SUNDAY TOURS START

Regular Sunday tours started on Easter Sunday, April 22, and will continue each Sunday until November. Tours start from the Old North Gatehouse (opposite Robinson Drive) at 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Special group tours may be arranged. A donation is requested for these. Call Jack McKinney (271-8389).

Additional tour guides are still needed. Please call Jack for information on training, or to indicate your interest at some future time.

SESQUICENTENNIAL AT MT. HOPE

The Friends of Mt. Hope are sponsoring or participating in a number of Sesquicentennial events. On May 20 representatives of Rochester's Sister Cities from around the world will tour Mt. Hope Cemetery.

On May 28, a special Memorial Day Celebration, reviving an old community practice, will be held at Mt. Hope Cemetery, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Reactivated historical units from both sides of the Civil War will participate, and there will be portrayals of several historical figures of the period. A prominent Rochesterian will lay a wreath at the Civil War Monument in the cemetery.

On "Rediscover the River Day," June 17, activity will include opening the chapel for visitors and distribution of the new cemetery history. Open house will be held at the Old North Gatehouse to launch a membership drive for the Friends.

On July 6-8, Canal and Upper River Days, the Friends will conduct special tours of the cemetery and persons depicting famous people buried at Mt. Hope will give brief talks on their lives and times.

All these events need person-power. If you can help out with any of them, please call Dick Brown (722-7293 days; 544-5532 evenings) or write him at 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, 14620.

CEMETERY PROJECTS

+ Wall restoration: For those who wonder why no work has been done on the fallen wall on Mt. Hope Avenue, the answer lies in the number of agencies, federal and state, which must approve the restoration of a "national landmark." At this writing, plans have been referred to the N.Y. State Historic Preservation Office and to the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

+ During the summer, visitors will find Indian Trail Avenue and Ravine Avenue being reconstructed. A new water line from the garage area to the Old Gatehouse-fountain area will also be installed.

+ Sylvan Waters is now well refilled, and the surrounding area has been cleaned by the U. of R. students who were sentenced to cemetery work for the theft of Christmas wreaths from graves.

+ The Old North Gatehouse painting has been
completed as well as repair work on the "new" (1911-12) Chapel.

About half a million dollars has been spent by the city in cemetery improvements over the last three years.

SESQUICENTENNIAL GARDENS

In honor of the Sesquicentennial, the city is planning to give the Friends approximately $285 worth of annuals to plant in Mt. Hope Cemetery. The gardening committee is in the process of determining the location for flower beds.

We hope to have beds worked up and ready for planting before Memorial Day weekend. Anyone who wishes to help in the planting please call John Pearsall (244-0408) giving your name and phone number. We will be in touch with you as to the exact time (probably Saturday morning, May 19) and location for meeting.

NEW TREASURER

John C. Clark, past president and treasurer of the Friends has been elected President of the Landmark Society of Western New York. We wish John the best of luck and express our thanks and gratitude to him for his leadership in the organization of the Friends and in the restoration of the Gazebo.

Due to the press of his new duties, John has resigned as treasurer. Joseph Barnes was elected by the Board to replace him as treasurer.

MT. HOPE ON TV

"The Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery" was featured as a series on American Cablevision's Channel 34 from April 2 through April 14. Jeff Swain, Commissioner of the Department of Recreation Services, Dick Brown, Friends president, and Dave Galli, Supervisor of City Cemeteries, discussed the Friends' activities, the cemetery's history, and upcoming special events at the cemetery.

LIFE MEMBERS HONORED

Life members of the Friends of Mt. Hope — those who have contributed $500 or more — will be listed on a plaque placed in the Old Gatehouse. This plaque along with a letter of appreciation from the Board of Trustees will acknowledge their support and interest in Mt. Hope Cemetery and the goals of the Friends.

WARNER BUILDINGS AT MT. HOPE

The old gatehouse at Mt. Hope Cemetery is among those included by Betsy Brayer in her new catalogue, The Warner Legacy in Western New York, sponsored and published by the Landmark Society of Western New York (Rochester, 1984). Andrew J. Warner and his son, J. Foster Warner, were two talented and prolific architects who during the course of their combined careers (1847-1937) did much to mold the appearance of Rochester. The Powers block, the old city hall, the county courthouse, the Free Academy (now the Academy Building), the Wilder Building, Sibley's downtown store and many others still mark downtown. In Mt. Hope a gatehouse to replace the original was designed by A.J. Warner in 1874 at the height of his career. The building is best described as High Victorian and many architectural elements used by him in more prestigious buildings in the area, such as the central tower, the coupled and tripled windows and the iron cresting, show up here in this little architectural gem.

