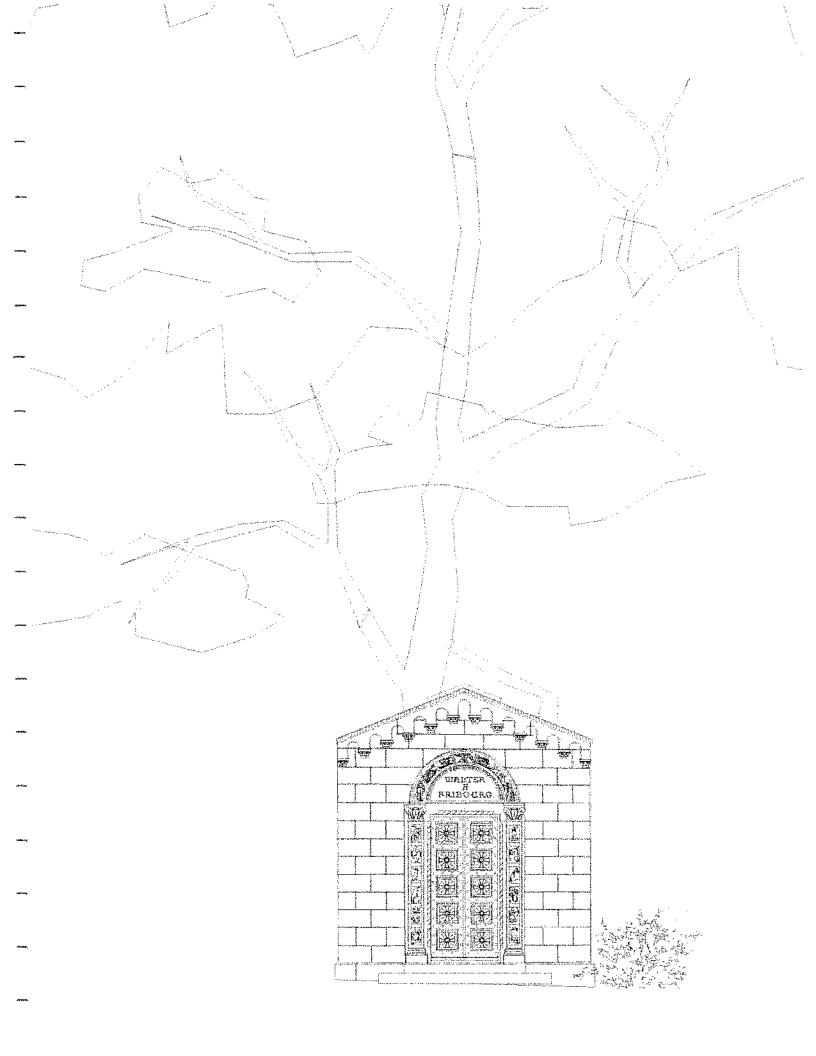
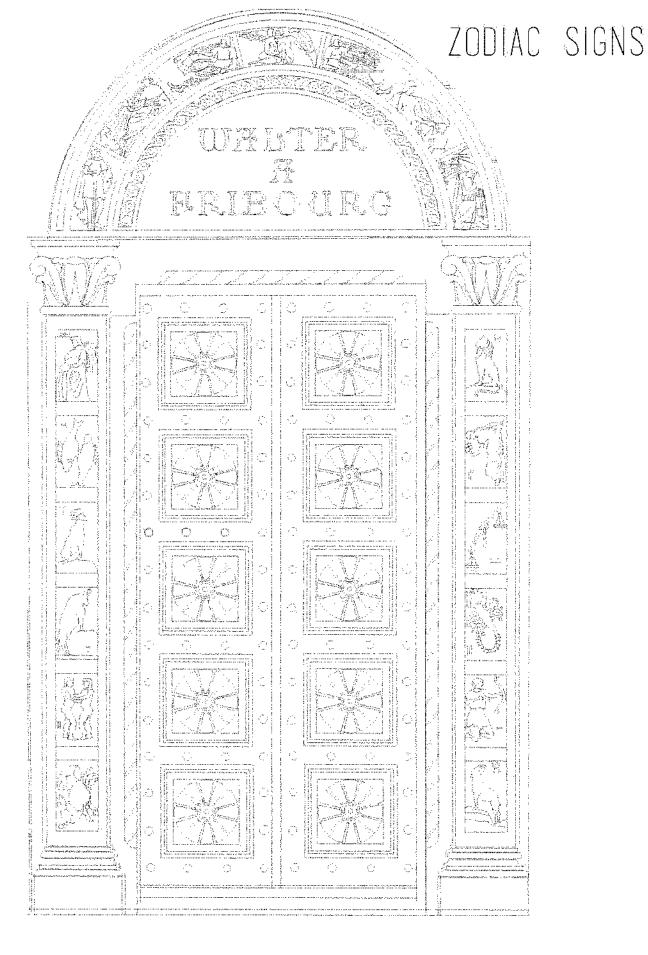


