Mount Hope Cemetery Project
Volume 1 (1837-1860)

a transcription project by the

**Rochester Genealogical Society
Computer Interest Group**

Rochester, New York

Edited & republished January, 2007

Introduction

The **Rochester Genealogical Society** (RGS) formed as an informal group of the Rochester Historical Society in 1938 and became an independent organization dedicated to preserving family history in 1977; at which time it was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. Membership currently has grown to nearly 400 from the original 48. This project perfectly suits our Society's mission to protect, preserve and share genealogical knowledge.

Mount Hope Cemetery is the first municipally owned Victorian Cemetery in the United States. In 1838, a wooded, rolling landscape of nearly 54 acres was purchased 1½ miles south of the center of the city. Numerous additions have been made and it now occupies 196 acres.

Since its inception in 1980, **The Friends of Mount Hope**, have continually undertaken restoration projects, as well as, preservation and protection of original interment records. Frank Gillespie volunteers tirelessly to respond to daily genealogical requests from all over the country and his interest in photography has resulted in an amazing collection of photographs of the great architecture, landscape and history of this unique cultural resource.

The Project

The records were transcribed from microfilm copies by RGS and first published in 1996. During the second half of 2006 we undertook the task of re-proofing those files against the original Interment Index and Day Books at the cemetery. After the proofreading phase was complete, additional time was spent double checking second sources, resulting in the final data included in this book.

Volume 1 is a reconstruction from other records. The original records were removed from the cemetery in the mid-1850's and sometime in the 1880 to 1890's they were recovered and the information was re-written in the existing books. By that time, there were 40,000 + entries that had to be made and it is apparent abbreviations and short cuts were taken to facilitate the process. Review of the bookkeeping of the day, revealed that for approximately the first 11 years, not all information contained in the Day Books was transcribed to the Index.   Most notably missing was information relating to burials in other cemeteries, now non-existent, with lost or incomplete records.

A great deal of effort was made to create as accurate and reliable information as possible, however as with all transcribed material, the burden of verification resides with the researcher.

Description

Volume 1 contains more than 14,500 entries, for the time period from May 1, 1837 through July 31, 1860. Although the dedication of the cemetery was made on October 3, 1838 the first recorded burial was that of William Carter on August 18th.

Between May 1, 1837 and late 1850's city burials to other cemeteries were recorded at Mt. Hope, including:
- Brighton Cemetery
- Carthage Cemetery
- East Cemetery (aka Monroe Ave. Cemetery)
- Friends Cemetery (aka Quaker Cemetery)
- Hanford's Landing Cemetery
- Hooker's Farm/Cemetery
- McCrackenville Cemetery
- Rapids Cemetery
- Rogers Farm
- Sand Hill Cemetery
- West Brighton Cemetery
- West Cemetery (aka Buffalo St. Cemetery)
- Catholic Cemeteries:
    - St. Joseph's, Dutch, Lyell Ave./Rd., German, Goodman St., St. Patrick's (aka Pinnacle)

Records for Catholic cemetery burials were no longer kept at Mt. Hope beginning in the early 1850's and ultimately interments were moved to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery after it opened in 1872.

Burials from East, West, Friends, McCrackenville and West Brighton Cemeteries were moved to Mt. Hope as they became full and the properties were viewed for city expansion. Reburials were made by the families into family plots or were moved to Sections designated by the City.

Visit website: www.rootsweb.com/~nymonroe/cem/ for descriptions of the history and evolution of these cemeteries.

Using this Publication

Our intention was to transcribe the records verbatim from the Index, including misspellings, abbreviations and blank spaces. Exceptions to that rule were made to standardize interment location information and dates so that sorts of the database can be done on that information.

Information presented in this volume is sorted alphabetically by surname and includes: a page & line number reference from the Index, interment date, surname, given name, age, cause of death, residence, interment location and a comments column. Because we discovered names out of place alphabetically within the index, we have included the letter of the alphabet where the name was found with the page number. An asterisk (*) following a page number references entries from the appendix pages at the rear of the Index.

At the back of the interment records, is a partial list of causes of death including a brief description of each.

