Rediscovering Kansas City’s Pioneer Mothers

Cynthia Culver Prescott
University of North Dakota
1920-1940:
Pioneer Mother Movement
A. Phimister Proctor, Pioneer Mother, 1927
George Caleb Bingham, *Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers Through the Cumberland Gap*, 1851. [Public domain]
A. Phimister Proctor, *Pioneer Mother*, 1927
August Leimbach, *Madonna of the Trail*, 1928

Council Grove, KS

Lexington, MO

*Madonna of the Trail Monument*

August Leimbach, *Madonna of the Trail*, 1928
Merrell Gage, Pioneer Women of Kansas, Topeka, 1937
1940-1975: Modern Families
Anna Belle Campbell, *The Homesteaders*, Prairie Village, 1951
Recent Pioneer Monuments: The Culture Wars
Photo courtesy of Wichita Park & Recreation.
Recent Pioneer Monuments: Heritage Tourism
A. Phimister Proctor, *Pioneer Mother*, 1927
Kwan Wu, Going West on the Old Santa Fe Trail, Olathe, 2008
Juan Lombardo-Rivera,
*Pioneer Woman*, 1990

Charles Goslin,
*Pioneer Woman*, 2016
Want to learn more?
Pioneer Monuments in the American West

EXPLORE STATUES HONORING EARLY SETTLERS IN THE OLD WEST

Pioneer Monuments

Since 1890, Americans have erected some 200 sculptural monuments to the “pioneers” who settled western lands. A few of these monuments honored famous individuals, but most depicted generic men or women. By the late

Drag the timeline to see the monuments erected over time.
Click on a marker on the timeline or the map to learn more about that monument.
Search an artist’s name or browse by era or design to highlight related monuments on the timeline and map.
Kansas City’s Pioneer Monuments

Visit pioneer-themed monuments throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. The tour begins in Penn Valley Park near downtown Kansas City, and then extends out to southwestern and eastern suburbs.

Start Tour

Entries on this tour

1. **Pioneer Mother statue (Kansas City, MO)**
   - 1927 statue by famed western artist A. Phimister Proctor. Modeled after artist's own mother to honor women who migrated West on the...

2. **The Scout**
   - Sculptor Cyrus Dallin displayed this statue of a mounted Sioux Indian at San Francisco's 1915 International Exhibition. Kansas City residents...

3. **Wagon Master statue**
   - Bronze sculpture of a wagon train leader sculpted by Gus Shafer. It is one of several monuments in the Kansas City area that commemorates...

4. **Daughters of Old Westport Memorial**
   - Westport businessmen wanted to put up a life-sized stone wagon train to mark the centennial of the Santa Fe Trail. Instead, local women...

5. **Pioneer Square Monument**
   - This 1966 tribute to John C. McCoy, Alexander Majors, and Jim Bridger is the culmination of 75 years of pioneer commemoration efforts by...

6. **The Homesteaders statue**
   - This statue was originally purchased by J. C. Nichols Company to place at the entrance to the Prairie Village Shopping Center to make the postwar Kansas City suburb look more historical. It was moved to a fountain at the entrance to the town in 2002.

7. **Pioneer Crossing Park**
   - Park created the town of Shawnee's 150th anniversary in 2000. It commemorates Shawnee's place on the mid-19th-century Santa Fe, Oregon, and California wagon route and Fort Leavenworth Historic Trail. Features include a statue by noted Western artist Charles Schreyvogel, a monument to.

8. **Pioneers Park (Kansas City, MO)**
   - A park that commemorates the pioneers who settled the area and played a significant role in its development.

9. **The Indian Hunter**
   - This statue commemorates the Indian hunter who accompanied the pioneers on their journey.

10. **The Missouri Border**
    - A monument marking the boundary between Missouri and Kansas, commemorating the role of the state in the Westward Expansion.

11. **Pioneer Village**
    - A historic village that recreates the pioneer life of the mid-19th century, providing a glimpse into the past for visitors.