The Kidd Family and Monument

William Kidd, Sr., was a prominent citizen of Rochester, in the 19th Century. He had banking interests in both Rochester and New York City. Some of his daughters and all except one of his sons died at early ages.

The surviving son, Lt. William Kidd, Jr., 2nd U.S. Infantry was killed in action at age 19 during the Second Battle of Bull Run “while gallantly performing his duty in command of his company.” Since the battle was still in progress, fellow officers noted the spot where he fell. The next day the body was easily found, but could not be removed. An army surgeon supervised a battlefield burial and the gravesite’s location was described.

Kidd’s brother-in-law traveled to Virginia to claim the body. Accompanied by a Union Army officer with directions and later the army surgeon who oversaw the burial, he went under a flag of truce to the spot where Kidd was buried. The remains were then returned to Rochester for funeral services and interment in Mt. Hope.

The monument is at the end of a dirt path in a rustic setting. There are individual stones for each family member and a large central monument that bears many of the symbols of mourning — the draped urn, swag, and wreaths. It is a beautiful monument in remembrance of the Kidd family.
Baron Rudolph von Klenner's life began on November 7, 1851, in Modena, Italy. His mother, Maria Katharina Alma Fuchs, was a Lady-in-Waiting to Duchess Adelgundi of Modena, a Princess Royal of Bavaria. His father, Baron Francis Xavier von Klenner-Dombrowski was an Imperial Royal and Ducal Field Marshall.

In 1851 Italy did not exist as the nation it is today, so perhaps a brief review of this time in Italian history might supply background for this article. Italy was then a fragmented, disunified country. It was dominated by the influence of the Austrian Habsburgs, but strong nationalist feelings were emerging as they were in other parts of Europe. In the north was the Kingdom of Sardinia, consisting of the island of Sardinia and the Piedmont. The kingdom of the Two Sicilies (Sicily and Naples) extended from the island of Sicily to a point above Naples and occupied about half of the Italian peninsula. The northern regions of Lombardy and Venetia belonged to Austria. In between were small, independent duchies, other regions, the Papal States, and Rome.

In 1859 Lombardy was ceded by the Austrians to the Piedmont after a war in which the French and Italian forces allied against them. In 1860, Garibaldi and his men marched north toward Rome, while the Piedmontese army, led by King Victor Emmanuel, marched south. Naples and Sicily voted for union with the North as did the regions, duchies, and the Papal States. By 1861 the Kingdom of Italy emerged with Victor Emmanuel of Savoy as king, but Venetia remained Austrian until 1866. Later, in 1870 Rome was annexed completing the unification of Italy except for Trent and Trieste.

It was into this changing Italy and also a changing Europe that Rudolph von Klenner was born, the scion of a noble family. He was educated at the Institue Militaire della Nobilla for six years and then the Imperial Latin School for three years. His formal education was completed with a year at Dublin University in Ireland.

Upon his return to Italy, he was commissioned an ensign in the Thirteenth Italian Cavalry and fought in a war against Austria. This was probably in 1866 when Italy gained Venetia from Austria as a reward for siding with Prussia in a brief, seven-week war. Von Klenner was promoted to Second Lieutenant for gallantry on the field of battle. Later he was wounded, captured, and sent to Austria. When he was released, he left the Italian military service.

By December 1866, von Klenner had moved to Austria where he entered the Austrian army and was commissioned an ensign in an infantry regiment. After service during the Dalmatian Insurrection, he was promoted to First Lieutenant in the Third Lancers under Archduke Charles Ludwig. When injuries forced him to leave the regiment, he transferred to the Austrian diplomatic service and was attached to legations in Rio de Janeiro, St. Petersburg, Dresden, and Berlin from 1871 to 1872.
Von Klenner was then appointed aide-de-camp to Prince August of Coburg-Gotha. In November 1873, the Austrian government assigned him as aide to Duke Phillip, and he accompanied the duke on a trip around the world. Afterwards he managed the duke's estates. He then made a second trip around the world, stopping at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. Upon his return to Austria, von Klenner was again assigned to legations in Stuttgart, Paris, Munich, and Stockholm during 1877-1878. He then returned to the army and served in the Bosnian War that followed the occupation of the country by Austrian troops.

By 1885 von Klenner had left the army and was in the United States as a language teacher, first at an academy and later at two universities. He had a reputation as a linguist. It was in 1894 that he met Katharine Evans, a Rochester native, in Europe. They were married in 1895 and resided in New York City. He had given up his title and career in Austria. He and his wife were known as Mr. & Mrs. von Klenner, at least for awhile. Since his previous careers were finished, von Klenner engrossed himself in study and wrote for European periodicals.

After an illness, he died on May 31, 1914, in New York City and was buried in the Evans family plot in Mt. Hope Cemetery, a long way from his homeland and the life he had known in Austria. At the time of his death, an unidentified newspaper reported that he had concerned himself with social conditions in New York City and had done much to help the poor, but gave no details. During his 63 years, he had led an often adventuresome, productive life and had several careers. A modest stone marks his gravesite, and his title of baron again appears on the plot's central monument, a celtic cross. Thirty-five years later his wife was buried near him.

I'd like to acknowledge the help of Kendra Ferries who gave me information for this article.

**CEMETERY HAPPENINGS**

The City of Rochester has completed the Roto paving of some cemetery roads that were in poor condition. Take a drive on Grove, Evergreen, and Firemen's Avenues. You'll notice the difference.

Road crews also patched rough spots that had developed on some roads and partially repaved others. Next spring the City hopes to do more road repair and repaving.

On Wilson Day, University of Rochester students volunteer to help on various community projects.

This year some of the U.R. students helped in the cemetery on that day, as others also did last year. Fran Coleman of the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery gave a special Sunday tour of the newer grounds, "The Back Forty." It is a part of the cemetery not included on the regular Sunday tours, and there is much to see there. The tour was so successful that some people who were unable to take the first one called to ask about another one. Fran obliged with a second tour. Despite a cold, windy day, a fair size group attended it.
The Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery Newsletter is published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) by The Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery, 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620-2752.

Correction

The Garden Gate Garden Club of Pittsford and the Creative Gardeners of Penfield are working together on the Susan B. Anthony plot.

The women of the Garden Gate Garden Club of Pittsford are in sole charge of the planting and care of the Albert Hotchkiss, J. Foster Warner, and Col. Nathan Pond plots. They have tended these plots for several years.

Cemetery Tours

The regular Sunday tours finished on October 29 and will resume on Sunday, May 5, 1996. Special tours are available at any time. Call 461-3494 for arrangements and information.

Mt. Hope Slide Program

The Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery have a slide program about the cemetery. It is available to groups and organizations upon request. A member of the Friends will make a brief introduction and be available for a question and answer time afterwards.

For information and arrangements, call Ellie Klein at 473-0778.

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