LEWIS HENRY MORGAN AND THE "PUNDIT CLUB"
A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
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This guided tour is sponsored by Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery and *Lewis Henry Morgan at 200*, a critical appreciation of Morgan’s numerous legacies. *Lewis Henry Morgan at 200* is a collaboration between University of Rochester departments and community partners that features public talks and film screenings as well as exhibits and a digital humanities project.

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We gratefully acknowledge the enthusiastic support of Dr. Paul Burgett (1946 - 2018) for the restoration of the Morgan family mausoleum, and we dedicate this tour to his memory.

For more information about Lewis Henry Morgan’s life and works, please visit the project website at [http://rbscp.digitalscholar.rochester.edu/wp/Morgan200/](http://rbscp.digitalscholar.rochester.edu/wp/Morgan200/)
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MAP OF GUIDED TOUR
LEWIS HENRY MORGAN
1818-1881

Section F, Lot 65

Lewis Henry Morgan was a prominent Rochester attorney and businessman who served two terms in the New York State Legislature. He was also an internationally known scholar who corresponded with Charles Darwin, influenced Karl Marx, and established the fields of anthropology and archeology in the United States. In 1931, a Democrat and Chronicle article hailed Morgan as “Rochester’s most distinguished man of science.” Today, however, Morgan is less well remembered in Rochester than his two visionary contemporaries Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass.

A Somber Memorial

There is neither a statue of Lewis Henry Morgan nor any similar memorial to him in Rochester. A public primary school in the city’s 19th Ward was named after Morgan in 1917, but it closed in the early 2000s. Morgan’s family mausoleum, however, is a substantial remembrance. It was constructed in 1862 during the months following the deaths of his two young daughters from scarlet fever while Morgan was far away on a research trip up the Missouri River. Morgan carefully designed the tomb with the help of local architects Henry Searle and Son. At the time of its completion, the structure was one of the most impressive and expensive in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Morgan planned to include an image of the mausoleum along with a long dedication to his daughters in his 1871 book, Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family, but the publisher rejected the plan as inappropriate for a scientific treatise.

Family Background

Born in 1818, Morgan grew up in the village of Aurora, New York. His grandfather received land in the area in recognition of his service in the Revolutionary War and migrated from New London, Connecticut, where Morgan’s ancestors had lived since 1648. Morgan was one of eight children born to Harriett Steele (1785-1854), Jedidiah Morgan’s (1774 – 1826) second wife. Jedidiah died when Morgan was only eight years old, leaving the boy to be raised by his mother and older siblings. In 1838, Morgan left
Aurora for Union College in Schenectady, New York, where he studied Latin and Greek. After graduation, he returned to Aurora to study law.

Morgan moved to Rochester in 1844 to practice law. He married Mary Elizabeth Steele (1819 – 1883), his first cousin, in 1851. Mary’s inheritance enabled her to buy a row house on Fitzhugh Street in 1854, just six years after married women were allowed by law to own property in New York State. The Morgans lived in this Third Ward house for the rest of their lives, raising a son and two daughters. Mary Elisabeth was six years old and Helen King was two years old when they died, the news of which left Morgan “a miserable and destroyed man.” Lemuel Steele Morgan (1853 - 1905) was dependent on family members his entire life and had no children.

Scholar and Scientist

As a young man in Aurora, Morgan led a semi-secret fraternal society in which young white men held ceremonies dressed in Indian regalia. Society members also recorded the historical traditions of local Indians. These activities led to Morgan’s first book, *The League of the Ho-dé-no-sau-nee, or Iroquois* (1851), which marks the beginning of American anthropology. Although flawed, the book is notable for its attempt to understand Haudenosaunee social and political institutions in their own distinctive cultural terms. It was written with the assistance of Ely S. Parker and Caroline G. Parker, members of a prominent Tonawanda Seneca family that befriended Morgan and facilitated his field research. Ely Parker went on to become a Sachem in the Iroquois Confederacy, a US Army General who served as Ulysses S. Grant’s military secretary, and the head of the US Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Morgan’s later publications made substantial and enduring contributions to subjects as diverse as the study of domestic architecture and the natural history of beavers. His landmark 1871 book *Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family* initiated the comparative study of kinship as a central anthropological concern. Morgan’s collections of Iroquois material culture, now housed at museums in Albany and Rochester, continue to provide a touchstone for contemporary Haudenosaunee artists.

A Man of his Time

Despite his scholarly insights and his occasional advocacy for the interests of the Tonawanda Senecas and other Native Americans, Morgan failed to overcome the racial assumptions and prejudices of the settler colonial society in which he lived. He
imagined assimilation to white American society and eventual citizenship, rather than cultural autonomy and political sovereignty, as the future for all Native people and nations.

Morgan’s 1877 book *Ancient Society* charted a single path of progress for all human societies that led from “savagery” to “barbarism” to “civilization.” For Morgan, as for many other social thinkers in his day, Indigenous societies such as the Onondawaga (Seneca) represented earlier phases of history through which his own Euro-American society had evolved on the way to “civilization.” Morgan accordingly thought of his task as documenting the lifeways of Indigenous peoples before they vanished—a fate that he wrongly believed to be inevitable.

