



TEMPLES ON THE LAWN

Mausoleums In Mount Hope

by Chris Grooms

Mausoleums are an integral feature of the historical, cultural, and physical landscape of Mount Hope Cemetery. Currently there are 84 of these structures peppered throughout the cemetery with an 85th slated to be completed by the end of April. Some of these mausoleums stand isolated amongst fields of gravestones and family monuments while others are clustered together in areas like “mausoleum glen” in section I and “mausoleum row” in section MM.

Throughout history mausoleums have been the resting places of pharaohs, kings, and emperors. When “rural” cemeteries began springing up outside American cities in the 1830s, those with enough money (and probably large egos!) realized they could commit their remains to a lavish mausoleum and be remembered for all time. For the next century American cemeteries experienced a Golden Age of mausoleums ending in the mid 1930s with the Great Depression. It wasn't until the 1950s and 60s that they appeared again in our cemeteries,



The Stowell mausoleum was erected in 1925 in Romanesque Revival style. Among the family interments is M. Louise Stowell, a major Rochester artist. Photo by Richard Reisem.

usually in the form of large community mausoleums. Mount Hope's mausoleums are the permanent resting places of some of the most prominent citizens throughout Rochester's history. Philanthropists, entrepreneurs, inventors, and leaders who all had an impact on the heritage of Rochester chose interment in mausoleums to ensure their lasting legacies.

The mausoleums in Mount Hope are a true representation of the evolution in architectural types and styles that are popular in Victorian cemeteries. Most of

the various types of mausoleums can be found in Mount Hope including hillside vaults, which are mausoleums built into the side of a hill; vestibule mausoleums, which are small free-standing house- or temple-like structures with a door in the front and crypts on the side or back walls; lawn crypts, which are free-standing vaults where caskets are slid in through the front and are two to three crypts in height; and sarcophagus mausoleums, which are low to the ground and have a flat roof that is lifted to place



the caskets inside. Architectural styles amongst these mausoleums abound, including: Egyptian, Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Classical Revival, Renaissance Revival, Transitional/Modern Classical, Art Deco and Contemporary.

The first mausoleum in the cemetery was built circa 1842 and is a hillside vault crafted in the Egyptian style; it is the family tomb of General Jacob Gould, Rochester's second mayor. His is one of only two in that motif; however, the new mausoleum scheduled to be completed by the end of April is also in the Egyptian style, being a four-sided pyramid. It will be a prominent feature in the south section of the cemetery.

Gould's mausoleum is nestled into the hillside next to the Old Chapel at the north entrance to Mount Hope. His is one of six hillside mausoleums in the cemetery with four others being located in the same area. Vestibule mausoleums of various architectural styles also dot the landscape in this area, making a notable impression on visitors and, no doubt, leaving them to wonder what treasures lie beyond the hills of the north entrance. And indeed, there are a wealth of treasures to be explored deeper into the cemetery, especially in the form of mausoleums.

The Lichtenstein mausoleum was constructed in 1925 in Transitional/Modern Classical style. Photo by Richard Reiser.



The Botsford-Orcutt sarcophagus was a Contemporary style vault created in 1984. Enid Botsford launched the Botsford School of Dance, which presented ballet performances in Rochester for 60 years. Photo by Frank Gillespie.

Come join yours truly this summer on Saturday, August 3rd at 11:00 a.m. when the Friends of Mount Hope debut part one of a new theme tour, *Crypts, Vaults, and Temples*.

This tour will showcase the mausoleums in the north section of the cemetery and the prominent citizens of Rochester entombed within. Part two will be presented during the 2020 tour season and will focus on mausoleums in the south section. Both tours will also be an exploration of the various architectural types and styles of these showy shrines that are an intrinsic component of Mount Hope Cemetery.



The Lewis Henry Morgan mausoleum was built in 1863 in Gothic Revival style. Morgan founded the science of anthropology. Photo by Ron Richardson.



Cradle Graves Come Alive Again

by Patricia Corcoran

2019 is the year that we will revive an Adopt-a-Cradle-Grave project to bring color, life, and beauty to Mount Hope.

