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Preserving the Memory: An Examination of the Masters Fountain Plaque, Donated by J. William Warehime

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Preserving the Memory: An Examination of the Masters Fountain Plaque, Donated by J. William Warehime

Description

It is crucial not to underestimate your surroundings, for every place embraces a story. My story unfolds two years ago during a perfect day in late summer of 2007, a day to witness the beauty of Gettysburg College at its prime. Merely a skittish freshman, I remember walking hurriedly to my first Astronomy class in Masters Hall while simultaneously attempting to soak in the pristine condition of the surrounding brick buildings and picturesque landscape. I could not help but feel intimidated by the upperclassmen, already accustomed to the Gettysburg lifestyle. Quickening my pace, I finally reached Masters Hall and paused before the massive, elaborate brick structure just before its entrance. The fountain was not operating and I remember wondering why and what it would look like if it were. As I moved closer and peered inside, soapsuds blanketed the water's surface. It was a humbling moment for me, the perfect welcome to my Gettysburg College experience. It was one that made me realize that aside from the serious education I knew that would undoubtedly receive, it was not quite time to grow up. As a person with a valued appreciation for aesthetics, the sights and sounds of the Masters fountain have always provided tranquility, even in the most stressful situations. Whether it is the scene for a harmless prank, the location of a midnight swim (for all of the doubters, one of my sorority sisters has in fact jumped into the fountain), a place to meet, or simply an object of visual appeal, the Master's fountain is an essential landmark on the Gettysburg campus. [*excerpt*]

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- Course Title: *HIST 300: Historical Method*
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- Course Instructor: Dr. Michael J. Birkner '72

Hidden in Plain Sight is a collection of student papers on objects that are "hidden in plain sight" around the Gettysburg College campus. Topics range from the Glatfelter Hall gargoyles to the statue of Eisenhower and from historical markers to athletic accomplishments. You can download the paper in pdf format and click "View Photo" to see the image in greater detail.

Keywords

Gettysburg College, Hidden in Plain Sight, fountain, J. William Warehime, Masters Hall

Disciplines

Public History | United States History

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Masters Hall

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Hidden in Plain Sight

Preserving the Memory: An Examination of the Masters Fountain Plaque
Donated by J. William Warehime

History 300

Historical Methods

Dr. Michael Birkner

By

Victoria Shepard

Fall 2009

It is crucial not to underestimate your surroundings, for every place embraces a story. My story unfolds two years ago during a perfect day in late summer of 2007, a day to witness the beauty of Gettysburg College at its prime. Merely a skittish freshman, I remember walking hurriedly to my first Astronomy class in Masters Hall while simultaneously attempting to soak in the pristine condition of the surrounding brick buildings and picturesque landscape. I could not help but feel intimidated by the upperclassmen, already accustomed to the Gettysburg lifestyle. Quickening my pace, I finally reached Masters Hall and paused before the massive, elaborate brick structure just before its entrance. The fountain was not operating and I remember wondering why and what it would look like if it were. As I moved closer and peered inside, soapsuds blanketed the water's surface. It was a humbling moment for me, the perfect welcome to my Gettysburg College experience. It was one that made me realize that aside from the serious education I knew that would undoubtedly receive, it was not quite time to grow up. As a person with a valued appreciation for aesthetics, the sights and sounds of the Masters fountain have always provided tranquility, even in the most stressful situations. Whether it is the scene for a harmless prank, the location of a midnight swim (for all of the doubters, one of my sorority sisters has in fact jumped into the fountain), a place to meet, or simply an object of visual appeal, the Master's fountain is an essential landmark on the Gettysburg campus.

There is another element of this fountain, however, that remains hidden in plain sight. I am quite certain that it is typically unnoticed because I, and those I have asked, have never realized its presence unless purposefully searching for it. On the far side of the fountain from the entrance of Masters Hall sits a plaque. The benefactor placed a fountain on our college campus with a purpose, to preserve an aspect of his or her life in order for it to be shared with the greater community for years to come. The plaque describes this purpose, and these are the words inscribed upon it:

Given by J. WILLIAM WAREHIME in memory of
FRIENDS and CLASSMATES of 1950
CHARLES A MUSSELMAN
JAMES K. LONG
J. CALVIN LANG
PHILLIP H. WALTERSDORF

Viewing the plaque for the first time caused a multitude of questions to arise that can be summarized by writing tools we learned back in grade school: Who were the people mentioned on this plaque? What is their importance? Where are they now? When was the fountain installed? And why did the donor choose to erect a fountain to commemorate the memory of his college experience? I began my search in special collections.

