



To Those Who Served

(Narrative Essay For Grant Application)

by Ian Martin for the American Legion Post 512

The fighting “...seemed as if it was right in our faces, none of us ever forgot that awful sheet of flame, the whistle of bullets, the groan of wounded men, the scream of injured horses, nor the wild determination of our lead horses to run away.”¹

This essay is about a World War I memorial. But the passage above doesn't describe a battle from that war. It was written by Thomas Sumner Greene, a Civil War combat veteran. These words appear in a memoir he wrote for his sons, Charles and Henry Greene. He was very close to his boys, and they to him. He had thoughtfully guided their educations and encouraged them to pursue a career in architecture.² His guidance paid off spectacularly. Charles and Henry founded the firm “Greene and Greene.” They are towering figures in the

¹ Greene, Thomas Sumner. *My Recollections Of The Civil War 1861-1865*. Greene and Greene Archives, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California. 1917-1919. pp.28-29

² Bosley, Edward R. "Yankee Forebears, Midwest Boys." *Greene & Greene*. New York: Phaidon, 2000

history of American architecture. Charles designed the World War I memorial that is the subject of this essay.

We don't know the specific reasons why Charles Greene donated his legendary design skill and, probably, his immensely particular construction oversight* to create a World War I memorial for Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, the place he called home from the time he moved there in 1916, until his death in 1957. The good and usual reasons probably applied--patriotism and community service. But Charles' special relationship with his father should not be overlooked. It likely prepared him to deeply respect the service and the sacrifice of the 54 Carmelites³ who helped end World War I, and to understand, as much as a civilian can, what many of them went through while fighting in Europe.

Thomas vividly portrayed his Civil War years as a set of experiences that were largely infused with an unending combination of hunger, exhaustion and general suffering when they weren't downright harrowing. The quote above recounts what he experienced at the Battle of Shiloh, fighting in a light artillery unit for the Union. He served in the army for nearly five years.⁴

In April of 1917, eight days after the United States joined the War in Europe, Thomas wrote a letter to Charles who had recently moved to Carmel-by-the-Sea. Referring to the war in Europe, he wrote:

"I try to think as little about the war as possible for I get so worked up over it that it hurts me."⁵

But think about it he did. His writings make it clear that war was not some sort of fun adventure the way it was sometimes portrayed in the popular press in the First World War. On May 1st, 1917, he wrote to Charles:

"...it seems as if nothing would douse that devilish German Nation. The loss [of] life and cripples made is something terrible and we can little realize the horrors of the war."⁶

After World War I ended, Charles set pencil to paper to design a memorial for his adopted community. The candid letters between father and son had ceased by this time. Now, if Thomas wanted to communicate with Charles, he could simply call out to him. He had moved to Carmel-by-the-Sea after the war ended, and now lived on the same small lot as his son.⁷ Given their candor and openness with each other, they undoubtedly discussed the war memorial. On the design drawing, Charles wrote: "To Those Who Served."⁸ Perhaps, in his own mind, he included his father in that dedication.

Carmel-by-the-Sea is fortunate to have a World War I memorial designed by one of our nation's preeminent architects. It is not only an invitation to remember the First World War, but is also an icon of the town itself. It is certainly among the best-known World War I memorials in California.

³ "Those Who Served" *Carmel Pine Cone*, 11-10-1921

Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California

⁴ Greene, Thomas, p. 92

⁵ Charles Sumner Greene Collection, College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, California (CED)

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Hales, Virginia Dart Greene. *Greene and Greene, Their Ancestral Heritage, 1550-1900*. Virginia Dart Greene Hales. 2016 pp. 268-269

⁸ This design drawing is at CED.

A member of the American Legion helped place the cornerstone for the memorial on Armistice Day, 1921,⁹ and, along with the local paper *The Carmel Pine Cone*, members of the American Legion helped raise the money to build it, holding dances and vaudeville shows in the building that would eventually be the home to the American Legion Post 512.¹⁰ The American Legion has partnered with the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea in the memorial's care and maintenance ever since.

In 1977, a runaway car nearly obliterated the monument. The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea coordinated its reconstruction effort, bringing together stone anonymously donated from the original quarry,¹¹ and the son and grandson of one of the original quarrymen to shape that stone into blocks to rebuild the monument.¹² Charles Greene's son Gordon Greene drew up plans for the reconstruction.¹³ Three American Legion Posts participated in the ceremony to rededicate the newly rebuilt memorial on November 11th, 1977, just three months after the car crash. American Legion Post 512 member Leon Panetta gave a speech at the ceremony.¹⁴ He was Carmel-by-the-Sea's congressional representative at the time.

