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Studio I

Biographical Research Revised

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Luttgen Mausoleum

In 1908, following the death of his daughter Gertrude, Walther Luttgen commissioned a mausoleum to be built in Woodlawn Cemetery by the C.E. Tayntor Granite Co.¹ Located on lot no. 12142 in Sec. 111, the Luttgen mausoleum contains eight crypts in total; only five of the crypts are currently occupied. The plots 1-4, and 6 are occupied by members of the Luttgen family (Figures 1): Walther Luttgen (head), Amelia Victoria Luttgen (wife), Emma L. Bremeyer (sister), Florence A. Little (daughter), Gertrude M. Keep (daughter), and Arlene L. Hobbs (granddaughter).

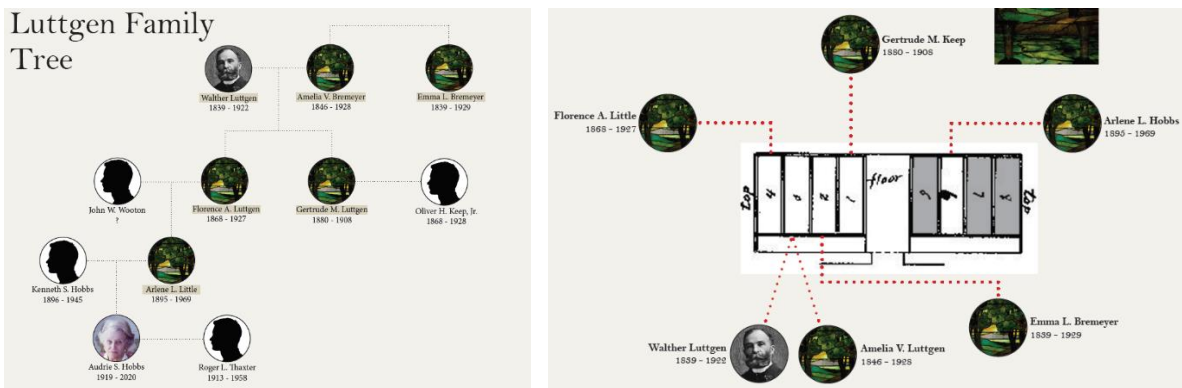


Figure 1. Luttgen Family Tree and layout of Luttgen mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Walther Luttgen, or Walter, was born on January 7th, 1839 to Karl Augustus Luttgen and Anna Johanne Struller in Solingen, Prussia. In June 1854, Walther and his family boarded the

¹ *Major Monument records: Location 1603*, (2006), distributed by Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, <https://library.columbia.edu/libraries/avery/da/collections/woodlawn.html>.

David Hoadley ship in Antwerp and set sail for the United States, where they settled in Linden, New Jersey.² While he received some education while in Prussia, Walther did not pursue further education in the United States as he entered the work force when he immigrated. In 1859, he was hired as a clerk at the banking company of August Belmont in New York City and quickly worked his way up the ranks during his early years with the company. Walther married Amelia Victoria Bremeyer of Brooklyn in May 1866 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Brooklyn, NY) and moved to Linden, New Jersey.³ They soon gave birth to their first daughter, Florence, in 1868 and welcomed their second daughter, Gertrude, in 1880.

In 1880, Walther Luttgen was promoted to partner at August Belmont and Company, along with Belmonts son, Perry Belmont. During his time as partner, Walther befriended August Belmont Sr., becoming one of the executors of his will, and continuing an amicable relationship with his eldest son, August Belmont Jr. He became involved in real estate development with the Belmonts, having purchased an entire block of Harlem Real Estate with the junior in 1900 and being part of the Belmont's railroad initiatives. He also joined several yacht clubs in the city that Belmont was part of, such as the New York Yacht Club and the Columbia Yacht Club. Between 1900-1910, Walther and his family moved to 680 West End Ave. in Manhattan, NY before moving to 49 West 75th Street between 1910-1920. Walther also purchased a piece of land in

² National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington D.C.; Roll #365; Volume #: *Roll 365 – 17 Mar 1891-31 Mar 1891*. Prepared by Ancestry.com. <https://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1174&h=1183569&tid=&pid=&queryId=ce44ee90132f44d58f68421fd6ea38f7&usePUB=true&phsrc=cGE311&phstart=successSource> (accessed Oct 8, 2020).