With the help of preserved Gettysburg College publications such as the *Spectrum*, the *Alumni Bulletin*, and the *Gettysburgian*, I was able to uncover some answers to my countless inquiries. The “Masters Fountain” was a component of a dynamic transformation encompassing the entire campus during the summer of 1991. Renovating and modernizing aspects of the school became a sort of summer tradition that began in 1986 and continued during the subsequent summers. As Jerold Wikoff writes in the winter 1992 edition of the *Alumni Bulletin*, “Those who left the college in May 1991 almost didn’t recognize the campus when they returned this past autumn.”¹ The new face of Gettysburg included: a complete renovation of the College Union Building, rooms for student activities in Plank Gym, the relocation of railroad tracks from the center of campus to the western perimeter, and the creation of the Ice House Apartment Complex. In addition to the renovations that launched the campus into the modern era as we view it today, Masters Hall was also reconstructed into an attractive structure, with two new towers and a distinctive entrance complete with a remarkable fountain, “A new fountain, donated by J. William Warehime ’50 in memory of his four friends from the class of 1950 . . . graced outside the entrance to Masters, providing an ideal meeting place for students.”² The fountain is between 24 and 26 feet wide and is encircled by a raised sitting wall led to by a small step.³ It contains ten spouts of water and an impressive sensory device that sits atop of Plank Gym and suspends the flow of water when the wind reaches a certain velocity.⁴ Measurements and facts only provide us with a one-dimensional view to the fountain’s existence on Gettysburg campus. To truly understand the reasoning for its installation

¹ Jerold Wikoff, “The Changing Face of Gettysburg College,” *Gettysburg College Bulletin: Alumni Issue*, Winter 1992, 20.

² *Ibid*, 21.

³ Ann Marie Schropp, “Renovations on Campus to Include a 26-foot Fountain,” *Gettysburgian*, April 25, 1991.

⁴ Victoria Shepard interview with Jean LeGros, September 23, 2009.

and more importantly, the underlying meaning of the plaque upon it, the investigation must continue with the life of J. William Warehime.

I was disheartened to learn that Mr. John William Warehime, also known as Bill, past away on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at his home due to health related issues, specifically Parkinson's disease.⁵ Although he seemed like a delightful character that I would have enjoyed getting acquainted with, I had the pleasure of meeting with a few people who knew him personally, most of whom described him as "eccentric, with a tremendously big heart."⁶ J. William Warehime was born on June 8, 1927, the son of Harry and Alice, who in 1924 founded the Hanover Canning Company. This business would later become the Hanover Foods Corporation, the largest independent food processor in the United States. Warehime graduated from Eichelberger High School as the president of his graduating class in 1945. He joined the U.S. Army, but never entered into combat as World War II was over at this time, and was honorably discharged in 1946. This prompted his decision to enroll into Gettysburg College in 1947, when it is estimated that around 500 students attended.⁷ While in college he majored in business administration, still offered at that time, although he admitted to not being the best student.⁸ Active in other organizations such as the *Gettysburgian* circulation staff, Warehime was elected into the Phi Lambda Sigma national honorary and pre-legal fraternity as well as becoming a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity along with three of the men mentioned on the Masters Fountain plaque.⁹ I was fortunate enough to meet with Mr. Warehime's Gettysburg roommate, fellow ATO brother, and best friend, Mr. Jerry Geiselman who currently resides in Hanover, Pennsylvania. As the best man at Mr. Geiselman's wedding, he and Mr. Warehime remained close throughout the many years after college until Mr. Warehime's death. Mr. Geiselman was able to offer the more personal side of William Warehime's college years, relaying stories and describing him as having a "great sense of humor" with a fondness for

⁵ Obituary of J. William Warehime, n.p., January 14, 2008, J. William Warehime file, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

⁶ Victoria Shepard interview with Jean LeGros, September 23, 2009.

⁷ Obituary of J. William Warehime, n.p., January 14, 2008.

⁸ Victoria Shepard interview with Jean LeGros, September 23, 2009.