**Rochester Citizen**

Morgan was elected to both the New York State Assembly (1861) and New York State Senate (1868-1869). He lobbied for improvements in infrastructure such as the Erie Canal in order to enhance commerce, and he amassed a sizable fortune from his work as a corporate lawyer and his investments in railroads and iron smelting in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Morgan also co-founded and led “The Club,” a fraternal literary society that brought together many of Rochester’s leading intellectuals and professionals.

A firm believer in democracy and the power of education, Morgan also favored greater equality of the sexes. He bequeathed his estate and library to the University of Rochester for the specific purpose of making available to women the same higher education already available to men. At the University, however, there were no memorials to Morgan until a wing in the new Women’s Residence Halls was named for him in 1955. (The dormitory was later named for Susan B. Anthony.) In 1963, the Department of Anthropology created an annual lecture series named for Morgan.

**Resting Place for Friends and Extended Family**

Morgan wished that immediate family, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, and specified friends would be offered a place in the mausoleum. All members of Morgan’s immediate family were eventually interred in the mausoleum. Gerard Arink and his wife Ellen, longtime friends of the Morgans, are buried just outside of the tomb. Morgan had also offered his close friend and First Presbyterian pastor Rev. Joshua Hall
McIlvaine space for McIlvaine’s deceased daughter, but McIlvaine declined the kind gesture.

In 1950, Morgan’s namesake Lewis Henry Morgan, a grandnephew who lived in Brighton, New York, was the last person interred in the mausoleum. (The grandnephew’s two daughters, Rosemary C. Morgan and Louise Eleanor Morgan, both attended the University of Rochester.) The mausoleum’s presence is still imposing but, unfortunately, the sandstone from which the mausoleum is constructed has badly eroded. Plans are being made for stabilizing and restoring the tomb.
Mid-nineteenth century Rochester, New York was not only a boomtown but also an incubator for the intellect. The University of Rochester established a credible reputation soon after its founding in 1850, and its professors expanded the ranks of professionals already living in the city. Businessmen and lawyers established themselves alongside the rapidly growing industry and commerce in the Flour City. A strong Protestantism took hold, and Rochester’s early professionals filled the pews of churches for years before they joined the rows of Mt. Hope Cemetery visible today. A spirit of productivity pervaded this period of economic growth and development, and men of nineteenth-century Rochester sought personal progress and self-cultivation through literary fraternities and clubs, following a national pattern. One of the earliest and certainly the longest running club – it continues to this day – is named simply “The Club.”

Like many clubs of the era, membership in The Club was limited to men; however, the wives of members had a lasting impact, humorously referring to the fraternity as the “Pundit Club,” the name by which it is commonly known today. Morey’s “Reminiscences of the ‘Club’” helpfully categorizes the “pundits” as men from the clerical, medical, and legal professions; the “professorial class,” mostly from the University of Rochester; and an “unclassified group,” to which Lewis Henry Morgan belonged. Morgan and University of Rochester President Martin B. Anderson are credited with forming the Club on July 13, 1854, although Morgan took a more prominent role as secretary, the Club’s only effective office. Morgan notes that upon becoming “an entity and a verity,” the Club’s roster listed only nine prominent Rochester names: himself, President Martin B. Anderson, Rev. Dr. Joshua McIlvaine, Prof. John H. Raymond, Mr. E. Peshine Smith, Mr. Calvin Huson Jr., Dr. Chester Dewey, Dr. Asahel Kendrick, and Hon. Harvey Humphrey. The official number of members would later be increased to eighteen in 1863 and twenty in 1865.

Club meetings occurred every other Tuesday and were preceded by invitations sent out by the secretary (Records 1854-1904, vol. 1). Members took turns presenting papers on
topics of their choice. Other members presided over the discussion that followed the presentation, which was limited to a five-minute response per person. Subject matter varied widely among members and from one meeting to another, ranging from translations of classical literature to discussions of the very newest science of the day—including Darwin and evolutionary theory. Dr. William Watson Ely’s “Anatomical Structure of the Beaver” and Lewis Henry Morgan’s “Beaver Dams and Lodges” provide good examples of the function of some papers as precursors to published work. The content of these papers and the results of the two men’s collaboration were published in 1868 in Morgan’s book, *The American Beaver and His Works*. No subject was off limits according to Morey, except for two: “polemic theology and partisan politics.” The range of subject matter for The Club was left to grow naturally based on members’ interests, in recognition of the “essential unity of all knowledge,” according to Morgan’s notes. This sentiment regarding the pursuit of knowledge became codified with the informal adoption of a Latin motto: “Si quid veri inveneris, profer,” translated as “If you discover any truth, let it be known.”

The records of Morgan and subsequent secretaries on attendance, the presenter and the title of his paper, and any proceedings of note, are bound and preserved. Referred to as Club archives, these documents were first housed in a safe deposit box acquired by The Club but are now housed at the University of Rochester Department of Rare Books, Special Collections and Preservation, a testament to the strong connection between The Club and the University. The first resolutions recorded in the leather-bound volumes regard the order of presenting, hosting, and presiding—issues resolved with an alphabetical list—and attendance. The Club determined that three consecutive absences constituted resignation, unless written excuse to the secretary was made. Summer travels created poor conditions for consistent attendance, so The Club adjourned from about June to September. Later resolutions dealt with less weighty matters, such as when dinner would be held and of what the menu would consist. The exclusivity of the Club was addressed as well, and the process for proposing and approving new members rose in importance, presumably as The Club became better known. Prospective members had to be unanimously voted in, and there could be no discussion regarding a candidate’s qualifications.

