WINTER ’10: WELCOME
NOTES FROM THE GEM

As winter sets in, Green-Wood is alive with activity. From our historic preservation work to our ongoing trolley tours, and from our successful partnerships with local public schools to the continued expansion of our archive collection, the year 2009 has been one to be proud of.

One of our most significant accomplishments has been the completion of a major $750,000 face-lift to our iconic Gothic Arch. As with many of our sculptural and other historic treasures, time and the elements exacted a harsh toll on the structure causing problems that, if ignored, would have threatened its structural integrity. The 106-foot-tall Arch has now been conserved and stabilized, with much of its original glory restored as envisioned by its designers Richard Upjohn, architect of Trinity Church, and his son, Richard M. Upjohn.

Tremendous progress has also been made on our “Saved in Time: The Gottschalk Project.” Five accomplished figurative sculptors have been chosen to compete for the right to recreate the Angel of Music that once graced the monument of Louis Moreau Gottschalk, world-renowned 19th-century American pianist and composer. The finalists have already submitted exquisite small-scale models of their designs. I am also very proud that five prominent Americans have agreed to sit on a panel that will choose the winning sculpture. The panel is expected to render its verdict in January 2010. I urge you to visit our website (http://www.green-wood.com/angelofmusic) where you can see additional beautiful photographs of their miniature sculptures shown on the next page.

Preserving history for future generations does not come without a price tag. We estimate that the total cost for The Gottschalk Project will exceed $150,000. While I am very pleased with the artistic aspects of this effort, we have a long way to go meet our fund-raising goals. By making a tax-deductible donation, you will contribute not only to this wonderful project, but to all our efforts to keep Green-Wood thriving as an important center of art and history.

Here are some quick updates on a few other exciting Green-Wood projects:

The Historic Fund’s art collection continues to grow in scope and importance. We now own more than 100 original pieces of art work by artists interred here. Among our newest acquisitions are works by residents Thomas Hicks and Thomas Doughty, as well as a second work by Samuel S. Carr, a painting of Green-Wood resident Louise Griswold.

Our educational programs are thriving as well. I am particularly proud of our new partnership with the Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design. These talented students, along with children from PS 230, are enjoying Green-Wood as a center of learning through unique academic assignments in photography, architecture, science and mathematics.

As Jeff Richman’s syllabus of tours continues to grow in scope and popularity, we are thrilled to welcome Ruth Edbohls to our cadre of regular tour guides. Her tours are in great demand. And Marge Raymond’s Wednesday tour continues to attract new fans no matter how bad the weather. Don’t miss them. You’ll be in for a treat.

In closing, I wish you all the best in 2010. And please help keep all of our important programs thriving by giving generously to The Green-Wood Historic Fund. Every tax-deductible dollar helps.

Richard J. Moylan, President

<< One of a pair of lions that guards the hillside mausoleum of William Niblo, proprietor of fashionable 19th-century Manhattan theater Niblo’s Garden. The mausoleum is located at Lot 6618, Section 26. [Photo: Aaron Brashear.]>> who routinely tours the grounds of Green-Wood in the Global Electric Motorcar.
"ANGEL OF MUSIC" FINALISTS

Five of the nation’s most accomplished figurative sculptors have submitted maquettes (small-scale models) of proposed designs for a new "Angel of Music" to grace the gravesite of legendary 19th-century American composer and pianist Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829–1869). The original angel sculpture disappeared under unknown circumstances more than 50 years ago. Re-creation of the angel is the final phase of restoration of the Gottschalk monument.

In collaboration with the National Sculpture Society, The Green-Wood Historic Fund, through its Saved In Time: The Gottschalk Project initiative, solicited proposals from sculptors in early 2009. In July, five finalists were chosen to submit maquettes of their designs: Myra C. Weisgold of University Park, Florida (B); Kirsten Kokkin of Loveland, Colorado (C); Tuck Langland of Granger, Indiana (D); and the team of Jill Burkee and Giancarlo Biagi of New York City (A).