⁹ Obituary of J. William Warehime, n.p., January 14, 2008.

pranks and playing bridge with his friends.¹⁰ Bill Warehime never married or had children; however, Mrs. Jane Geiselman was nice enough to show me an old photograph of Mr. Warehime's one true love, a girl from New Jersey, whom he labeled as, "the girl that got away."¹¹

After graduating from Gettysburg in 1950, Bill Warehime joined the family business at Hanover Foods. He initially worked in the sales and purchasing department, but eventually advanced to the position of secretary/treasurer as well as a member of the Board of Directors, before retiring in 1987. Afterward, he continued his work in another family oriented business, Warehime Enterprises, a leasing and investing company.¹² In 1980, he also became a member of the Board of Directors at Snyder's Pretzels of Hanover, currently owned by Michael Warehime, the son of Bill Warehime's brother. Socially, Warehime was a life-long member of the Hanover Arcadian Club among others. As his obituary states, "he had been active in many community organizations and has given generously to local charities including his college, Gettysburg."¹³ When speaking with Jerry Geiselman, it was apparent in his voice that he truly loved his alma mater and the years he spent at college. I believe, without a doubt, that Bill Warehime felt the same way, and he expressed this connection through his many contributions to Gettysburg College. Ms. Jean LeGros, fellow Gettysburg alum of 1973 and the Associate Vice President for Alumni and Parent Relations Emerita, who worked with Mr. Warehime on several of his projects and was also a dear friend, put it simply, "he was fabulously wealthy and oozed 'ornateness.'"¹⁴ I knew that the J. William Warehime story would not be complete without a brief exploration of the two additional gifts to the Gettysburg campus aside from the fountain as well as the acclaimed Hanover Mansion.

It initially took some convincing for the Gettysburg College administrators to allow Mr. William Warehime's funding to go towards installing stained glass windows into Glatfelter Lodge, a building often

¹⁰ Victoria Shepard interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Obituary of J. William Warehime, n.p., January 14, 2008.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Victoria Shepard interview with Jean LeGros, September 23, 2009.

used for group meetings and informed events. However, despite this preliminary difficulty, Jean LeGros explains, “many people at the college appreciated their beauty after they were constructed.”¹⁵ She described his involvement in their production from 1992-1996 as very “hands on,” stating that he would often come to the college to evaluate their progress as well as specifically decide on the color schemes and pieces of glass that would be used. The windows display a beautiful arrangement of floral landscape including the mountain laurel, the flower of Pennsylvania. One notable aspect of the Glatfelter Lodge windows is the discrete placements owls within every window. As a member of the Chi Omega chapter here at Gettysburg, along with Ms. Le Gros, it made me smile to see our sorority’s symbol graced upon every pane. With a passion for collecting fine antiques such as “Wedgewood” china and grandfather clocks, most notable is Warehime’s extravagant collection of owls.¹⁶ Mr. and Mrs. Gieselman were able to expand on his love for this nocturnal creature and indicated its origins, “he would have hundreds of owl figurines lying around his house . . . His fascination started when an owl flew down his chimney and became trapped in his basement.”¹⁷ The stained glass windows of the Glatfelter Lodge are stunning additions to the Gettysburg campus. If one has the time, they should be carefully examined and appreciated.

The last gift that Mr. Warehime donated to Gettysburg College towards the end of his life beautifies the campus by sight and sound. A magnificent carillon, which sits adjacent to the Quarry Suites on the west end of campus, measures at 50 feet and contains 23 bells that can be programmed to play various songs such as Gettysburg’s alma mater. Built by the Verdin Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio, Bill Warehime was inspired to donate a carillon after he heard one play at his frequented summer retreat of Ocean City, New Jersey.¹⁸ The plan to implement this generous gift on the campus was a joint effort by a board that consisted of college administrators and students. “The committee figured out where it would go and when during the day it would

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Victoria Shepard interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

¹⁸ Ibid, 1.

play.”¹⁹ It was a generous donation on the part of Mr. Warehime, the “Costs presented to, and Agreed upon, by J. William Warehime on 8/23/01” estimate that the sum of all costs would be \$400,675.²⁰ The sublime carillon became operational in late May, and was dedicated on Alumni weekend, May 31, 2002.²¹

