

EPITAPH

THE FRIENDS OF MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

Vol. 22 No. 4 FALL 2003

MOUNT HOPE GARDENERS WIN TOP AWARD

by Richard O. Reisem
photos by Pat Corcoran

The gardens in Mount Hope Cemetery are tended by a substantial group of volunteers, and this year, the Friends of Mount Hope Gardening Committee won first place in the nonprofit division of the "Flower City Looking Good Program." The contest is sponsored by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Human Services of the City of Rochester.

Pat Corcoran, chair of the Friends gardening committee, said, "There are several categories in the Looking Good program: residential, commercial, neighborhood enhancement, and not-for-profit organizations. Each year, there is always a lot of competition in the nonprofit category of this contest. While we placed second last year, this is the first time the gardens tended by Friends volunteers have won first place. St. Stanislaus Church gardeners usually win the top award. Their gardeners do a magnificent job beautifying properties in their Norton Street neighborhood."

The awards ceremony occurred at 6:15 p.m. on October 27 in the council chambers of Rochester City Hall. Pat said, "It is always a festive event with enlarged photographs of the competing gardens taken by a professional photographer and displayed on easels around the council

chambers. The mayor congratulated the winners and expressed his gratitude for everyone's efforts to beautify the city. Terry McEntee, city horticulturist, presented the awards. It was inspirational to see the incredible involvement



The small garden by the main office at the south entrance is maintained by volunteers from ARC.



Master gardeners Sally and Bob Tompkins maintain this hillside garden in the north entrance area.



Four of the hardworking gardeners from ARC who maintain gardens around the main office.



Students from Greece Athena High School rake leaves under the 156-year-old specimen European purple beech in Section L.

and talent of so many people. And it was quite an honor for us to win first place and to have our many volunteers recognized for their enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work. Each person does make a difference."

So, in this issue of the *Epitaph*, we congratulate and honor the many dedicated volunteers who made the Mount Hope Cemetery gardens so beautiful that they won the city's top award for the year 2003. Our hats off to:

Master gardeners Colleen Kien, Janet Leone, Letitia McKinney, Mary Olinger, Jean Parshall, John Pearsall, Sally and Bob Tompkins.

Garden committee members Georgianna Brennan, Paul Casterline, Patricia Corcoran, Kathy Gallagher, Carol Jacobs, Marta Maletzke, Marilyn Nolte, Tim O'Connell, Paul Sackett, Jerry Smith, and Tom Stillman.

Volunteers from ARC who maintain the gardens at the cemetery office.

Full-time volunteer Tom Stillwell.

Summer volunteer crew: Malcolm Davis, Jon Hugh, Nathalee Martinez, Nathalia Martinez, Ricardo Martinez, Eric Meade, and Jeffrey Simmonds.

American Red Cross Youth Program (Nidia Montalvo, coordinator), New York State Family Services (Guy Penns, coordinator), Greece Athena High School (Colleen Meger, coordinator), Bay View YMCA Service Camp, Camp Arrowhead Service Camp, Lutheran Church Youth Group, and Catholic Family Center.

These wonderful volunteers maintained six formal gardens in

the north entrance area, 17 planters throughout the cemetery, a rock garden, the family plots of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, the gardens around the main office at the south entrance, a Civil War garden, small circle gar-

dens scattered throughout the cemetery, two anti-erosion projects in Section C, and the restoration of areas in Sections I and K that were completely overgrown and neglected.

One gardener, Kathy Gallagher, cleans up trash along Mount Hope Avenue in front of the cemetery every day. Real estate agent Georgianna Brennan waters planters as she jogs through the cemetery. Colleen Kien takes time out from her business, which is called "Garden Girl," to maintain a beautiful circle-garden in the north corner of Mount Hope. Newly retired Tom Stillwell works five days a week on landscaping and gardening projects in the cemetery.



Jeffrey Simmonds, Malcolm Davis, Eric Meade, and Jon Hugh from the summer youth crew deal with thorns.

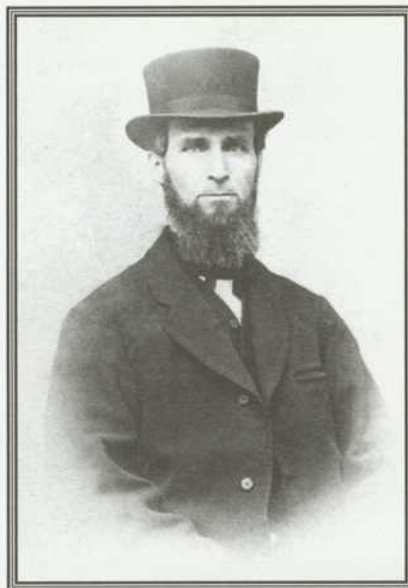


Volunteers from Camp Arrowhead Service Camp transformed Section I in Mount Hope Cemetery and loved every minute of it.

