

John Rutgers Marshall Mausoleum

Introduction:

The John Rutgers Marshall Mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery is the final resting place of three generations of the Marshalls. The mausoleum is located in the Ravine plot, in the eastern side of the cemetery. The mausoleum was built after John R. Marshall's death in 1881, and an addition to the main structure was commissioned in 1918.¹ The original mausoleum and the addition were designed and constructed by Lazzari & Barton Company.²

Biography:

The mausoleum housed eleven people, including John Rutgers Marshall and Eveline Gasquet Marshall, their three daughters, sons-in-law, and grandsons. (Figure 1)

John Rutgers Marshall and his wife, Eveline Gasquet Marshall, were the oldest generation of the Marshalls. The husband came from an old merchant family, Marshall-Rutgers, in Ogdensburg, New Jersey. Marshall started his mercantile life as a clerk in a dry goods firm in New Orleans and later became a partner. Through his efforts, the company had been saved from being dissolved several times. He managed to rename the company Parish, Marshall & Co. He then actively engaged in all kinds of

¹ Woodlawn Cemetery (New York, N.Y.), "Examination Sheet of Additions" (n.d.), Drawer MM 3.1 Folder 29, Woodlawn Cemetery Records, 1863-1999, the Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

² Woodlawn Cemetery (New York, N.Y.), "Correspondence" (n.d.), Drawer MM 3.1 Folder 29, Woodlawn Cemetery Records, 1863-1999, the Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

businesses, like being a bank director and a stockholder of railroads and other types of transport.³ He married his partner's daughter, Miss Eveline Gasquet, and he purchased No. 65 West 23rd Street as a residence in New York City.

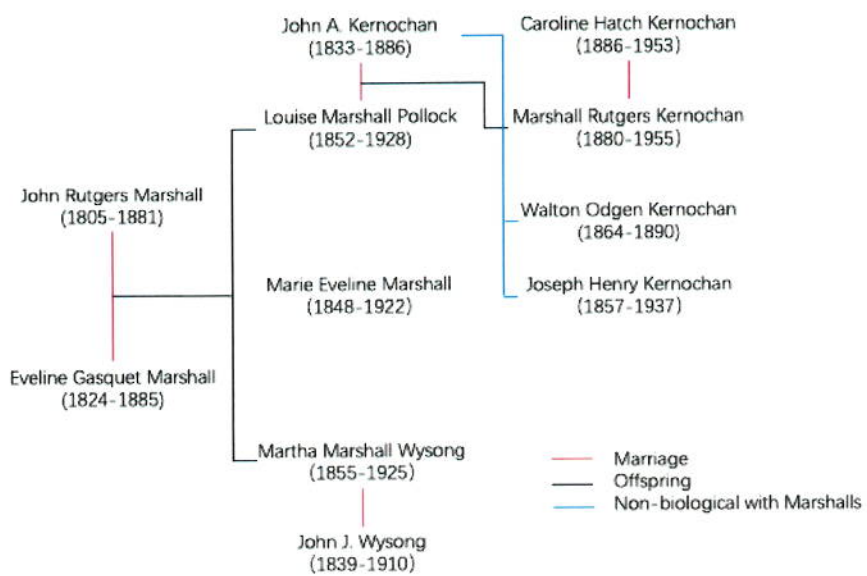


Figure 1 The Family Tree of the Marshall Mausoleum⁴

Mrs. Eveline G. Marshall's family was originally from France. Her mother was the Countess de Gasquet James, originally Miss Piatt of Albany. After her family went to the United States as refugees, they decided not to continue the title and assimilated into American society.⁵ Mrs. Eveline G. Marshall, with her husband, raised three daughters. After Mr. Marshall died in 1881, she was bequeathed a large estate in trust, which her daughters inherited equally after her death in 1885.⁶

The first daughter of the couple was Marie Eveline Marshall, born on May 3rd, 1848. She was diagnosed as mentally ill at a pretty early age, and since 1872 she lived in the Eastern State Hospital for