Five prominent Americans from the fields of art, academia, music and film have been named to a special selection committee that will choose the new “Angel of Music.” They are: Arnold Lehman, director of the Brooklyn Museum; Danny Simmons, abstract-expressionist painter and newly appointed interim chair of the New York State Council of the Arts; S. Frederick Starr, chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, research professor, Johns Hopkins University, noted jazz musician and Gottschalk biographer; Thayer Tolles, curator, Department of American Paintings and Sculpture at The Metropolitan Museum; and John Turturro, Brooklyn-born actor, writer and director renowned for his performances in films including *Barton Fink*, *Quiz Show*, *The Big Lebowski* and *O Brother Where Art Thou?*. The panel of judges will select the finalist in early 2010.

A New Orleans native, Gottschalk was recognized as a child prodigy and sent to Paris to study piano and composition. He began his professional concert career in 1849 and by the 1860s had established himself as the foremost pianist in America and an international sensation. His most famous works include *A Night in the Tropics*, *Bamboula* and *Le bananier*. Louis Moreau Gottschalk is interred close to Green-Wood’s entrance in Lot 19581, Section M.

Special Selection Committee members Danny Simmons and Arnold Lehman review the four maquettes at Green-Wood.
Green-Wood’s Manager of Preservation and Restoration Frank Morelli, and his team members Bogdan Kubiszewski and Felix Hernandez, chose to restore selected stone and bronze pieces over the course of 2009 as a challenge to Green-Wood’s restoration department.

Recasting, filling and repairs were made to the heavily damaged Webb family monument during the winter and spring of 2009.

Restoration intern Stacey Locke shows off the restored monument.

The dramatic “before and after” work done to the Art Deco bronze door of the Rosecrans family mausoleum, completed in the fall of 2009.
Green-Wood President Richard J. Moylan picked out a few bronze mausoleum doors and plaques throughout the Cemetery for the department to work on. After a little homework and research, Morelli and the department found basic patinas for the weathered metal, then tackled the new type of project. Here are photos of some of the stunning results.

[above and below] Cleaning, restoration and waxing of the Montesi family monument. With regular maintenance, the bronze should keep its restored patina for years to come.

An example of a restoration in progress on the unique bronze doors of the Sager family mausoleum, fall 2009.

The Preservation and Restoration Department’s studio, located in Green-Wood’s maintenance facilities at the 34th Street entrance.
UNDER THE VEILED GREEN-WOOD ARCH

Green-Wood’s landmark Gothic Arch was under wraps for the better part of 2009 while it got a much-needed face-lift. The year-long restoration, performed by Integrated Conservation Contracting, Inc. of Manhattan, was reviewed and approved by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and included removal of damaged stone surfaces and failed patches, retouching and patching; application of mortar on missing or failed joints; filling stone cracks; reproduction of select elements with cast material; the addition of several Dutchmen; and overall surface cleaning. These photos highlight some details of the conservation work, completed in time to ring in the New Year.

A. Northeast side of center tower looking south
C. West elevation tracery at the bell level
Failed cementitious patching removed; delaminated brownstone surfaces tooled; failed and open joints re-pointed; surface cleaned.

B. Southwest gable looking west
Finial disassembled, deteriorated steel pin connecting the finial to the gable replaced with a stainless steel pin. The finial base was in a critical condition with failed cementitious patches making re-installation of the finial impossible. As a solution, a 12” high section of the base was reproduced with cast material. A

\[\text{The restored Gothic Arch, unveiled in December 2009.} \]
\[\text{[Photos courtesy of Integrated Conservation Contracting, Inc.]} \]
THE ARTISTS PROJECT

For The Green-Wood Historic Fund’s second annual benefit held September 17, 2009, an exhibition, “The Artists Project of The Green-Wood Historic Fund,” was mounted in our Historic Chapel. Curated by Cemetery historian Jeffrey I. Richman and Green-Wood President Richard J. Moylan, it featured paintings by artists who are interred at Green-Wood and sculpture by artists whose work enriches the Cemetery grounds. Here’s the introductory panel to the exhibition:

Green-Wood Cemetery, since its founding in 1838, has attracted many artists. They have come as permanent residents, appreciative of its picturesque and artistic grounds, to be interred in its earth. And they have come to create sculpture that has been placed across its grounds.

For the last decade, we have been collecting on behalf of our Historic Fund items pertaining to the cemetery and those who have chosen it as their final resting place: photographic portraits, a soda fountain, post cards, books, Coney Island menus and rides, and much more. These items have supplemented items already in our archives.

