

SYLVAN WATERS

H A S A F R E S H N E W L O O K

by Richard O. Reisem



This spring, before the grass was green and the trees bare of leaves, Sylvan Waters restoration was complete with clear blue water and three fountains operating to aerate the pond water.

Before it became Sylvan Waters, the small pond in Section K (where Indian Trail and Fifth avenues intersect) was known as the Lily Pond. The pond was one of four kettles in Mount Hope Cemetery and the only one to hold water, which originally may have come from a spring or runoff, but later from a water tank that was constructed on the bank of the largest kettle in Section G of Mount Hope. The tank was located at this site because it would be on one of the highest points in the cemetery, thereby providing good water pressure throughout the cemetery, and it would be away from gravesite locations at the time. Water for the tank was pumped from the Genesee River. *(continued inside...)*

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Besides providing water for vegetation in the cemetery, the water tank supplied water to operate a fountain in the pond, which was then named Sylvan Waters. The word at the time was that the fountain, which was a rock beehive, shot a spire of water as high as the tops of surrounding trees.

However, the trees were then considerably shorter than they are today, but the spire obviously was lower than the elevation of the water tank.

Rochester's central water distribution system has been operating since 1876. That eliminated the need for the water tower, which, being unsightly anyway, was removed leaving the stone foundations as a reminder of what had once stood there.



Through the years, Sylvan Waters, which is officially 7 feet deep, at least a sign says so. Over the years, the pond supported a sizeable population of carp, frogs, and other aquatic creatures. Last year, a series of steps were taken to restore the aging pond and fountain. The pond was drained and the bottom cleaned. A new water pipeline was installed, as well as a new electrical line to power the fountains' pump motors. The stone beehive was repointed and fitted with a nozzle that allows water to cascade over the rocks of the rustic stone mound. To provide additional water aeration, two smaller fountains were installed on either side of the centrally located stone beehive fountain.

With three fountains operating in the pond, the water should stay appealingly clear.

Nearby stone benches permit lingering in this idyllic setting. Come and enjoy a peaceful visit.

This postcard dated 1908 shows the Lily Pond in Mount Hope Cemetery with lilies floating on the pond water. Later, the pond was renamed Sylvan Waters when a fountain was constructed in the center of the pond.

Tree Management Plan for Mount Hope Cemetery

by Richard O. Reisem

According to horticulturists, the thousands of trees in Mount Hope Cemetery have a replacement value of \$14 million. But their emotive value is priceless. The March 1991 ice storm, which devastated close to a quarter of the cemetery's forest, was a cataclysm that awakened our community to the vulnerability of this living treasure.

The most recent effort by the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery to save and enhance this living infrastructure is the preparation of a *Tree and Woodland Management Plan*, which was financed by the Friends and accomplished under our direction (board member Zak Steele) by the Davey Resource Group, a division of the Davey Tree Expert Company. The 64-page plan was completed in the Fall of 2016.

The composition of the tree canopy in Mount Hope Cemetery is notably diverse with a representation of 78 tree species, the five most abundant species being Norway maple (17%), northern red oak (13%), white oak (9%), arborvitae (9%), and Norway spruce (8%). The management plan recommends that a single species should represent no more than 10% of the urban forest, so attention will be given to lower the percentage of Norway maples, which is considered an invasive species. Diversity can minimize the effects of species-specific epidemics like Dutch elm disease and emerald ash borer. Most of the trees in Mount Hope are in good or fair condition, and some of the rare specimen trees, like the European purple beech in Section L, are under annual medical treatment to control disease conditions.

The new tree management plan presents a series of recommendations that the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery and the City of Rochester will be following in the future. Here are the 15 recommendations suggested by the plan, which are much more detailed in the plan itself. Only a few highlights are mentioned here.

RECOMMENDATION #1. Enhance and Continue Cyclical Tree Care Program.

Currently, the cemetery tree population receives an annual visual inspection. In addition, the city will initiate an eight-year rotational tree care (pruning and removal) program. Additional tasks include specific vista pruning, removal of invasive plants, and clearance of intruding plant life on cemetery monuments.

