

AMERICA STARTS WESTWARD

THE ORDINANCE OF 1787

“NO COLONY IN AMERICA WAS EVER SETTLED UNDER SUCH FAVORABLE AUSPICES AS THAT WHICH HAS JUST COMMENCED AT (MARIETTA).”

-George Washington

The Memorial to the Start Westward of the United States commemorates the Northwest Territory's creation in 1787. It also celebrates the courage, character, and perseverance of those pioneers who wrote the ordinance and started the new settlements in this territory. It was the first territory under American government outside of the original thirteen states. It was a large tract bordered by the Ohio River, Mississippi River, and the great lakes. Marietta, settled in 1788, was the first city in the new territory.

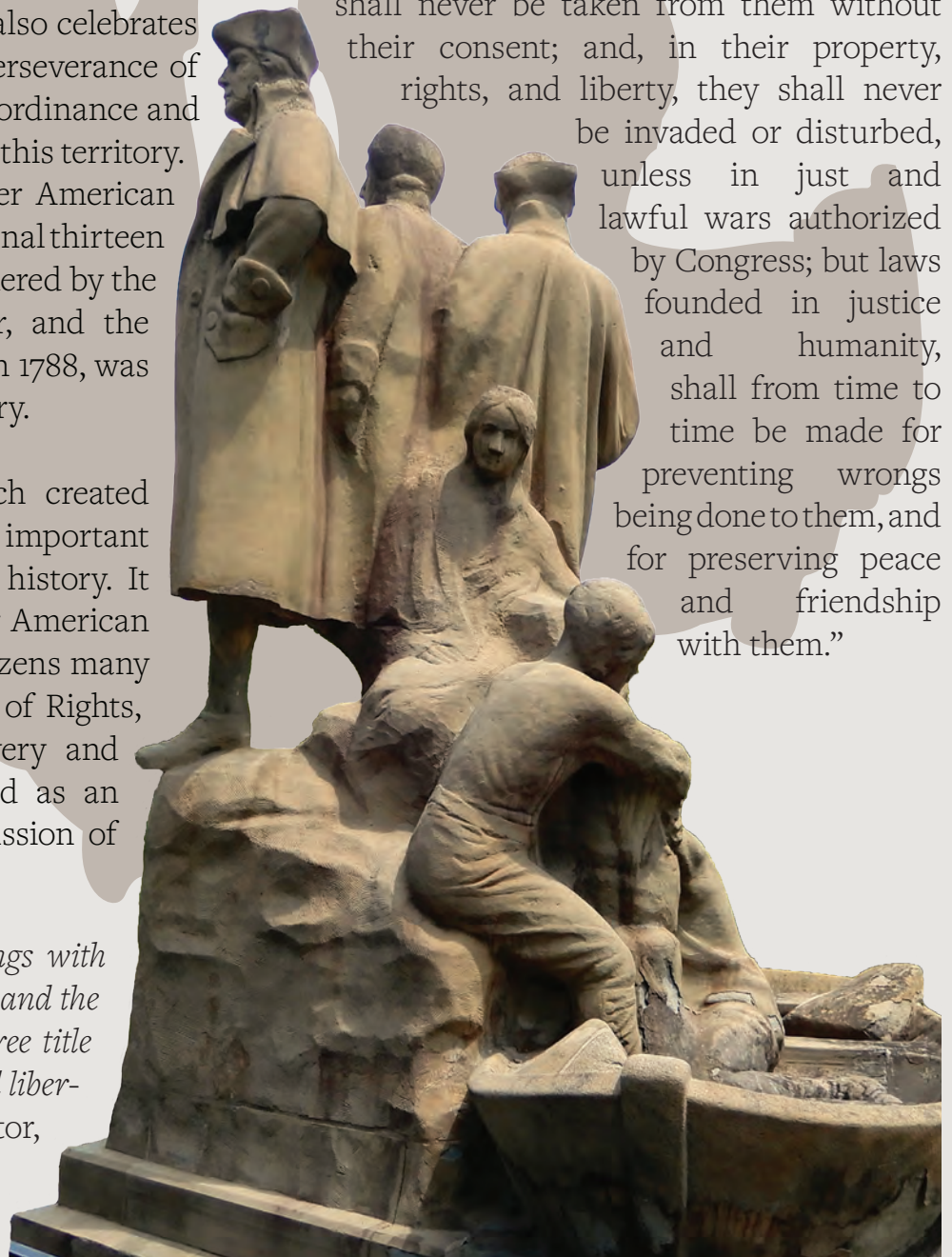
The Ordinance of 1787 which created the territory is considered an important document in early American history. It was a landmark prototype for American governance. It guaranteed citizens many civil liberties now in the Bill of Rights, including prohibition of slavery and freedom of religion. It served as an enduring model for the admission of all new states since 1787.