Five years ago, Richard J. Moylan, Green-Wood’s president, began collecting for our Historic Fund art created by painters who are interred here and by sculptors whose works decorate the cemetery. Since then, research by our Artists Project has revealed some 275 artists who lie in Green-Wood’s earth, ranging from Asher B. Durand (1796–1886), leader of the Hudson River School (America’s first group of painters), to Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960–1988), an Andy Warhol protege.

We display here just a few items from what has grown into a substantial and unique collection, one which helps us to tell the story of Green-Wood Cemetery and its people. We hope soon to devote a space to permanent displays from our ever-growing, and endlessly fascinating, Historic Fund collections.

*Portraits by Samuel Finley Breese Morse. Best remembered today as the inventor of the single-wire telegraph, Morse was also a pioneering photographer and perhaps the leading painter of the 1820s in America.*

* [left to right]: A painting by Daniel Huntington, one of America’s leading 19th-century portraitists. / Sculpture by Dan Ostermiller, Karl Muller and Charles Calverley is found on Green-Wood’s hills. / George Catlin’s portrait of revered New York politician DeWitt Clinton.*
SECOND ANNUAL HISTORIC FUND BENEFIT

On a lovely Thursday evening last September, The Green-Wood Historic Fund held its second annual benefit. The event was a tremendous success, with more than twice as many attendees and twice as much raised for Historic Fund projects as last year’s first benefit.

The evening began with a trolley tour of the cemetery, led by Green-Wood Cemetery historian Jeff Richman. A wine, beer and hors d’oeuvres reception followed, with an exhibition in the Historic Chapel, “The Artists of Green-Wood.” It showcased select pieces from the remarkable collection that Green-Wood President Richard J. Moylan has compiled over the past years of paintings and sculpture by artists who are interred at Green-Wood. A performance of the “Angels and Accordions” finale, under the direction of Martha Bowers of Dance Theatre Etc., followed outdoors.

It was then off to the event tent that had been set up in the Meadow for dinner. An exhibit there showcased The Gottschalk Project, an initiative of The Historic Fund’s Saved In Time program with the goal of restoring the cemetery lot of pianist Louis Moreau Gottschalk, America’s first matinee idol and first international composer. The Historic Fund has thus far restored the base of Gottschalk’s monument, installed a cast iron fence and granite stairs and planted a topiary bushes. The final stage of The Gottschalk Project is the selection this winter of the sculptor who will re-create the “Angel of Music” that once topped the marble pedestal; maquettes from two sculptors were on display.

For more information on “The Artists of Green-Wood” highlighted at the 2009 benefit, please see the article “The Artists Project” on page 5.
After dinner, Nancy and Otis Pearsall were honored for their lifelong advocacy for the preservation of the unique architectural and cultural character of New York City and presented with the Historic Fund’s DeWitt Clinton Award for Excellence in Arts, Literature, Preservation and Historic Research.

Green-Wood President Richard J. Maylan presents Otis and Nancy Pearsall with The Historic Fund’s DeWitt Clinton Award.

New York State Assemblymember Joan Millman presents the Pearsalls with a Proclamation from the Assembly.

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz gives a Proclamation to the Pearsalls.

A sunset performance of “Angels and Accordions.”

A full house inside the dining tent.
An amazing cast of characters was given a unique and exciting voice last May, in “Green-Wood Awakening,” an event produced by The Green-Wood Historic Fund in cooperation with The Puppeteer’s Cooperative. Twenty-five-foot-high puppets helped tell the stories of the Battle of Brooklyn, ASPCA founder Henry Bergh and DeWitt Clinton, New York governor and visionary behind the building of the Erie Canal. The four performances attracted over 1,000 people to Green-Wood. Many parents brought their children to both marvel at the spectacle and to learn about New York and American history.

Buoyed by the success of making history entertaining, The Historic Fund has once again collaborated with The Puppeteer’s Cooperative, as well as The Czech-American Marionette Theatre and Cosmic Bicycle Theatre, to present “Coney Island—Now, Then & Forever,” three weekends of shows this January at Green-Wood’s Historic Chapel to celebrate the wild genius, ingenuity and history of Coney Island.

Instead of giant-sized, however, the puppets are miniature, employed in a 19th-century form of home entertainment known as Victorian toy theater, which was popular at the same period Coney Island became renowned as the premiere entertainment park in the world.

