

## EX 4B Biographical Report - Kluge Mausoleum

### Introduction

The Kluge mausoleum located in the Heather plot at Woodlawn cemetery was designed by the Lazzari and Barton Company.<sup>1</sup> The mausoleum was commissioned by the head of the household Adolf Carl Kluge in 1916, with the first interment made in 1917 of his eldest daughter. Currently, it is where seven family members are laid to rest. This report will give a biographical sketch of the family members interned, a description of the site in which it sits, as well as an overall description of its design. An analysis of the current conditions will also be given.

### Biography

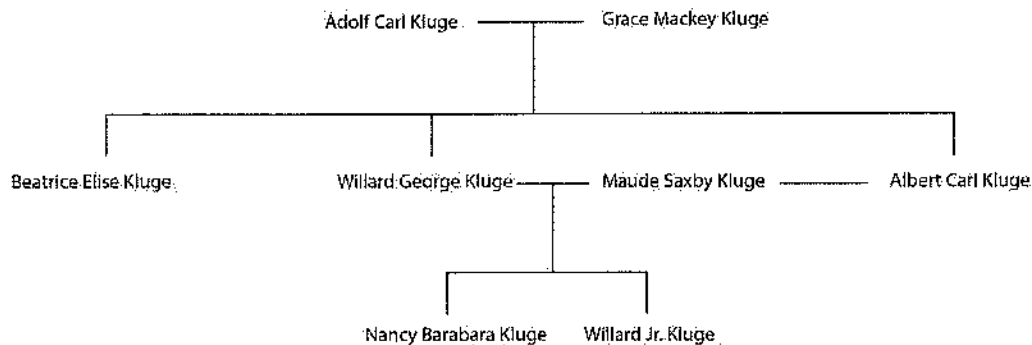


Figure 1. Diagram of family relations for members mentioned in the biography below.

Adolf Carl Kluge is of native German descent, and immigrated from Germany to the US in 1887 and resided in New York State.<sup>2</sup> He married a local New York woman, Grace Mackey Kluge, with whom

<sup>1</sup>"Kluge, Adolf Carl." Box 10, Fol 25, Major Monuments, Woodlawn Cemetery Correspondence Archives, "Specifications", pg. 1.

<sup>2</sup>"1900 United States Federal Census", and "1905 New York States Census". The number of years in the US document is 18.

he had three children.<sup>3</sup> On October 4th, 1906, Adolf C. Kluge registered the German Artistic Weaving Company under Foreign Business Registration in the state of New York, where he served as president and treasurer until his death.<sup>4</sup> The company is still active today, with its office located at 683 Broadway in New York City (historically a location for the garment industry in SoHo), and foreseeably its factories located in New Jersey.<sup>5</sup> The family's main estate is located at 109 Llewellyn Road in Montclair, New Jersey, considered a wealthy suburban neighborhood.<sup>6</sup> Their family wealth and status appears to be upper middle to upper class based on observations of their surrounding neighbors, of whom have prestigious occupations or none at all but are able to support a large family with servants (indicating other sources of income).<sup>7</sup> The Kluge family also owned numerous other properties in New York, including apartments at 300 West End Avenue and 318 West 91 Street.<sup>8</sup>

Although the mausoleum was commissioned on November 2nd, 1916 by Adolf, the first to be interred was his daughter Beatrice Elise Kluge – the eldest of his three children and only daughter. Beatrice passed away on March 2, 1917 in a brownstone – the residence of her parents – on 318 West 91 Street – at the age of 23.<sup>9</sup> She was interred three days after her death in the second catacomb on the left hand side of the mausoleum. Based on her young age and the commission of the mausoleum a year prior to her death, it might be reasonable to deduce she was taken by illness. Then, it is also likely the mausoleum was initially commissioned for Beatrice, to which the rest of the family would be interred after.

---

<sup>3</sup> "1905 New York States Census", accessed through Ancestry. Com

<sup>4</sup> "Obituary Notes," New York Tribune (1911-1922), pg. 7.

