

Monuments & milestones

VOL 6 NO 2 FALL/WINTER 2010

Charles Dickinson to Headline 2010 Living History Tour

by Kathy Lauder, Nashville City Cemetery Board Member

Charles Henry Dickinson was born around 1780, the year Andrew Jackson, a scrappy 13-year-old, ran off to fight in the American Revolution. The two youngsters could hardly have been more different. Dickinson was born into wealth and privilege on a Maryland plantation; Jackson's parents were immigrant Irish pioneers. When young Dickinson arrived in Nashville in 1801, he carried a letter of introduction from Chief Justice John Marshall. By late spring 1806 he owned a thriving law practice; had married Jane Erwin, the daughter of a prosperous Nashville family; and was the proud father of a two-month old son. Jackson, 39, a self-taught lawyer married to the former Rachel Donelson (who came to Nashville, also in 1780, with the town's founding families), had already become a key figure in regional politics: he had been a judge and district attorney in the Mero District; had taken part in the state constitutional convention; had served in the U.S. House and Senate; was Major General of the State Militia; and had spent six years on the Tennessee Supreme Court. He also raised cotton on his plantation, The Hermitage, and bred racehorses. It was apparently a conflict over a horse race that led to Jackson's fatal duel with Dickinson on May 30, 1806.

The details of the argument vary with the storyteller, but it seems that Jackson took offense at an insult (directed at his wife, his horse, or his integrity) uttered by Joseph Erwin, the father of Dickinson's wife. Dickinson, who some think may have



Dickinson and Jackson descendants attend the Dickinson dedication ceremony

tipped the balance with a cruel comment aimed at Rachel, took up the challenge in Erwin's stead. Jackson himself later told a friend, "I had no unkind feeling against Mr. Dickinson . . . My quarrel

had been with his father-in-law, Col. Erwin." Since dueling was illegal in Tennessee, the two men and their companions set out on horseback to Logan County, Kentucky, near the Red River. Afterward Jackson admitted to being "badly frightened" – "I knew Dickinson to be the best shot with the pistol I ever saw. I therefore went upon the ground expecting to be killed."

Dickinson would shoot first. To alter his profile, Jackson, six feet tall but weighing only 145 pounds, wore a large, bulky coat with a rolled collar, and apparently turned his thin frame sideways. Dickinson aimed and shot. When Jackson did not fall or cry out, Dickinson, startled, believed he had missed. Then, very steadily, Jackson took aim and fired. Later someone would claim that the gun had misfired and that Jackson broke the rules by re-cocking and firing again, but, in fact, the seconds reportedly agreed to the second shot. Jackson himself was quoted as saying, "Under the impression that I was, perhaps, mortally wounded, and upon the impulse of the moment, I fired, and my antagonist fell"

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CHARLES DICKINSON

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR'S LIVING HISTORY TOUR

a popular annual City Cemetery event

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010 2:00-5:00 PM

Meet Dickinson, Jeffrey Lockelie, Felix and Louisa Pocahontas Gordon Zollicoffer, and many other fascinating personalities from our area's history.

ADMISSION IS \$5.00 FOR INDIVIDUALS AND \$10.00 FOR FAMILIES.

(See the calendar on page 4 for parking information and other details.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS! WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE THEM. Recently, the Nashville City Cemetery Association (NCCA) has become partners with the volunteer organization Hands On Nashville (HON). Through this joint effort, we are making the newly restored cemetery grounds safer and more beautiful. We are extremely grateful to HON coordinator Malinda Hersh and NCCA Board member Jill Mees for working together to make this new partnership a reality.



Hands On Nashville volunteers have been instrumental in helping maintain the cemetery grounds.

On the third Saturday of each month, June through October, NCCA members and HON volunteers meet for two hours (9-11 a.m.) to do such clean-up chores as sweeping grass clippings off monuments, raking grass and leaves, picking up twigs and small branches, and trimming greenery inside private burial lots. On our first work day, May 15, five HON volunteers made time for us in the midst of flood clean-up activities, helping us collect 26 large bags of leaves and grass clippings, as well as performing several other helpful tasks. The July 17 workday boasted nine HON volunteers and three NCCA Board members.

