

IN MEMORIAM

The Latin and Greek Inscriptions of Kenyon College

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INTRODUCTION

Once you start looking for Latin and Greek inscriptions at Kenyon, you notice them everywhere: on the gates of Middle Path, snippets of Latin poetry composed more than two millennia ago that can be read as a College mission statement in verse; in Ascension Hall's Campbell Meeker Room, a pastiche of lines from Vergil's *Aeneid* that memorializes a father's grief for his young son; on a monument in the cemetery, three words in Greek from that ancient song of consolation, the twenty-third Psalm, that also allude to a novel from the second century of our era beloved by the professor who designed the headstone.

Written on wood, stone, and metal, these inscriptions aspire to permanency: they are texts from the past oriented toward the future. Many are found outdoors or in public spaces, and are asking to be read by the many who pass them, the myriad students, alumni, faculty, staff, and visitors who have walked, do walk, and will walk by them. But Latin and Greek are no longer shared languages of the learned, as they once were, so these inscriptions are now mute. Part of a project commemorating Kenyon's bicentennial, this catalog permits these inscriptions to speak again, to tell us what they have to say about the College's two-hundred-year history.

That project, *In Memoriam*: The Latin and Greek Inscriptions of Kenyon College, was started in Spring 2024 by Adam Serfass, Professor of Classics, and two student collaborators, Ellis Copley and Chiara Nevard, both Classics majors from the Class of 2025. In the first phase of the project, we scrutinized the

inscriptions we already knew about and hunted for new ones; this hunt more than doubled the number of texts in the corpus. We transcribed and photographed the inscriptions, and compiled the results in a database, the Catalog of Latin Inscriptions of Kenyon College or, to use its Latin title, *Corpus Latinarum Inscriptionum Collegii Kenyonensis*—CLICK, for short. (The catalog also includes a Greek inscription, but adding the word *Graecarum* would have ruined the acronym.) Through interviews and spelunking in the College archives, we next researched the texts: when they were created, who commissioned them, the classical sources they quote or reference, the messages they seek to convey, and their historical significance. Finally, we created this booklet, as an aid for those who join us on our walking tours, when we'll share the results of our inquiry.

This catalog opens with inscriptions found on the bronze tablets affixed to the pillars flanking Middle Path that were once part of the College gates. The tablet on the east pillar, honoring David Bates Douglass, Kenyon's third president, concludes with a brief quotation from the *Eclogues* of the Roman poet Vergil (70 – 19 BC) that alludes to fundamental facets of the College's identity: its bucolic setting, Middle Path, Anglicanism, poetry, and singing (CLICK 1). On the west pillar is remembered George Wharton Marriott, a friend and supporter of Philander Chase; Marriott himself suggested the quotation from the *Epistles* of Horace (65 – 8 BC) appearing on the tablet that concisely captures the College's raison d'être (2).

Houses of worship have long served as centers of commemoration, and in the nave of the College chapel, the Church of the Holy Spirit, are mounted two plaques that honor the sons of Kenyon who died in the first and second World Wars (3, 4); the latter bears a famous but not uncontroversial quotation from Horace's *Odes*.

Found in many locations on campus, Kenyon's shield and seal both bear Latin texts (5, 6), as do the arms of Philander Chase represented on a wooden carving on the second floor of Ransom Hall and in the celebrated stained glass of the Philander Chase Memorial Tower in Peirce Hall (7).