Combining music, Victorian Mermaids, hand-carved marionettes and storytelling, “Coney Island—Now, Then & Forever” brings life and depth to many of Coney’s legendary showmen (and Green-Wood permanent residents) including Charles Feltman, inventor of the hot dog; George Tilyou, Steeplechase Park founder; and Mile-a-Minute Murphy, 19th-century bicyclist who raced a locomotive—and won!

On display is a special exhibition of Coney Island memorabilia from The Green-Wood Historic Fund archives and the newly re-discovered Dreamland Bell, which welcomed visitors to Dreamland Park 100 years ago.
ANGELS (AND CROWDS) RETURN TO GREEN-WOOD

Green-Wood hosted the sixth annual performance of “Angels & Accordions” in October. Since 2004, Martha Bowers, director of Dance Theatre Etc., has choreographed a dance and music site-specific event across Green-Wood’s hills as part of openhousenewyork (a free annual event throughout New York City). It’s truly a unique event and a chance to enjoy the Cemetery in a very different way. But words don’t do this performance justice. Hopefully, these photographs give you a better idea of how special this event is.

 Scenes from the 2009 performance of “Angels and Accordions.”
THE GREEN-WOOD HISTORIC FUND WINTER & SPRING 2010 EVENTS

GENERAL INFO
Tickets to all events may be reserved online at green-wood.com/toursevents or by calling 718.768.7300.

Green-Wood’s main entrance is located at 500 25th Street (on 5th Avenue) in Brooklyn. Via subway, take the R to the 25th Street station. Free parking available.

Walking tours last appr. 2 1/2 hours; trolley tours last appr. 1 1/2 – 2 hours. Walking tours will be canceled if there is inclement weather; trolley tours proceed rain or shine. Please call 718.768.7300 or check our website green-wood.com/toursevents for schedule updates.

To arrange organizational or group tours, or for more info call 718.768.7300.

All events are subject to change. Please check our website green-wood.com/toursevents for schedule updates.

RECURRING EVENTS

WEEKLY
Guided Trolley Tours: Wednesday
Wednesdays, 1:00 P.M.

MONTHLY
Guided Trolley Tours: Last Sunday
Last Sunday of Each Month, 1:00 P.M.
Tours last approximately two hours and feature the beauty of Green-Wood’s grounds, the Cemetery’s history, its bird life, fascinating tales of its permanent residents, views of Manhattan’s skyline, The Green-Wood Historic Fund’s Civil War Project and its preservation program, and more. Tours are led by Marge Raymond.

Tickets: $15. Reservations are recommended. Space is limited. Reserve tickets online at green-wood.com/toursevents or call 718.768.7300. Tours meet just past Green-Wood’s Gothic Arch at the trolley.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MARCH
7 – Sunday, 1:00 P.M.
D.M. Bennett: The Truth Seeker Video Screening & Book Signing / Trolley Tour
The Historic Chapel at Green-Wood
Join Roderick Bradford, author of D.M. Bennett: The Truth Seeker (2006) and a video of the same title, for a premiere showing of his one-hour tribute to remarkable historical figure DeRobigne Mortimer Bennett. A leading freethinker of 19th-century America, Bennett steadfastly took on the forces of narrow-mindedness. In his weekly Truth Seeker, Bennett boldly advocated birth control and women’s rights while opposing dogmatic religion. Ultimately, Bennett went to prison rather than remain silent.

Afterwards, join Green-Wood Cemetery historian Jeff Richman for a trolley tour featuring Bennett’s elaborate monument detailing his credo, paid for by his followers, and Green-Wood’s other most fascinating inscribed monuments from a gravestone with a Victorian poem to a pug dog to one attacking “intoxicating liquour and tobacco.”

Video screening: FREE (suggested donation $5). Trolley tour: $20 / $10 for Historic Fund members. Reservations are recommended for both events. Space is limited. Reserve tickets online at green-wood.com/toursevents or call 718.768.7300.

APRIL
11 – Sunday, 1:00 P.M.
Green-Wood Experiences
Book Talk / Trolley Tour
The Historic Chapel at Green-Wood
Poet Allison Cobb reads from her just-published second book Green-Wood, a work of poetic and historical nonfiction. Cobb lived for several years across the street from Green-Wood Cemetery; this book is a meditation on her experiences in the Cemetery and the history surrounding it. Cobb is a 2009 Artist Fellowship recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA). This presentation is cosponsored by Artists & Audiences Exchange, a NYFA public program. »
Afterwards, join Cobb and The Green-Wood Historic Fund’s Steve Estroff for a trolley tour featuring Green-Wood experiences highlighted in her book.