Aside from the generous donations Mr. J. William Warehime made to Gettysburg College, he was also a prominent figure in his native community of Hanover, Pennsylvania. I was fortunate to meet with Mr. Warehime’s personal secretary of just about forty years, Linda Lohr, whose office remains in the exquisite Hanover-Myers Mansion. Ms. Lohr first started working with William Warehime at Hanover Foods back in 1970, and around 1998 she left the company to work for him full time, specifically dealing with the mansion. Mr. Warehime finalized the settlement to purchase Hanover Mansion in late December of 1998, which was previously owned by descendents of C.N. Meyers of the Hanover Shoe Company. Although the site was considered for apartment complexes and other industrial structures, restoring and furnishing this important landmark became a labor of love for Warehime. As Ms. Lohr describes of his character, “he had wealth but he was humble, he would bring in extremely expensive antiques but then would also have little trinkets from the dollar store.”²² During our tour of the mansion, I was in awe at of stunning construction and remarkable pieces of furniture that adorned each room of the home. It was exceptionally fascinating to witness Mr. Warehime’s vivacious and eccentric personality that his acquaintances spoke of enthusiastically, come to life through the furnishings and decorations throughout the interior. Although few objects from the original home remain, Mr. Warehime’s collectable interests such as owls, oriental structures, and numerous giant grandfather clocks are showered throughout every room. Ms. Lohr also pointed out particular locations and pieces of furniture that exemplified Mr. Warehime’s innovative eye for restoration of aged elements. A particularly interesting room in the mansion is the “Warehime Room,” painted lime green and complete with many items that display the

¹⁹ Victoria Shepard interview with Jean LeGros, September 23, 2009.

²⁰ “Costs Presented to, and Agreed Upon, J. William Warehime 8/23/01.” College Relations, Agenda #5, August 21, 2001. Carillon File, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

²¹ “50-Foot Bell Tower Planned,” *Gettysburg Notes*, March 2002, 1.

²² Victoria Shepard interview with Linda Lohr, September 28, 2009.

significant elements of his life. Those that stood out among the objects included: pictures and newspaper articles pertaining to Hanover Foods, his old army uniforms, his high school yearbook, and a certificate from the Gamma Chapter of the Pi Lambda Sigma honorary fraternity (on top of which sat a picture of Bill in his youth with two of his friends, one I recognized as Mr. Phillip Waltersdorf from pictures in the 1950 *Spectrum*). Before his health started to decline, Mr. Warehime loved to entertain at the mansion, holding on average about 15 to 20 extravagant parties a year for his friends and acquaintances. Towards the end of his life, when the time came to decide what would become of the mansion, Mr. J. William Warehime decided to donate the entire property, with an endowment, to the Hanover Historical Association. His one request was that they maintained the house as it was during his lifetime, and they have since made very few changes. Interestingly, Warehime first expressed the desire to donate the mansion to Gettysburg College, and even went as far as to discuss the possibility with a few college administrators. However, Mr. Warehime wanted to ensure that the college would be willing to own and maintain it on the long term, and Gettysburg College finally came to the conclusion that owning the mansion was not in its best interests. Currently, The Hanover Mansion is open for tours two days a week and is available to be rented out for private functions such as weddings or corporate events.²³ It was through the marvelous Hanover Mansion that I was able to make the closest personal connection to J. William Warehime without actually having the ability, and pleasure, to physically meet him.

In addition to the three beautiful additions to the campus, referred to as “gifts in kind,” Mr. Bill Warehime left monetary donations to the college as well. Mr. John Hiner, the Associate Director of Planned Giving at the college, was one of the last administrators to work with Mr. Warehime prior to his death. In his will, Mr. Warehime left \$600,000 in addition to two charitable trusts one \$940,000, and the other \$587,000. These generous donations were “unrestricted gifts,” meaning that the college obtains the authority to utilize them for any purpose of their choosing, although he was unable to disclose to what exactly.²⁴ Clearly, Mr.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Victoria Shepard interview with John Hiner, September 21, 2009.

William Warehime was a generous figure in terms of donating to the college, and it all began with the construction of the Masters fountain.