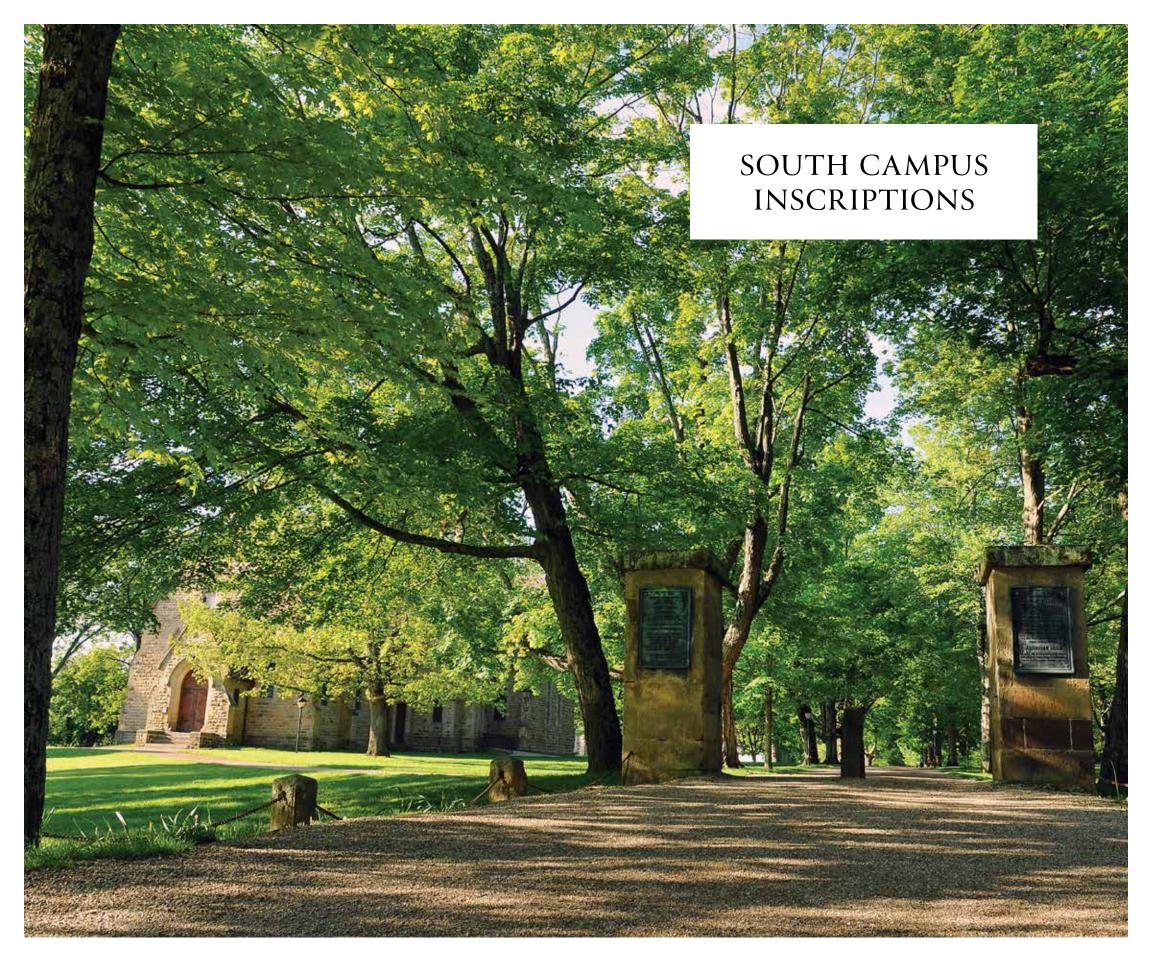
Several inscriptions commemorate special members of the College family. Above the fireplace in Ascension Hall's Campbell Meeker room is a cento of verses from the sixth book of Vergil's *Aeneid* that laments the premature death of a young Roman of extraordinary promise, which Claude Meeker, a Kenyon trustee and benefactor, had inscribed to honor his son J. E. Campbell Meeker

'17, who died suddenly of a heart attack brought on by an illness he suffered in World War I (8).

Next in the catalog appear three memorials from the College cemetery, those of Charles Monroe Coffin, former chairman of the Department of English and secretary of the faculty praised in the *Collegian* as "a great man, a man whose many talents were dedicated to the furtherance of scholarship and right conduct" (9); William Peters Reeves, affectionately called "Pete" by his students, a professor of English for thirty-five years and an active participant in the College's theatrical and athletic life until his retirement (10); and William McCulloh, a professor emeritus of the Department of Classics now in his nineties, and his wife Patricia (Nilson) McCulloh, a talented artist and teacher of art, who died in January 2024 (11).