Over time, scholars have compared The Club and the Fortnightly Club, another Rochester organization, observing that The Club had an older membership with wider interests. The variety of papers supports the latter claim, while the Club’s aging membership becomes noticeable in the secretary’s minutes, which begin to include
memorials for deceased members written by those members who remembered them best or were closest to them. Lewis Henry Morgan’s memorial, written by Dr. Edward Mott Moore, claims, “This audience was his greatest pleasure and it was, in response invigorated by his enthusiasm.”

This reciprocal benefit of the Club that Morgan and many others cherished years ago is perhaps still compelling to current Club members. While the “entity and verity” that is The Club figures less prominently in Rochester today, The Club maintains not only its simple existence but also its connection with the City and University of Rochester. The Club’s ideal of the “essential unity of all knowledge” connected the diverse interests of its members, and now it also connects scholars through time: The Club remains active today.
FUN FACTS ABOUT THE PUNDIT CLUB

The Club remains the longest continuously active literary club in the United States.

Members discussed many topics but avoided partisan politics and polemic theology in their essays - perhaps the key to their long existence!

Club members were particularly interested in dinner. They resolved that at each meeting the host should provide a light supper and on one occasion even pasted the menu of an anniversary meeting into Club records!

The Club was very proud of the diversity of its topics of study and agreed that the preservation of the essays presented before the Club would benefit posterity.

The Club met throughout the Civil War and probably discussed slavery although no record remains because politics was not allowed.

Club members included E. Peshine Smith, who lived in Japan for over a year. When he arrived back in Rochester, he recounted his travels in an unscripted discussion.

The Club was so admired by younger generations that a “Junior Pundit Club” existed from 1866-1870.

The Club distinguished itself from other groups by relying primarily on its members' original writing rather than on publications or other literature, although some discussions of that nature did occur.

The Club occasionally held meetings at the Osburn House hotel at the corner of Broad Street and South Avenue, at the invitation of Prof. Samuel Lattimore. The meal was considered “a banquet of such extraordinary elegance as to deserve special mention.”
Edward Mott Moore was a Rochester physician and surgeon. He was born in 1814 to parents of Quaker and Huguenot descent in New Jersey. Many members of Moore’s family were abolitionists and involved in politics, including his relative Lucretia Mott, who helped write the Declaration of Sentiments at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. Moore got his degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical College and began a medical career that would last until his death in 1902. Besides practicing in Rochester, he also taught at several colleges in Vermont, Massachusetts, Ohio, and New York as a professor of surgery. He taught at the University of Buffalo for 25 years and was remembered for the “clearness and elegance” of his teaching. Moore served as the president of the American Medical Association, the Medical Society of the State of New York, and the local Red Cross chapter. He was also the founder and president of the American Surgical Association and the New York State Board of Health.

Moore helped establish several hospitals in Rochester, which have lived on long past his own lifetime. The Rochester City Hospital was founded in 1864 at the end of the Civil War, and it has lasted to the current day under the name of Rochester General Hospital. The Infants’ Summer Hospital was also Moore’s creation. The summer was a time of particular danger to young children living in the city: poor sanitation, crowded tenements, contaminated milk, and lack of refrigeration led to a high infant mortality rate. Moore founded the Infants’ Summer Hospital on the shores of Lake Ontario in about 1885 as a response to the mortality rate. At first, the hospital was made up entirely of a collection of tents. At the time, the wind blowing through the tents was believed to be good for the children. Within a few years, though, a more permanent building was constructed. The Infants’ Summer Hospital was moved from that site and exists today as Crestwood Children’s Center, part of the Hillside Family of Agencies. The original location and building now house the Shore Winds Nursing Home.

While Moore is best known as a physician, he also is famous for being the “Father of the Parks” of Rochester. In 1883, local nurserymen George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry offered 19 acres to the city of Rochester to form a public park, but the city decided not
to accept the gift at the time. Five years later, with the encouragement of Moore and others, the city accepted the land. The Rochester Park Commission was established, and Moore was its first president. Shortly thereafter, the commission hired Frederick Law Olmstead to design Highland Park and several others in town, including Genesee Valley Park.

Besides his medical profession and his work with the city parks, Moore was an active member of “The Club” (or “Pundit Club”) founded by his friend Lewis Henry Morgan. He, like many other Club members, was interested in Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution and how it related to the account of creation in the Bible. This topic was highly controversial at the time. Moore seemed to be more receptive to the idea of evolution than some of the more conservative Club members; he delivered a paper to The Club on “the Darwinian theory as it stands connected with Hybridity” in 1864. Moore continued presenting papers to The Club for his entire life. True to his title as president of the Park Commission, Moore delivered a paper to The Club in 1890 on the subject of public parks in Rochester, as well as one on “Municipal Reform” in 1895.

