

THE FINAL SCORE



~ by Lisa Speranza ~

Pittsburgh is a town known for its grit, hard work, and dedication. Bill Nunn, Sr. (nee William Goldwyn Nunn, Jr.) exemplified all of these qualities as a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers organization. During his impressive 46-year tenure as a scout, Nunn focused his efforts on recruiting players from historically African-American colleges and universities. He made a difference in the lives of countless under-represented individuals throughout his career, at a time when many were fighting for representation of their basic civil rights.

His stats are certainly impressive. Throughout his tenure with the Steelers, Nunn had the distinction of serving on 21 total championship teams over the course of 38 years: 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1983, 1984, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2010. He also represented the Steelers organization at six Super Bowls in 1975, 1976, 1979, 1980, 2006, and 2009. Of those six Super Bowls, the team won each and every one.

In 2021, Nunn was inducted into Canton's Pro Football Hall of Fame in the "Contributors" category, which is open to eligible individuals such as commissioners, owners, general managers, and other executives. This achievement is made even more notable by the fact that Nunn is "the first predominant scout to make the Hall of Fame — and the first African-American front-office executive" (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, 02/07/21).

The man who made a difference in the lives of so many is buried in Section 12 at The Homewood Cemetery, and is included on our self-guided tour, "Talent & Tenacity: Artists, Entertainers, & Sports Stars". To access this tour, please visit www.thehomewoodcemetery.com, and scroll to the bottom of the page for the "Download Our App" option.



**BILL NUNN, SR. IS PICTURED ABOVE
WITH THE FIRST FOUR OF HIS
EVENTUAL SIX SUPER BOWL
TROPHIES**



the *Homewood*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
THE HOMEWOOD CEMETERY
HISTORICAL FUND

1599 S. Dallas Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

412-421-1822

www.TheHomewoodCemetery.com

info@thehomewoodcemetery.com

Background: Judge William Wilkins' mansion "Homewood", which originally stood on the grounds and was the namesake for The Homewood Cemetery.



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The Homewood Cemetery

Historical Fund is a Section

501(c)(3) charitable organization

established July 11, 1989

*promoting the appreciation and
preservation of the cultural,
historical and natural resources of*

The Homewood Cemetery.

*Contributions made by
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deductible according to law.*

~ A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT ~

Dear Friends,

As we, like so many others, continue to navigate the difficult terrain of the recent pandemic, we would like to take this moment to express our gratitude to you for your essential and ongoing support of The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund.

The peaceful grounds of The Homewood Cemetery have served as a vital respite for generations of families, and continue to do so now more than ever.

As we look forward to brighter days ahead, we continue our commitment to the past through crucial efforts such as historic restoration, care and attention to the verdant trees and sprawling grounds of our nationally-accredited arboretum, and through providing ongoing educational resources such as our free mobile tour app.

The Homewood Cemetery provides a rich legacy of history, art, architecture, nature, and solace to thousands of visitors each year. You are an essential part of those efforts, and your financial support makes our mission sustainable for generations yet to come.

We thank you for your ongoing commitment and generosity, and are both honored and humbled to join with you in our legacy as caretakers of our historic Homewood Cemetery.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Unkovic

Mary M. Unkovic

Frank S. Curto

~ BY LISA SPERANZA ~

Frank S. Curto was born as the grandeur of the late 1800s blossomed into the dawn of the early 1900s. As a young man, Curto attended Pittsburgh's Schenley High School, and eventually received his Master of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Ohio.

After briefly serving with the National Parks service, Curto accepted a position with the Pittsburgh Department of Parks and Recreation as an Assistant Horticulturalist in 1935. By 1939, he was working for the famed Phipps Conservatory. In 1942, Curto answered the calling of another kind - he joined the Air Force, and served as a Major during the course of World War II. After the war, Curto returned from the destruction and chaos, and focused his efforts on tranquility, growth, and renewal. He was promoted to head Horticulturalist in the Division of Conservatories and Gardens for the Parks Department in 1946.

Curto is without a doubt best-known for his dedicated efforts to the Spring and Fall Flower Shows held annually at Phipps Conservatory. For over 30 years, he provided both direction and inspiration for the event, which at times was attended by more than 250,000 guests per year. Easter Sunday of 1942 saw more than 16,000 people attend the conservatory on that day alone. Curto also worked with the educational programs of noted Pittsburgh organizations such as Carnegie Mellon University and Buhl Planetarium. He delighted thousands of passersby with his carefully and artfully designed creations which adorned the windows of downtown Pittsburgh's Kaufmann's Department Store.

In 1962, Curto visited Japan, and brought home a love for the country's gardens. This was evident a year later when in 1963, his designs for the Spring Flower Show included a traditional Japanese feature called a torii gate (which separates the ordinary from the sacred), integrated flowing water, and blended native Japanese stones with brilliant floral displays.