RECOMMENDATION #2. Coordinate Cyclical Tree Care with New Tree Planting/Care and Inventory Updates.

An eight-year tree care plan should be coordinated with the city arborist's work plan and those of other players and supporters of Mount Hope Cemetery. Specific activities for each of the eight years are listed in the report.

RECOMMENDATION #3. Enhance Inspections of Historic Trees.

Conduct risk assessments of historic trees after severe weather events. Inspect historic trees for advanced maintenance tasks, such as insect and disease monitoring, soil testing, nutrient testing, and special needs such as cabling and lightning protection.



A scene in the north entrance area reveals an undulating landscape, all of which is utilized for gravesites.



A field of white gravestones is surrounded by a circle of trees in a flat section of the cemetery south of Grove Avenue.



The new Tree Management Plan discusses how to handle conflicts between trees and monuments.



Identification plaques are planned for historic trees in Mount Hope Cemetery.

RECOMMENDATION #4. Create a Position for a Dedicated Cemetery Arborist.

A fulltime arborist could be shared between Mount Hope Cemetery and Riverside Cemetery.

RECOMMENDATION #5. Create a Structure to Evaluate Decision to Care Versus Remove.

Evaluate the benefit of having the tree outweigh the cost of managing the tree.

RECOMMENDATION #6. Implement Tree Succession Strategy.

A tree succession strategy of planting at least 50 trees each year for the next few decades is necessary to maintain a strong tree population in Mount Hope.

RECOMMENDATION #7. Reinvigorate the Mount Hope Cemetery Historic Tree Program.

Create a brochure about the 50 most well-known and interesting historic trees for public distribution. Create a Historic Tree Trail for walking or driving. Place identification plaques on interesting and historic trees, a program that is currently underway.

RECOMMENDATION #8. Engage the Public to Support Tree Care and Planting.

Develop programs that educate and promote community involvement. A list of 11 possible programs are discussed.



There are no vistas in Mount Hope Cemetery without trees. They are as dominant as the upright monuments.

RECOMMENDATION #9. Include the Value and Needs of Mount Hope’s Trees into the City Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION #10. Enforce Tree Preservation and Protection During Construction.

RECOMMENDATION #11. Institute a Young Tree Care Volunteer Program.

Enlist volunteers to assist in watering, mulching, and pruning newly planted trees, as well as identifying tree problems such as codominant leaders, multiple limbs attaching at the same point on the trunk, or interfering limbs.

RECOMMENDATION #12. Perform Woodland Restoration and Management.

Seven suggestions for improving the quality of woodlands are discussed.

RECOMMENDATION #13. Evaluate Both Structural and Vegetative Solutions to Erosion.

Native grasses and herbaceous plants can be used to revegetate sloped areas after removing Norway maple or other invasive plants. Evaluate lawn mowing and weed trimming to ensure they do not contribute to erosion.

RECOMMENDATION #14. Create a Training Program for Staff, Contractors, and Volunteers.

Seven suggestions for training programs are discussed.

RECOMMENDATION #15. Make a Case for Additional Funding Needs.

Twelve options are presented.

If you are interested in reading the full 64-page document, check our Web site (www.fomh.org) to see if you can receive an e-mail copy of the report.



THE GEOGRAPHY OF MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

A Five-Hour Special Tour

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

 Meet at North Gatehouse, opposite Robinson Drive

Tour Guide: Michael Boester, Associate Professor of Geography, MCC

Contact Information: mboester@monroecc.edu
(585) 292-2447

Admission: \$40 per person (cash or check)

Tickets: Advance registration required. Tickets limited to 30 participants.

Lunch: Bring a picnic lunch or order from Pellegrino's Deli on day of event.

Michael Boester describes his tour: "My Geography tour focuses on Mount Hope as an evolving cultural landscape. My first major goal is to connect the human geography (i.e. environmental landscape) of the site. My second major

goal is to connect the evolution of Mount Hope's cultural landscape to the evolution of American popular culture from the early 1800s to today.