Moore was quite close to Lewis Henry Morgan and his family. At one point, Moore lived just down the street from the Morgan family. Morgan states in his 1862 travel journal that Moore was the doctor who treated his elder daughter when she fell off a second floor balcony; he may also have been one of the physicians looking in on both of Morgan’s daughters during their final illnesses. When Morgan died in 1881, the Club decided to write a memorial note for Morgan in the secretary’s book. The Club asked Moore to write the “Memorial Sketch”, which he did. In his words, “[Morgan’s] death has created a loss in this Club that can hardly be repaired by any other man. This audience was his greatest pleasure and it was, in response, invigorated by his enthusiasm.”

Edward Mott Moore died in 1902 of bronchitis and was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Section G, Lot 40. To this day there is a statue of Moore seated, gazing at the river in Genesee Valley Park, which was erected 25 years after Moore’s death. Since 1968, the Monroe County Medical Society has memorialized him in their annual Edward Mott Moore Awards. These awards go to recipients who “reflect the qualities exemplified by [Moore] as a physician, teacher, investigator, leader, and contributor to the community.”
FUN FACTS ABOUT EDWARD MOTT MOORE

Moore founded the Rochester Park System and was the first president of the Rochester Park Commission. He was known as the “Father of the Parks” of Rochester.

As president of the Rochester Park Commission, Moore hired Frederick Law Olmstead to design Highland Park and Genesee Valley Park.

There is a statue of Moore in Genesee Valley Park—south of the University of Rochester, on the eastern side of Moore Road (which runs parallel to U of R’s Park Lot). He is seated, looking towards the river.

Moore was instrumental in establishing the Rochester City Hospital, which is now Rochester General Hospital.

Moore also established the Infants’ Summer Hospital to try to keep infant mortality rates down in the summer by sending children to a tent-based camp on the shores of Lake Ontario.

Moore was a supporter of the University of Rochester at its creation and a trustee for 30 years.

Moore’s parents were abolitionists, educators, and women’s rights activists.

Moore is related to Lucretia Mott, who helped write the Declaration of Sentiments at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention.

Moore began studying Greek and Latin at age 4.

Moore’s medical career lasted from 1840 until his death in 1902.
Henry Augustus Ward was born on March 9, 1834. His grandfather, Dr. Levi Ward, was a doctor-turned-insurance man, and was prosperous and powerful in the city. His uncle, Levi A. Ward, was mayor of Rochester from 1849-1850. Henry’s father was another influential figure in his early life. When Henry was 12, his father left the family to go exploring out west and Henry ran away to follow him. He reached his father in Chicago after traversing the distance to Buffalo and boarding the steamboat to Chicago, but a clerk was summoned from Rochester to bring him home only a week after he had arrived. After this disappointment, Ward found new interest in his studies and soon became intrigued with geology. This newfound interest disappointed his mother, who was deeply religious and wanted him to become a man of the cloth.

Henry Ward first attended Williams College, concentrating on geology, but left after a short time. He later attended Temple Hill Academy in Geneseo, where he had the opportunity to meet renowned scientist Louis Agassiz. Ward walked 30 miles in the January snow and freezing rain to meet Agassiz when the latter was traveling through Western New York. Agassiz was impressed with Ward and invited him to study at Harvard, which Ward did. At age 20, he went with his friend Charlie Wadsworth to study at the French School of Mines in Paris, his expenses paid by Wadsworth’s father. Wadsworth became sick, and he and Ward spent time in Egypt and Jerusalem while Wadsworth recovered. It was at this point in his life that Henry Ward decided to put together the same geological “cabinets,” or displayed collections, as the ones he saw in European museums. This decision started him on the path to his eventual business, Ward’s Natural Science Establishment.

On his trip home from Europe in 1859, Ward’s boat passed alongside the western coast of Africa. During this passing, Ward fell very ill with a strong fever, and the captain decided to maroon him on the beach to prevent contagion onboard. Although Ward lived to tell the tale, he hardly remembered what took place there except that a local woman nursed him back to health. He caught a ship and returned to Rochester after an absence of five years.
Upon arriving home, Ward pursued his interest in natural history. With a substantial loan from his grandfather, he began building his own collection. In 1860, Ward received and unpacked 120 large boxes of specimens he had shipped home from Europe. In total, there were about 40,000 specimens of rocks and minerals as well as plaster casts of mollusks, reptiles, and mammals. Earlier that year, Ward had become Professor of Natural Sciences at the University of Rochester. In his classes, he took students on field trips to the Genesee Gorge and other locations to collect specimens. He saw a need to put together a zoology cabinet for the university to help in his teaching, and by the start of the Civil War he had gathered 20,000 specimens: plaster casts of fossils, preserved flowers, and stuffed animals. The gorilla attracted public commentary in the form of a poem by W.W. Ely, a physician and close friend of Lewis Henry Morgan, speculating on the evolutionary link between apes and humans. After an 1869 fire consumed the geological and zoological collections housed at the University of Rochester, Ward began teaching less and focusing on his own pursuits more, forming Ward’s Natural Science Establishment.