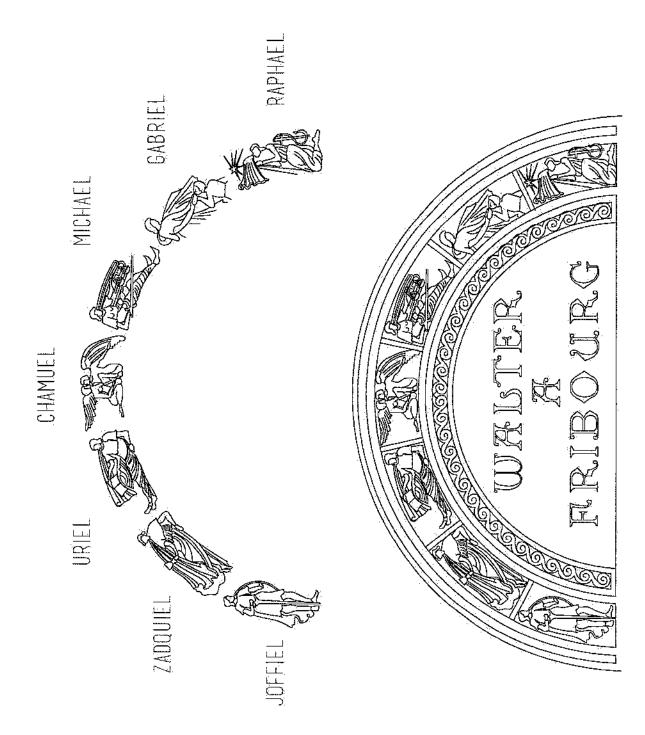
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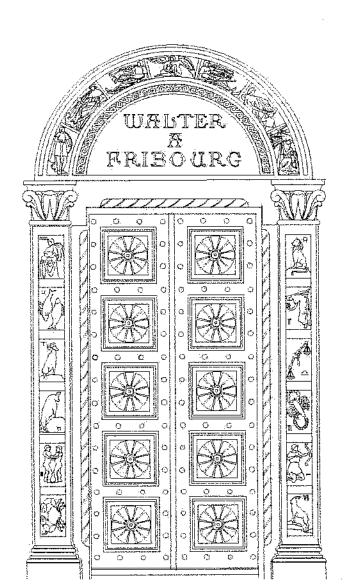
# ARCHANGELS