Today, this war memorial is in generally good shape. However, the soft, readily-carved sandstone is beginning to flake apart in some places, and needs replacing. The American Legion Post 512 is applying for funding from the World War One Centennial Commission to conduct this work. Brian McEldowney is the aforementioned grandson who helped rebuild the memorial in 1977. He's ready to roll up his sleeves again to get this hallowed memorial in shape for the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. We have the plans Charles Greene's son created in 1977 to ensure a sensitive and respectful restoration of this memorial. Post 512 will also work in conjunction with the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea's Historic Resources Board to further ensure that the job is done correctly. The grant funding will be used to cover incidental costs in the restoration work. Money left over will be set aside for future upkeep and repairs on the memorial.

Post 512 is confident that it will be able to raise the money needed to match the \$2,000 grant and more. Last year, Carmel-by-the-Sea celebrated its 100th birthday. As part of the celebration, Post 512 went door to door raising nearly \$15,000 from over 50 individuals in the community to create a new bell for the memorial, one that Charles Greene had originally designed, but that had never been cast. Post 512 is ready to meet this matching grant challenge, so that our community's World War I memorial will endure, inviting reflection, remembrance, and appreciation for those who served.

⁹ "All Carmel Pays Loving Tribute To Those Who Served" *Carmel Pine Cone* 11-17-1921

¹⁰ "Last Call For The Soldier Memorial Fountain Fund" *Carmel Pine Cone* 11-11-1922

¹¹ "Rededication, World War I Memorial, Nov. 11, 1977," Speech transcript, Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California

¹² "Up goes our monument, again" *Carmel Pine Cone* 11-10-1977;
Brian McEldowney told author that his grandfather was one of the quarrymen.

¹³ "Rededication, World War I Memorial, Nov. 11, 1977" Speech transcript

¹⁴ "A Patriotic Flourish on Vet's Day" *Carmel Pine Cone* 11-17-1977

*A letter to the editor in the April 20, 1922 *Carmel Pine Cone* reads: "We cannot afford to allow the partly finished memorial [to] remain not to those who served, but to our own neglect, indifference, or ineffectiveness. Finish the memorial! Let's go!" [Signed] "Ex Service Man."

The following week the *Pine Cone* explained that Charles Greene had been out of town and that he had returned, so now work could resume on the memorial. So, it can reasonably be inferred that construction on the memorial would halt if he wasn't around to personally supervise it. At least, it is likely that he personally approved or rejected each of the carved blocks and their placement in the memorial, which took a year to build. Greene and Greene scholar Randell Makinson documented just such a case with the D.L. James house which was under construction nearby at the same time as the memorial: "So intent was his concern for the exact effect desired that he virtually stood directly over the masons throughout the construction... Coleman [the chief mason] must have thought Charles something of a madman, and there was a continuing battle between them over masonry work." (Makinson, Randell L. *Greene & Greene, Architecture as a Fine Art*. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books, 1977. p. 224)

Restoration Project Plan

Carmel-by-the-Sea World War I Memorial Arch

I. Project Objective and Scope

Carmel-by-the-Sea's World War I Memorial Arch is in overall good condition. However, some of the soft, easily-carved sandstone that makes up the blocks in the memorial is beginning to flake apart. (See image below.) The objective is to replace these blocks with new blocks, using the same sandstone source that was originally used, or sandstone that is essentially the same as the original material, as to be determined by stone mason Brian McEldowney. He rebuilt the memorial with his father in 1977 after it was severely damaged in a car accident. McEldowney's grandfather was one of the original quarrymen who sourced the stone for the memorial's construction in 1921-1922. McEldowney is the only person in the world with direct experience in restoring this memorial. He did a first-rate job in 1977 and can be relied upon to do the job with the same sensitivity and skill he demonstrated back then.



II. Details on the restoration/conservation

The memorial's architect was Charles Sumner Greene, of "Greene and Greene" architecture fame. Greene's son Gordon created shop drawings for the memorial's reconstruction in 1977. These drawings will be reviewed to ensure that the proper methodology is used in sculpting and texturing the sandstone blocks. The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea's Historic Resources Board will also be consulted to ensure that this cultural treasure is restored to the best possible satisfaction of the Carmel-by-the-Sea community. Above all, Brian McEldowney's own life experience and deep concern for the integrity of this memorial will also inform its restoration, and will ensure that the job is done correctly. His particular methodologies and insights will be

documented during the restoration for future generations so that they may continue to conserve this memorial.

III. Project timeline

Begin work as soon as is practical. Complete work by late summer of 2018 in time for 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I ceremony to be organized by the American Legion Post 512.