THE WRAY FAMILY IN MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

by Carolyn Swanton

Four generations of Wrays are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, each contributing to the history of Rochester. The Rochester Wrays are descended from Sir Christopher Wray, England's Lord Chief Justice for 17 years under Elizabeth I (1533-1603).



Henry Wray, Sr. (1805-1884)

Henry Wray, Sr. (1805-1884), son of Christopher Wray, Sr. (a descendant of Sir Christopher Wray), was born in Derby, England. He was 13 years old when his parents and seven siblings took a 16-week voyage to New York City, their voyage documented in a handwritten log. Christopher became a locksmith in Monroe, Orange County, New York. In 1827, Henry Wray, Sr. married Maria Mosher, and they moved to Rochester where in 1840 Wray established the first brass foundry west of the Hudson River. This shop was located on the east side of the Genesee River at the corner of Front and Mumford streets.

In 1844 the Wray Foundry moved across the Genesee River to 66 State Street, and by 1870 the Henry Wray & Sons Foundry occupied a larger building on Mill Street near Brown's Race at the Upper Falls, next to the Charles Hayden Furniture Company. The foundry specialized in brass and composition castings.

One of the first things Henry Wray Sr. turned his attention to, once settled in home and work, was the formation of a church which he and his family could attend. He became the principal backer of the Corn Hill Methodist-Episcopal Church in the Third Ward, donating the land on which it was built. The first Board of Trustees consisted of Caleb H. Bickell, Henry Wray, Sr., William Stanton, Coles C. See, George Harrison, and Herman Lyon. Wray was the first president and then served over 25 years as the recording secretary. The original building cost \$3,305, the tower being added in 1874. The oil painting of Henry Wray, Sr. used at the dedication, hung in the church for almost a century when it was given to Wray descendants a few years before a fire left only a shell of brickwork.



The headstone of Henry Wray, Sr. is in Section C, Lot 51. Photo by Frank A. Gillespie.

Henry Wray, Sr. received a silver medal at the 1851 New York State Fair for a design of a locomotive lamp. Moldings, castings and compositions were made in his company, which produced such items as faucets, locks, hinges,

EPITAPH

Published quarterly by the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York 14620, a nonprofit member organization founded in 1980.

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Dan Malczewski, Art Director
Basic annual membership is \$20.
Call (585) 461-3494 for a free pocket guide to Mount Hope Cemetery and a membership application. See our colorful and informative web page: www.fomh.org

door knobs and plates, candlesticks, trivets, bookends, streetcar harps, fish scalers, fire pumps (first patented under the name Wray & Kellogg, it later became American Brake Shoe), letter drops for the newly invented Cutler Mail Chute, headlights, and the Economy Cream separator, among many other things, practical and novelty. Rochester's first

Rochester, the marker at the Veteran's Memorial Bridge, the Charles Mulford Robinson tablet at Highland Park, and one for the Rev. Charles Grandison Finney in front of the Third Presbyterian Church on East Avenue.

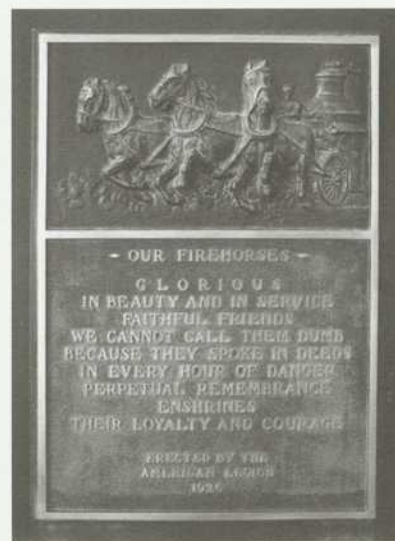
On April 22, 1884, Henry Wray, Sr. died after a long illness. He was buried in Mount

mason of the first aqueduct over the Erie Canal completed in 1823. Great grandson Delos H. Wray, Jr. still has the bugle that Martin used to call his men to work each day.

