

A Letter From the President

The Friends of Hope Cemetery are at a turning point in promoting conservation, beautification and recognition of the cemetery. Much of our work has been in the area of conservation. This year our plan is to restore the Prince mausoleum. When completed, the majority of the work on the cemetery's mausoleums will be finished.

We have designed and planted gardens throughout the 168 acres of rolling land, planted and maintained trees, and installed The Children's Garden. This work is ongoing and preserving our "garden cemetery" heritage will remain an important mission.

We are developing signs that tell the story of Hope Cemetery more fully. That, combined with our new Hope Cemetery Visitors Guide and Map, will help visitors learn more about the people buried in the cemetery. New street signs will guide people through the cemetery and new markers will give them a brief history of various areas.

Our members have asked for more walking tours of Hope and we are in the process of creating them. Early last summer we conducted a Tree Walk that was interesting and informative. This walk will be repeated in 2009 and will include a wide variety of our trees. We also plan to have a Bird Sighting Program to look for the many birds that visit Hope as they migrate to their winter and summer homes.

We welcome your comments and invite you to visit our website to learn more about our activities, history, and projects.

www.friendsofhopecemetery.org

—Elda Ann Bloom, President



The Fall Walk

With bright sunshine and warm weather, the last Sunday in October was the perfect occasion for the Friends' Fall Walk at the cemetery. Led by Bill Wallace and John Anderson, a large group walked through many of the older parts of the cemetery. The walkers gave special attention to the removals from the old Mechanic Street Burial Ground and their slate markers with the distinctive willow and urn designs, the Odd Fellows lot with its great granite sphere, and the graves of activists and reformers like Burnham Wardwell and Eli Thayer.



Left: Visitors learn about Houghton Mausoleum
Above: (Top) Bill Wallace discusses old stones removed from the Mechanics Street Burial Ground; (Bottom) In front of Norcross Mausoleum

Did you know?

Among those buried at Hope is Horace H. Bigelow, described by his contemporaries as a “visionary” and a “typical New England genius.” Bigelow first made his name in the boot and shoe industry with a series of inventions to improve shoe manufacture. He then made his name in the city’s commercial life, both as the proprietor of a skating arena in downtown Worcester and the developer of much of the Lake View section of Worcester. These activities were matched by his role as a civic leader, donating the land for Lake Park, helping incorporate the city’s first cooperative bank and introducing profit sharing in the shoe business. The Bigelow-Stevens Mausoleum was restored in 2002 by Peter Taylor, a cousin of Horace Bigelow.



The great barn at Hope Cemetery, built in 1882, was named to the Endangered Structures List 2006 by Preservation Worcester. In June, Preservation Worcester received a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for a consultant who will conduct a structural survey. Work is underway and a report will be forthcoming in the spring.

Winter Lecture to Focus on the Foster Family

On Sunday, March 22nd at 3 pm, the Friends of Hope will present their annual winter lecture at Houhanesian Hall, in the Administration Building located just inside the gates of Hope Cemetery.

The program, entitled “The Abolitionist Family of Hope Cemetery: Abby Kelly Foster, Stephen Foster and Allah Foster”, will be a dramatic presentation of theatre, letters, and conversations. It is being prepared by members of the Worcester Women’s History Project and will feature Carolyn Howe and Lynne McKenney Lydick.

We invite all our members and their guests to attend this interesting presentation. It will begin at 3 pm and a reception will follow.

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