Quoting Horace's advice to seize the day, an inscription shaded by a tree near the corner of Brooklyn and Chase Avenues remembers Caleb Gottinger, Class of 2007, a first-year student who died the day after his nineteenth birth-day in an accidental fall (12). The next four texts incorporate the Latin phrase "In Memoriam": the oldest inscription in the catalog, a headstone in the cemetery for Eliza C. Ferry, who died in 1866 (13); on the west handrail between the nave and apse of the chapel, a memorial to the Rev. George Philip Timberlake '47, veteran of World War II, outspoken opponent of the Vietnam War, and an Episcopal priest whose ministry lasted for sixty years (14); a plaque in the lobby of Rosse Hall dedicated to Margaret E. Leslie, Class of 1975, by her parents (15); and a tablet inside the central north entrance of Old Kenyon, recording the names of the nine men who perished in the fire that ravaged the building on February 27, 1949 (16).

The catalog concludes with three lost, missing, or inaccessible inscriptions. The first is a witty graffito, now visible only in photographs, penned by a member of the Class of 1975 on a purple beam incorporated into the superstructure of Chalmers Library (17). Next comes a charming four-line inscription engraved on the bell housed in the steeple of Old Kenyon; this bell, save for its clapper, was lost in the 1949 fire, but the inscription is recorded in a 1902 *Collegian* article (18). The final inscription in our collection is a plaque bearing an aphorism attributed to Rutherford B. Hayes, with a typo that offers an object lesson in the importance of proofreading (19). Once mounted inside the east entrance of Old Kenyon, the plaque is now missing; it is known from a photograph taken by an alumna in 2014 and was seen in situ by an alumnus in the academic year 2020-21. As this catalog goes to press, the investigation into its whereabouts is ongoing.



CLICK 1.

DOUGLASS MEMORIAL

College Gates, east pillar, north side

WHOEVER PASSES THROUGH
THIS GATEWAY
SHOULD REMEMBER

DAVID BATES DOUGLASS

A GALLANT SOLDIER AND OFFICER IN THE WAR OF 1812

A CIVIL ENGINEER OF DISTINCTION

A TEACHER OF WIDE EXPERIENCE

WHO IN THE YEARS 1841-1844
WHILE PRESIDENT OF KENYON
COLLEGE LAID OUT AND
BEAUTIFIED ITS GROUNDS
MADE THE PATH THROUGH THEM
AND ERECTED THESE PILLARS

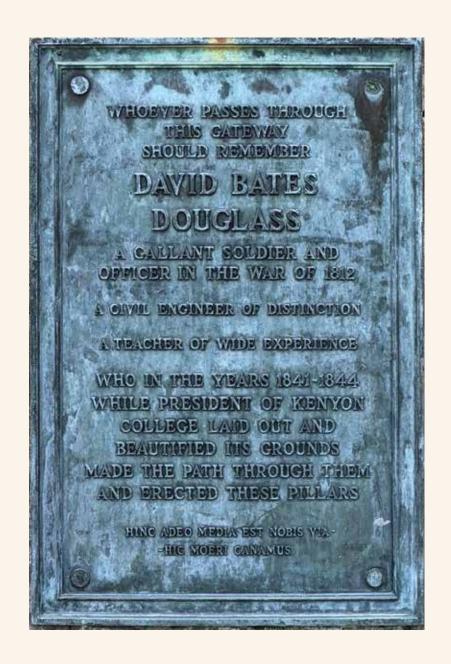
HINC ADEO MEDIA EST NOBIS VIA--HIC MOERI CANAMUS

We have just half our way before us ...
... here, Moeris, let us sing

Date: June 16, 1924

Latin Source: Vergil Ecloques 9.59, 61

Inscription composed by George Franklin Smythe



CLICK 2.

