SYMBOLISM IN MT. HOPE

Off Indian Trail is a gravestone that attracts the interest of many tour members. The sculpted symbolism identifies George B. Grover as an artilleryman, and the streamer from the cannon lists his unit as the 18th N.Y. Battery. While the entire motif symbolizes the cut-off of life, the broken wheel is frequently associated with a premature death.

George B. Grover enlisted in Capt. Albert B. Mack's Rifle Batty, 108th Regiment N.Y. Vols. in September 1862, a unit that was subsequently reorganized as the 18th Independent Battery N.Y. Light Artillery (Mack's Battery). In December 1862 the battery left Rochester for Louisiana. In March 1863, Grover entered the New Orleans Marine U.S.A. General Hospital suffering from diphtheria, and remained there until his disability discharge in June 1863. During the Civil War, disease often reduced a regiment's size considerably before it ever went into battle. Twice as many men died from disease as were killed on the battlefield or died from wounds.

A death notice in the Union and Advertiser and the inscription on his gravestone complete the story. Grover died enroute home aboard the U.S. Transport Matanzas, on June 15, 1863, aged 24 years, from diphtheria. “He was buried at sea.” The memorial stone stands in the family lot.

WALK FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

On April 1, a few thousand marchers wound through Mt. Hope to raise money for multiple sclerosis. It was the first visit to the cemetery for many of them. The City of Rochester was one of the walk's sponsors, granting permission to use the route through Mt. Hope, and the cemetery staff helped by doing site work. The Army National Guard erected two tents within the cemetery to serve as checkpoints.

Members of the Friends acted as docents at the graves of Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Frank Gannett. The gatehouse was open and staffed with members who served coffee. Other members worked with many community volunteers at the Elmwood Avenue entrance, serving refreshments and acting as checkers.
CIVIL WAR STATUE
by Betty Schmidt

For almost 82 years a bronze Civil War soldier with a bugler boy at his side has stood in the G.A.R. plot at Mt. Hope. The statue is the work of Sally James Farnham, a noted American sculptor.

About 1905, the Burial Lot and Monument Association of the G.A.R. and a Citizens Committee began raising funds to erect memorial statues in Mt. Hope and Holy Sepulchre. The Citizens Committee included Claude Bragdon, Bishop McQuaid, and George Eastman among its members. A competition was held, and by October 1907, the field had narrowed to designs submitted by Anthony Halstrick, a Rochester sculptor, and Sally James Farnham of New York City. Bishop McQuaid had already picked Farnham's design of a granite Celtic cross surmounted by a bronze eagle for Holy Sepulchre. At the meeting, which she attended, her statue of a flag-bearing soldier was selected for Mt. Hope.

A meeting of the Financial Committee directly after the first meeting was described as a lively one by a reporter, who barred from the meeting, overheard some of it from the hall outside an open door. Then the door closed. Another meeting was scheduled for the next week.

The final selection—the statue of the flag-bearing soldier with a bugler boy added—was made at that meeting. Its overall height was 22 feet. The two statues cost $10,500, with the funds being raised by the veterans and the Citizens Committee. The exact cost of the Mt. Hope statue is unknown, but it must have been about $6,000, since the Holy Sepulchre one cost $4,500.

Sally James Farnham (1876-1843) came from a wealthy Ogdensburg family. Her father, Col. Edward C. James, commanded the 106th Regiment during the Civil War and later became a well-known trial lawyer. She was already a married woman with two children when she began her career as a sculptor, specializing in monument and portrait sculpture. Her career was remarkable in that she started later in life than usual without any formal art training, but she had innate talent and was successful. Farnham was aided by the criticism of her hometown friend Frederic Remington, Henry M. Schrady, and other sculptors.

Wondering whether her work was good enough to justify continuing it, she took her first model, a Spanish dancer, to Remington. He urged her to "keep it up," and to ask other sculptors for criticism of her models. And he gave her professional encouragement until his death in 1909. In February 1908, Remington, while visiting the Roman Bronze Works in Brooklyn, wrote to his wife saying, "Sally F. there—she has a dandy 2 figure group soldier monument." The description and time fit the Mt. Hope statue.

At times, Sally Farnham had conflicts between career demands and home responsibilities, as the Rochester committee found out. Alexander Woolcott, in an article, "Sally Farnham's Art," recounts an incident when the committee
requested a meeting. She replied that she had an important piece of work that would take six weeks to complete. After the time elapsed, the committee contacted her again and asked if the new job was finished. She replied in effect, "The new job is satisfactorily accomplished, and he weighs ten pounds. I am nursing him at present and have my oldest boy to install in school and am moving into town for the winter, and I also have a few guests to entertain, but I think I can tackle your monument next week."

The monument was dedicated on September 25, 1908. Shortly before the dedication a Rochester Herald reporter wrote, "By the position of the soldier it is taken that the war is over and taps has been sounded, and as the strains die away the 'boy in blue' drops his head in meditation and reflects at the awful consequences of the war and what it has cost in human sacrifice. The group reflects the master hand and is said to be one of the most unique in the country."

The statue's base has a bronze plaque with an inscribed date, 1861-1865, and these words above the music for taps.

By fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread
And glory guards with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.

THE FIRST INTERMENT
William Carter came to Rochester from Killingworth, Connecticut, in 1832, accompanied by his wife Hannah, and his 21-year old son, Giles. He was 59 years old at the time. Not much is known about him. The 1832 Directory lists him as a grocer, living at 1 Andrews Street, the first house in from SI. Paul Street. His son boarded at his father's home and ran a grocery store at the corner of St. Paul and Main Street. William Carter died of a fever on August 17, 1838. He was the first interment in Mt. Hope, and his burial occurred before the formal dedication of the cemetery on October 3, 1838.

His epitaph, now almost indiscernible, reads:

He was for more than 32 years an esteemed member of the Baptist Church and with great consistency of deportment and integrity of character fulfilled the duties of this relation. He died in hopes of a glorious immortality. He was the first person borne to Mt. Hope for interment.
QUESTIONS – ANSWERS
If you are a member and have questions about Mt. Hope that you would like answered, write to the Friends of Mt. Hope, 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620. The answer will either be mailed to you or printed in the newsletter.

ADOPT-A-Plot
Planting time is almost here. Now is the time to volunteer for the Adopt-A-Plot program. If you are interested, call 461-3494, leave your name and phone number, and someone will contact you.

BOARD MEETINGS
Board of Trustees’ meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Any member may attend. They are usually held at the gatehouse, but the location and time occasionally change. Call 461-3494 to check on the time and place. Leave a message and your call will be returned.

CEMETERY TOURS
Guided tours resumed on Sunday, May 6, at 2 and 3 o’clock, and will continue until the last Sunday in October. Come and join one. It’s a pleasant and informative way to spend an afternoon.

Special tours can be arranged at any time during the year by calling 461-3494 and leaving a message.

NEW MEMBERS
Cynthia S. Ferranto
Judith I. Hall
Karen Hart
Leonard A. Jones

THE FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY

NAME ________________________________
STREET ________________________________
CITY & STATE ________ ZIP ____________
TELEPHONE __________________________

I cannot join, but would like to contribute $ __________

Membership Categories:

[ ] Basic $15.00
[ ] Contributing $25.00
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[ ] Life Membership $500.00 or more
[ ] Retired/Student $5.00

FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY
791 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620