**Book talk:** FREE (suggested donation $5).

**Trolley tour:** $20 / $10 for Historic Fund members.

Reservations are recommended for both events. Space is limited. Reserve tickets online at green-wood.com/toursevents or call 718.768.7300.

**MAY**

**22 – SATURDAY, 8:15 P.M.**

**SATURDAY NIGHT BY MOONLIGHT, FLASHLIGHT & FOOTLIGHTS**

**Walking Tour**

This special nighttime walk, led by Green-Wood Cemetery historian Jeff Richman, features live accordion music, a visit inside Green-Wood’s Catacombs and the light (weather permitting) of the moon. The special finale is “New York, New York,” written by Green-Wood permanent resident Fred Ebb and played by accordionists on Battle Hill, with the Manhattan skyline in the distance. **Bring a flashlight!**

**Tickets:** $20 / $10 for Historic Fund members.

No reservations are necessary, but are recommended. Reserve tickets online at green-wood.com/toursevents or call 718.768.7300. **Tour meets at Green-Wood’s Gothic Arch.**

**29 – SATURDAY, 1:00 P.M.**

**THE CIVIL WAR AT GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY**

**Trolley Tour**

Join Green-Wood Cemetery historian Jeff Richman for a tour of Civil War sites at Green-Wood, including the Civil War Soldiers’ Monument, the Civil War Soldiers’ Lot, and some of the most recent discoveries of Green-Wood’s ongoing Civil War Project. The Project has identified more than 4,000 Civil War veterans, including many Confederates. Richman, who leads the Civil War Project, is the author of *Final Camping Ground: Civil War Veterans at Brooklyn’s Green-Wood Cemetery* (available through The Historic Fund Bookstore).

**Tickets:** $20 / $10 for Historic Fund members.

Reservations are recommended. Space is limited. Reserve tickets online at green-wood.com/toursevents or call 718.768.7300. **Tour meets just past Green-Wood’s Gothic Arch at the trolley.**

**31 – MONDAY, 2:00 P.M.**

**GREEN-WOOD’S 12TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT**

**Concert**

**at The Gothic Arch of Green-Wood Cemetery**

A concert by the ISO Orchestra, featuring select compositions by Green-Wood Cemetery’s permanent residents Fred Ebb, Leonard Bernstein, Louis Moreau Gottschalk and Paul Jabara. Bring a folding chair, a blanket and a picnic lunch. Cookout food, snacks and drinks, as well as Historic Fund books and apparel will be for sale. **Admission to this event is FREE.**

**31 – MONDAY, POST-MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT**

**MEMORIAL DAY MINI-TOUR**

**Trolley Tour**

Join Green-Wood Cemetery historian Jeff Richman for a short tour (approximately 45 minutes) of some of the Cemetery’s most fascinating sites.

**Tickets:** $20 / $10 for Historic Fund members.

Reservations are recommended. Space is limited. Reserve tickets online at green-wood.com/toursevents or call 718.768.7300. **Tour meets just past Green-Wood’s Gothic Arch at the trolley.**

**JUNE**

**19 – SATURDAY, 1:00 P.M.**

**WHAT LIES BENEATH: SECRETS OF 19TH-CENTURY BROOKLYNITES**

**Trolley Tour**

Join Jocelyn Wills, history professor at Brooklyn College, assisted by Green-Wood Cemetery historian Jeff Richman, on a trolley tour of the Cemetery grounds, featuring 19th-century Brooklynites who were economic and social climbers, some of whom triumphed, some of whom did not. Tales of murder, suicide and bankruptcy (financial and otherwise) will be featured.

**Tickets:** $20 / $10 for Historic Fund members.

Reservations are recommended. Space is limited. Reserve tickets online at green-wood.com/toursevents or call 718.768.7300. **Tour meets just past Green-Wood’s Gothic Arch at the trolley.**
THE CONFEDERATE IRONCLAD RAM ALBEMARLE

One of many Civil War Confederates interred at Green-Wood, Gilbert Elliott (1843–1895), with some training in boat building and some experience as a law clerk, enlisted in 1862 in the 17th North Carolina Infantry and was soon appointed first lieutenant and adjutant. But he would spend 1863 on another matter: building an ironclad ram in a cornfield along the Roanoke River.

