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FROM THE MEMORIAL AND THE SITE

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are thrilled at the public exposure Saint-Gaudens and his work are getting this season!

Through the exhibition, *Augustus Saint-Gaudens at The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, two symposia on the artist; a bus trip to New York and the release of the new film *Augustus Saint-Gaudens: Master of American Sculpture*, hundreds of people are being newly introduced (or re-introduced) to the life and work of one of America's greatest sculptors. For more details, see page 7.

On a more personal and bittersweet note, BJ Dunn will be leaving as Superintendent of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site for a Deputy Superintendent position at the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, PA. We offer hearty congratulations and best wishes to BJ as he takes this next step in his ascendant career, but do so with some sadness as he has been an excellent advocate for Saint-Gaudens and the Site, an energetic partner to the Memorial, and a good friend. More details about this change for BJ and the park are on the back cover.

Sincerely,

Byron Bell
PRESIDENT
Saint-Gaudens Memorial



Augustus Saint-Gaudens, *Governor Roswell Pettibone Flower Monument*, Watertown, New York. Archival photo.

THE GOVERNOR ROSWELL PETTIBONE FLOWER MONUMENT

By Rande S. Richardson

Watertown, New York, a small city located 30 miles south of the Canadian border, is home to one of Augustus Saint-Gaudens' lesser known heroic bronze statues, the Governor Roswell Pettibone Flower Monument.

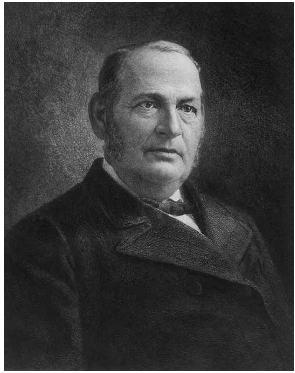
Thanks to a group of citizens and the generous backing of the community, this city landmark recently underwent its first comprehensive restoration treatment in a century.

Located in the center of a major thoroughfare and in the city's Downtown Public Square historic district, the sculpture has stood upon its granite

pedestal since 1902. Over the years, it has endured a series of well intentioned, but inappropriate, attempts at conservation. By 2002, the surface was stained and corroded, with remnants of old shellac coatings. With the centennial approaching, a grassroots committee took advantage of a unique opportunity to conserve the monument in very much the same way that the monument initially was created. The goal was to return Saint-Gaudens' work to its original glory and to build public awareness of the significance of the sculpture.

Roswell Pettibone Flower was born August 7, 1835, near Watertown, the sixth of nine children. After his humble beginnings as a jeweler and assistant postmaster, he would later be called upon to manage the \$1 million estate of his brother-in-law, Henry Keep. This brought him to New York City where he eventually opened the banking house of R.P. Flower & Co. As the fund grew to
("Gov. Pettibone Flower Monument" continued on page 2)

\$4 million, he established himself as a capable financial administrator and became known as the “Lion of Wall Street.”



Governor Roswell Pettibone Flower, ca. 1892. Archival photo.

He later rose to political prominence, serving three terms in the United States Congress prior to being elected the 30th Governor of New York, serving from 1892 to 1894.

Many speculated that he would become a candidate for President of the United States and he was a contender at the Democratic National Convention in July 1884. An Albany, NY newspaper endorsed his nomination as the Democratic candidate for President in 1896. He was even featured as one of several “Presidential Possibilities” on a series of tobacco trading cards.

Although a prominent figure in financial and social circles in New York City and Washington, he always maintained a family home and friendships in Watertown and frequently returned there. He and his family were known for their many philanthropic endeavors. In addition to the funding of the construction of Trinity Episcopal Church in Watertown and a library at Cornell University, he also made possible the building of New York City’s Saint Thomas House as well as Flower Hospital.

Upon his sudden death on May 12, 1899, he left an estate worth an estimated \$25 million. A front page article in *The*

New York Times expressed concerns about the resulting impact on the stock market with a headline stating: “A Panicky Feeling in Wall Street due to Ex-Governor’s Death.” In an official address made shortly after Flower’s death, then New York Governor Theodore Roosevelt remarked that Flower was “a man of great means, whose ambition was more than merely the success of money making; a success comprehended in the phrase ‘having rendered service to the people’.” It is fitting we should honor his memory.”

