

Restored Hamilton Sundial Rededicated Eighty-four Years Later By Kathleen Stuckey Fox

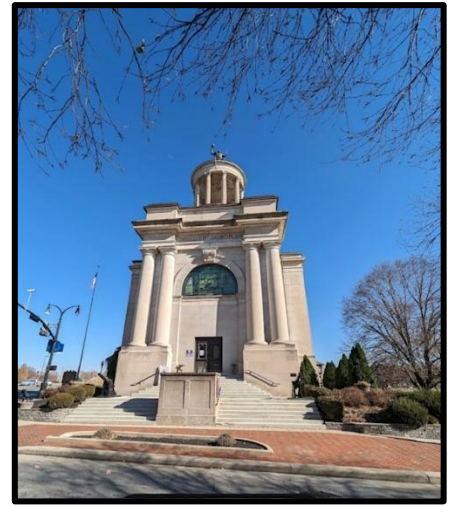
The Hamilton G.A.R. Sundial was rededicated May 31, 2025, in Monument Park, approximately in the same place that it had been dedicated on May 30, 1941. Last year, Hamilton historian Kathleen Stuckey Fox began her quest to raise funds for restoring the beleaguered sundial which had been neglected for years. The idea of the sundial had been conceived earlier when the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War desired to acknowledge Josephine Straub Weiler, by naming Tent No. 117 in Josephine's honor. Members of the Tent donated a bronze sundial memorial, honoring the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic to the Monument. Fox has family members that connect her all the way back to Josephine Straub Weiler in the 1880s. Weiler, the mother of Stella Weiler Taylor, Hamilton's Lady of Letters, had raised funds for over 18 years to help build the Soldiers', Sailors' and Pioneers' Monument, which was dedicated on July 4, 1906.



Kathleen Stuckey Fox



Restored Sundial



Monument

Over a period of more than a year, Fox aggressively pursued her dream of raising the minimum of \$10,000 by selling engraved bricks to create a patio on which to place the restored sundial. Her hard work paid off, the end result being that 140 bricks were purchased by Hamiltonians far and wide, plus

other donations given, came to a total of around \$20,000. This enabled Fox to create a more sophisticated brick patio than she had earlier conceived.

Fundraising Brick from Missouri, was the company who supplied laser engraved bricks, Jarrett Hawkins of Hawkins and Hawkins Custom, Deer Park, Ohio, was engaged to restore the sundial, and the Hamilton Parks Conservancy hired Werbrich's Landscaping from Cleves, Ohio, to create the brick pathway which Fox had so proudly designed.

It all came together on May 31, 2025, when the newly refurbished sundial was rededicated in Monument Park, with the reception held in the beautiful Monument, where curator Butch Frederick gave a short history of the monument. Cookies and punch were served, all donated by Fox's friends.

Fox arranged for eight guest speakers: Mayor, Pat Mueller, served as Master of Ceremonies; Mark Montgomery coming from Indiana and representing the North American Sundial Society, spoke on the history of NASS. Earlier on when Fox had become interested in the Hamilton sundial, she had contacted the North American Sundial Society to register the sundial. NASS gave the sundial the permanent number of 1109. Carrie Halim spoke about Stella Weiler Taylor, and read from Stella's books, *Rosemary*, published in 1940, which highlighted Josephine's effort to raise funds for the Monument. Craig Keller, from Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, spoke of the Civil War, Celene Hawkins of Hawkins and Hawkins Custom related the history of the sundial which was ironically made by a company in Cincinnati, and bringing up the end, Alice Sizemore, finished with her version of the song, MY HAMILTON, written in 1916 by Will H. Lebo, words by Stella Weiler Taylor.



Reception on the Monument