“The Ordinance (of 1787) belongs with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. It is one of the three title deeds of American constitutional liberty.” -George F. Hoar, U. S. Senator, Lawyer, Scholar

“...I doubt whether one single law of any lawgiver, ancient or modern, has produced effects of more distinct, marked, and lasting character than the Ordinance of 1787.” -Daniel Webster

The Ordinance also provides for the civilized treatment of Indians with the objective being “peace and friendship with them.” From Article 3:

“The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall from time to time be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.”



THE START WESTWARD MONUMENT CREATED BY GUTZON BORGLUM

The artist, most widely known for sculpting Mount Rushmore National Memorial, designed the monument in his San Antonio, Texas studio circa 1937.



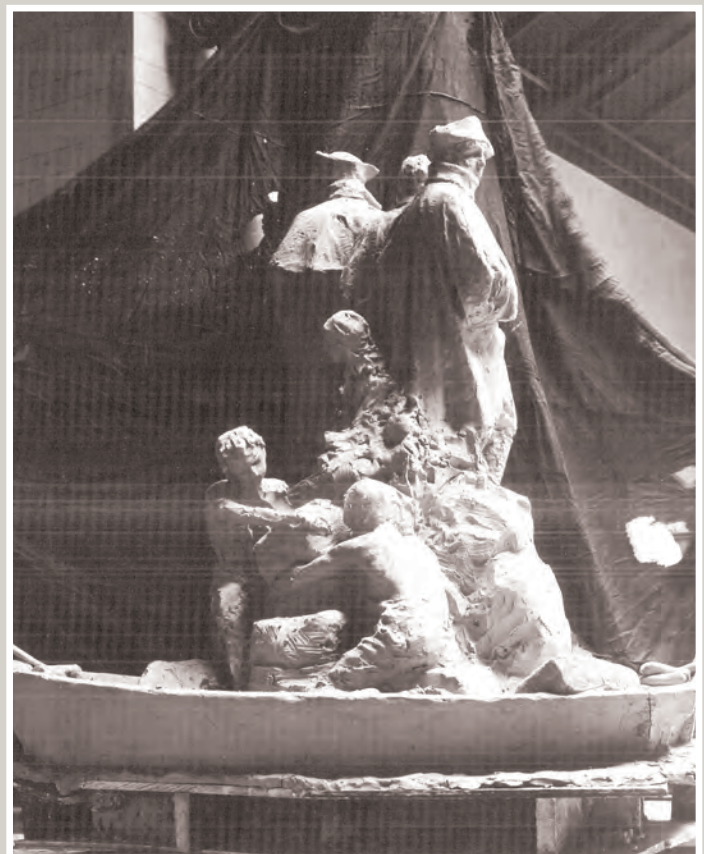
Rendering by Gutzon Borglum and architect John Schooley.



Gutzon Borglum with assistant Charley Johnson creating the full scale plaster of paris rendering.



One of three initial sketches by Gutzon Borglum generously donated to the Start Westward Monument Society by his grandchildren Robin Borglum Kennedy & Jim Borglum.



Gutzon Borglum's clay model used by stone carvers to scale the sandstone monument.

CONSTRUCTION

This monument was sculpted from local sandstone to stimulate employment of local workers with New Deal WPA funding.

Carving of the monument began at the quarry near where old Ohio River Lock #18 was located then trucked to Muskingum Park.



December 13 1937: Gutzon Borglum (far right) viewing the 80-Ton block of sandstone from which the six heroic figures were carved.

The monument was designed to face westward, but Architect John Schooley made an on-site decision (contrary to the wishes of Executive Director E.W. Hawes and others) for three of the six pioneers to face toward the street so the boat would face the river bank.



May 7, 1938: Partially carved sandstone block now weighing 25-tons loaded onto a trailer in preparation of transporting it to Muskingum Park.



June 1, 1938: John Schooley (far left) supervising rotation of standing group of pioneers to face eastward toward Front Street.



DEDICATION CEREMONY

President Franklin D. Roosevelt traveled by train from Washington DC to Marietta for the dedication on July 8, 1938.

Roosevelt concluded his speech by saying, "I hereby dedicate this great monument commemorating one hundred and fifty years of Americanism."

Gutzon Borglum was unable to attend, but returned in late September, 1938 to complete his work.



Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Attorney General Homer S. Cummings, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, President Roosevelt, and Mrs. Homer S. Cummings.

GUTZON BORGLUM DISPLEASED WITH STONE IN MARIETTA WORK

Famous Sculptor Predicts "The Start Westward" Will be Unrecognizable in Three Generations

Finishing Touches Being Applied by Creator of Monument Dedicated by Roosevelt in July

By NANCY WAMSLEY

Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of the monumental group "The Start Westward" which was dedicated in July by President Roosevelt in Marietta in connection with the

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sesqui-centennial of the Northwest Territory, is not pleased with the stone from which the statue is carved he said yesterday as he put the finishing touches to the piece.

