For the first time in its 156-year history, Mount Hope Cemetery—one of the oldest, most beautiful and interesting Victorian cemeteries in America—is being recognized by a major publishing event. A new oversized, hardbound book filled with splendid black-and-white photographs and a text covering cemetery history and fascinating tales will be released in April.

The book, titled MOUNT HOPE, Rochester, New York—America’s First Municipal Victorian Cemetery, is a stunning photographic survey and a definitive history and social study of this historically significant cultural resource. The 128-page, 9-by-12-inch volume features 81 photographs (10 of them double page 12 by 18 inches) made by photographer Frank A. Gillespie. The text is written by professional writer and historian, Richard O. Reisem.

Upon release, this new book will retail at bookstores for $39.95. However, readers of this newsletter can obtain the book at a particularly attractive prepublication price. With payment in advance of the book’s release, one or two copies are $30 each, three or more copies are $25 each. (See order form in this newsletter.)

Marble statue of a praying child was stolen in 1992, but is preserved in the new Mount Hope Cemetery book. Photo by Frank Gillespie.
Memorable Views by Frank Gillespie

In 1989, Frank Gillespie bought a new lens for his Pentax 6 by 7 cm single-lens-reflex camera, and he was looking for a place to test it. He thought that Mount Hope Cemetery offered a quiet setting where he would not be disturbed and where he could photograph subject matter with fine detail and interesting highlights and shadows. His first roll of film provided such interesting results that he went back to Mount Hope again and again, each time with increasing fascination. The 200 acres of extraordinary landscape dotted with a third-of-a-million burials provided rich material for his photographic passion. His efforts resulted in a one-man show of his Mount Hope photographs at Link Gallery in 1991, and the success of that exhibition encouraged this book in which almost twice as many photographs (81) will appear.

Because of the relatively large negative format, Gillespie's photographs can be enlarged substantially and still retain extreme sharpness and clarity with no trace of grain. The disadvantage of the large negative format, he says, is that "the camera equipment is very heavy to carry around the steep hills and deep valleys of Mount Hope." But Gillespie's burden is the book's benefit. The photographs are almost all full-page (9 by 12), and there are ten double-page spreads. For added tonal depth and impact, the photographs are printed in duotone and then spot varnished.

Fascinating Text by Richard Reisem

Richard Reisem, who wrote and produced six cable television shows on historic architecture (Rochester: Architectural Showplace) and who is currently writing a book titled, 200 Years of Rochester Architecture and Gardens, has been a trustee of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery and a tour guide there practically since the organization started in 1980. Over the years he has collected many captivating stories and historic information relating to the cemetery. He has woven these into an engrossing text that complements the evocative photographs.

Among the many tales included in the book is the definitive, gripping but grisly tale of Lieutenant Thomas Boyd and Sergeant Michael Parker, two young Revolutionary War heroes who were captured by Seneca Indians near Conesus Lake in 1779. Most accounts severely edit the story, and few follow the incredible events to their final resolution in Mount Hope Cemetery. Here, for the first time, is the full unexpurgated tale. Many other extraordinary happenings involving Mount

The old Gothic Revival chapel, built in 1862, had a crematory added in 1912. It was one of the earliest crematories built in the U.S., but even architect J. Foster Warner's great design skill could not disguise the smokestack with Gothic details. Photo by Frank Gillespie.
Hope also receive their first publication in this book.

**Special Prepublication Offer**

The one-time, prepublication offer is made to ascertain interest in the book and thereby to project a realistic printing quantity. And since printing costs for such a lavish, high-quality book are extremely high, the prepub offer collects needed cash in advance to help pay the printing bill when it is due.

Until April 1, 1994, you can buy one or two books at $30 each (a 25% discount) or three or more copies at $25 each (a 38% discount). The book(s) will be shipped to you for a $4 packaging and shipping charge, or you can pick up your order at the north gatehouse of Mount Hope Cemetery (791 Mount Hope Avenue) any Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. once the book is off the press. We will notify you at that time.

Fourteen-and-a-half miles of roads wind through picturesque Mount Hope Cemetery, all leading to interesting sights. The new book explores them all. Photo by Frank Gillespie.

Please reserve the following number of books, MOUNT HOPE, Rochester, New York – America's First Municipal Victorian Cemetery, at the special prepublication price ($30 for one or two copies; $25 each for three or more copies).

- I will pick up my order when notified at the Mount Hope Cemetery gatehouse, 791 Mount Hope Ave.
- Please ship my book(s) at one shipping and handling charge of $4.00, which is enclosed.

Number of books ordered ___________ Total amount enclosed ___________

Please make checks payable to The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery and mail with this form to:

The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery Book Offer
791 Mount Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620-2752

Offer ends April 1, 1994.

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Election of Trustees and Officers

Ann Kingston, Eric Logan, Carlos Perez, and Mary Ann Toler were elected to the Board of Trustees for varying terms at the Annual Meeting. Officers for 1994, elected by the Board of Trustees, are Shirley R. Stephens, President; Dennis Carr, First Vice President; Edward J. Olinger, Second Vice President; Leon Creek, Treasurer; Richard Reisem, Asst. Treasurer; and Susanna Creek, Secretary.

Wanted – Tour Guides

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, April 24, 1994, 2 p.m., at the North Gatehouse for anyone interested in becoming a Mount Hope tour guide. The regular tour season begins on Sunday, May 1, with tours at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

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NEW MEMBERS

Ann Braverman
John C. Eisenberg
Fred & Judy Gregory
William Stoll

AGS Conference

The 17th annual conference of the Association for Gravestone Studies will be held at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois, from June 23–26, 1994. For information on the conference, please write or call Steve and Carol Shipp, AGS Conference Co-Chairs, 906 South Main Street, Princeton, IL 61356, telephone (815) 875-8491. Preregistration is required.

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