ROCHESTERIAN DROWNED IN TITANIC SINKING
BODY RECOVERED, STOLEN, RECOVERED AGAIN,
AND FINALLY BURIED IN MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

by Fran Coleman

(Author's Note: On a rainy Saturday in February, 1998, Frank Gillespie, Friends trustee and Epitaph photographer, and I met with William Napier, great grandson of Stanley H. Fox, a passenger aboard the ill-fated ocean liner SS Titanic. Bill showed us Mr. Fox's gravestone in Mount Hope and told the story of his great grandfather's brief life and journey on the great ship. Additional information for this article was obtained from Donovan Shilling through the courtesy of Bruce A. Tyo, Communications Services coordinator, Gleason Works.)

Stanley H. Fox was a salesman for Rochester's Gleason Works. He was originally a machinist who had been chosen to become one of the company's sales representatives. Mr. Fox lived with his wife Cora and two children on Gregory Street in the South Wedge section of Rochester. He was selected to sell Gleason's latest machinery to automobile plants in England. He had a successful trip and, when his business negotiations were completed, looked forward to returning to Rochester and his family.

On April 10, 1912, with more than 2,200 other passengers, Mr. Fox departed from Southampton, England, aboard the ocean liner Titanic for his return to the United States. This was Titanic's maiden voyage. The ship was indeed the pride of England's White Star Line.

Stanley Fox was a passenger in the second-class section of the ship. Among the noteworthy passengers with whom he shared his journey were Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor and Mr. Bruce Ismay, chairman of White Star Line.

On the third day of his journey, which was April 13, 1912, Mr. Fox celebrated his thirty-eighth birthday. He was indeed in a joyful mood and became more eager to return home. But on the fourth day of the trip, events occurred that altered many lives forever.

Titanic Captain Edward Smith received alerts from other liners warning of icebergs. The Titanic was considered unsinkable so little notice was paid to the messages. That same evening Stanley Fox met with friends in the second-class smoking room for drinks and a game of cards. The game continued late into the night.

At approximately 11:40 p.m., lookout Frederick Fleet reported an iceberg straight ahead. Slowly, the Titanic altered her course. The immense ship appeared to slide harmlessly by the towering mountain of ice on her starboard side. But then a jolting blow sent a tremor through the ocean liner. First-class passengers aboard the 46,000-ton vessel barely felt the impact. On the third-class level, however, the collision threw many passengers from their bunks. They

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knew then that they were in jeopardy.

The card game with Mr. Fox and his friends on the second level continued, but through the portholes the iceberg could be seen hugging the side of the ship. The halff

of the splendid ship's engines was heard.

According to historians, the ship did not crash into the iceberg head on. It was critically damaged by the slicing impact to the ship's side, causing rivets that held the metal plates of the hull together to snap. Within ten minutes the first five compartments filled with water. Because the bulkheads between the fifth and sixth compartments were as high as E deck, the water then spilled over into each consecutive compartment. The vessel was doomed.

At this point, the Titanic could stay afloat about three hours. These hours became a frantic scramble for lifeboats. There had been no lifeboat drill because the ship was considered unsinkable. Furthermore, there were not enough lifeboats to accommodate 2,206 passengers.

Distress signals reached the Carpathia, about 58 nautical miles away. When it arrived at 4:00 a.m., the scene was a four-mile-wide sea of tangled wreckage, small icebergs, floating bodies, and lifeboats containing 703 survivors. The ship itself had broken in two and sunk to the bottom of the ocean. A total of 1,503 passengers were dead at sea, many of them dying from hypothermia in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic. Among them was Stanley H. Fox.

Mr. Fox's body and his personal effects were found, identified, and shipped to White Star Line offices in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A telegram was sent to his widow, Cora, at her Gregory Street home. The news of the death of her beloved husband sent Mrs. Fox into shock, and she became unable to travel.

A lady claiming to be Lydia Fox and sister-in-law of Stanley Fox arrived in Halifax to claim the body, saying she was acting on behalf of Fox's widow, Cora.

The coroner and agents of the White Star Line were sufficiently convinced by Lydia Fox's story that, at her request, they directed that the body be placed on a train and shipped to Lydia Fox's hometown. Mr.

William Napier at the gravesite in Mount Hope of his great grandfather, Stanley Fox, who drowned in the sinking of the Titanic. Photograph by Frank A. Gillespie.

