

RESTORATION TO WOOLDRIDGE MONUMENTS Mayfield, Kentucky April-July 2010 Page 1
Monument Conservation Collaborative LLC, Norfolk, CT 06058

Restoration work was done in 3 phases, starting in April 27, 2010. This first phase included the attachment of loose fragments, erection of the granite obelisk, the Keziah Wooldridge torso and the stabilization of the horse monument. Also accomplished was the re-attachment of all the fragmented feet and legs in preparation of setting the torsos in the following trip.

In June the remaining torsos and heads were attached with structural adhesive, the horses head was pinned and attached and all the monuments were lightly cleaned.

The last phase in July was the attachment of the remaining small fragments of animal feet and legs, and the filling of cracks and losses.

MCC would like to thank the following for their help and suggestions:

Arthur Bryn, Mayor, City of Mayfield
Brad Rogers, City Planner
Howard from Greer Neon
Russ Brower and all the employees at the Mayfield DPW who did a superlative job locating and safely storing all the fragments and in their enthusiastic help with the restoration.

Jan 2009



July 2010





4/27/2010 General existing conditions



4/27/2010 General existing conditions



4/27/2010 General existing conditions

Fragments collected by the Mayfield Public Works Department and stored at their facility.



4/27/2010 General existing conditions

Fragments collected by the Mayfield Public Works Department and stored at their facility.



Initial inspection and sorting of fragments at Public Works facility.





The mating edges of small fragments were first cleaned and were attached with structural adhesive. Objects were placed in a sand box and gravity held fragments in place while adhesive cured. After curing excess adhesive was removed with hand tools.



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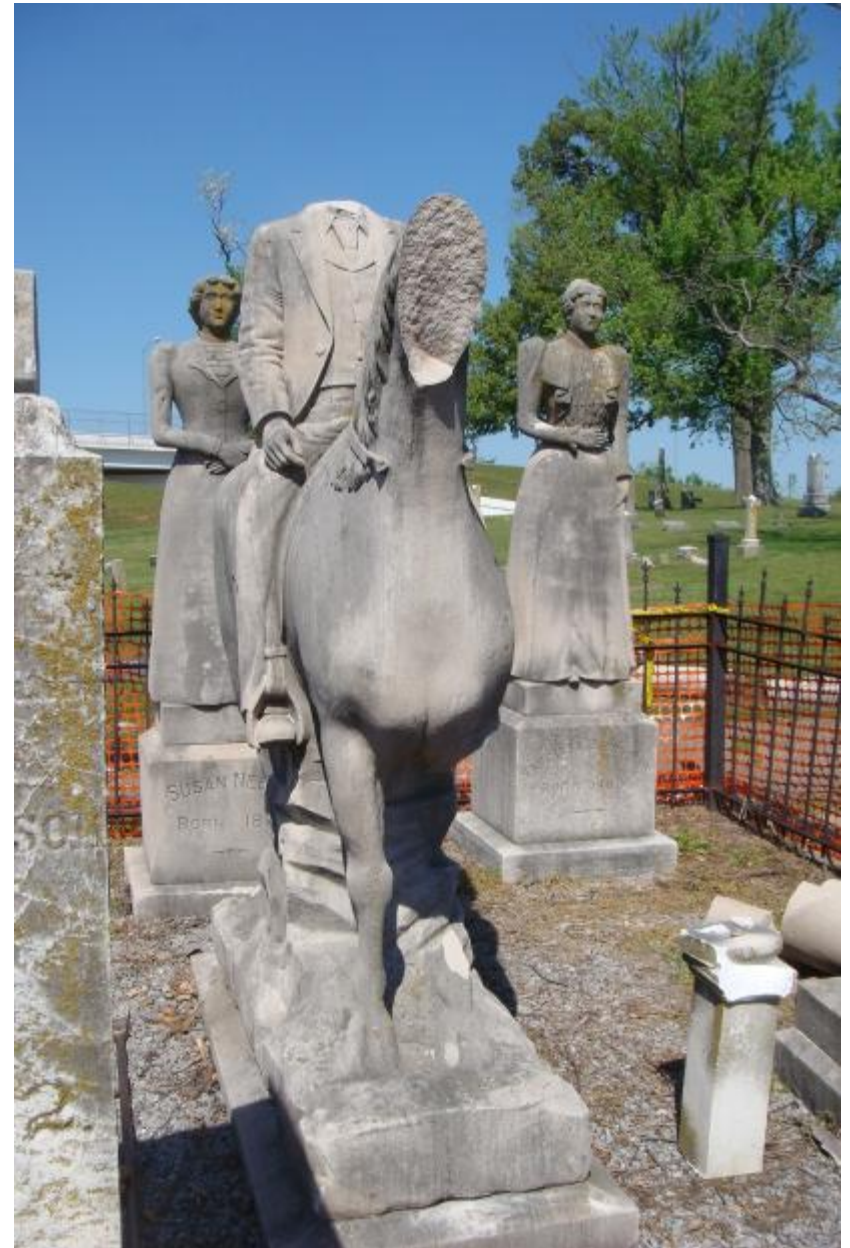


