

Alexander Proctor



Alexander Phimister (FIM-ih-stir) Proctor was born in Canada on September 27, 1860. The first time Phimister came to Grand Lake was in 1875 with his brother George. At the age of 16 he shot and killed both an elk and bear in one day.

His formal artistic training began in Denver, continued at the Art Students' League, the National Academy of Design in New York City, and later at the Académies Julien and Colarossi in Paris.

Recognized as the "sculptor in buckskin," Proctor was known for creating important western and wildlife sculptures throughout the first half of the 1900s.

The inspiration for many of his sculptures, monuments, and small bronzes came from studying wildlife and living in the west. Proctor dedicated his life to creating monumental statues throughout the United States. His works of art celebrate both famous heroes and anonymous, iconic figures. *General William T. Sherman* rides a Proctor horse in Central Park, *Pioneer Mother* resides on the campus of the University of Oregon, and an equestrian group of the same name in Kansas City, honors the dauntless character of the West's early pioneers. In Denver, the *Bronco Buster* and *On the War Trail* embody untamed frontier spirit. And, Proctor's tribute to Theodore Roosevelt, *The Rough Rider*, was the subject of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's first educational film on the work of a sculptor.

"Bronco Buster" and "On the War Trail" monuments are both in Denver Civic Center.

A statue sculpted by Howard Neville is located on Grand Lake town property in front of the Kauffman House museum.

