NEW BOOK FROM THE FRIENDS OF MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY:

GRAVESTONES
in Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York

By Richard O. Reisem

As you loyal members of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery know, Mount Hope is so much more than a cemetery. It is a splendid park where walking tours are presented on weekends and occasional evenings. It is an interesting geological landscape created by glaciers 10,000 years ago that resulted in fascinating formations like eskers, kames, and kettles. It is a beautiful arboretum with a unique collection of thousands of trees. It is filled with wildflowers and wildlife. It is an extraordinary history museum.

But above all, Mount Hope Cemetery is a striking outdoor art gallery with hundreds of thousands of gravestones, reflecting 175 years of interpretations concerning memory, sorrow, and grief. It is these gravestones, in their endless variety and diverse approaches to death, which this new book commemorates. Here are monuments in granite, marble, limestone, sandstone, zinc, steel, ceramic clay, wood, and bronze. These raw materials have been fashioned into simple Colonial tablets, soaring Egyptian obelisks, mausoleums that look like Greek temples, ornately carved stelae and columns, winged angels, stone figures in flowing robes, flora and fauna of every type, favorite pet dogs, and a cornucopia of Victorian symbols from airplanes to butterflies to double-headed eagles to snakes to wreaths. This is a book of enthralling tombstones, all rendered in stunning full color.

Gravestones is a 134-page, 6- by 9-inch book printed on fine, heavy, coated paper stock and spiral-bound so that each page can be turned up completely flat. There is a full-page map of the cemetery, and each gravestone location is noted by section or range number. Almost all of the more than 120 gravestones and mausoleums depicted have a full page devoted to each stone, some with added close-up photos to reveal interesting details. There is a section of seven pictures showing steps in the creation of a gravestone. And in the dictionary of symbols, each one is illustrated with a photograph of the symbol in Mount Hope Cemetery. The new photographs in the book were taken by Trustee Donald S. Hall, President Marilyn Nolte, and myself.

Although the color photographs (almost 150 of them in the book) are a principal feature of the book, the text is also an important part of this story about gravestones. Fellow trustees Sally Millick and I prepared the text, which talks about the materials and styles of grave markers from the early 1800s to the present. The variety of materials and styles of these markers is outstanding, and their verbal interpretations bring meaning and understanding to the photographs. Photo captions also include interesting information about the permanent residents they memorialize, as well as the stone creators and sculptors. Cheryl Arena, a Friends volunteer, researched details, primarily concerning very recent gravestones in Mount Hope. Finally, the book was designed by volunteer Dan Malezewski and printed by DSS Printing Group in Rochester. The color map of Mount Hope Cemetery with all of the sections and ranges noted was produced by Frank Solomon of ActionMaps, Inc.

The price of the book is $20.00 and well worth it. If you acquire the book from the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery or the Mount Hope Cemetery office at 1133 Mount Hope Avenue, the tax is included in the price.

Gravestones in Mount Hope Cemetery
BOOK SALE AND SIGNING
JUNE 16, 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
FRONT PORCH OF MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY OFFICE,
1133 MOUNT HOPE AVENUE

Obtain your copy of our new book, Gravestones in Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York, on Saturday, June 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the front porch of the Mount Hope Cemetery Office, 1133 Mount Hope Avenue, opposite the Distillery Restaurant. Park inside the gates along the cemetery roads. I and other title-page contributors to the creation of this outstanding book will be available for book signing.

Order it online at www.fomh.org
FRIENDS OF MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY ANNOUNCE AN EXCITING, DIVERSE 2012 TOUR SEASON

PUBLIC TOUR: SOUTH SECTION
This is a stimulating, new tour this year. It will be held every Saturday at 1:00 p.m., beginning May 5 through October 27. Meet at the South entrance (opposite the Distillery Restaurant) and park along the road inside the cemetery. $5 per person. Members and children under 16 free. The tour consists of a two-hour walk through the south section of the cemetery covering approximately 1-1/2 miles on paved roads and flat terrain. Learn about 19th- and 20th-century Rochesterians, including Rufus Sibbey, co-founder of Sibbey, Lindsay, and Curr department store; Frank Gannett, founder of the Democrat & Chronicle; James Vick, founder of Vick’s Nursery, and many others. Refreshments after the tour.