<sup>5</sup> "The German Artistic Weaving Company," New York Company Directory. Shown to be registered under the New Jersey jurisdiction.

<sup>6</sup> "1900 United States Federal Census", accessed through ancestry.com.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> "Obituary Notes," New York Tribune (1911-1922), pg. 7. And "DEATHS", New - York Tribune (1911-1922); pg. 13.

<sup>9</sup> "Kluge, Adolf Carl." Box 10, Fol 25, Major Monuments, Woodlawn Cemetery Correspondence Archives. Residence obtained from obituary: "DEATHS", New - York Tribune (1911-1922); pg. 13.

Adolf's death soon followed in 1918, having passed away on a train to California at the age of 57.<sup>10</sup> His wife, Grace Mackey Kluge, spent the rest of her life widowed, passing away at the Kluge estate in Montclair at the age of 69.<sup>11</sup>

The most recent person to be interred was Maudé Saxby Kluge, Adolf's daughter-in-law. She was born in Los Angeles, California and it appears that her first marriage was with a man named Frank Miller in her hometown. Her second marriage brought her to the Kluge family, wedded to Willard George Kluge (the younger son), with whom they had a daughter and son.<sup>12</sup> Some sources also indicate the daughter was from her first marriage and followed her to the Kluge family when Maudé remarried.<sup>13</sup> After his death, she then married Willard's older brother Albert Carl Kluge.<sup>14</sup>

#### Site

The mausoleum is situated on Heather Avenue, a secondary road in the Heather plot, with the front facade facing straight towards the visitors. Its location off the main road gives the site a sense of quietness and seclusion.

---

<sup>10</sup> "Kluge, Adolf Carl." Box 10, Fol 25, Major Monuments, Woodlawn Cemetery Correspondence Archives.

<sup>11</sup> "Obituary 1 -- No Title". *New York Times* (1923 -), pg. 21.

<sup>12</sup> *New York Herald Tribune*, "Deaths", pg. 22A.

<sup>13</sup> Ancestry, "Maud Anna Saxby, Born 1891 - Ancestry®."

<sup>14</sup> Ancestry, "Maud Anna Saxby, Born 1891 - Ancestry®." and Ancestry, "Albert Carl Kluge 1892-1956 - Ancestry®."



Figure 2. Front view of the Kluge Mausoleum

There is minimal landscaping on the plot except for the coniferous shrub positioned to the right of the mausoleum, and is likely too small to be original. The shrub ingeniously blocks the view of the building for visitors arriving from its left, offering the resting place some privacy. The land it sits on is slightly sloped with the front facade on a lower plane than the back facade.

### **Description of Design**

The Kluge family mausoleum is modest in size, with room for eight catacombs in total – four on each side. The building sits on a base consisting of three different parts – the steps, the portico platform, and buttresses (term used for the backwalls in the blueprints), all having granite as the material choice. The portico platform extends the full width of the building, where four ionic columns support a frieze and pediment. The inscribed family name KLUGE is raised on the frieze. Light Barre Vermont Granite is used for the exterior walls, all of consistent ten inches thick blocks. The high quality granite is free from

streaks, iron rust, sap, and exhibits a bright even color.<sup>15</sup> One set of double bronze doors open inwards to the interior.

