A CORNUCOPIA OF SUMMER 2014 WALKING TOURS

From May through October, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery will present an amazing array of guided walking tours. They will cover such disparate subjects as bird watching, zinc monuments, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, Erie Canal, horticulture, baseball pioneers, Jewish roots, the prosperous and penniless, pioneers/reformers/heroes, Revolutionary War, the Ice Cream Tour, Lost Secrets, Civil War, geology, fall foliage, Sunday public tours, Thursday twilight tours, Mother's Day Special, July 4 Tour, Labor Day Tour, Grand Torchlight Tours, and more.

For the 21 theme tours this season, nineteen expert tour guides are equipped and ready to entertain, inform, and amaze you. Additional tour guides lead the public tours of the north section every Sunday at 2:00 o'clock from May 4 through October 26. The twilight tours start at 6:30 p.m. and occur every Thursday from May 8 through August 14.

Admission to Sunday and twilight tours is $5; theme tours are $7. Members free. The Mother's Day Special is a free tour for everyone.

In addition to the theme tours described on the following pages, there is a special tour, Frederick Douglass: His Life and Contributions to the American Antislavery Movement, on Saturday, June 14, at 1:00 p.m. It will be told by David Anderson, Ph.D., scholar-in-residence at Nazareth College. Meet at the north gatehouse.

For the first time, this season, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery will offer tours on national holidays: Memorial Day, May 26, July 4, and Labor Day, September 1, all at 2:00 p.m., starting from the north gatehouse. Admission: $5.00.

Still in the planning stages are three Rochester history tours: In Death as in Life—Institutional Plots (plots of churches, schools, charitable organizations, veteran groups, etc.), Saturday, June 21; Of the People, By the People, For the People (politics and government through Rochester's history), Saturday, July 19; History in Plain Sight (Rochester's architects and builders), Saturday, August 2. Admission $7. Members free. All tours start at 11:00 a.m. and meet at the cemetery office, south entrance (1133 Mount Hope Avenue), opposite the Distillery.
MEET THE THEME TOUR GUIDES

All of the 2014 theme tours last approximately two hours, cost $7 per person, and are free to members of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. These tours are designed for adult audiences, although children under 16 are free when accompanied by an adult. Most of the tours start at the north gatehouse to the cemetery on Mount Hope Avenue, opposite Robinson Drive. The other starting point for some theme tours is the south entrance, opposite the Distillery.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 12:30 P.M.
Cranks, Catalysts & Collisions with History

Veteran tour guide Dennis Carr describes his tour: “We continually discover people buried in Mt. Hope, who influenced major events in Rochester and American history, but are almost completely unknown today. This is my theme in this tour. Although I doubt that tour participants will recognize many (or any) of their names, they will be surprised that many of these people determined the course of major events and movements in American history. Others were just in the right place at the right time and became accidental players in historic events.” Meet at the north gatehouse.

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 8:00 A.M.
The Bird Watcher Tour

Join Genesee Valley Audubon Society members looking out for migratory birds visiting Mount Hope Cemetery. May is ideal to watch birds. Your expert tour guides are June Summers and Joanne Mitchell, who said, “When I became a regular tour guide about 5 years ago, I noticed that the schedule had tours on geology and trees, but nothing on wildlife. A birding tour seemed a good idea to complement the others, and I persuaded my good friend, June Summers, president of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, to partner with me. Our favorite area for birding is Indian Trail Avenue. My best memory is a bluebird posed on a statue of an angel.” June Summers added, “Mount Hope Cemetery is a wonderful place for migrating birds to stop and rest. It is perfect for bird watching.” Meet at the north gatehouse.

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 11:00 A.M.
Zinc Monument Tour

Dedicated tour guide Don Hall tells a fascinating story: “My very first ‘zinc-er’ marks the grave of William Knight, age 1, in Section C at the north end of Mount Hope. It was the blue-gray color and the fine detailing of the monument that meant it couldn’t possibly be made of stone. Since that first sighting, I have taken thousands of photographs of these metal markers all across this country and Canada. On the tour, I will share an original catalog from the foundry that produced them in Bridgeport, CT, as well as visit eight sites marked with zinc.” Meet at the north gatehouse.
Saturday, May 31, 2:00 P.M.
Susan B. Anthony &
Women's Rights

Vicki Schmitt, your tour guide, wrote and directed “A Circle of Friends,” a 90-minute play about Frederick Douglass that was launched with costumed actors in Mount Hope Cemetery in 1999. She said, “I’ve been involved with Mt. Hope Cemetery since 1998, when I worked as a public historian at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. I curated two exhibits on women’s history: one on Susan B. Anthony and another on Rochester women’s rights history. The beauty of the landscape, gardens, works of art, historical figures, diversity, and massive number of people interred at Mt. Hope, all captivated me. When Thomas Jefferson declared in the Declaration of Independence that ‘all men are created equal’, he meant white men—not women or people of color. Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass led the movement to extend equal rights to everyone in the U.S. They volunteered to do this work at great personal risk, as did the regional people buried in Mt. Hope who assisted them. At a time when both Rochester and Monroe County leaders are women, it is my honor to highlight some of the women who blazed the trail for present American equal rights, values, and opportunities, and to inspire future citizens.” Meet at the north gatehouse.

