

Whiteman Mausoleum

Woodlawn Cemetery, Chestnut Hill, Lot 10684



Figure 1

Photo by Liza Hegedus, *Whiteman Mausoleum*, 2023.

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Historic Preservation Studio I
06 October 2023

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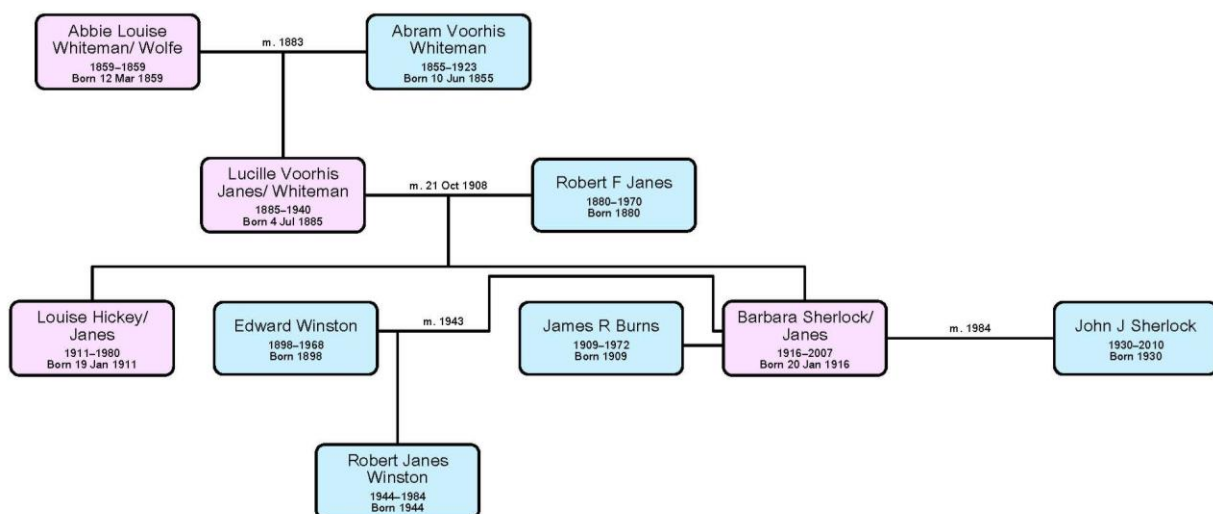
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Family History

The Whiteman mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery is located in the Chestnut Hill plot on lot 10684. The mausoleum consists of eight catacombs, three crypts, and two graves. The catacombs hold Abram Voorhis Whiteman (1855-1923), Abbie Louise Wolfe (1859-1926), Lucille Whiteman Janes (1885-1940), Robert Janes Winston (1944-1984), Louise Hickey (1911-1980), Barbara Janes Sherlock (1916-2007), Edward Winston (1898-1968), and Robert F. Janes (1880-1970). The crypts below hold Thomas J. Hickey (1910-1984) and John J. Sherlock (1930-2010). Finally, the two graves flanking the two sides of the mausoleum hold James R. Burns (1909-1972) and Stephen A. Novak (1998).

Whiteman Family Tree



Abram Voorhis Whiteman first commissioned the mausoleum around December 1912 and was in contact with the architects and designers of Presbrey-Coykendall Co. as well as Woodlawn Cemetery.¹ But, because Abram Voorhis Whiteman died in 1923, before his wife, the mausoleum is under her ownership, Abbie Louise Whiteman.²

Abram Voorhis Whiteman was born on June 10, 1855 in Manhattan, New York but grew up in Fairfield County Connecticut.³ He grew up in a wealthy family and eventually he and his younger brother, Lewis P. Whiteman, gained their own respective wealth through glass and bottle manufacturing and were known as the “Whiteman Brothers”.⁴ In 1875 the “Warren & Harris” glass manufacturing became “Warren Glass Works” with Warren and the Whiteman brothers as the proprietors, located at 39 Warren Street in Manhattan. Lewis eventually developed the first patent for a glass milk bottle with a small glass lid and tin clip-on January 31, 1880. Shortly afterwards, Abram developed a patent for a “stopper or cover for bottles or jars” on April 3, 1883, and the base of the bottle was embossed “WHITEMAN” as seen in figures 3 and 4⁵. Abram then applied for a second patent for a stopper for bottles and jars and

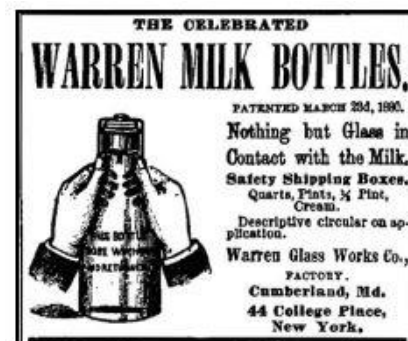


Figure 2
Peter Schulz, Bill Lockhard, Carol Serr, and Bill Lindsey, “William Walton, Whiteman Brothers, and the Warren Glass Works,” *Society for Historical*