MARRIOTT MEMORIAL

College Gates, west pillar, north side

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF

GEORGE WHARTON MARRIOTT

OF LONDON
ONE OF THE EARLIEST AND
MOST DEVOTED OF THE ENGLISH
FRIENDS OF KENYON COLLEGE

THROUGH HIM BISHOP CHASE KNEW LORD KENYON DOCTOR GASKIN AND LADY ROSSE

IN HIS HONOR THESE GROUNDS
WERE NAMED IN 1826

MARRIOTT PARK

AND HE SUGGESTED FOR ITS
ENTRANCE GATE THE INSCRIPTION
INTER SYLVAS ACADEMI QUAERERE VERUM

To seek truth among the groves of the Academy

Date: June 16, 1924

Latin Source: Horace Epistles 2.2.45; quotation suggested by Marriott in the postscript of a letter to Chase dating to June 28, 1827.

Inscription composed by George Franklin Smythe



CLICK 3.

WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

Church of the Holy Spirit, nave, east wall

WORLD WAR 1914 – 1918 TO KENYON'S DEAD BY THEIR BROTHER ALUMNI REQUIESCANT IN PACE

WILLIAM WEBSTER SANT, '14, A. B. RHODES SCHOLAR, BRITISH Y. M. C. A. SERVICE AT EL ARISH, PALESTINE, JUNE 20, 1917

WALTER HENRY ENDLE, '17, PH. B. SERGEANT 329TH REGIMENT, 83RD DIVISION A. E. F. CAMP SHERMAN, OHIO, DECEMBER 8, 1917

ALBERT L. M. GOTTSCHALK, '96.

CONSUL GENERAL TO RIO DE JANEIRO, WAS A
PASSENGER ON THE ILL-FATED U. S. S. CYCLOPS REPORTED BY
THE NAVY DEPARTMENT AS MISSING SINCE MARCH 4. 1918.

WILLIAM JOHN BLAND, '10, PH. B., A. M. RHODES SCHOLAR, MAJOR 356TH INFANTRY A. E. F. KILLED IN ACTION NEAR ST. MIHIEL, FRANCE SEPTEMBER 12, 1918.

RICHARD C. MARSH, '15.

CORPORAL A. E. F. MEMBER OF A SMALL SQUAD FOR DANGEROUS WORK. KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE, OCTOBER 8, 1918.

ROLLO WILLIAM STEVENS, '18.

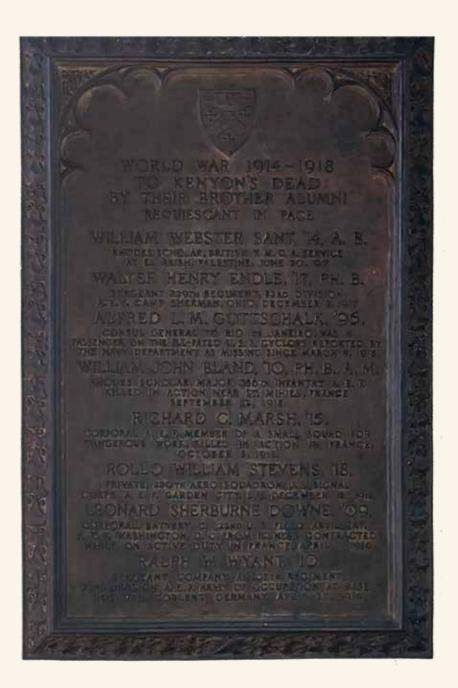
PRIVATE, 230th AERO SQUADRON. U. S. SIGNAL CORPS, A. E. F. GARDEN CITY, L. I. DECEMBER 18, 1918.

LEONARD SHERBURNE DOWNE, '09.

CORPORAL, BATTERY C. 122nd U. S. FIELD ARTILLERY,
A. E. F. WASHINGTON, D. C. FROM ILLNESS CONTRACTED
WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN FRANCE, APRIL 1, 1919.

RALPH W. WYANT, '10.

SERGEANT, COMPANY A. 108TH REGIMENT,
32ND DIVISION A. E. F. ARMY OF OCCUPATION AT BASE
HOSPITAL, COBLENZ, GERMANY, APRIL 28, 1919.



