RESTORATION OF THE FLORENTINE FOUNTAIN

The second major architectural restoration by the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery and the City of Rochester was accomplished when the 1875 cast-iron Florentine fountain was re-dedicated on July 28th. A personal gift of over $20,000 from John C. Clark III, former president of the Friends, made possible the restoration of the fountain itself, while the City brought in new water lines, created a new basin for the pool and a recirculation and water hook-up system.

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The fountain consists of a figure of a maiden pouring water from an urn into an upper basin from which it spills into a second basin then through a series of openings into a reflecting pool.

After researching more than a dozen local and out-of-town companies, the Architectural Iron Company of Milford, Pennsylvania was selected to restore the fountain. In addition to scraping down 22 layers of paint, many parts of the fountain had to be recast. Some of the details were missing and had to be remolded from 1880 photographs.

The fountain has become an attraction in itself. It runs on a time-clock operation which turns it off in the late afternoon. If it is not running when you visit, the fountain is not out of order but is in an off-cycle.

Thanks to Dave Galli, cemetery superintendent, and Clayton Folwell, cemetery foreman, a number of vandalized gravestones in back of the fountain were repaired in time for the dedication.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Friends of Mt. Hope will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 8, at the Garden Center on Castle Park, off Mt. Hope Avenue. Harvey Green, Deputy Director of Interpretation and Chief Historian at the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum, will be the featured speaker. A nominating committee consisting of Dick Brown, Marjorie Ewell, Dick Reisem, Laurel Gabel and Jack McKinney will present names of nominees to fill seven places on the Board of Trustees.

HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

The Mt. Hope Area House and Garden Tour was a great success for both sponsors — the Landmark Society and the Friends of Mt. Hope. More than 2700 tickets were sold. About 500 people participated in the cemetery mini-tours on June 29th and 30th, and many more visited the Old Gatehouse, which served as headquarters for the tour.
AN APPRECIATION

When Rowland Collins died on May 17, 1985, a remarkable number of organizations and individuals felt a sharp sense of loss, for this gentleman and scholar had many concerns, many friends and many talents. The Friends of Mt. Hope have reason to remember their Honorary President with gratitude and affection, for he cared deeply about Mt. Hope Cemetery — not only its past, but the raising of community consciousness to the need for its present and future preservation.

It was in Rowland and Sarah Collins' living room that a group of people, all summoned by Rowland, met to discuss Mt. Hope, an area of the city to which many of us had seldom if ever given a thought. We left that evening infected with Rowland's concern and enthusiasm and proceeded to give Mt. Hope a great deal of thought. It is a gifted man indeed who can inspire people to action on behalf of a cemetery! Thus was born the Friends of Mt. Hope. We are presently alive and well, with some accomplishments and with great hopes for future growth. The City, to its credit, has also been inspired to make a number of long-needed repairs and improvements.

Perhaps Rowland would have been much the same person without the cheerful collaboration of Sarah, his lady and a scholar in her own right, but this would be a debatable point among their friends. Dr. Sarah Collins has served on the Friends' Board of Trustees.

A 1980 issue of the University of Rochester's magazine carried the article "Our Quietest Neighbor" by Dr. Collins, in which he noted the beauty and significance of Mt. Hope as a community asset. He wrote of "... the mute monuments to generations of men and women who tried to make sense of the world around them." Rowland Collins managed to make sense of and to enrich the world around him. His monument in Mt. Hope may be invisible to the eye, yet it is one of the tallest and noblest.

Marjorie Ewell

Cemetery News

* About $600,000 has been spent by the City in the repair of the cemetery wall along Mt. Hope Avenue, in repair of Indian Trail Avenue, and installation of new water mains and catch basins. Especially gratifying to our volunteer gardeners is the installation of a water faucet in the cemetery entrance area, eliminating the long haul of water from the gatehouse.

* The Friends have a new answering service in the gatehouse — phone number 461-3494. Messages may be recorded for call-back information.

* The cemetery slide presentation has been shown to a number of community groups. If you would like information about this, please call 461-3494 and leave a message. You will be called back to arrange a time for a showing.

* The beautiful gardens at the North Entrance are maintained by the Friends Garden Committee, headed by John Pearsall and consisting of Tish McKinney, Bob Hoepfl, Robert and Sally Tompkins and Carolyn Swanton. (If any names have been omitted, please inform John Pearsall.) If anyone is interested in joining in the spring gardening project, John Pearsall will be glad to have volunteers. His number is 244-0408.

Lewis Henry Morgan

Lewis Henry Morgan has been described as Rochester's most distinguished scholar and its greatest intellectual contribution to the world. Quite impressive for a city which has had so many celebrities, inventors and cultural personalities!

Morgan is credited with the founding of the science of ethnology, which is defined as that branch of anthropology dealing with the distribution, culture, etc. of various peoples. One of his most interesting achievements was the organization of New York Indian tribes into a band based on the famous League of the Iroquois. It was known to the public as the Grand Order of the Iroquois, but members of the Society were baptized with Indian names.
TYPES OF MONUMENTS IN MT. HOPE

(This is the first in a series of articles by Robert Schnacky of Trott Monuments on the various types of monuments to be found in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Others will appear in later issues of the NEWSLETTER.)

I. The Colonial Tablet

The colonial tablet style of monument was carried over into Victorian cemeteries from previous generations. Two changes are notable. The material is now granite rather than marble, and the stone is thicker. Colonial tablets were about two inches thick when made of marble in the early churchyards. In later development in granite, the thickness is more likely four or six inches.

In most instances the colonial tablet is not polished. The smooth, hammered finish was considered preferable to a "commercial" polished stone. These were still the days of craftsmanship, before the advent of high-speed machinery. All the lettering was done by hammer and chisel. Letter cutters vied with each other to achieve fine, delicate V-cut inscriptions. Usually these were in classic Roman (architectural) style.

A special colonial tablet of recent date is seen in Mt. Hope on the Fletcher Steele plot. These are made of black slate, with much of the detail taken directly from the early New England stones.

Robert Schnacky

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Morgan was born in Aurora, Cayuga County, on November 21, 1818. He graduated from Union College in 1840 and took up the practice of law which he intended to be his life's work. Four years later he came to Rochester. His love of scientific study led him to make contact with the American Indian life in New York State. He worked closely with Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, state archeologist and president of the Indian Welfare Society. Parker later reflected: "Because he lived, we are moved to better things. He lived not to himself alone nor sought a single selfish aim. He lived for his fellow man and struggled that they might be wiser and happier."

When Morgan died in 1881, he was interred in a large vault of Medina sandstone with a door carved from the same material. It is one of the more interesting stops on the Mt. Hope Cemetery tour.

City historian Edward R. Foreman said: "Our community owes him a debt which has been too little recognized and too poorly paid. No public memorial has yet expressed our appreciation of his services to mankind. He is rightly called one of the intellectual heroes of the race, and his own city honors itself by every act which does him honor."

Dr. Algernon S. Crapsey, noted theologian, strove to honor Morgan with an annual literary competition at the University of Rochester, believing that there should be some lasting active memorial to the great scholar.

In 1920 a group of Native Americans representing the tribes of the Six Nations paid homage to Morgan at Mt. Hope Cemetery. This was an occurrence of great significance.

Carolyn Swanton
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).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name ____________________________
Street ____________________________ Phone ________________
City & State ____________________________ Zip __________

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I cannot join, but would like to contribute $ __________

FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY
791 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620