Fox's possessions, which consisted of $70 and two watches, remained, for an unknown reason, with White Star Line in Halifax.

Shortly after the train carrying Lydia Fox and the body of Stanley Fox left Halifax, a telegram was received at an approaching train stop, Tiuro, stating that the body must be put off there and directing that authorities regain control of it because of a suspicion of theft in order to collect insurance. Lydia Fox continued home empty-handed.

Cora Fox allegedly knew Lydia Fox but in the nick of time refused to allow her to have any claim on either the body or personal effects of Stanley Fox. So the body was held by Canadian authorities until its disposition could be settled. No further information on Lydia Fox is available.

Rochester Mayor Hiram Edgerton provided evidence of ownership of the body and sent a telegram to Canadian authorities directing that the body be sent to Cora Fox, widow of the deceased. It was finally released and shipped to a funeral chapel in Rochester. Services were held in Stanley Fox's Gregory Street home, and he was interred May 1912 in Mount Hope.
When in 1853 U.S. President Millard Fillmore, undoubtedly the less effective of our two Buffalo presidents, supported the Fugitive Slave Law requiring the return of runaway slaves to the South, he did so in the belief that it would save the Union by preventing the secession of Confederate states. But it only angered the abolitionist North and ended Fillmore's political career. The country was headed for civil strife, and Fillmore couldn't stop it.

So when Fort Sumter, under federal control in the Charleston, South Carolina harbor, refused to evacuate at Confederate General Beauregard's demand, he ordered that it be bombarded. That fierce attack on April 12 and 13, 1861 alarmed the North, particularly Rochester, New York, where abolitionists led by Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony had earlier hung a banner from Corinthian Hall demanding "No Compromise with Slaveholders."

At the news of the attack, Mayor John Nash called a meeting to pledge Rochester's support for President Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers to defend the Union. A vast crowd gathered outside City Hall and cheered Martin B. Anderson, president of the University of Rochester, when he said, "The Rubicon has been crossed, and the time for action has arrived."

Rochester was a thriving city in 1861, the eighteenth largest in the U.S., with a population of 48,204. Our young men signed up enthusiastically, and the city's first army allotment was quickly filled. Eight companies from Rochester, one from Dansville, and one from Brockport were formed into the 13th Regiment of New York State Volunteers, the "Rochester Regiment," and left the city on May 3, 1861 for Washington, D.C. They were led by Colonel Isaac F. Quinby, a professor of mathematics at the University of Rochester. Quinby was a West Point graduate, taught at that military academy, and served in the Mexican War. He led 600 men from the 13th regiment into the fiercest fighting of the first battle of Bull Run. Accounts from the battlefield reported that the 13th fought the fiercest and was the last to leave the field to the Confederate victors. Twelve Rochester men were killed, 26 were wounded, and 27 taken prisoner.

Alfred Ely was Rochester's U.S. congressman at the time. He and former Monroe County District Attorney Calvin Huson, Jr. decided to watch the battle from a nearby hill along with other Washington officials. Rumors reached them that many of the soldiers they had known back home had been either killed or wounded. Feeling some sort of public duty to these constituents, Ely and Huson went down to visit their friends on the battlefield. It was not a particularly smart move, because they were both captured by the Confederates and hauled off to jail in Richmond. Huson died in prison, and Ely, often put in a cage on a wagon and ignominiously paraded by the Confederates up and down the streets of Richmond, was finally released after six months of imprisonment.

The Eighth Regiment New York
Cavalry was also organized in Rochester in 1861 under the command of Colonel Samuel J. Crooks. It was ordered to Washington and was bivouacked near Harper's Ferry. Col. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson and his Confederate forces surrounded the camp of the Eighth and demanded surrender. Crooks refused and sat tight until midnight when the entire Eighth cavalry broke camp, crossed a pontoon bridge, and dashed away on their horses at breakneck speed over rocky roads directly through the center of the Confederate army, which in the deep darkness took them to be Confederate cavalry.

Immediately after this escape, the Eighth Regiment was, in rapid succession, involved successfully in engagements at Philomont, Union, Upperville, Barber's Cross Roads, and Amosville. After three years of brave service in 64 battles, the regiment returned to Rochester. Of 940 men who left Rochester in 1861, 190 came back. Of course, not all of the missing men died. Some reenlisted or transferred to other regiments.

