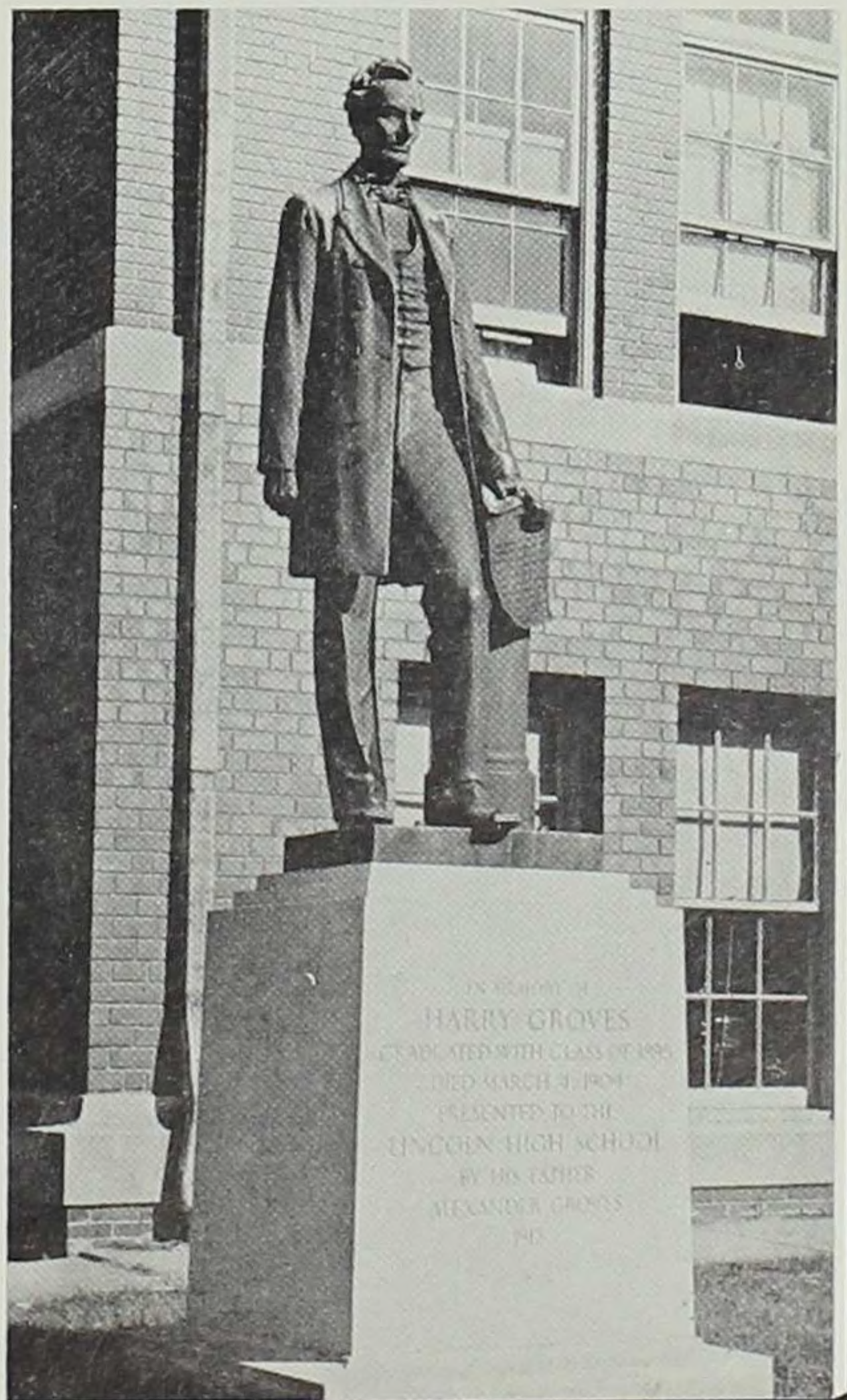


who modeled the Webster City statue, was a Chicago and Florida resident who had exhibited at Buffalo in 1901, St. Louis in 1904, San Francisco in 1915, and who represented Florida at the Chicago Pageant of Progress in 1933. He died in 1935 and was the only sculptor to have two different Lincoln statues dedicated the same year.

Alexander Grove, prominent Hamilton County farmer and stock grower, donated the bronze to the Webster City School as a memorial to his son Harry, a graduate of the class of 1895 who had died in 1909. A graduate lawyer of the University of Michigan and the State University of Iowa, Harry had practiced law for six years in Montana before losing his health from over-application to his work. He went to Arizona seeking a cure but died shortly after. Lincoln had long been his ideal and for this reason his parents initiated the presentation. Dedicated at appropriate and moving services on April 9, 1913, the seven foot four inch bronze stood on a block of verde antique marble for several years in the assembly room on the second floor of Lincoln School.

In 1927 it was moved out-

Graniere Statue — Webster City



doors and placed on a high granite base just northwest of the school building where it still fulfills the prophecy of one of the inaugural speakers: "Lessons, constantly suggested as they will be by this memorial, cannot help but exert great influences for good upon the young minds that receive them, and we need have little concern about the future of the young man or woman who in disposition and character seeks to be like Abraham Lincoln."

On June 29, 1919, the Honorable James W.

Willett of Tama, naval veteran of the war of 61-65, spoke at the dedicatory program in the cemetery at Clear Lake of a monument made of Barre and Monticello granite. It is a copy of the famous St. Gaudens statue in Lincoln Park, Chicago. Constructed of ten pieces of granite, the memory stands twenty-two feet high and weighs forty tons. Sponsored by Tom Howard Post No. 101 of the Grand Army of the Republic, a contract for its construction at a cost of \$5,290.00 was awarded the C. E. Dayton Company from funds provided

St. Gaudens Statue — Clear Lake



by the Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors and the county Soldier Relief Commission. Judge Joseph J. Clark of Mason City, another of the speakers, stirred his audience with a glowing tribute to Lincoln, the flag and its defenders.

Thus, at five locations, have Iowans honored and perpetuated the memory of Abraham Lincoln, who was, as described on the marble D.A.R. shaft on Point Lookout in Council Bluffs,

"A King of Men
Whose crown was love
Whose throne was gentleness."

RAY MURRAY