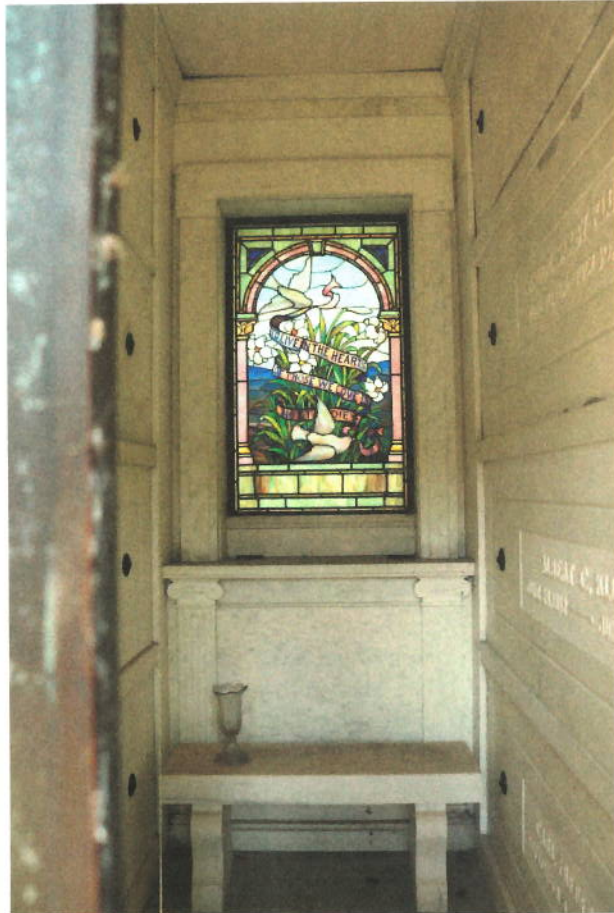


Figure 3. Interior view of the Kluge Mausoleum, stained-glass window in center of view.

Once entering the building, the eye is immediately drawn to the stained glass window, centered in the altar and raised slightly above eye level. On the ribbon carried by two white doves is a message written in capital letters: *“to live in the hearts of those we love is not to die”*. Around the stained glass is an enframing made from three pieces – the two sides and a cap running across the width of the window. The lower half of the altar is decorated with fluted ionic pilasters on either side. In front of the altar is a thick marble bench made from three pieces – the surface and two plates with curved edges

---

<sup>15</sup> “Kluge, Adolf Carl.” Box 10, Fol 25, Major Monuments, Woodlawn Cemetery Correspondence Archives, “Specifications”, pg. 4.

underneath as support legs. The inside of the mausoleum is bright from the choice of Light Cloud Vermont Marble slabs cladding its entire interior volume.<sup>16</sup> The names on the catacombs are engraved on a background of chiseled basket-weave patterning. The inside of the catacombs are enclosed by dark Pennsylvania ribbon slate.<sup>17</sup>

### Deteriorations/Additions/Alterations



Figure 4. A clearcut starting at the jointline between the pediment and roof slab – oddly clean v.s. heavily polluted.

The mausoleum is fairly well-kept. There is no record of replacements or major defects. The largest visible deteriorating conditions of the mausoleum are soiling and biological growth. Soiling can be most severely seen on the roof of the building, more prominently shown in the right elevation than the left. There is a clear cut visible on the side facade located on the joint line between the pediment and roof slab – where the corner of the horizontal cornice of the pediment is clean and the cornice along the

<sup>16</sup> "Kluge, Adolf Carl." Box 10, Fol 25, Major Monuments, Woodlawn Cemetery Correspondence Archives, "Specifications", pg. 8.

<sup>17</sup> "Kluge, Adolf Carl." Box 10, Fol 25, Major Monuments, Woodlawn Cemetery Correspondence Archives, "Specifications", pg. 8.

rest of the roof is dark with pollution. The plausible inference is that the pediment may have been replaced, but at the same time it is also unlikely because the roof slabs and cap would have to have been taken out in the process as well – it also means the carved ornament in the front pediment would have had to be replicated. It is more likely this part of the structure was cleaned when it was being repointed.

Biological growth is the second most visible deterioration. The urns are most dramatically covered with black pollution, mosses, and lichen growth. These conditions are also apparent on the stairs. Moss is growing lightly on the back of the columns (more so on the right elevation than left) due to insufficient sunlight.



Figure 5. The green patina starting to form around the edges of the bronze door

The entrance door shows tints of green patina around its border edge. The irregular pattern of where the green patina is occurring is unique – usually the entire surface would be green. There are two plausible inferences: 1) it is possibly painted over with brown paint to imitate bronze instead of an actual replacement, and now it is peeling away where it is scratched against the granite architrave around the door when opened, or 2) the door was cleaned and corrosion is occurring from the edge again. The leaf decoration on the bottom half of the door is in almost excellent shape and clarity (free of corrosion).

