



## MAJOR RESTORATION of CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

by Richard O. Reisem



The newly restored Civil War monument in Mount Hope Cemetery.

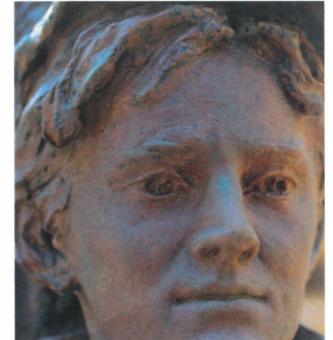
One of the most significant bronze sculptures in Mount Hope Cemetery is the 15-foot-high Civil War monument. It depicts two standing figures: a Union soldier carrying the American flag and a company bugle boy with his trumpet. The sculpture was created by Sally James Farnham (1869–1943), who became one of America's most famous female sculptors. The Mount Hope sculpture was created in 1908 when Farnham was 39 years old. It is titled: Defenders of the Flag.

In the past 108 years, Defenders of the Flag has aged gracefully without untoward circumstances. Aging, however, does change the look of bronze. It is an alloy of copper (sculptural bronze is typically 83–88 percent copper), tin, and other metals, including aluminum, manganese, nickel or zinc. As bronze ages, the

copper oxidizes on the surface, forming a light greenish copper carbonate as a patina on the surface of the sculpture, which helps to protect the metal underneath from further corrosion.



The head of the bugle boy before restoration.



After restoration, the boy looks straight ahead toward a positive future.

At some time in the sculpture's past, it was probably painted with bronze (radiator) paint, which oxidized, turning the sculpture an uneven greenish-brown. This caused surface degradation to the extent that it was hard to see the carefully modeled clothing and nuanced facial expressions of Sally Farnham's figures. Also, the naturally acidic Rochester environment fostered deterioration and pitting of the bronze surface.

The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery (FOMH) got opinions from bronze experts, which concluded that Defender of the Flag required treatment. So, we applied for grants and received \$10,000 from the Rochester Area Community Foundation. This grant, along with a contribution of \$500 from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, plus donations from members of our FOMH organization, all of which paid for the expert restoration that was completed last fall. The work was accomplished by Ron Koenig of Building Arts and Conservation, Saline, Michigan and

Peter Ellison of Ellison Conservation, Canandaigua. The total cost was \$15,200.

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*Scaffolding provided workers intimate contact with the bronze sculpture at eye level.*

In his report to FOMH, Ron Koenig presented in great detail what is abbreviated here into essential steps: “Treatment began with a careful examination of the monument surface. Debris was removed from cracks and crevices, and several pinholes were noted. Surfaces were wiped with acetone and soft rags. Moss, lichen,

and mold were removed. Compressed air-driven fine ground glass removed the heavy accumulation of bronze oxide. Small voids were carefully filled with epoxy. Surfaces were patinated with a special bronze darkener, and rinsed repeatedly with deionized water. Finally, surfaces were protected with two applications of Briwax.”



*One of several procedures included cleaning with fine ground glass and compressed air.*



*The head of the soldier before restoration.*

*After restoration, notice the downcast face filled with weariness and mourning.*

As part of the restoration project of the Civil War memorial, Koenig agreed to restore a bronze sculpture of a dog called Carlo. Koenig said, "Treatment involved removing over-paint, touching-in weld seams left visible from sand-blasting. (See separate story.) Defenders of the Flag is not the only Sally James Farnham sculpture in Rochester. The G.A.R. Memorial (Civil War monument) in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery was also sculpted by Farnham in the same year of 1908.

Born of wealthy, influential parents in Ogdensburg, New York, November 26, 1869, Sarah "Sally" Welles James began her art education as a child touring the museums of Europe with her parents. In 1896, she married George Paulding Farnham, who was a designer at Tiffany & Company in New York City. A family friend, Frederic Remington, the famous American sculptor, saw one of Sally's early works and called it "ugly as sin" yet "full of ginger". Remington became a mentor to Farnham and visited the casting of the Mount Hope sculpture at the Roman Bronze Works in Brooklyn. He wrote appreciatively about her work to a friend, saying: "Sally F. was there. She has a dandy two-figure group soldier monument."

Farnham went on to produce a multitude of public and private commissioned works, including presidents Warren G. Harding, Herbert Hoover, and Theodore Roosevelt, as well as busts of notable figures like Jascha Heifetz and Mary Pickford. Three years before her two Rochester sculptures, she produced *The Spirit of Liberty* in 1905, a Civil War memorial for her hometown Library Park in Ogdensburg.

