REFURBISHING THE GAZEBO

The gazebo at Mt. Hope Cemetery was erected in 1872 by the City of Rochester. It seemed appropriate that the ornate Moorish Revival gazebo be identified as a landmark in the City's popular Victorian cemetery. The gazebo became a familiar meeting place and backdrop for many social events and patriotic celebrations.

Over the years, the gazebo had severe deterioration due to the weather; in fact to the extent that its condition suggested either restoration or possible removal. In 1982, the Friends funded the restoration of the structure. Unfortunately some of the techniques and materials that are now available were unknown in 1982, and because of this our current restoration project for the gazebo was needed.

During the period from 1982 to 1989, the deterioration of the interior of the gazebo's dome became evident. In 1989, the City of Rochester made emergency repairs to stabilize the structure until funds became available for a complete refurbishing. During the stabilization process, 4 cubic feet of rotten wood and rubble were removed. It was also discovered that the gazebo had a serious infestation of carpenter ants that had weakened the internal wood supports under the dome. The stabilization process involved reducing the moisture build-up, making temporary repairs to the rafters, removing the ants, and venting the dome. The finial was also removed because of its deteriorated condition. The Friends realized the gazebo needed immediate attention and since the City lacked the funds at this time, the Friends undertook the financing.

Bids were sent out in late 1991 for contractors' cost estimates. The Loftus Construction Co. bid
A CIVIL WAR REMEMBRANCE

of

BREVETED BRIGADIER GENERAL HARRISON STILES FAIRCHILD

by Richard G. Brown

The General sat alone in his tent. Outside the sounds of war had ceased and only the noises of garrisoned troops filtered into his tent. The great war had ended this day, April 9, 1865, and the misery and death caused by it were over. Here at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, the Armies of the Potomac and James River converged to defeat the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General U. S. Grant and now only scattered remnants of the Confederate Army were left and they were being urged to surrender. As he sat there, General Fairchild began to reflect on the many paths and events that brought him to this historic day.

Harrison Stiles Fairchild was born August 4, 1820, in Cazenovia, New York. He and his family moved to Rochester in 1839, where he started his career as a clerk in a dry goods store. He became associated with the Commerce Bank of Rochester and progressed from teller to Head Cashier in a very short time.

In 1850, he was elected President of the New Bank of Rochester and served in that position until 1854. In that year he was elected Alderman of the 12th Ward in Rochester and was highly regarded by his associates and constituents.

During the years 1844 to 1854, Fairchild served as an officer in the "Rochester Light Guards," a part of the New York Militia. In 1854, he was appointed Colonel of the 54th Regiment, New York Militia and held that post until the start of the Civil War.

In 1861, then Governor of New York State, the Honorable J. S. Dickenson, appointed Harrison S. Fairchild Colonel of the 89th Regiment Infantry, New York State Volunteers (also known as The Dickenson Guards).

The 89th had an outstanding war record in the Civil War. It served with Major General Burnside in North Carolina and during the Peninsular Campaign, participating in the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Fair Oaks, and then the last major battle, Appomattox Court House. Since the fall of 1864, Colonel Fairchild served as the
4th Brigade Commander, 1st Division, 24th Army Corps, under Major General Gibbons and was present at the surrender of General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Colonel Fairchild was appointed Brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers in March of 1865 and was mustered out of the service August 3, 1865. He was considered a brave and gallant soldier. Although a severe disciplinarian, he was beloved by his men.

At the end of the war, he returned to Rochester and engaged in the brokerage of stocks and bonds, the sale of real estate, and served as a United States Claim Agent. He was described by his friends as dignified and courteous in manner, refined in his feelings and tastes, friendly and kind in disposition, and a staunch Republican.

General Fairchild was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in an unmarked grave. In 1991, The Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery petitioned the United States Veterans Administration for a marker to be placed on his burial site. The marker was received and installed by the City of Rochester in May 1992. This burial site is now a part of the Friends' Civil War Tour at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

GAZEBO REFURBISHING (From Page 1)

was accepted based on price, a recommendation of the Landmark Society, and their past experience repairing and refurbishing historic structures. The process of obtaining the necessary approvals was long and arduous, but after the approval by the Preservation Board in June 1992, work on the project commenced in September and was completed in October.

The project was complex due to the design and the materials originally used. It was quite evident by the results that Jim and John Loftus not only are excellent artisans, but they really care about the project they work on, and this is most evident in the attention to detail involved in the gazebo restoration.

The wood (poplar) finial was removed, repaired, and repainted. The roof was repaired and a drip edge was installed for the rain water run off. The dome was reinforced with new wood rafters and the complete structure was repainted, including the hand-painted arabesque designs on the dome.

I invite all of the members to visit Mt. Hope Cemetery and view the refurbished gazebo. The Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery are proud that we were able to provide the funds to repair this historic landmark. It was again made possible by the membership of the Friends and the support of the Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Rochester Architectural Services, and the staff at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

- Richard G. Brown
MT. HOPE SLIDE PROGRAM

If your group needs an interesting program, schedule The Friends of Mt. Hope slide show. A member of the Friends will make a brief presentation at the beginning of the show and will answer questions afterwards.

Call Ellie Klein at 473-0778 for information and arrangements.

CEMETERY TOURS

The regular Sunday tours ended October 26. They will resume on Sunday, May 2, 1993.

Special tours are available anytime during the year. Interested in a Civil War, Rochester Inventors, or Horticultural tour for your group? Call 461-3494 for information. There are several special tours available besides the ones mentioned.

ROCHESTER INVENTORS TOUR

W. Stephen Thomas conducted a tour about inventors buried in Mt. Hope on October 17. The tour visited the gravesites of 10 inventors and heard about their inventions. Some of their inventions are the railway transfer ticket, fuzzy pipe cleaner, voting machine, mail chute, rubber eyeglass frames, a fishing reel, and a type of machine gun.

NEW MEMBERS

Virginia J. Barclay, Richard Glen Curtis, Carolyn Dougherty, Lisabeth Frarey, Richard W. Schaeffer, Donald P. Schueler, Irene Troup

THE FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY

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<th>STREET</th>
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FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY
791 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620-2752

Membership Categories:

- [ ] Basic $15.00
- [ ] Contributing $25.00
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