PUBLIC TOUR: NORTH SECTION
This is our famous, always popular, tour of the older section of the cemetery. It will be presented every Sunday at 2:00 p.m., beginning May 6 through October 28. Meet at the north gatehouse, opposite Robinson Drive, and park inside the cemetery. Admission is free to everyone. This tour consists of a two-hour walk of a little more than one mile on paved roads and hilly terrain. Subjects covered include local history, famous people (including Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass), horticulture, geology, architecture, symbolism, and more. Refreshments at the end of the tour.
TWILIGHT TOURS
Our popular twilight tours occur in early evening before sunset on every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. from May 10 through August 9. These are 90-minute tours and include topics on the Sunday afternoon tours, plus new material for the different route taken. Meet at the north gatehouse, opposite Robinson Drive, and park inside the cemetery. Admission is $5. Free to members of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. Refreshments at the gatehouse after the tour.

ONE-TIME-ONLY SPECIAL EVENT: SEARCHING AMONG THE STONES
This tour, designed for families or small groups of individuals, explores a small section of Mount Hope Cemetery and is offered just once this year on Saturday, June 23 at 11:00 a.m. Groups will construct a timeline to place the cemetery’s age in relation to other historical events, searching out monument types, symbols, and other Victorian cemetery customs. It is a great learning experience for young people. Bring a dictionary, clipboard, paper, and pencil. Meet at the north gatehouse (opposite Robinson Drive) and park inside the cemetery gate. Admission is $6 per family or $5 per individual. Members are free. Refreshments follow the event.

2012 SPECIAL THEME TOURS
These are tours that focus on noteworthy aspects of Mount Hope Cemetery. Each tour lasts approximately two hours. They are $5 per person and free to members of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery.

Sunday, May 20 at 8:00 a.m.
Bird Watcher Tour
Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Tour guides are June Summers and Joanne Mitchell. The early bird catches the worm, and 8 a.m. catches the birds. Join Genesee Valley Audubon Society members as they seek out migratory birds visiting Mount Hope Cemetery.

Saturday, June 9, 11:30 a.m.
Rochester & The Legendary Erie Canal
Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Tour guide is Nancy Uffindell. The Erie Canal made Rochester a boomtown, transformed New York into the Empire State, and fueled westward expansion. Meet Mount Hope Cemetery’s famous and less famous people and their important connections to this legendary waterway.

Sunday, June 24, 10:00 a.m.
Jewish Roots
Meet at the cemetery office, which is at the south entrance opposite the Distillery Restaurant. The tour guide is Joel Elliot. Explore the enormous contributions to our society by Rochester’s Jewish community.

Friday, July 13, 7:00 p.m.
Mischief, Murder, and Mayhem
Meet at the cemetery office, which is at the south entrance opposite the Distillery Restaurant. The tour guide is Dennis Carr. Meet some of Mount Hope Cemetery’s permanent residents who bent, broke, or enforced the law.

Saturday, July 14, 10:00 a.m.
Rochester’s Prosperous and Penniless
Meet at the cemetery office, which is at the south entrance opposite the Distillery Restaurant. The tour guide is Patricia Corcoran. Stroll paved flat-surfaced Grove Avenue and learn about the many notable families buried in beautiful mausoleums and artistic family plots.

Saturday, Aug 4, 1:30 p.m.
The Civil War Tour
Meet at the cemetery office, which is at the south entrance opposite the Distillery Restaurant. The tour guide is Marilyn Nolte. Here is the Civil War told against the backdrop of Mount Hope Cemetery with a focus on local involvement. This tour covers new themes each year.

Friday, August 10, 6:30 p.m.
Mischief, Murder, and Mayhem
Meet at the cemetery office, which is at the south entrance opposite the Distillery Restaurant. The tour guide is Dennis Carr. Meet some of Mount Hope Cemetery’s permanent residents who bent, broke, or enforced the law.

Saturday, August 11, 12:00 noon
The Revolutionary War
Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Tour guides are R. Dreeson, S. Clarke, and D. Carr. The American Revolution is told through the lives of veterans buried in Mount Hope Cemetery. The tour covers action that took place in New York State.