CLICK 4.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Church of the Holy Spirit, nave, east wall

DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI 1941 – 1945

ROBERT SONENFIELD '39
WILLIAM A. SKINNER, '41
WILLIAM R. WRIGHT, '42
ROBERT B. BROWN, JR., '40
CARL A. WEIANT, JR., '37
CHARLES H. HYDE, JR., '42
JAMES B. CLARK, '40
ROBERT G. AHO, '39
JAMES T. WATSON, '40
EDWARD P. POYNTER, '44
WILLIAM H. MORGAN, '37
JOHN O. WHITAKER, '40
LEROY A. LISTUG, JR., '41
JOHN I. ALBACH, '41

GENE W. BENSEMAN, '44
A. ALLEN McDONALD, '43
ALFRED DAY, JR., '18
JENKIN R. JONES, '36
ROBERT G. EASTON, '42
WALTER BROWN, JR., '43
E. JOHN COBBEY, '49
BROWN A. CRAIG, '42
ALAN B. STEWART, '45
JAMES F. TOY III, '45
JAMES J. SEARCY III, '46
ROMAN T. STELMORE, JR., '45
ALFRED S. HARRIS, JR., '40
CHALES W. WILDER, JR., '38

ROEMER McINTYRE, JR., '47
EDWIN B. EARLY, '44
JOHN W. ELLIOTT, '39
JOSEPH L. HALL, '48
HENRY R. KERR, '43
THOMAS H. SNYDER, '46
ROBERT N. HANNAFORD, '37
HARRY M. KELLAM, '12
ANDREW W. BLIVEN, '43
CHARLES A. MACDONALD III, '44
HAL I. GRACE, '43
HOWARD W. DAVIS, JR., '40
EDWIN V. WILLIAMS, '41

GIVEN BY MRS. HARRY WHITING BROWN IN MEMORY OF HER GRANDSON, LIEUT. ROBERT BOWEN BROWN, JR.

It is sweet and seemly to die for one's country

Latin Source: Horace Odes 3.2.13; see also Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est," 1920



CLICK 5.

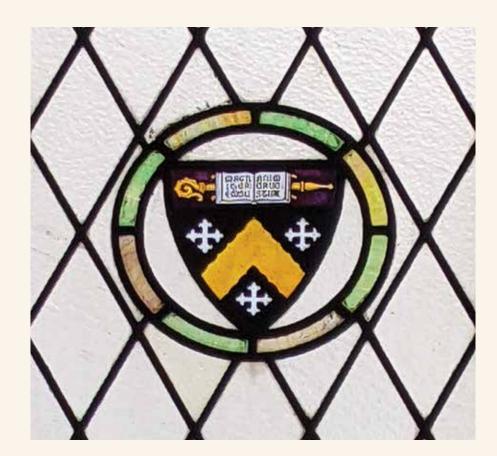
THE COLLEGE SHIELD

Ransom Hall, first floor, east wall, stained glass and elsewhere on campus

MAGN ANIM
ITER- CRUC
EM-SU STINE

Valiantly bear the cross

Latin Source: Motto of the Barons Kenyon; see also Hebrews 12.2 (Jesum...sustinuit crucem)





CLICK 6.

THE COLLEGE SEAL

Hanna Hall, east side, central entrance and elsewhere on campus

SIGILLUM COLLEGII KENYONENSIS · OHIO · RESP[UBLICA]

Seal of Kenyon College State of Ohio



CLICK 7.

PHILANDER CHASE'S ARMS

Ransom Hall, second floor, wood carving and Philander Chase Memorial Tower, Peirce Hall, stained glass

NE CEDE MALIS

Yield not to misfortunes

Latin Source: Vergil Aeneid 6.95



CLICK 8.

CAMPBELL MEEKER MEMORIAL

Campbell Meeker Room, Ascension Hall, south wall

IN MEMORIAM J·E·CAMPBELL·MEEKER

LITTERARUM BACCALAUREI MCMXVII

EGREGIUS FORMA IUVENIS. QUANTUM INSTAR IN IPSO!

SED NOX ATRA CAPUT TRISTI CIRCUMVOLAT UMBRA.