As with all handwriting, there were frequently difficulties interpreting styles. When we identified uncertainties, we took additional steps by referencing other sources; cemetery day books & plot records and city directories. In some cases we were able to fill-in blank spaces in the original record. When there were re-burials, we included the latest burial information and placed "RB" with the date in the comments column. Don't overlook the possibility of multiple spellings of family names. Our review often revealed this, as well as, probable misspellings.

Interment locations at Mt. Hope Cemetery are identified as: *Sections* (alpha) A-Y, AA, BB, MM (no J, Q, X, Z), *Ranges* (numeric) 1-10 and *Single Grave* and *Public Grounds* areas. During the years covered in Volume 1, only *Sections* were developed. Any references to *Range* locations, would have been reburials.

The Publisher

Reference also:
- Original microfilm is available on loan from the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City, Utah and is available locally in the Local History/Genealogy Division of the Rochester Public Library and at the Westfall Road Family History Center.
- *Mt. Hope Cemetery Interment Records Volume 2, 1860-1881*, available in book and CD formats from RGS.
- *Mt. Hope Cemetery Interment Records Volume 3, 1882-1892*, available in book and CD formats from RGS.
- *Location of Cemeteries & Cemetery Records of Monroe County, NY* compiled by Richard T. Halsey & Lawrence Naukam, updated 2006, available from RGS.
- *Buried Treasures,* published 2002, and *Mount Hope Cemetery-America's First Municipal Victorian Cemetery*, published 1994, available from The Friends of Mt. Hope.

Websites:
- Rochester Genealogical Society
  www.rootsweb.com/~nyrgs
- The Friends of Mt. Hope
  www.fomh.org
- Rochester Public Library
  www2.libraryweb.org
- Monroe County Cemeteries:
  www.rootsweb.com/~nymonroe/cem/
- Rochester Cemeteries Heritage Foundation
  www.rochestercemeteries.com

Acknowledgements

Mount Hope Cemetery Project
Volume 2 (1860-1881)

a transcription project by the

**Rochester Genealogical Society
Computer Interest Group**
Rochester, New York

Introduction

The **Rochester Genealogical Society** (RGS) formed as an informal group of the Rochester Historical Society in 1938 and became an independent organization dedicated to preserving family history in 1977; at which time it was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. Membership currently has grown to nearly 400 from the original 48. This project perfectly suits our Society's mission to protect, preserve and share genealogical knowledge.

Mount Hope Cemetery is the first municipally owned Victorian Cemetery in the United States. In 1838, a wooded, rolling landscape of nearly 54 acres was purchased 1½ miles south of the center of the city. Numerous additions have been made and it now occupies 196 acres.

Since its inception in 1980, **The Friends of Mount Hope**, have continually undertaken restoration projects, as well as, preservation and protection of original interment records. Frank Gillespie volunteers tirelessly to respond to daily genealogical requests from all over the country and his interest in photography has resulted in an amazing collection of photographs of the great architecture, landscape and history of this unique cultural resource.

The Project

The records were transcribed from microfilm copies and then proofread against the original Interment Index at the cemetery. By doing this, we were able to pick up details and information not clear or missing from the microfilm copies. After the proofreading phase was complete, additional time was spent double checking second sources, resulting in the final data included in this book.

In the process of proofing this volume, evidence of inconsistencies in the original recordings became apparent that are difficult to explain today. Many duplicate entries, including multiple spellings & versions of the same individual's name were discovered.

A great deal of effort was made to create as accurate and reliable information as possible, however as with all transcribed material, the burden of verification resides with the researcher.

Description

Volume 2 contains more than 20,000 entries, for the time period from August 1, 1860 through December 31, 1881. During the more than 21 years of American and Local history covered in this time span, many of the Rochester's pioneering families were buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery; Child, Culver, Dewey, Pitkin, Rochester, Stillson, and Watts to name a few. "Buffalo Bill" Cody lived in Rochester for a short time and his three children are buried in Mt. Hope; son, Kit Carson Cody died at the age of 5 in 1876. Between Civil War years 1861 and 1865, approximately 120 soldiers died and were interred at Mt. Hope.

At the back of the interment records, is a partial list of causes of death including a brief description of each.

Using this Publication

Our intention was to transcribe the records verbatim from the Index, including misspellings, abbreviations and blank spaces. Exceptions to that rule were made to standardize interment location information and dates so that sorts of the database can be done on that information.