The only direct information from Mr. J. William Warehime himself about the Masters fountain, his first major gift to the college, is through a student article written by Ann Marie Schropp in the April 25, 1991 *Gettysburgian* entitled, “Renovations on Campus to Include a 26-foot Fountain.” The article states that Mr. Warehime desired for a fountain to be built in order to “memorialize his fellow classmates who died at a very young age.”²⁵ Mr. Jerry Geiselman, Warehime’s college roommate and best friend, recounted a comical story involving the fountain’s dedication, “I said to Bill, ‘I’m your best friend why am I not on the plaque?’ and he responded to me, ‘You didn’t die yet!’”²⁶ It took about two to three years before the school granted Warehime’s request, and it was only after he refused to give any more money to the college. A direct quote from Mr. Warehime in the article states, “I said no money, no fountain”[he most likely meant without the fountain, he would not donate any more money].²⁷ Ms. Jean LeGros, was able to shed some light on this issue between Mr. Warehime and the Gettysburg administrators: “the college has priorities for funding, and the fountain was not on the list.”²⁸ She pointed out that although the school prefers donations to the college in the form of funds for scholarships and other educational endeavors, Mr. Warehime remained dedicated to his cause. As a result, the fountain ended up becoming a focal point of the campus that “changed the sight and sounds of the college.”²⁹ But why a fountain? Part of the reason was that Mr. Warehime “took a genuine interest in beautifying the campus and desired to donate specific gifts that the college would enjoy and benefit from.”³⁰ Another aspect of the answer came during my interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman. They explained that Bill’s love for fountains began with the “bubbling” fountain at the church on Market Street in York, Pennsylvania. In addition to the fountain built at Gettysburg, Mr. Warehime donated a fountain in

²⁵ Ann Marie Schropp, “Renovations on Campus to Include a 26-foot Fountain,” *Gettysburgian*, April 25, 1991.

²⁶ Victoria Shepard interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

²⁷ Ann Marie Schropp, “Renovations on Campus to Include a 26-foot Fountain,” *Gettysburgian*, April 25, 1991.

²⁸ Victoria Shepard interview with Jean LeGros, September 23, 2009.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Victoria Shepard interview with John Hiner, September 21, 2009.

memory of his parents at the Baltimore Street Cemetery as well as an exquisite fountain at the Hanover Mansion. The construction of the Masters Fountain was completed in the fall of 1991 and it began operation during its dedication in the spring of 1992. With the story of how the fountain came to be and the interesting man who donated it complete, I turned my attention to the four main reasons why Mr. Warehime was so intent on building this monumental structure.

Through the generous donations Mr. J. William Warehime provided to Gettysburg College throughout his life, it is evident that he had an exceptional experience here as a student. Mr. Warehime attended college during the post-World War II period, a time when the country was prosperous, generous, and optimistic. On the home front, the late 1940's and early 1950's was a happy time, where loved ones were reunited and citizens felt at peace. While perusing the 1950 *Spectrum*, the pictures of various clubs, sports, and groups of friends expressed jubilation and contentment, which displayed a complete contrast from serious, somber attitude visible in *Spectrum* pictures during the World War II years (it was the 1950 that also marked a transition to decorative covers on the *Spectrum* yearbooks). Although it was difficult for Mr. Geiselman to discuss his friends that have passed on, he was willing to share some of the joyful experiences that he, Mr. Warehime, and the other four fellow 1950 graduates shared during their years at Gettysburg. I was eager to explore their connections and I found it delightful that Mr. Bill Warehime wished to preserve their memory in such a beautiful manner.

The first companion listed on the plaque is Charles Albert Musselman. My immediate speculation was that this man was connected to the famous name that surrounds the campus and is associated with several landmarks including the library, dormitory, and stadium. Prominent Adams County residents Christian H. and Emma Musselman developed the largest apple-processing company in the United States. Committed to philanthropic causes, the Musselman family has donated over one million dollars to the college over many years.³¹ Upon researching, however, I was unable find a connection between these distinguished members of

³¹ "Distinguished Benefactor of Gettysburg College." *Gettysburgian*, April 20, 2000.

