



The Friends of
**MOUNT HOPE
CEMETERY**

P.O. Box 18713
Rochester, NY 14618-0713
www.fomh.org

MEETING PLACES FOR TOURS:

North Gatehouse: 791 Mt. Hope Avenue
Opposite Robinson Drive

South Gate: 1133 Mt. Hope Avenue
Opposite the Distillery Restaurant

Riverside Cemetery, 2650 Lake Avenue



Find Friends of Mt. Hope, and "Like"!

TOUR PRICING

General and Theme Tours:
\$15; FOMH members free!

From The Beyond tour: **\$15** for both
members and non-members

Advance tickets available via FOMH website
Walk-ins welcome
Cash and credit cards accepted

Children under 18 free when accompanied
by a paying adult.

Tour fees and memberships directly fund the
restoration and preservation projects of the
Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery – **Thank you!**

Degree of physical difficulty: Tours are not
always kept to paved paths. We recommend
comfortable walking shoes, not open
sandals.

The Degree of Difficulty rating is provided for
each tour, on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being
flat/paved/easy, and 5 most strenuous due
to hills/stairs/unpaved paths.

Cover photo: Sally Millick



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**2023 Guided
Walking Tours**

2023 GENERAL TOURS

*Pricing and Meeting Points on the back of
brochure.*

Public Tours: North Section

Sundays, 1 pm, May 7- October 22, 2023

Meet: North Gatehouse opposite Robinson Dr.

This foundational tour includes the graves of
Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, topics of
local history, geology, architecture, monument
symbolism, and more. Two-hour mile walk on both
paved roads and uneven terrain. Difficulty 3.

Twilight Tours

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, May 13-August 10, 2023

Meet: North Gatehouse opposite Robinson Dr.

These 75-minute tours include some topics
covered on Sunday North Section tours as well as
new material, on an alternative route in the North
section. Difficulty 3.

2023 THEME TOURS

Tree Walk Along the Fence Line

Walk with our own tree lover Tom Jones looking for
signs of Spring—the fresh burst of leaf and flower
buds.

Guide: Tom Jones South Entrance/Difficulty 2

Saturday, April 29, 11 am

Home to the Prosperous and Penniless

Stroll the paved, flat-surfaced Grove Avenue. Learn
about residents of great wealth and status, and those
who had little in life, but left a mark, nonetheless.

Guide: Cam Tran South/ Difficulty 1

Saturday, May 6, 11 am

Early Morning Bird Watcher Tour

The early bird will catch the worm during this early
morning tour. Join Genesee Valley Audubon Society
members as they seek out migratory birds and other
unique species.

Guide: Joanne Mitchell North/Difficulty 3

Sunday, May 7, 8 am

2023 THEME TOURS

**Seeking the Cure: The Medical Heritage of Mount
Hope Cemetery**

From the early 19th century to the present,
Rochester has been on the leading edge of health
care, and Mount Hope is the final home of many of
these innovators and national leaders in medicine
and public health.

Guide: Dennis Carr South/Difficulty 3

Saturday, May 13, 11 am

More Temples on the Lawn!

Featuring many mausoleums that have not been
visited on previous tours. From famous Rochester
residents to the those that remain mostly unknown,
learn about the families that built these "temples" as
their eternal resting places.

Guide: Chris Grooms South/Difficulty 1

Saturday, May 20, 11 am

Decoration Day

First celebrated to honor the Civil War dead, learn
about the origins of Memorial Day and hear the
stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Guide: Deb Coffey North/Difficulty 3

Saturday, May 27, 11 am

Batter Up! Rochester's Baseball Pioneers

Rochester's first baseball club was founded in 1825!
Join the *Rochester Baseball Historical Society* on a
tour of the unique history of baseball in Rochester, as
told through the lives of Mount Hope residents, and
learn about how the rules of baseball have evolved
since that first club.

Guides: Tony Brancato, Richard Astifan

North/Difficulty 2

Saturday, June 3, 11 am

**Rochester Made Means Quality: The Ideas and
Innovators that put Rochester on the Map**

Rochester was a manufacturing powerhouse at the
turn of the 20th century. Learn about the city's
industrial past, and the innovators and entrepreneurs
who created new markets and built thriving
businesses.

Guide: Sarah Johnson South/Difficulty 2

Saturday, June 10, 11 am

Underground Railroad Tracks

Frederick Douglass and many other Rochester citizens kept the Freedom Seekers moving northward through a secret network in their city and homes.

Guide: Sally Millick South/Difficulty 3

Saturday, June 17, 11 am

Etched in Stone

What does ivy represent? Explore the meaning of the symbols, epitaphs and funerary art that were designed to tell a story about the person buried there, and what these symbols tell us about Victorians' views of life, death, and rebirth.

Guide: Deb Coffey South/Difficulty 2

Saturday, June 24, 11 am

Black Lives Tour of Mt Hope

Join the co-Author of *Beyond These Gates: Mountains of Hope in Rochester's African American History*, as he shares stories of the lives of Black Rochesterians interred in Mount Hope. Learn about abolitionists, veterans, barbers, ministers, and community activists, from Ferdinand S. Cunningham to the family of Frederick Douglass.

