

Woodland Wire

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WOODLAND

ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

Restored Chapel Pews

Historic Woodland Chapel Restoration and Preservation Project



In this issue of the Woodland Wire, we update you on the progress with the Chapel restoration and preservation project. Look inside to learn more about the Historic Chapel and how it became decorated by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Tiffany Studios of New York.

You'll also see the first photos of the Tiffany stained glass restoration. The restoration is being completed by local artisans at the BeauVerre/Riordan Studio located in Middletown, Ohio. Owner Jay Moorman is overseeing the project and not only does he work with stained glass but he is also an accomplished woodworker, building, restoring and creating projects made of wood. Above is one of over 20 pews that were originally placed in the Chapel. Woodland gave him two of the pews to see if they were salvageable and what he returned to us is a beautiful display of woodworking and craftsmanship. It is now our goal to restore all of the original pews.

If you are interested in sponsoring the restoration of the Chapel windows or the pews, or would like to make a major gift to the Chapel Restoration Fund, please contact Angie Hoschouer, Manager of Development and Marketing at 937-228-3221 or send an e-mail to ahoschouer@woodlandcemetery.org.



The Historic Woodland Chapel was originally completed in 1887. The building contract was let on November 8, 1886. The designers were Peters, Burns and Pretzinger Architects of Dayton. The price mentioned on October 9, 1894 was \$7,920 and there were six different subcontractors involved.

The size of the original building was less than it is now. The Chapel extended only to the point where the sanctuary widens and the back wall was at that point. The winter use of the Chapel was enhanced through the addition of steam heat radiators in 1896. The steam was piped underground into the Chapel from a wood fired boiler in the basement of the office.

In 1898, the Chapel was enlarged to its present size and a basement was included which became the receiving vault replacing the old subterranean vault, built in 1847 by James Wuichet and located in cemetery section 62. After chapel services, the receiving vault was accessed through the use of a hand-operated elevator which can still be seen in front of the alter. The casket usually rested on a bier which was in fact the elevator raised to a convenient height. At the conclusion of the service, the casket was lowered into the basement by using the elevator and then it was stored until removed for its burial or final disposition.

In 1904, Henry C. Lowe of Dayton provided \$10,000 to fund a memorial in honor of his daughter Marianna who had died in September 1903. Her death was mentioned in *The Dayton Journal* news at the time: "Miss Marianna Lowe had been in failing health for some time and went to Colorado in quest of improved health at Colorado Springs. She was 26 years of age. Her mother died when she was quite young and she was a close companion of her father."

Tiffany Studios of New York was hired to redesign the interior of the Chapel. A Tiffany window was purchased by the Cemetery Board of Trustees at a cost of \$1,050. The Tiffany window was installed by Heinke & Bowen, who were operatives of Tiffany Studios of New York, owned by Louis Comfort Tiffany. The new stained glass window featured a pastoral scene in the arts and crafts style. Additionally installed were a row of eight Tiffany stained glass windows on the east and west sides of the Chapel which are paired with Byzantine columns and sunburst mosaic arched transoms. Tiffany also installed a hand-cut tile floor, frescoed wall surfaces and ornate lighting sconces. A copy of an original invoice was found in the Woodland archives to confirm the Tiffany re-designs.



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Historic Woodland Chapel continued

The Historic Chapel was used for services until 1969 when the present Woodland Mausoleum was opened with its beautiful modern Chapel. From this time until 1991, the structure was used very little and became a storage facility. The Chapel, Front Gates and Administration building were placed on the National Register of Historic Building in 1979.



In 1991, the Historic Chapel and Administration Office underwent a renovation and the Chapel was converted into a more functional condition with the addition of carpeting and new lighting fixtures. It was determined that the new space could be used to house the sales counselors and some sales activities such as the counseling of families in need of cemetery and/or mausoleum spaces and memorial stones and urns. The Historic Chapel provided a quiet, dignified retreat for persons to discuss their needs with their counselors.



Today, the Woodland Arboretum Foundation is funding the Historic Chapel's major restoration and preservation. We hope you will consider a gift to the foundation specifically for the Chapel Fund to support this Dayton treasure for future generations to enjoy the beauty and history of Woodland.