the community and the man presented on the fountain's plaque. Mr. Geiselman confirmed my dead ends, the identical names were merely a coincidence and they were not related in any way.³² Although personal information regarding this alum is scarce, an Alumni Directory Information Questionnaire distributed in 1954 by the Gettysburg College Alumni Association allowed me to compose a sufficient image of this individual. Musselman was born on July 12, 1927 and attended Gettysburg College from the years 1947-1950, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. He was the only man addressed on the plaque who belonged to a separate fraternity on campus, Phi Delta Theta. After graduating from Gettysburg, Charles Musselman married Nancy Anne Ketterman on December 6, 1953 and went on to become a teacher of secondary health and physical education in Spring Grove and Hanover, Pennsylvania. Musselman served in the United States Marine Corps, both in World War II and Korea.³³ Although I was able to acquire some basic information from the Alumni questionnaire, I was discouraged when I found that these facts did not coincide with information given on a different Charles Musselman in the 1950 *Spectrum*. It was Mr. Jerry Geiselman who was able to set the record straight and offer some further, more personal information about Charles Musselman, and I am very grateful for his cooperation and willingness to speak with me about his past. Charles Musselman, known to his friends as "Bud," was a member of the football team as well as Phi Delta Theta and a physical education major. He and Mr. Warehime were especially fond of playing tricks on their friends, which included pasting a picture of a monkey over a small portrait of Mr. Geiselman's wife, Jane. "Bud always liked to show that he was 'macho,'" she exclaimed shortly after the story was told.³⁴ Although Charles Albert Musselman was the only one of his friends on the fountain's plaque to experience military combat, it was complications from an automobile accident that caused his death. Mr. Geiselman was unable to recall when this occurred, but both Jerry and Jane expressed that he was much too young.³⁵

³² Victoria Shepard Interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

³³ Gettysburg College Alumni Directory Information Questionnaire, sent October 18, 1954 by Paul Cessna. Mr. Charles Albert Musselman Alumni 1950 File #0031869, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

³⁴ Victoria Shepard Interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

³⁵ Ibid.

Similar to Musselman, James K. Long, the second man to which the Masters Fountain plaque was dedicated, sadly did not have much information pertaining to his life and legacy at Gettysburg as well. Luckily, he too completed an alumni questionnaire. Long was born on May 14, 1927. He joined the US Naval Reserve in May of 1945 and remained in service until July 1946. Post-service, he attended Gettysburg College from 1946 to January of 1950 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree. Similar to Mr. William Warehime, he was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the honorary fraternity of Pi Lambda Sigma, in addition to Psi Chi, the psychology honors fraternity. He married Majorie Louise Dunmyer on December 27, 1947. After graduating from Gettysburg, Long and his wife moved to Houston, Texas where he worked as a special agent to Maryland Casualty Co. prior to becoming an agent for Houston, Stevenson, Cummings (Hartford Ins. Co.).³⁶ James Long, known to his friends as Jim, died on November 25, 1964 at the age of thirty-seven from Leukemia.³⁷ His obituary in the Spring 1965 issue of the *Alumni Bulletin* does not offer much else about his life. I was pleased to uncover in Mr. Long's alumni file, as well as in the files of Charles Musselman and J. Calvin Lang, a letter to each of the widows dated October 8, 1991 from the then Associate Director of Gift Planning at the college, Michael Howard. The opening of each letter stated, "Last summer we were pleased to inform you of Mr. J. William Warehime's gift of a memorial fountain which would honor your late husband and three other deceased classmates. At this time, I am pleased to inform you of the progress that has taken place since then."³⁸ Mr. Howard then went on to explain that the structure of the fountain was completed two weeks prior with a final waterproof coating. However, renovations to the adjacent Masters building, which housed the machinery to power the fountain, would not have the electricity needed to make the fountain operational in the fall of 1991. Howard concluded his note saying that the wives would be informed of the approved dedication date in the spring of 1992 so they could be present at the ceremony.³⁹

³⁶ Gettysburg College Alumni Directory Information Questionnaire, sent October 18, 1954 by Paul Cessna. Mr. James K. Long Alumni 1950 File #0029903, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

³⁷ Victoria Shepard interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

³⁸ Michael Howard, Associate Director of Gift Planning, to Mrs. James K. Long, October 8, 1991. Mr. James K. Long Alumni 1950 File #0029903, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

³⁹ Ibid.

