THE FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY
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THE GAZEBO RESTORED!

The Friends' first restoration project—the Moorish gazebo at the entrance at the Old North Gate—has been successfully completed. In October, it was rededicated, minus the decayed finial, but with structural reconstruction, painting, roofing repairs, and art work completed. U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who has been particularly interested in this project since his earlier visit to Mt. Hope, was the principal speaker, while a brass ensemble gave a concert in the gazebo itself. Friends President John C. Clark paid tribute to the many individual contributors and supporters: the Rochester Area Foundation, the Landmark Society, architects John Bero and Roger Brainard, Jeffrey Swain, William Woodward and many others. He also announced that Thomas and Marion Hawks had made a contribution for the reproduction of the finial, thus ensuring the final completion of the restoration.

Since then, the finial has been reproduced by woodworker Jeffrey Carl, painted, and installed. Thanks to Miss Elizabeth Holohan of the Rochester Historical Society, the color of the original 19th century sand painting was determined and reproduced in spite of the fact that no color picture of the original exists.

Total restoration costs—replacing and reconstructing rotted supports, repairing the tereplate roof, painting and artwork restoring the arabesque roof designs, and the architect's token fees total $13,705. Of this amount, $1,500, representing the balance of our loan from the Landmark Society is still outstanding. It is the aim of the Trustees to pay off this sum as soon as possible. Anyone wishing to make any contribution should send a check marked "Gazebo" to the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery, 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620. We would also appreciate hearing from anyone willing to work on fund raising projects. More about this later.

THE WALL

As most of us know from the media accounts, the cemetery wall along Mt. Hope Avenue came tumbling down in two places during the winter. The Friends' Board of Trustees has expressed its concern for the prompt repair of the wall in a letter to the Mayor. Although financing of this project is not yet clear, we have been assured of its high priority. The Friends are also concerned that the historic character of the construction be preserved as nearly as possible.

WARMING HUT

During January and February, the Friends opened the Old Gatehouse each Sunday afternoon as a "warming hut" for hikers and cross-country skiers in the cemetery. In spite of the lack of snow for skiing, approximately 75 people stopped in for hot drinks and to learn about the cemetery. The old pews from the chapel were arranged to form an attractive lounge, and the "hut" was manned by recruits from our cemetery guides and trustees.

ENDOWMENT FUND

A member of the Friends who wishes to remain anonymous has given $500 to establish an Endow-
ment Fund for the Friends, in the hope that this will be the stimulus for other contributions. Such a fund will give the organization a permanent financial base. Others who wish to contribute may send checks to the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery, 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620, marked Endowment Fund.

GAZEBO DONORS

The following have contributed to the Gazebo Restoration Fund since our last Newsletter through March, 1983. Many have contributed more than once, and we thank them, as well as first-time donors, for their interest and encouragement which has made the saving and restoration of the Gazebo possible. Special thanks go to Marion and Thomas Hawks, who, as mentioned elsewhere, in addition to their early encouragement of the undertaking, have generously contributed most of the cost of the reproduction of the finial. (*) indicates a second or more donation. (T) indicates a tour donation.

Marion G. Allyn*
Joseph Bames*
Doris Barrows*
Marlan Barton*
Mary Beardsley*
Raj Bharani
Barbara Billingsley*
Gilbert Bosche*
Kathryn M. Brandt
Richard Brown*
Jane Capellupo
Mrs. Talbot Chambers*
Churchville-Chili YWCA (T)
John C. Clark III*
Sarah/Rowland Collins*
Kenneth DeLaura*
Dorothea DeZafra*
James/Arabelle Dubois*
Marjorie Ewell*
Edwina M. Fader
Marion T. Farron
Ruth N. Fedele
Ruth L. Flowers*
Andrew E. Ford
Robert/Jean France*
Bemice W. Fricker
Garden Club (T)
Gates-Chili YWCA (T)
David Gallo
Margaret L. Geyer
Morris/Elizabeth Heigh
Ronald/Susan Hauptfleisch
Mr./Mrs. Thomas H. Hawks*
Robert Hoepfl*
Helen T. Howe
Dorothy T. Humes*
Kathryn Hunter*
Jr. League Garden Club (T)
Nancie Kennedy
Elinor Klein*
Paul A. Knoke*
League of Women Voters (T)
Anthony Leavy
Patricia McGrath
John McKinney*
Erika Mason*
Robert/Dianna Marquis
John E. Millard*
William/Eleanor Morris*
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Nancy Sleeth
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W. Stephen Thomas
Philippa Vigneri*
Robert Vogt
Kathleen Wolkowicz
Peter B. Whitcombe
Jessie P. Woodward
Alice Wood Wynd
Jeanette G. Yuile*
X-Y Club (T)

