

Sevenoaks Town Council

History of the Kraftmeier Mausoleum
Greatness Cemetery, Seal Road, Sevenoaks TN15



The Family and the Mausoleum

In 1901 upon the death of son, John Edward Victor Kraftmeier (1897-1901), Edward August Heinrich Kraftmeier commissioned the building of the Mausoleum. It was built circa 1908 in Art Nouveau style and stands on 10 plots and cost £60.7s.6d. The memorial permit for the mausoleum was paid on 28.11.1908 and cost £8.8s. It is constructed of a granite base with alternate courses white and grey stone with carved friezes above to front and sides and copper roof supported on a wide bracket eaves cornice with high quality panelled door with circular light and ornamental ironwork including wings. The interior ceiling is beautifully decorated with mosaic tiles.

Photograph of the interior mosaics



Photograph of the Front entrance



Renovated July 2011 courtesy of the £15,000 grant awarded to Sevenoaks Town Council by Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust. It is believed that the original architect was Charles Ashbee, an Art Nouveau pioneer architect who lived at Stormont House, Godden Green or one of his pupils. Below is a photograph of refurbishment work being carried out.



History of the Kraftmeier Mausoleum

Edward August Henry Kraftmeier was born in 1851 a denationalised German 27 October 1880 and working in munitions in 1884 (E Kraftmeier & Co) lived at 35 Charles Street, Hanover Square when he married Emilie Harriet Oesterley on 1 June 1892 in St John Church, Hampstead. They later lived at 54 Parliament Square, London – Census 1899.

Their daughter Esme Kraftmeier died at the age of 12 (13.12.1896-11.07.1908) by the time the family Mausoleum was finished and is buried beneath it.

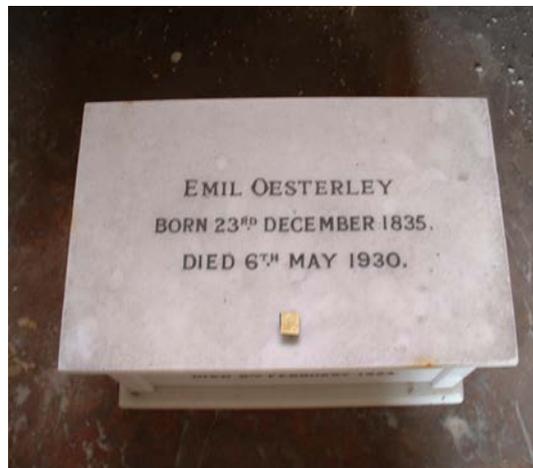


A plaque hangs inside the Mausoleum to commemorate the life of their son John Edward Victor Kraftmeier (1897-1901).



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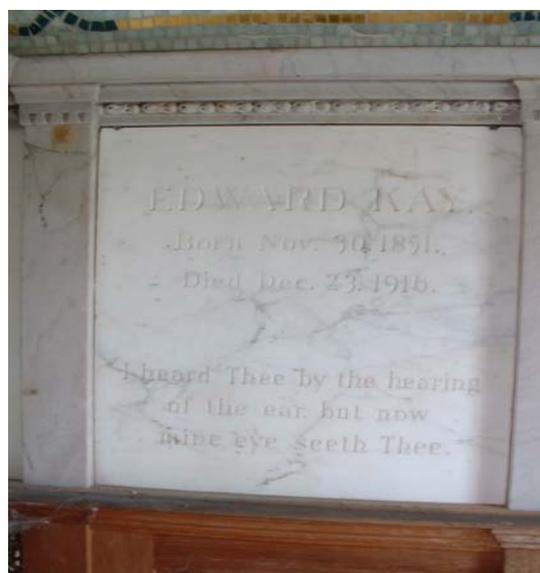
The ashes of Emilie Harriet Kraftmeier's (nee Oesterley) Father, Emil Oesterley (23.12.1835-06.05.1930) and Mother, Harriet McLeod Oesterley (08.11.1833-09.02.1924) are together in an urn within the mausoleum.



In December 1914 there was an investigation of E Kraftmeier at Chilworth Gunpowder Co as a German working in British munitions during the war. The military authorities in December 1914, after careful investigation of the case, were satisfied that no suspicion attached to him.



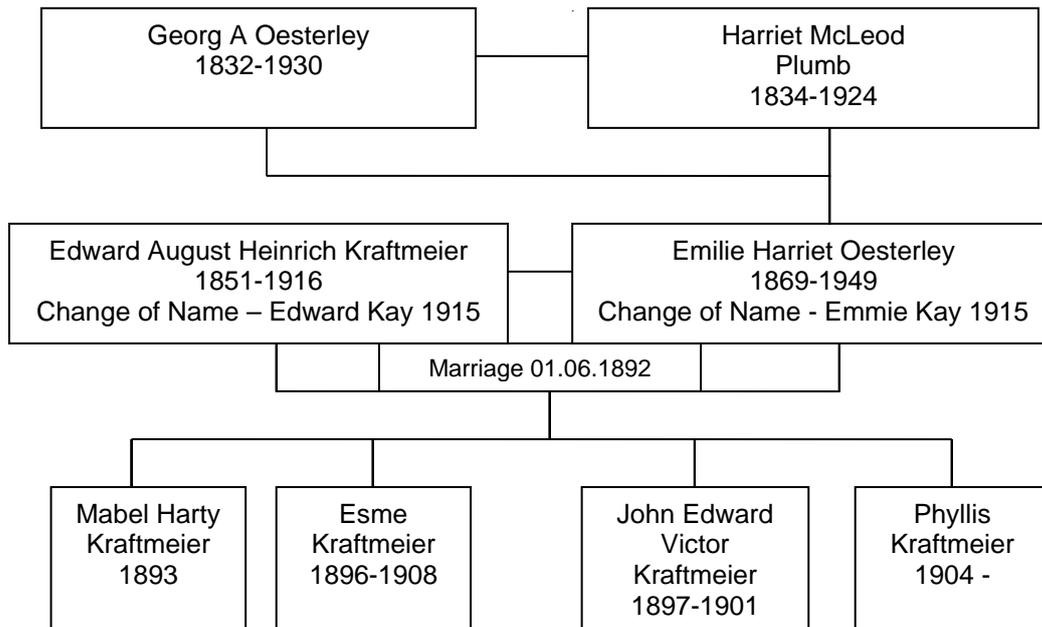
Inside the mausoleum there is a plaque in memory of Dawson Downing, their Godson, who was killed whilst flying on Salisbury Plain on 25 February 1915.



Edward Kay, of Ashgrove, Sevenoaks, Kent, died 23 December 1916

21 June 1892 Edward and Emilie Kraftmeier changed their names to Edward Kay and Emmie Kay by deed of poll.

Information Leaflet - History of the Kraftmeier Mausoleum



In partnership in 2011 with a grant received from



If you would like to visit the Mausoleum or require further information please contact Sevenoaks Town Council by phone on 01732 459953 or via email to council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

For information regarding Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust, please refer to their website www.coryenvironmental.co.uk/page/ibstock.htm.