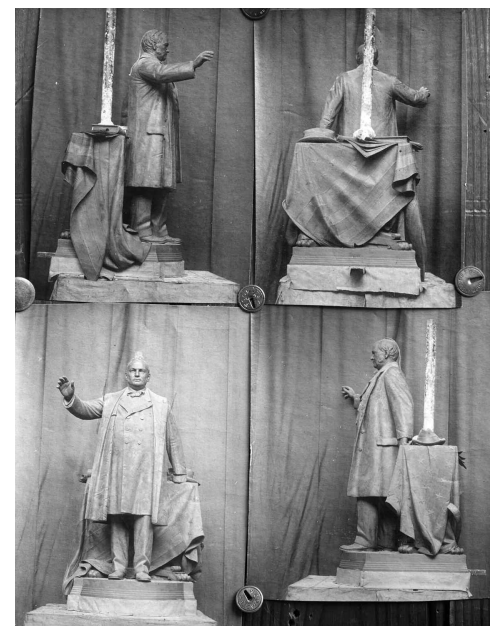
The citizens of his hometown felt very much the same way. Two months after his death, John C. Thompson and Charles A. Starbuck, officials of the New York Air Brake Corporation, teamed up with the *Watertown Daily Times* to launch a subscription campaign “to perpetuate the memory of Gov. Flower in Watertown, where almost every being was, to a greater or less extent, a recipient of his bounty.” Following gifts of \$500 each from Thompson and Starbuck, contributions poured in from over 2,200 individuals and organizations, ranging from “pennies to a thousand dollars.” By November of that same year, the subscription campaign had reached its goal of \$25,000.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was commissioned to begin work on the monument in May of 1900. A hand-written letter from Saint-Gaudens in Paris, dated June 12, 1900, confirmed the commission. A planned completion date was set for September 1, 1901, but was subsequently changed to September 1, 1902. Henry Bacon, who later went on to be the designer of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., collaborated with Saint-Gaudens, contributing

The statue was officially dedicated on Labor Day, 1902. The unveiling ceremony attracted thousands, and the work was dubbed “A People’s Memorial.”

the high stone pedestal and unusual octagonal plot; and James Earle Fraser and Henry Hering assisted with the commission.

The statue was lifted into place on August 29, 1902 and officially dedicated on Labor Day, September 1, 1902. The unveiling ceremony attracted thousands, and the work was dubbed “A People’s Memorial,” given the spirit in which the monument was made possible. The audience roared in applause when young Frederick Halsey Taylor, grandson of Gov. Flower, pulled the string to release the flag veiling the monument.



Saint-Gaudens’ clay models of the statue. Photo courtesy of Dartmouth College Library.

Although Saint-Gaudens was unable to attend, he provided a written statement which read, "It is difficult for the artist to speak of his own work, but I have made Gov. Flower in the set of delivering an address. He is standing by a table with the American flag over it. What I have attempted is the depicting of the large traits of his character. The statue must show for itself." Saint-Gaudens' long-time assistant, Gaëtan Ardisson, attended the ceremony in his absence.

The 4,000-pound, 9-foot sculpture, cast at the Henry-Bonnard Bronze Company, New York City, has Flower standing with his right hand outstretched and left hand resting on the flag-draped table behind him. He wears a long coat and suit. On top of the table rests a hat and a large book with an eagle on the binding. The granite path leading to the monument features an inscription, "erected in affectionate and grateful remembrance of his noble manhood, his distinguished public services and his loving kindness to all."

The bronze statue rests upon a 16,000 pound, 9-foot granite pedestal, which was carved by Buehler & Lanter of New York City from Branford Synite and Stony Creek granite. On its face, inlaid bronze letters read,

**"TO ROSWELL PETTIBONE FLOWER,
BORN AUGUST 7, 1835, DIED MAY
12, 1899, REPRESENTATIVE IN THE
FORTY SEVENTH AND IN THE FIFTY
FIRST CONGRESS, GOVERNOR OF
THE STATE OF NEW YORK"**

The pedestal's reverse features a bronze New York State seal, modeled by Augustus' brother, Louis St. Gaudens. The seal is framed in granite by ribbon and tassels and oak leaf clusters surround

the remaining upper portion of the pedestal.

Louis also designed two standing granite eagles with partially spread wings. The eagles stood on either side of the front of the elliptical plot. As increased traffic began to surround the monument in the 1950's, discussion arose several times about ways to adapt the monument to fit with the times. Periodically it was suggested that the monument be moved to an alternate location, but each time the public protested. Instead, the decision was made to reduce the size of its footprint and remove the two granite eagles. After residing in a storage shed, then being transferred to a series of alternate locations, the eagles eventually "disappeared." Some research indicates that after leaving Watertown, the eagles made their home in Jacksonville, Florida. A Florida newspaper reporter tracked their last known location to, Manila, Arkansas; however, to this day, their whereabouts remain a mystery.