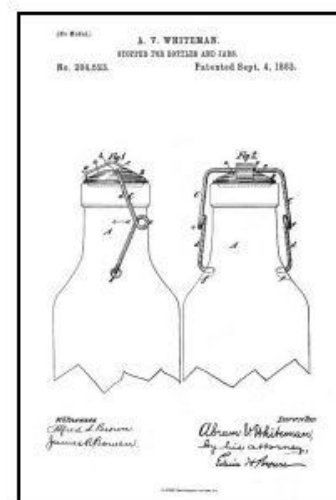


Figure 3
“William Walton, Whiteman Brothers, and the Warren Glass Works,” *Society for Historical Archaeology*, 2006.

¹ Abbie L Whiteman, major monuments folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University, Box MM 18, Folder 69.

² Abbie L Whiteman, major monuments folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University, Box MM 18, Folder 69.

³ “Deaths.” [Abram Whiteman obituary] *The Daily Item*. (Port Chester, NY), February 17, 1923. p. 1.

⁴ Peter Schulz, Bill Lockhard, Carol Serr, and Bill Lindsey, “William Walton, Whiteman Brothers, and the Warren Glass Works”, Society for Historical Archaeology, 2006.

⁵ Schulz, Lockhard, Serr, Lindsey, “William Walton, Whiteman Brothers, and the Warren Glass Works”, Society for Historical Archaeology, 2006.

received patent number 284,523 on September 4, 1883. This second patent differed in two major ways from his original one in that the metal stopper was conical rather than flat and that the bail was anchored in two debossed holes in the bottles shoulder joint. Abram continued to work in the sales office on 72 Murray Street in Manhattan from 1885 to 1888. In 1888, Warren Glass Works moved their factory to the natural gas belt at Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The company eventually ceased production in 1891 but Abram continued to advertise from their sales office located at 144 Chambers Street in Manhattan until 1896.



Figure 4
 “William Walton, Whiteman Brothers, and the Warren Glass Works,” *Society for Historical Archaeology*, 2006.

Aside from his occupation in glass manufacturing, Abram was known to be a lover of horses and at one point he was one of the most prominent racers of trotting horses in his area. In addition, he always kept two or three horses despite automobiles becoming more and more popular. According to the *Daily Item*, “...he was a man of many splendid characteristics and possessed a decidedly attractive personality.”⁶ Furthermore, Abram was a member of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Port Chester and was a vestryman for many years. He was a wealthy resident of King Street in Port Chester, New York for nearly thirty-five years prior to meeting his wife, Abbie Louise Wolfe. Abram and Abbie married in 1883 and had their first and only child, Lucille Whiteman, on July 4th, 1885.⁷ As a family they continued to live in Abrams King Street estate which consisted of twenty-four acres, fifteen rooms, five bathrooms, garages,

⁶ “Deaths.” [Abram Whiteman obituary] *The Daily Item*. (Port Chester, NY), February 19, 1923. p. 4.

⁷ Abram V. Whiteman, United States Census, 1900, Rye Westchester New York., ED 0111, p. 32.

stables, and multiple cottages throughout the property.⁸ Twenty-two years later, on October 21st 1908, Lucille Whiteman married Robert F. Janes.⁹ Robert F. Janes was a wealthy lawyer for the New York Telephone Company. Robert attended Harvard University in 1902 and was a member of the Theta Delta Chi fraternity.^{10&11} He also belonged to the Founders and Patriots of America; the Jerusalem Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons; the Veterans Corps of Artillery in New York; Sons of the American Revolution; and the Harvard Club.¹² He was very social and well-loved, remembered as having a lively personality. Lucille and Robert had two daughters: Louise Janes-Hickey born on January 19th, 1911, and Barbara Janes-Sherlock born on January 20th, 1916. Abram eventually died at 68 years old on February 17th, 1923, after an illness of several days from pneumonia in Port Chester, New York.¹³ Shortly after his death, Abbie Whiteman sold their King Street estate and moved to 12 East 86th Street in New York, New York. She died there, three years later, on her 67th birthday March 12th, 1926.¹⁴ Fourteen years later, their daughter, Lucille, died at 55 years old on June 3rd, 1940. Thirty years after that, on November 25th, 1970, Lucille's husband, Robert F. Janes, died at a convalescent home in Stamford Connecticut at 90 years old.¹⁵ Although not much is known about their daughter, Louise Janes Hickey, it is noted that she was married to Thomas J. Hickey and she died at 69 years old in March of 1980 in

⁸ Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide. United States: C.W. Sweet & Company, 1923.