Because Henry and Cornelia belonged to different churches, they agreed to join the Central Presbyterian Church as it was there



Corn Hill Methodist-Episcopal Church decorated for its dedication with an oil painting of church founder Henry Wray, Sr. on display.



One of the many Rochester historic markers cast by the Wray Foundry is the Firehorses plaque, which is located at the Firemen's plot (Section BB, Lot 249) in Mount Hope Cemetery. The inscription reads: "Our Firehorses —Glorious in beauty and in service. Faithful friends. We cannot call them dumb because they spoke in deeds in every hour of danger. Perpetual remembrance enshrines their loyalty and courage. Erected by the American Legion 1926." Photo by Frank A. Gillespie.



Henry Wray, Jr. (1841-1896)



Henry Wray, Jr. is buried in Range 2, Lot 42. Photo by Frank A. Gillespie.



Cornelia Foster Martin Wray, wife of Henry Wray, Jr.

City Hall, designed by Andrew J. Warner, used brass fixtures exclusively "Rochester Made" from the Wray Foundry.

Many of Rochester's historic markers were made at the Wray Foundry, notably the memorial at Mount Hope's Firemen's monument for fire horses, "The Genesee" plaque with a poem by Swinburne at the University of

Hope Cemetery's Range C, Lot 51 next to his wife, Maria, and son, Thomas. Their site is directly across Linden Avenue from the cemetery's first burial, William Carter.

Henry Wray, Jr. (1830-1896) took over the family business and in 1863 married Cornelia Foster Martin, the youngest daughter of William H. Martin. Martin was the "boss"

that they met at a youth rally. Cornelia Wray was very active in church activities and at one time led six Wray circles, each raising money and doing good deeds for the community. Known as Mother Wray, she lived until 1928, becoming the oldest living member of the church and the Garden Twig of Genesee Hospital. Her quilting expertise was acknowledged in an exhibit held at the Rochester

Museum and Science Center where her elaborate satin and velvet quilt was displayed on a table. She and her family made their home at 44 Lorimer Street on Jones Square.

In 1903 when the Sibley Department Store fire on East Main St. threatened

Delivery truck for Henry Wray & Sons Brass Goods.



The Mrs. Henry Wray, Jr. house was designed by the prominent Rochester architect, Claude Bragdon. The house was occupied by three generations of the Wray family.

to destroy downtown Rochester, fire trucks hurried from Buffalo and Syracuse only to find they could not use the different gauged hydrants here. The Wray Foundry worked overtime to create the right connectors.

Henry Wray, Jr. then served as a board member of the Athenaeum & Mechanics Institute, forerunner of the Rochester Institute of Technology. He also was on the Rochester Board of Education for six years. Upon his retirement, Wray was presented with a silver tea service by the teachers of Public School No. 3. When he died in 1896, a ceremony was held at the Hamilton People's Rescue Mission, which he had helped to create. Addresses were given by the Rev. Clarence A. Barbour and Prof. Joseph Gilmore of the University of Rochester. The event was titled "A Simple Tribute to Unselfish Love." He is buried in Range 2, Lot 40 of Mount Hope Cemetery.



Cornelia Wray, known as Mother Wray, with her son, Delos Hollowell Wray, Sr., daughter-in-law, Irene Warner Wray, and their four children.

Daughter Ella Wray, who had been the foundry company's treasurer, died six months later.

After the death of Henry Wray, Jr., the family business was carried on by his three sons, Delos H. Wray, Sr., Charles F. Wray, and

William Henry Wray. During the first World War, the foundry produced warheads for the U.S. Army, and the firm became incorporated under the name National Brass Company. Delos and Charles had homes and bookplates designed by the prominent Rochester architect, Claude Bragdon. Bragdon also designed a



Charles F. Wray was the second son of Henry Wray, Jr. and Cornelia Wray.

house for their sister, Mary Wray Stull. William Wray's home on Lake Avenue was designed by J. Foster Warner.

In 1916 Mayor Hiram Edgerton named Charles F. Wray, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to the



Charles Foster Wray, youngest son of Delos Hollowell Wray, Sr., was a cryptanalyst (coder breaker) in World War II.

Rochester Board of Education, a position he held for 34 years, a record for the city. When Charles died in 1948, the flags of all Rochester public schools were flown at half mast.