In January 2002, a small group of interested citizens began meeting to discuss ways to mark the monument's centennial anniversary. Since the statue was owned by the City of Watertown, approval from local officials was first required. After making a proposal at a city council meeting, the group was given the green light to formally organize and begin to seek funding. An initial grant



Augustus Saint-Gaudens, *Governor Roswell Pettibone Flower Monument*, Watertown, New York, in 2009, after a 6-year "touch up" by Conservation Solutions. Photo by Rande S. Richardson

from Save Outdoor Sculpture! gave the effort momentum.

The Governor Flower Monument Centennial Committee held its first official meeting in April 2002, and formally launched a campaign with a \$120,000 goal the following month. The project was to include treatment of active pitting and corrosion resulting from several years of inappropriate treatments and neglect; replication of the original eagles; improvements to the monument site, including lighting; and provision of a fund for the monument's continued care. The committee was intent on involving as many members of the community as possible, just as was done when the funds to commission the work were raised.

("Gov. Pettibone Flower Monument" continued on page 4)

The restored Monument represents all that can be accomplished when a motivated group of individuals have the vision, dedication, passion and perseverance to make a dream a reality.

Using the slogan, "Today for Tomorrow," campaign brochures and flyers were produced, and members of the committee appeared on local television and radio programs to discuss the efforts. Several articles appeared in the same newspaper which had partnered on the 1900 subscription effort. In the midst of the fundraising, the group held a special event to commemorate the actual 100th anniversary of the unveiling and tell a new generation of citizens of the story of how the local landmark came to be.

The response from the community matched that of 1900. Within six months, the fundraising goal had been surpassed, with \$128,000 raised. As in 1900, gifts ranged in size from a few dollars to thousands of dollars, and just as before, the greater community took ownership of the Saint-Gaudens' tribute to Roswell P. Flower. The group also received the support of the sitting State Senator, and given that the monument honored a former New York Governor, a legislative appropriation was awarded, constituting the largest single gift to the project. Over 300 individuals and 100 organizations contributed financially, and still others offered in-kind gifts.

The monument was about to be reborn: Gov. Flower, who had stood overlooking a century of the city's history, was going to receive much-needed attention. The



Following the restoration, a centennial rededication ceremony was held September 20, 2003.
Photo by Mark Scarlett.

following August, comprehensive conservation was performed under the guidance of Joseph Sembrat and Mark Rabinowitz of Conservations Solutions, Inc. of Washington, D.C. In addition to the cleaning, full repatination and hot-applied waxing of the bronze, the granite pedestal and base were cleaned to remove biological growth, carbon crusts and general staining. Large chips in the granite were repaired using stone Dutchman cut from stock salvaged from other site stones. Open joints were patched and repointed.

Using archival photographs, Jerry T. Williams of Barre Sculpture Studios, Montpelier, Vermont, created two new eagles from Vermillion Bay, Ontario mountain-rose granite. New granite bol-

lards and curbing were also placed, returning the footprint, as practically as possible, to its original configuration and helping to protect the monument from damage by vehicles. Additional, reinforced bollards at the front of the monument later prevented potential major damage when the monument was hit with substantial force by an alleged drunk driver. The committee continues to struggle with maintaining the aesthetic and historic character of the monument, while providing for its protection.

Through the efforts of the committee, there has been increased awareness and appreciation of this work by Saint-Gaudens and the value of public statuary in general. As importantly, there has been a demonstrated commitment on ("Gov. Pettibone Flower Monument" continued on page 6)

○ **SCULPTURAL VISIONS 2009** ○

Sculptural Visions 2009, sponsored by the Site and the Friends of Saint-Gaudens was a great success. About 550 people attended the event on September 26.

All of the sculptural arts were demonstrated including bronze casting, assemblage, gilding, hand casting, wood carving, sculptural relief, and more. Guest artists were Bill Williams, Antoinette Jacobson, Steve Voitko, William Schnute, and Susan Reilly.