"I begin the tour by explaining the history of graveyards in the United States and then transition to the rural cemetery movement, the story of Mount Hope, and its reflection of Rochester's timeline. The first leg of the tour lasts 2.5 hours and focuses on the north end of the cemetery. We then have a 30-minute lunch at the fountain where I discuss the rural cemetery movement as the beginning of America's park movement and suburbanization. The final leg of the tour lasts 2 hours and focuses on the south end of the cemetery.

"With 5 hours to work with, I believe my tour is the most comprehensive and detailed of all of our tours. I have made sure to include our most important residents and stories but I also spend significant time discussing the current trends of cremation and green burial. I leave the group with the questions of how our culture will evolve in the future and how Mount Hope will continue to meet and reflect those changes."

(continued on next page...)



On the day-long tour are 91 stops, including the Lewis Henry Morgan Medina sandstone mausoleum. This is a November 1920 photograph of the memorial dedication of the mausoleum.

HERE IS MICHAEL'S LIST

North End (Rural Cemetery) Tour Stops:

1. "Front of the Cemetery" Physical & Cultural Geography
2. Cemeteries as Evolving Cultural Landscapes
3. Cemetery Symbolism (e.g. obelisks, crosses, etc.)
4. Malcolm Glazer
5. Hiram Sibley Family Plot & James Averell
6. Subsidence
7. A.M. Semple
8. Brewster Monument
9. Sheaf of Wheat
10. Laura Knapp
11. George Aldrich III
12. Azariah Boody
13. Michael Filon
14. Alfred Ely Mausoleum
15. Knapp Monument
16. White Bronze
17. Ice Storm, Celtic Cross & Fences
18. John Jacob Bausch, Captain Henry Lomb
19. Garden of Renewal
20. White Bronze ("Our Willie")
21. Copper Oxidation
22. "Back of the Cemetery"
23. Fletcher Steele
24. Stowell Mausoleum
25. Colonel Josiah W. Bissell
26. William Carter
27. Medina Sandstone Cross
28. Susan B. Anthony
29. Margaret Woodbury Strong
30. George Selden & Henry Rogers Selden
31. Our Baby
32. Chapel, 1913 Crematorium, & Vault
33. Abel Carter Wilder
34. Nick Tahou in Lawn Park model
35. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (Friendship, Love, and Truth)
36. Pointing Up
37. Alfred Bell
38. Physical Geography: Indian Trail Ave. = Esker
39. Torch, Urn, Pall, Weeping Willow
40. Patriot's Hill: Nathaniel Rochester & Jonathan Child
41. General Marshall
42. Myron Holley
43. Nicola Cantalamessa Papotti: The Weary Pilgrim
44. Cemetery Vandalism

45. Henry Ward
46. Physical Geography: Kettles and Kames
47. Sylvan Waters & Bumblebee fountain
48. Robert Chapman/Arthur Hagen
49. Robert Dalzell
50. Masonic Symbol
51. John Nash
52. Marble (Willy)
53. Lewis Henry Morgan
54. Woodworth Monument
55. Cook Mausoleum
56. Oliver Culver

Picnic Lunch at the Florentine Fountain:

57. Carriage Route, Fountain (1875)
58. General Jacob Gould
59. Charles Rau
60. Future of 1862 Chapel (Interpretation Center?)

South End (Lawn Park Cemetery) Tour Stops:

61. A.M. Lindsay
62. Rochester Orphan's Asylum (ROA)
63. Millionaires' Row
64. "Colonel" Henry Strong
65. James Gould Cutler
66. Edgar Curtice + Brother Simon
67. Charles Mulford Robinson
68. Nathan Stein
69. Wilbur Barry Coon
70. Frank Gannett
71. Edwin and Clara Strassenburgh
72. Jewish Congregation Plots & Jewish Poor Lot
73. Boyd and Parker memorial
74. Firemen's section
75. Civil war plot
76. Myer Greentree
77. Physical Geography: Recessional Moraine—Glacial Lake Dana
78. Dr. Hartwell Carver
79. Circle of Tranquility & Serenity Garden Columbaria
80. 1912 Chapel
81. Administration Building & Crematory
82. Crittendens (3 Mausoleums)
83. Rufus Sibley
84. Freeman Clarke
85. Seth Green
86. Vandalized Mausoleum
87. Fredrick Douglass
88. George Ellwanger
89. European Purple Beech Tree
90. Talus Tomb
91. Scatter Garden