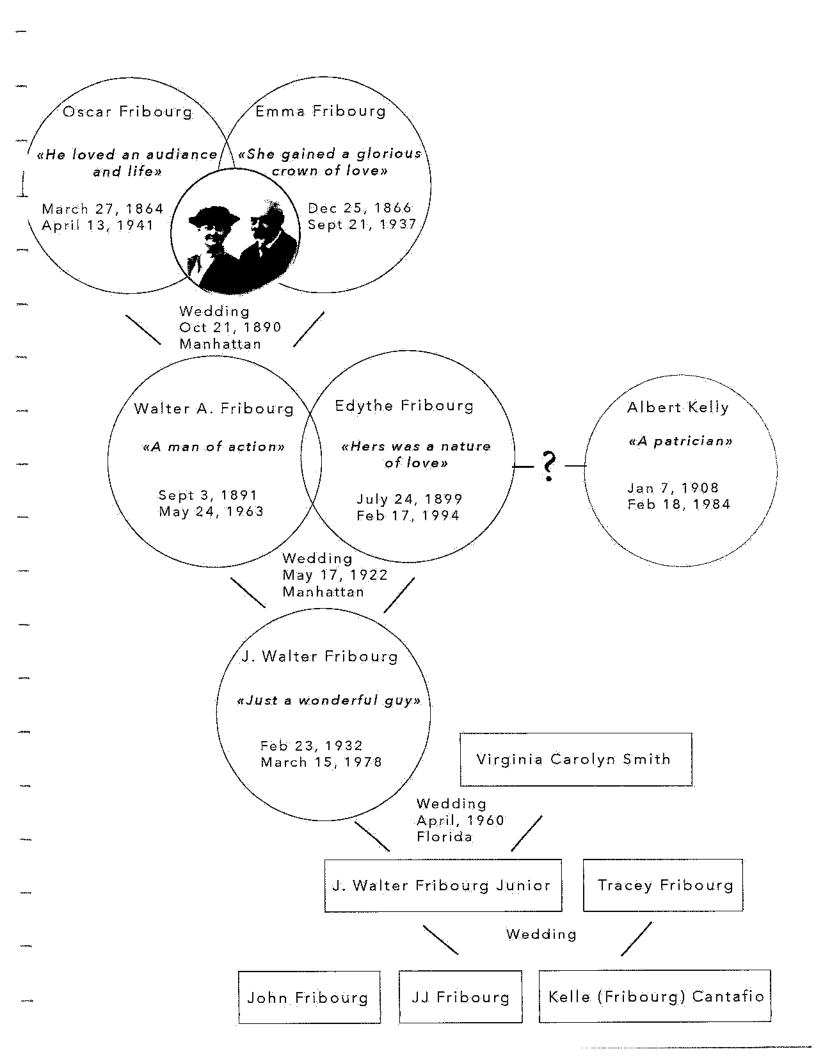


# FRIBOURG MAUSOLEUM

WOODLAWN CEMETERY LOT 46 - DAKWOOD PLOT

OSCAR FRIBOURG
EMMA FRIBOURG
WALTER A FRIBOURG
EDYTHE FRIBOURG
J WALTER FRIBOURG
ALBERT F KELLY





# FAMILY HISTORY

#### The Fribourg's family

The Fribourg mausoleum contains three generations. The first is that of the patriarch and matriarch of the family, Oscar Fribourg and Emma Fribourg (nee Rothchild).<sup>2</sup> Although both Oscar and Emma were born in the United States, Oscar's parents hailed from France, while Emma's came from Germany. Together, they had one son, Walter Alexander Fribourg who, along with his wife Edyth Fribourg (born Grossman), comprise the second generation buried at Woodlawn. Walter and Edythe had one son named J. Walter, who died earlier than his mother. A man named Albert Kelly is also buried with the family, but his connection to the Fribourgs is unclear.

#### A relatively wealthy family

The Fribourgs were a relatively wealthy family. Oscar owned a textile company used by Theodore Roosevelt.<sup>3</sup> Oscar also travelled frequently to France.<sup>4</sup> His family was French but his parents, Lena and Eugene Fribourg, had moved to the United States and lived here for many years. He and his older sister, Fanny, were born in Kentucky but his little brother, Gustave was born in France. It is possible that the family returned to live in France at some point, perhaps spurring Oscar's travels to France.<sup>5</sup>

Then, from the first generation, the family employed servants. At least three different servants served the first then the second generation of Fribourgs: Annie Starke and Waleryn Klumicz who came from Germany and a third servant from Jamaica named Mary Walker. While Emma and Oscar Fribourg always rented their houses, Edythe and Walter owned a home at 304 Corlies Avenue, Pelham which was estimated to be worth \$30,000 in 1930.6

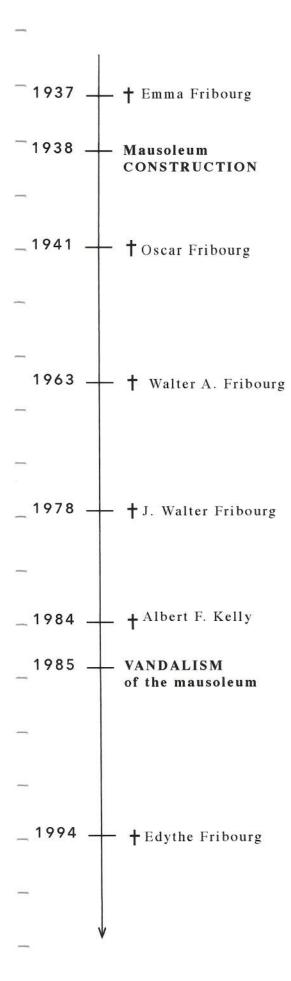
Moreover, concerning the second generation, Edythe, often in the company of Walter, travelled a lot during her life. (To Puerto-Rico in 1926, to Germany in 1932, to London in 1958 and 1961). Sometimes by boat and sometimes by flight, and this kind of trip were reserved for a certain kind of social background.

