

The Zoller Mausoleum

I. Building Description

The Zoller mausoleum, seated among larger monuments and tall pines, is rather subdued. Walking east down Pine Ave, the view of the Zoller mausoleum is almost entirely obscured by the obelisk and plantings of the Rodgers plot, which stands between the road and the Zoller mausoleum. As one approaches the Zoller mausoleum, the effect reverses, and suddenly the Zoller plot seems distant from the open expanse of the road. Instead, the Zoller mausoleum stands in the shade of several pines, creating a forest clearing, mottled with shade, amidst which the mausoleum stands proudly (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: Exterior Context

The mausoleum itself is also rather subtle in its exterior ornamentation. The exterior is constructed entirely out of pink granite. The small temple front (on the south elevation) includes

a pair each of polished Doric columns and matte pilasters (Fig. 2). These columns rest on rough-hewn blocks of granite. According to the original design specifications by James H. Walling, this granite is red granite from Deer Island, Maine.¹ Similarly rough-hewn blocks make up the walls of the east and west elevations, weaving an undulating matrix across the surface. Ornamentation stays relatively minor until one reaches the rear (north) elevation, and is confronted with the beauty of the stained glass (Fig. 3). Still, though, the stained glass is not fully on display – a simple bronze grating protects the glass from the outside, preventing full appreciation of its design.



Fig. 2: South Elevation (Entry)

¹ James H. Walling, *Major Monuments File, Zoller Mausoleum* (1902), Woodlawn Cemetery Records, Avery Drawings & Archives, Columbia University, New York, NY.



Fig. 3: North Elevation (Rear)

Inside the mausoleum, the dim light coming through the door hits an interior entirely of American marble. Inch-thick marble veneer lines the walls; square marble tiles cross the floor. This American marble is mostly white, save for some periodic black spotting. The only interruption is a trim of Tennessee pink marble, ringing the top and bottom of the walls.² In the right conditions, the light through the door scatters on the soft white marble, creating surprisingly even lighting in the interior.

The white interior serves to draw attention to the stained glass; glowing in its frame directly opposite the entrance, it is already hard to miss (Fig. 4). Opalescent and clear glass (in green, gold, blue, and burgundy), ring a ten-inch central circle. The central circle features a beautifully painted blue-and-gold crest, surrounded by rich, umber foliage. The glass is relatively

² James H. Walling, *Major Monuments File*.

well-maintained. Only minor cracks occur in two panels, near the edges of the frame. The paint on the central crest is somewhat faded, although the major details are still distinguishable. The figure on top of the crest, in particular, is barely visible, potentially in danger of disappearing completely.



Fig. 4: Stained Glass

The central crest is identifiable as the Zoller family crest, from Bavaria. Little information is available in English regarding this crest. It appears that this more modern version of the crest, featured in the mausoleum (Fig. 5), was awarded to the Zoller family in 1722.³

³ Zoller (noble family, 1722), Wikipedia (2021), [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoller_\(Adelsgeschlecht,_1722\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoller_(Adelsgeschlecht,_1722)).



Fig. 5: *Left*: Print of the Zoller Family Crest.⁴ *Right*: Crest in the Zoller Mausoleum.

According to the documentation present in the Avery Library archives, James Horatio Walling, a self-described “granite dealer,” was the mausoleum’s designer.⁵ Walling was a native of New York, living initially in Deposit, NY, then moving to Brooklyn.⁶ He was a member of the Chamberlain Association of America – the descendants of William Chamberlain of Woburn, an early colonist.⁷ He was married to Hannah Pine, a member of the influential Pine family.⁸ James and his wife are buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery, in Des Moines, Iowa; their grave bears the

⁴ Thomas Rezek, “Kupferstich von Tyroff mit 2 Wappen auf einem Blatt. Adelige. Von Zillerberg. Von Zoller,” *AbeBooks*, https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=17153686344&searchurl=an%3Dwappen%2Badelige%2Bzillerberg%2Bzoller%26ds%3D30%26rollup%3Don%26sortby%3D17%26tn%3Dkupferstich%2Btyroff%2Bblatt%2Badelige&cm_sp=snippet-_srp0-_image1.

⁵ James H. Walling, *Major Monuments File*.

