

THE ROSE OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER



By Bob Martin
President
American Rose Society



American Rose Society

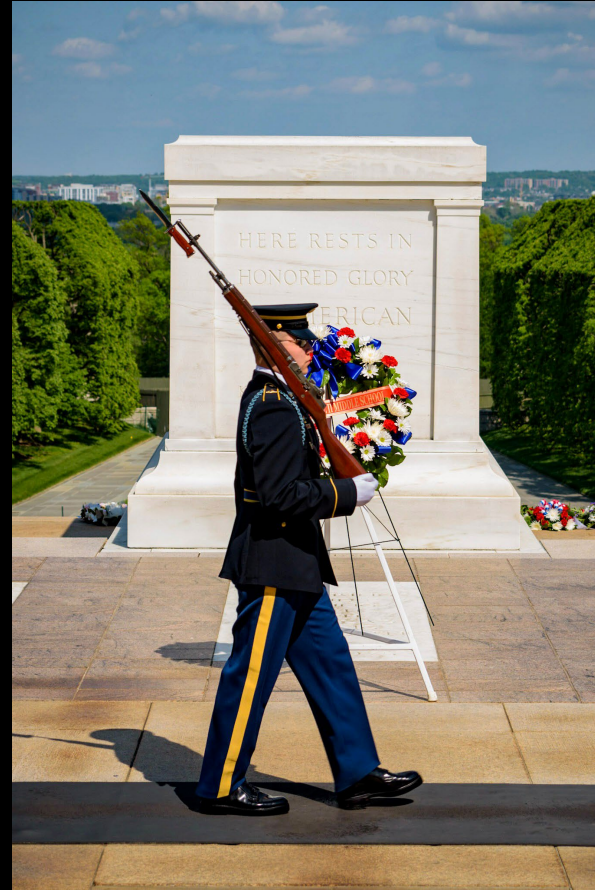
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is Arlington National Cemetery's most iconic memorial
- It is dedicated to members of the United States armed services whose remains have not been identified.



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- The neoclassical, white marble sarcophagus stands atop a hill overlooking Washington, D.C.
- The back (west) features the inscription: “Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.”



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



The Tomb sarcophagus is decorated with three wreaths on each side panel (north and south).

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



On the front (east), three figures represent Peace, Victory and Valor.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- Hamilton Fish III (December 7, 1888 – January 18, 1991) was a soldier and Republican politician from New York State.
- He served in the United States House of Representatives from 1920 to 1945.



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- Congressman Fish served in World War I with the 369th Infantry “Harlem Hellfighters” earning a Silver Star for action in combat in France
- This war time experience led him to propose legislation which created the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Maj. Gen. Mark L. Hersey and
Capt. Hamilton Fish, Jr.
(right)

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



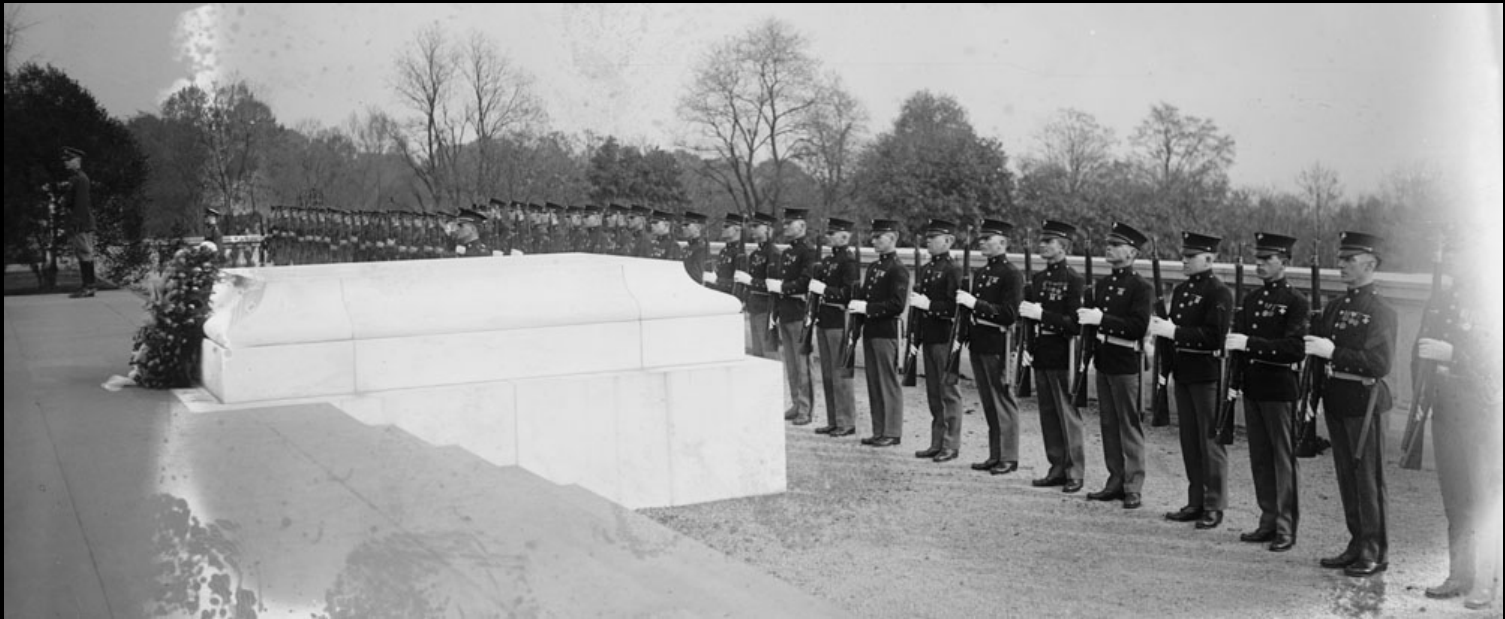
On March 4, 1921, Congress approved a Resolution introduced by Fish for the return of the remains of an unknown American soldier killed in France during World War I for interment in a tomb to be constructed in Arlington National Cemetery

