

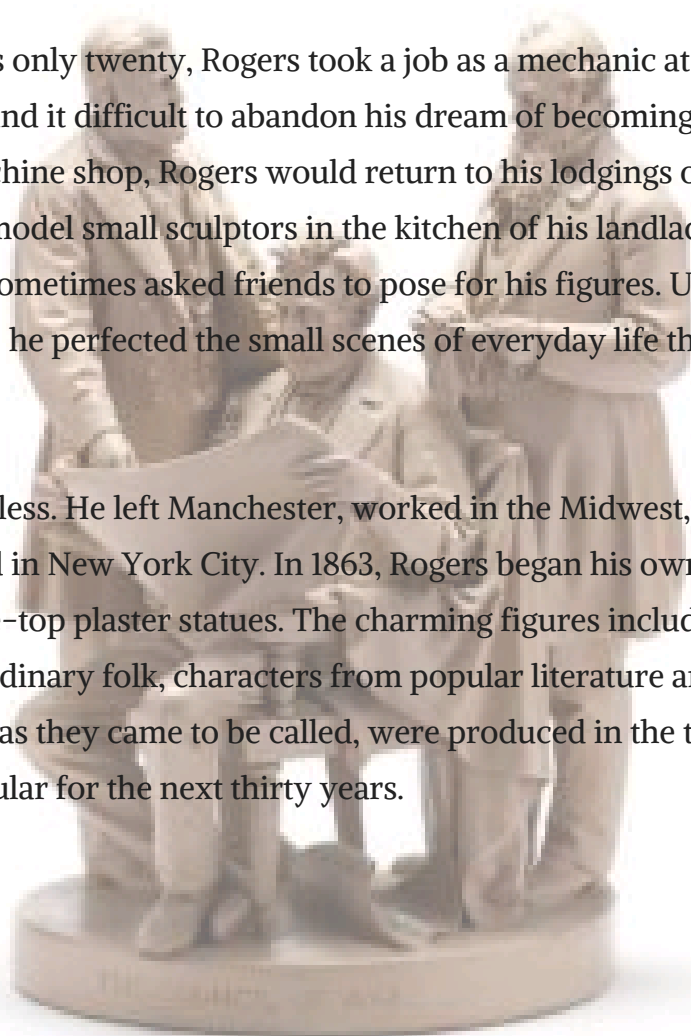


## John Rogers

John Rogers was born to a wealthy family from Salem, Massachusetts. His mother encouraged his interest in art. However, the family's fortune dwindled. Always fascinated by inventions and machines, young John decided it was more practical to take up a trade. He studied engineering and became a draftsman and master mechanic.

In 1850, when he was only twenty, Rogers took a job as a mechanic at the Amoskeag millyard. However, he found it difficult to abandon his dream of becoming a sculptor. After long hours of toiling in the machine shop, Rogers would return to his lodgings on Middle Street. There, by candlelight, he would model small sculptures in the kitchen of his landlady, Mrs. Richardson. Rogers sometimes asked friends to pose for his figures. Using clay from the brick works at nearby Hooksett, he perfected the small scenes of everyday life that would make him famous.

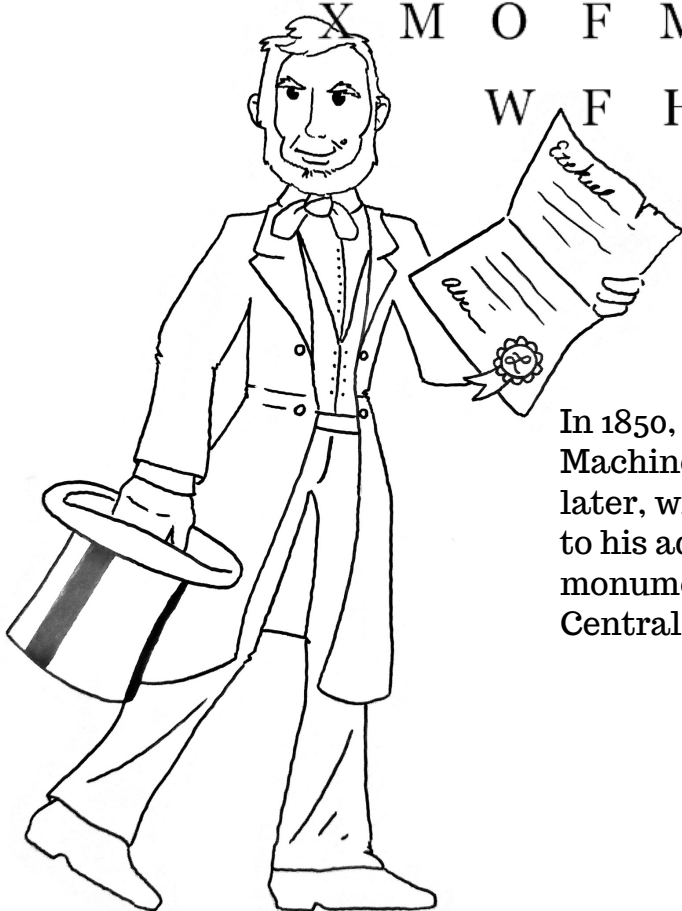
Rogers remained restless. He left Manchester, worked in the Midwest, studied briefly in Europe and finally arrived in New York City. In 1863, Rogers began his own company to mass-produce inexpensive table-top plaster statues. The charming figures included humorous and romanticized groups of ordinary folk, characters from popular literature and political figures of the day. "Rogers Groups," as they came to be called, were produced in the thousands and remained immensely popular for the next thirty years.



B P V O Z  
 H R S A L E M Z Q  
 Q G E M A H A R B A G  
 I U A T R E T S A L P R P  
 S A E S S I A O P M C O O  
 N T D K E K B D Z Z E L T T R  
 F A R S H C T U M N I S P E D  
 B T A O C I S J T N I Y L L D  
 C U N M N R E R C N A F U B Y  
 X E G A A B A O I L A S C A Z  
 H L Z M L L H C L J U S T  
 F E Q V N C P R I D R Y A  
 W S K A P S R E G O R  
 X M O F M F F Y P  
 W F H Q T

ABRAHAM  
 AMOSKEAG  
 BRICKS  
 CENTRAL  
 PLASTER  
 QUADRANGLE  
 ROGERS  
 SALEM

CLAY  
 LINCOLN  
 MACHINIST  
 MANCHESTER  
 SCULPTOR  
 STATUE  
 TABLETOP



In 1850, a young mechanic came to work in the Amoskeag Machine Shop. However, he dreamed of being a sculptor. Years later, with his fame as an artist secured, John Rogers returned to his adopted hometown and presented the city with a monumental statue of Abraham Lincoln. It still graces the Central High School quadrangle.