With the assistance of a crane and operator supplied by Greer Neon the pieces of the fallen and displaced tall monument were reset. It was decided that the position of this monument in the plot dictated that this monument had to be erected first. The setting surfaces were first treated with D/2 Biological Solution, dried and elements were reset with a 000 cementitious mortar.





The headless horse and rider was moved back into position with the help of the crane.





Preparing the setting surfaces and resetting Keziah Wooldridge with 000 mortar..



The headless horse and rider and Keziah reset. On the right is the carved marble element of the granite and marble obelisk which was reset with the help of the crane.



Base fragments of the deer and dog were attached with structural adhesive and clamped till cured. After curing, the dog and deer torsos were reset with structural adhesive. Excess adhesive removed with hand tools after partial cure.



The goal of this first trip was to have all the lower feet securely attached and fully cured so the upper torsos could be attached on the following visit.





On the far left, drilling for stainless steel threaded pins. All legs are secured with structural epoxy, pinned and clamped when necessary.



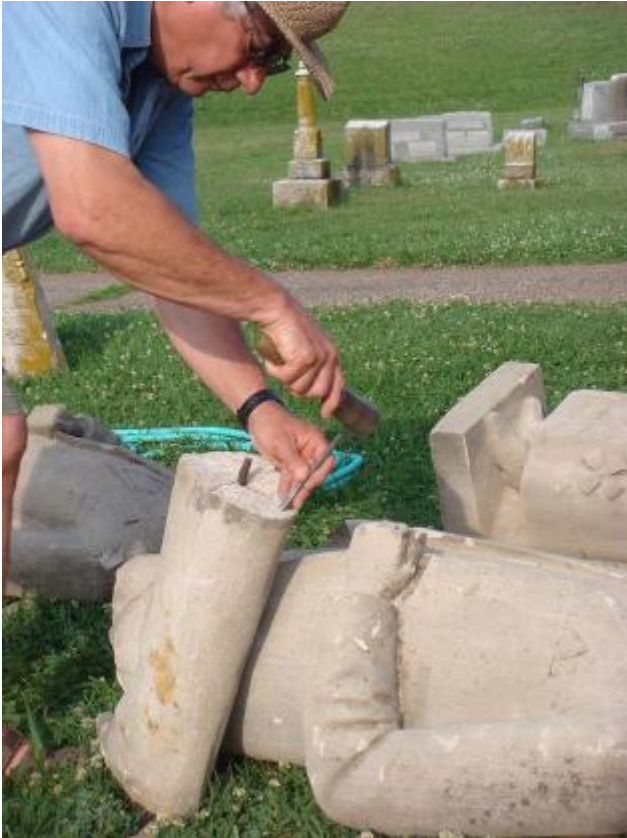
6/2/2010.
With the help the DPW the large torso fragments were brought to the site from storage at their facility





Two 3/8" diameter stainless steel threaded rods were set with epoxy into drilled holes in horses neck. Approximate depth is 4".