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

“It is hoped that the grave of this unidentified warrior will become a shrine of patriotism for all the ages to come, which will be a source of inspiration, reverence and love of country for future generations.”

– Congressman Hamilton Fish III,
March 9, 1921

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Thereafter, on November 11, 1921, an unknown soldier brought back from France was interred below a three-level marble tomb.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



The solemn ceremony followed a state funeral procession from the US Capitol building, where the World War I Unknown had lain in state



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

“The burial of the Unknown Warrior should give the whole country an opportunity to express in a National way, their tribute to the glorious dead. It will bring consolation and assuage the grief of the twelve hundred families whose sons died unknown and unidentified, for each and every family will proudly claim this body as that of their own son.”

– Congressman Hamilton Fish III,
March 9, 1921

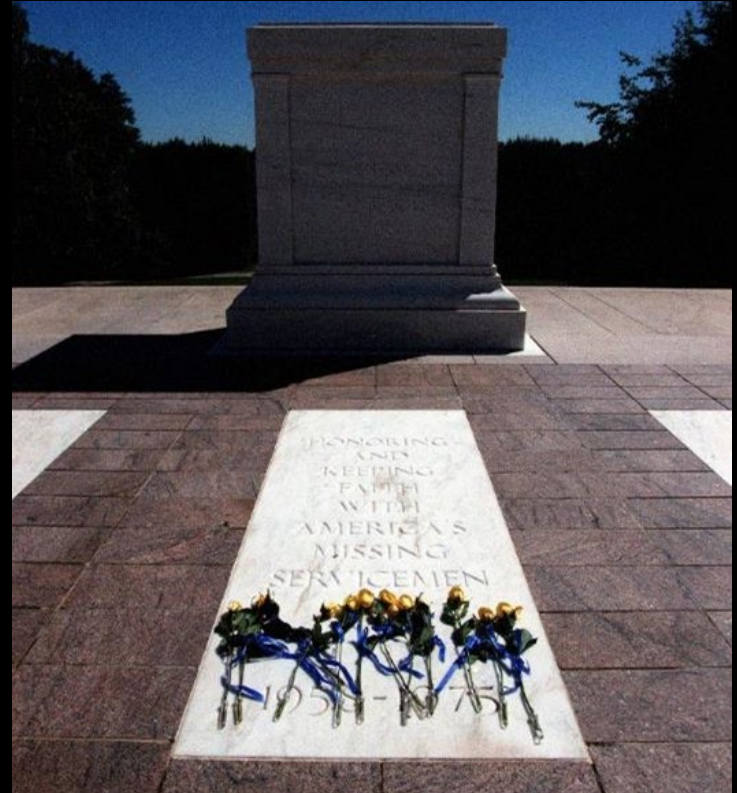
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



The superstructure above the tomb was completed in 1932. Later crypts were added to inter the Unknowns from World War II and Korea

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- The Vietnam War Unknown was identified and reburied at the request of the family at a National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.
- The crypt designated for the Vietnam War Unknown remains vacant and was rededicated to honor all missing U.S. service members from the Vietnam War.