Sunday, June 8, 10:00 A.M.
Horticulture Tour

Your tour guide is Ed Olinger, landscape architect and trustee emeritus of the Friends, who said: “I have described Mt. Hope Cemetery to others as trees, stones, and turf. Mt. Hope without its beautiful landscape would be interesting but in no way as compelling a place to visit. The trees, as much as the stones, tell the story of the history of Mt. Hope, and I love telling that story.” Meet at the north gatehouse.

Friday, June 13, 7:00 P.M.
Mischief, Murder, and Mayhem

Your guide, Dennis Carr, explains, “If Mt. Hope reflects the cultural history of Rochester, it must include some people who landed on the wrong side of the law, the officers that brought them to justice, and the judges and prosecutors that sent them to prison, or worse. Mt. Hope is also the permanent home of some people caught up in tragic, or just plain bizarre events. CSI, Law & Order, Dateline and an assortment of crime shows continue to be among the most popular programming on TV, and Mischief, Murder, and Mayhem has become one of our most popular tours at Mt. Hope. As an added benefit, tour participants leave with some solid historical knowledge.” Meet at the north gatehouse.
SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 10:00 A.M.
Rochester Baseball Pioneers
Tony Brancato and John Foster lead this interesting tour. Brancato said, "My path to tour guide was unexpected. I have been a vintage baseball player volunteer at Genesee Country Village and Museum since 2002. In the fall of 2011, I began researching the history of my ball club, the Live Oaks, Rochester's first city champions in 1858. A key part of my research was to find out whether James Backus of the Live Oaks was related to Dr. Frederick Backus, who once owned a home that now sits at GCVM, not far from the ball field where we play a 19th-century version of the game. When I hit a dead end at the library, I headed to Mt. Hope with my camera and a map. I immediately fell in love with the place. I had never been anywhere like it before. After several hours of exploring, I thought it would be nice to try to find the rest of the Live Oak ball club. I partnered with John Foster, who knows a lot about the earlier ball players from 1825. My first tour was so much fun, I can't wait to do it again." Meet at the north gatehouse.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 10:00 A.M.
Jewish Roots
Explore the enormous contributions of the Jewish community to Rochester's history and growth. Your knowledgable tour guide is Joel Elliot. Meet at the cemetery office at the south entrance.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 11:00 A.M.
Rochester & the Legendary Erie Canal
Of her tour, Nancy Uffindell said, "Having cruised the Erie Canal from end to end, learning that Rochester was America's first boomtown because of the canal, and being a member of the Canal Society of NY State and a tour guide at Mount Hope Cemetery all played a part in my designing an Erie Canal connections tour. Because of boatyard owners, basin proprietors, bridge builders, ship captains, surveyors, laborers, and people who came here on packet boats, Rochester became the city it is. We owe much to these early pioneers who now reside in Mount Hope Cemetery. I believe it's important to make tour goers aware of the compelling stories of these pioneers." Meet at the north gatehouse.
SATURDAY, JULY 12, 10:00 A.M.
Rochester's Prosperous and Penniless

Pat Corcoran said of this leisurely trek: “This is a tour along Grove Avenue, a prestigious street populated by different classes of people. I am fascinated by ‘poor lots’, revealing how religious groups and charitable organizations dealt with the death of their impoverished. Along the same road are the graves of some of our most prominent residents—scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs—interesting people who made significant contributions to Rochester and the world. I developed this tour keeping in mind the needs of visitors who may not be able to walk over hill and dale. This tour is on a paved road, and is not a strenuous hike.” Meet at the cemetery office at the south entrance.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 10:00 A.M.
Pioneers, Reformers, and Heroes

Pat Corcoran, a history teacher herself, said: “This is a tour of Section G, a lovely secluded setting of rolling hills, which is a history teacher’s dream. I imagine that early Rochesterians were eager to buy a burial spot in this area to be among many prominent movers and shakers of early Rochester. I have walked this picturesque section for many years, collecting a variety of stories about its residents. This tour would not be appropriate for people with walking difficulties.” Meet at north gatehouse.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 12:00 NOON
The Revolutionary War

The tour includes an eleven-piece Fife and Drum Corps, a three-musket salute, flag bearers, and costumed attendees. This tour has three accomplished leaders, Robbie Dreeson, Steve Clarke, and Dennis Carr. They tell the stories of Revolutionary War veterans buried in Mount Hope Cemetery and battles that took place in New York State. Steve Clarke commented, “I became interested in Revolutionary War history and genealogy when our daughter asked if either my wife or I had ancestors who fought in the Revolution. I did not know of any and my wife knew of one. We now have among us 11 proved ancestors and at least seven others. The research has been a fascinating adventure.” Robbie Dreeson added: “As a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, I am keenly interested in history as well as historic preservation and patriotism.”
Working on the theme tour at Mount Hope has provided me the opportunity to honor and remember our Revolutionary War patriots who fought for our independence over 231 years ago. It has also provided me a wonderful history lesson on the founding of the city of Rochester and the history of Mount Hope Cemetery." Dennis Carr said: “I’m fascinated with the connections between the founding event of the United States, namely the Revolutionary War, and the founding of Rochester. With Robbie Dreeson from the DAR, and Steve Clarke from the SAR, we make those connections. We all learn from each other and this tour gets better every year.” Meet at the north gatehouse.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1:00 P.M.**