⁹ "Marriage Announcement 1 -- no Title." *New York Times*, October 21, 1908, p. 9.

¹⁰ Catalogue - Harvard University. United States: The University., 1902.

¹¹ Sixth Catalogue of [Theta Delta Chi]. United States: n.p., 1911.

¹² "Robert F. Janes" *New York Times*, November 25, 1970, p. 39.

¹³ "Deaths." [Abram Whiteman obituary] *The Daily Item*. (Port Chester, NY), February 17, 1923. p. 1.

¹⁴ "Deaths." [Abbie L. Whiteman obituary] *The Daily Item* (Port Chester, NY), March 12, 1926. p. 7.

¹⁵ "Robert F. Janes" *New York Times*, November 25, 1970, p. 39.

Greenwich, Connecticut.¹⁶ Thomas J. Hickey was a resident of Westchester, New York, was enlisted in the army for World War II on December 10th, 1942, and he eventually died at 74 years old in 1984.¹⁷ Louise's younger sister, Barbara Janes Sherlock, lived in Greenwich Connecticut for twenty-seven years and was known to have many hobbies with needlepoint being the most notable.¹⁸ She married her first husband, Edward Winston, in 1943, and they had their first and only child, Robert Janes Winston, in 1944. It was noted that they were proud owners of several racehorses.¹⁹ Edward eventually died in 1968.²⁰ Soon after, Barbara remarried to James R. Burns in 1970 but, unfortunately, he died shortly after in 1972.²¹ Fourteen years later, in 1984, Barbara again remarried to John J. Sherlock, and they were married for twenty-three years before her death on January 27th, 2007 at 91 years old.²²

Presebrey-Coykendall Co.

The Whiteman Mausoleum was designed and built by Presbrey-Coykendall Co. Their office was located at 198 Broadway, New York City and Barre Vermont with a branch located at 847 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut. They were builders and producers of memorials in granite, marble, and bronze and designed monuments,

¹⁶ "Louise Hickey", Ancestry.com. *U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014*. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2014.

¹⁷ "Thomas J Hickey Jr." Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946*. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2005.

¹⁸ "Barbara Janes", *U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.

¹⁹ "Barbara Sherlock", Connecticut Department of Health. *Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2012*. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2003.

²⁰ "Edward Winston", Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947*. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

²¹ James Burns, United States Census, 1910, Oyster Bay, Nassau, New York., ED 1137, p. 13a.

²² "Barbara Sherlock", Connecticut Department of Health. *Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2012*. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2003.

mausoleums, sarcophagi, obelisks, and tablets. As a company they produced numerous advertisements discussing the value of Barre granite and the grandeur of their facilities.

In one of their ads in the Sweet's Architectural Catalog, they state that "Barre granite is so well and favorably known throughout the country that it needs no qualifications. It hammers nearly white, takes a fine polish, and can be beautifully carved. It is absolutely free of any and all imperfections and can be quarried in any sizes to the limit of transportation," as seen in figure 5.²³ They took pride in their ability to give particular attention to designing their work in such a way that combined, to their standard, architectural beauty and proper construction with both durability and strength. They took their work extremely seriously and thoroughly believed that their facilities were

equipped with the finest and most modern granite working machinery compared to their competitors. Furthermore, they executed contracts over any and all parts of the United States, Canada, South America, and the West Indies.²⁴ In 1920, Wirt W. Leland merged his monument business with the Presbrey-Coykendall company creating Presbrey-Leland Co. According to the 1924 Park and Cemetery Association Department, "...the merger of Presbrey-Coykendall Co. and the W. W. Leland Co. combined one of

196 The Presbrey-Coykendall Co.

THE PRESBREY-COYKENDALL CO.
Designers and Builders of Granite Monuments and Mausoleums
Architects Building, 101 Park Avenue
NEW YORK, N. Y.
BRANCH OFFICES
KENNICO CEMETERY, VALHALLA, N. Y. HARTFORD, CONN.

Products.
MAUSOLEUMS, MONUMENTS, SARCOPHAGES, MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS, HEADSTONES, etc., designed, constructed and erected complete.

Co-operative Service.
This company places the results of its many years of experience in this specialized field at the disposal of architects and of contractors, with whom correspondence is solicited. Expert advice pertaining to the design, details or construction of monuments or mausoleums in any locality will be extended as an assistance in eliminating any features which experience has demonstrated might, if not corrected before erection, produce objectionable results in the completed structure.

Plant and Equipment.
The plant and equipment of THE PRESBREY-COYKENDALL CO. at Barre, Vt., comprise one of the largest works of its kind in this country. The entire plant, which is under the direct supervision of the vice-president of the company, as resident manager, includes within its large area all of the most modern devices for cutting, carving and polishing stone. The Chase patent granite saw is capable of slicing from the quarry block (60 ft. long by 6 ft. 6 in. high), if desired, a slab as thin as 1 in., the full length of the stone.