Final evidence of the family's wealth is the mausoleum itself. Edythe and Walter built a mausoleum with different type of details, including a stained-glass windows and marble walls which are all expensive materials. The maintenance cost was also significant, and additional documents showed that Edythe always paid the bills on time. Edythe and Walter's wills also indicate that they left much of their money to individuals and different organizations.<sup>7</sup>

#### Albert Kelly, the mysterious man

Albert F. Kelly, named as «a patrician» on his sarcophagus, was born in 1908. The few documents available about him sometimes indicate different years of birth. Athe time of his passing in 1984, he lived in Dade, Florida.<sup>8</sup> J. Walter Fribourg who died 6 years earlier,<sup>9</sup> also lived in Dade but they did not live at the same home. This is the only connection that could be located between the Fribourgs and Albert.

While I was looking for information and speculating about a potential relationship between Edythe Fribourg and Albert Kelly after the death of her husband, this supposition fell through. Another fact appeared on the testament of Walter A. Fribourg<sup>7</sup>: Albert Kelly lived in Fribourg's house in 1963. So, he was someone close for the complete family.



March 18, 1985

Mrs. W. Fribough 215 East 68th Street New York, N. Y. 10021

Ra: Fribough Plot Oakwood Section

Dear Mrs. Fribough:

We were notified today by officials of Woodlann Cometery that there had been vandalism done to the mansoleum. We have inspected and report that the rear glass was shattered, and several pieces of stained glass were broken on the window in the rear. No one was inside the interior.

Woodlawn Commetery promptly contacted the local New York City police who have already inspected the damage. I was assured they (Woodlawn Commetery) will contact you directly, regarding the above.

Please call if you have any questions regarding the plot.

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL COCKBURN & SONS, INC.

RECiek cc: Mr. Edward La President Josephin G Born, Inc

For your approval

Letter from Samuel Cockburn & Bons, Inc. to Mrs. Walter Fribourg, concerning the vandalism of the mausoleum. - March 18, 1985. Archives, Avery Library

«WE WERE NOTIFIED TODAY BY OFFICIALS OF WOO-DLAWN CEMETERY THAT THERE HAD BEEN VANDA-LISM DONE TO THE MAUSOLEUM.» MARCH 18, 1985



Damaged on Stained glass - March 1985 Polaroïd from the archives - Avery Library

# BUILDING HISTORY

#### Who's inside?

Emma was the only one already dead at the date of the construction, so she was probably exhumed and buried in the mausoleum. Her husband, Oscar, joined her four years later. Then, many years later, Walter and J. Walter joined them. Albert Kelly was burried in 1984, in one of the eight sarcophaguses.

In 1985, Edythe Fribourg received a letter from Samuel Cockburn & Bons, Inc to explain that the mausoleum was vendalised. Letters were exchanged discussing the damage to the struture and the need to repair the stained-glass window, which was broken. Edythe took care of the mausoleum during many years by giving regular money to the cemetery and organizing even the events after her death. She finally joined her family in 1994.

#### Choices for the mausoleum

The designer and contractor of the mausoleum are Adler's monuments. It was definitely approved but the plans of the foundations were not ready yet. It for find the plans drawn on June 1938, it is stated that the door had to be changed from interior-opening to exterior-opening. The interior-opening door hit the catacombs on the right and left sides of the mausoleum. The documents stated that the doors needed to be taken off their hinges and changed, but when we check the plans today, this detail has not been changed. To this day, the doors open towards the interior.

Even if the site was chose, the orientation of the building was not clearly decided.

After many drawings and propositions, the orientation of the mausoleum has finally

be decided with originality. Contrary to the white buildings and perpendicular around, the Fribourg's and the Adler's company chose to direct the building in a diagonal way and chose to built it in a pink color. Thanks to these details, the building is visible from the two mains road around. The material chose was Pink Georgia Marble and the company was

#### Damaged in the mausoleum

The Georgia Marble Company.