HAND CASTING



BRONZE CASTING



ASSEMBLAGE



WOOD CARVING



SCULPTING



GILDING



FIRE ORGAN

("Gov. Pettibone Flower Monument" continued from page 4)



Volunteers at the restored *Flower Monument* with two re-created eagles.
Photo courtesy of Rande S. Richardson.

behalf of the citizenry to be responsible stewards of the rich legacy of the past. As a result, future generations will be able to enjoy this artistic treasure much as it was the day Gov. Flower's grandson pulled off the American flag at the unveiling. On September 20, 2003, the street surrounding the monument was again closed to traffic, as many community members and descendants of Gov. Flower attended the official re-dedication of the newly restored monument. Local Girl Scout troops participated, the high school choir sang, an area drum and bugle corps performed, and the 10th Mountain Division Band, from nearby Fort Drum, played the National Anthem. The re-created eagles sat proudly, returned to their intended spot after a long absence. In addition to a formal ribbon cutting, the event featured remarks from local officials and members of the monument committee reading excerpts from speeches made at the 1902 ceremony. A special postal

stamp cancellation was offered, 100th anniversary t-shirts were made available, and a 24-page commemorative booklet was produced, detailing the monument's history, including many archival and current photographs.

As part of the agreement with the conservators, a volunteer training program was implemented. With funds raised for a continuing care fund, nearly every summer since the original conservation treatment in 2003, members of the

committee, and others, erect scaffolding and spend a day cleaning and waxing the monument. This past summer, the original conservators returned for a touch-up and inspection, and remarked at how well maintained the monument had been over the last six years.

Many have since commented how meaningful it is when a project is accomplished not by requirement or obligation, but because of the people's will to make it so. A centerpiece in this town's landscape and an affectionate tribute to Gov. Flower, the restored Saint-Gaudens work also stands as a renewed symbol of civic pride. It represents all that can be accomplished when a motivated group of individuals, supported by their community, have the vision, dedication, passion and perseverance to make a dream a reality.

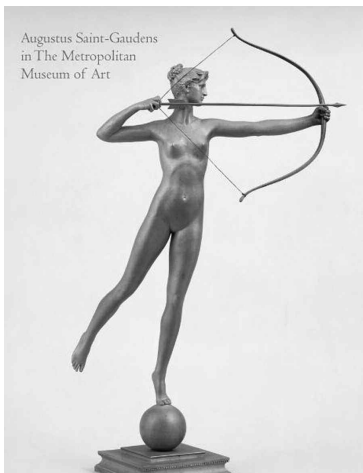
Rande S. Richardson is the chairman of the Governor Flower Monument Committee

WELCOME TO *New friends*



- Mary Stewart Baird
WOODSTOCK, VT
- Susan and Wells Chandler
CORNISH, NH
- Michael Dorsch
NEW YORK, NY
- Tom and Jane Dyer
NORTHAMPTON, MA
- Maryanne Gerbaukas
PHILADELPHIA, PA
- Stephen S. Lash
NEW YORK, NY
- Diane, George
and Julia MacDonald
PLAINFIELD, NH
- Susan Menconi
NEW YORK, NY
- Margaret Newbold
CORNISH, NH
- Susan W. Peirce
SHERBORN, MA
- Marcus Ratliff
NORWICH, VT
- Suzanne Richardson
WEATHERSFIELD, VT
- Katherine Schwab
and Ronald Davidson
FAIRFIELD, CT
- Kitty and Clay Simpson
HANOVER, NH
- Marco Polo Stufano
NEW YORK, NY
- Christopher Weinmann
NORWICH, VT

Saint-Gaudens: Exhibition, Symposia, Tours and Film



OCTOBER 9 SYMPOSIUM

AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

The exhibition, *Augustus Saint-Gaudens at The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, Curated by Thayer Tolles, Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, has been a great success.

To see images from the show or to get more information about the exhibit and related events, visit:

www.metmuseum.org/special/se_event.asp.

The exhibit closes November 15.

Read a review of the exhibition by Peter Schjeldahl, "High and Low Relief" which appeared in the August 24, 2009 issue of *The New Yorker* at:

www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/artworld/2009/08/24/090824craw_artworld_schjeldahl.

On October 9, the museum held a day-long symposium featuring a number of international scholars who spoke to a variety of topics related to the exhibit.