HERE RESTS IN
HONORED GLORY
AN AMERICAN
SOLDIER
KNOWN BUT TO GOD

1917-1918

HONORING
AND
KEEPING
FAITH
WITH
AMERICA'S
MISSING
SERVICEMEN

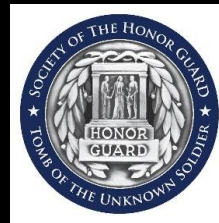
1950-1953

1978-1975

1941-1945

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- The tomb is today guarded around the clock daily by elite sentries of the US Army's historic ceremonial but combat-ready 3rd Infantry Regiment — “The Old Guard.”
- Soldiers who volunteer to become Tomb Guards must undergo a strict selection process and intensive training.



Selection of the Unknown Soldier

- On October 22, 1921, four unknown servicemen were exhumed from four World War I American battlefield cemeteries in France
- They were taken the following day to the city hall in Châlons-en-Champagne, France where they were draped with American flags.



Selection of the Unknown Soldier

- U.S. Army Sergeant Edward F. Younger was chosen to make the selection of the unknown soldier.
- He was handed a bouquet of white roses to make the selection.



Sgt. Edward F. Younger

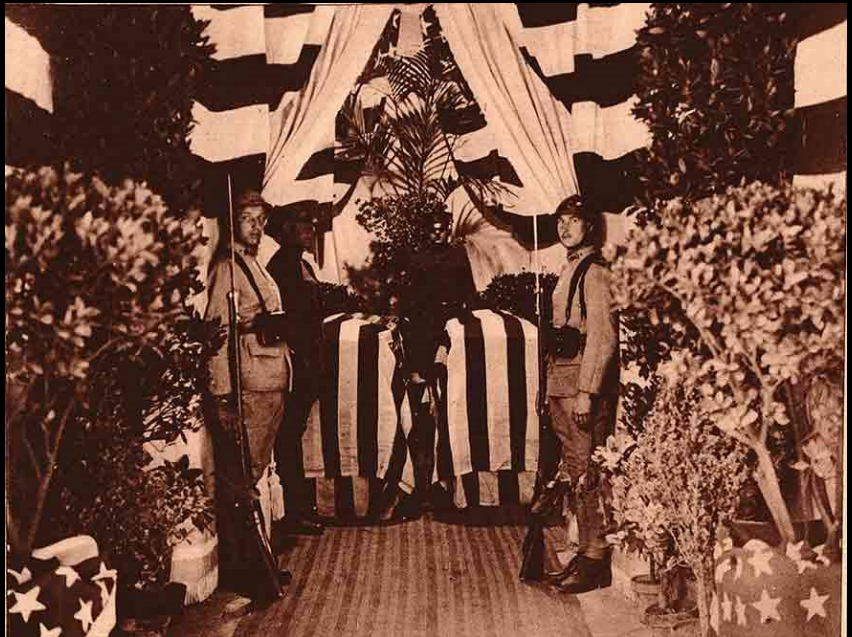
Selection of the Unknown Soldier

“You will take these flowers, proceed to the chapel, and place the bouquet on one of the four caskets resting there. The one you select will be the Unknown Soldier.”

– Maj. Robert Harbold

Selection of the Unknown Soldier

- After kneeling in prayer, Sergeant Younger stood and circled the caskets three times, touching each casket.
- He then saluted and placed the flowers on the second casket to his right.



Selection of the Unknown Soldier

“It was as though something had pulled me. Something seemed to stop me each time I passed the coffin. As I moved toward it, the mysterious pull grew irresistible; I could not have turned back now had I tried.... A voice seemed to say, ‘This is a pal of yours’ Something seemed to say ‘Pick this one..’”

– Sgt, Edward F. Younger



The Unknown Soldier receiving military honors at the city hall of Châlons-sur-Marne after selection

Selection of the Unknown Soldier

- The roses remained on the coffin throughout the journey home.
- They were buried with the unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery along with some soil taken from France.



Centennial Commemoration

- The 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will be commemorated at Arlington National Cemetery at 11:00 AM on November 21, 2021



Centennial Commemoration

- The Centennial is being promoted by The Society of The Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Society), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to protecting and enhancing the welfare and image of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the soldiers (Tomb Guards) who stand guard, past and present.