Even if we can not find information concerning the original designer of the stained glass, we can however know more about its conditions. The stained glass has been broken after vandalism in March 1985 and repaired for \$1,139.00 by the Rohlf's Stained and Leaded Glass Studio Company. It is probably one of the reason why the stained glass is today in a perfect state of preservation.

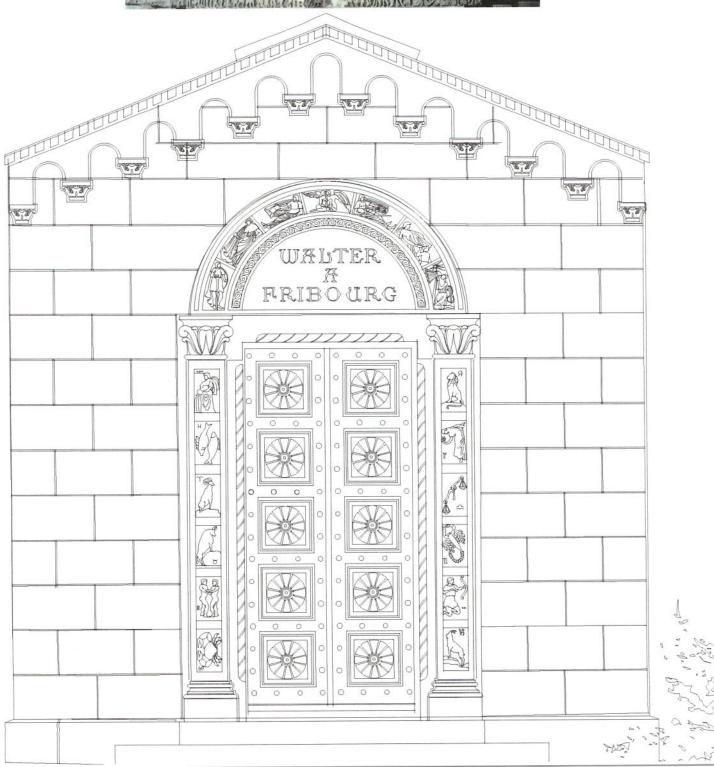


#### Current observation of the mausoleum

During the different visits made in the cemetery to analyse and measure the mausoleum, I had the opportunity to observe different aspects of the mausoleum. It is in a perfect state of preservation, as well as the marble and the stained glass. The only observation I can make is a potential lack of ventalition. Some hours after it rained, I observed some water leaking into the mausoleum, so the humidity was probably stayed into the hide part of the roof and the lack of ventilation provocked a leak by the joints. There are some vents but probably blocked or simply not sufficient.



Christ and the Mission of the Apostles: tympanum of narthex portal, Abbey of La Madeleine, Vézelay, France (Bridgeman-Giraudon / Art Resource, NY) - Romanesque Architectural sclupture - Fine Arts, Avery Library



## BUILDING STYLE

#### Religion in Fribourg's family

There are not documents confirming the religion of the family, but decorative elements on the structure indicate they were Christians. First, the presence of the Zodiacs and the Archangels on the mausoleum show a link between the family and some christians believes. Concerning more specifically Edythe and Walter - they were probabily Christian Scientists. Indeed, On the testament of the latter, we can find information concerning a bequest to the First Church of Christ Scientist.

#### Romanesque Style & details

The complete façade is realized by taking inspiration from the Romanesque style. First of all, the arch is clearly romanesque. It is similar to many French churches, such as the Abbey of La Madeleine in Vezelay. This is a typical Christian Romanesque building. We can find on the facade, typical Romanesque arch, tympanum, religious characters and zodiac signs sculpted. In comparaison, we can also considere the twelve little Corinthian capitals present in the upper part of the mausoleum. It appears really only as a decorative detail and as a reference to a Romanesque building because there are no columns below. In addiction, there are also bigger Corinthian capitals associated with «false» pilasters which framed the entrance. We can considere them as «false» because they are without relief, just sculpted on the marble. Inside of this pilaster, we can also find the twelve zodiacs signs, which were also present on the Vezelay's façade.