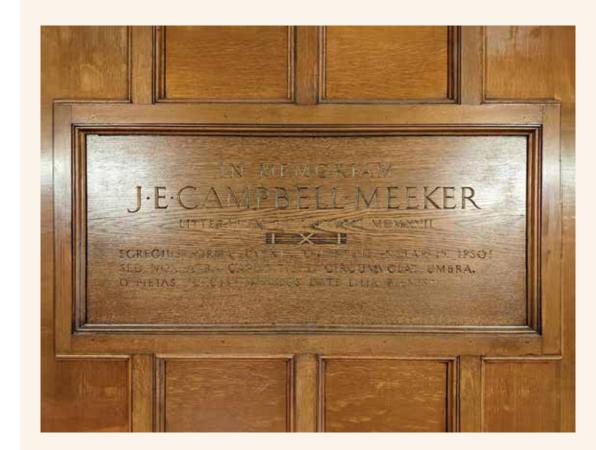
O PIETAS DULCIS! MANIBUS DATE LILIA PLENIS!

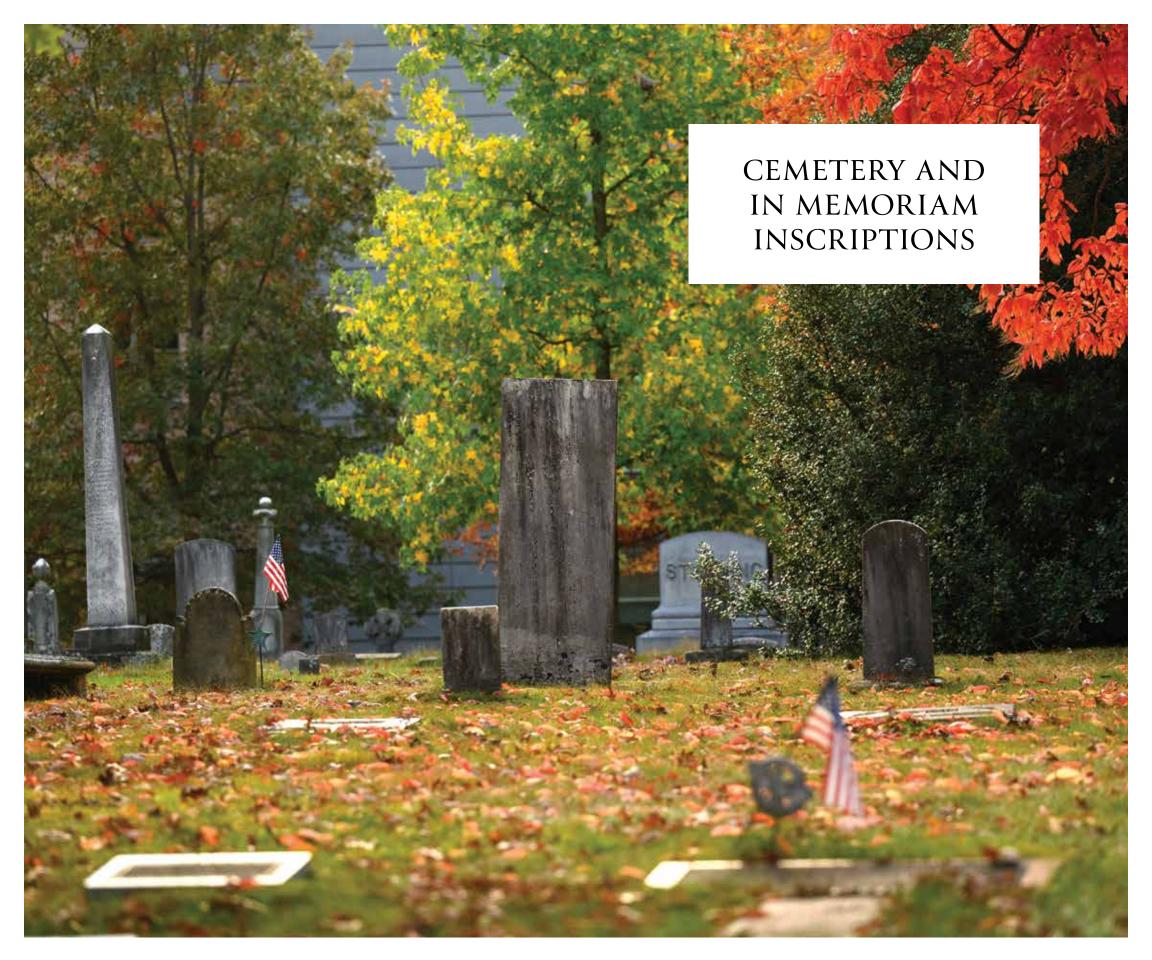
In memory of J.E. Campbell Meeker Bachelor of Arts, 1917

A young man distinguished in beauty. How much majesty in him! But now black night enshrouds his head in gloomy shadow. O sweet devotion! Give lilies with a generous hand!