In 1921, she won a commission from the government of Venezuela to create an equestrian sculpture of Simon Bolivar, which stands today in Central Park in New York City. At the time of its dedication, it was the largest sculpture created in America by a woman and the only sculpture of a man on horseback produced by a female artist. It won the highest civilian honor, the Order of Bolivar, given by Venezuela. It took five years to produce it.



*Sally James Farnham sits on the base of her monumental equestrian sculpture of Simon Bolivar.*

# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015

**Gazebo.** The major restoration project of 2015 was the replacement of the Moorish-style gazebo domed roof in the north entrance area of Mount Hope Cemetery. The old terne-metal roof was removed, as well as the rotted wood sub-roofing. They were replaced with a new wood sub-roof that curved in a double continuous S-shape to establish the dome. A protective



*Workmen apply new metal roofing to the 1872 Moorish-style gazebo in Mount Hope Cemetery.*

underlayment was installed before the metal roofing plates were attached to the ogee dome. The work was accomplished by CSTM Corp, operated by Kurt Catalano, which specializes in copper, slate, tile, and metal roofing. Finally, the dome was painted to provide a surface for the Moorish decorative design to be stenciled on the dome

when the temperature is suitable later this year. Right now, the gazebo is also missing its finial and finial base, which are constructed of wood and were substantially deteriorated. A new finial and base will be fashioned to match the old one, which is currently being stored for the winter.

**Stairs and Garden.** The extension of Cedar Avenue up to Grove Avenue was originally a steep roadway, which was eliminated by the construction of the Hurlbut mausoleum on Grove Avenue. There was still space to create a stone stairway flanked by garden plantings, which the city of Rochester decided to undertake. The more than 50 stone steps have a useful, decorative iron handrail. Although not a FOMH project, it is an attractive and useful addition to the cemetery.

**New Finials on Old Chapel.** The metal finials atop the Gothic stone columns that flank the entrance to the 1862 chapel were so badly disintegrated that the city of Rochester ordered a replacement. FOMH noticed that the

contractor-installed finials were totally improper, and the city permitted FOMH to engage Spring Sheet Metal Works on South Clinton Avenue in Rochester to reconstruct exact replicas of the original finials out of copper, which should last another 153 years.

## **Stained-Glass Windows in**

**Gatehouse.** The gatehouse was built in 1874, which is 141 years ago. The muntins that support the pieces of glass in the stained-glass windows are made of lead, which loses its rigidity after that many years and causes the windows to bow and, if not restored, collapse. We hired Pike Stained Glass Studios in Rochester to restore the most badly bowed window, and we will continue the process with others of the five windows as needed. Valerie O'Hara, FOMH trustee and director of Pike Stained Glass Studios estimates that other windows will need restoration in several years.

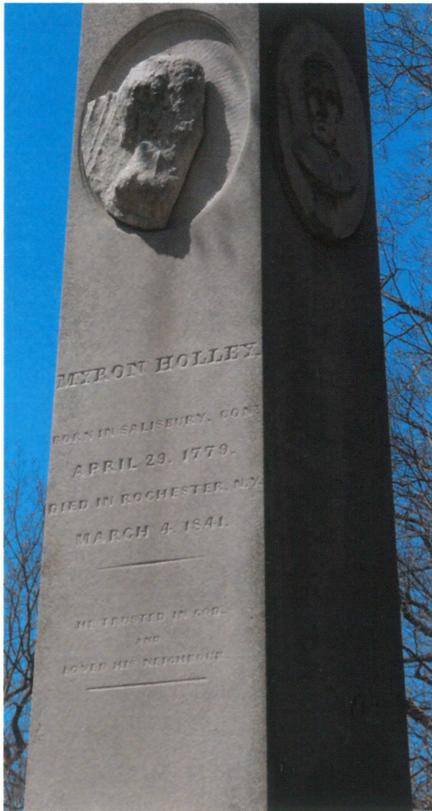
**Tours.** Of all the activities that FOMH conduct, tours are by far the most popular. Even with very modest charges for the tours, we collected more than \$16,000 from our tours in 2015.

## SPLENDID PLANS FOR 2016

*This year looks to be a particularly active one for the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery and the city's cemetery managers with a number of interesting things to look forward to.*

**Gazebo completion.** Spring will bring a professional artist to paint the arabesque design on the gazebo's new domed roof, which FOMH had installed last year. Also, if necessary, a new finial will be lathe-turned of a water-resistant wood like cypress or mahogany and installed on a newly constructed round wooden base, which is rotted.