Centennial Commemoration

“We view the Centennial not only as a celebration to remember the burial of the World War I Unknown Soldier, but an opportunity to reflect on what the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier means to America . . . the larger purpose of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, . . . as a focal point to bring all Americans together—that its meaning be not limited to the Great War and the exclusive claim of that War’s veterans..”

– Gavin McIlvenna,
President & Centennial Committee Chairman

Centennial Commemoration

On February 23, 2019 at 7:18 PM 123ContactForm <noreply@123formbuilder.io> wrote:

Name	Larry Seaton
Email	treasurer@tombguard.org
City/State	Napa, CA
Climate	N/A
Question	Do you know what varieties of white roses were available in France in 1921? The American Unknown Soldier was selected by Sgt. Younger in France when he placed a spray of white roses on the casket.

The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier contacted the American Rose Society to asked if it was possible to identify the white roses used in the selection of the American Unknown Soldier in France in 1921 by Sergeant Edward Younger.

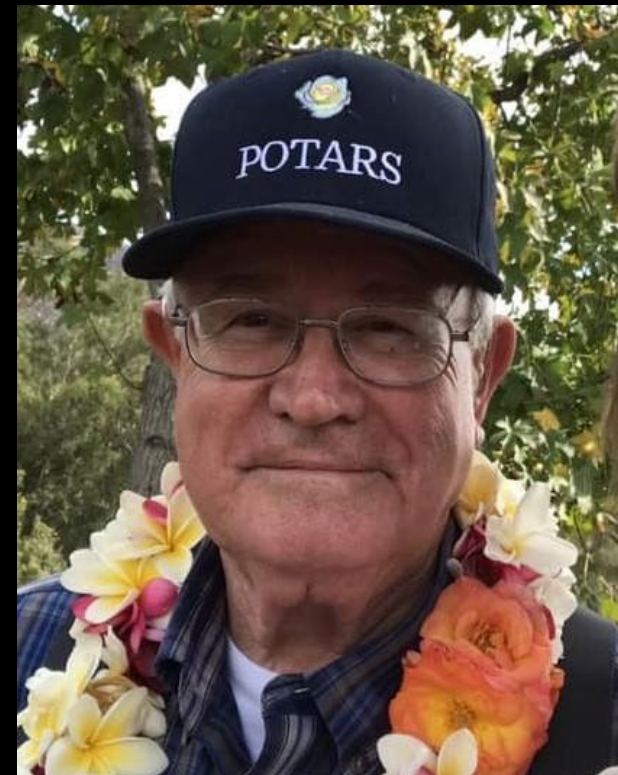
The American Rose Society

- The American Rose Society, founded in 1892 is the World's largest single plant society.
- The American Rose Society exists to promote the culture, preservation and appreciation of the Rose and to improve its standard of excellence for all people, through education and research.



Identifying the Rose

- As President of the American Rose Society, and a student of American history I undertook the project of identifying the Rose of the Unknown Soldier.
- In doing so I determined that since there is no historical record that specifically identifies the roses used, it is impossible to answer that question with certainty.



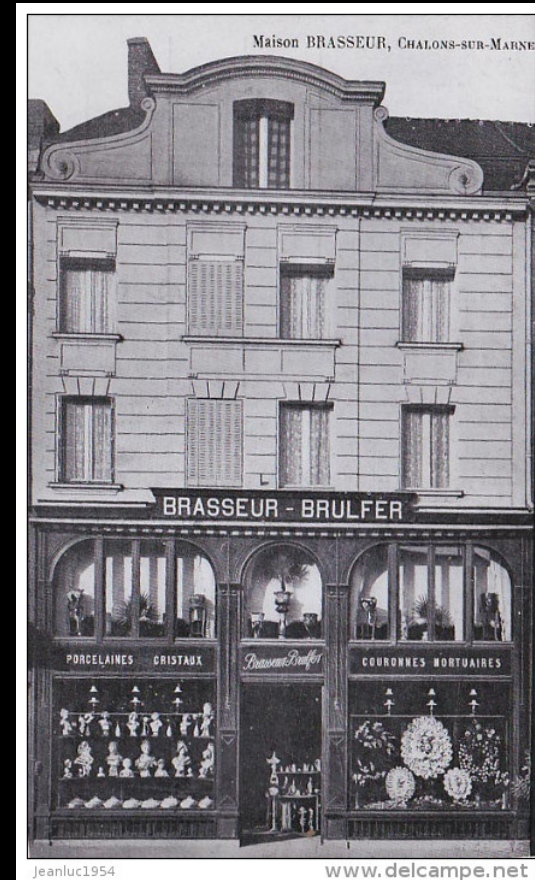
Identifying the Rose

- The selection took place in the French town of Châlons-en-Champagne on the morning of October 24, 1921.
- Châlons-en-Champagne is a city in the Grand Est region in the North of France.
- Formerly called Châlons-sur-Marne, the city was officially renamed in 1998



Identifying the Rose

- The official records of the Army Graves Registration Service deposited in the National Archives describe the selection of America's first Unknown Soldier.
- “Sergeant Younger slowly entered the mortuary room, carrying a spray of white roses which had been donated by M. Brasseur Brulfer, a former member of the City Council.”