Among other regiments composed principally of Rochesterians were the 108th and 140th New York State Volunteers. The 108th was formed in 1862, led by Colonel Oliver H. Palmer, and gave an illustrious performance during its term of service. The regiment left for Washington on August 19, 1862 and was hardly gone when another regiment, the fourth from Monroe County at that time, was authorized. It was the famous 140th New York State Volunteers, commanded by Rochester's popular Colonel Patrick H. O'Rorke, who had just graduated first in his class from West Point Academy in 1861.

The 140th's finest hour was at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1–3, 1863, three days of heavy fighting. O'Rorke and his regiment contributed importantly to this pivotal Union victory. The 140th held Little Roundtop, a key position in the battle. On the second day of fighting, however, O'Rorke, while holding and waving the colors at the head of his regiment, was killed, along with 25 of his men.

Gettysburg was the turning point of the war. General Robert E. Lee, unable to dislodge the Union forces, was obliged to fall back to a position south of the Potomac River. Thereafter, the Confederates remained on the defensive, and the war became a test of endurance.

All of Rochester turned out for the funeral of its Civil War hero, Patrick O'Rorke. The Rochester Union reported, "Long before the hour appointed for the service, the streets, in every direction, leading to the church were crowded with people, whilst in its immediate neighborhood were to be seen hundreds of persons all anxious to secure admission."

Two Rochesterians who fought in the Civil War received the Medal of Honor: Warren Carman captured the Confederate flag and a passel of prisoners; Dr. Richard Curran treated the wounded in a hail of bullets.

Although the black population of Rochester consisted of 410 people, which was less than one percent of the city's total, black troops from the city contributed significantly to the Union effort in the Civil War. Frederick Douglass encouraged the enrollment of blacks in the army. He was successful in personally recruiting hundreds of blacks from a wide area, including his own sons, for the Union Army. At least half a dozen tombstones in Mount Hope Cemetery's Civil War section recognize men who belonged to black regiments. As a matter of fact, it is the only place in the cemetery where blacks are recognized for their race.

Rochester sent about 5,000 men to fight in the Civil War. Of these, 650 died. They constitute an honor roll which included representatives from all elements of the Rochester community, and many of them are buried throughout Mount Hope. The Civil War section itself contains 399 burials of men who died in the war, as well as veterans who died later. The graves of eight Civil War generals of the Union Army and five generals of the New York State Militia, who fought in the Civil War, have been located in Mount Hope Cemetery.
COMMITTEES THAT DO THE FRIENDS’ WORK

by Richard O. Reisem

The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery operates with a number of committees that accomplish the organization’s widely varied activities. If you are interested in helping us do the quality job that we like to achieve in each one of the following areas, please discuss your interest with the appropriate chairperson listed below or call our office number, 461-3494, and leave a message on the answering machine. Someone will return your call.

• ADOPT-A-LOT. Rob Hilliard, chair, 473-4614, pager: 1-800-973-4746. Adopt-a-Plot identifies gravesites suitable for adoption and finds and assists people in undertaking the maintenance, which consists basically of simple gardening. Or just call Rob to adopt a plot yourself.

• ARCHIVES. Jean Czerkas, chair, 342-1516. This committee organizes and maintains the archival material of the Friends organization.

• GARDENING. John Pearsall, chair, 244-0408. Gardening involves planting and maintaining garden areas in the historic sections of the cemetery. If you love gardening, here is a unique opportunity to create beauty.

• GATEHOUSE RECEPTION. JoAnn Belle-Ile, chair, 436-2951. If you want to volunteer as a receptionist in the gatehouse on Sunday afternoons to meet and sign in tourgoers, handle minor gift-shop sales, and serve lemonade and cookies, this meet-the-public opportunity is for you.

• LIBRARY. John Pearsall, librarian, 244-0408. The Friends maintain a library in the gatehouse at 791 Mount Hope Avenue. Book cataloging and basic library maintenance activities are available to volunteers.

• MEMBERSHIP. Carol Riesenberger, chair, 342-6287. Membership works to retain existing members of the organization and to devise ways of attracting new ones.

• PUBLICATIONS. Richard O. Reisem, chair, 271-7127. This committee is responsible for publishing the Epitaph quarterly and other special publications such as our pocket guide to Mount Hope, a membership brochure, and a publication designed for children.

• PUBLICITY. Fran Coleman, chair, 423-0692. Publicity is concerned with promoting public awareness of Mount Hope Cemetery as a valuable cultural resource in our community and with encouraging public use of the cemetery and attendance at Friends functions.