The Friends of Mt. Hope are privileged to use space in this building, and it is the focal point for many activities sponsored by the Friends. Just recently, the interior was redecorated and some exterior work is being planned.

Other Warner buildings on the cemetery grounds mentioned in the book are the crematory addition to the Old Chapel and the "new" (1910-12) Mortuary Chapel to the south, both designed by A.J. Warner's son, J. Foster Warner. The "new" chapel has undergone some exterior renovation and additional work is in the planning stage. This beautiful feature has added dignity and grace to this part of the cemetery grounds and we are gratified that it is being maintained.

R.V.
GRAVESTONE REPAIRS

The general policy of the city is that the repair of gravestones is the responsibility of the family. However, if there is no longer any existing family, the city will do some limited repairs in areas made unsightly or difficult to maintain. The Friends are now proposing to extend this effort, and are participating with the city to identify vandalized stones. Bill Woodward, Dave Galli, Bob Schnacky and Ed Olinger are members of the survey team. When the vandalized stones are identified, a group of volunteers will repair and refurbish as many as possible. Interest in funding the project has been expressed by at least two organizations.

SLIDE PROGRAM ON MT. HOPE

Dick Reisem has written a script and is assembling about 140 slides taken by professional photographers on Mt. Hope. With a taped narration, these will soon be available to show to groups.

GRAVESTONE AND GRAVEYARD RESERVATION AND PRESERVATION

This will be the subject of a public forum to be sponsored by the Association for Gravestone Studies and the Connecticut Historical Society on Saturday, June 23, at the Connecticut Historical Society, 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT, as a part of the 8th annual meeting and conference of the Association for Gravestone Studies. Those interested in attending, or in receiving information about the conference, should contact the Connecticut Historical Society at the above address. Those interested in membership in the Association may contact Laurel Gabel, P.O. Box 354, Pittsford, NY 14534.

PIONEER CEMETERIES OF THE ROCHESTER AREA

From time to time this column will describe briefly old cemeteries in the Rochester area. We begin with Charlotte at the river's mouth.

Charlotte's cemetery at the corner of River Street and Lake Avenue covers probably less than an acre, but within this small plot are interred many people important in local history. William and Mehitable Hincher, who came here in 1792, were the first permanent white settlers on the west bank of the river. Samuel Latta, who arrived a short time later, was appointed the first Collector of the Port of the Genesee by President Jefferson in 1805. George C. Latta, Sam's brother, came in 1811, was hired as a clerk in Guernsey and Bushnell's store on River Street for $50. a year and board, and became an early promoter of the village at the mouth of the Genesee. Giles Holden served for twelve years (1822-1834) as the first lighthouse keeper. Dr. Amos Emerson, the village's first physician, died tragically at the early age of 36 in 1840, victim of blood poisoning. Five of the seven wives of Samuel Currier, proprietor of the first hotel in the village, built in 1807, are buried here, as well as Rochester's early folk-hero, Sam Patch, whose broken body appeared in a cake of ice at the mouth of the Genesee on St. Patrick's Day, 1830, four months after his unsuccessful attempt to jump over the Upper Falls.

Dorotha de Zafra

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help with the many plans and projects of the Friends in the coming year. Committees need additional members to carry out their functions. Especially needed are additions and replacements for leaders of our popular walking tours of the cemetery. We need at least two leaders and a receptionist each Sunday from mid-April to November, as well as people who are available to conduct occasional groups during the week. Training will be provided. For more information call co-chairmen: Alma B. Creek (271-4494 days; 271-8751 evenings) or Jack McKinney (271-8389).

Newsletter published four times a year by the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery

Editors: Dorothy T. Humes
Kathryn M. Hunter
CALENDAR

April 22  Sunday tours begin
       2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
May 20  Sister Cities Tour
28      Memorial Day observance
June 6  Nathaniel Rochester Day
       Rediscover the River Day
17      Canal and Upper River Days
July 6-8 Sister Cities Tour

OFFICERS

Richard G. Brown, President
Alma B. Creek, 1st Vice President
Richard Squires, 2nd Vice President
Marjorie Ewell, Membership Secretary
Mary-Ellen Perry, Recording Secretary
Joseph Barnes, Treasurer

Please clip and mail to:
Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery, 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620

Yes, I'm interested in helping with the project(s) checked.

Name ___________________________ Address ___________________________

Telephone number _____________________

__Tours__ Gardening__ Membership__ Newsletter__ Research__ Publicity

__Restoration__ Special Events

FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY
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