

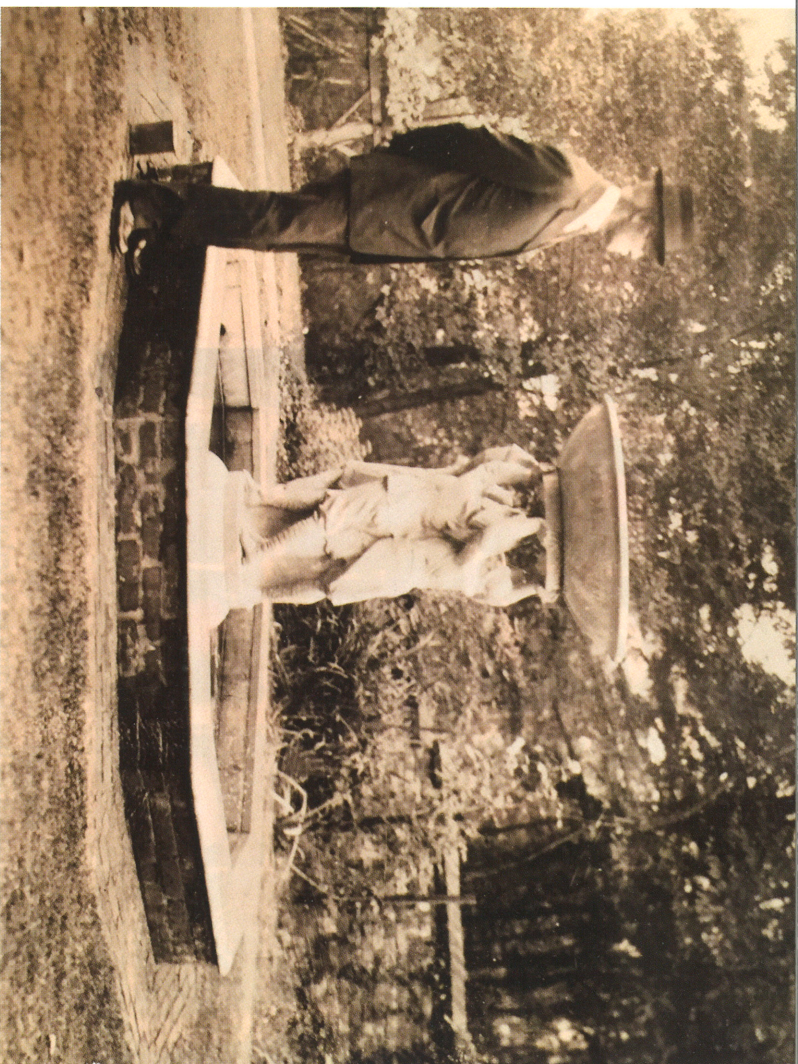
The Case of The Missing Statue

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HERE AT THE Montclair History Center, every once in a while, we get a research call that stumps us. Such was the case when a World War I researcher, Erik Burro, reached out to us this summer. He's been looking into World War I memorials around the state and discovered one that should have been in the backyard of 509 Park Street, adjacent to Applegate Farm, now owned by CY and Bill Treene.

Julian Tinkham, Applegate's owner in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, commissioned a sculpture for his garden in memory of his son Edward who took ill shortly after the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. Edward was hospitalized in Ravenna, Italy, and died from spinal meningitis and pneumonia on March 30, 1919. He was cremated, and his remains were interred in Ravenna.

Tinkham asked Alexander Stirling Calder, father of the renowned sculptor credited with originating the mobile and a sculptor in his own right, to design a work of art that paid homage to the soldiers and sailors from America, England, France, and Italy who fought in the war. The sculpture portrays four soldiers (one from each country) holding aloft a large bowl inscribed with "The Covenant of the League of Nations." According to a New York Times article describing the sculpture's unveiling on October 3, 1920, "Water overflows this bowl and falls into a pool, the coping of which consists of eight marble stones bearing inscriptions relating to the need of a League of Nations."



Mr. Tinkham admiring the statue in 1921. Photographs from the Tinkham Family Scrapbook, courtesy of Bill and CY Treene

One month later, President Warren Harding was elected on a platform opposing America's involvement, and the U.S. never joined the League of Nations. The fountain graced the gardens of 509 Park Street for several decades. It was last sighted at Mountainside Hospital in the 1950s. There the case goes cold. No one at Mountainside remembers it, nor do they have anything in their archives that relates to it. Perhaps it was moved during Mountainside's renovations? Perhaps it was stolen? Perhaps it found another home? No one knows.

We've reached out to the Treenes, who knew of the statue, but it was long gone by the time they moved to 509 Park in the 1970s. They even checked to see if the coping still exists, but unfortunately, it's now just a circle of bricks. They did, however, share a wonderful scrapbook documenting the statue and Applegate Farm in the first decades of the 20th century. They graciously offered to let us scan the scrapbook, which is now part of our digital archives.

If you have any information about this missing statue, please let us know!

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AROUND MONTCLAIR, you can still visit several World War I monuments. The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Edgemont Park, "Winged Victory" was designed by sculptor Charles Keck and constructed in 1925. The tall granite obelisk is topped with a bronze figure of Liberty, standing on a globe upheld by eagles. A grouping of bronze figures stands at the base: a figure of Columbia, wearing a helmet and holding a round shield, standing protectively behind and above a uniformed sailor and a soldier carrying a rifle. The base of the tower is engraved with the insignia of various military units. This memorial is now integrated into official logo for the Township of Montclair.

Hillside School Memorial. Placed on the lawn of the school near the corner of Orange Road and Hillside Avenue in 1924, this bronze plaque features a bas-relief eagle perched on an olive branch and list of Montclair residents who served in the war.

St. James Episcopal Church's steeple. Although the church was built in 1878, the Memorial Bell Tower replaced the original steeple in 1919. It's a memorial to seven congregants who died in WWI and thanking 86 congregants who returned. Seven of the bells are inscribed with the names of



those who died in service.

The nave windows at the First Congregational Church. A 1914 fire had destroyed the original 1872 church at this location, and when it was rebuilt in 1920, the windows were designed as a memorial to the nine congregants who died in WWI.

Headstones at local cemeteries serve as memorials to WWI veterans and those who died in service during WWI. The Mt. Hebron Cemetery headstone of Chapin Crawford Barr includes an unusually detailed description of the circumstances of his final, brave firefight. A St. James congregant, Barr's name is featured on the church's Honor Roll and inscribed in one of the Memorial Tower's bells.

Theodore Todd is another WWI casualty whose headstone in Mt. Hebron Cemetery includes military iconography and details of his death in battle. Both of these men, like thousands of other servicemen who perished, were buried in American military cemeteries overseas and their burial site is noted on their headstone in the U.S. ■

The information on Montclair's WWI monuments was compiled by Helen Fallon, Board of Trustees, Montclair History Center.



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