While the HON volunteers have helped us to accomplish a great deal, we could still use your help, too! A link on the main page of the NCCA website (<http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org/>) will connect you with Hands On Nashville, where you can join the group and sign up for future clean-up days, as well as other great volunteer opportunities

at upcoming NCCA events. Remaining workdays this year are scheduled for September 18 and October 16 – please be sure to register on the Hands On Nashville site before coming to work.

A special reminder to NCCA supporters not to miss our annual Living History Tour on October 2, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. This is one of our most popular activities, where the past comes alive before your eyes. Not only is the Tour great entertainment, but ticket sales help us fund cemetery preservation and make new historical and genealogical information available on our website.

Again, many thanks to our wonderful volunteers and to the NCCA Board members who work so hard to keep City Cemetery a vital part of our city's heritage.



Jason Holleman
NCCA President

Dash Is a Smash!

Heartfelt appreciation from the Nashville City Cemetery Association to the Nashville Striders and all the runners, joggers, and walkers who made the 2010 Dash one of the largest and most successful races in our history. The Striders recorded 380 entrants this year, with 348 official timed finishers, the second highest number in the eleven-year history of the race!

At the flag dedication ceremony following the race, Congressman Jim Cooper delivered an address honoring the many military veterans buried at the City Cemetery. Veterans' graves were marked with flags placed by volunteers from the Boy Scouts of America (see page 5).

The Dash runners ranged in age from 7 to 78. There were 41 participants under the age of 20, and 25 who were 60 and above. The fastest time recorded for

this year's 5-K race was 17:23, by Andrew Holbrook. Other male overall winners were Douglas Murphy (2) and John Lovell (3). Female overall winners were Stephanie Place (1), Emily Ryan (2), and Elizabeth Holbrook (3). Christine Powell was the Female Master's winner; Paul Scalisi won the Male Master's title.

The Nashville City Cemetery Association uses the proceeds from this race and the October Living History Tour to fund cemetery restoration and repair.

Congratulations and deepest gratitude to all the runners and volunteers for your participation on a hot, steamy morning.



Stephanie Place was first in the Women's Division with a finish time of 19:09.

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The Nashville City Cemetery Association is a not-for-profit organization founded to preserve and protect the history and memory of those who are laid to rest there.

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Newsletter Design: Jeff Thorneycroft

visit us at: thenashvillecitycemetery.org

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Andrew Jackson Pageot

by Carol Kaplan, NCCA Board Member

Andrew Jackson Pageot was born a child of privilege: he was named for his godfather the President; his mother was heir to a wealthy Nashville estate; his father was the son of a diplomat. This baby's future was bright. How then did it come about that he lies in an unmarked grave, his burial place lost to history?

The first (and only) Catholic wedding ceremony held in the White House took place November 29, 1832. The groom was Alphonse Pageot, secretary of the French Legation and brother-in-law of the French Minister. The bride was



This double portrait by artist Ralph Earl depicts two White House brides: Mary Eastin, left, and Mary Anne Lewis, mother of Andrew Jackson Pageot, who married Alphonse Pageot at the White House in November 1832.

Nashvillian Mary Anne Lewis, daughter of Major William Berkeley Lewis, a friend and political appointee of Andrew Jackson. The Lewises' Nashville home was called Fairfield, set on an estate not far from City Cemetery. Today's Fairfield Avenue was originally one of the lanes leading to the residence.

Although Mary Anne and her half-siblings William Henry and Margaret Adelaide, grew up in relative comfort,

they all suffered early losses. William B. Lewis's first wife (Mary Anne's mother), was Margaret Lewis, the daughter of W. Tyrrell Lewis and owner of Fairfield. Margaret died at Fairfield in 1816, when Mary Anne was about 12. The mother of the other two children was William B. Lewis's second wife, Mary Adelaide Stokes, daughter of U.S. Senator Montford Stokes. Mary Adelaide died in May 1823, leaving behind "an infant son [little William Henry was not yet two] & daughter five days old."

