

Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project

A Public/Private Partnership of the American Institute of Homeopathy and the National Park Service

A Ceremony Acknowledging the Completion

Friday, September 16, 2011

12:45-1:15 PM

Scott Circle, Washington, DC

By Sandra M. Chase, MD, DHT



On Friday, September 16, 2011, representatives of the US National Park Service, members of the Board of the American Institute of Homeopathy and of the AIH, as well as the interested public, gathered at the site of the Hahnemann Monument to participate in a ceremony hosted by the NPS and the AIH to acknowledge the completion of the Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project.

The speakers on the program included Robert Vogel, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks; Todd A. Hoover, MD, CCH, DHT, President American Institute of Homeopathy; and Sandra M. Chase, MD, DHT, Trustee, American Institute of Homeopathy, Chair, Hahnemann Monument Preservation Committee, Facilitator, Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project.

Our restoration project was conceived in June of 2000 on the occasion of the centennial of the dedication of this memorial. All in attendance could see that the monument needed repair. We initiated a fund drive and by May 2003, much to the amazement of then NPS Superintendent Arnold Goldstein, we had raised, from AIH members, the public, and international donors, over thirty thousand dollars for the purpose of restoring and maintaining this edifice. Superintendent Goldstein had promised that the NPS would produce a public acknowledgement ceremony, once the restoration was complete. I want to thank current Superintendent Vogel, Jennifer Talken-Spaulling with whom I have worked in recent years, and the NPS Administration for honoring that long ago made promise.

On April 4, 2004, we donated \$20,600 to repair the tesseræ decorated arch. On September 16, 2011, we donated \$3,835 to cover the cost of the shaped

granite stone that on September 13, 2011, was placed over the basin of the inactivated fountain at the rear of the monument.

The ordering, the receipt, and the placement of the granite capstone on the inactivated fountain at the rear of the monument coincided with the occasion of the three-day seminar, held at the Westin Hotel Center City in Washington, DC, cosponsored by the American Institute of Homeopathy, the Homeopathic Medical Society of the State of New York, and New York Medical College. This allowed for convenient timing of the promised acknowledgement ceremony of the restoration completion at a time when members of the American Institute of Homeopathy would be able to participate.

The National Park Service, who provided the podium and the amplification system, invited all from their number who had participated in the restoration of the monument to attend this ceremony. The American Institute of Homeopathy invited our members, especially those who were registered to attend the conference, as well as reaching out to the interested general public through the means of a targeted e-blast through the offices of the National Center for Homeopathy.

NPS Superintendent Bob Vogel used his remarks to speak of the public/private partnership in the completion of this project.

AIH President Todd A. Hoover, MD, CCH, DHt, offered brief remarks touching on the history of homeopathy in the United States, the establishment of the American Institute of Homeopathy, and the proposal and bringing to fruition of the Hahnemann Monument in Washington, DC, under the auspices of the AIH. It is of note that the Hahnemann Monument, completed for a cost of some \$48,000, was dedicated June 21, 1900, at a large ceremony attended by then US President William McKinley, as well as other Federal and District of Columbia dignitaries and the Marine Corps Band. Dr. Hoover thanked the AIH Membership and other contributors who helped support this project and expressed his pride both in the outreach of the AIH that this monument reflects and in the fact that it is the only monument to a physician in Washington, DC.

When the American Institute of Homeopathy decided in the early 1890's to construct a memorial to Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, homeopathy's founder, ultimately to be placed in Washington, DC, the members had three challenges.

- They needed to have legislation pass both houses of the US Congress and to be signed by the President of the United States.
- They needed to find a sculptor.
- They needed to amass the funds.

As Dr. Hoover said, it took two tries to achieve the legislative goal, but succeed they did.

The biggest hurdle was the challenge to raise the funds for which a goal of some \$30,000 dollars was set. They received donations ranging from 25¢ to the largest single donation of \$4,510 from Dr. Nancy T. Williams of Maine. It took eight years to amass the requisite funds.

Not being men of the arts, the members of the AIH turned to the National Sculpture Society who suggested an international contest, soliciting models of proposed sculptures from which a winner would be selected. As Dr. Hoover stated, the selected winner was Charles Henry Niehaus of Cincinnati, OH, the architect being Joseph Harder of New York City.

Perhaps many, if not all, of you have never heard of Charles Henry Niehaus. I know that I had not, but he was a prize-winning sculptor. Trained both here and in Rome, Mr. Niehaus had been commissioned by Ohio to sculpt the recently assassinated President James Garfield prior to this commission. He created sculptures of Moses and Edward Gibbon that are in the Library of Congress and he has no less than 8 pieces of sculpture displayed in the US Capitol.

This AIH sponsored memorial to Hahnemann received much acclaim. The model won the Gold Medal at the Pan American Exposition and was displayed at the 1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

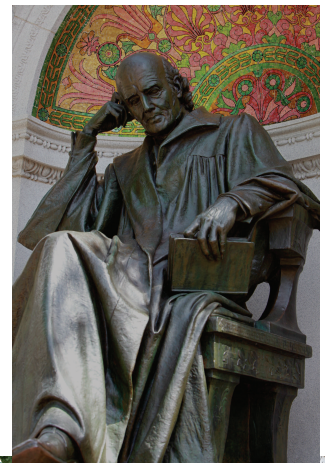
In 1913, Art Critic Charles Coffin described it as, "...the finest work...equaled by few others in the country."

The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography states, “A similar strength and adequacy of conception characterizes the statue of Hahnemann, discoverer of homeopathy, for the memorial in Washington, considered the most effective seated statue ever produced.”

Although I am not an art critic, my service in the International Homeopathic Medical League has taken me to many countries in the world whose regard for Hahnemann has also resulted in statuary. In my opinion this one is the most imposing and impressive of them all.

Everything about this memorial has significance to Hahnemann and to homeopathy. I want to highlight a few of the many things about this monument.

- The head of Hahnemann was modeled from a bust in life made by David, gifted by Melanie Hahnemann to one of the American Homeopathic colleges
- The statue is dressed in the robe of a scholar, making the figure timeless, as he is not depicted in period clothing,
- The arch behind his head, made of Italian colored glass backed with gold leaf, depicts a stylized *Cinchona*, the first proved medicine,



- The bronze entablatures depict four stages in Hahnemann’s life, right: night vigils of the student [1775-77] and investigations of the chemist [1779-89], and, left, self-experiment and teaching [1790] and successful treatment



of typhus patients in Leipsig [1813]. Note that the figures portrayed are all disciples of Hahnemann, Dunham, Gross, Hartman, Hering, and Stapf.

- Somewhere secreted in the base of the signed statue is a list of the original donors.

Be proud of this prize-winning memorial to the founder of our medical science. If you have the time while you are here, visit it again and look at each of its aspects that have significance in Hahnemann's life and for homeopathic medicine.

Now the Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project has been completed. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of our donors, large and small. I want to express my gratitude to all of the National Park Service personnel who



have actively participated in this undertaking, both those who are here and those who could not be here, as well as those who have retired from the service. My reluctance to name names among our Public Partners in the National Park Service is not out of a lack of deeply felt

gratitude, but out of a concern for omitting someone from the announced list.

Give yourselves a round of well-deserved applause.

Thank you.

Sandra M. Chase, MD, DHt
Chair, AIH Hahnemann Monument Preservation Committee
Facilitator, Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project

