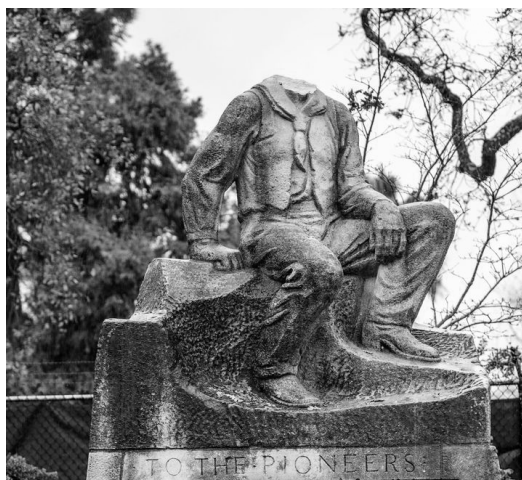


Headless Statue In Sacramento

SACRAMENTO — The statue of a 19th-century Northern California rancher and meat-packing magnate was decapitated earlier this week, leaving investigators in the state's capital city scratching their heads to find a motive behind the vandalism.

Tipsters could receive a \$1,000 reward for information about what befell the nearly century-old granite statue of Charles Swanston in Sacramento's William Land Park on Monday. The severed head was found on the ground nearby. Police are investigating whether the vandal – or vandals – had a beef with the Swanstons or if it was a random act.



Swanston traveled west from Ohio as part of the California Gold Rush and quickly realized he'd make more money as a butcher, according to Sacramento City Historian Marcia Eymann. Swanston then became a rancher and started a meat-packing business that made him rich. His son in the 1920s commissioned the statue, which is part of a fountain, and donated it to the city after Swanston's death in 1911 at 101 years old.

Eymann said if not for his son's donation, the city would likely have never put up a piece for Swanston. "Not that anybody knows who he is, but that's something very special that Sacramento had and now it's destroyed," she said.

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