OCTOBER 10 SYMPOSIUM

AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS AND HIS NUMISMATIC LEGACY

October 10 is the date of the American Numismatic Society's all-day symposium, *Augustus Saint-Gaudens and His Numismatic Legacy*. For more information visit the ANS website at

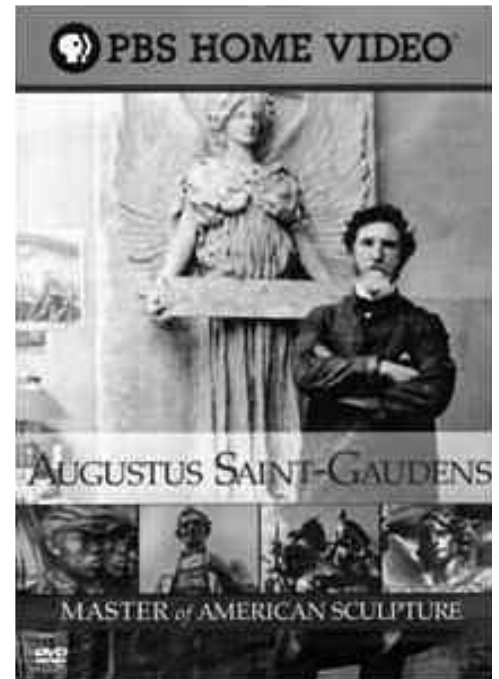
www.numismatics.org/NewsEvents/ASGProgram.



OCTOBER 28-29 BUS TOUR

NEW YORK CITY AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS TOUR

On October 28-29, a bus tour from the Upper Valley, sponsored by the Friends of Saint-Gaudens and members of The Hood Museum of Art, will tour the exhibit with Ms. Tolles and visit other sites in the city related to the sculptor and his architect-collaborator, Stanford White.



DECEMBER 27 FILM DEBUT

AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS: MASTER OF AMERICAN SCULPTURE

The new film, *Augustus Saint-Gaudens: Master of American Sculpture* was previewed by Channel Thirteen, the public television station in New York City on September 13 as part of its SundayArts program.

The one-hour film will air nationally on PBS on December 27.

DVD's of the film are available through the historic site at www.eparks.com/store, PBS and Amazon.

To see an 8-minute clip of the film (this portion featuring Saint-Gaudens's Shaw Memorial) visit:

www.youtube.com/user/OurTownFilms.

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SAINT-GAUDENS

www.sgnhs.org

All members receive a twice-yearly newsletter and announcements of exhibits, lectures, concerts & other programs.

- Individual \$ 50
- Family \$ 75
- Supporter \$ 100
- Sponsor \$ 250
- Bronze Patron \$ 500
- Gilded Benefactor \$ 1,000

I would like a FREE annual park pass to the Saint-Gaudens Site. (\$25 value. This part of your membership fee is not tax deductible.)

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Saint-Gaudens Memorial

34 South Highland Avenue

Ossining, NY 10562



SGNHS Superintendent BJ Dunn

**SGNHS SUPERINTENDENT
BJ DUNN MOVING TO
INDEPENDENCE NHP**

BJ Dunn has been the Superintendent of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site since 2003.

Prior to this, he was Assistant Superintendent at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park in Woodstock, VT, and has also worked at Acadia National Park (ME), the North Atlantic Regional Office (MA), the Frederick Law Olmsted, Longfellow and John F. Kennedy National Historic Sites (MA) and Women's Rights National Historic Park (NY). BJ grew up in Cornish and started his career with the National Park Service in 1983 as a seasonal maintenance employee at the SGNHS. He will continue in his position until October 23rd.

BJ has been appointed Deputy Superintendent at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, PA, which includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell Center and the National Constitution Center. This large site has several hundred employees, works with over a dozen neighboring historic sites and groups, and had over 4 million visitors in 2008.

The promotion does not come as a complete surprise to those who know BJ. Trustees, colleagues and neighbors of the Site are well aware of his outstanding abilities and expected that sooner or later, the National Park Service would want to put those talents to use in a broader arena.

President Byron Bell said of BJ, "He has accomplished so much for the park, has been an energetic partner with the Memorial, and an excellent advocate for the historic site. He has been a pleasure to work with and we thank him sincerely for his leadership and friendship over the past 6 years."

The NPS will appoint an Acting Superintendent while they seek out a permanent replacement for the position.

The Saint-Gaudens Memorial is a private, non-profit corporation chartered to advise and support the National Historic Site and sponsor programs and activities that promote public awareness of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, his work and sculpture in general.

Saint-Gaudens Memorial
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Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

The site is administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service

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www.nps.gov/saga