On November 15, 1964, Curto celebrated 30 years with Phipps Conservatory. He held many other notable titles, including: secretary-treasurer for the Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association, charter member of the Men's Garden Club of Allegheny County, member of the Great Lakes Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, and President of the Pittsburgh Florists and Gardeners Club. In 1969, the Men's Garden Club honored Curto with the Johnny Appleseed Award, which was soon followed by the Society of American Florists honoring him with the Sylvan Award in 1970. Later that year, Curto resigned his position due to health issues after serving Phipps Conservatory for 34 years, with 25 of them as a leading architect of their beloved annual flower shows.

Frank S. Curto departed this world on February 23, 1971, leaving behind a life-long love of flowers that delighted generations of visitor's to Pittsburgh's famed Phipps Conservatory. His nickname - "Mister Flower Man" - captured the very essence of his life's work. He is now at rest in the tranquil sanctity of The Homewood Cemetery's Quiet Reflections Mausoleum.



THE STORY OF SOL COULSON

~ by Jennie Benford ~

Eugene...read romantic and adventurous novels, with a tearing hunger...he was deep in the weekly adventures of Young Wild West...and followed Nick Carter, through all the mazes of metropolitan crime..." -Look Homeward, Angel, Thomas Wolfe, 1929

Before Harry Potter—even before the Hardy Boys—kids thrilled to the exploits of fictional detective Nick Carter. Carter started as the hero of magazines and books but his popularity pushed him forward into radio, comic books, and movies. The Homewood Cemetery has a direct connection to Nick Carter via Sol Coulson. Solomon Coulson joined the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police between 1869 and 1872, working as a “roundsman” in the Strip District. While on that beat, he made a name for himself by using a wheelbarrow to transport drunkards from the streets to the jail. He moved up through the ranks of the force, serving as assistant superintendent starting in 1894 and finally as Superintendent three months before he retired in 1901.

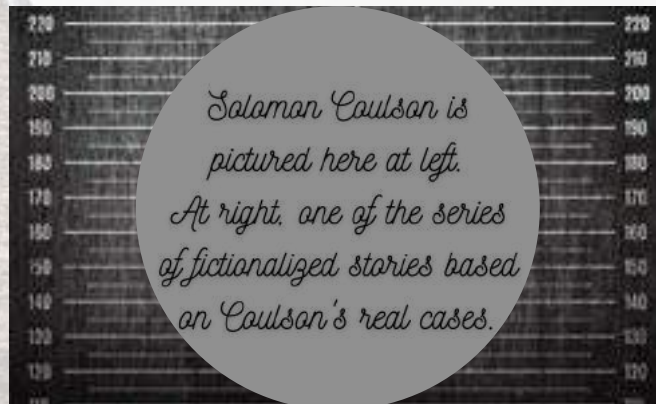
Coulson was a detective, and a good one at that. A shrewd observer, he was credited with having a steel trap memory and a “camera eye.” Coulson arrested at least 29 murderers over the course of his career and is credited with coining the phrase, “the murderer always returns to the scene of the crime.” He and his partner, Officer Roger O’Mara, were often asked to assist other police forces in different cities when a case threatened to remain unsolved.

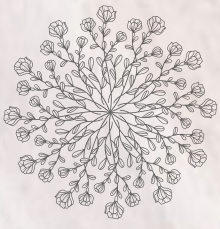
Coulson’s prowess as a detective made him a hometown celebrity, a status that was only enhanced by his good looks and stylish wardrobe. Local newspaper articles about his police work often mentioned his “physical beauty,” [Pittsburgh Press, June 23, 1901] his “finely sculpted head...magnificent \$100 evening suit,” and his “deportment and grace” [Pittsburgh Daily Post, November 20, 1896.] Keyword searches in Newspapers.com show Coulson mentioned in Pittsburgh newspapers on an average of 3 times a week throughout his 29-year career.

Fictional detective Nick Carter made his debut in a story by John R. Coryell in the September 18, 1886 issue of New York Weekly. Coryell’s Carter was an exemplary detective, a master of disguise, a brain-powered sleuth with the physical prowess of comic book superheroes. While his office was based in Manhattan, Carter’s investigations had him solving mysteries and fighting criminals all over the world. His adventures became a major money-maker for his publishers and as demand for Nick Carter stories grew, a “stable” of writers was hired to keep up. It is estimated that, by 1949, “Carter had appeared in over 4000 dime novels, pulps, films (both silents and talkies, including many in French), comic books, comic strips and radio shows [<http://thrillingdetective.com/carter/html>].”

