Connecting Cemeteries through Monument Art

By Anne K. Harlan and Alexandra Luken

Cemeteries provide a unique venue to experience dimensional visual art in a natural setting. A type of sculpture takes the form of memorial art, where the subject matter reflects the life of the individual or the depth of grief of loved ones left to mourn their loss.

Very often there are duplications between monuments found within the same cemetery, another cemetery within the United States, or even a cemetery on another continent.

While the equipment used to create monuments and markers has changed over the last 175 years, as technology changed, the process for procuring monument art to mark a loved one's grave is not so very different. Families obtain monuments or markers for their cemetery lots in Cave Hill Cemetery through one of several ways:

- Sculpture is purchased abroad and then placed on a plinth as a base for the statue purchased from a domestic monument company;
- A sculpture is commissioned from an artist or monument company;
- A sculpture or marker is ordered from a monument company's catalog. Depending on the type of material, the monument could be executed at a domestic quarry or Italian marble works and then shipped to a local monument company for engraving and installation on the customer's lot.

Some examples of monumental art found in Cave Hill Cemetery that have similar "twin" monuments elsewhere are:

Fannie Castleman Eastin Monument, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY –
Italian Musician Emilio Koppel Monument, Florence, Italy

The Koppel monument was created in 1893 by Italian sculptor Paolo Testi, and features the figure of Koppel's wife mourning the loss of her husband. There are differences in the articles resting at the feet of the grieving woman – the Koppel monument features a musical motif, while the Eastin monument has an open book resting at her feet.

Thomas Quigley Monument, Section O Lot 336-338, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY –
Charles Satterly Monument, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH

Both the monument for Louisville banker Thomas Quigley and Cincinnati city clerk Charles Satterly were ordered from Muldoon Monument in Louisville, KY. The statue rests on a differently styled bases – the Quigley monument is more ornate with individual markers surrounding the monument. The Satterly monument includes the names and dates of the Satterly family on the base of the monument itself.

Charles R. Peaslee Sphinx, Section A Lot 15, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY –
Benjamin Lawler Sphinx, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH

The Charles R. Peaslee Sphinx monument was copied by Muldoon Monument from the Matthew Lawler Sphinx erected in Spring Grove Cemetery to the memory of Matthew and Ann (Bevan) Lawler, former mayor of Philadelphia, PA. Charles Peaslee's wife, Ella Harper (Harbeson) Peaslee, was the great-granddaughter of Matthew and Ann (Bevan) Lawler.

Honorable Samuel E. DeHaven Monument, Section 5 Lot 4, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY – Charles West, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH

The monument for Circuit Court Judge and State Legislative Representative Samuel DeHaven features DeHaven seated in a draped chair holding a book representing the law. The monument erected in Spring Grove Cemetery to Charles West, founder of the Cincinnati Art Museum, features West's seated figure flanked by allegorical figures representing Architecture, Sculpture, Painting and Music.

Thomas Patrick Scanlan Monument, Section Lot 523 W1/2, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY – Ammirato Family Tomb, Staglieno Cemetery, Genoa, Italy

Grief and loss are strongly conveyed by the figure of a woman with hands covering her eyes and her hair shielding her face. The influence of the sculpture by Edoardo de Albertis created in 1917 for the Ammirato family tomb in Genoa, Italy is reflected in the emotions conveyed in the Scanlon monument.

Benjamin Smith Mausoleum Section G Lot 90-95, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY –
William Ackerman Black Grave, Greenmount Cemetery, Baltimore, MD

A Child (Young Hercules) was sculpted ca. 1847 by German-born sculptor Emil Wolff, who studied under sculptors Bertel Thorvaldsen and J. G. Schadow in Rome. The figure is an allegorical representation of "Winter". Young Hercules is resting on a shepherd's staff and with his right hand, holding a golden apple of the Hesperides, which granted immortality when eaten. The figure is reported to have been replicated more than 50 times.

Statue of Christ, Broadway Entrance, Cave Hill Cemetery –
Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD – Vor Frue Kirke, Copenhagen, Denmark - LDS Temple Square, Salt Lake City, UT

Danish- born sculptor Bertel Thoraldsen's depiction of Christ, *Christus,* is considered to be the most perfect depiction of Christ. It is a popular replication and found throughout the world. The copy found at Cave Hill was installed upon the completion of the Broadway entrance gate in 1882.

Harry Innes Spotts Mausoleum, Section D Lot 72 , Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY – Richard H. Benson Mausoleum, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA – Daniel F. Carter Mausoleum, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, TN

The three nearly identical Venetian Gothic marble mausoleums were ordered through John Baird's Spring Garden Steam Marble Works in Philadelphia, PA. Baird established his monument business in 1841, and was a pioneer in the use of steam-powered saws to cut marble into slabs for mausoleum construction, as well has for fireplace mantels, tabletops, monument bases and headstones. Baird's shop provided customers with standard designs to pick from, but allowed for customized decorative embellishments.

The Spotts Mausoleum was erected ca. 1866 Jane Pearce (Tunsall) Spotts, wife of steamboat captain Harry Innes Spotts, who passed away in 1864 in New York City. The Richard H. Benson Mausoleum was erected in 1868 by his wife, Anna C. Benson. Richard Benson passed away in 1842 at age 32; his remains were relocated to Laurel Hill in 1870 by his widow. The Daniel F. Carter Mausoleum was erected in 1868 to house the remains of his son John Carter, who was killed at the Battle of Perryville in 1862.