**The Ice Cream Tour**

The stimulating tour guide Don Hall delivers this tour about one of Rochester’s earliest businesses: the making and selling of ice cream. After all that talk about ice cream, what comes naturally, of course, is real ice cream, 2014 variety, for everyone. Meet at the cemetery office at the south entrance.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 12:30 P.M.**

**Lost Secrets**

The tour guide is Th. Emil Homerin, professor of Religion in the Department of Religion & Classics at the University of Rochester, who explained: “One of my courses, entitled Speaking Stones, focuses on the iconography and epigraphy of American gravestones as found in Mount Hope Cemetery. Students study ways in which images and words on gravestones help to resolve the loss of a loved one by forging symbolic connections between the living and the dead. Students are required to select a gravestone or series of stones in Mount Hope and record, photograph, and document all images and inscriptions and to research the stone and those it commemorates. This gives students the rare opportunity to study and carry out unprecedented research in one of America’s oldest Victorian cemeteries, and a number of their essays have been published over the years in the Epitaph. In this tour, we will examine symbols, inscriptions, and funerary art that expressed views of life, death, and immortality in the 19th century.” Meet at the cemetery office at the south entrance.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 10:00 A.M.**

**Susan B. Anthony & Women’s Rights**

See the second Saturday, May 31 tour entry for a description of this tour led by Vicki Schmitt. Meet at the north gatehouse.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1:30 P.M.**

**The Civil War Tour**

Each year, the Civil War Tour is a collaboration of Marilyn Nolte with other Civil War experts. This year that “other Civil War expert” is Brian Bennett, who will lead the tour.

**University of Rochester Professor Emil Homerin is the tour guide for Lost Secrets tour.**

**Brian Bennett, tour guide of the Civil War tour, poses at the Civil War monument in Mount Hope Cemetery.**
through a number of gravesites in Mount Hope. Bennett said: “For many Civil War veterans, military service was the most prominent experience of their lives and one in which they took great pride. Reference to that service and the unit to which they belonged is prominently displayed on their tombstones. Almost 200 members of the 140th N.Y. volunteer infantry rest in Mount Hope, and there is a unique story for every soldier.” Meet at the north gatehouse.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 12:30 P.M.
**Geology at Mount Hope Cemetery**
The authority on geology, who designed this tour and presents it, is Bill Chaissson. He said: “The geology of Mt. Hope Cemetery tour grew out of a field trip for University of Rochester students that I led when I taught geology there. The topography of the cemetery is a classic ‘kame and kettle’ glacial terrain and therefore an ideal classroom to help people visualize the retreat of the last ice sheets, 12,000 years ago and the deposits and landforms they left behind.” Meet at the north gatehouse.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 12:30 P.M.
**Mischief, Murder, and Mayhem**
See the Friday, June 13 tour entry for a description of this tour led by Dennis Carr.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1:00 P.M.
**Form, Function & Mount Hope Cemetery**
Longtime Mount Hope tour guide, Dennis Carr, presents this engrossing walking tour. He said: “I think of Mt. Hope as a museum of Rochester’s heritage and culture. The cemetery is a reflection of the economic, religious, and cultural thought of the time during which it developed. As American culture has changed, it is reflected in the changes in the landscape, architecture, monuments, and management of the cemetery. In Form, Function & Mount Hope Cemetery, I show how these cultural shifts determined the built environment of the cemetery.” Meet at the north gatehouse.

Landscape architect Zakery Steele, pictured here, will share tour-guide duties with Ed Olinger for the Fall Foliage Tour, hopefully before the snow falls.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 12:00 NOON
**Fall Foliage Tour**
Two landscape architects, Ed Olinger and Zak Steele, will present this popular tour when autumn leaves should be at their most colorful. Learn about and enjoy the myriad cemetery trees at this distinctive seasonal event. Zakery reported: “The fall foliage tour allows me convey the role that trees play on the ‘design’ of the landscape to visitors and show how significant they are to our individual enjoyment and experience of the cemetery. I also enjoy providing scientific information on the ecological processes of the trees. I especially enjoy the questions, insights and observations that people have during the tour. Moreover, I get to learn a great deal from Ed Olinger’s decades of stewardship.” Meet at the north gatehouse.
Published by the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, NY 14620, a nonprofit member organization founded in 1980.

©2014 The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery

Richard O. Reisem, Editor
Ron Brancato, Graphic Design

Basic annual membership is $20.

Call 585-461-3494 for a supporter application.

See our colorful and informative Web site: www.fomh.org