In the next thirty years, Ward built up his Establishment as a seller of everything a fledgling natural history museum or college collection might need: stuffed and mounted animals, geological cabinets, molds of fossils and rare specimens. He went on adventures sourcing orangutans for the American Museum of Natural History, finding and casting molds of a wooly mammoth thawed from the ice in Russia, and collecting meteorites worldwide. He also stuffed Jumbo the elephant, the prize of the Barnum circus tragically killed by a train in Canada.

Through all of this, Ward was, to some extent, also a member of Lewis Henry Morgan’s “Pundit Club”. A contemporary remembered Morgan and Ward together as being “unlike in circumstance [and] in natural bent,” but also “alike in their sense of a calling and in their uniqueness of purpose.” Ward did not like to talk about his exploits publicly, but upon being coaxed into doing so at a Club meeting, was so mortified that he decided he would never attend another meeting again. Despite his absence from Club meetings, Ward’s relationship with Morgan continued; when Morgan traveled to Europe with his family, professors and curators who had met Ward on his own travels were happy to show Morgan around. Both influential men are remembered as movers and shakers in 19th century Rochester.

On July 4, 1906, Henry Ward, then 72 years old, was killed in the first automobile accident in Buffalo, New York. His Establishment today lives on as Ward’s Natural
Science, which still supplies scientific educational tools to high school science teachers and college departments. The Ward Project at the University of Rochester seeks to show how far and wide Ward’s specimens travelled by providing a website where museums around the world can share data and images of the specimens that they retain in their collections.
FUN FACTS ABOUT HENRY AUGUSTUS WARD

Ward was a purveyor of natural history materials—mounted specimens, fossils and fossil replicas, minerals, and more. His specimens can be found in museums across the globe, including the Rochester Museum & Science Center.

Ward had a lifelong interest in geology. Many of his friends, including Lewis Henry Morgan, sent him rocks from all over the world when they traveled.

Ward’s company stuffed and mounted Jumbo the elephant from the Barnum & Bailey Circus after Jumbo was struck and killed by a train in 1885.

Ward’s Natural Science Establishment lives on today in Rochester as Ward’s Natural Science, located on West Henrietta Road, and supplies scientific educational materials to high schools and colleges.

People who worked at Ward’s Natural Science Establishment included William T. Hornaday (leader of the movement to save the American Bison during its near-extinction and first director of what is today the Bronx Zoo) and Carl Akeley (creator of the mounted specimen exhibits still on display today at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City).

Ward met William Cody, aka Buffalo Bill, on an 1872 buffalo hunting expedition. Buffalo Bill moved his family to Rochester and one of his sons is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Ward was killed in 1906 in Buffalo’s first automobile accident.

Ward’s brain was given to the Wilder Brain Collection at Cornell University after his death to facilitate the study of the anatomy of the brain.

The Ward Project at the University of Rochester hopes to connect museums worldwide that own some of Ward’s specimens, as well as to provide a valuable study tool for students and researchers, by allowing museums to share images and information on the project's website.

The boulder on Ward’s monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery has a twin in Wyoming, NY, outside the village hall. Ward built a museum inside the town hall in honor of the hometown of his third wife. This museum, unmodified since he installed it, is open to the public only two days a year during their “AppleUmpkin” festival every fall.
Martin Brewer Anderson was the first president of the University of Rochester, serving from 1853 to 1888. Born in Brunswick, Maine, in 1815, Anderson graduated from Waterville College (now Colby College) in 1840 and then studied for a year at the Newton Theological Institution in Massachusetts to become a minister. His ministerial ambitions faded quickly, however, and he described Newton as “the most dull, lonesome hole that any body was put into.” With the ministry out of the question, Anderson returned to Waterville in 1843, where he taught Greek, Latin, and mathematics and became professor of rhetoric.

In 1848, on a trip to New York City, Anderson married Elizabeth Gilbert, and in 1850, he moved to New York City to edit the *New York Recorder*, a Baptist newspaper. Anderson joined the newly formed American Ethnological Society in 1848 and became its recording secretary in 1852. He worked on a list of queries to be used for the classification of North American Indian languages.

The University of Rochester was founded in 1850 by Baptists from Madison University in Washington, D.C. After a charter was secured from the State of New York with the legal assistance of Lewis Henry Morgan, the trustees selected Anderson as the University’s first president in 1853. As president, Anderson continued to teach, lecturing on a wide range of subjects including history, religion, art, and social philosophy, all while continuing to study mathematics, philology, and natural sciences. The 1850s were a tumultuous time for the University, but Anderson’s leadership kept the University running and, in 1861, Anderson led the University’s move from the United States Hotel to its new home on Prince Street, now the Memorial Art Gallery. Completed that year, the University’s first building was duly named Anderson Hall in honor of its first president.

