FOUNTAIN RESTORATION

In November the City of Rochester announced a generous personal gift of over $20,000 from former Rochester attorney, John C. Clark III to the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery. The unique gift has been used by the City and the Friends of Mt. Hope to finance the restoration of the cemetery's circa 1875 cast iron fountain.

Clark, a former president of the Friends of Mt. Hope and the Landmark Society of Western New York, said, "The fountain is the focal point of the cemetery's north entrance and a prominent example of the architectural grandeur bestowed on the cemetery. I am delighted to contribute to the latest cooperative effort of the City and the Friends organization to restore and preserve one of the City's most beautiful and unique resources."

The fountain, inoperable for many years, has been subjected to natural corrosion. The restoration entails total disassembly of the components, removal of the rust, dirt and other surface materials, repairing of cracks and recasting of severely damaged components. The work is now being done by the Architectural Iron Company of Milford, Pennsylvania, a firm which specializes in such work, under the direction of Don Quick. Approximately 22 layers of paint and corrosion have so far been removed, revealing much fine detail.

The actual restoration will be financed with the Clark gift to the Friends of Mt. Hope. The City will repair the fountain's stone coping and pedestal, create a new basin for the pool, undertake extensive improvements to surrounding sites and provide a recirculation and water hook-up system.

The ornamental fountain is surrounded by a circular roadway near the site of the original chapel and crematory. The project, expected to be completed this spring, will be marked by a rededication ceremony scheduled for July 28, 1985.

The City has also made structural repairs to roads, sewers and water lines, and is currently repairing a major section of the cemetery's 85 year old wall, which collapsed in 1982.

HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

On June 29 and 30, the Friends of Mt. Hope will participate with the Landmark Society and the Oakland Park Neighborhood Association in sponsoring a house and garden tour of the Mt. Hope area. There are about a dozen historical or architecturally interesting homes which will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. each day. The Mt. Hope gatehouse will also be open. This tour will replace the Landmark Society's annual Corn Hill tour.

Volunteers are needed to staff the homes and gardens which will be open. Approximately two-hour shifts will be scheduled. We hope that a good representation will be from the Friends of Mt. Hope.

To sign up please call Dick Reisem (724-4854 days, 271-7127 evenings) or Dick Brown (722-7293 days, 544-5532 evenings) Tickets will go on sale the end of May. For ticket sale locations, please watch the public press.
ALMA BURNER CREEK

Alma Burner Creek, one of the organizers of the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery, and its first president, died on February 7, 1985. She was a member of the Board of Trustees and first vice-president at the time of her death. Her enthusiasm and interest in making the beauties and history of the cemetery better known to the community was evidenced by her leadership and innovative activities on the work of the Friends. She introduced Heritage Day, the anniversary of the dedication of the cemetery, the opening of the gatehouse in winter as a warming station for hikers and skiers, and was an enthusiastic and available guide to all kinds of groups from school children to city officials, and was the first editor of the Friends Newsletter.

By profession she was a librarian in the Rare Books Division of the University of Rochester where she was responsible for organizing the Ellwanger & Barry and Bragdon papers. She was the author of several articles and compiled a bibliography of maps of Western New York which was published by the Rochester Regional Research Library Council.

Her loss is very real to the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery. It is fitting that she lies in the cemetery she loved so well, not far from the Gazebo and the fountain for whose restoration she worked.

CHARLOTTE GENESEE LIGHTHOUSE

The Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society has prepared three slide shows for presentation to groups of all kinds and all ages—from grammar school students to Senior citizens. They are: 1) The Lighthouse Story; history and renovation, 2) Ontario Beach Park; from the Coney Island of the West to the fishing derby, and 3) Charlotte—the village, the port, and the playground.

Arrangements for the presentation of any of these shows can be made by calling the curator, Rick Knapton, at the lighthouse, 621-6179, or Dorothea de Zafra at 663-7650.

Once the snows are gone (will spring really come this year?) the curator will also be arranging group tours of the lighthouse, the grounds, and the adjacent museum. If you are interested please call him at the above number to insure a place on his calendar.

Dorothea de Zafra

MONUMENT UNCOVERED

Spring, 1985 will be the natural unveiling for many major improvements in Mt. Hope Cemetery. One of the biggest improvements is the repaving of Indian Avenue. This should make the tours a lot easier this year. The most visible change to the public is the restoration of the retaining wall along Mt. Hope Avenue. After months of delays the wall is really showing progress. Plans include a 20 foot wide road with a 4 foot bicycle path.

Spring will also bring the many flowers of Mt. Hope back to life and I’m anxiously waiting to see if the bulbs I planted last fall will blossom. Its also the only time I have to get a head start trying to get rid of the poison ivy which has become so attached to my adopted plot. I see an improvement every year which is most encouraging.