³ "Death of an Old Merchant.: Sketch of the Business Career of John Rutgers Marshall.," *New York Times*, 1881.
⁴ Di Zhu, "The Family Tree of the Marshall Mausoleum," n.d.
⁵ "The New York Times 19 Jul 1903, Page Page 42," Newspapers.com, n.d., <https://www.newspapers.com/image/20582805/>.
⁶ "Insane; Left \$3,000,000.: Sisters of Marie, Marshall, Who Died in Virginia, Inherit Estate.," *New York Times*, 1922, sec. Wholesale Market.

the Insane in Williamsburg, Virginia. As her obituary said, "Since 1897 she occupied a \$50,000 home on the hospital grounds with eight servants and four women attendants."⁷ Though she was adjudged incompetent, her life was still immensely wealthy, and she left her sisters \$3,000,000 after her death in 1922.⁸

The youngest sister was Miss Martha Marshall. She married John J. Wysong, a former Confederate fighter in the civil war and then a New York business lawyer.⁹ After John and Eveline Marshall died, she demolished the original residence, 65 West 23rd Street, and erected a new commercial building, 61 – 65 West 23rd Street, now a designated landmark in the Ladies' Mile Historic District. The edifice was designed by John Butler Snook, a famous architect in New York, and was built in 1886 with five stories of stores.¹⁰ She and her husband did not have offspring, so their properties were inherited mainly by her older sister, Mrs. Louise M. Pollock, and nephew, Mr. Marshall Rutgers Kernochan.

Mrs. Louise M. Pollock was the second daughter of John and Eveline Marshall. She survived her two sisters. Therefore, she inherited almost all the wealth of Mrs. Wysong and Miss Marshall. During her lifetime, she had two marriages. She first married Mr. John A. Kernochan with two stepsons, who came from a wealthy and renowned family in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.¹¹ Then she gave birth to Mr. Marshall Rutgers Kernochan, the only biological descendant of the Marshalls. After Mr. Kernochan died in 1886,

⁷ "Insane; Left \$3,000,000."

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Special to The New York Times, "John J. Wysong Dead.: New York Lawyer Dies In Newport In His 71st Year.," *New York Times*, 1910.

¹⁰ New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, "Ladies' Mile Historic District Designation Report," Vol. 1, 1989, <http://s-media.nyc.gov/agencies/lpc/lp/1609.pdf>.

¹¹ "The Pittsfield Sun 11 Nov 1886, Page 5," Newspapers.com, n.d., <https://www.newspapers.com/image/533010600/>.

she married Mr. William Pollock, a horse breeder and horse show judge.¹² In 1894, she added two stories to the commercial palace, at 61-65 West 23rd Street.¹³

Unlike Mr. William Pollock, the second husband of Mrs. Louise M. Pollock, Mr. John A. Kernochan is buried in the Marshall Mausoleum. He was a successful businessman in importing iron and investing mills after graduating as head of his class at Columbia College. Therefore, he bought and reconstructed various historically famous houses, farms, and churches, such as Oliver Wendell Holmes place, St. Stephen's church, etc.¹⁴ His death from apoplexy at 53 was quite unexpected. As his obituary said, "In the best ranks of society in Pittsfield, he and his family were held in the highest regard."¹⁵ It is very interesting why Mr. Kernochan is lying in his wife's family mausoleum. Maybe his sudden death made it impossible to build a Kernochan family mausoleum, and there was still much space for him to rest in his wife's mausoleum.

The biological grandson of John and Eveline Marshall, Mr. Marshall Rutgers Kernochan, was a composer, music publisher, former grand marshal, and grand treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of New York.¹⁶ He served as lieutenant of the American Expeditionary Forces field artillery in World War I.¹⁷⁻¹⁸ He studied music and piano in New York City and Frankfurt, Germany.¹⁹ However, his career as a composer and music publisher did not bring much wealth to him. In 1914, he used the

¹² "William Pollock, Horseman, Dies: Succumbs at Roosevelt Hospital Following Operation," *New - York Tribune*, November 2, 1916.

¹³ New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, "Ladies' Mile Historic District Designation Report."

¹⁴ "The Pittsfield Sun" 11 Nov 1886, Page 5."

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "M. R. Kernochan, 74, a Masonic Leader," *New York Times*, 1955.

¹⁷ "Mrs. M. R. Kernochan," *New York Times*, 1953.

¹⁸ "M. R. Kernochan, 74, a Masonic Leader."

