

**THE HALL OF FAME: PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE SECOND UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL  
TABLETS IN THE HALL OF FAME AT  
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, NEW YORK CITY,  
UPON MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30, 1907**

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The Hall of Fame: Proceedings of the Second Unveiling of Memorial Tablets in the Hall of Fame at University Heights, New York City, upon Memorial Day, May 30, 1907 by George Frederick Kunz

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**GEORGE FREDERICK KUNZ**

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Hall of Fame and Library, New York University, exterior.

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# THE HALL OF FAME

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Memorial Day, May 30,  
1907.

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*"By Wealth of Thought, or Else by  
Mighty Deed, they served Mankind;  
In noble character, in world wide  
Good, they live forevermore."*

# THE HALL OF FAME.

BY

GEORGE FREDERICK KUNZ, PH.D.

## INTRODUCTION.

On March 5, 1900, the Council of New York University, in the city of New York, accepted, from a donor whose name is withheld, a gift of \$100,000, afterward increased to \$250,000, for the erection on University Heights in the borough of the Bronx, of a building to be called "The Hall of Fame for Great Americans." The object of this institution is set forth in the following constitution of the Hall of Fame approved by the university in March, 1900:

### *Constitution of the Hall of Fame.*

A gift of one hundred thousand dollars is accepted by New York University under the following conditions: The money is to be used for building a colonnade five hundred feet in length, at University Heights, looking toward the Palisades and the Harlem and Hudson river valleys. The exclusive use of the colonnade is to serve as "The Hall of Fame for Great Americans." One hundred and fifty panels, each about two by eight feet, will be provided for inscriptions. Fifty of these will be inscribed in 1900, provided fifty names shall be approved by the two bodies of judges named below. At the close of every five years thereafter five additional panels will be inscribed, so that the entire number shall be completed A. D. 2000. The statue, bust, or portrait of any person, whose name is inscribed, may be given a place either in the Hall of Fame or in the museum.<sup>1</sup>

The following rules are to be observed for inscriptions:

(1) The University will invite nominations until May 1st, from the public in general, of names to be inscribed, to be addressed by mail to the Chancellor of the University, New York city.

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<sup>1</sup> A bronze bust of Horace Mann, with granite pedestal, has been given to be placed above his tablet.



(2) Every name that is seconded by any member of the University Senate will be submitted to 100 or more persons throughout the country who may be approved by the Senate, as professors or writers of American history, or especially interested in the same.

(3) No name will be inscribed unless approved by a majority of the answers received from this body of judges before October 1st of the year of election.

(4) Each name thus approved will be inscribed unless disapproved before November 1st by a majority of the nineteen members of the New York University Senate, who are the Chancellor with the Dean and Senior Professor of each of the six schools, and the president or representative of each of the six theological faculties in or near New York city.

(5) No name may be inscribed except of a person born in what is now the territory of the United States<sup>1</sup> and of a person who has been deceased at least ten years.

(6) In the first fifty names must be included one or more representatives of a majority of the following fifteen classes of citizens:<sup>2</sup>

\*(a) Authors and editors. (b) Business men. \*(c) Educators. \*(d) Inventors. (e) Missionaries and explorers. \*(f) Philanthropists and reformers. \*(g) Preachers and theologians. \*(h) Scientists. (i) Engineers and architects. \*(j) Lawyers and judges. \*(k) Musicians, painters and sculptors. (l) Physicians and surgeons. \*(m) Rulers and statesmen. \*(n) Soldiers and sailors. (o) Distinguished men and women outside the above classes.

(7) Should these restrictions leave vacant panels in any year, the Senate may fill the same the ensuing year, following the same rules.

The granite edifice which will serve as the foundation of the Hall of Fame shall be named the Museum of the Hall of Fame. Its final exclusive use shall be the commemoration of the great Americans whose names are inscribed in the colonnade above, by the preservation and exhibition of portraits and other important mementoes of these citizens. The six rooms and the long corridor shall in succession be set apart to this exclusive use. The room

<sup>1</sup> See Supplemental Article, page 5.

<sup>2</sup> The classes marked by an asterisk were each given representation by the electors in 1900, thus satisfying finally this Rule.

to be first used shall be named the Washington Gallery, and shall be set apart so soon as ten or more portraits of the persons inscribed shall be accepted for permanent preservation by the University.<sup>1</sup> The other rooms shall be named and set apart for the exclusive use above specified so soon as their space shall, in the judgment of the University, be needed for the purpose of the Museum of the Hall of Fame. In the meantime they may be devoted to ordinary college uses. The outer western wall of the Hall of Languages and of the Hall of Philosophy, which look into the Hall of Fame, shall be treated as a part of the same, and no inscription shall be placed upon them except such as relate to the great names inscribed in the 150 panels. Statues and busts of the great Americans chosen may be assigned places either in the Museum of the Hall of Fame, or in the Hall of Fame itself, as the givers of the same may decide with the approval of the University.

*Supplemental Article.*

Adopted by New York University, February 8, 1904.

1. An edifice in the form of a loggia, about one hundred feet in length, designed for the commemoration of great Americans of foreign nativity will be joined as soon as means shall have been provided, to the north end of the present Hall of Fame with harmonious architecture, to contain space for at least twenty-five memorial tablets. Six of these shall be set apart in the year 1905 for the commemoration of six American men of foreign birth who shall then have been deceased ten years. An additional panel shall be devoted to one name each succeeding five years throughout the twentieth century. The rules heretofore adopted for the Hall of Fame will be observed in the choosing of these names. Until the loggia shall have been builded the tablets inscribed with the names of great Americans of foreign nativity will be placed upon the walls of the Museum of the Hall of Fame.

2. New York University, taking account of a widely expressed desire for a larger recognition of women in the plan of the Hall

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<sup>1</sup> A bronze bust of Washington by Houdon, was placed in the Museum, the gift of Dr. J. Ackerman Coles in 1905.

of Fame, sets apart a site for a Hall of Fame for Women immediately adjoining the quadrant reserved for American citizens of foreign birth at the northeast end of the present structure. This site will accommodate a building about 30x60 feet, which should consist of a Museum on the ground floor with a main story above of twenty-eight columns supporting a pedimented roof. Places will be provided for sixty tablets as follows: Fifty for American women of native birth, ten for American women of foreign birth. The Board of One Hundred Electors will be requested to elect in the year 1905 ten famous American women of native birth and two famous American women of foreign birth, also in each succeeding quinquennial year to add two names of the American women of native birth and in each decennial year, beginning with 1910, to add the name of one American woman of foreign birth until all the tablets shall have been filled. The rules already prescribed in the Deed of Gift for the Hall of Fame, so far as applicable, will be observed in the choosing of names for the Hall of Fame for Women. Until the Hall of Fame for Women shall have been builded, the tablets which may be inscribed with the names chosen by the Board of One Hundred Electors will be placed upon the walls of the Museum of the Hall of Fame.

*Location of Hall of Fame.*

In accordance with the plans indicated in the foregoing Constitution, an edifice was built supporting a colonnade over 400 feet in length, connecting the University Hall of Philosophy with the Hall of Languages. On the ground floor is the Museum of the Hall of Fame, 200 feet long and 40 wide, comprising a corridor and six halls. Joined to the Hall of Fame on the north is the granite foundation upon which is to be built a loggia about 100 feet long, and beyond this the site is reserved for the Hall of Fame for Women about 30x60 feet in size.

The structure stands on the rising ground on the east side of Sedgwick avenue in the borough of the Bronx, a mile north of Washington bridge (One Hundred and Eighty-first street). The convex side of the hall is toward the west and commands a superb