Delos Hollowell Wray, Sr. named for an uncle (the proprietor of a Penn Yan hardware store), completed his education at Phillips



Andover Academy. An illness prevented him from accepting a scholarship to Cornell University, so to regain his strength, he traveled throughout the West, panning for gold at times. In 1907 he married Irene Warner, the daughter of Louis P. Warner, inventor of the fuzzy pipe cleaner (see Note 1), Ritter dental belts, and other wire specialties. Son, Delos H. Wray, Jr., was trained and educated to take over the family foundry business and also shared his father's interest in the new fields of automobiles and photography. When the foundry was sold in 1954, Delos Wray, Jr. became a master molder for Bausch & Lomb. He is the present family historian and has retired to Franklin, North Carolina.

Delos Wray, Sr. had three other children, the eldest being Lois Warner Wray Flynn, English teacher for 40 years in Mt. Morris, now residing at Kirkhaven Nursing Home. Their second child, Irene Wray Swanton was a geologist, Avon Town Librarian, and co-director of the Livingston-Wyoming Library System, where she initiated the first Books-by-Mail program in New York State. Mrs. Swanton carried on a family tradition by serving on the school board in Avon for four terms. She died in 1987 and is buried in her father's family plot on First Avenue in Mount Hope Cemetery next to the Henry Alvah Strong mausoleum.

The youngest child of Delos Wray, Sr. and Irene Warner Wray was Charles Foster Wray, a cryptanalyst (code breaker) for the United States Signal Corps, who participated in the landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day of World War II. He was chosen for this assignment because of his knowledge of Native American languages. After the war, he returned home and began preserving a valuable collection of Seneca artifacts, identifying hundreds of pots and items which might have been destroyed if not for his efforts. Later he was made an honorary chief after returning all of the wampum that he had carefully mended. The core of his collection was shown at the Elaine Wilson wing of the Rochester Museum and Science Center's "At the Western Door." Charles died suddenly in 1985 while practicing his hobby of beading.

The Wray Brass Foundry was considered the oldest one-family business in Rochester when it closed. Delos Wray, Jr. said foundries had become a thing of the past with plastics and sheet metal taking over.

There are three main Wray burial plots in Mount Hope Cemetery, all modest in comparison with other captains of industry, but reflective of the hard-working, charity-minded dedication held by the Wray generations.

(Editor's Note 1: The invention of the fuzzy pipe cleaner is widely attributed to another inventor, John Harry Stedman [1843-1922], who obtained a patent for the device and profited from its manufacture. The Wray family contests Stedman's claim to the invention.)

(Editor's Note 2: The author of this article, Carolyn Swanton, is the daughter of Irene Wray Swanton. All of the accompanying photographs, except those of cemetery monuments, were provided by Carolyn Swanton.)

NEW MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

This year has brought a number of new members to our nonprofit organization, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. Here is the list of people who joined our organization in 2003 through September. We thank them for their support..

Jason Abel, Patricia Aslin, Rose Boice, Jean H. Burr, Scott Carpenter, David Cavuoto, Jane Cooper, Gail Cushman, Mr. and Mrs. James Eckberg, Judy Farrell, Harold Feinbloom, Linda Flanagan, Brian Furniss, Rebecca Fuss, Patricia Gallaher, Lucy Gettman, Barbara Hagen, Richard and Laurie Hochreiter, Karyl K. Hubbard, Diane and Sam Jackling, Sharon Juba, Jayne Kaiser, Eleanor Killip, Stephen Kozak, Gregory Langen, Norma G. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lehman, John Loeffler, Marcia Longhouse, Ray and Carole Mack, Timothy Madigan, John R. Molyneux, Helen M. Neville, Frances and Malcom Nicoll, Christina Nolan, Gerald T. O'Brien, Ted and Sharon Perkins, Molly Pianosi, Barry Platt, Mary Reilly-McNellan, Katherine Roth, Richard and Bonnie Ryder, Peggy Savlov, Keith Scherberger, Melvin Slane, Jerry Smith, Albert Tegg Squire, Sally Steinwachs, Tom Stillwell, Mary Ellen Sweeney, Roy Torkington, Jack and Judy Walsh, Janet Walsh, Linda Zarcone.

CIVIL WAR TOUR ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR UNION FORCES

by Richard O. Reisem

This summer was no exception: the most popular special tour given by the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery was the Civil War tour on Saturday, August 2. Eighty-three people were entertained, informed, and emotionally moved with reenactments of Union Army events during that significant and eventful five-year war. Each year, Marilyn Nolte, Friends trustee and creator/leader of the Civil War tour, designs a different tour reflecting



Nathan Duxbury as Private Frank Appleton Badger and Miles Erickson as the company drummer boy in a reenactment during the Civil War tour in Mount Hope Cemetery. Photo by Frank A. Gillespie



With his full beard, corncob pipe, and Union Army cap, Terry Darrow presented a convincing first sergeant in the 140th New York Volunteer Division during the Civil War tour in August. Photo by Frank A. Gillespie.

