

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Golden Gate Statues

Maybe we will be accused of not being loyal to Monterey when we write about the statues in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, but we have a fondness for them which dates back to our childhood. Many of them we knew when they were downtown, some of them at intersections of Market and other well-known streets - at least all of them have some history behind them and they are all well worth seeing when a visit to the "city" permits time for a leisurely drive through this beautiful park which was once sand dunes.

Being of Irish descent on the paternal side, we were interested in the Robert Emmet statue. He was an Irish patriot and rebel who was hanged for his activities in 1803. Standing in the dock he made, an eloquent speech, and the rendering of Emmet in the park shows him in the process. This statue was created by Jerome Connor in 1916 and four years later was presented to the city by James D. Phelan, who we discovered gave many of the bronze statues to his native city. The Major address at the unveiling ceremonies (July 20, 1919) was made by Eamon de Valera, president of the Irish republic, who likened the work to the Statue of Liberty.

James B. Phelan also donated the Ball Thrower. This baseball player, we learn, is not a monument to sport; it is a monument to the sculptor. He was Douglas Tilden, who also produced "The Mechanics," which has stood for many years at Market and Battery. Also, the "Football Player," on the University of California campus. Tilden was a deaf mute from the age of 5, and despite his many honors he was found in his Berkeley studio in 1930 without food, light, or heat. He died five years later and left unfinished, what he called his great masterpiece, a monument to the Bay Bridge.

The statue of the Ball Thrower was placed in the park in 1892. It was created and cast in Paris, and the inscription says: "Presented . . . by a close friend of the sculptor as a tribute to his energy, industry and ability."

In Monterey we are familiar with the name of General Henry W. Halleck. He was here at the time that William T. Sherman was well known in Monterey and their headquarters on the Thomas Oliver Larkin property now a State Historical Monument, is often a subject for sketches and paintings. A statue of Halleck is just off

Stanyan street on the Main drive. If you stop and look you will find the stone replica of a book behind the base. Halleck, wrote, it after a tour of Europe's military establishments in 1846. It is called "Elements of Military Arts and Science." The soldier came out to California a year after the book was published.

In 1849 he was secretary of state under the military government and he also helped frame the California State Constitution. During the Civil War Halleck was commander of the Western theater, but most of his victories were produced by his staff officers. He was later replaced by General Grant. The statue was donated to San Francisco by Major General G. W. Callum, Halleck's "best friend," and was erected in 1886. The sculptor was G. Conrads.

The late Jo Mora of the Peninsula is represented in the park by a statue of Miguel de Cervantes. It was erected in 1916 and was donated by E. J. Molera of Monterey and C. J. Cebrian, two long-time Spanish residents. At the base of the monument are two famous Cervante characters, Don Quixote and Sancho Panza.

Only a few years before the statue was unveiled, the only authentic portrait of Cervantes, was discovered in Seville. It had been printed in the 1600s and had been lost for almost 300 years. Cervantes himself, we learn, mentioned the portrait in one of his books. "I have," he wrote, "a beard of silver which not 20 years ago was gold . . . and teeth neither large nor small, since I have six and these in bad condition and worse position."