⁶ “Obituary: James Alfred Walling,” *Times Union* (June 1901), pg. 11, <https://www.newspapers.com/article/times-union-obituary-for-james-alfred-wa/85386063/>.

⁷ “Report of Annual Meetings Held in Boston, Massachusetts,” *The Chamberlain Association of America* (1911), pg. 3, <https://www.seekingmyroots.com/members/files/G001261.pdf>.

⁸ *The Chamberlain Association*, pg. 5.

insignia of the Freemasons.⁹ Despite James' association with masonry, records of other monuments he designed are unavailable. According to census records, James worked in a "marble factory" in 1870, and worked in "granite monuments" in 1900.¹⁰ Given that James passed away in Iowa in 1925, his career designing monuments may have been short lived.

II. Zoller Family History

Charles Zoller immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1875, at the age of 23.¹¹ By 1899, he was firmly entrenched in the brewing industry in Manhattan, as an import-exporter of brewing supplies and machinery.¹² By 1904, he had elected himself the president of his own brewing supply business, the Charles Zoller Company.¹³ Charles' company was headquartered at 211 & 213 East 94th Street. From his shop, Charles sold everything from barrels to hops to washing machines.¹⁴ In addition to posting yearly advertisements in brewing periodicals, Charles

⁹ "James Horatio Walling," *Find A Grave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62006815/james-horatio-walling>.

¹⁰ "Notes for James Horatio Walling," *My Family Business*, <https://www.myfamilybusiness.org/familytrees/BaselJahnMooreSchultz/JamesHoratioWalling.htm>.

¹¹ Department of Commerce and Labor Bureau of the Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States, Schedule No. 1 – Population* (1900), Manhattan, District 0483, New York, NY, Sheet 10, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/92727254:7602?tid=&pid=&queryid=2dbf5add-c270-4451-9275-65f780757cd6&phsrc=tDN24&phstart=successSource>.

¹² *Thirty-Ninth Brewers' Convention, Held at Detroit, Michigan* (June 1899), pg. 1 and 8, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uiug.30112117720125&seq=303&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22;>

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Carl A. Nowak, *New fields for brewers and others active in the fermentation and allied industries* (1917), St. Louis, MO, pg. 7 and 308, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.hb14hd&seq=314&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22>.

¹³ Arnold Spencer Wahl and Robert Wahl, United States Brewers' Association, *American brewers' review* (1904), Chicago: Der Braumeister Pub. Co., pg. 302, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nyp.33433008874061&seq=44&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22>.

¹⁴ *Pure Products* (1905), New York: Scientific Station for Pure Products, v. 1, pg. 20, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b2869488&seq=840&q1=%22charles+zoller%22>.

participated in events such as the 1911 Second International Brewer's Congress in Chicago; sometimes attending himself, sometimes sending an employee as a representative.¹⁵ Charles also joined the Merchants Association of New York.¹⁶ From there, the Merchants Association appointed him the "Block Captain for Ninety-fourth Street between Third and First Avenues"; his job was to inspect 94th street for litter, and write a report that would be brought to the police.¹⁷

While Charles found success selling supplies, many brewers struggled to find new work. In the 1910's, the writing was on the wall for nationwide prohibition of alcohol. Brewers fought back against the turning tide, and found new ways to keep their business running legally.¹⁸ While others were reconfiguring their factories to produce "Low-Alcoholic Beers" or "Malt Extract",

¹⁵ Second International Brewers' Congress, *Second International Brewers' Congress: held at Chicago ... October 18-21, 1911. Report of the proceedings, with an account of the Second International Barley and Hop Prize Exhibition and brief history of the American Exposition of Brewing Machinery, Materials and Products.*, Chicago, v. 1, pg. 963,

[https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.\\$b390774&seq=971&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22;](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b390774&seq=971&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22;)

And:

Thirty-Ninth Brewers' Convention, pg. 1 and 8.

¹⁶ Merchants' Association of New York, *Year Book* (1919), New York, pg. 248,

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo.31924069539132&seq=588&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22.>

¹⁷ Commerce and Industry Association of New York, *Greater New York* (December 1918), v. 7, no. 30, pg. 723,

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015023277232&seq=723&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22.>

¹⁸ *Brewing and liquor interests and German propaganda : hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, Sixty-fifth Congress, second and third sessions, pursuant to S. res. 307, a resolution authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to call for certain evidence and documents relating to charges made against the United States Brewers' Association and allied interests and to submit a report of their investigation to the Senate*, 65th Congress 2 (1919), v. 1, pg. 372,

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015071649318&seq=380&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22;>

And:

Carl A. Nowak, *New Fields for Brewers*.