Elliott’s shipyard was a cornfield and obtaining the machinery required to build an ironclad warship was almost impossible. “No vessel was ever constructed under more adverse circumstances,” wrote Elliott in The Century (July 1888). “Here and there, scattered about the surrounding country, a portable sawmill, a blacksmith’s forge, or other apparatus was found, however, and the citizens of the neighborhoods on both sides of the river were not slow to render me assistance, but cooperated, cordially, in the completion of the ironclad.”

On the difficulty of drilling holes in the iron to attach armor, Elliott wrote, “But one small engine and drill could be had, and it required, at best, twenty minutes to drill an inch and a quarter hole through the plates, and it looked as if we would never accomplish the task.” One of Elliott’s men subsequently invented a twist-drill that significantly shortened the drilling process.

Following the designs of Chief Engineer John L. Porter, Elliott completed his work within a year and his ship was named the CSS Albemarle. One of the best-constructed vessels of the Civil War, the CSS Albemarle was 152 feet long with a draft of only 9 feet, making it formidable on the seas or shallow inland waterways. The Albemarle soon became a thorn in the side of the Union Navy. She saw action during the Battle of Plymouth on April 19, 1864, ramming and sinking the USS Southfield. Union Lieutenant Commander Charles W. Flusser, who commanded the squadron at Plymouth, North Carolina, hunted the Albemarle. But his hunt did not end well for him: when a shell fired from the USS Miami struck the iron plating of the Albemarle in that same engagement, it bounced back onto the Miami, killing Captain Flusser. Two weeks later, on May 5, the ironclad survived ramming attacks by Union gunboats with only minor damage.

The Albemarle was destroyed by a raid by Union volunteers on the dry docks of North Carolina on October 27 of that year, led by Navy Commander William Cushing, four days before the Union recaptured Plymouth. Cushing wrote that he was honored to report that the Albemarle was at the bottom of the Roanoke River. He won the Medal of Honor for his actions. Eventually the Albemarle was taken to the Norfolk Navy Yard, Virginia, in April 1865, where she remained until she was sold in October 1867.

Elliott finished his service to the Confederacy on the General Staff of the Army of Northern Virginia. He last lived in Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island. Originally interred in Lot 8839, his remains were placed in their current location (Lot 29238, Section 137) on November 10, 1895. Ironically, just feet from his grave is the grave of Louis Napoleon Stodder, the last surviving officer of the USS Monitor, which fought the first Confederate ironclad, the CSS Merrimac, to a standoff in the first battle of ironclad ships, and ended the era of wooden warships. For more on Gilbert Elliott and the Albemarle, go to greenwooddiscovery.org.
The monument to John Cook at Green-Wood. It reads:
“CAPT. JOHN E. COOK, WHO DIED FOR THE CAUSE
OF EMANCIPATION AND HUMAN LIBERTY WITH THE NOBLE
PATRIOT JOHN BROWN. AT CHARLESTON VIRGINIA
DECEMBER 16 1859.” Cook's monument is located at Lot
18004, Section 115.

The monument to John Cook at Green-Wood. It reads:
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150 YEARS AGO: CAPTAIN JOHN COOK AND THE RAID ON HARPERS FERRY

The 150th anniversary of John Brown’s raid on Harpers Ferry took place in the fall of 2009. It was on October 16, 1859, that white abolitionist John Brown attacked, hoping to capture 100,000 weapons from the arsenal there and to trigger a slave rebellion throughout the South. Though Brown’s hopes were quickly thwarted, this threat of a slave insurrection sent tremors through the South, and, with the South’s intense reaction, caused many in the North to begin to question the institution of slavery.

Brown led 19 men on his raid. One of them was Captain John Cook. Cook, born in Connecticut, attended Yale, then studied law in New York City. Inspired by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher’s abolitionist speeches, Cook headed to Kansas and joined Brown’s bloody battles in Kansas during 1855 and 1856. Cook was the only captain in Brown’s army who was not one of Brown’s sons. In 1858, Brown sent Cook to Harpers Ferry as a spy. Cook stayed there for a year, married the schoolteacher, Virginia Kennedy, and reported back to Brown with maps and information about trains schedules, militia strengths and slave populations.