THE GEOGRAPHY OF
MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

Your Contributions at Work: **2017 Cemetery Improvement Projects**

by Marilyn Nolte

A number of improvement projects in Mount Hope Cemetery have been scheduled for this summer and fall. The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery plan to spend more than \$66,000 this year on restoration projects, preservation maintenance, and landscape restoration. Here is our list of projects and their budgeted costs.

George Ellwanger Monument Cleaning Section V.

Contractor: Ellison Conservation, Canandaigua, NY.
Job Cost: \$2,900. (\$2,000 for cleaning; \$900 for materials and scaffold).

The George Ellwanger monument in Section V will receive treatment as a historic artifact using D/2 biological cleaner, a biodegradable, pH neutral liquid containing no acids, salt, or chlorine and which removes mold, algae, mildew, lichens, and air pollutants. This initial cleaning requires three applications approximately two weeks apart.

Weary Pilgrim Monument Cleaning, Section G.

Contractor: Ellison Conservation, Canandaigua, NY.
Job Cost: \$2,750. (\$2,000 for cleaning; \$750 for materials and scaffold).

Being of the same Italian Carrara marble as the Ellwanger statue, the monument will receive the same treatment as the Ellwanger monument.



One of the summer construction projects includes the surrounding retaining wall of the Hunter/Carter Lot No. 57 in Section R just west of Nathaniel Rochester's gravesite.

Defender of the Flag Civil War Monument Maintenance, Section BB.

Contractors: Buildings Arts & Conservation, Saline, Michigan, and Ellison Conservation, Canandaigua, NY.
Job Cost: \$2,850 to include all labor, materials, equipment, and miscellaneous expenses.

The Civil War monument was cleaned and stabilized in 2015. Bronze requires a regular schedule of cleaning and coating to protect it from the elements. This year's project treats the monument by reinstating a physical wax barrier between its bronze surface and damaging oxygen, UV light, and acidic airborne hydrocarbons. The bronze statue will be inspected and all surfaces will be cleaned to remove dirt and bird guano.

Hunter/Carter Lot No. 57, Section R Restoration.

Contractor: Heaster Building Restoration.
Job Cost: \$22,230 for labor, materials, and equipment. Major rebuilding of this lot and its stone walls and stairs is currently well underway.

Wall Repair on West Side of Section G.

Contractor: Heaster Building Restoration.
Job Cost: \$2,575. Project involves salvage and rebuilding a stone support wall and stairs.

1872 Moorish Gazebo Restoration, North Entrance.

Contractors: CSTM Corporation (Kurt Catalano) and Decorative & Fine Arts Studio (Rick Muto).
Job Cost: \$5,500 to CSTM to replicate cedar finial base with round wooden balls. Not to exceed \$10,000 to Rick Muto for roof and pier painting. On the roof, prime and paint finial and base, caulk seams on metal roof, apply paint undercoat, apply arabesque design to metal roof, and apply acrylic clear coat to seal and protect the design. Scrape, prime, and repaint concrete piers of the gazebo.

Tree Stump Removals Throughout Cemetery.

Contractors: Undetermined.
Job Cost: \$7,500.

Incidental Monument Repairs.