³ John L. Heyer, "Parish History," Sacred Hearts-St. Stephen, accessed November 23, 2020, <http://sacredhearts-ststephen.com/parish-info/parish-history/>.

Reeding Ridge, CT between 1900-1910 and built a large summer house on the property which he named “Villa Linta”.⁴

Walther’s daughter Florence was wed to John W. Wooton in 1889, and gave birth to Walther’s granddaughter, Arlene. This marriage did not last long as John was convicted and sentenced to prison for grand larceny in 1905;⁵ Florence returned to her maiden name of Luttgen until her second marriage to William Paxton Little in 1910. In 1901, Walter’s younger daughter, Gertrude, married Oliver H. Keep Jr. but shortly passed away in 1908 at the age of 28; Gertrude would be the first of the family to be interred in the family mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery. In 1917, Walther’s granddaughter married to junior naval officer Kenneth S. Hobbs at Christ Church in Redding, Connecticut.⁶ At the start of the United States’ involvement in World War I, many private boats in the New York City area were commissioned by the U.S. Navy as defensive patrol vessels – this included Walther’s yacht *The Linta*. *The Linta* served in the U.S. Navy until 1919, when it was decommissioned and returned to Luttgen. Three years later, Walther passed away at his home in Manhattan following a strife with pneumonia and later interred at the family mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery.⁷

As mentioned earlier, the Luttgen mausoleum was built with eight crypts that could house deceased relatives of Walther and his wife. Walther’s granddaughter, Arlene L. Hobbs, is interred in the family mausoleum; however, her husband is buried in his family’s mausoleum at

⁴ “Movements of Gardeners,” in *Horticulture* (Horticulture Publishing Company, 1909), 49.

⁵ “Wooton Has Told All, Centre Street Hears: Ad His Story Deeply...,” *New York Times* (1857-1922), Aug. 24, 1905. <https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/docview/96505297/1B2E953EA7124099PQ/7?accountid=10226>.

⁶ “Miss Arlene Luttgen Weds.: The Bride of K.S. Hobbs, Junior Officer of U.S. Naval Reserves,” *New York Times* (1857-1922), Sep. 16, 1917. <https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/docview/99895013/C055792F515C499APQ/1?accountid=10226>.

⁷ “Walther Luttgen Dies at 83,” *New York Times* (1857-1922), Feb 28, 1922, <https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/docview/99586438/1456F6C148E44CB3PQ/1?accountid=10226>.

Hillside Cemetery in Middletown, New York.⁸ Gertrude's husband, Oliver, is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery Midtown in Memphis, Tennessee.⁹ Florence's second husband William was cremated after his death in Los Angeles, CA in 1940; Florence's first husband's location is unknown. Arlene's daughter, Audrie Hobbs VanDeventer, recently passed away in August 2020 at her home in Greenwich, CT – the family has not yet made public announcement about where she was to be buried. The known living descendants of Walther Luttggen are his great-grandchildren (Audrie's two children), Twinks Irvine (John) and Ted Thaxter.¹⁰

⁸ Ancestry.com. *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. <https://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=60525&h=163397518&tid=&pid=&queryId=b3f1a6f16a1f92d5024be0865fc100bd&usePUB=true&phsrc=cGE342&phstart=successSource>.

⁹ Ancestry.com. *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. <https://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=60525&h=58085483&tid=&pid=&queryId=f65bf39ae00c59086a13a594ba1c676f&usePUB=true&phsrc=cGE353&phstart=successSource>.

¹⁰ Obituary of Audrie VanDeventer, *Greenwich Time* (Greenwich, CT), Aug. 27, 2020. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/greenwichtime/obituary.aspx?n=audrie-vandeventer&pid=196707020&fhid=9027>.



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Images

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