After their marriage, Mary Anne and Alphonse Pageot lived in Washington, D.C., in a house provided by her father, William B. Lewis, who wrote a friend, "I go to housekeeping with them." Their son, Andrew Jackson Pageot, was born the following year and christened at the White House. The Rev. William Matthews of St. Patrick's Catholic Church officiated, as he had for the wedding of the baby's parents.

As a diplomatic family, the Pageots moved often between the United States and France. Major Lewis returned to Nashville, where he had to face yet another loss, that of his son, William Henry, who died August 30, 1842, "in the twentieth year of his age." Major Lewis's youngest child, Margaret Adelaide, who was said to be the most beautiful young woman in Tennessee, had married

George Washington of Wessington Plantation in Robertson County that same year. She herself died at the age of 21 in November 1844, three weeks after the birth of her only son, William Lewis Washington.

When the Civil War began, William B. Lewis remained loyal to his country and active in local politics. On December 14, 1864, the night before the Battle of Nashville, as Federal troops dug entrenchments in Fairfield's front lawn, U.S. Major T. J. Morgan stayed in the house, occupying the room that Andrew Jackson had always been given. As a loyal citizen, Lewis would eventually receive compensation from the Federal government for the damage to his property.

Two weeks after the Battle of Nashville the family suffered another tragedy: on January 11, 1865, this notice was published in the *Nashville Daily Union*:

"Died, on Monday morning, the 9th inst., at the residence of his Grandfather, Major William B. Lewis, Andrew Jackson Pageot, Esq., son of Hon. A. Pageot of Paris France, and Mary Ann, his wife. He died from an acute attack of the heart, after only an hour's illness, in the 32nd year of his age. His funeral will take place this morning at 11 o'clock, at the residence of Major Lewis. Hacks will be waiting at W. R. Cornelius' on Church Street, at 10 o'clock this morning, to take out friends and acquaintances who desire to attend the funeral."

Where was Pageot buried? He has an interment entry in City Cemetery records, but no location is indicated. In 1843 Major Lewis had purchased a 40x40-foot lot in section 5 for \$80.00. Who, if anyone, was buried on this lot? Not Major Lewis, who died in 1866. He and others of his family, along with their tombstones, were removed to Mt. Olivet in 1890 from "the old family burying ground." Whether this burying ground was on the Fairfield estate is yet another mystery. The property was sold at auction in 1867, and by 1890 St. Margaret's Hospital occupied the location.

None of the removal records lists the name of Andrew J. Pageot. Was he originally interred with other Lewis family members and then, having been buried without a marker, simply forgotten? Does the partial record at City Cemetery exist because undertaker Cornelius merely assumed he would be interred there?

The PBS series *History Detectives* insists that "no secret is safe." Is the secret of Andrew Jackson Pageot waiting to be found someday?

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Nashville City Cemetery is open to visitors every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

General information: The free tours begin at 10:00 a.m. on the dates listed below and last about 45 minutes. In case of unfavorable weather (i.e., tornado, drenching rain, hail, or piles of snow!), a cancelled tour will take place the following Saturday.



Saturday, October 2, 2010 – 2:00-5:00 p.m.

LIVING HISTORY TOUR

This is one of our few events involving a small cost: **\$5.00 for adults, \$10.00 for families.** Come and meet some of Nashville's earliest settlers, uniformed soldiers, mayors, musicians, and other prominent citizens, as well as ordinary folk of all eras. The popular event makes a delightful outing for the whole family. Tickets are available only at the event. Free parking is available at Greer Stadium, 534 Chestnut St., where you can catch a shuttle ride (also free) to the cemetery.