• RESTORATION. Hillard B. (Bill) Knapp, chair, 288-1267. This committee researches and coordinates a variety of projects, such as interior gatehouse renovation and cemetery beautification and restoration.

• SPECIAL GROUP TOURS. Hugh Schnacky, chair, 338-2409 evenings, 473-3271 days. The Friends organize tours of the cemetery for special groups at arranged times. You can assist in arranging tours or give them. If you give them, you should be available weekdays.

• TOURS. Laurel Gabel, chair, 248-3453. This committee is responsible for recruiting and assigning guides and backups for regular Sunday tours. If you want to be a tour guide, this committee will arrange your training.

WE’RE TRYING FOR BLUEBIRDS AGAIN

by Richard O. Reisem

Last year, the Friends and the Vets 2B 4H Club put up twenty birdhouses at Mount Hope with the goal of persuading bluebirds to take up temporary residence in our attractive cemetery. We enticed a lot of sparrows but no bluebirds, although we did pull in one house wren and one chickadee family. Since wrens and chickadees are desirable songbirds, we invited them to stay, and we hope they come back this year. But bluebirds are our real objective. Jim Ochterski of the Cornell Cooperative Extension is coordinating the project, and he says that it normally takes a couple of years for bluebirds to find these new homes.

To make the program work, we must inspect the birdhouses once a week and evict the nests being built by sparrows. Weekly monitoring does not leave sparrows enough time to build a nest and lay eggs as well. The Friends share scrutiny duties with the 4H Club. They will handle the months of April, June, and August. Volunteers from our Friends group will tackle May, July, and September. Inspection days are either Saturday or Sunday. To volunteer for one or more of these days during the Friends’ months, call our office at 461-3494 and leave a message. Jim Ochterski will provide expert training, which takes half an hour. A leisurely pace for the actual inspection takes about an hour and a half. Last year’s volunteers found the duty both interesting and a lot of fun. And the walk around the cemetery is pleasant and healthful, so be sure to sign up.
OUR TREASURED FOUNDER AND TRUSTEE,
W. STEPHEN THOMAS, NOW IN HIS 88TH YEAR

by Fran Coleman

We are most fortunate to count among our board members and tour guides, W. Stephen Thomas, who has been with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery since its inception in 1980.

Steve reached his 88th birthday on September 5, 1997. At this advanced age, he is still going pretty strong. Though Steve no longer gives tours of Mount Hope, he is available for help in researching information and telling stories or sharing knowledge about residents of early Rochester and the many notable people buried in the cemetery.

Steve was born in New York City where he spent his early years and attended the Collegiate School. He graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1932 with major studies in history and American literature and a minor in biology. While an undergraduate at Harvard, he accompanied an expedition to explore plants in Central America and served three seasons as a U.S. park ranger/naturalist in Glacier National Park, Montana. After a museum apprenticeship in Newark, New Jersey, he served as assistant registrar at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, and took graduate courses in art history at New York University.

As director of education at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences in 1936, he established the education department and broadened services to adults and youth. From 1939 to 1942, he headed a survey of avocational interests in science for the American Philosophical Society funded by the Carnegie Foundation. The results were published in his book, The Amateur Scientist.

Steve joined the navy in the second World War and served as liaison officer at two seaports in Chile and later was recalled as lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve during the Korean War. His assignment then was as historian attached to the staff of the commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet serving in Hawaii, Japan, and Korea.

Steve came to Rochester in 1946 to become director of Rochester Museum of Arts and Science, which later became Rochester Museum and Science Center. Under his direction, the museum responded to community interests, acting as host for Girl Scout open houses, flower shows, and celebrations of various ethnic groups. As many as 35 study and hobby groups met at the museum. They were forerunners of RMSC’s Gannett School of Science and Man.

As a museum director, Steve was in demand all over the world. He lectured in Cuba, in Spanish, and helped plan exhibits in Uruguay for the first modern science museum in South America. He traveled to Israel, France, West Germany, and Spain to accompany an Iroquois exhibition mounted by RMSC, the first exhibit of native American arts and crafts shown in Europe.

For eight years, Steve taught museum methods to interns on a project funded by the New York State Council on the Arts. He was active in various professional museum organizations at the local, state, regional, and national level. He was co-founder and first secretary of New York State Association of Museums, vice-president and member of New York State Education Commissioner’s Committee on Museum Resources, and a board member and president of the Northeast Conference of Museums.

