Approximately 70 years ago, a statue was unveiled in Kirksville. It was one of Kirksville’s famous men in history, Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, who was the founder of the science of osteopathy. On May 23, 1917, Dr. Still’s 10-year-old grandson, Charles Still, Jr., revealed the statue by pulling off the American flag as seen in the photograph to the right.

Two thousand people attended the ceremony which was held on the lawn of the American School of Osteopathy, located on the corner of Jefferson and Osteopathy. (Photos courtesy of KCOM archives)

George J. Zolnay was the original creator of the bronze statue. Dr. Zolnay depicted Dr. Still with his famous walking stick. Below the statue the words “The God I worship demonstrates all his works” are inscribed.

This year there was a strong push for the preservation and safekeeping of this statue. There were dual purposes in restoring Dr. Still’s statue. One was the restoration and the preservation itself, and the second was the creation of a mold to be available to other osteopathic hospitals to establish memorials to Andrew Taylor Still.

The restoration project was completed by a team from Washington University in St. Louis. The team was headed by Jim Sterritt, shown in the top far right photo. In the lower left photo the statue is in the casting process of its renovation.

At noon on October 8, 1986, Dr. Charles Still, Jr., unveiled the restored statue on the lawn of the Adair County Courthouse before a crowd of 150 people. Members of the American Osteopathic Association from Australia, Canada, and the United States were in attendance to witness the new look of the statue of the founder of osteopathy. Dr. Scan- carella, president of the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association, and Dr. Fred Timning, president of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, had the honor of assisting Dr. Charles Still, Jr., in the unveiling of the newly renovated statue at the brief ceremony, shown in the lower far right photo.

The renovations and rededication of the statue are a public reminder of the importance of osteopathic medicine in Kirksville and throughout the world. The statue of Dr. A. T. Still, his memory, and accomplishments will remain in the hearts of many for years to come.