Anderson’s leadership extended beyond the University of Rochester. He was an active and vocal Baptist; during his tenure as president, he also served as president of the Home Mission Society and for three years as the head of the Foreign Mission Society. In 1868, he was appointed to the New York State Board of Charities.
Anderson was a founding member of “The Club” (or “Pundit Club”), led by Lewis Henry Morgan. He was a member for the rest of his life, in which time he presented 37 essays in 36 years to his peers. Much like the man himself, the Pundit Club heard and discussed essays on a wide range of academic pursuits, which allowed Anderson to explore his own diverse interests. His essays for the Pundit Club spanned a multitude of subjects including Bible Revision, Arabic Metaphysics, The Growth of Ecclesiastical Architecture, and The Growth and Decline of Slavery, to name a few. When he died, the members of the Pundit Club wrote a small memorial in which they said of Anderson, “His abundant stores of information and of observation were freely placed at the disposal of his colleagues, and a large part of the success and influence of the Club must be attributed to his generous and unwavering devotion to its interests.” He also contributed as an associate editor to *Johnson’s Encyclopedia*.

Anderson was an imposing man. Large and powerful, his physical stature matched that of his intellect. Though full of direction and purpose, Anderson’s relationships with others at the University were not always harmonious. He could be harsh and dictatorial, leading some faculty to seek positions elsewhere. Anderson’s antiquated notions often put him at odds with faculty and students, especially later in his presidency. His steadfast opposition to the construction of dormitories and a gymnasium were extremely unpopular with students. His devotion to religion and his inability to embrace the coming wave of multidisciplinary education put him at odds with faculty. His talent and passion as an educator, however, could not be doubted. Anderson argued for a holistic education that included art and culture. He sought to incorporate the visual arts, already a passion of his, into the curriculum.

In 1867, Anderson received a lucrative offer to become president of Brown University. With a much higher salary and a university in better financial standing, the offer was tempting. However, after careful consideration and the promise of new presidential mansion, Anderson decided to stay at Rochester. He would remain a true servant to the University for the rest of his life. In 1878, the University honored Anderson’s 25th year at the helm with a celebration. Despite having fallen desperately ill the year before, Anderson returned in time to be feted by students, alumni, and faculty alike. Alumnus Stephen H. Carpenter, of the class of 1852, a professor at the University of Wisconsin, described Anderson as “tender as a mother in his counsels, firm in justice as God, he
had guided the destinies of the U of R and in the hereafter that would be his greatest crown.”

Throughout his career as President, the University was plagued by financial problems and a lack of funds, causing Anderson much stress and anxiety. Failing health finally forced Anderson to step down. By the time he retired as President, in 1888, the University had grown to three buildings and 172 students, a far cry from the ten students studying at a converted hotel that he took charge of in 1853. In 1890, Anderson died in Lake Helen, Florida. Though Anderson ended his career disappointed that the University had not become all that he wanted, he is undoubtedly one of the most influential people in the University’s long history, a true father to the institution.
FUN FACTS ABOUT MARTIN B. ANDERSON

"No dormitories were built during Anderson's tenure as President. He regarded them as places with 'every facility for the propagation of evil principles and habits.' Instead, students found housing with Rochester families, and occasionally even lived temporarily with Anderson and his family." (Source: https://rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/1243) Ironically, there is a statue of Anderson today on the residential quad of the University's River Campus.

Anderson looked remarkably like the Italian general and national hero Garibaldi. Once, on a trip to Italy, he was cheered enthusiastically by supporters of Garibaldi who mistook Anderson for their idolized leader.

When Anderson became president, the University was in its original location in the United States Hotel on Buffalo Street, now West Main Street. The University purchased the hotel for $9,000. It was used from 1850-1861.

The first building on the Prince Street Campus was Anderson Hall, which now houses the Red Cross of Rochester.

"When [Anderson Hall] was being built in 1861, President Anderson used a hammer to 'test' the blocks of stone being used in the construction. This apparently annoyed the contractor, but Anderson was undeterred; the first UR president later told Professor Fairchild (who donated the hammer to the University Archive) that he 'stuck to the job.' Anderson Hall stands firm to this day, although it is no longer owned by the University." (Source: https://rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/1243)

Anderson's large size and imposing figure earned him the nicknames "Granite Cliff," "Old Sorrel," and "Garibaldi."

Martin Anderson's father is also buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Though the University grew considerably under his presidency, it remained small. Anderson liked to get to know every student personally.

Anderson played such a prominent role in both teaching and administration that the University was sometimes known among students as "Dr. Anderson's School."

Anderson was a member of the American Ethnological Society and shared many of the same anthropological interests as his friend Lewis Henry Morgan. Morgan was active in the attempt to keep Anderson in Rochester when Anderson was offered the presidency of Brown University.
William Watson Ely, M.D., LL.D., was well known and appreciated in Rochester, New York, as a medical practitioner, but his reputation was not confined to the field of medicine. During the 39 years he practiced in Rochester, Ely avidly explored the Adirondack Mountains, producing a widely used “Map of the New York Wilderness.” He was also an active participant in Rochester’s flourishing intellectual community. Ely was a close friend of Lewis Henry Morgan, one of the earliest members of “The Club,” and according to William Carey Morey’s reminiscences, “a man highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens for his rare professional skill and attainments.”