Saturday, August 18 at 1:00 p.m.
The Ice Cream Tour
Meet at the cemetery office, which is at the south entrance opposite the Distillery Restaurant. The tour guide is Don Hall. Learn about one of Rochester’s earliest businesses: the making and selling of ice cream.

Saturday, September 8, 12:30 p.m.
Lost Secrets
Meet at the cemetery office, which is at the south entrance opposite the Distillery Restaurant. The tour guide is UR Professor Emil Homrin. The tour is an examination of symbols, inscriptions, and funerary art that expressed views of life, death, and immortality in the 19th century.

Saturday, September 15, 12:30 p.m.
Geology at Mount Hope Cemetery
Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. The tour guide is Bill Chaisson. Want to know about the Rochester terrain as it existed thousands of years ago? Bill Chaisson, geologist, will share this early history in one of the only local places where it can be seen first hand.

Saturday, October 20, noon
Fall Foliage Tour
Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. The tour guide is Ed Olinger. Enjoy the variety and beauty of Mount Hope Cemetery’s trees in autumn.

Saturday, October 20 and Tuesday, October 23, 6:00 p.m.
Grand Torchlight Tours
Meet at the north gatehouse and park on Robinson Drive. This is the finale of our tour season with a special tour path lighted by torches. Tickets are $7 in advance and $10 on the day of the event. Visit www.fombh.org for important details.
PERCUSSION
ROCHESTER HONORS
ALEXANDER MILLENER,
DRUMMER BOY FOR
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON

By Richard O. Reisem

On Thursday, May 3, at 11:00 a.m., the C.A. Palmer Fife & Drum Corps from Palmyra, as well as former RPO principal percussionist John Beck and Bill Cahn, also a former RPO principal percussionist and the event organizer, staged an hour-long program in Mount Hope Cemetery at the gravesite of Alexander Millener (1762-1865) in Range 2.

Millener, who lived 103 years, was General George Washington's drummer and led American troops into countless battles against British forces in the Revolutionary War.

As part of the Eastman School of Music, Percussion Rochester annually stages a percussion festival with a series of programs.

this year occurring May 3-5. At the Mount Hope event, Professor Bill Cahn delivered an historic narration, which included seven period fife-and-drum pieces played by the Palmer Fife & Drum Corps. Cahn noted that "before telephones and radios were invented, drummer boys provided critical communication via the drum signals they played, not only in battle, but each day in the army camp."
HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 17

By Richard O. Reisem

An interested crowd gathered for the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery annual meeting on April 17 at Brighton Town Hall. As the impressive number of members and guests arrived, a continuous display of photographic images provided by Don Hall, highlighting the past year’s activities, was projected at the front of the hall.

President Marilyn Nolte presented a quick overview of 2011 events and accomplishments, including the following:

• Membership totals approximately 600.
• Volunteer Gary Sedori has taken on genealogy research in the role formerly filled by Frank Gillespie.
• The 2012 tour season begins May 5, promoted by an attractive full-color tour brochure.
• Last fall’s Torch Light tours were very successful, with one of the two nights sold out. Wegmans provided refreshments both nights.
• Speaking engagements increased with trustee Dennis Carr presenting many programs.
• The Epitaph is now available via email, producing savings in mail expense.
• A new book by Richard Reisem, Frederick Douglass and the Underground Railroad, served successfully as an incentive for membership upgrades.
• The public can now connect with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery on Facebook.
• Restoration projects included:

1. Work accomplished through the Save America’s Treasures grant secured by U.S. Representative Louise Slaughter included repairs to the old chapel, Gould and Rau mausoleums, the Yaky plot, and restoration of a carriage path around the Florentine fountain.
2. Repair of a wall in Section G.
3. Repair of the Fitch mausoleum, damaged by a tree that fell in a summer storm.

A new regular tour of the south section of the cemetery has been created. Here, tour guide Dennis Carr leads the first of these new tours on Saturday, May 5. They will be given every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. throughout the summer and fall.

• Grant funds have been secured to repair and repaint the Florentine fountain this spring.
• A pending grant application may provide funds for restoration of Jewish lots.
• Landscape work will proceed in the north section of the cemetery.
• New advisors to the board will provide professional expertise in finance, marketing, law, structural engineering, landscape architecture, and grant writing.