The zodiac signs present on the religious buildings record the passage of time. The Zodiacs originated from the Roman world where each month was representated by a symbol. The signs may be linked with the religion of the family or with the Romanesque style. 16-

There are also the seven archangels represented inside of the archs, above of the entrance, framing the name of the mausoleum present in the tympanum, « Walter A. Fribourg. » The seven Archangels have all different symbolics thoughtout the christian religion. In the center we can find Chamuel, who protect the love of the family. The six others are probably Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Zadquiel and Jofiel. They all have different kinds of usefulness; for example, to protect during travel to the afterlife (Raphael) or be guardian of the loved ones present in the mausoleum (Gabriel).<sup>17</sup>

#### Materials

All the visible part of the mausoleum are made in pink Georgia marble. The exterior of the mausoleum has been made in Georgia marble with a rough aspect contrary to the interior part which is made in polished Georgia marble. The choice made by the family to use Georgia marble possibly came from different sources as well as the choice of the style of the masuoleum. First, it is possible that the family read a book of the same type as The book of Presbrey-Leland memorials, published in 1929. Thanks to these books people could chose different options of mausoleums tyles, dimensions or materials. Different sales books about marble also existed and promoted their material by saying: «Remember - Georgia Marble is just as durable as it is beautiful.» We can also supposed that this choice was guided by the fact that marble is a strong material that needs minimal maintenance. Oncerning the foundations, we can supposed thanks to the archives that they are made in concrete. About details as the vents, the door and the interior rosettes, they are probably made in bronze because in addition to looked as bronze due to rust part, they are also indicated on the original plans as bronze.

## ENDNOTES

- 1. «Emma Fribourg», United States Federal Census, NY, NY, 1880, digital image s.v., Ancestry.com
- <sup>2</sup>. «Edythe Fribourg», 1922, Bronx, New York, Marriage Licence Indexes, 1907-1995 Ancestry.com
- 3. «Oscar Fribourg» New York Herald Tribune, Apr 15, 1941, ProQuest Historical Newspapers
- 4. «Oscar Fribourg», New York, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1885, 1920, 1921, 1928, 1937, Ancestry.com
- 5. 1870, United States Federal Census, NY, NY, digital image s.v «Oscar Fribourg», Ancestry.com
- 6: 1930, United States Federal Census, Pelham, NY, digital image s.v «Walter Fribourg», Ancestry.com
- 7. Testament of Walter A. Fribourg & Testament of Edythe Fribourg, Drawer 1,3, folder 124 Avery Library, Drawings and Archives
- 8. 1984, United States Federal Gensus, Flordia Death Index, 1877-1998, digital image s.v «Albert Kelly», Ancestry.com
- 9. 1978, United States Federal Census, Florida Death Index, 1877-1998, digital image s.v.«J. Walter Firbourg», Ancestry.com
- 10. Letter from the Rholf's Stained & Leaded Glass inc for repair to the Fribourg mausoleum of April I, 1985. Archives, Avery Library
- 11. Adler's Monuments Mansoleums, monuments etc Examination sheet June 13, 1938 Woodlawn cemetery Avery Library, Drawings and Archives
- 12. June 17, 1938 Letter from an engineer of the Woodlwan cemetery to The Adler's monuments company Avery Library, Drawings and Archives
- 13. August 5, 1938 Engineer from the Woodlawn cemetery to Adler's monuments Company Avery Library, Drawings and Archives
- 14. Letter from Michael A. Love, Vice President of Rholf's company to Mrs. Gonzalez of the Woodlawn cemetery Avery Library, Drawings and Archives
- 15. Romanesque Architectural Sculpture, Meyer Schapiro, The university of Chicago press, extract Lecture 1, p25, «The rebirth of monumental sculpture in the west»
- 16. Time in the medieval world; occupations of the months and signs of the zodiac in the Index
- 17 Angels and Demons in Art, Giorgi Fine Arts, Avery Library
- 18. Presbrey Leland Classics Archives Avery Library, Classics Archives
- <sup>19</sup> The Story of Georgia Marble, The Georgia Marble Company, 1946 Avery Library, Classics Archives
- <sup>20</sup>. «Examination Sheet» June 13, 1938 Mausoleum Monuments, Woodlawn cemetery Avery Library. Drawings and Archives

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- Drawer 1,3 folder 124
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