Latin Source: Vergil Aeneid 6.861 (egregium forma iuvenem),
865 (quantum instar in ipso), 866 (sed nox atra caput tristi circumvolat umbra),
883 (manibus date lilia plenis).

Date: Late 1927/Early 1928.





CLICK 9.

COFFIN MEMORIAL

College cemetery, northeast

CHARLES MONROE COFFIN

1904 — 1956

Post tenebras speramus lumen de lumine

After darkness, we hope for brightest light

Latin Source: Coffin family motto; see also Job 17.12

(post tenebras spero lucem) and the

Nicene Creed (lumen de lumine)



CLICK 10.

REEVES MEMORIAL

College cemetery, center

WILLIAM PETERS REEVES

June 7 1865 – January 30 1945

Non nobis solum sed toti mundo nati

Not just for us but for the whole world born

Latin Source: Cicero De Officiis 1.22 (non nobis solum nati)

CLICK 11.

McCULLOH MEMORIAL

College cemetery, west

MC CULLOH

WILLIAM EZRA SEPTEMBER 8, 1931 EIΣ ΤΟΠΟΝ ΧΛΟΗΣ IN GREEN PASTURES

PATRICIA (NILSON) MAY 9, 1931

Greek Source: Psalm 22.2 (ΕΙΣ ΤΟΠΟΝ ΧΛΟΗΣ) = Psalm 23.2 KJV (IN GREEN PASTURES); allusion to Longus' Daphnis and Chloe $(\Delta A\Phi N I \Sigma KAI XΛΟΗ)$



CLICK 12.

GOTTINGER MEMORIAL

Corner of Brooklyn Avenue and Chase Avenue, under tree

"Carpe Diem"

In loving memory of CALEB GOTTINGER

February 16, 1988 – February 17, 2007

Immersed in the tenderness that we remember, the heart can see you swimming, catching light.

Seize the day

Latin Source: Horace Odes 1.11.8

CLICK 13.

FERRY MEMORIAL

College cemetery, center

IN MEMORIAM ELIZA C. FERRY.

Dau. of Rev. Joseph & Mrs. R.
MUENSCHER
Died at Mt. Vernon, O.
March 28, 1866.
Aged thirty five years.

Unveil thy bosom faithful tomb
Take this new treasure to thy trust
And give these sacred relics room
To seek a slumber in the dust

Source for italicized text, now largely illegible: Isaac Watts, "Ode v. A Funeral Ode at the Interment of the Body, Supposed to Be Sung by Mourners," *Reliquiae Juveniles, &c* (1734).



CLICK 14.

TIMBERLAKE MEMORIAL

Church of the Holy Spirit, west handrail between nave and apse

In Memoriam

"Christ's faithful soldier & servant." The Rev. George Philip Timberlake 1923-2013 B.A. History Kenyon College 1947 M. Div. Bexley Hall 1950 Asst. Chaplain Kenyon College 1947-1950



CLICK 15.

LESLIE MEMORIAL

Rosse Hall, lobby, east wall

IN MEMORIAM
MARGARET E. LESLIE
CLASS OF 1975
SEPTEMBER 25, 1974
FROM HER PARENTS

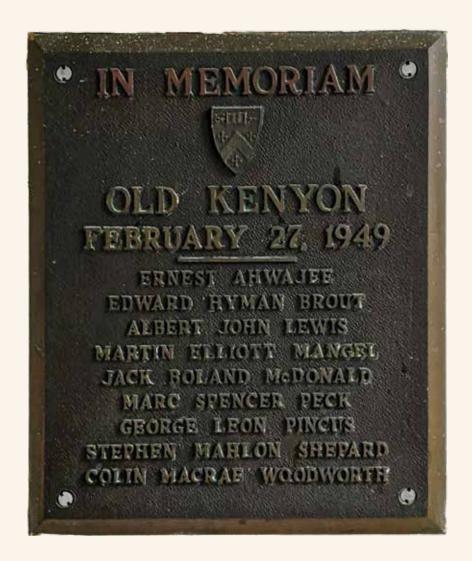
CLICK 16.

