

FLAGLER MEMORIAL AT MONUMENT ISLAND

Carl Fisher, one of Miami Beach's founding fathers, built the Memorial in 1921, in honor of Henry Flagler. His admiration for Flagler stemmed in large part from Flagler's unwavering commitment to bringing the Florida East Coast Railway to Miami in 1896, and to Key West in 1912, thus enabling subsequent development of South Florida.

As you approach the Flagler Memorial, your eyes are automatically drawn to the summit of the magnificent 96 feet obelisk confidently pronouncing its engineering achievement to all who observe it. Surrounding the base of this landmark, on are four graceful figures of heroic size, two men and two women. Each allegorical figure was hand carved from cast-stone by nationally recognized sculptor, Ettore Pellagatta, who also created the "Library Lions" guarding the main entrance to the New York Public Library, in Manhattan, as well as the carved stone figures gracing the bow of the landmark "Stone Boat", in front of Vizcaya, on Biscayne Bay



The "Pioneer" (the southern figure) is symbolized by a strong young man with open collar shirt and tattered pants gazing out over the new Florida horizon, his eyes shielded by his left hand from the intense tropical sun. His right hand grasps a spade, and an axe hangs from his belt – the tools needed by the early pioneer to clear the Florida mangroves that can be seen surrounding his feet.

"Prosperity" (the western figure) is represented by an elegantly attired and crowned woman wearing flowing Classical robes. She bears an overflowing cornucopia of tropical fruit in her left arm, representing abundance and prosperity, and offers a Florida orange to onlookers from her extended right hand, as if welcoming them to join her in this prosperity and abundance.



"Industry" (the northern figure) is embodied in the figure of a somber senior man wearing a Roman toga and embracing a model of Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway on the Key West Viaduct in his right arm, a vivid representation of what industry and perseverance can achieve from the wilderness.

"Education" (the eastern figure) is symbolized by a youthful woman in an Empress-style dress with a long flowing shawl over her shoulders. An open book rests on her extended right arm and another book rests beneath her foot. With her extended left hand she seems to gently invite others to learn along with her. The significance of "Education" to Flagler and Fisher is of particular interest because both were self-made men who quit school at the ages of 12 and 14 respectively.



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