

Clues To A Discovery In Morristown, NJ

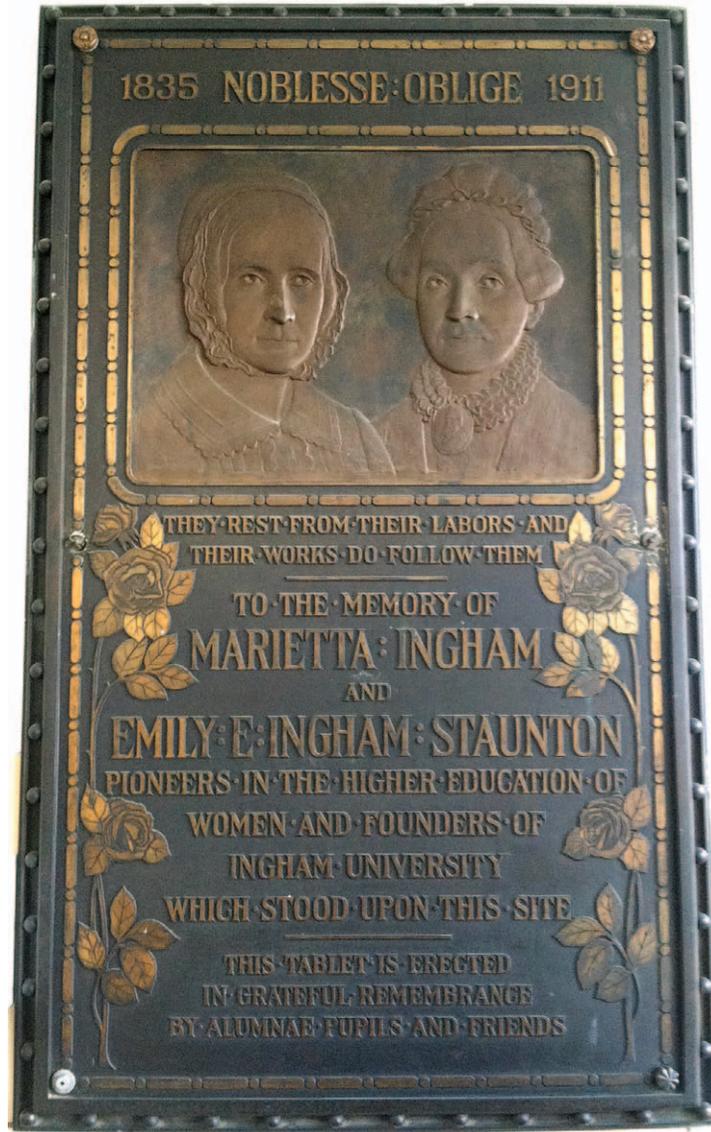
by Lynne Belluscio

About a month ago I received an e-mail from Carrie Fellows, a good friend who is the director of McCulloch Hall in Morristown, New Jersey. She wanted me to read the label to a plaster cast of Emily and Marietta Ingham that was in an exhibit at her museum.

She said she immediately recognized the connection to LeRoy and Ingham University because I had frequently talked about Ingham and its importance in women's education. "That must be the plaster cast that was used for the bronze plaque that is in the front entry of the 1911 High School. It commemorated the founders of Ingham and the site of the University. Why is it in Morristown?"

Carrie told me that it is part of an exhibit about the artist James E. Kelly, a very famous sculptor. He was a child during the Civil War and after the war sculpted many Civil War heroes as well as other famous Americans. Kelly's bronze statues are prominent in Gettysburg and many cities along the East Coast. When Kelly died in 1933, he was buried in an unmarked grave. Historian William B. Style, who is the curator of the exhibit in Morristown, wrote a book about Kelly in 2005. He also raised money to place a gravestone on Kelly's grave. It is engraved "A Sculptor of American History."

I was curious about the Ingham plaque and James Kelly, so I looked through the *LeRoy Gazette* and read that the plaque



was dedicated on June 1911 but there was no mention of James Kelly. It only mentions that the plaque was cast in the Lamb Studio in New York City and was paid for by the Ingham Alumnae Association. Today I went over to the school, and found Kelly's

signature on the plaque. I still don't know how one of the most famous American sculptors came to make the Ingham plaque in the LeRoy High School, but now we know how significant it is.

On May 10, the LeRoy Historical Society will offer a three-day spring trip to Morristown. We'll visit McCulloch Hall to see the exhibit on James Kelly. We'll also visit some great museums in the area. Historic Speedwell is where Robert Morris demonstrated his new telegraph system. We'll also visit Fosterfields Historic Farm, one of my favorite living history sites.

Also on the schedule is the Morris Museum which has the largest collections of automated figures - or automata. We will have a special tour of this exhibit. On Saturday night I have made reservations for the musical "Give My Regards to Broadway" starring several well known Broadway stars. We'll be staying at the Morristown Hyatt on the Green, with several good restaurants nearby. Anyone who is interested in joining us for the trip and need more details, call me at 768-7433. I have eight places available and I have to have reservations in by April 10.



Oatka Festival Meeting

to be held at

LeRoy House

23 East Main Street

at 7 PM Thursday, April 18th

Open to the Public

Come volunteer to help with the 2013 event

July 13 & 14. Organizations, food vendors, events, crafts, exhibits, class reunions

There's a lot of changes for 2013!!

Questions - 768-7433 (Jell-O Museum)