"SLEEPERS' CITY"

Steve Thomas and Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck have written a history of Mt. Hope Cemetery, "Sleepers' City". The cost is $1.50, if mailed. To order, send a check to The Friends Of Mt. Hope Cemetery, 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620. Please allow a few weeks for delivery.

Starting May 7, it will be available for $1.00 at the Gatehouse during the regular Sunday cemetery tours.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting, held on December 11, 1988, Robert Fordyce took us on a historical journey through early Rochester with his slides and commentary.

During the meeting, Dennis Carr, our incoming president, reported on the achievements of the Friends for the year.

1. The Friends received a grant of $38,095 from the Environmental Quality Bond Act Historical Preservation for renovation of the gatehouse. We were chosen over 137 other applicants. The City of Rochester made a matching grant. Also, applications for other grants will be made.

2. During 1988, 2000 people took the regular cemetery tours. There were, in addition, 41 specially arranged tours.

3. A gardening committee of 15-20 people made over 2000 plantings under John Pearsall's direction. The fountain gardens were extended, and a Medina stone walk completed around it. The walk was designed by Ed Olinger, a landscape architect. John, who with the help of his committee did a super job with the gardens, is stepping down as gardening chairperson.

4. Thirty-one special presentations of the slide show were made to various groups.

5. There were special programs on Arbor Day, Mother's Day with the Landmark Society, Heritage Day, and the Civil War Remembrance Day.

5. The pocket guide was updated and a new membership brochure printed.

Richard Reisem showed the new membership brochure and distributed copies to those present. Leon Creek, the treasurer, gave the financial report which showed the organization to be in good shape.

Elected as officers were: Dennis Carr, President; Edward Olinger, First Vice President; Shirley Stephens, Second Vice President; Richard Squires, Recording Secretary; John V. McKinney, Associate Secretary; and Leon J. Creek, Treasurer.

Elected to the Board of Trustees for the 1989-1901 term were Leon J. Creek, Paul A. Knoke, Elinor Klein, Richard Squires, W. Stephen Thomas, and Elizabeth Schmidt.

While Dick Brown is stepping down after 4 years as president, he will still be active in the organization. The Friends appreciate his leadership and all the work he has done during his tenure as president.
DR. HARTWELL CARVER
(1789-1875)

On a quiet, residential street in picturesque Pittsford, sits a house with a famous history. This house was at one time the residence of Dr. Hartwell Carver, self-proclaimed “Father of the Pacific Railroad.”

The story begins many years ago in 1794, when at the age of five, Dr. Carver moved from his native Rhode Island to Otsego, New York. Dr. Carver had very little formal education in his youth and only in the winter months. Because his family were farmers, he worked the fields along with the others. At the age of sixteen, Dr. Carver left the family nest to make a name for himself. In the year 1813, he became a student at newly established Hamilton College in Oneida County. He had been studying law, but abandoned it in favor of medicine. He stayed at Hamilton only a short time and left in the Fall of that year to attend a series of medical lectures; then, after arriving in New Haven, Connecticut, he enrolled as a student at Yale University. He was a “favorable” student and graduated in the Spring of 1816 with the honors of A.M. and M.D. From New Haven, he came directly to Pittsford and opened a medical practice the same year.

By working diligently, he managed within that year to pay off his debts from school, build a small house, establish a good medical library and a fine stock of medicine for his practice. Dr. Carver stayed in Pittsford for six years practicing medicine, then left for New York City to attend a series of lectures. Upon returning home, he opened a mercantile business. Dr. Carver and a partner operated stores in Buffalo, Lockport, and Pittsford, while he continued his medical practice. In 1825 he closed his businesses in Buffalo and Lockport and went to New Orleans for a year, returned for the summers in Monroe County, and spent his winters in the South. In 1831 he left his practice for a year and spent his time in Europe, attending medical lectures and traveling extensively. After that time, he returned home and continued his medical practice once again.