To start a discussion of Ely, we must first travel back to Fairfield, Connecticut where he was born in 1812. His childhood remains unresearched but his life is known from the time he was a young student attending Yale University Medical School in New Haven, Connecticut. On Thursday, March 6, 1834, Ely attended Yale’s graduation where he and fourteen peers received degrees of Doctor of Medicine and licenses “to practise physic and surgery.” Receiving both the degree and the license was the result of taking two “full courses of lectures” at Yale (one full course of lectures resulted only in the license to practice). Ely’s 1834 thesis examined dysentery, associated with Civil War battlefields and covered wagon trains, before its causes became widely recognized in the later 19th century. After graduation, he studied with Benjamin Silliman, M.D., LL.D., in Manlius, New York, until moving to Rochester.

Ely formally began his Rochester practice in May of 1840 with acceptance into the Monroe County Medical Society. Moving to Rochester, however, would prove fruitful in ways other than just the creation of a medical practice. Ely established himself as a leading intellectual, and in January 1855 he accepted membership into The Club less than a year after its founding. Ely was welcomed into The Club by its secretary, Lewis Henry Morgan, and its chairman, Martin Anderson, among other Rochester-area professionals. During his fourteen-year membership, Ely hosted the celebration of the 100th meeting of the Club in 1860, and presented a variety of papers. In his “Reminiscences of the ‘Pundit Club’,” William Carey Morey numbers Ely as one of the “medical profession” but, like many of the other doctors, Ely was valued for his other
pursuits. Morey thus describes him as “an appreciative student of history and natural science.” Club records indicate Ely’s papers at times expounded upon his medical interests. “The History of Pestilence” and “Sanitary Measures of the Age” are two such papers.

Ely’s 1866 paper, “The Anatomical Structure of the Beaver,” demonstrates his medical background and provides a sterling example of the beneficial connections forged among members of the Club as the paper originated through collaboration with fellow Pundit Lewis Henry Morgan. As a medical doctor, Ely was skilled with dissection, and he offered his services as Morgan researched *The American Beaver and His Works*. Ely wrote the second chapter and an appendix that was published with Morgan’s writing in 1868. Morgan’s preface includes professional gratitude for the contribution of W.W. Ely and the suggestion that, with his contribution, American beavers would be more easily compared with European beavers.

Ely received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Rochester in 1869, the year following *The American Beaver*’s publication, but the relationship between the two events remains cloudy; Ely’s exploration of beaver anatomy seems to be concurrent with other pursuits that might have prompted the honorary degree. Like many Pundits, he valued travel as a method of gaining experience and knowledge, and his eight years of intelligent visits to his “North Woods,” or Adirondack Mountains, resulted in the creation of a well known and much used “Map of the New York Wilderness.” Its first publication, by Colton and Co. in 1868, was accompanied by a lengthy description provided by Ely himself. An explorer who credited Ely for naming Ampersand Mountain subsequently named its western arm Mt. Ely, and Ely’s dedication to preserve the region shone again when he sought to prevent the disappearance of game.

Though his mountainous excursions drew him away from Rochester, Ely’s renown grew when he was named Chief of Medicine of the Rochester City Hospital in 1869, a position he held until his death. His membership in the Club ended as his appointment to the position began; in early 1869, the Club decided that a lack of attendance for “several years” meant Ely would not receive further notice of meetings. Although seemingly dissatisfied with Ely, losing his valuable contributions likely disappointed the group more than anything else: Club records note his passing in 1879 as “greatly regretted in the community.” Morgan personally remembered Ely in *Houses and House-Life of the American Aborigines*, published two years after Ely’s death. Morgan’s final
dedication recalls his “cherished” 25-year friendship with William Watson Ely, M.D., LL.D., and Ely’s “valuable suggestions,” “constant encouragement,” and above all, “beautiful character” with which anyone in Rochester would be hard pressed to disagree.
FUN FACTS ABOUT WILLIAM WATSON ELY

He was known just as “The Doctor” and was widely regarded as the best practitioner in Rochester.

He mapped the Adirondack Mountains and his maps are still useful today in creating a timeline of the development of the area.

He was scammed! His map of the Adirondacks was used without his consent and any reference to him was omitted in subsequent publications.

He wasn’t the only friend of Lewis Henry Morgan named Ely! The others included Ely S. Parker, a Tonawanda Seneca man; William S. Ely, W.W. Ely’s son; and the Ely brothers, with whom Morgan did business.

He wrote a popular poem about Darwinism and evolution. It starts with “Are you the key, O Monkey, to unlock / the sealed and scientific mystery? / Were Apes the parents of the human stock / Long ere the records of primeval history?”

He was esteemed so much for his travels to the Adirondacks that poetry was published in the local newspaper to commemorate his visits.

He was opposed to the overhunting occurring in his beloved Adirondack Mountains and spoke out against Sportsman’s Clubs and even supported regulatory legislation.

He ascended Ampersand Mountain before anyone else and cleared the first trail to the top; he published an article about the endeavor in “Forest and Stream.”

He had a son, William S. Ely, who was well-known as a military doctor, expert on tuberculosis, and committee member on the New York State Board of Examiners.
Samuel Allan Lattimore was the one of the foremost chemists in the United States and a great servant of the University of Rochester and the city of Rochester. Born in Union County, Indiana, in 1828, Lattimore graduated from DePauw University in Indiana in 1850, and received his Ph.D. in 1853. He went on to teach classics and Greek at DePauw for eight years after his graduation, where he also served as the university’s first librarian from 1854 to 1859. Lattimore then taught chemistry and physics at Genesee College (now Syracuse University) for seven years. In 1867, Lattimore became chair of the newly formed Department of Chemistry at the University of Rochester. He would keep that position for 41 years, finally retiring in 1908. From 1896 to 1898, Lattimore served as acting president of the University of Rochester, taking charge between the presidencies of David Jayne Hill and Benjamin Rush Rhees. He finally retired from teaching in 1908. Lattimore was a much-loved professor, often referred to as “Latty” by his students.