Information presented in this volume is sorted alphabetically by surname and includes: a page & line number reference from the Index, interment date, surname, given name, age, cause of death, residence, interment location and a comments column. Because we discovered names out of place alphabetically within the index, we have included the letter of the alphabet where the name was found with the page number. An asterisk (*) following a page number references entries from the appendix pages at the rear of the Index.

As with all handwriting, there were frequently difficulties interpreting styles. When we identified uncertainties, we took additional steps by referencing other sources; cemetery day books & plot records and city directories. In some cases we were able to fill-in blank spaces in the original record. When there were re-burials, we included the latest burial information and placed "RB" with the date in the comments column. Don't overlook the possibility of multiple spellings of family names. Our review often revealed this, as well as, probable misspellings.

Interment locations at Mt. Hope Cemetery are identified as: *Sections* (alpha) A-Y, AA, BB, MM (no J, Q, X, Z), *Ranges* (numeric) 1-10 and *Single Grave* and *Public Grounds* areas.

Frequently used institutional locations found in this volume:

Episcopal Church	Sec. Y
G.A.R.	cor. Grove & Fireman's Ave.
Home for the Friendless	Sec. P, Y, BB
Industrial School	Sec. Y
Jewish Poor Grounds	Sec. Y
Rochester Orphan Asylum	Sec. O
House of Refuge	Sec. Y

Home for the Friendless, org. in 1849, a "society for the relief of homeless, friendless & virtuous females and destitute children"

Industrial School, incorporated 1857, school for "vagrant & destitute children unable to attend public schools"

Western House of Refuge, incorporated 1846, school for "juvenile delinquents"

Monroe County Alms House, home for the poor

The Publisher

This volume is published by:

The Rochester Genealogical Society, Computer Interest Group, P.O. Box 10501, Rochester, NY 14610.

Also available is a CD version of the data in PDF format.

Inquires for current pricing and availability should be addressed to the above.

Reference also:

- Original microfilm is available on loan from the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City, Utah and is available locally in the Local History/Genealogy Division of the Rochester Public Library and at the Westfall Road Family History Center.
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Websites:

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- The Friends of Mt. Hope
  www.fomh.org
- Rochester Public Library
  www.libraweb.org
- Monroe County Cemeteries:
  www.rootsweb.com/~nymonroe/cem/cem-list.htm
- Rochester Cemeteries Heritage Foundation
  www.rochestercemeteries.com

Acknowledgements

Mt. Hope Cemetery Project
Volume 3 (1882-1892)

a transcription project by the

**Rochester Genealogical Society
Computer Interest Group**
Rochester, New York

Introduction

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Mount Hope Cemetery is the first municipally owned Victorian Cemetery in the United States. In 1838, a wooded, rolling landscape of   nearly 54 acres was purchased 1½ miles south of the center of the city. Numerous additions have been made and it now occupies 196 acres.

Since its inception in 1980, **The Friends of Mount Hope**, have continually undertaken restoration projects, as well as, preservation and protection of original interment records. Frank Gillespie volunteers tirelessly to respond to daily genealogical requests from all over the country and his interest in photography has resulted in an amazing collection of photographs of the great architecture, landscape and history of this unique cultural resource.

The Project

After transcription was completed early in 2005, six volunteers were given the opportunity to proofread at the cemetery by comparing the transcribed files against the original Interment Index. By doing this, we were able to pick up details and information not clear or missing from the microfilm copies.   After the proofreading phase was complete we spent several weeks double checking second sources, resulting in the final data included in this book.

A great deal of effort was made to create as accurate and reliable information as possible, however as with all transcribed material, the burden of verification resides with the researcher.

Description

Volume 3 contains nearly 15,200 entries, for the time period from January 1, 1882 through December 31, 1892. During the eleven year span covered in this volume, several notable Rochestarians were buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, including:

- **Col. Josiah W. Bissell,** died 1891, an engineer on the Erie Canal who was responsible for naming East Avenue (formerly known as "the Road to Pittsford").
- **Seth Green**, died 1888, known as the "Father of Fish Culture" in America; invented the fish hatchery.
- **Meyer Greentree**, died 1890, along with his partner founded Greentree and Wile, the 1st clothing manufacturing company in Rochester.
- **John P. Humphrey**, died 1891, grandfather of actor Humphrey Bogart.
- **Rev. Thomas James**, died 1891, an ex-slave and principal founder of AME Zion Church in the 1820's. He also organized the 1st anti-slavery society in Rochester.
- **Lt. Frederick F. Kislingbury**, died 1884, 2nd in command to Lt. Adolphus Greely. He died of starvation on a U.S. Army Arctic expedition to find the North Pole.

