



Guest view: A walk through history

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Utica's Forest Hill Cemetery is literally a "who's who" of notable and prominent historical figures whose significance goes far beyond Utica to Albany and Washington, D.C. It is also a repository for some of the most stunning, beautiful, and haunting outdoor sculpture in the area, some of which was designed by famous artists.

The cemetery also provides the perfect venue for a history lesson — one of which will be offer in a public tour planned Saturday.

Among the notable Uticans who have been buried there are:

- Dr. Amariah Brigham (1798-1849), the first superintendent of the Utica Lunatic Asylum (now known as "Old Main").
- Dr. Charles Coventry (1801-1875), the man responsible for proposing to the state legislature the building of the Utica Lunatic Asylum.
- Alfred Munson (1793-1854), Helen Elizabeth Williams (1824-1894), James Watson Williams (1810-1873), Frederick T. Proctor (1856-1929), Rachel Williams (1850-1915), and Maria Williams (1853-1935), all of whom have been associated with the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute in some fashion.
- John Butterfield (1801-1869), along with Theodore Faxton (1794-1881), were instrumental in the beginnings of Samuel F. B. Morse's telegraph, American Express, Western Union, and the development of a model for the Associated Press.
- James Schoolcraft Sherman (1855-1912), a member of Congress and vice president of the United States under William H. Taft.

Among those are historical figures who were important to the mansions at Rutger Park:

- Judge Morris Miller (1779-1821), lawyer, judge, secretary to the first Supreme Court Justice and "founding father" John Jay, and the inspiration behind No. 3 Rutger Park.
- Rutger Bleecker Miller (1805-1877), son of Mary Bleecker and Judge Morris Miller, and the one responsible for the completion of No. 3 Rutger Park.
- Horatio Seymour (1810-1886), governor, presidential candidate, Democratic powerhouse, and brother-in-law of Roscoe Conkling. Seymour died in No. 3 Rutger Park.
- Roscoe Conkling (1829-1888), mayor, congressman, senator, and the "power" behind President Ulysses. S. Grant. Conkling is the most historic figure associated with the mansion at No. 3 Rutger Park.

Michael J. Bosak is president of the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica.

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CEMETERY WALK

WHAT: Walking tour of Forest Hill Cemetery, given by Rand Carter, professor of history at Hamilton College and past president of the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica.

WHEN: 2 p.m. Saturday.

WHERE: Meet inside the main gate at the parking lot, off Oneida Street in Utica. Comfortable shoes are strongly recommended; there will be some hill climbing involved.

ADMISSION: \$5 — will benefit the Landmarks Society and the Forest Hill Cemetery Association.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE/HEAR:

Final resting places of some of Utica's most prominent citizens; magnificent outdoor sculpture that also serves as grave markers. Learn of the rich symbolism associated with these crypts, mausoleums and headstones.

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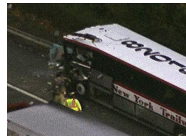
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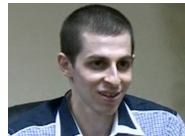
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