Henry Lowe was the president of the Lowe Brothers Company, one of the largest paint manufacturers in the world at that time. The fame of the paint and the trade mark, "High Standard," was known wherever paint was used.

Lowe Brothers was established in 1862 by Stoddard and Grimes and in 1872, Henry Lowe and his brother, Houston Lowe, took over the business and built it from a tiny paint shop to a factory that led in the manufacture of paints in the United States.

On July 4, 1909, Henry Lowe suffered a stroke at his home located at 215 N. Jefferson Street. He never recovered and died later that evening.

The Board of Directors of the Dayton City Club made a public announcement of the death of Mr. Lowe on July 6, 1909. They expressed their shock and grief of the sudden death of Henry and that he would be dearly missed. He was honored with phrases such as "splendid business ability" and "strict integrity." The board also said that "we shall be reminded that a prince among men has left us" and that "we record our high regard for him, and while we sorrow at his passing, we rejoice in that we have had the privilege of knowing one such as he."

He was buried on Wednesday, July 7 after services in the Woodland Chapel. The services were brief and simple as per the wishes the Mr. Lowe. However, "a great number of mourners attended the services including friends and former associates, old employees of the company of which he was owner and many others who had known the departed for his numerous good qualities, generosity and never-failing justice."

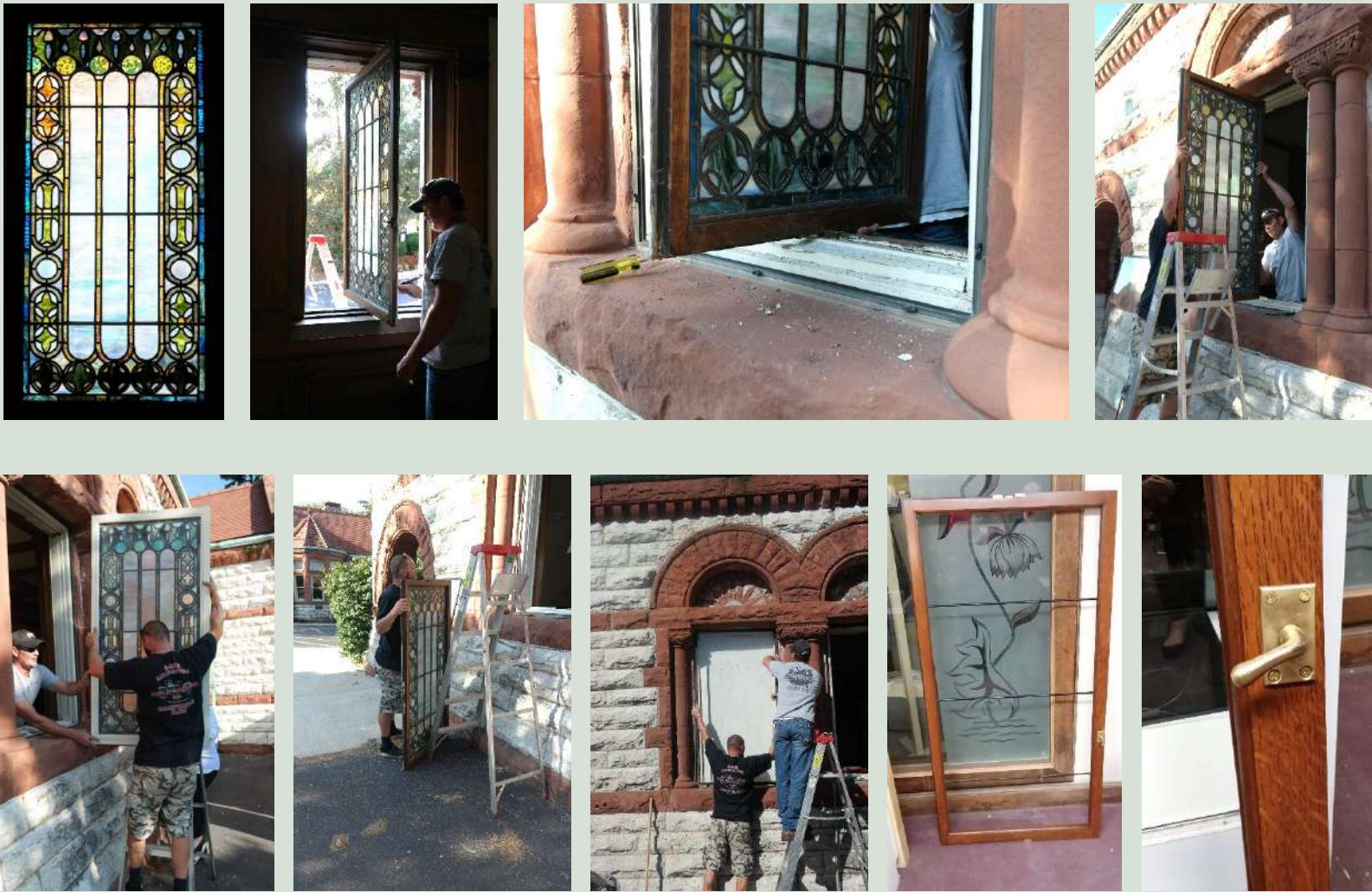


The solemn funeral procession consisting of members of the family, close friends, Dayton's prominent businessmen and leaders including Charles Lowe, Houston Gaddis, Frank Hill Smith, Thruston Houk, Pierce Schenck, John Lowe, George Mead and Robert Patterson proceeded to the grave where burial was made. The honorary pallbearers were John Stoddard, J. D. Platt, S. H. Carr, Howard Friend, Charles Kennedy, E. L. Shuey, S. D. Currigan, Torrence Huffman and Dr. Albert Thomas.

Henry Lowe is at rest with his wife and daughter, Ella and Marianna in Section 55 at Woodland Cemetery.

Tiffany Window Restoration

Restoration of the Tiffany windows will be completed by the artisans of BeauVerre/Riordan Studios located in Middletown, Ohio. Founded in 1838, the company is the oldest documented continuously operated stained glass studio in the United States.



