

What in the world are you doing...
for Women's History Month this year?

Question: Who was the first woman and the youngest artist to ever receive a commission from the US Congress for a statue?

Hint: It was for the life-size marble statue of Abraham Lincoln that stands in the United States Capitol rotunda in Washington.

Answer: Miss Vinnie Ream received the coveted job in 1866 when the art prodigy was only 18 years old. She was also one of the first women employed by the U.S. government as a clerk in the Postal Service during 1862. In 1863 she got the chance to study art at the U.S. Capitol with sculptor Clark Mills and became well-known for her extraordinary skill at modeling life-like portraits. She later built the 10 foot tall bronze statue of Admiral Farragut unveiled in Farragut Square at Washington, D.C. in 1881. It was the first major monument to an American naval officer built in the city. She also designed the first statue of a Native American, Sequoyah, to be placed in the Capitol. Vinnie Ream Hoxie died in 1914. She has been called "the most prominent American woman sculptor of the 19th century."



Vinnie Ream
150 Year
Sesquicentenary:
September 25, 1847
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**September 25, 1997**  
<http://www.vinnieream.com>