Identifying the Rose

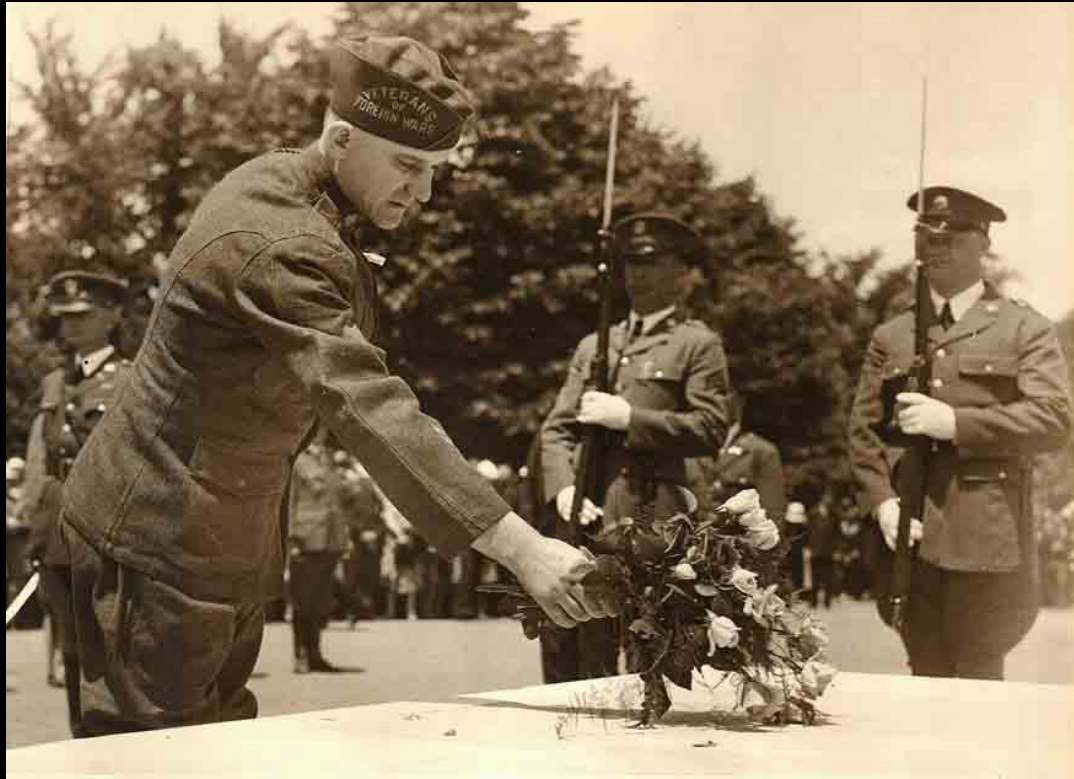
“He stood alone in the small, dark octagonal room holding the bouquet of white roses cut from the garden of French parents who had lost two sons to the war.”

Identifying the Rose

- The roses were cut from a French garden, perhaps locally, prior to October 24, 1921.
- The rose must have been introduced in commerce, most likely in France, prior to 1921.
- The time of year indicates that the rose was a repeat-flowering variety that blooms in the fall.



Identifying the Rose



A photo of Sergeant Younger “re-creating” his selection on May 30, 1930 has a close up of white roses of distinctive tea form, popular among florist roses.

Identifying the Rose

- 'Tea Roses are the predecessors of today's modern Hybrid Teas that display a high pointed center, with petals unfurling from the point in a symmetrical spiral to the outer row of petals
- The Tea rose form was then as today popular among florists

Sergeant Younger
May 30, 1930



Identifying the Rose

- ‘Hume’s Blush Tea-Scented China’ was introduced by Sir A. Hume from the “East Indies” (then including China) in 1810
- Its Tea rose characteristics predominate by a 2:1 margin over those of its *Rosa chinensis* parentage

‘Hume’s Blush
Tea-Scented China’



Identifying the Rose

- The indistinct photos of the actual bouquet on the casket in 1921 also suggest that the rose was a tea rose.
- The casket itself is surrounded by an elaborate florist arrangement
- Tea roses are also typically repeat blooming, which suggests that they could have been in bloom in France in late October 1921.