I was comforted by the abundance of information made available in special collections when searching for the third friend to whom Mr. Warehime dedicated his Masters Fountain plaque, Mr. J. Calvin Lang III, also known as “Cal.”⁴⁰ It seems as if Mr. Lang’s life could be summarized by a few phrases: involved, generous, and well respected within his community. Mr. J. Calvin Lang was born on November 12, 1925 in Altoona, Pennsylvania.⁴¹ Upon graduating from Holidaysburg High School, he served as a sergeant in the 342nd Infantry Regiment in the 86th Division of the US Army from December 1943 to April 1946. After completing his service, he enrolled in Gettysburg College as a member of the 1950 graduating class. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree and was a fellow member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the Pi Lambda Sigma honorary fraternity.⁴² On November 25, 1950 he married Lois A Garver in Roaring Spring, PA. His working career included service in the traffic department of Ward Trucking Company, as a special agent for Prudential Co., and over 35 years of service including the positions of treasurer and vice president of the Roaring Spring Blank Book paper company. In addition to his corporate position, he was active within his community. He served on the Board of Directors of the Spring Cove School District, Board of Directors of the Blair County Mental Health Center, and both vice president and president of the Board of Trustees of Nason Hospital. Among other things, he was also a member of the Blair County Industrial Authority board and the Regional Advisory Committee of Mid-State Bank, and a member of several organizations such as the Sons of the American Revolution and the Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania.⁴³ His importance to the community allowed for several articles recognizing Mr. Warehime’s contribution to his memory to be published in local newspapers such as the Altoona Mirror and one entitled, “Gift to College Made in Memory of RS Man,” published in a May 1992 issue of the Morrisons Cove Herald of Marinsburg, PA.⁴⁴ On January 27, 1970, C.A. Hanson, the Gettysburg College President at the time, wrote a letter to Mr. Lang inquiring if he would like to

⁴⁰ Victoria Shepard interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

⁴¹ “Blank Book Vice President Dies at Age 61,” n.p., n.d., Mr. John Calvin Lang III Alumni 1950 File #0029123, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

⁴² Informational Pamphlet for a new directory Alumni Association to J. Calvin Lang, January 31, 1962, Mr. John Calvin Lang III Alumni 1950 File #0029123, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

⁴³ “Blank Book Vice President Dies at Age 61,” n.p., n.d.

⁴⁴ “Gift to College Made in Memory of RS Man,” *Morrisons Cove Herald*, May 14, 1992.

become a member of the Gettysburg Board of Fellows.⁴⁵ Mr. Lang agreed and in the subsequent years, offered monthly donations typically one-hundred dollars or less, to the Annual Loyalty Fund of the college and as well as small donations towards the renovation of Brua Hall. In addition, on May 31, 1976 he created the J. Calvin Lang Trust that held 20 shares of the Blank Book Company with the interest and dividends being paid to the college. Specifically, donations were made to the Learning/Library Resources Center, until the trust was closed ten years later on June 1, 1986.⁴⁶ In response to his financial donations, there are numerous correspondences from various administrators of the college thanking Mr. Lang for his notable charity, “The College greets the new year with growing strength and vitality owing in no small part to the generosity of alumni and close friends like you. Your gift investments continue to be a determining factor in the quality of resources that the College is able to extend to young people today.”⁴⁷ Upon reading these I could not help but feel disappointed. Although Mr. Lang’s considerate donations should not go unrecognized, the benefits of his contributions are largely invisible to the general public. However, Mr. Warehime, who in addition to granting sizeable financial donations, also inserted appealing items that have enhanced the general appearance of the college campus. Although Mr. Warehime’s file is lost and I cannot conclude this for certain, based on the remarks of people I have interviewed, it seems as if his substantial contributions to the college have gone generally unappreciated by both faculty and students.⁴⁸ Despite the fact that Ms. Jean LeGros assured me that Bill Warehime, “was a humble man and did not give gifts for recognition,”⁴⁹ I can only hope that others take notice of his many significant contributions to the college. J. Calvin Lang III died at Nason Hospital in Roaring Spring on

⁴⁵ C.A. Hanson to J. Calvin Lang, January 27, 1970, Mr. John Calvin Lang III Alumni 1950 File #0029123, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

⁴⁶ H. Randall Carper, Trust Officer, to Mr. Robert Smith, Gettysburg College Alumni Office, May 27, 1986. Mr. John Calvin Lang III Alumni 1950 File #0029123, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

Field Report by Richard Allen, visit with J. Calvin Lang at Blank Book Co., Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania, n.d., Mr. John Calvin Lang III Alumni 1950 File #0029123, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

⁴⁷ Gary L. Lowe, Associate Vice President for College Relations, to Mr. J. Calvin Lang III, January 17, 1985, Mr. John Calvin Lang III Alumni 1950 File #0029123, Special Collections, Musselman Library.

