

Joseph Rodman Drake.

The New York Times Saturday Review of Books:

Anent the preservation of the grave of Joseph Rodman Drake, in regard to which so many letters have been sent to THE TIMES, I will state that I have recently investigated the matter and beg herewith to submit the result of my investigations.

I found the little cemetery in a more or less dilapidated condition, but the grave of Drake has not been so neglected as many seem to think. In 1891 the Brownson Literary Union renovated the monument over his grave, which is today in a very good state of preservation.

In 1904 the New York Historical Society passed resolutions and appointed a committee of three (consisting, as I am informed, of Messrs. Fordham Morris, James L. Wells and Asa Bird Gardiner) to present them to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, to request a rearrangement of the adjacent streets so as to preserve the grave of the poet and "advocate some plan for the retention of that most historic and literary landmark." This action was successful in every regard; the streets were rearranged, and the landmark retained.

On Dec. 1, 1905, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment passed a resolution requesting the Corporation Counsel to take the necessary proceedings, pursuant to Section 970 of the charter of Greater New York, to acquire title to lands required for the opening and extension of Joseph Rodman Drake Park in the Twenty-third Ward, Borough of the Bronx, New York City, as laid out on the map of Feb. 17, 1905, the costs and expense of said proceeding to be borne and paid by the city.

On April 30, 1906, an order of court was made and entered appointing Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment in Condemnation Proceedings.

On Jan. 11, 1909, the Commissioners signed their final report in the matter, awarding \$27,704.65 damages, &c.

On March 11, 1909, their report was confirmed by order of the court and the title of the property became vested in the city.

The city has shown official recognition of one of its most illustrious sons—it remains for the admirers of Drake to do the rest. I would suggest the formation of a Joseph Rodman Drake Memorial Association, raise the necessary money, and erect a fitting monument to his memory. To that end I invite correspondence and cooperation. But, better still, will not THE NEW YORK TIMES take the matter in hand and thus make assurance doubly sure?

JAMES EDWARD GRAYBILL.

New York, Oct. 21.

Note—A letter similar to the above has also been received from Patrick S. MacDwyer of this city.