‘Catherine Mermet’
Tea, lp, 1869, Guillot et fils

Identifying the Rose

- However, because of the time of year, it is most likely the roses were blooming in a greenhouse.
- Tea-formed roses were then, and indeed now are, the primary type of rose used by florists.
- They also typically come with long stems which admit to arrangement in a bouquet such as the one used in the selection.



‘Safrano’
Tea, ab, 1839, Beauregard

Identifying the Rose

- Taking this information, I studied likely candidates of white tea roses popular in France circa 1921.
- That turned up several candidates, the most likely of which is 'Niphetos' a white tea rose hybridized by the French breeder Bougere in 1841.

'Niphetos' on
Cigarette Card 1913



Identifying the Rose

- ‘Niphetos’ is variously translated from the Greek as “snowing” or “falling snow”.
- The rose is also sometimes referred to as “The Wedding Rose” or “The Bridal Rose” because of its use at weddings.
- Contemporaneous accounts described it as: “Large, full, tulip-like form, pure white, buds long...a delightful rose.” .



‘Niphetos’

Identifying the Rose

- Other accounts of ‘Niphetos’ say, “No white Tea can beat it for purity in color.”
- The French *Journal des Roses* summed up the description thus: “Represents among roses, a perfect distinction, a supreme elegance, finesse and finally nobility.”



‘Niphetos’



Identifying the Rose

- ‘Niphetos’ was a popular florist rose following its introduction and would likely have remained so after the War in 1921.
- It was not, however, considered a good garden rose because of its susceptibility to rain and because it opened poorly.



‘Niphetos’

Identifying the Rose

- ‘Its quality as a bud, however, marked it according to then contemporary sources as “in essence ... a greenhouse rose.”



‘Niphetos’

Identifying the Rose

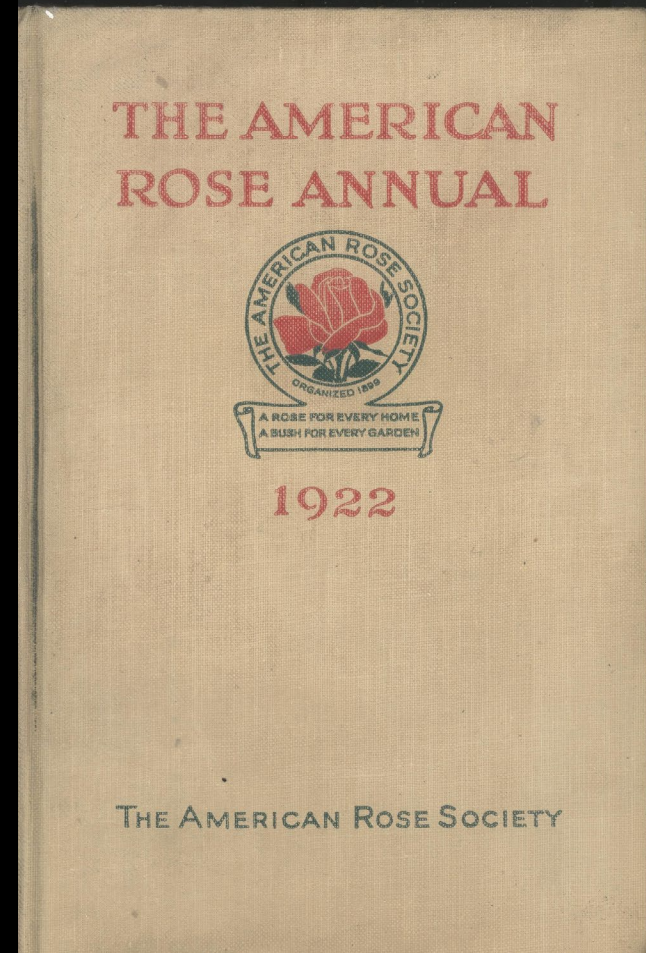
- It is fair to assume that the destruction in France during the Great War would have made it unlikely that there were any local gardens in late October 1921 that could have supplied a bouquet of white roses.
- The elaborate floral arrangements surrounding the casket and displayed in the selection room also strongly suggests the employment of a florist.