IV. Project budget

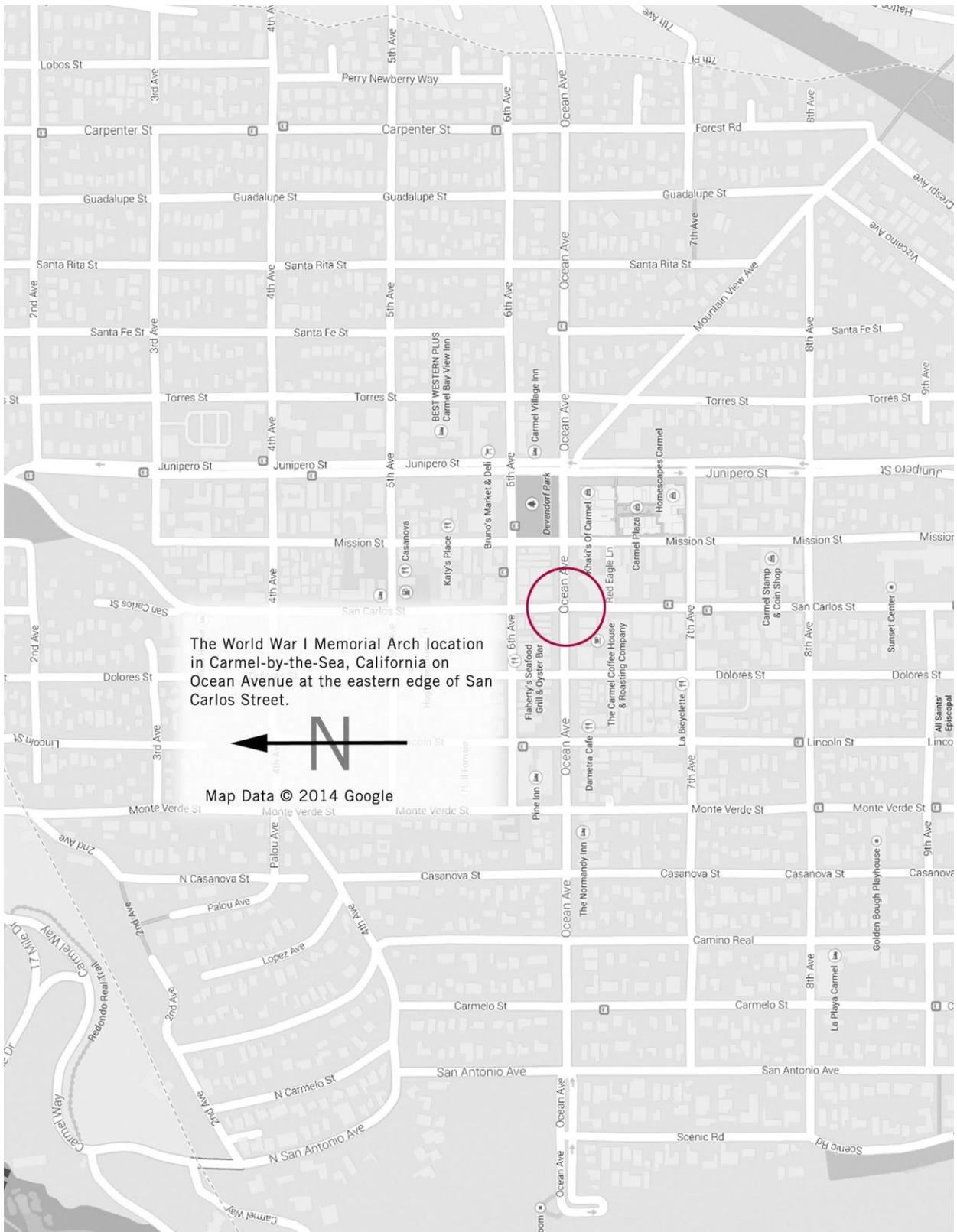
Most of the work to be conducted is voluntary in nature. Funds raised will be used for incidental costs, equipment rental, building materials and other miscellaneous concerns. Funds left over will be set aside for future maintenance and upkeep.

V. Fundraising

Just last year, the American Legion Post 512 raised nearly \$15,000 from over 50 individuals, several businesses and other veterans organizations so that the bell that was originally designed for the memorial, but never created, could be cast and installed in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Carmel-by-the-Sea's incorporation, and in recognition of the proud history of military service that this community cherishes.

Google Map URL of memorial location:

<https://www.google.com/maps/@36.5550962,-121.9217844,21z>



The World War I Memorial Arch location in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California on Ocean Avenue at the eastern edge of San Carlos Street.



Map Data © 2014 Google



06-14-2017

The United States
World War One
Centennial Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Legion Post 512 is the establishing veterans organization and guardian of the World War I Memorial Arch in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, and as such, has the authority to initiate this restoration effort. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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