

# THE STANFORD FAMILY MAUSOLEUM AND SURROUNDING AREA



The Mausoleum, the Stanford Family statue and the Angel of Grief are historic memorials located in the Stanford Arboretum, between Palm Drive and Quarry Road north of Campus Drive. This area, a quiet section of the Arboretum, was once planned as the site of the Stanfords' country mansion. The marble and granite mausoleum guarded by four marble sphinxes (William Couper, *Sphinxes*, c. 1908) was built to entomb the remains of Leland and Jane Stanford and their son, Leland Junior.<sup>1</sup> “The tomb, completed in 1889, cost more than \$100,000 (about \$2.3 million today).”<sup>2</sup> “The Mausoleum is not the site of Leland Jr.'s first burial—or even his second. After his death from typhoid fever in Florence in March 1884, the teenager was temporarily laid to rest in a vault on the East Coast. In the fall, the remains were reinterred in a “smaller” brick mausoleum on the grounds of the family mansion. This small mausoleum was still plenty grand, featuring a sitting room upholstered in gold and purple, a fresco depicting two large angels who bear Leland's body to heaven, and a ceiling decorated with stained glass. It was June 29, 1893—five days after his father's burial—that young Leland's lead-lined casket was moved to the mausoleum we know today.”<sup>2</sup>



## From the Handbook of Stanford University, 1928-29

- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford, members of the Senior Class place flowers on their tomb every Sunday. This privilege is transferred to the next class during the Senior Week.<sup>3</sup>

Adjacent to the Mausoleum you will find the **Stanford Family statue**, cast in bronze in 1899 by Larkin G. Mead. This memorial to the family was originally placed in Memorial Court but has since had several homes on campus. Restored in 1982, it was relocated to its current position in 1998.<sup>5</sup>



The **Angel of Grief** is north of the Mausoleum. This sculpture is a memorial to Jane Stanford's youngest brother, Henry Clay Lathrop. The original, a reproduction of *The Angel of Grief Weeping Over the Dismantled Altar of Life* by William Wetmore Story, was severely damaged in the 1906 earthquake and was restored by Jane Stanford's business manager, Charles Lathrop (no relation), in 1908. Both the Mausoleum and Angel of Grief were further restored in 2001.<sup>4</sup>

The **arboretum** surrounding the memorials is a wonderful destination for tree and bird enthusiasts. There are a number of special trees transplanted to the arboretum from other sites on campus.<sup>1</sup> Two fine examples of the rare, extremely slow-growing Guadalupe Palm *Brabea edulis* are just north of the Mausoleum. These c. 1900 specimens originally grew at the first women's dormitory; they were transplanted in 1996 to make room for new Sequoia Hall.<sup>6</sup>

The **Arizona Garden** is a historical garden in the process of renovation and preservation. It is located on the south side of the mausoleum off of Quarry Road between Campus Drive and Arboretum Road. The garden, also known as the Cactus Garden, was designed for Jane and Leland Stanford by landscape architect Rudolf Ulrich between 1881 and 1883. It was “planted in what was intended to be the Stanfords' backyard.”<sup>7</sup> During the early years of the university, the Cactus Garden became the meeting place for many courting Stanford students. A dedicated group of volunteers meet once a month to work in the garden.<sup>8</sup>

There are many unusual plants within the garden. Selections from the Cacti family include columnar, barrel and monstrose forms. Selections of succulents include Aloes, Crassulas and rosette-forming Agaves. The two large and ancient Yucca (*Yucca schottii*) are most remarkable; another old and striking specimen (*Yucca filifera*) can be found just north of the Cantor Arts Center.<sup>9 10</sup>



SEE OVER FOR MAPS →

<sup>1</sup> <http://bgm.stanford.edu/groups/grounds/special/mausoleum>

<sup>2</sup> J. Pegg, “What You Don't Know About...The Mausoleum,” Stanford Magazine, Sept/Oct 2011

<sup>3</sup> Handbook of Stanford University History, Tradition, and Lore. Published by the Stanford Axe Committee with support from the Pringle Fellowship, 2011–2012, p.14

<sup>4</sup> R. Jamison, “The Many Sorrows of an Angel,” Sandstone & Tile, Vol.18 No.3, Summer 1994, p.3

<sup>5</sup> Sandstone & Tile, Vol.25 No.2, Spring/Summer 2001 (Stanford Historical Society's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue), p.9

<sup>6</sup> <http://trees.stanford.edu/PDF/noteworthy.pdf>, p.1

<sup>7</sup> B. Palmer, “Labor of love leads to a happy ending for the 'Angel of Grief’”, <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2001/april18/mausoleum-418.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://bgm.stanford.edu/groups/grounds/special/arizona>

<sup>9</sup> <http://trees.stanford.edu/ENCYC/YUCschot.htm>

<sup>10</sup> <http://trees.stanford.edu/ENCYC/YUCfi.htm>