¹⁹ Ibid.

excuse that he needed money for marriage, his pursuit of music, and his maintenance of social status to apply to the committee of the estate of Miss Marie G. Marshall, his mentally incompetent aunt, to increase his allowance, which he failed to get approved.²⁰ However, he still managed to marry a young woman, Miss Caroline Hatch, a nurse once working in American hospitals overseas.²¹ In 1922, he started his second attempt to ask for \$12,000 a year as his living expenses and was unwilling to quit any club which required membership fees because it helped him show his social position.²² Fortunately, he succeeded this time. And even more luckily, he was left \$4,000,000 and a great deal of real estate in his mother's and aunt's will in 1929, just seven years later. He was the only heir of the original wealthy Marshall family.²³

Mr. M. R. Kernochan's two stepbrothers are also housed in the mausoleum. Mr. Walton Ogden Kernochan committed suicide by shooting himself at 27 in 1890. After he graduated from Columbia College, he was called "Treasurer at Rahway", "a gentleman about town in the fashionable season."²⁴ However, he suffered from insomnia and depression. Hence, he left the world at such a young age. His brother, Mr. Joseph Henry Kernochan, survived him and died on Feb. 26th, 1937.

²⁰ "New-York Tribune 08 Jan 1922, Page 4," Newspapers.com, n.d., <https://www.newspapers.com/image/469275304/>.

²¹ "Mrs. M. R. Kernochan."

²² "New-York Tribune 08 Jan 1922, Page 4."

²³ "M.R. Kernochan Gets \$4,000,000 In Mother's Will: Mrs. William Pollock's Son, Unable to Wed on 1913 Income, Left 3 Million Kin Receives Koch Estate Children and Hospital Share Joseph Barsky's Property," *New York Herald Tribune (1926-1962)*, May 24, 1929.

²⁴ "Shot Himself Dead.: Suicide of W.o. Kernochan at the Delta Phi Club.," *New York Times*, 1890.



Figure 2 The Primary Façade of the Marshall Mausoleum²⁵

Exterior:

The Marshall Mausoleum is a mid-block freestanding structure along Ravine Avenue in Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx. The primary symmetrical granite façade faces west. The mausoleum architect, Lazzari & Barton Company, used two different finishes and colors of granite to differentiate between ornament (columns, buttresses, and cornices) with polished granite and structures (walls) with honed granite. Corner buttresses stand to protect the corners from damage and to decorate the façade. An arched door is designed to lead people into the structure. It is decorated with the words “John Rutgers Marshall” carved on it. And at the top of the roof stands a polished granite cross, indicating that the Marshall family had Christian beliefs.

²⁵ Di Zhu, “The Primary Façade of the Marshall Mausoleum,” September 16, 2022.



Figure 3 the East Façade of the Marshall Mausoleum²⁶

The rear east façade of the mausoleum is also symmetrical. The design is compatible with the primary façade. However, the addition blocks the stained glass. It appears that the honed crocket at the top of the roof was constructed in the same period as the addition because the granite is not polished as the cross on the primary façade, and there is no base under the crocket.

Interior:

The interior of the mausoleum has a different atmosphere from the exterior. As one walks in, the marble vault and the stained-glass window are on the east side. Looking down, it is evident that marble composes the majority of the interior façades. The ornaments are of Gothic-Revival style, with capitals ornamented with acanthus leaves and multilayered moldings. Compared to the austere exterior, the interior offers a much more delicate afterworld image than the exterior and indicates the Marshall family's wealth and high social status.

²⁶ Di Zhu, "The East Façade of the Marshall Mausoleum," September 16, 2022.

biological family of the Marshalls, then his brother's name, Mr. Walton Odgen Kernochan, should also be seen outside.

Deterioration:

The Marshall Mausoleum suffers greatly from water erosion, discoloration, salt efflorescence, and biological colonization. It is noticeable that there are a significant number of white strips on the roof. According to Susan Olsen, the Director of Historic Services of Woodlawn Cemetery, these were from German preservation.³⁰ These bandage-like interventions were to help the main structure and the addition stand together and prevent them from tearing apart. It appears that the weakest point of the structure is at the joints of the roof, which can be blamed for the severely-bad condition.

³⁰ "Susan Olsen's Message," September 20, 2022.

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