**Self-Guided Tree Tour.** Board trustee Zakery Steele, a landscape architect, is in the process of designing a self-guided tree tour of Mount Hope Cemetery that involves production of an attractive brochure to be available free. The project includes identifying a significant number of interesting trees and attaching identification tags to the trees. This tour and tags should be ready for your participation in the spring.



*A new portrait medallion will replace the disintegrated original sculpture.*

## **African American History Tour.**

Trustee Vicki Schmitt and her committee will be producing the first cemetery walking tour honoring historic black individuals. The project involves ancillary items like phone apps and printed publications.

## **Mount Hope Avenue Banners.**

The city plans to replace the current banners along Mount Hope Avenue that recognize 17 prominent permanent

residents in the cemetery. A new batch of names of illustrious historical figures has been selected by the Executive Committee of FOMH and submitted to city officials for approval. Three existing banners will remain (Douglass, Anthony, and Rochester) and 14 new ones will supplant the rest.

**Path Through History.** Remember this event on a warm, sunny Saturday last June 20. Actors played the parts of Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, and Lewis Henry Morgan, each of them recounting significant events in their lives. Thomas Warfield talked about his uncle, William Warfield, the internationally renowned bass-baritone singer. Plus there were visits to gravesites of other eminent folks. The city of Rochester and FOMH are joining to produce a completely new program for 2016. Path Through History is an annual New York State-sponsored event.

**Dracula (the play).** The Wall Byrd Theatre Company is exploring the possibilities of developing a production of *Dracula* to be staged in Mount Hope Cemetery. It may or may not be a part of the Fringe Festival, but much needs to be accomplished: acquiring grant money, corporate sponsorship, insurance, city approval, pricing, expected attendance, etc. So don't hold your breath.

## **Myron Holley Portrait Medallion.**

When FOMH published the Myron Holley book, we agreed to reserve all book-sale profits to replacing the gray-granite, bas relief, portrait medallion on the Myron Holley obelisk in Section G. We have now sold enough books to pay for the carving of a profile image of Holley's head to replace the badly deteriorated medallion that exists in the niche and attached to the obelisk. Adams North Barre Granite Company, Websterville, Vermont, has been awarded the contract to carve the stone medallion. On their staff, they have skilled carvers and sculptors from Italy, Spain, and other European countries. Cutting granite is done with sharp chisels powered by compressed air. Adams Granite reported that "years of dedication are required for a sculptor to become a true artist in granite." The stone carving will cost \$1,972, utilizing a portrait photo supplied by us. Shipping and installation will be accomplished by Haskell Monument Works at a price to be determined. In the process of inspecting the monument recently, we discovered that the foundation of the obelisk is constructed of rubble stone that has shifted over the last 172 years to the point that the stone no longer provides a stable foundation for the obelisk. Before the new medallion is installed, the foundation will be restored by Heaster Building Restoration, Rochester, NY, which has completed many Mount Hope Cemetery projects in the past. Restoration involves excavating and backfilling, constructing a steel frame around perimeter in order to lift one side of the obelisk at a time to shim the foundation, rebuilding existing rubble stone, and installing 4-inch drain tile around perimeter two feet below grade to the bottom of the hill. The Heaster cost is \$4,400.

**Sylvan Waters Restoration.** The city of Rochester is planning to drain, dredge, and refill the Sylvan Waters pond in Section K. Over the last few years, the pond has become covered with a green scum that detracts from its beauty. We are all ready to say goodbye to the unpleasant look and welcome clean, clear water that will support carp or some other freshwater fish. In addition, the project includes restoration of the beehive fountain so it can once again aerate the pond water and greatly cheer the many passersby. A recirculating water pump will be installed as part of the project.



**J**ules Verne (1828–1905) was a French author who

pioneered the science-fiction genre. He is best known for novels, such as *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (1870), *A Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1864), and *Around the World in Eighty Days* (1873). Verne wrote about space, air, and underwater travel before air travel and practical submarines were invented, and long before a means of space travel had been devised. He never lived to see most of his visionary ideas come to pass.

In the early part of the last century, Rochester, New York had its own celebrity, of sorts, who had a vision of the future and thought he could take advantage of his vision. In September 1910, Officer William M. Lindner (1877–1933)

had heard the stories of a few daring men attempting to fly in Rochester, names like Captain Jack Dallas, A. H. Nichols, Dr. William Green, Eugene Ely and the infamous John Freisbie, who eventually made the history books by flying over the City of Rochester in a heavier-than-air craft in September 1911. Freisbie is credited with the first public exposition of such a flight in the Rochester area.