Many of our readers recall the amazing Adopt-a-Plot program initiated by past-president Marilyn Nolte years ago that brought many volunteers to the cemetery to

work on beautifying gravesites. While this program was discontinued in the cemetery, the interest in gardening has intensified, with more and more people volunteering to garden.

Mount Hope is home to hundreds of “cradle graves,” also known as bed plots—graves with both headstones and footstones connected by two low walls that create a box-like basin. In the 1800s, family members of the deceased



Here are three cradle gardens in bloom in Mount Hope Cemetery.

filled these beds with flowers. Cultivating these gardens on weekend outings to the cemetery was a way of keeping a loved one's memory alive. As descendants scattered and their memories of connections to Victorian ancestors faded, the gardens died out. The Mount Hope Cradle Grave program aspires to enlist the help of volunteers to revive these now desolate patches of dirt and weeds, one grave at a time.

If you would like to participate in the program, get started by using the "Contact Us" prompt on our website to let us know of your interest in adopting a cradle grave. We can direct you from there. Here is basic information:

1. Volunteers can select a cradle grave to adopt. At the end of April cradle graves available for adoption will be marked. Each person is free to design his/her own garden with the Victorian Garden aesthetic in mind.
2. Grave Gardeners must commit to tending to their assigned cradle grave throughout the entire growing season (May–November). This includes purchasing and planting flowers, keeping them watered, and keeping the cradle weeded. The FOMH will provide mushroom mulch at the barn for use in the cradle graves.
3. The Friends will provide a list of Victorian flowers as suggestions for gardeners. Flowers must be deer resistant because we have many deer in the cemetery. For example, hostas will disappear immediately! We also will have to deal with groundhogs and drought.
4. Get-togethers will be held throughout the growing season to help you develop new skills as a gardener, share ideas, and keep your grave gardens looking good.
5. Other cradle garden programs recommend that 2–4 hours a week are necessary to devote to this project.
6. Our goal in 2019 is to solicit 20 gardeners for 20 cradle graves. Let's start small and see what we learn the first year before we expand the program.

When you adopt a cradle grave, you may feel as if you are a surrogate part of the deceased person's family. You can research and learn about the life and times of the residents. These connections are what enrich our lives as Mount Hope historians and gardeners.





John W. Stebbens (1819-1905) was Rochester's most prominent leader of the Independent Order of Odd Fellowship, commonly called the Odd Fellows. Photo by Richard Reisem.

Fraternal Organizations in Mount Hope Cemetery

by Rose O'Keefe

If you've ever wondered about the secrets and symbols of fraternal organizations, Dennis Carr's tour on May 11 will introduce you to a fascinating trend. *A Nation of Joiners: Ritual, Regalia, and the History of Fraternalism in America* is at 11 a.m. starting at the South Entrance across from the Distillery.

Dennis mentioned growing up watching the *Jackie Gleason Show*, in which Ralph Kramden and his upstairs neighbor, Ed Norton (Art Carney), were portrayed as buffoons going to lodge meetings. More recently, the father in *Everybody Loves Raymond* is mocked for his membership in the Caribou Lodge. But in the nineteenth and much of the twentieth century these groups provided mutual benefits unavailable to most Americans. They were an essential form of networking among members for jobs and services. Their assistance to widows and orphans was crucial during the Civil War years.

Some of the secret societies and fraternal organizations included religious rituals, which often created friction with established churches, particularly Catholics and Lutherans. Although the Vatican called fraternal organizations dangerous to the church, after 1865 American Catholics were allowed to join selected groups where not belonging would result in a grave loss, such as the lack of insurance. The Church prohibited members from attending meetings, their dues could only be paid by mail, and the organization was forbidden to participate in the member's funeral.

The Odd Fellowship was so named because they would help *anyone* — which was considered strange when they were founded in England in the early 1700s. They began in the U.S. and Canada in 1819 and now have fraternities in 26 countries. John Stebbins, a local attorney, early baseball player and umpire, was one of the area's most prominent leaders in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Beginning with the Masonic Lodge in the late 18th century, an estimated 2,000 secret societies and fraternal organizations existed in North America, with about 800 enduring for substantial periods, some to the present time. The evidence of these organizations is on monuments throughout the cemetery.