William Rossiter Seward (1834-1926) was the Rochester banker who financed the construction of a home and the subsequent lectures of Dr. Algernon S. Crapsey after his trial for heresy in 1905. When I first set out to locate the monument designed for him by Claude Bragdon, I went first to the cemetery office for the location of the plot. That was the easy part! It was somewhere near the Morgan vault, they said, but now was completely overgrown with vines and forsythia bushes.

It took me several trips before I was able to find it and it was well worth the wait. The subject of the marker is a woman holding an eternal flame. This could be interpreted as a symbol for reincarnation, in which Bragdon firmly believed.

I receive great satisfaction from seeing this area cleared up. My ambition for this next year is to eradicate the poison ivy for good and I’m open to suggestions from anyone with experience.

Carolyn Swanton

MT. HOPE SLIDE PROGRAM

The Friends have available a professionally executed slide program with voice narration illustrating the beauties of Mt. Hope Cemetery. This program, which lasts approximately 20 minutes, is available for showing to community groups free of charge. Members of the Friends who wish to use this in organization programs should contact Dick Reisem at 724-4854 (days) or 271-7127 (evenings)
ANNUAL MEETING
The 1984 annual meeting for the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery was held on December 2, 1984 at the Garden Center of Rochester on Mt. Hope Avenue. Laurel Gabel, a member of the Friends' Board and active in the National Association for Gravestone Studies, spoke on Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She showed slides of the important parts of that lovely cemetery.

The recently completed slide show of Mt. Hope Cemetery was also shown at the annual meeting. This show was developed under the chairmanship of Dick Reisem.

The following were elected to the Board of Trustees for 1985-87: Marjorie Ewell, Chad Hayden (new), Dorothy Humes, Alan Kusler (new), Richard Reisem, Robert Schnacky, Shirley Stephens (new) and Carolyn Swanton (new).


An Executive Committee was established consisting of Richard Brown, Jack McKinney, Joe Barnes, Marjorie Ewell, Stephen Thomas, Bob Schnacky and Dick Reisem. This committee will have power to act between meetings of the Board, as necessary.

GEOLOGICAL MT. HOPE
A geological chain of events taking place some 10,000 to 15,000 years ago helped make Mt. Hope Cemetery the beautiful place that it is. In fact, if a continental glacier had not covered most of New York State, Rochester would not be located where it is now.

The Ice Age began thousands of years ago when great quantities of snow began to build up in Canada. The snow compacted into ice and began to move under its own weight as a large sheet of ice.

One section of this continental glacier spread into New York State reaching as far south as Pennsylvania at times. Several warming trends over the centuries caused the ice to melt back before readvancing again and again. As the glacier moved over the land, it acted like a scraper, gathering up loose rock and soil from the bedrock underneath. Large boulders became broken into gravel and cobblestones.

Sometimes this rock debris became too heavy for the ice to move along and it was dropped along the sides or underneath the glacier. Depending on where and how it was deposited the debris became moraines, kames, eskers, or kettles.

Irene Swanton

SUNDAY TOURS
Guided tours on Sunday afternoons will be offered by the Friends this season, starting the first Sunday in May (May 5th). Anyone interested in acting as a guide or receptionist at the gatehouse should contact Shirley Stephens (74 West Main St. Shortsville, N.Y. 14548 1-289-9447) Last year approximately 2000 people took the tours.

ARBOR DAY AT MT. HOPE
Board member Robert Hoepfl announced plans for a generous gift by the Genesee Valley Finger Lakes Nurserymen's Association of 7 trees to be planted in honor of Arbor Day near the gatehouse at the north entrance.

Planting crews from the Community College of the Finger Lakes, B.O.C.E.S. and Edison Tech will celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 6, 1985 at 11:00.

The trees to be planted include crabapple, Kentucky coffee, and oak. We feel very fortunate that they selected Mt. Hope Cemetery to receive this gift.
OFFICERS
Richard G. Brown, President
Jack McKinney, 1st Vice-President
Marjorie Ewell, Membership Secretary
Richard Squires, Recording Secretary
Joseph Barnes, Treasurer

CALENDAR
May 5  Sunday tours begin
       2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
June 29  House and Garden Tour of Mt.
       30  Hope area (11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)
July 28  Formal opening of restored
        fountain, North Gate area

Yes, I'd like to participate in the conservation and beautification of one of
America's earliest and loveliest Victorian garden cemeteries as a member of the
Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery. (Check your chosen category of membership and
send to Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery, 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, N. Y. 14620).

Basic ($15)____  Sustaining ($50)____
Contributing ($25)____  Senior/Student ($5)____
I can not join at this time, but would like to contribute $______________