Cook took part in the John Brown raid and managed to escape to Pennsylvania, but was captured there by slave hunters and was taken back to Virginia. In jail, he wrote an eight-page confession, implicating the leading abolitionists who had vehemently denied any involvement. On December 16, 1859, John Cook was hanged. His body was returned to his family and interred in Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn. A few years later, his remains were brought to Green-Wood Cemetery, where he was interred in the lot of his brother-in-law, Robert Crowley.

JOHN BROWN EXHIBIT AT N-YHS

The New-York Historical Society is presenting “John Brown: The Abolitionist and His Legacy.” This exhibition, mounted for the 150th anniversary of the raid on Harpers Ferry, runs from September 15, 2009, through March 25, 2010.
GREEN-WOOD
PHOTO JOURNAL

Fall 2009
in Green-Wood
This hillside will be abloom with daffodils in the spring.

GREEN-WOOD DISCOVERY

Our new blog has launched! Green-Wood Discovery, curated by Green-Wood historian Jeff Richman, is a forum to share some of Green-Wood’s most exciting discoveries and developments with everyone. It features recent discoveries at Green-Wood, restoration and beautification, the Civil War, historical figures, Historic Fund events and more.

“It is amazing the things that I have learned from people across the world, sharing their knowledge about Green-Wood and its permanent residents,” says Richman. “I look forward to hearing from you.”

Visit our new blog and sign up for a user account today! greenwooddiscovery.org

GREEN-WOOD - CIVIL WAR BIOS ON CD

In September, 2002, we launched The Green-Wood Historic Fund’s Civil War Project. Our goal was to identify those who had served, to tell their story, and to honor them. When we began, we naively thought that there were 500 or so Civil War veterans interred there. Were we wrong! In the ensuing years, with the help of hundreds of dedicated volunteers, we searched through newspapers, books, muster rolls, and many other resources. Descendants and researchers have contacted us from all over America and the world with information and photographs.

Thanks to a grant from The Tawani Foundation, we are proud to publish the second edition of our Civil War biographical dictionary on CD, a compilation of more than 4,300 Civil War veterans. A supplement to our book Final Camping Ground: Civil War Veterans at Brooklyn’s Green-Wood Cemetery, In Their Own Words, the 1278-page CD includes portraits of hundreds of these men, photographs of many of their most interesting gravestones, letters written by them during the Civil War and eyewitness battlefield accounts. To order a CD for $10, go to green-wood.com/store or call 718.768.7300. All sales proceeds go towards the continued work of The Historic Fund’s Civil War Project.

DAFFODILS IN MEMORY OF 9/11

A new planting went in this past fall on the hill off Oak Avenue, directly in the line of the gaze of bronze Horace Greeley across the road. Approximately 70 victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 are interred at Green-Wood Cemetery. Several of them, including three firemen from Ladder 118, are interred on that hill. Until recently, there was a small grove of trees that had “volunteered in” at the crest of the hill. Art Presson, superintendent of grounds operations, thought this would be a good spot for a planting in honor of these victims. The grounds crew cut down the volunteer trees, pulled the stumps and planted 2,500 daffodil bulbs to create what will be an impressive hillside of the flower that has become associated with 9/11.
Goings-On

Green-Wood: Fit for a Queen

Queen Noor of Jordan and Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. came to Green-Wood Cemetery this past November to visit the graves of Elias and Almas Halaby, the Queen’s great-grandparents.

The queen and the professor spent the afternoon at Green-Wood filming a new PBS documentary series about immigration and its impact on identity in America. Hosted by Professor Gates, “Faces of America” will air as a four-part nationwide special in February 2010.

As a result of research for the documentary, Queen Noor, an American-born woman who married the late King Hussein of Jordan, discovered that, contrary to family lore, Elias had actually emigrated, and he lived and died in New York City.