Some monuments had been previously restored because of vandalism. Any remaining cement and mortar had to be first removed before re-attaching the fragments.

The failed mortars were removed with hand tools



Hydraulic jacks were used to level the base of Josiah Woodridge before re-setting the torso.



Photo credit: Matt Schorr, Mayfield Messenger

The upper torsos were carefully rigged so that they were reset vertically onto the feet with minimal stress. All torsos were attached with structural adhesive. All of these fractures (and the heads) were along the horizontal bedding plane of the stone. Gravity held fragments in place while curing of the epoxy.



After a partial cure of the torsos, the heads were all carefully attached with structural adhesive. Because almost all the breaks were new, clean fractures, a thin layer of adhesive will ensure a successful attachment.





The adhesive that was applied in April was fully cured on all the lower fragmented legs and were ready to support the upper torsos.



All torsos and heads attached with structural adhesive.



All monuments were treated with D/2 Biological solution to remove biological growth and carefully rinsed with low pressure power washer, using a 30° fan nozzle and keeping a safe distance from the surface to prevent any surface etching.



Because of the vertical break, the re-attachment of the head was more complicated than the horizontal fractures. After curing of the adhesive of the stainless pins, the head was drilled to fit the pins and was attached with adhesive and held in place with clamps.

A hole had been drilled though the forehead of the horse into the cavities where the pins were set. A cementitious grout made fluid with a super plasticizer was then poured into the cavities to provide a secure attachment of the pins to the horses' head



General condition of monuments at the end
of our June visit



General condition of monuments at the end
of our June visit



General condition of monuments at the end
of our June visit

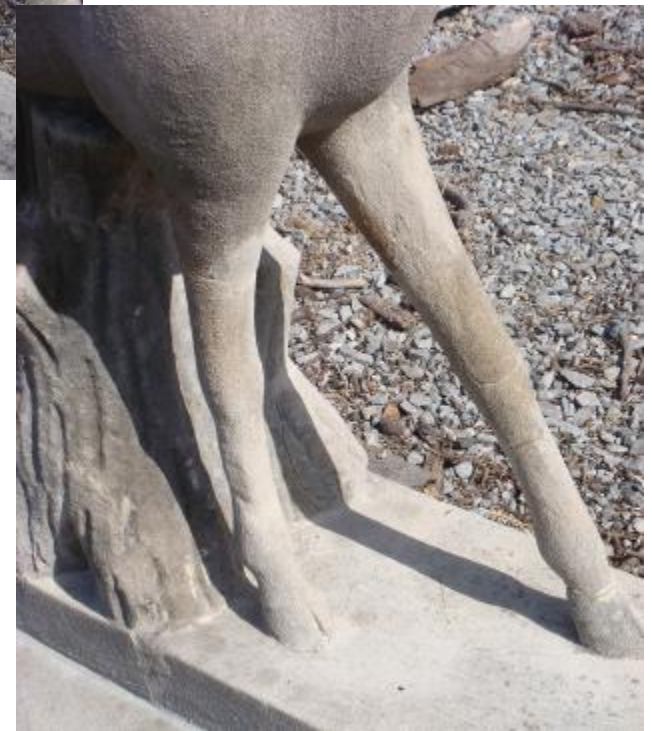


With some small exceptions all the fragments of the deer's feet were found and attached with structural adhesive.



July, 2010. All small cracks filled with 000 pigmented crack filler and larger losses filled with pigmented Jahn restoration mortar

On the left, before patching; below after.





The dog figure was missing parts of his feet. Threaded stainless rods were first epoxied in place to be used as armatures for Jahn mortar.



Losses were built up with Jahn restoration mortar pigmented to match the Limestone.



July, 2010. All small cracks to all monuments were filled with 000 pigmented crack filler and larger losses filled with pigmented Jahn restoration mortar.

Filled areas were misted with water and wrapped with plastic for 3 days.