Steve’s interests are many and varied, and his library is a reflection of some of his interests. His book collection contains widely diverse subjects, including the complete works of Henry David Thoreau, books about whaling, scrapbooks of his very interesting life, and much material about mushrooms. He has paintings of mushrooms, statues of mushrooms, and his father’s book, The Field Book of Mushrooms, published in 1927 and which Steve later edited. He even has a mushroom necklace that he periodically wears.

For several years, Steve was a docent at the George Eastman House, and his knowledge of the house, the man, and the people who visited during Mr. Eastman’s lifetime is extensive and most informative. A walking tour of East Avenue with Steve is like reliving the past. He knew so many of the people who occupied the stately homes, and he shared wonderful stories about them.

The original tour script for the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery was compiled by Steve when he was co-chairman of the tour.
SUNDAY TOURS
START MAY 3

by Richard O. Reisem

Regular Sunday afternoon free guided tours of Mount Hope Cemetery commence on May 3 and continue through the last Sunday in October. Tours begin at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. each Sunday and start from the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Ample parking is available inside the cemetery's north gates at 791 Mount Hope Avenue.

A member of our well-informed and entertaining cadre of tour guides will take you on an engaging look at the past in 160-year-old Mount Hope, America's first municipal Victorian cemetery. You'll visit the graves of nationally famous as well as locally distinguished people, listen to fascinating anecdotes about colorful characters, see magnificent 19th-century architecture and monuments, learn about Victorian customs and symbols carved on tombstones, and hike around an undulating landscape of hills and valleys covered with trees, eskers, and kettles. And when it's all over in about one-and-a-half to two hours, we'll give you free lemonade and cookies.

Even with a modest donation for our efforts (should you choose to give one), these tours are one of the great entertainment bargains in this area. Spend a pleasant Sunday afternoon with us and find out.

The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery Membership Application

Name________________________________________
Street Address________________________________
City and State_________________ Zip__________
Phone No.__________________________

I can help with:
____ Adopt-a-Plot
____ Gardening
____ Gatehouse tour receptionist
____ Historical research
____ Membership
____ Newsletter
____ Programs
____ Restoration
____ Slide/tape presentations
____ Special events
____ Tour guide
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Membership Categories:
____ Basic $20
____ Contributing $35
____ Supporting $50
____ Patron $75
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____ Benefactor $500
____ Retired/Student $10
____ Corporate $200

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SPECIAL THEME TOURS: A MEMBERSHIP BONUS

by Richard O. Reisem

Exciting theme tours of Mount Hope Cemetery have been scheduled for each of six months this summer and fall – from May through October. These tours are specifically designed for you as free membership events; nonmembers of the Friends pay $3 per person or $5 per family for each tour. So get your $18 worth or bring your family and get your $30 worth by marking your calendar and attending all of the following:

• Saturday, MAY 16, 1–3 p.m. NOTABLE WOMEN. Learn about historic ladies from women’s rightists to royalty. Your guides are Fran Coleman and Dennis Carr. Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Free lemonade and cookies after the tour.

• Saturday, JUNE 13, 1–3 p.m. THE GREAT TREE TOUR. Enjoy the plant life in Mount Hope and learn all about trees from landscape architect Ed Olinger. Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Free lemonade and cookies after the tour.

• Saturday, JULY 18, 1–3 p.m. “THE BACK FORTY.” Tour the rarely visited but fascinating so-called “new section” with Fran Coleman. This area of the cemetery is never covered in our Sunday tours. Meet at the cemetery office opposite the Distillery.

• Saturday, AUGUST 15, 1–3 p.m. ARCHITECTURAL TOUR. An engaging tour of architect-designed structures and monuments, as well as gravesites of architects. Dennis Carr, tour guide. Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Free lemonade and cookies after the tour.

• Saturday, SEPTEMBER 19, 1–3 p.m. FAMOUS ARTISTS. This tour includes interesting monuments designed by artists and visits to the gravesites of famous artists. Tour guides are Anne Kingston, Eric Logan, and Richard Reisem. Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Free lemonade and cookies after the tour.

• Saturday, OCTOBER 10, 1–3 p.m. FALL COLORS. The cemetery will be colorfully decked out for this tour with retired city forester, Bill Knapp. Meet at the north gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive. Free cider, coffee, and cookies after the tour.

THE FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY
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