

HOPE CEMETERY CIVIL WAR WALK

In November, 2011, over sixty people enjoyed a sunny fall day as they visited some of Hope Cemetery's Civil War veterans graves. Lead by Mark Savolis, the tour started near the memorial cannons in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) section 45. There they saw the graves of George Works and Warren Alger who were both captured by the Confederates on the same day near Petersburg, Virginia. Works managed to escape back to the North, while Alger was sent on to the infamous Andersonville prison where he died later that year. Next to Alger lies his mother, Susan Alger, who served as a nurse in New York during the war. Up the hill from them is Edwin Foster,

who in 1929 was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. The tour ended at the grave of Thomas Plunkett, the armless hero of Fredericksburg, who won the Medal of Honor for bravery carrying the flag of his regiment. The talk was illustrated by photographs of the men and quotations from letters that they wrote home.

Because of the civil war anniversary, such walks are now popular. Check the Friends' website to see when another walk will be held. Local historian Mark Savolis gave such a vivid portrait of the soldiers buried in Hope that they became real in our minds.

FYI

- 1851** During the past year the city purchased a lot of about 50 acres, south of New Worcester for a public cemetery at a cost of \$1855
- 1856** People from the small burial ground on Raccoon Plain were reburied in Hope...
- 1858** During the year the last relic removed from the graves in the former burial ground upon Cambridge Street...

A Message from the President

Dear Friends...

People sometimes ask "What does your Board of Directors do?" I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little about what goes on behind the scenes to keep this organization running.

As President I try to "set the course" for the year and prepare the agenda for each monthly meeting. I stay involved with all our activities throughout the year and plan our Annual Meeting. All the other officers assist by keeping our books in order, filing our tax information and paying the bills. The secretary takes minutes at each meeting and is responsible for sending them to our 16 member Board. When I say to you we truly have a working Board I mean it!

All of the other members are asked to do things during the year which include preparing press releases, updating our website, processing all the incoming memberships and preparing each year for the renewals. We also ask members to help solicit new memberships and this year one member obtained more than 25 new members from his church. We have members that prepare nature walks and historic talks and often solicit their colleagues to present programs for our membership. We also have an Arbor Day Celebration for three third grade classes from Gates Lane School which includes tree planting, poems by the children and snacks. One member coordinates our newsletter with various Board members writing articles. We have several sub-committees that are presently working on our long range financial planning, increased historic signs for designated areas of the cemetery and working to have our website appeal to viewers. One member also answers requests that come through the cemetery office for genealogy. One member sits as a member of the Hope Cemetery Commission.

The whole Board collectively discusses new projects for planting, beautification and restoration which are at the heart of our mission.

I hope this helps to understand the work of this group.

Sincerely
Ann C. Nelson, President



ARBOR DAY 2012

Each year, the Friends of Hope Cemetery have an Arbor Day Celebration on the last Friday in April. This year will be April 27th. For the event, third grade classes from the Gates Lane School, come to the Cemetery to share their reports, stories and poems about the importance of trees in our lives. Then the students help plant the two trees, a new and fun experience for many of them. Cemetery staff dig the holes for the tree planting and the students add the soil to finish the process. The children find the digging and planting fun and the chance to see strange new things, such as earthworms, in the disturbed earth. Then all have a snack of juice and cookies. If there is time before the bus ride back to school, there may be a chance to look at some of the other old and beautiful trees. This tradition has been going for several years. Please feel free to join us at the 2012 sit. The location will be posted at the office building



MEMBERS FREE; NONMEMBERS, \$5

SPRING LECTURE

Byzantine Roots of Russian Icons: The Story of the Collection at the Museum of Russian Icons

BY KENT DUR RUSSELL,

CEO & CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012 • 4 PM

FOUNDERS ROOM,

ST. SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

102 RUSSELL STREET, WORCESTER

— A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW —

DID YOU KNOW

THE ONLY MAYOR OF WORCESTER TO DIE IN OFFICE IS BURIED IN HOPE CEMETERY.

Walter J. Cookson died in Cleveland on June 11, 1936. Cookson, along with a number of Worcester delegates, including George F. Booth, who is also buried at Hope, was attending the Republican National Convention. Cookson, long active in city politics, had been elected mayor in 1935, after serving 26 years on the School Committee, thirteen of them as its chair. During his tenure twelve elementary schools and two junior high schools were constructed.

Cookson's body was returned to Worcester where 25,000 people passed his bier as it lay in state in the Memorial Chamber in the relatively new Memorial Auditorium. After a funeral service at Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, a long procession carried the body to Hope.

"Never," said the Worcester Telegram, "has any local citizen received such a tribute as was paid" to Mayor Cookson. Just eight days before Cookson's death, the city had purchased twenty-six acres of land on College Hill, not too far away from his home on Princeton Street, for a playground. Appropriately the playground was named for him.

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2011-2012

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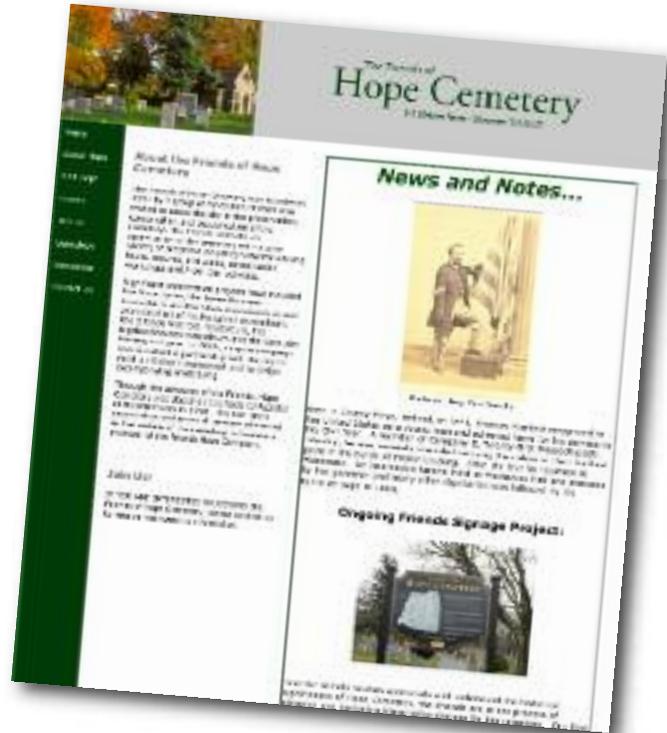
William D. Wallace

Friends Website Gets an Update...

Recent visitors to the Friends website may have noticed some exciting changes. A "News and Notes" section has been added to the home page. This will allow members to get the most recent updates on upcoming programs and projects happening in and around the cemetery. In the future it will allow us, from time to time, to share with members interesting stories about its fascinating history and the people buried there. Make sure to check it out!

LOOK FOR MORE WEBSITE UPDATES IN THE COMING MONTHS.

Please visit our website
www.friendsofhopecemetery.org



Friends of Hope Cemetery
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Worcester, MA 01603