The University’s Department of Chemistry grew considerably under Lattimore. When he first began at the University, Lattimore was responsible for teaching not only chemistry, but also physics, zoology, and geology. In 1883, Lattimore was allowed to focus on chemistry exclusively after the creation of a separate Department of Geology. The Reynolds Laboratory finally opened in 1887, with a dedicated chemistry lab designed by Lattimore himself. After retirement, Lattimore continued to live near the campus where he could see students walking to class outside his bedroom window.

Lattimore’s reputation as a chemist extended beyond the University. In 1872, he was awarded an honorary degree from Hamilton College, and in 1879 he helped found the Rochester Microscopical Society, which was so successful that it became the Rochester Academy of Sciences in 1881. Famously, Lattimore was contacted by a struggling George Eastman in 1885 to help create a better film roller for Kodak. He was appointed as chemist to the New York State Board of Health in 1881, and to the New York Dairy Commission in 1886. He produced widely read reports on the state of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, which ultimately led to their purchase by the City of Rochester to
supply drinking water. He also produced an important report on typhoid and was tasked with investigating the conditions of slaughterhouses as a member of the Board of Health. His reputation led Lattimore to be regularly consulted on municipal and even national affairs, twice serving on Presidential Commissions to inspect gold and silver coinage from the mint.

Lattimore was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, for which he served as vice president in 1880, a year after Lewis Henry Morgan briefly served as president. He was also a member of the American Chemical Society. Along with Morgan, Lattimore was a member of the “Pundit Club,” led by Morgan and attended by other notable University professors, including Martin B. Anderson.

In addition to his illustrious academic and professional career, Lattimore was one of Rochester’s most active and generous citizens. In 1874, he held four free, public lectures on chemistry. Lattimore felt strongly that the wonders of science should be made available to everyone, including the working class. The lectures were so well attended that people had to be turned away at the door to City Hall. Their success led to the formation of the Lattimore Free Lecture Association to help organize more lectures. Friday night staples, each lecture attracted over 2,000 people.

Along with other prominent Rochesterians, Lattimore helped form the Western New York Institution for Deaf Mutes (now the Rochester School for the Deaf). Much later in his life, Lattimore was one of the original trustees of the Reynolds Library and served as President of the Board from 1905 to 1912. The Reynolds Library would later become the Rochester Public Library.

Lattimore died in 1913 at the age of 84. He remained an energetic citizen and scholar until the very end of his life and he left behind a massive legacy. His generosity, commitment, and teaching ability made an enormous contribution to the university and city alike. With the construction of the River Campus in 1930, Lattimore was honored with the dedication of the Samuel A. Lattimore Hall of Chemistry. Known today simply as Lattimore Hall, the building is home to the Department of Anthropology.
FUN FACTS ABOUT SAMUEL LATTIMORE

Samuel Lattimore’s family, originally slaveholders, became ardent abolitionists. They divided up their estate among their former slaves and they made their Indiana home a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Lattimore’s grave reads, “He found God in his laboratory,” but it is unclear what this means. A memorial plaque can be found in the lobby of Lattimore Hall on the University of Rochester River Campus.

Lattimore was also an important figure in the foundation of the Rochester Institute of Technology. In reference to the creation of a technical school in Rochester, he said, “It is, I believe, apparent, that the establishment of such a school would benefit every class of people.” He was also a trustee of the Reynolds Library. This was the library of the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanic’s Association, originally housed in Reynolds Arcade, which would later become RIT.

Samuel Lattimore’s reputation as a chemist and food safety expert was widely known. He is featured in an advertisement for Gilmore’s Communion Wine, certifying that it is alcohol free.

Lattimore’s public lectures spanned a wide range of subjects, including “Iron,” “Masquerade of the Physical Forces,” “The Spectroscope and its Revelations,” and “The Wonders of the Sun.”

In the 1870s, before the University was open to women, Lattimore gave special Saturday morning lectures on chemistry to a group of female students.

In 1884, an assistant of Lattimore, Henry Reichenbach, was hired by Eastman Kodak. He is believed to be the first Rochester scientist to exclusively devote himself to research in industry.

Lattimore not only helped design, but actually helped oversee the construction of Reynolds laboratory, which would become the first building devoted to chemistry at the University of Rochester.
FURTHER READING

THE CLUB


EDWARD MOTT MOORE


HENRY A WARD


W. W. ELY


Monroe County Medical Society (1840). Certificate of Membership from Monroe County Medical Society. Inventory of William Smith Ely, M. D.: Box 1.8. Rare Books and Manuscripts, Edward G. Miner Library, University of Rochester Medical Center, NY.


**SAMUEL LATTIMORE**


**MARTIN B. ANDERSON**