⁴⁸ E-mail from Maire D’Souza to Victoria Shepard, September 24, 2009.

⁴⁹ Victoria Shepard interview with Jean LeGros, September 23, 2009.

Saturday, March 7, 1987 at the age of 61.⁵⁰ His friend, Jerry Geiselman disclosed that he died of cancer and seeing that Bill Warehime and Cal were extremely close, Mr. Warehime refused to attend his funeral, as it would have been too difficult for him.⁵¹

The fourth and final name inscribed on the plaque that Mr. Warhime dedicated is Phillip H. Waltersdorf. Although there is no file available for this 1950 alumna of the college, the *Gettysburg Spectrum* as well as Jerry Geiselman's recollections helped me to piece together a general interpretation of the person that he was. Waltersdorf, a fellow Hanover, Pennsylvania native, was born on July 23, 1927.⁵² As a member of the 1950 graduating class, he majored in economics and was elected into the position of Worthy Exchequer of ATO.⁵³ Alpha Tau Omega was clearly a fundamental aspect of what made the Gettysburg experiences of William Warehime and his friends so enjoyable and memorable. Still a thriving fraternity today and boasting forty-six new incoming members this fall, Alpha Tau Omega was founded at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. The Alpha Upsilon chapter was founded at Gettysburg College in 1882, making it one of the oldest surviving fraternities on campus. It was the *Sprectrum* that was most helpful in conveying the image of what being an ATO brother in 1950 truly entailed. The ATO softball team was represented in the "Little Three" Tournament, they were widely represented in various Gettysburg athletic teams and intra-fraternity sports, and they hosted events such as the Spring House Party and the House Football Party at Homecoming.⁵⁴ Post-graduation from Gettysburg, Phillip Hollinger Waltersdorf married Jean M. Swartz in June 1950, and went on to become the manager of thirteen Waltersdorf Furniture Company stores in Hanover, Pennsylvania.⁵⁵

⁵⁰ "Blank Book Vice President Dies at Age 61," n.p., n.d.

⁵¹ Victoria Shepard interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

⁵² *Gettysburg College Alumni Directory* (Gettysburg, PA: Times and News Publishing Co., 1956), 604.

⁵³ 1950 *Spectrum*, 134.

⁵⁴ 1950 *Spectrum*, 134.

⁵⁵ *Gettysburg College Alumni Directory* (Gettysburg, PA: Times and News Publishing Co., 1956), 604.

Victoria Shepard interview with Jerry and Jane Geiselman, September 28, 2009.

Although the date is unavailable, like his good friend James Long, Phillip Waltersdorf died young from Lukemia.⁵⁶

Upon concluding my research pertaining to the undoubtedly fascinating character of J. William Warehime and the fountain that he donated as a memorial to his four beloved classmates, I could not help but connect what I learned back to my first personal encounter with the fountain. To me, Masters Fountain represents a memorable introduction to my Gettysburg College experience, and every time I allow myself a moment to admire its beauty, I think back to that first day as a freshman, completely open to new friendships and experiences. To Mr. J. William Warehime, the fountain represents a compilation of all of his enjoyable Gettysburg memories and the four people that helped to form them. I can only hope that this composition will serve as a sort of tribute to his memory, and recognition that his significant contributions to the college have not gone unnoticed. The fountain represents the idea that as the years progress and the campus continues to evolve, each aspect of it, whether it is a building or a landmark, takes on a new meaning and holds a specific story for each individual. Although the plaque upon the Masters Fountain does not serve as a glorification of four men who accomplished anything particularly extraordinary during their lives, I was more partial to the fact that it simply preserves the memory of a close group of ordinary college friends. It is through friendships such as these that compose the fondest memories of college years and help to create a true adoration for ones alma mater. Comparing the *Spectrum's* of the year 1950 with the most recent edition available, 2008, I could not help but notice practically identical photographs of groups of friends laughing together and simply enjoying each other's company. At Gettysburg College, a rich history surrounds us everyday. Some elements are distinguished by a plaque that emphasize the importance of certain people, traditions, or places, all of which form the foundations that allow us to experience Gettysburg as we do today. It is what we personally make of the history that envelops us that will allow Gettysburg to continue to flourish as a prominent and influential institution.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

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