For more “Green-Wood Goings-On,” visit greenwooddiscovery.org

Much Mulch

Green-Wood’s 478 acres are home to 7,000 trees. As you may guess, those trees produce millions and millions of leaves. For the last few years, it has been the autumn practice at Green-Wood to mow most of those leaves in place as a mulch. But because that has resulted in a rather thick carpet in some places, a new technique was tried this past fall. Leaves were blown and raked to the nearby roads, then picked up in trucks and brought to a central composting area. There, they were watered down (which seems to improve the process of cutting them up), moved with a heavy front end loader to a tub grinder and cut up. The shredded leaves were then placed in large piles, where, with several turnings, they will decay over the upcoming months into a fine mulch for use in enriching the soil across the Cemetery grounds.
It was just over 75 years ago, on September 8, 1934, that the great luxury liner S.S. Morro Castle, returning to New York from Havana, caught fire off Asbury Park, New Jersey, and ran aground just feet from the Asbury Park beach. In all, 135 of the 549 people aboard the ship were lost. Crowds flocked to Asbury Park over the ensuing months to see the ruined hulk of the liner.

Captain Robert Willmott, master of the Morro Castle, is interred at Green-Wood Cemetery. He had proudly supervised the construction of the Morro Castle and had commanded her since her first voyage. Strangely, Wilmott died in his quarters under mysterious circumstances just hours before the great ship caught fire. One theory was that he was murdered and the fire was started to cover up that crime. Captain Willmott is interred in Lot 6679, Section 30.

The Green-Wood Historic Fund has teamed with The Salvadori Institute for the Built Environment. Renowned for “project-based learning,” the Institute has trained thousands of educators to consider using the “real world” through study and exploration of bridges, roadways, parks and even city playgrounds. This method, pioneered by architect and Columbia University professor Mario Salvadori in 1976, has trained teachers to promote problem solving and critical thinking to students. In May 2010, Green-Wood, a spectacular “built environment” in its own right, will host a collaborative program with the Salvadori Institute designed to inspire teachers and bring together the tremendous teaching resources of these two organizations.

The Historic Fund also continues its educational partnership with The New York Times Newspaper in Education Program with “Walking Through History, Read All About It!”, a professional development program for educators which debuted last year to great success. Over 100 teachers in total attended three all-day workshops held in May, July and October of 2009.

To find out more information on either of these programs, contact Green-Wood’s Education and Outreach Coordinator Steven Estroff at SteveEstroff@green-wood.com or by phone 718.210.3010.

The S.S. Morro Castle, burning near the New Jersey shore.

The S.S. Morro Castle aground at Asbury Park, New Jersey.
Green-Wood Cemetery has long known of the many prominent architects interred here. But only recently have we made discoveries about architects who designed some of the most interesting tombs at Green-Wood. The most exciting of these is our recent “find” concerning the Bourne Tomb. Inside that tomb lie the remains of Frederick Gilbert Bourne (1851–1919) and his family. Bourne, we discovered, was the president of Singer Sewing Machine from 1889 to 1905. A very wealthy man, he was widely known as Commodore Bourne, a title he held because of his position with the New York Yacht Club. Bourne owned the entire first floor of the legendary and still-standing Dakota Building on Central Park West and 72nd Street in Manhattan (best known today as the place where John Lennon was shot and killed); a large estate in Oakdale, Long Island; and Dark Island in the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River.

Bourne hired architect Ernest Flagg to design his estate houses in Oakdale and on Dark Island. He also hired Flagg to design the Singer Building at Broadway and Liberty Street in Manhattan, one of the greatest skyscrapers ever built (constructed 1906–1908, demolished 1968).

Because Frederick Bourne repeatedly selected Ernest Flagg to design buildings for him, it seemed logical to explore the possibility that Bourne might also have hired Flagg to design his tomb at Green-Wood. That suspicion was confirmed when Green-Wood’s surveyor found the blueprints to the Bourne Tomb in his files—with “Ernest Flagg, Architect” written on them.
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Please fill out and return the membership form or become a member today at green-wood.com/membership. Shop online at green-wood.com/store.

>> Back cover: The magnificent Valentine Angel at her best surrounded by the colors of autumn, located at Lot 12361, Section 178. [Photo: Jeff Richman.]

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The Green-Wood Historic Fund was established in 1999. Its mission is to maintain Green-Wood Cemetery’s monuments and buildings of historical, cultural and architectural significance; advance public knowledge and appreciation of this significance; and preserve the natural habitat and parklands of one of New York City’s first green spaces. With funding from memberships and donations, The Historic Fund not only preserves the past to enrich our future, but keeps a vibrant presence in our current time by presenting open-to-the-public events which include themed walking and trolley tours, book talks and special seasonal events.

Preserving the Past to Serve the Future

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