"When you are a great-grandmother, you will point to three little stumps of stone standing in the park and tell your descendants that they used to be three men in a boat and they won't believe you," the nationally known artist told a Sentinel reporter, expressing the view that the defects in the stone will cause it to deteriorate. Mr. Borglum denied that he had selected the stone himself, and declared that the group should have been made in bronze.

Admires Valley Scenery

Though not impressed with the stone in this section of the Ohio valley, Mr. Borglum is greatly impressed with the beauty of the river. He asserted that it is the most beautiful he has ever seen in his travels throughout the country. He had never previously had much occasion to visit this area, he said, but he has learned to like it. Though he prefers California where he has one of his two homes and which he describes as "the state

God made after he practiced on Ohio."

The sculptor was engaged in cementing cracks along the base of the boat which fits onto the pedestal of the statue yesterday. A special cement is used, mixed with dust from the stone. Just what type of stone it is, Mr. Borglum said he was at a loss to know although he expressed the belief that it resembles grindstone more than anything else. He is in the habit of using native stone when suitable, he revealed, but said he would have insisted on importing stone for the Marietta work had he known the poor quality of that which occurred there. He also commented that the statue would have been finished long ago had it not been for the incompetence of one of the supervisors.

Explains Absence from Dedication

"The Start Westward" is not the first of his monuments to be dedicated before it was finished, Mr. Borglum said, revealing that that happens frequently. He explained his absence from the dedication by saying that he had been asked to make a speech and that he didn't want to compete with the president. He said he had wired the president that he would be unable to be there.

Easily Recognizable

Mr. Borglum is easily recognizable from his pictures, though yesterday he was wearing a rather broad-brimmed gray felt hat which obscured his face as he bent over his work. He is a large, well-built,

active-looking man with a weather-beaten, tanned countenance, gray hair which shows no signs of thinning and light but piercing blue eyes. He told of a girl who came looking for him when he was working on the Mt. Rushmore memorial in the Black Hills recently. "Have you seen Mr. Borglum?" she asked Mr. Borglum. He replied, "Yes, he was around here a little while ago. He ought to be back shortly." Whereupon the girl sat down for a chat with him and talked for about twenty minutes without discovering his identity. Finally the sculptor said, "I have to go now, but you wait for Mr. Borglum right here. He ought to be back anytime." An hour later, he returned and found the girl still waiting. "I suspected you all the time," she said; but Mr. Borglum commented, "She kept her suspicions well hidden."

BEACON SENDS HOLT LETTER

Asks Governor to Change Mind About Not Attending Young Dems' Convention

A letter was made public in Hunt-

82 YEARS OF DETERIORATION

Photos from the Conservation Assessment show the current condition of the monument including the pylons along front street. Patches, deterioration, and discoloration have been highlighted.



PLEASE JOIN OUR START WESTWARD MONUMENT SOCIETY IN THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF MARIETTA'S ICONIC MONUMENT.

To learn more, visit www.startwestward1787.com

RESTORATION & PRESERVATION

April 1962 - Fred Mitchem: Replaced center standing pioneer's head while S. Durward Hoag: Supervised cleaning entire sculpture and applying silicone coating

September 1973 - Tom Vadakin: Cleaned an asphalt material from the sculpture

August 1975 - Leo Wagner: Reattached the head on the figure nearest the river

May 1987 - Marietta Kiwanis Club: Installed flags and lighting

June 1988 - Marietta Kiwanis Club: Steven Wisenbaugh, Conservator, Harrison, OH removed graffiti, filled cracks with color matched mortar and sealed the entire sculpture

May 2003 - Marietta Kiwanis Club: Proposed permanent protective cover

June 2020 - City of Marietta: Installed temporary protective cover

October 2020 - City of Marietta: Lorraine Schnabel of Schnabel Conservation L.L.C., Trenton, NJ, performed an on-site assessment June 15-17 and offered three sandstone conservation options. Full report at www.startwestward1787.com

Restoration Options – The Schnabel Conservation Report identifies how critical the deterioration of the Monument is. The following two options are being evaluated:

Sandstone conservation of the existing Monument. Sculpture restoration in-place, or with relocation to an indoor climate-controlled enclosure, either in or raised above the flood plain.

Replicate the Monument in bronze. Exact replica cast in bronze as Borglum recommended in 1938, placed in the same outdoor location. The sandstone artifact would be relocated to another yet to be determined site. This location could be outdoors, or indoors with sculpture restoration and climate-control.



April 1962: Fred Mitchem (far right) supervising attachment of the center standing pioneer's replacement head he carved from matching sandstone.



May 1987: Kiwanis Club's final adjustment of the lighting system they installed for the bicentennial along with flags of the six northwest Territory States.



May 2003: Nancy Hoy (far left) and Allan Norris explaining to an unknown Marietta resident the Kiwanis Club's proposed covering.



June 2020: Temporary cover installed by the City of Marietta using \$50,000 Block Grant Funding.



**Start Westward
Monument Society**

www.startwestward1787.com