Rochester's involvement in the Civil War and usually including costumed reenactments.

At this year's event, the Sons of Union Civil War Veterans, Abraham Lincoln Post No. 6, participated. Members of Abraham Lincoln Post set up a typical camp on the cemetery grounds and demonstrated camp life and drill procedures. Nathan Duxbury portrayed Union soldier Frank Appleton Badger, who at age 19 years joined the 140th New York Volunteer Infantry. As his tragic story is told, Frank Badger and his compatriots march off to participate in the famous Battle of the Wilderness at which Frank was lost and presumed dead. His body was never found. The tour concluded at the Badger family plot in Section L, Lot 58, where women playing Frank's sisters reminisced over their brother's life as they remembered it and as it was told to them in the numerous letters that Frank sent home during his army service.

NEW YORK STATE GRANT PAYS FOR RESTORATION OF TWO SIGNIFICANT MONUMENTS

by Richard O. Reisem

A New York State grant, obtained for the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery by Senator Richard Dollinger while he was still in office, has made it possible for the Friends to restore two major monuments in the cemetery.

One is the family monument of Silas O. Smith (1784-1863) in Section G, Lot 72. In 1803, Smith started a provisions store in Hanford's Landing, where Kodak Research Laboratories stand today. By 1817, he had made a number of profitable land acquisitions, established business enterprises in downtown Rochester, and become wealthy enough to buy 95 acres on East Avenue and build a distinguished Greek Revival mansion that he called Woodside and which today is the headquarters of the Rochester Historical Society.

Years of water penetrating the base of the Smith family monument, a 10-foot-high, marble Celtic cross, would freeze and thaw finally causing the marble top base to fail and the Celtic cross to lean dangerously. Bridgen Monument Company of Albion, New York



The Silas Smith monument, fully restored and cleaned, is shown with the people who made it happen: Leo LaCroix, head of Bridgen Monument, Albion; Marilyn Nolte, Friends trustee and chair of the Friends Restoration Committee; and David Strickland, Bridgen Monument specialist who restored the massive monument. Photo by Frank A. Gillespie.



The restored family monument of Samuel Goss in Section C, Lot 136, is carved of Medina sandstone, but created to look like an old rugged cross of wood. Photo by Frank A. Gillespie.

brought in a crane and removed the cross and top foundation, transporting them to Albion for restoration. Now, thoroughly cleaned and reassembled, the monument and foundation have been sealed to prevent reoccurrence of water damage.

Another venerable cross, this one of Medina sandstone, fell when its foundation had crumbled into pieces. It is the family monument of Samuel Goss (1825-1876) in Section C, Lot 136. Although the cross is solid stone, it was ingeniously carved to look like an old rugged cross of wood. Again, Bridgen Monument undertook the restoration. Cleaning the cross involved removing moss, dirt, and loose sandstone and, of course, reassembling the broken pieces. More than 50 coats of epoxy were required, each one applied, allowed to cure, sanded, and ground to remove excess. The epoxy itself was colored to match exactly the Medina sandstone. Dick Miller, trustee of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery and cemetery grounds-maintenance employee, created a new concrete foundation for this distinctive monument.