# A VISIONARY ROCHESTER POLICE OFFICER

*By Bill Sauers*



*Officer William Lindner (1877–1933)*

dangerous fellows, who would insist on throwing bottles and other things overboard.

The public needed to be protected," he said.

Lindner suggested a Zeppelin-type balloon with a wide porch or platform with

Upon hearing of Freisbie and others attempting to fly, Officer Lindner had an idea and brought that idea to his boss. Lindner, one of the first traffic patrolmen with the Rochester Police Bureau and stationed at the Four Corners (East Main, West Main, State, and Exchange streets) in Rochester, probably was not content with his "land" job and aspired to "higher duties" when he made a formal application to his captain for the position of aerial traffic officer. He suggested that there would be a time, once planes got started in earnest that "we'll have more trouble regulating the traffic half a mile in the skies than we had at the Four Corners." He figured that once regular passenger and freight service was established, there would be "speed maniacs in the air and



*The William M. Lindner grave marker is in Section W.*



*The first Rochester airport control tower is now preserved and displayed in the airport lobby.*

places for the landing of the traffic officer and storing of captive ships as well as cells for holding of prisoners arrested for violating the traffic rules. The balloon would be stationed directly over the city with communication to headquarters via telephone. Officer Lindner also suggested that the bravest of the force be given the first chance to do airship traffic duty, and he would consider it a great honor and a promotion if he was the first appointment. As might be expected, his boss, Captain Stein was speechless. He realized that the idea of aerial police duty may someday prove to be a necessity, but Officer Lindner might have to wait some time before that suggested promotion.

Officer Bill Lindner never did receive that requested promotion to be the first aerial traffic officer. No one knows who that was,

but we do know that Archie William League was hired as the first U.S. air traffic controller in 1929 at the airfield in St. Louis, Missouri (now known as Lambert-St. Louis International Airport). Lindner's idea of a Zeppelin-type balloon with a wide porch or platform may have seemed a crazy idea at the time, but all airports today do have a raised platform of some type called a control tower.

William M. Lindner did eventually receive a promotion, but not to aerial traffic officer. He retired as a captain with a total of 29 years of service with the Rochester Police Bureau. Not knowing when the first control tower was constructed, we can wonder if he ever saw his idea come to pass. He certainly did not see one in Rochester. He died in 1933, five years before the first control tower was constructed at the Rochester Municipal Airport. That's 28 years after he presented his idea. Rochester's original control tower is now on display inside what is now the Greater Rochester International Airport. A sign at its base dedicates the tower to the pioneering air traffic controllers, pilots, and those whose service promoted advancements in air traffic safety. There is no mention of Officer William Lindner or his vision for air traffic safety. He is buried in Section W, Lot 147 SE-¼. He was 57½ years old.

*(Note: Bill Sauers is a freelance writer, with a special interest in early aviation in Rochester. He is also president of the Town of Greece Historical Society.)*





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## Carlo, Recently Restored, Takes A Truck Ride

by Richard O. Reisem

Carlo, a golden retriever, was the family dog of Almond and Mary Pratt, and when they erected their family mausoleum, they bought a bronze version of their dog and gave him a spot on the mausoleum's front lawn. He was stolen in the 1980s and remained missing for years. FOMH alerted police and antique dealers across America with photos and details. Mysteriously one night, we received an anonymous call saying that Carlo could be found at the parking lot of a nightclub on Scottsville Road. We rushed to the lot and there was Carlo wrapped in an antique dealer's old blanket. Apparently, Carlo's theft had been so widely reported that it was risky to try to sell it.



A friend (Rascal) pays a visit to Carlo, back home in the gatehouse.

Photo by Anna Jannes

Since then, Carlo has been ensconced indoors at the cemetery gatehouse, that is, until another unfortunate day when he was carted off, unbeknownst to us, to have his bronze patina covered with a wretched brown house paint. Again, poor Carlo was in the doldrums until we received grants to restore the Civil War monument, which had similarly been covered in the same brown paint. We asked the Civil War sculpture restoration team to include Carlo as part of the restoration project and they gladly obliged. When completed, Carlo was given a joyous ride (you know how dogs love rides) in the restoration company's truck.



A pristine clean Carlo takes a ride home in a truck.

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