- **Amy Kirby Post**, died 1889, a friend of Frederick Douglass, she was credited with assisting the largest number of slaves escape to Canada. She was also a member of the National Women's Suffrage Association.
- **Henry Rogers Selden**, died 1885, Susan B. Anthony's defense attorney, Lt. Gov. of NYS, and had also been urged to accept the nomination for Vice President under Abraham Lincoln; an offer he declined.
- **Hiram Sibley**, died 1888, acquired and consolidated small telegraph companies, building the transcontinental telegraph service that became known as Western Union. He was also instrumental in persuading the Russian Czar to sell Alaska to the United States.
- **James Vick**, died 1882, pioneer seedsman.
- Two tragic events that also took place during this time were the **Naptha Explosion of 1887** and the **Lantern Works Co. Fire of 1888**, both in the Brown's Race area of the city**.**

Much of this information was taken from *Buried Treasures,* published 2002, written by Richard Reisem, photographs by Frank Gillespie, available from The Friends of Mt. Hope.

Using this Publication

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Information presented in this volume is sorted alphabetically by last name and includes: page & line number from the index, interment date, surname, given name, age, cause of death, residence, nativity, interment location and a comments column.   Because we discovered names out of place alphabetically within the index, we have included the letter of the alphabet where the name was found with the page number.

As with all handwriting, there were frequently difficulties interpreting styles.   When we identified uncertainties, we took additional steps by referencing other sources; cemetery day books & plot records, city

directories - even "road trips" to the site. In some cases we were able to fill-in blank spaces in the original record. When there were re-burials, we included the latest burial information and placed "RB" with the date in the comments column. Don't overlook the possibility of multiple spellings of family names. Our review often revealed this, as well as, probable misspellings.

Interment locations at Mt. Hope Cemetery are identified as: *Sections* (alpha) A-Y, AA, BB, MM (no J, Q, X, Z), *Ranges* (numeric) 1-10 and *Single Grave* and *Public Grounds* areas.

Frequently used institutional locations found in this volume:

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	Fireman's Ave.
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Industrial School	Sec. Y
Jewish Poor Grounds	Sec. Y
Lantern Wks. Fire Victims	Fireman's Lot BB
Rochester Orphan Asylum	Sec. O
House of Refuge	Sec. Y
Greentree Lot	Range 3

Home for the Friendless, org. in 1849, a "society for the relief of homeless, friendless & virtuous females and destitute children"

Industrial School, incorporated 1857, school for "vagrant & destitute children unable to attend public schools"

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Monroe County Alms House, home for the poor

The Publisher

Acknowledgements

Mount Hope Cemetery Project
Volume 4 (1893-1906)

a transcription project by the

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Description

Volume 4 contains nearly 19,000 entries, for the time period from January 1, 1893 through December 31, 1906.

Following this introduction is a map of the cemetery showing Sections and Ranges. At the back of the records, is a partial list of causes of death including a brief description of each.

Notable citizens whose deaths are recorded during this time period are: Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, George Ellwanger and Henry Ward, to name a few. Nancy Harris Quackenbush, born in 1818 on the property that was to become the site for the cemetery twenty years later, died in 1900 and is buried on the exact spot the cabin stood at her birth.

Using this Publication

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Monroe County Alms House, home for the poor

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The Publisher

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- *Mt. Hope Cemetery Interment Records Volume 1, 1837-1860*, available in book and CD formats from RGS.
- *Mt. Hope Cemetery Interment Records Volume 2, 1860-1881*, available in book and CD formats from RGS.
- *Mt. Hope Cemetery Interment Records Volume 3, 1882-1892*, available in book and CD formats from RGS.
- *Genealogical Guide to Monroe County, NY* compiled by Richard T. Halsey, updated 2006, available from RGS
- *Location of Cemeteries & Cemetery Records of Monroe County, NY* compiled by Richard T. Halsey & Lawrence Naukam, updated 2006, available from RGS.
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