'Niphetos'

Identifying the Rose

- There is an article in the 1922 American Rose Annual, at p. 132, titled “Among European Rosarians”, by E. A. White, Professor of Floriculture, Cornell University.
- Professor White was the former secretary of the American Rose Society for several years.



Identifying the Rose

- Professor White's trip include one to France where he visited prominent gardens and nurseries in the fall of 1921, coincidentally at the same time of the selection of the American Unknown Solider.
- Among those gardens were the nurseries of Joseph Pernet-Ducher.



Jh Pernet-Ducher
Advertisement

Identifying the Rose

- Joseph Pernet-Ducher (1859–1928) was a French rosarian and hybridizer.
- Born near Lyon, the son of Jean Pernet, he was a third generation rose-grower.
- In 1879 he began his apprenticeship in the rose-breeding business with the Ducher nursery in Lyon.



Joseph Pernet-Ducher

Identifying the Rose

- In 1882, Joseph Pernet-Ducher married Marie Ducher, the owner's daughter.
- Thereafter he adopted the name "Pernet-Ducher" to signify the two rose growing entities.



'Marie Ducher'
Tea, 1p, 1868, Ducher

Identifying the Rose

- Joseph Pernet-Ducher developed a worldwide reputation in 1900 when he introduced 'Soleil d'Or', the first yellow Hybrid Tea.
- This rose is now recognized as the first of the "Pernetiana" roses (Roses of Pernet) and an important ancestor of the legendary rose 'Peace', introduced in 1945 following World War II.



'Peace'

Identifying the Rose

“On my arrival at Lyons, I found a note from M. Pernet-Ducher saying his daughter would call for me early Thursday to take me to their nurseries. Mlle. Pernet speaks excellent English and acted both as guide and interpreter for me during the entire day. The war brought deep sadness to their home in that it took both sons, Claudius, 31 years old, and Georges, aged 28 years. The morning was spent among the roses.”

– E. A. White,
“Among European Rosarians”,
1922 American Rose Annual, at p. 132,

Identifying the Rose

- Joseph Pernet-Ducher named the roses, 'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet' and 'Souvenir de Georges Pernet' in memory of his two sons lost to the war.

From the Catalogue of Grandes
Rosaies du Val de la Loire,
1924-1925



Photo Grandes Rosaies

(Au centre) Rose SOUV^{ir} DE CLAUDIUS PERNET (Hybride de Lutea)
(Voir page 57.)

PRIX : Buisson de choix, 2 fr. 80 ; Haute tige, 11 fr. 50

Cette superbe nouveauté fait partie de notre réputée collection B,
prix très avantageux. (Voir page 13.)

(De chaque côté) Rose S^{ir} DE GEORGES PERNET (Hybride de Lutea)
(Voir page 51.)

PRIX : Buisson de choix, 5 fr. ; Haute tige, 12 fr. 50

Cette magnifique obtention fait partie de notre collection A. (Voir page 13.)

Identifying the Rose

“He stood alone in the small, dark octagonal room holding the bouquet of white roses cut from the garden of French parents who had lost two sons to the war.”

Identifying the Rose

- Joseph Pernet-Ducher was a prominent rosarian and nurseryman in France whose garden and greenhouse were full of roses in the fall of 1921, including no doubt the popular white Tea rose, ‘Niphetos’.



Joseph Pernet-Ducher
Catalogue 1930

Identifying the Rose

- The account of the selection of the American Unknown Soldier has a number of “coincidences”
- Perhaps the visit of Professor White to the nurseries of Joseph Pernet-Ducher in 1921 is just that.
- Then again, how many greenhouses existed in war-torn France on October 24, 1921 owned by a man of roses who lost two sons in the War?



Joseph Pernet-Ducher

Identifying the Rose

“I suspect there was but one, which fact would explain the voice in my head that seems to say: ‘the roses used in the selection of the American Unknown Soldier in France in 1921 by Sergeant Edward Younger were a bouquet of the pure white Tea rose ‘Niphetos’ from the gardens of Joseph Pernet-Ducher, the French nurseryman near Lyons who had lost two sons in the Great War.’”

– Bob Martin, President
American Rose Society

“Never Forget” Garden

- The commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will include the dedication of “Never Forget” gardens throughout the United States,
- The American Rose Society Board of Directors has adopted resolutions in support of the Centennial Commemoration of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



“Never Forget” Garden



The American Rose Society is resolved to dedicate a special and permanent place within America's Rose Garden as our 'Never Forget Garden' to remember America's fallen heroes, and to encourage our 14,000 members across the country to do likewise.