As early as 1832 Dr. Carver published a series of articles in the New York Courier and Enquirer, proposing a transcontinental railroad line.

In 1835 he proposed and brought before the public a plan for making a railroad to the Pacific Ocean, and claims to be the originator of that enterprise. He spent a great number of years and much time and money explaining the feasibility and practical use for this railroad. Dr. Carver had a memorial before Congress asking for a charter, as contained in the following last chapter of that charter.

A memorial for a private charter
......Hartwell Carver
January, 1849
Washington, D.C.

“This railroad will be the great political and commercial artery of our Union, through which will circulate the golden treasures of California, of all the Pacific and Asiatic millions of people, throwing off its numerous branches as it sweeps through the whole body of this great Republic to all parts, whose life and vitality is democracy, liberty, and universal freedom and

Dr. Carver's House
(Courtesy of Robert Wolf)
equal rights to all. This great artery will be the
great aorta of the world, having two great
hearts to feed, sustain, and give it vital impetus,
the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. These two
great oceans, like the human heart, with their
capacious auricles and ventricles, can never
fail to keep up a healthy circulation through this
great artery of our extensive country, and will
never be liable to any morbid or diseased
action, either increased or diminished, but
always, as long as time shall last, retain its
proper equilibrium with full confidence in your
just deliberations, your memorialist will ever
pray."

Dr. Carver talked and wrote incessantly until
1862 when the enterprise began to take form
and engage the attention of the public, in spite
of the Civil War. The fulfillment of the dream
followed and Dr. Carver was not only able to
witness the consummation but also to ride on
the new railroad to San Francisco and back.
The promoters of the railroad have generally
recognized the important service rendered by
Dr. Carver, not only in originating the
scheme, but in his working so industriously to make it a
reality.

Dr. Carver passed away in 1875 leaving no
direct descendants, but a memorial in Mt. Hope
Cemetery is a testimonial to his diligent and
uncompromising effort in helping to establish
the link between East and West.

Fran Coleman

HELP NEEDED
Although it's difficult to think
about gardening when the
winter's chill is still around,
spring is not too far off.
Consider adopting a plot or
volunteering your time to
plant and maintain the
gardens. More information
will follow in the Spring
issue.

NEW MEMBERS
The Friends welcome
these new members:

WILLIAM DAVIS
STEVEN A. JAROSE
WILLIAM KEBERLE
ERIN A. KLEMM
SASHA MALEMAD

Dr. Carver's Monument

CEMETERY TOURS

Richard Reisem will conduct a Cemetery tour on
Saturday, April 15 at 1:30 p.m. for the Gannett School of
Science and Man of the Rochester Museum and
Science Center. Enrollment is limited to 20 people, and
registration should be made through the Gannett School,
271-4320.
The regular Sunday cemetery tours will resume on May
7, at 2 and 3 o'clock.
Special tours are available all year for schools,
organizations, and other groups. For arrangements call
Jack McKinney, 271-8389, or call 461-3494 and leave
a message.
A committee is planning special tours for members and
the public. Any member interested in participating in the
planning is also welcome. Also, if anyone wishes to plan
his own special tour, the Friends will provide assistance.
Call Jack McKinney, 271-8389, for further information.

MUSEUM CLASS

Laurel Gabel will teach a class on "Graven Images: 18th
and 19th Century Gravemarkers and The Stories They
Tell." It will start at the Gannett School of the Museum on
April 12, 19, & 26 from 7:30-9 p.m. As part of the course
she will conduct a cemetery tour for class members on
May 21 from 1:30-3 p.m. For free Spring Museum
catalog and registration forms, call 271-4320, Ext. 501.
MT. HOPE CEMETERY
1838-1989
Membership Rates

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NAME __________________________________________
STREET _________________________________________
CITY & STATE ________________________________ ZIP ________
TELEPHONE ________________________________

I cannot join, but would like to contribute $ ________________.

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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, NY
 Permit #150