Guide: Verdis Robinson South/Difficulty 2

Saturday, July 1, 11 am

A Nation of Joiners: Ritual, Regalia and the History of Fraternalism in America

From the early nineteenth through the twentieth century the symbols and emblems of secret societies and benefit organizations appear on monuments in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Guide: Dennis Carr South/Difficulty 1

Saturday, July 8, 11 am

Together for Eternity: Institutional Plots

Hear the stories behind the many Mount Hope plots purchased by churches, schools, charitable organizations, veterans' groups and other institutions.

Guide: Dennis Carr South/Difficulty 2

Saturday, July 15, 11 am

Rochester's Gilded Age

An "illustrated" tour visiting the notable owners and neighborhood of the grand "Gilded Age" East Avenue mansions, including many residences forever lost.

Guide: Sally Millick South/Difficulty 3

Saturday, July 22, 11 am

The Artistic Legacy of Mount Hope

Explore Rochester's rich artistic history through the stories of those who lived it. Painters, actors, poets, sculptors, landscape designers and benefactors will all be featured on this tour in the north section.

Guide: Chris Grooms North/Difficulty 2

Saturday, July 29, 11 am

The Ice Cream Tour!

We all scream for ice cream! Meet the confectioners and ice cream makers that satisfied Rochesterians' sweet tooth. Join us for a sweet treat after the tour.

Guide: Sarah Johnson South/Difficulty 2

Saturday, August 5, 11 am

In the Shadow of Shakespeare

Bring your sense of humor and sturdy shoes as we go "offroad" to plots we don't often visit, including a Shakespeare (but not THAT Shakespeare). Who knew you could learn about Rochester and Shakespearean plays and characters at the same time?

Guide: Sally Millick North/Difficulty 3

Saturday, August 12, 11 am

Mayors of Rochester

Learn about Rochester's intriguing political history as we visit several of the 51 former mayors that chose Mount Hope Cemetery as their final resting place. Featuring a new slate of mayors not included in previous tours.

Guide: Chris Grooms North/Difficulty 3

Saturday, August 19, 11 am

Round the Flag: Civil War Stories of Duty, Sacrifice, & Valor

Learn about those who participated in America's first "modern" war.

Guide: FOMH Ensemble South/Difficulty 3

Saturday, Aug 26, 11am

Off the Beaten Path

Traverse the sections of Mount Hope not often covered on tours to meet 19th century Rochesterians, pivotal leaders, entrepreneurs, and heroes.

Guide: Joanne Mitchell North/Difficulty 4

Saturday, September 2, 11 am

Ales from the Crypt: Brewers, Breweries, and the History of Beer in Rochester

Rochester was home to more than two dozen breweries prior to Prohibition. Join us for this tour celebrating "liquid bread" and the men that brewed it, and join us later to lift a glass of local beer to history.

Guides: Sarah Johnson, Chris Grooms North/Difficulty 2

Saturday, September 9, 4 pm

Mount Hope Cemetery:

An Evolving Cultural Landscape

This tour focuses on the geographic evolution of Mount Hope from America's first municipal rural cemetery to meeting today's trends in cremation and natural burial.

Guide: MCC Professor Michael Boester

North/Difficulty 2

Saturday, September 16, 11 am

Geology of Mount Hope Cemetery

A University of Rochester professor of Geology leads this fascinating tour that reveals how the glaciers formed the dramatic landscape of Mount Hope.

Guide: Professor Rory Cottrell, UR

North/Difficulty 3

Saturday, September 23, 11 am

The Pundit Club

19th century Rochester was an incubator of intellectuals, and the members of the Pundit Club were its leaders. Learn more about the deep thinkers in Rochester's intellectual community.

Guide: FOMH Ensemble North/Difficulty 2

Saturday, September 30, 11 am

Undertakers, Wakes, & Tears: Mourning Rituals in 19th Century America

Learn about Victorians' complex relationship with death, and the socially accepted, but somewhat curious, rituals and customs used to express their grief.

Guide: Deb Coffey North/Difficulty 3

Saturday, October 7, 11 am

SPECIAL EVENT

From the Beyond: Tales of Melancholy, Grief, and Tragedy

Saturday, October 14, Noon-1:45 pm

Unimaginable circumstances! Unexplained phenomena! Unfortunate events! Unbelievable superstitions! Just some of what affected Mount Hope Cemetery "residents" during their time among the living.

Guides: FOMH Ensemble North/Difficulty 3

\$15 for members and non-members. Advance tickets recommended as space is limited.

Escorted tour groups go out every 15 minutes. First tour departs at 12 noon. Last tour 1:45pm.

Riverside Ramble: History, Scenery & Stories

Explore historic **Riverside Cemetery**, established in 1892. Learn about its social, cultural, and landscape history.

Guide: Joanne Mitchell, Cynthia Howk

Meet: Riverside Cemetery Gate, 2650 Lake Avenue
Difficulty 1

Sunday, October 15, 1 pm

Fall Foliage at Mount Hope Cemetery

Enjoy the beauty and color of Mount Hope Cemetery's trees as they prepare for the winter season.

Guide: Tom Jones North/Difficulty 3

Saturday, October 21, 11 am

Mischief, Murder, and Mayhem

Meet some Mount Hope permanent residents who bent, broke, or enforced the law, or whose lives met an unfortunate or grisly end.

Guide: Dennis Carr North/Difficulty 3

Saturday, October 28, 11 am