Charles' supply store stayed busy.¹⁹ He didn't even have to change his branding – as late as 1922, his company still advertised “Brewing Machinery” and “Domestic Hops” for sale.²⁰

Charles married Anna Schmidt in 1883.²¹ She herself was the daughter of Christian Schmidt, a German brewer living in Pennsylvania. Her family had a home in Rosemont, PA, where she stayed after her husband's death.²²

Charles had the mausoleum built in 1902, after the death of his daughter Matilde, who passed away in their home at the age of 15.²³ Charles passed in 1929, and was interred on the shelf below his daughter. He left a wealth of assets to his wife, including three houses (two in New York State, one in Germany) and approximately \$330,000. The rest of Charles' \$930,152 fortune was split between his three children, including stocks in two different ice companies.²⁴

In 1949, Anna Zoller passed away at her home in Rosemont. Four days later, she was interred in the Zoller mausoleum, across from Charles on the middle shelf. Her short obituary in

¹⁹ Carl A. Nowak, *New Fields for Brewers*.

²⁰ “Charles Zoller,” *The Beverage Journal* (Formerly *The Western Brewer*) (November 1922), v. 58, no. 11, pg. 88,

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.c3045218&seq=582&q1=%22Charles+Zoller%22>.

²¹ Department of Commerce and Labor Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910 Population* (1910), Manhattan, Ward 12, District 0746, New York, NY, Sheet 9, https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/18955552:7884?tid=&pid=&queryid=466b5bd8-b52d-4ea3-8dbf-4b490f18ef0c&_phsrc=tDN22&_phstart=successSource.

²² Anna M. Zoller to Woodlawn Cemetery (December 17, 1929), Woodlawn Cemetery Records, Avery Drawings & Archives, Columbia University, New York, NY;

And:

"Widow Gets Bulk Of Zoller Estate: Children Also Share In \$500,000 Holdings Bequeathed By Merchant." *New York Times* (July 27, 1929),

<http://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/widow-gets-bulk-zoller-estate/docview/104916210/se-2>.

²³ James H. Walling, *Major Monuments File*;

And:

Chestnut Hill - Zoller; Woodlawn Cemetery Records, Avery Drawings & Archives, Columbia University, New York, NY.

²⁴ "Widow Gets Bulk of Zoller Estate", *New York Times*.

the Philadelphia Inquirer called her “active in charity work” and “a patron of the Metropolitan Opera”.²⁵

III. Current Conditions

The Zoller mausoleum stands today in a significant state of disrepair. Several issues pervade the structure.

Some bronze elements are missing. In particular, the original doorknobs/knockers (Fig. 6), as well as one rail of the rear grating, are missing entirely. The bottom of the right door has also lost its trim; this piece of trim sits, disconnected, just inside the mausoleum. While all of the exterior bronze elements are oxidized, this appears to be superficial; none of the bronze is corroded to the point of pitting.



²⁵ “Mrs. Charles Zoller,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (January 8, 1949), <https://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>.

Fig. 6: Missing Bronze Element from Door (Handle?)

Biological growth is present on the majority of the mausoleum. The mausoleum faces dead south. Its west elevation is stained dark green with algae, over the entire surface. In comparison, the other elevations appear much cleaner at a distance. Coming closer, one can see that small amounts of biological growth coat the entire exterior. Some concentrated areas of lichen are present on the north (Fig. 7), east, and south elevations. The top of the roof is also speckled with small patches of the same gray-blue lichen.



Fig. 7: Biological Growth on North Elevation

Two large eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*), each about 25" in diameter, closely flank the north elevation – their trunks are about 2' from the foundation (Fig. 8). The growth of these trees has raised the ground level around the north end of the foundation significantly. The rough granite blocks at the base of the south elevation stick about 14" above the ground; blocks in the

same course at the north elevation only protrude about 5”-10” above the ground. Beyond the raised ground level, the extent to which these roots are interfering with the foundation is unclear. However, the canopy of both trees extends well over the mausoleum – the roots, therefore, are likely to extend (at the very least) under the foundation. Furthermore, these trees are not too healthy. Their bottom dozen branches appear completely dead and free of needles. The branches above are sparsely foliated. It is possible that the close proximity of these trees to the mausoleum has been detrimental to their health. The nearby foundation could interfere with the trees’ roots, leading them to develop disease or other health problems.