Retired board member Ed Olinger was honored for 32 years of service to the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. He will continue as an Emeritus Trustee and was presented with an original piece of stained glass art handcrafted by Valerie O’Hara.

• Following an intermission for refreshments, Sharon Bloemendaal presented the evening’s slide program, “Brownroft – a Beautiful Neighborhood in a Beautiful City.”
**MARILYN NOLTE WINS ESL JEFFERSON AWARDS**

By Richard O. Reisen

Our Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery president, Marilyn Nolte, was honored at the ESL Jefferson Awards luncheon ceremony at Mario’s Italian Steakhouse on May 18, 2012. She was one of five local winners of this year’s ESL Jefferson Awards.

The citation for Marilyn Nolte reads: “Marilyn Nolte has dedicated much of her life to Mount Hope Cemetery. As president of the volunteer group, Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, she leads a membership of 600, takes care of activities of the board, and oversees landscaping and restoration committees. But to her it is much more; she is taking care of the history of Rochester. Over the years, Nolte has done whatever it took to keep the cemetery in good condition. She has worked with city officials and contractors to rebuild walls, obtained national grants to restore buildings and monuments, and when an 1865 mausoleum was destroyed by a fallen tree, she called for donations to save it from demolition. Today, the mausoleum stands for all to enjoy. Marilyn is also working on a new book about the history of the cemetery that will be published soon. "Every time I find somebody new, I find an opportunity to return something to the way it was. I feel as if I am bringing these people back to the importance of their family and community."

Nolte was nominated for the award by Friends trustees and tour guide, Nancy Uffindell.

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**THE CRUSADES REMEMBERED IN MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY**

By Richard O. Reisen

From 1095 to the early 1600s, there were a series of religious expeditions from western Europe to the Holy Land. The expeditions were called the Crusades and were blessed by the Pope and the Catholic Church. Initially, they were pilgrimages to protect Christian religious sites near Jerusalem from domination by Muslims. Later, these pilgrimages became long journeys, involving hundreds of miles primarily by foot, to sacred sites for religious enrichment.

Here at the top of Section G, is a Weary Pilgrim, taking a rest on his arduous trek. On his pilgrim’s cloak, he wears a scallop shell, a symbol of such expeditions. The scallop shell has both Christian and practical significance. James, one of the closest of Jesus’ disciples, was a fisherman and the scallop shell was associated with him. Scallop shells also were used as signs to guide pilgrims forward on their journey. But, practically speaking, the scallop shell was also a convenient device for pilgrims to scoop drinking water from a stream or pool.

From the pilgrim’s shoulder hangs a water-vessel. Pilgrims also wore broad-brimmed hats. But where is this weary pilgrim’s hat? It lies on the back of his cloak behind him. You need to walk around the statue to see it nestled in the back of the sculpture.

This outstanding sculpture was created by the famous Italian sculptor, Nicola Cantalamessa-Papotti (1833-1910). He has two major works in Mount Hope Cemetery: the Weary Pilgrim sculpted in 1882 for the Aaron Erickson family plot and Saint John on the Isle of Patmos created in 1874 for the George Ellwanger family plot in Section V. Papotti received sculpting commissions from King Ferdinand of Italy and Pope Pius IX. He created sculptures for both European and American clients. One was a full-length marble statue of U.S. President James A. Garfield, who was assassinated on September 19, 1881 at age 49. His memorial is in Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio. Papotti’s works were displayed at the Philadelphia, Chicago, and St. Louis world expositions. There are two other Papotti sculptures in Rochester: the Patrick Barry monument in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery dated 1878 and “Love’s Mirror” dated 1875 in the permanent collection of the Memorial Art Gallery. Rochester is lucky indeed to possess four major works by this renowned sculptor.
The Weary Pilgrim by Nicola Cantalamessa-Papotti sits on a massive plinth designed by Claude Bragdon.

A flask for drinking water sits by the Weary Pilgrim, who wears a scallop shell, the symbol of the Crusades, on his cloak.

The Weary Pilgrim’s hat is only visible on the rear portion of the sculpture.
QUESTION: Where in Mount Hope Cemetery is this marble hat located?

(For the answer, see page 7 of this issue of the Epitaph.)