Other facilities, such as air hammers, surfacing machines, and large electric polishers, as well as every appliance demanded in the execution of work of the highest quality, place this company in a position to supply and construct monuments, mausoleums and memorials of any size, from design to completion, with unequalled rapidity of execution.

Architects' Requirements.
A most important factor in this company's business is furnishing, cutting and erecting its granite in accordance with architects' drawings and specifications, for all types of work previously mentioned. That architects who entrust the execution of their designs to

has done work:
A partial list of architects for whom this company has done work:
Warren & Wetmore, New York
J. C. & M. Stone, Philadelphia
John T. Woodrow, Philadelphia
Zuger & Junner, Philadelphia
Zachary T. Davis, Chicago
Van, E. Parsons, Chicago
Childs & Smith, Chicago
W. C. & W. C. Crawford
James Jackson, St. Louis
Louis Stevens, Pittsburgh
E. Hill Tarnock & Son, Ill.
Hart, Ind.
Nelson Britz, Newark, N. J.
Henry Hartsell, Newark, N. J.
John A. Kinsell, Omaha, Neb.

SKETCHED ROOF VIEW OF AN EGYPTIAN MAUSOLEUM.
DESIGNED BY H. B. C. IN 1918. CUT IN GRANITE BY THIS COMPANY.
Cut, hauled and erected by the equipment of this company.

PLANT OF THE PRESBREY-COYKENDALL CO., BARRE, VT.
One of the largest granite cutting plants in the United States.

SWEET'S CATALOGUE

Reproduced by Courtesy

Figure 5
Sweet's Architectural Catalog File. United States:
Sweet's Division, McGraw-Hill Information
Systems Company, 1907.

²³ Sweet's Architectural Catalog File. United States: Sweet's Division, McGraw-Hill Information Systems Company, 1907.

²⁴ Sweet's Catalogue of Building Construction (architectural Edition). United States: Sweet's Catalogue Service., 1920.

the best known retail manufacturing concerns with one of the best known firms specializing in design. Its business has steadily grown both in volume and quality.”²⁵

Whiteman Mausoleum

Again, Abram Voorhis Whiteman first commissioned the mausoleum around the end of 1912. The overall dimensions of the mausoleum are as follows; 14 feet 10 inches wide, 18 feet 9 inches long, and 15 feet 9 inches high. Prior to laying the foundation, which consists of rubble and concrete, Woodlawn Cemetery conducted surveys of the plot in order to determine the positioning of the mausoleum.²⁶ Engineer R. Stones was commissioned to conduct the surveys in order to ensure that the foundation was placed correctly.²⁷

But, on March 14, 1913, once the foundation was laid, Presbrey-Coykendall wrote to Woodlawn stating that “we worked as closely as possible to the grade figures given on your diagram, and did not realize that there was a sudden depression in the ground at the rear left corner of the plot. We have practically finished this vault and cannot without going to considerable expense increase the



Figure 6

Photo by Liza Hegedus, *Whiteman mausoleum*, 2023.

²⁵ “Presbrey-Coykendall”, *Modern Cemetery*. United States: n.p., 1924.

²⁶ Abbie L Whiteman, major monuments folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University, Box MM 4.3, Folder 12.

²⁷ Abbie L Whiteman, major monuments folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University, Box MM 18, Folder 69.

thickness of the base course pieces on the left and rear sides of the structure.”²⁸

Presebrey-Coykendall believed that the exposed foundation would be “inconsiderable” and decided to grade up to the granite once the building was erected. The overall material of the building is fine-grained medium Barre granite. All the exposed surfaces, both inside and outside the building, were hammered ten-cut except the top of the roof stones which were eight-cut giving the granite its notable rough texture. The roof stones are each one single piece without a break from the front to the rear of the building. The eight catacombs and three crypts consist of good, sound, planed, dark Pennsylvania slate. The interior, except for the floor and door jambs, are blue-veined Carrara Italian marble that was finely polished with putty. Finally, the name ‘Whiteman’ was cut in deeply raised (about half an inch) hammered-face letters on the lintel over the doorway. It is important to note that all of the marble and slate was kept away from the granite outer wall to create an air chamber around the interior cell of the building.



Figure 7

Photo by Liza Hegedus, *Whiteman mausoleum door detail*, 2023.



Figure 8

Photo by Liza Hegedus, *Whiteman mausoleum interior*, 2023.



Figure 9

Photo by Liza Hegedus, *Whiteman mausoleum Barre granite ten-cut detail*, 2023

²⁸ Abbie L Whiteman, major monuments folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University, Box MM 4.3, Folder 12.

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- Abram V. Whiteman, New York State Census, 1915, Rye Westchester, ED 13, p. 38.
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