Fig. 8: *Tsuga canadensis*, with Pen for Scale

Several cracks pervade the masonry of the mausoleum. Thin cracks run along the mortar joints of the two pilasters. These cracks are thinner at the base, and wider at the top, giving the impression that the entire pilaster is slightly leaning south. On the east elevation, the capital of

the pilaster is broken off where it meets the rough-hewn granite, and where the crack is widest. The capstone of the roof is cracked in two places along its western half; the end of these cracks are visible on the north (Fig. 9) and south elevations. The cracks appear to have been patched at some point, with long strips of gray putty.



Fig. 9: Large Crack on North Elevation

However, the crack appears to have expanded over time, as most of the putty does not cover the existing crack. The two cracks do not meet in the middle; however, since they are in-line with each other, they may occur along the same defect in the capstone that runs the length of the building. It is unclear if water can permeate this crack and leak into the interior. Given the width of the crack, however, this would not be surprising.

Inside the mausoleum, conditions are even worse. The pane of glass is missing from the right (easternmost) door, allowing air, leaves, and fauna into the mausoleum. A rodent had built a

nest in one of the alcoves (Fig. 10), and piled acorns in the corner. The interior smells strongly of urine, and is swarming with mosquitos. A large green stain of biological growth coats the rear wall, under the stained glass (Fig. 12).



Fig. 10: Western Alcove, Before Initial Cleaning

The interior marble is deeply affected by exfoliation and sugaring. Since this marble covers the entire interior, floor to ceiling, there is quite a bit of damage to mention:

The right alcove (next to the missing pane of glass) features the most severe exfoliation (Fig. 11). Large sheets of marble are peeling off the surface in sugary layers. The ground is piled with white marble dust.



Fig. 11: Severe Exfoliation of Marble on Eastern Niches, Near Door

Second-most severe is the decay of the flat shelves of the niches. The exposed ledge of each shelf is severely rounded over, eroded, and chipped. Black streaks, leaking out from the niches, drip down each slab.

The floor is also exfoliated, particularly in the alcoves, where piled-up leaves have retained moisture.

The floor tiles are severely stained, ranging from yellow to brown to dark gray. The staining appears to come from the cracks between the tiles. Possibly, this staining is the result of moisture seeping up through the ground into the interior.

Back by the stained glass, the floor tiles are significantly cracked and raised (Fig. 12). The rear two feet of tile are slanted upwards towards the north wall, at the highest about 2” above the rest of the tiles. There appears to be something pushing upwards on the tiles from

underneath, causing them to crack and raise. It is possible that the roots from one of the two hemlocks are pushing up these tiles.



Fig. 12: North End of Interior, Showing Raised Tiles, Biological Growth, and Staining

Finally, there appears to be water damage on the ceiling marble trim, around the bronze roof supports. Around the exposed rosettes of these supports are reddish-brown streaks, seeming to be residue left behind by water leaks (Fig. 13). The streaks appear to be iron oxide. Since the supports are bronze, it is unclear if this iron oxide is coming from some hidden iron feature between the ceiling and the roof. Either way, the streaks suggest water is able to leak in through the roof and penetrate the ceiling veneer.



Fig. 13: Water Ingress Near Bronze Support

IV. Conclusion

To prevent further decay, the Zoller Mausoleum is in dire need of repair. These repairs range both in expense and potential efficacy.

Replacing the missing pane of glass from the door would greatly reduce the intrusion of rain into the interior, hopefully mitigating the further exfoliation of the veneer inside. This seems like a relatively simple fix.

The floor tiles could be flattened, but also could easily be lifted again by new roots. Equally, a waterproof barrier could be installed under the tiles, but it would be in danger of breach from those same roots.

The cracks on the roof would likely be the most intensive repair. Since the capstone is a single piece of granite, it would need to be replaced in its entirety, if the crack was to be completely eliminated. The cracks could be plugged again with waterproof material; this may even be a long-lasting solution. If the cracks continue to expand, however, more hidden roof supports (similar to the existing bronze supports) may be necessary.

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