July, 2010. All small cracks filled with 000 pigmented crack filler and larger losses filled with pigmented Jahn restoration mortar



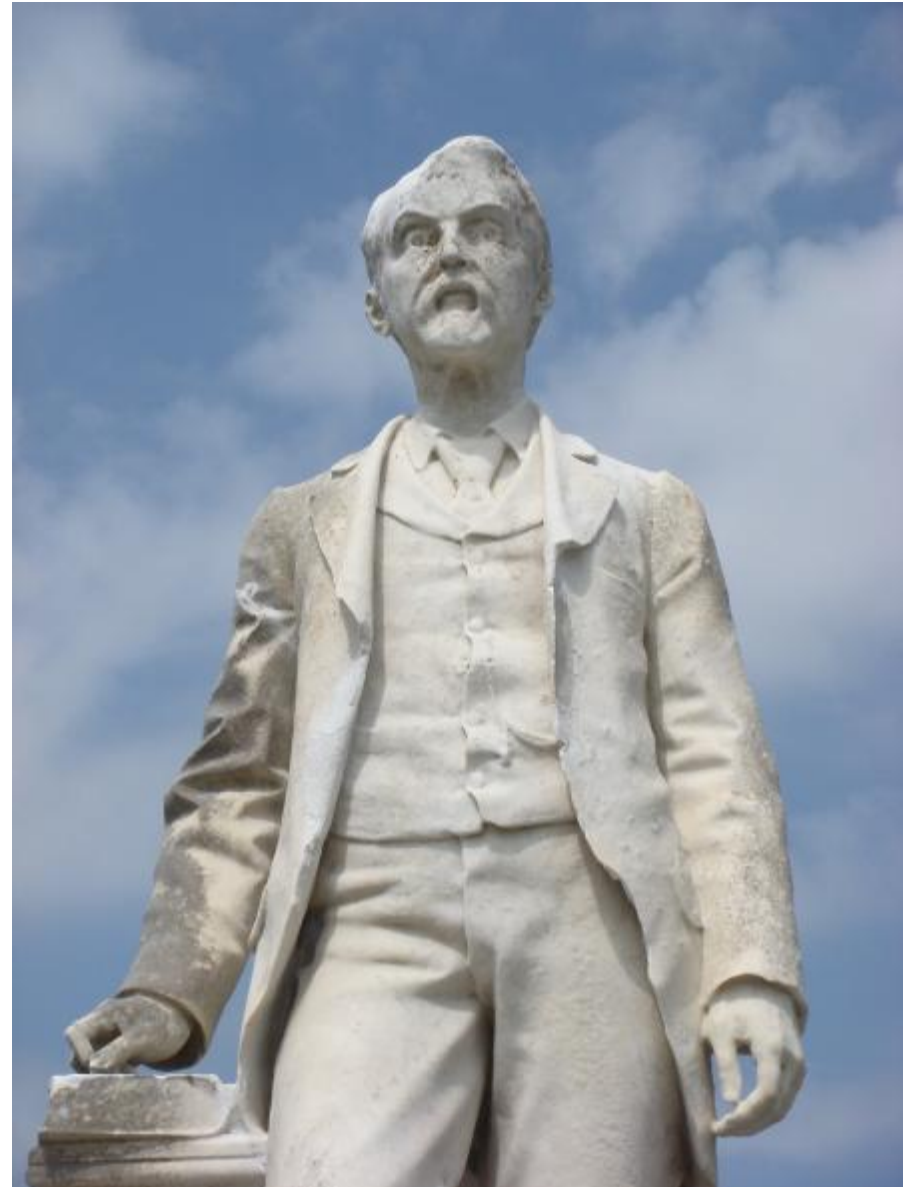
Surface areas adjacent to filled areas were treated with a mild acetic acid wash, fully rinsed with water to remove any remaining binder material.

A pigmented silicate chalk was used in areas where a darker surface color was required. This was followed by a spray application of Silin fixative.