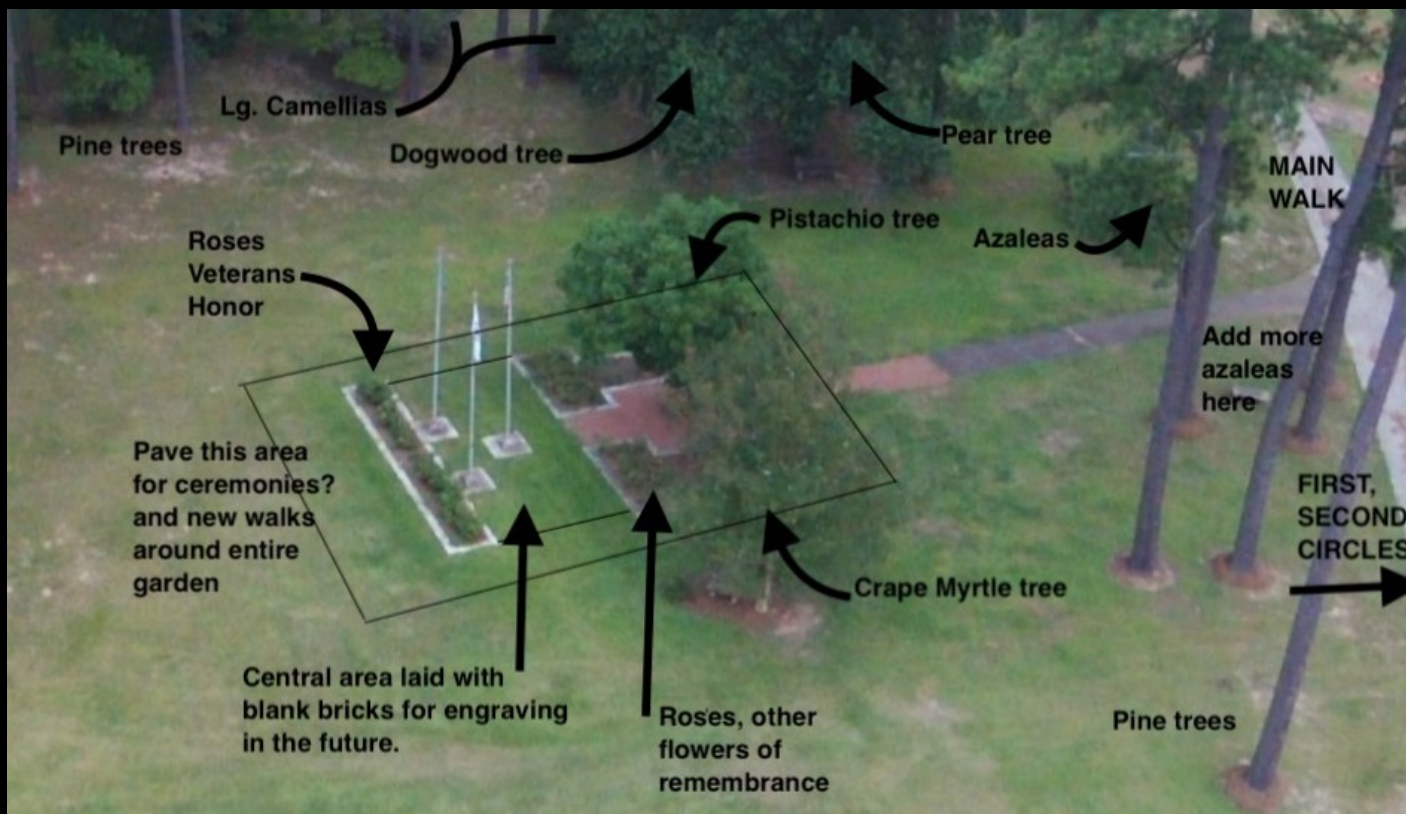
American
Rose
Center



THE FIRST CIRCLE



“Never Forget” Garden



The planting of the Rose, America's National Floral Emblem, will be a major feature of the “Never Forget Garden” project,

'Never Forget' Rose

- The commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will include the dedication of the rose 'Never Forget'.
- The rose was hybridized by Fabien Ducher, grandson of Joseph Pernet-Ducher.



'Never Forget'



‘Never Forget’



“Soldiers never die until they are forgotten, Tomb Guards never forget”



Never Forget