Work on the removal of the first two windows began on September 7, 2019. There are 16 Tiffany side windows that will be restored over the course of the next year. It is anticipated that the completion will be done by September of 2020. These windows in the Chapel have not been opened in over 50 years. Painted shut from the outside, the men doing the removal took their time and with great care, were successful in removing two of the 16 windows after which they boarded up the openings and replaced the protective window coverings. The photos on the right show the restoration of the wood window frames and hardware.

The Chapel Preservation and Restoration is a project that is being taken on wholly by the Woodland Arboretum Foundation. We send our deepest gratitude to those who have made a contribution to our fundraising efforts thus far. Restored, the Chapel will provide a lovely and serene setting for family celebrations from baptisms to weddings to funerals. It will serve as an excellent site for meetings, education events, and other social gatherings, as well as be the focal point of a historic and beautiful cemetery, park and arboretum. If you would like to make a major gift, please contact Angie Hoschouer. Manager of Development at 937-228-3221 or ahoschouer@woodlandcemetery.org.

Beautiful, Timeless, and Still Available...

Tiffany Window Restoration continued



A charcoal rubbing is made of the window while it is intact. This allows the artisans to place the dismantled window piece by piece on the template. Some pieces of glass are as small as a lima bean and each piece will be individually cleaned and scraped of the original putty that adhered it to the leading. Most pieces are placed in a mild soap bath to soften the putty for easier removal. It is a painstakingly tedious process but the results are absolutely magnificent.



Above, left and right: One of the artisans displays a piece of textured glass before and after cleaning.

Right: The left photo shows one side of the window before cleaning and the right photo shows the glass after cleaning.

Thank you for your donation to the Woodland Arboretum Foundation

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum

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Our Foundation continues to focus on the restoration, preservation, horticultural and educational projects needed to keep Woodland a cultural resource for Dayton and Ohio. Thank you for your continued support!

Prefer to make a donation online or over the phone? Go to our website at woodlandcemetery.org and select the "Donate" bar on the left side of the page. You can donate through our secure and universally recognized PayPal account. You can also make a donation with your credit card by calling our office at 937-228-3221.

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Chapel Restoration and Preservation Issue

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