ANNUAL MEETING, December 1982

John Francis Marion, author of Famous and Curious Cemeteries, and president of the Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, spoke at the annual meeting held at the headquarters of the Landmark Society. He gave a witty account of his own interest in cemeteries arising from his boyhood experiences in Albany, N.Y., followed by an illustrated presentation of the restoration of Laurel Hill.
DUES NOTICE

We periodically send out reminders of expiration of dues. Unfortunately because of postage costs, one reminder is all we have been able to afford. If you don't remember whether or not you have paid, check the address label on this Newsletter. The numbers represent month and year of expiration. If your label reads before 4/84, it means you're overdue! Since virtually all our revenue for programs and improvements (including this Newsletter), is derived from dues and contributions, please take a moment to check. Basic dues are $15 per year; contributing $25; patron $35; retired or student $5. Checks should be sent to 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester 14620.

THE FOUNTAIN, A Sesqui-Centennial Gift?

The Friends have submitted a proposal for the repair of the cast-iron fountain at the North Entrance to the City's Sesqui-Centennial Committee for possible inclusion in a birthday "wish book" of projects celebrating 150 years of Rochester as a city. Preliminary contacts have been made with cast-iron specialists locally and elsewhere to estimate the costs and feasibility. In all likelihood we anticipate that such an undertaking will be beyond the resources of our relatively small organization, and that some kind of joint project will be necessary.

JOHN HARRY STEDMAN
Inventor and Beloved Citizen

Among those buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery is J. Harry Stedman (1843-1922), who is chiefly remembered as an inventor and as the man responsible for reviving the custom of lighting windows at Christmas time.

Stedman was born in Newport, R.I., and came to Rochester in the early '70s. He held a number of responsible positions in local businesses. Fortune came to him in 1892 when "in an idle moment," as tradition has it, he invented the streetcar transfer. The simple device, still used on city buses, consists of a small slip of paper which permits a passenger to make a continuous journey on a different line. Stedman's first efforts proved to be a little too elaborate. He had printed on the slips tiny pictures of "types," such as man, boy, girl, etc., which conductors were supposed to punch out to identify the transfer holder. He also tried including ethnic types and even hairstyles! All of this proved unnecessary if not ridiculous, and the modern transfer which simply indicates a route number and time of day quickly evolved.

Stedman's income from the streetcar transfer was augmented by the profits from another patented device, the fuzzy pipe cleaner he co-invented with Charles Angel. As the result of his investments, Stedman became a director of numerous western mining ventures and of the Ohmer Fare Register Company.

So it was as a wealthy man that Stedman, in 1913, re-introduced the custom of placing a lighted candle in the window in the Christmas season. Accounts are vague as to why "re-introduced" or "revived," but those words are consistently used in connection with the story. It may be that Stedman and his contemporaries did not know when the custom had died out but were pretty clear that it had existed here. Some, but not all, of Stedman's obituarists credit his action with more than a local impact.
In 1913 Stedman was living on the northeast corner of East Avenue and Portsmouth Terrace. Later he moved down the street to 24 Portsmouth Terrace, his residence at the time of his death in 1922. At his funeral service in St. Paul's Church on October 31, his contribution to Christmas was vividly acknowledged. A lighted candle was placed at one end of the coffin during the service; later at Mt. Hope, another was placed at the head of the grave.

Some sixty years later (December 14, 1982) members of the Friends of Mt. Hope gathered at Stedman's gravesite to place another candle there and to sing some impromptu carols. The monument may be found on the west side of First Avenue, a little distance south of Cedar Avenue, just behind the Miner plots.

J. Harry Stedman was credited as an accomplished poet and speaker. He was active in the Genesee Valley, Rochester Art, and Auto Clubs. He was a University of Rochester alumnus and member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was active in the affairs of the Homeopathic (Genesee) Hospital and of the Episcopal Church. Among his honorary pallbearers were such prominent citizens as Edward G. Miner and Hiram W. and Harper Sibley.

He left behind no close family.

Joseph W. Barnes
City Historian

TRAINING FOR PROSPECTIVE TOUR GUIDES

The Friends now have ten qualified members who conduct tours, but we need more. A preliminary meeting for persons interested in being trained as volunteer guides will be held at the Old North Gatehouse, 791 Mt. Hope Avenue at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14. Kindly call Mr. Thomas (473-1281) for information.

Dennis Carr and Stephen Thomas
Co-chairmen, Tour Guide Comm.

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ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14620