Dennis has been leading tours for 40 years! In 1978, he went on his first tour in Mount Hope Cemetery. Afterward, the tour leader, Steve Thomas, retired director at Rochester Museum & Science Center, asked Dennis if he would be willing to help lead a tour. Of course, Dennis said yes and a bit later was asked to lead a tour on one day's notice. That Sunday, 65 people came to the tour. This was at a time when there were three tours on Sundays — at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. At the drop of a hat, Dennis was leading the 1 and 3 p.m. tours. Dennis attended the first planning meeting for the Friends of Mount Hope in 1980 and has been on the board ever since.

In those days, some people saw the 200 acres of green space as a waste of good city land. Maintenance standards were lower and it was not considered safe to walk through it alone. Nowadays, the cemetery's green space is seen as a valuable resource by history buffs, nature lovers, bird watchers, joggers and dog walkers and of course, families of the deceased.

This special tour costs \$10 or is free to members. As for secret rituals, everything is on the web now, so curious people can find fraternal groups' ceremonies online.



BAUSCH & LOMB GRANT

by Henry McCartney

The historic photograph for this article was provided by Bausch & Lomb and is an image from the funeral of Captain Henry Lomb in 1908. The distinctive European weeping beech tree seen in the background “is an ideal backdrop for the resting place for our company’s founders,” said Amy Vena, program management coordinator (archivist) at Bausch & Lomb. Other Lomb and Bausch family members share this gravesite, starting with J.J. Bausch’s eldest son, John, who died of typhoid fever in 1878.



A group of Henry Lomb’s colleagues gather to honor their distinguished friend. Note the backdrop created by a European weeping beech.

Early in 2019 the Bausch Foundation awarded the Friends of Mount Hope a \$6,000 grant to use over the next five years to clean the monument, prune the tree that now towers over the monument, and provide treatments, needed yearly, for this iconic tree.

FOMH Executive Director (volunteer) Henry McCartney praised both Bausch & Lomb staff and several FOMH volunteers for making this grant possible. Last summer, Tom Jones started a volunteer effort, now enthusiastically supported by FOMH, to map and tag trees within Mount Hope Cemetery. Tom, a Bausch & Lomb employee, brought the need for tree maintenance to Amy’s attention.

FOMH board member and landscape architect Zakery Steele, who inspected the site with Tom, mentioned that



Today, the weeping beech is overtaking the Bausch & Lomb family monument. Photo by Richard Reisem.

it is a unique type of beech and that it is an important part of the cemetery’s tree collection. He noted that the cemetery’s Cultural Landscape Report estimated that the tree dated to the mid-19th century and the tree may even have been donated to the cemetery by the Ellwanger and Barry Nursery in 1847 when it gave 50 rare trees to the cemetery on its 10th anniversary.

Zak also stated that beech trees are susceptible to fungal disease and that FOMH has been providing monies, over many years, for annual treatments for the cemetery’s four beech trees (two European purple beech, one fern-leaf beech and the weeping beech). Currently, all are healthy.

Subsequently, FOMH Vice President Pat Corcoran worked with Amy Vena and the staff of Bausch Health Companies Inc. (the parent company of Bausch & Lomb) and the Bausch Foundation. Pat was delighted that they would entertain a grant request, obtained quotes for proposed work, and submitted a successful request. This Bausch Foundation grant furthers our efforts to support the cemetery while reinforcing Rochester’s historic link with Bausch & Lomb. We are grateful for the Bausch Foundation support.





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Sarah Adamson Dolley, M.D. (1829-1909),
 Section I, Lot 107, was the second woman in the United States to
 receive a Doctor of Medicine degree. After applying to 13 medical
 colleges, she was finally accepted in progressive Rochester and
 was graduated from Central Medical College in 1851. She practiced
 medicine here for 50 years and founded the Rochester chapter of
 the Red Cross. Read more about her illustrious career in the new
Buried Treasures in Mount Hope Cemetery, which you can order at
www.fomh.org.



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See our colorful and informative Web site:
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