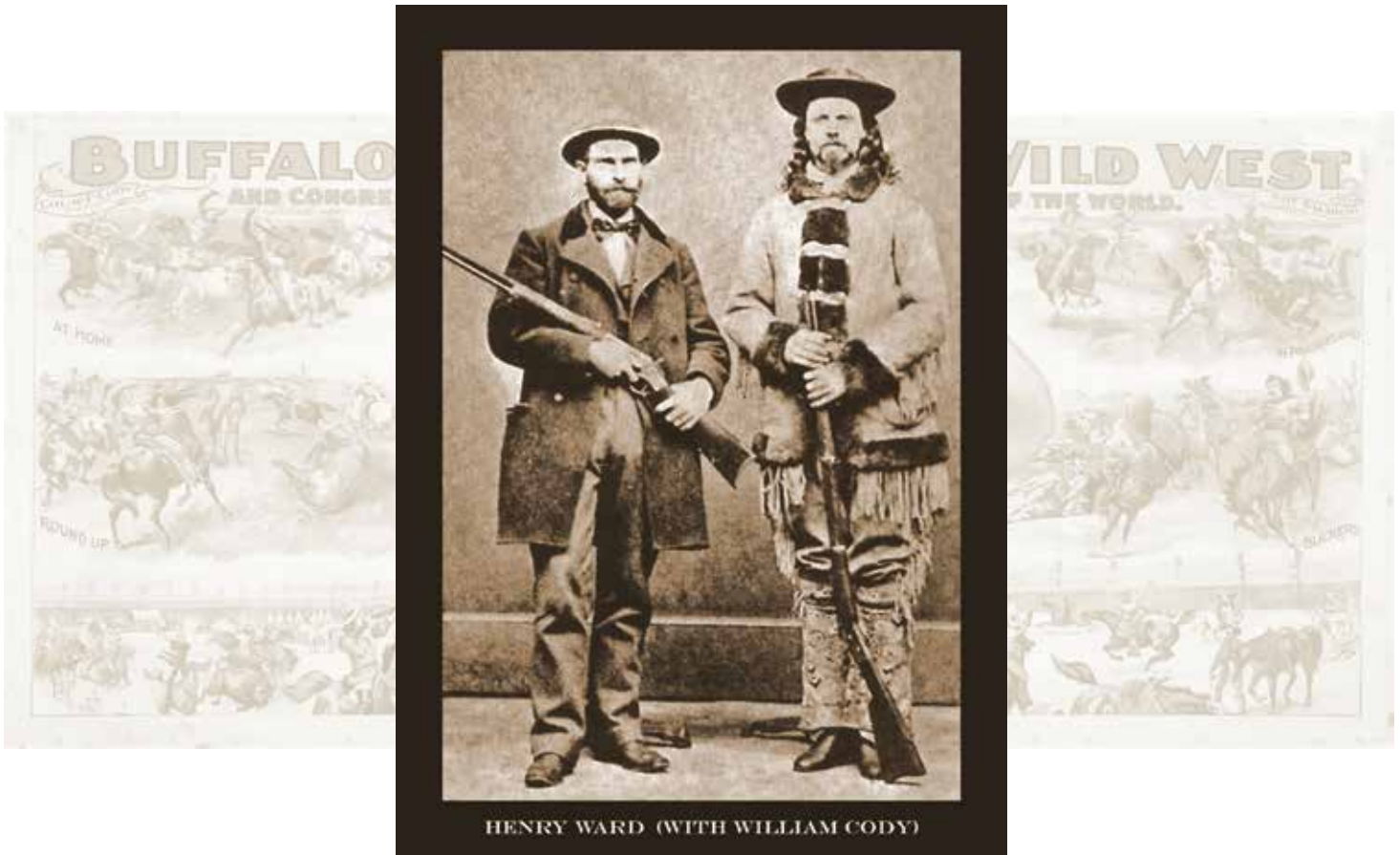
Job Costs: \$10,000. A reserve fund has been budgeted to cover the costs of monument repairs for small projects of up to \$2,000 each.





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Henry Ward met Buffalo Bill Cody in Nebraska where they hunted buffalo. Ward persuaded Buffalo Bill to move to Rochester, where he developed his Wild West Show. Ward is buried in Section G; Buffalo Bill's children are buried in Range 2.



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