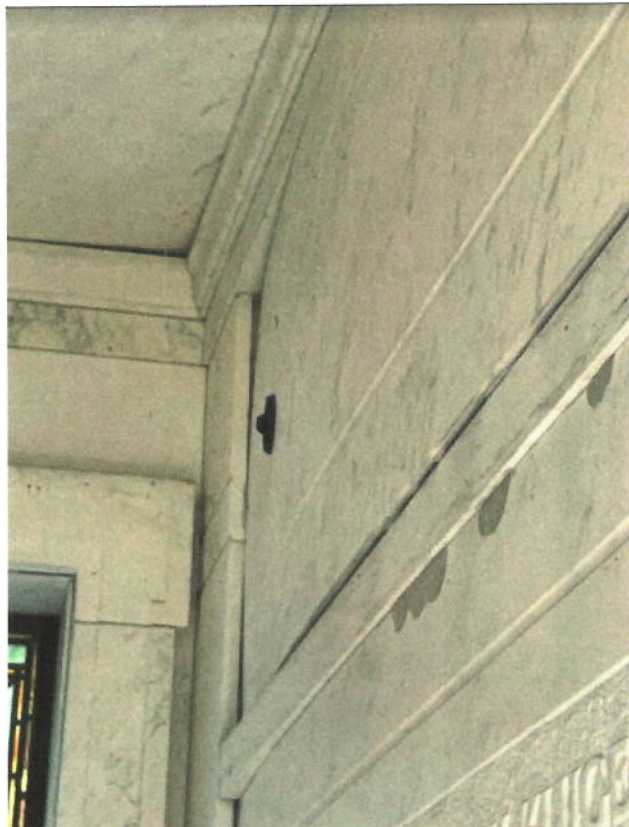


Figure 6. Hysteresis is visible on the top left corner of the image on the ceiling and also the top catacomb slab.

The interior of the mausoleum is in considerably good condition as well. Major hysteresis defects are spotted in the marble ceiling slabs and the top right catacomb slab where it is bowing outwards from the center and moving inwards on the ends.



## **Conclusion**

The exterior of the Kluge Mausoleum is in comparable good condition. The interior is not subject to severe deterioration either, but the bowing at the catacomb walls and ceiling, as well as separation of pieces at the altar should be attended to or kept on-watch in case of changes in the future.

## Bibliography

"Albert Carl Kluge 1892-1956 - Ancestry®." Ancestry. Accessed October 9, 2022.

<https://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/albert-carl-kluge-24-2yqbrk>.

"DEATHS", New - York Tribune (1911-1922); Mar 4, 1917; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: New York Tribune, pg. 13

"Deaths". New York Herald Tribune (1926-1962), Nov 24, 1942, Proquest Historical Newspapers, pg. 22A.

"Kluge, Adolf Carl." Box 10, Fol 25, Major Monuments, Woodlawn Cemetery Correspondence Archives, Avery Library, Columbia University, New York, NY.

"Maud Anna Saxby, Born 1891 - Ancestry®." Ancestry. Accessed October 9, 2022.

<https://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/maud-anna-saxby-24-1kyr8kw>.

"Obituary 1 -- No Title". New York Times (1923 -), Jun 26, 1935, Proquest Historical Newspapers, pg. 21

"Obituary Notes". New York Tribune (1911-1922), Dec 12, 1918, Proquest Historical Newspapers, pg.7.

"The German Artistic Weaving Company." New York Company Directory. Accessed October 10, 2022.

<https://newyork-company.com/co/the-german-artistic-weaving-company>.

"1900 United States Federal Census". [Accessed through Ancestry.com] [1900 United States Federal Census - AncestryLibrary.com](#)

"1905 United States State Census". [Accessed through Ancestry.com] [New York, U.S., State Census, 1905 - AncestryLibrary.com](#)