One member of that stable of writers was George Charles Jenks, who had been a dime novel author since 1886. In a 1976 article about Coulson, Jenks claimed he based many of the Nick Carter stories he wrote on cases cracked by Coulson and O’Mara [“Pittsburgh’s Real Life Nick Carters,” The Pittsburgh Press, October 1, 1972.] Jenks had been a reporter for the Pittsburgh Press for six years and would have been familiar with the often-reported-on Coulson. While it is unknown which Nick Carter stories were written by Jenks, his knowledge of Coulson and O’Mara would have provided much fodder for the pot-boiler plots Nick Carter’s fans expected.

Sol Coulson enjoyed a 15-year retirement, dying at age 69 in 1916. He is at rest with his family in lot 186 Section 3. Whether Coulson knew he was an inspiration for the thrilling exploits of Nick Carter, is unknown.

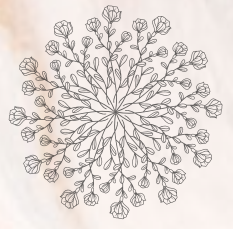




Peter Charles Reniers

Monuments and Memories

~ by Lisa Speranza



*M*uch as a chisel strikes an imprint upon stone, the works of Peter Charles Reniers have made their imprint upon the city of Pittsburgh. Born in Belgium in 1825, Reniers was educated in both Brussels and Paris, the latter of which provided the foundation for his love of art and burgeoning talent. In 1848, Reniers was called upon for a commissioned piece in Cincinnati, and set sail for New York harbor. As he arrived on her shores, America so enchanted him that he would never permanently return to his homeland.

P.C. Reniers (as he was professionally known) arrived in Pittsburgh in 1850, and the city was ready for him. Ample opportunity to develop his skill & repute in the arts of monument building, furnishings, and interiors were available as the city began to rise.

From his shop at 914 Penn Avenue, Reniers completed work on the Westinghouse building, cut the figurines for Pittsburgh's St. Peter & St. Paul Cathedrals, sculpted a bust of Dr. Thomas Dent Mütter (of Philadelphia's famed Mütter Museum), designed a striking statue of the Roman god Neptune which once stood outside Dollar Bank downtown (now located at Phipps Conservatory), and designed the monument for beloved Civil War General Alexander Hays which still stands in Allegheny Cemetery.

Each of these masterpieces pale in stature to the Soldiers' Memorial Reniers crafted (pictured at right) which once stood 40 feet in height, with a 50 foot square base that included four 6.5 foot tall carvings representing various military branches. It graced the top of Monument Hill in Pittsburgh's North Side for many years, where the campus of CCAC is now located. Portions of it were relocated to nearby West Park in 1931, where this little-known devotion to Pittsburgh's war dead can still be seen today.

In 1894, Reniers died of pneumonia, and was buried in the family plot in Section 8, Lot 94 of our bucolic grounds. His legacy did not end with these monuments, however. Two of his sons (Thomas & William) continued his work until at least 1910, with their shop located just outside the gates of our historic Homewood Cemetery.

*The Homewood Cemetery
* Section 8 *
* Lot 94 **



Portrait of P.C. Reniers



Penn Avenue Storefront



Soldier's Memorial, West Park



Stuart Nye "Buzz" Hutchison was elected to the Board of Directors for The Homewood Cemetery in 1994, and was a partner in the firm then known as Kirkpatrick, Lockhart, Johnson and Hutchison (now K&L Gates). He also dedicated much of his life to his beloved family and the East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

{ originally printed in the Fall 1992 Homewood Newsletter }

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

The Homewood Cemetery has maintained records on all interments since its founding in 1878, and genealogical information is available for a nominal fee... Requests should include the subject's complete name and the date of death or burial... All income from this research is used for the preservation of the cemetery's early records.



WHO'S WHO?



- Your parent's brother's child is your **FIRST COUSIN**. The first cousin's child is your **FIRST COUSIN ONCE REMOVED** and not your second cousin as is sometimes thought to be the case. The child of the first cousin once removed is your **FIRST COUSIN TWICE REMOVED** and *his* child is your **FIRST COUSIN THREE TIMES REMOVED**.
- Your grandparent's brother's (or sister's) grandchild is your **SECOND COUSIN**. That second cousin's child is your **SECOND COUSIN ONCE REMOVED**, and his child is your **SECOND COUSIN TWICE REMOVED**, etc.
- Your great-grandparent's brother's (or sister's) great-grandchild is your **THIRD COUSIN**. The third cousin's child is your **THIRD COUSIN ONCE REMOVED** and his child is your **THIRD COUSIN TWICE REMOVED**.

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November 2020 - October 2021
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The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund

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www.thehomewoodcemetery.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday / 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday / Closed

GATE HOURS

September 15 - March 15 / 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

March 16 - September 14 / 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

PUBLIC MAUSOLEUM HOURS

Open Daily / 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Quiet Reflections / 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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