Marble figure of Colonel
Wooldridge, before and after



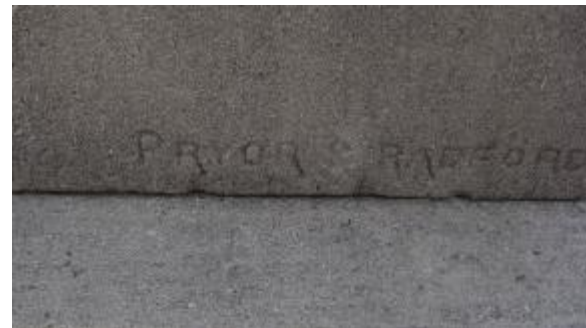


Carved inscription under Colonel's
right foot in stirrup
"Williamson & Co. Paducah, KY"

NOTES



Carved inscription at base of Minerva
Nichols "Pryor & Radford". detail be-
low.



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Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 25 1980

DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1980

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the Maplewood Cemetery of Mayfield, Kentucky are the Wooldridge Monuments, a group of eighteen stone sculptures that commemorate the life, interests, and closest relatives of Henry G. Wooldridge. The monuments were executed over a period of seven years, between 1892 when Wooldridge bought the cemetery lot, and 1899 when he died. Wooldridge is the only one whose remains are entombed in the crowded enclosure.

The Wooldridge Monuments are sited on a hillside that is immediately visible from the cemetery entrance. Like most of the other gravestones in Maplewood Cemetery, the Wooldridge figures are oriented toward the east, (Fig. 1). They are arranged in a family-sized plot that measures about thirty-three by seventeen feet, (Fig. 2).

Set in an approximate cross form at the center of the group are the four largest monuments, all memorializing Henry G. Wooldridge. The first of these is a marble obelisk that is embellished with the relief carving of a horse and a Masonic emblem. An inscription reads: "Faith Points to hope above the skies/Where Virtue Friendship never dies."

In front, or to the southeast of the obelisk is Wooldridge's vault. The only embellishment on the formidable limestone structure is the image of a rifle, executed in relief across the marble top, (Fig. 3).

A life-sized statue of Henry Wooldridge is situated to the southwest of the sarcophagus. Set on a six-foot base, this Italian marble sculpture is presumably an individualized portrait of Wooldridge: an elderly man with moustache and goatee, well dressed in the style of his day, (Fig. 4). In contrast to the vertical rigidity of the other statues is the relaxed pose and countenance of this figure. To the northwest of the marble statue is the largest of the limestone sculptures, a full-sized likeness of Wooldridge astride a horse, (Fig. 5). Dressed in riding clothes and with a broad-brimmed hat, this version of Henry Wooldridge has a startling, staring visage. There is no inscription on this monument other than the horse's name, "Fop."

Around this nucleus are fourteen other statues, all carved of local limestone. At the northeast corner of the plot is a row of three identical figures that represent three of the Wooldridge brothers, all standing about five feet tall above three-foot bases, (Fig. 6). Although they appear to be younger than Wooldridge himself, their moustached faces indicate no particular age. Each left hand grasps each cutaway coat edge in a formal stance. Arranged from east to west according to age, they are identified as: John H., W. F., and Alfred N. Wooldridge. Directly behind the three brothers is a monument carved in the likeness of a fox, (Fig. 7). Positioned as if in pursuit is the statue of a hound, (Fig. 8). Another hound, and the figure of a deer that it seems to chase are situated in the southeast corner of the lot, (Fig. 9). Although none of these animal statues is inscribed, a contemporary source identified the dogs as pets of Wooldridge named "Towhead" and "Bob." The wild animals, taken with the horse, dog, and gun images are traditionally presumed to represent Wooldridge's interest in horsemanship and hunting.

Wooldridge Monuments

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The representation of a fourth brother, Josiah Wooldridge is set to the west of the deer and hound. This statue is an exact mirror image of the monuments to the other three brothers, (Fig. 10). It is also set on a smaller, lower base, suggesting that it was executed as part of a separate commission.

The figure of Keziah Wooldridge, situated just behind the Josiah Wooldridge monument, has a serenity appropriate to the mother of this family, (Fig. 10). In contrast to the circa 1890s attire of the other statues, her V-lined bodice and full skirt are typical of the styles of the 1840s.

