

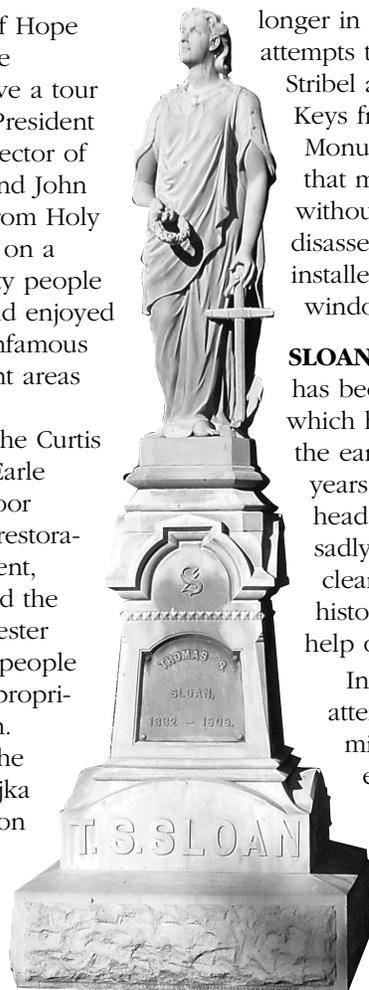


Fall Tour of Hope Cemetery

Members of the Board of friends of Hope Cemetery, in conjunction with the Worcester Historical Museum, gave a tour Sunday, October 30, 2005. Tracy C. Dill, President of the Friends, Bill Wallace, Executive Director of the museum, a cemetery commissioner, and John B. Anderson, history professor emeritus from Holy Cross College presented the walking tour on a picture perfect fall day. Approximately fifty people attended the hour and a half long tour and enjoyed learning about some of the famous and infamous burials and unique monuments in different areas of the Cemetery.

The tour began with a description of the Curtis Chapel which was designed by Stephen Earle and demolished in 1961 because of its poor condition. Tour leaders cited the Friends restoration projects, including the Sloan Monument, throughout the walk. Bill and John regaled the group with interesting stories about Worcester residents buried in Hope Cemetery. Two people attended in costume which was eerily appropriate since it was the day before Halloween.

The tour ended with refreshments at the Nixon Gates. We are grateful to Elaine Pajka who organized the event and Mary Johnson who assisted her the day of the tour. Plans are underway for another tour later this year.



Restoration Continues at Hope

In the Spring of 2005, the Friends voted to allocate money from the treasury to do three much-needed restoration projects.

KIDD-HARDING MAUSOLEUM: This mausoleum was vandalized in 1993 and its windows were broken allowing ice, water, and debris to enter the building and cause further deterioration. The valuable but badly damaged windows were removed from the building and placed in storage until funds become available to make proper repairs. Meanwhile, the window openings have been secured with lexon, an unbreakable glass substitute, and new locks have been put on the doors.

SHAW MAUSOLEUM: This mausoleum suffers from the same fate as the one above, but, in this case, access is more challenging. The large bronze doors are secured with a lock made by a company no longer in business. We have made numerous attempts to open the door. Our restorer, Steve Stribel and a local locksmith tried. Similar Keys from the cemetery office, Tom Rex Monument Company and Rural Cemetery that might fit the lock were also tried without success. The lock will have to be disassembled this spring and a new lock installed. We will then repair the broken window from inside.

SLOAN MONUMENT: A rewarding project has been restoring the figure of Hope, which had been knocked from her base in the early 90s, to her original position. For years she has slept in the grass with her head propped up against the base gazing sadly across the Cemetery. The base was cleaned and repaired and the graceful historic figure raised into place with the help of the cemetery staff and a backhoe.

In all three cases we have made attempts to find family members who might be interested in supporting these efforts but we have not been successful. We are committed to continuing to work on behalf of the Friends to restore and conserve the monuments, stones and mausoleums in Hope Cemetery.

The Friends of Hope Welcome Its Newest Board Members

Michael Moschos

Michael Moschos has been a practicing attorney in this area for over 25 years and has much pride in the community in which he resides. His parents are buried in Hope Cemetery and he and his brother have already purchased their family plots. Michael very much appreciates the historic nature of the cemetery and is proud to be a member of its Board of Directors. He envisions his role as and advocate for education programs for all ages, particularly children and young adults. He see the Friends as a great resource for the general public to learn about the history of the cemetery and those buried there. He stated, "We need to be spokes-persons for this 'outdoor museum' and to encourage all to visit and reflect much as one would do at any other noteworthy museum."

Elaine Pajka

The Friends of Hope Cemetery are delighted that Elaine Pajka said "yes" when asked to become a member of the Board. Elaine is a retired school teacher who decided to apply for a part-time position at the Worcester Historical Museum because of her love of the city and its inspiring history. Although she knew about Hope Cemetery because her grandparents are buried there, her

interest in the place grew when she learned more about it from Bill Wallace. Elaine volunteered to serve on the program committee and her great ideas and high energy soon became apparent to all. She worked on the fall cemetery walk (described on page one) and developed a 2006 calendar with pictures of the sites highlighted in that tour. She is helping with programming soon to be announced and is always looking for new ways to have the community learn about the jewel that she has come to know...Hope Cemetery.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 12, 3 pm

MOVIE: The Loved One
S.P.Q.R., 86 Winter Street, Worcester, \$5

Saturday, March 25, 1 pm

LECTURE: An Overview of Genealogy
by Kay Sheldon
Presented by the Friends of Hope
Cemetery and Worcester Historical Museum

Friday, April 28

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM, TBA

June, 2006

ANNUAL MEETING, TBA

A Letter from the President

I am pleased to report that fundraising for the new Children's Monument is proceeding well, and we are close to our goal. Our wish is to exceed our target so we can landscape the area and make it a space for contemplation.

Members and non-members of the Friends as well as several funeral homes have contributed to the fundraising effort. Donations have also been made in memory of Barbara Bombard, the late wife of Cemetery Commissioner William Bombard, by her family and friends.

The beauty of Hope Cemetery is evident to me in all seasons: on a fall walk, a snowy day or with new spring flowers planted in memory of a loved one. Our goal at the Friends is to work with the City to make this historic cemetery beautiful throughout the year. As you read about our latest restoration efforts and programs, remember we cannot do this without your support.

Thank you,
Tracy C. Dill
President

Friends of Hope Cemetery Board of Directors

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