MEMORIAL FOR THOSE WHO DIED IN THE OLD KENYON FIRE

Old Kenyon, inside north central entrance

IN MEMORIAM OLD KENYON FEBRUARY 27, 1949

ERNEST AHWAJEE
EDWARD HYMAN BROUT
ALBERT JOHN LEWIS
MARTIN ELLIOTT MANGEL
JACK ROLAND McDONALD
MARC SPENCER PECK
GEORGE LEON PINCUS
STEPHEN MAHLON SHEPARD
COLIN MACRAE WOODWORTH





CLICK 17.

GUND GRAFFITO

Chalmers Library, purple beam in superstructure of building

sic transit Gloria Gundi ACS Class of 1975

thus passes the Glory of Gund

Latin Source: sic transit gloria mundi ("thus passes the glory of the world"), a phrase thrice said during the coronation of a pope to impress upon him the fleeting nature of secular pomp.





CLICK 18.

OLD KENYON BELL

Old Kenyon, steeple

THE OLD BELL,
CAST IN 1836.

PROCURED BY THE EFFORTS OF
ALFRED BLAKE, OF
THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS,
TO WHOSE MEMORY THIS BELL, NOW RECAST,
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY THE
ALUMNI OF KENYON COLLEGE,
A. D., 1901.

RESURGENS CANTO
VIBRANS GAUDEO
AD STUDIUM, AD STADIUM
AEQUALITER VOCO

Rising again, I sing; In ringing, I rejoice. To study, to stadium equally I call.

Date: Dedicated Thanksgiving (November 28), 1901 and destroyed by fire February 27, 1949.

CLICK 19.

REPLICA OF HAYES PLAQUE

Old Kenyon, inside east entrance

RUTHERFORD: B: HAYES

NINTEENTH · PRESIDENT · OF · THE · UNITED · STATES OCCUPIED · THIS · ROOM · FOR · THE · TWO · CONCLUDING YEARS · OF · HIS · COURSE · AT · KENYON · COLLEGE

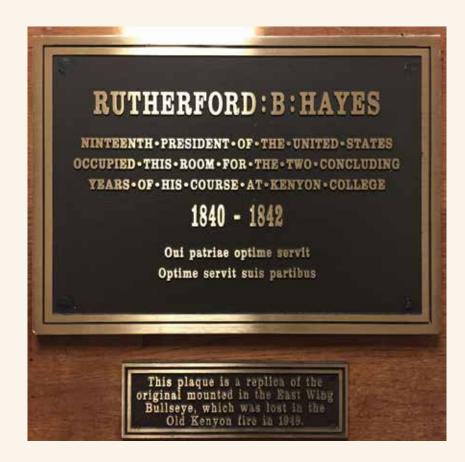
1840 - 1842

Oui patriae optime servit Optime servit suis partibus

This plaque is a replica of the original mounted in the East Wing Bullseye, which was lost in the Old Kenyon fire in 1949.

He who serves his country best Best serves his party

In the first line of Latin, read Qui for Oui.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WE ARE GRATEFUL to Molly Vogel '00 and the other members of the Bicentennial Committee for their enthusiasm for our project and generous financial support. Tom Stamp '73 has been a font of knowledge about all things Kenyon. Adam Gilson designed this booklet. So many others have helped us in so many ways: Bradley Berklich '22; Brian Janssen; Kenyon's custodians and safety officers, especially JP Downes; Dan Laskin; Molly McLaughlin '23; Meg Merlino '19; Eve Kausch; Abigail Serfass; Ian Smith; Anna Wollenberg; and Elizabeth Williams-Clymer.