Behind Keziah Wooldridge are two small figures, both representing great-nieces of Henry Wooldridge, (Fig. 11). The first is identified simply as "Minnie," an adolescent wearing a sashed and beribboned ankle-length dress. "Maud" wears the calf-length skirt of a younger girl. She is looking at a scroll in her left hand that bears the initials "H.G.W."

Defining the rear of this assemblage are monuments to the three Wooldridge sisters, (Fig. 12). Of identical size and proportion with similar beneficent faces, these statues were obviously carved as a group. The most striking variance among them is in costume. All three are dressed in the 1890s style with fitted jackets, leg-o-mutton sleeves, and A-line skirts, (Fig. 13). Like the row of brothers, the Wooldridge sisters are arranged according to age, from north to south. They are identified by their married names: Narcissa Berryman, Susan Neely, and Minerva Nichols.

The original low cast and wrought iron fence surrounded the Wooldridge lot until the mid-twentieth century. During the 1950s, a more protective fence was erected by the Masonic Lodge in Mayfield. Recently, a chain link fence has been provided by the Lions Club of Mayfield.

In 1892, the last of Wooldridge's sisters died, leaving him with no immediate family. Possibly it was this event that prompted him to buy his lot at Maplewood Cemetery.⁵ According to a contemporary account, the marble obelisk was the first monument to be erected.⁶ In 1892, Wooldridge also ordered the tomb from Pryor and Radford Monument Works in Mayfield.⁷ At this early stage of his project, Wooldridge commissioned, through a Paducah monument firm, the Italian⁸ marble figure of himself.

There followed the commission of the local limestone statues. Wooldridge contacted Will Lydon, then a stonemason with the Paducah Marble Works. Lydon, who was interviewed about the monuments during the 1930s, claimed responsibility for twelve of them.⁹ Wooldridge ordered likenesses of his mother, Keziah Wooldridge, and his two great-neices, Minnie Neely and Maud Reeds.¹⁰ He wanted a full-sized statue of himself astride his horse Fop, for which the overwhelmed Lydon was obliged to find a model at a Paducah livery stable. Other live models served the stonemason for Wooldridge's dog, deer, and fox monuments. In the case of the Wooldridge brothers, Lydon was instructed to carve men of "ordinary appearance and all alike."¹¹

Similar instructions were probably made for the sculpting of the three Wooldridge sisters, all executed by Pryor and Radford. These figures are saved from duplication principally by distinction of detail among their costumes, implying that

published fashion designs were consulted by the sculptor.¹² The circa 1890 style of the sisters' attire is notably incongruous in the case of Susan Neely, who died about 1845.

⁶"Wooldridge Monuments: This Interesting Yard Full of Statues Was Begun, Developed, and Maintained by One Man Who Felt an Interest in the Subject," St. Louis Republic, November 7, 1897.

⁷Pryor and Radford had the only marble shop in Graves County. J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin, G. C. Kniffin, Histories and Biographies of Ballard, Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, McCracken, and Marshall Counties, Kentucky (Louisville: F. A. Battey Publishing Company, 1885), p. 58.

⁸W. L. Beasley of Beasley Monument Company in Paducah has corroborated the long-standing tradition that the marble statue of Wooldridge was executed in Italy. Interview, W. L. Beasley, August 24, 1979.

⁹Henry Ward, "Sculptor of Strange Statues at Mayfield is a Paducah Man," Kentucky Progress Magazine, 4 (March, 1932), pp. 21, 47-48.

¹⁰Minnie Neely was the granddaughter of Susan Wooldridge Neely. "Maud"

PRODUCTS/SUPPLIERS

D/2 Biological Solution

Jahn™ Restoration Mortar-Custom limestone

patch M-70 PLS-200

Silin

Cathedral Stone Products Inc.
7266 Park Circle Drive
Hanover, MD 21076 USA
800 684 0901 fax 800 684 0904

Adhesives

Aboweld 55-22

Abatron Inc
5501 95th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53144
414 653 2000 fax 414 653 2019

000 Grout/ crack filler

A cementitious grout: 3parts white cement, 2 parts high calcium lime, 6 parts 000 sand and 2 parts microballoons.
Crack filler is pigmented to match limestone