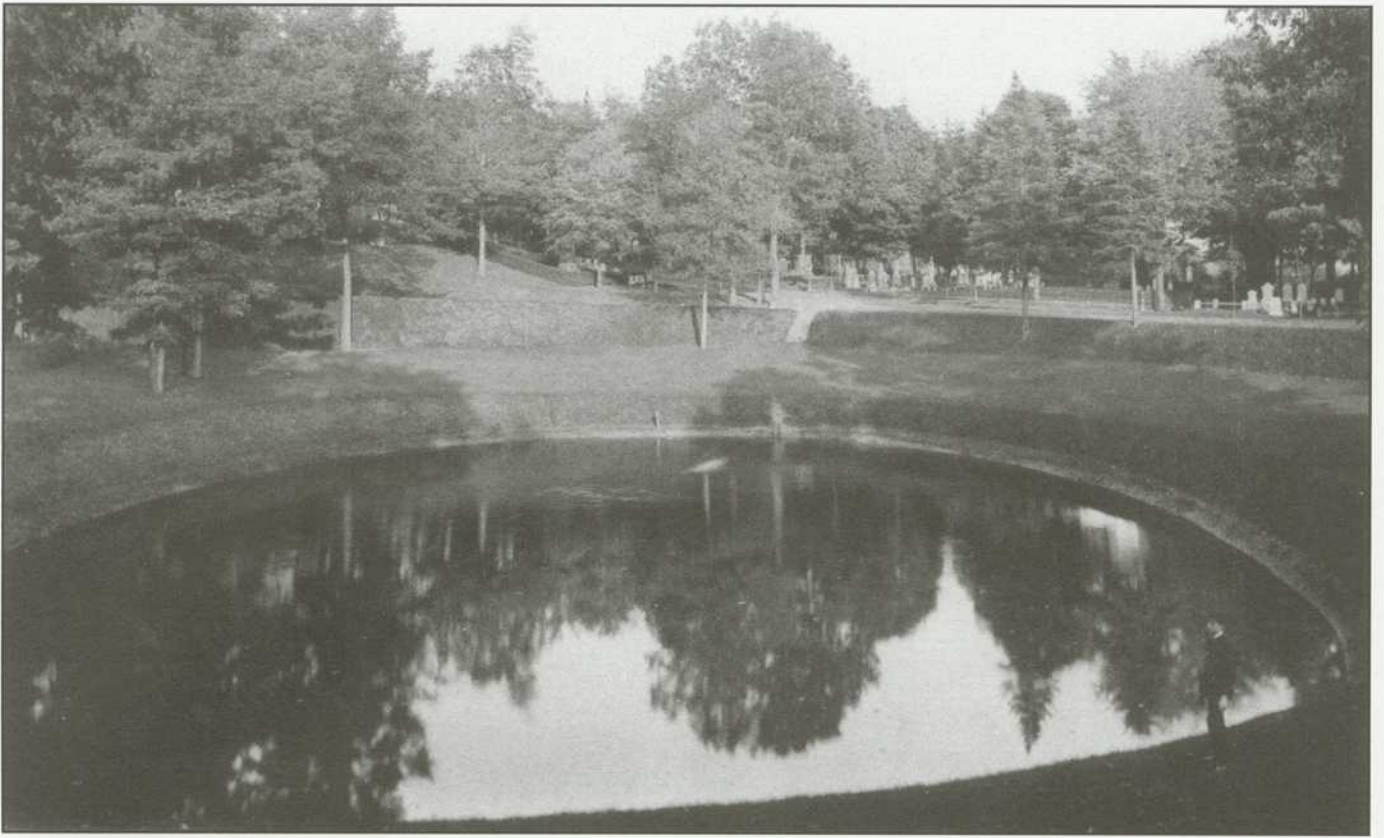
MOUNT HOPE: THEN AND NOW

Sylvan Waters is a spring-fed, glacially-formed pond situated in Section K. When photography was young, this picture was taken, showing trees of modest height and open spaces between gravestones.

Between then and now, a fountain composed of rocks cemented into a mound was added to the pond. When the fountain was new, early in the 1900s, writers commented that it shot a single spire of water to the tops of the trees. Perhaps true, but the trees are demonstrably higher today, so the feat cannot easily be matched.

The fountain, however, still shoots a modest spire of water on the rare occasions when it is turned on.





NEW BOOK PUBLISHED ON ROCHESTER'S MEGIDDO MISSION

Back in 1997, Gari-Anne Patzwald wrote an article for the *Epitaph* titled: *The Megiddos Wait in Mount Hope for the Prophet Elijah*. Her story of a Rochester-headquartered religious sect has been expanded into a book titled: *Waiting for Elijah: A History of the Megiddo Mission*. The book is published by the University of Tennessee Press and is available for \$30.00. The author's address is:

Gari-Anne Patzwald
300 Picadome Park
Lexington, KY 40503-1342

BECOME A MEMBER

Mount Hope Cemetery is one of Rochester's most significant and beautiful cultural resources, and our organization, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, work to keep it that way. Please join us in our efforts to promote the cemetery's use as a public park, to constantly improve the grounds and its magnificent 196 acres of Victorian sculpture, to plant gardens, to adopt plots, to conduct tours, to erect fallen stones, to publish and spread the great history preserved here, to produce cemetery-related exhibits, to reenact prominent moments in the cemetery's history, and to accomplish the almost countless other things we do for this unique place.

Membership levels include \$20, \$35, \$50, \$75, \$150, and \$500, with special retired/student membership at \$10. Send your check to the

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