Special Saturday Tour Series, November 13th, 2010 – 10:00-10:45 a.m.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS

This tour of some of the military burial sites in the City Cemetery has been led for the past several years by John Allyn, battlefield preservationist and NCCA Board member. No matter how much you know about the Civil War, you will always learn something new on these tours. Not to be missed! **Free.**

Thursday, December 9, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All members of the Nashville City Cemetery Association are welcome at this annual get-together. Join us to meet the Board of Directors and share in fine food and good conversation. This year's meeting will take place at the home of Board member John Allyn, 3602 Hoods Hill Road. **Free to all members.**

Saturday, April 30, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

MASTER GARDENERS SERIES

We have been blessed for several years by the volunteer talents of the Davidson County Master Gardeners, whose hard work and broad knowledge of both plants and history have created lovely, historically appropriate plantings throughout the cemetery. Their popular cemetery tours instruct and inspire amateur gardeners of all levels. **Free.**

Monday, May 30, 2011, 8:00 a.m.

THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY DASH

This annual 5K Run/Walk has drawn more runners and walkers every year. The race begins at 8:00 a.m. at Greer Stadium (534 Chestnut St.) and follows a lovely and historic path that ends at the City Cemetery. Come early on May 31 to register, or register online. Visit the Nashville Striders website for registration forms and information. <http://www.nashvillestriders.com> or <http://www.active.com> Entry fee required for all participants.

Have you seen our website lately?



www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org



Visit the Nashville City Cemetery Association on Facebook!

View photos of our events!

**READ ABOUT THE REMARKABLE
186-YEAR HISTORY OF CITY CEMETERY**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT A FAMILY MEMBER BURIED AT CITY CEMETERY
BY STUDYING THE RESOURCE MAPS, OBITUARIES,
AND TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS.**

Connect to the 19,745 Interments on the Nashville Public Library website.

share your family history

AND BE SURE TO JOIN THE NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION!

Living History Tour (continued from Page 1)

The future President had indeed been shot as well. Surgeons were never able to remove the bullet, which was lodged near his heart and would cause him intense discomfort for the rest of his life. (Some scholars have suggested that Jackson may finally have died of lead poisoning from the bullet, ultimately making Dickinson's shot responsible for his death, after all!) His young opponent lingered several hours in excruciating pain before his own eventual death. Jackson would always feel deep remorse over the outcome: in his last years he confessed to his old friend General William G. Harding that he regretted nothing in his life so much as this duel.

Dickinson's companions carried his body back to Nashville, where he was buried on Joseph Erwin's estate, six miles west of Nashville, on June 1, 1806. For many years the site was marked by a large box tomb, but around 1926, as the land was being developed for housing construction, the tomb's marble slabs disappeared, as did, gradually, local memory of the exact site of the grave. Meanwhile, Maryland historians insisted that a faithful slave had carried Dickinson's body back to Caroline County and buried it in a lead coffin there. Decades later, when a metal casket was discovered on family property, the remains were examined by experts at the Smithsonian, who declared they were likely those of a female.

Tennessee historians, meanwhile, were convinced that Dickinson was still in Nashville. On May 23, 2006, almost exactly 200 years after the duel, State Archaeologist Nick Fielder conducted a high-tech probe of a West End property

and determined there was a "50-50 chance" that the grave was there, but no digging occurred at that time. The obliging new property owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Bowen, sought Chancery Court approval for the archaeological investigation and exhumation of any remains discovered on their land, asking permission, in so many words, for their front yard no longer to be a burial ground! On a cold December 15, 2007, neighbors and historians huddled in the sleet, watching as an archaeology team dug in several promising spots, but with no success. In a subsequent dig, in August 2009, archaeologist Dan Allen, guided by historical documents, located the angular outline of a coffin, a number of rusty coffin nails, a screw, and two small bone fragments, probably finger bones. Dickinson had been found!

Researchers knew that Dickinson's in-laws, Colonel Andrew Hynes and his wife Ann, had been buried at City Cemetery. (Ann Erwin Hynes was Jane Dickinson's sister.) On Friday, June 25, 2010, in the presence of more than 300 witnesses, Charles Henry Dickinson's remains were laid to rest in the Hynes plot at the Nashville City Cemetery. The funeral eulogy was delivered by the Reverend Kenneth Locke, Downtown Presbyterian Church. And great-great-great grandsons of both duelists attended the dedication: Dickinson's descendant Charles Henry Miller, along with Andrew Jackson VI and his daughter Rebekah.

Sources: The Jackson quotations come from "Gen. Jackson as a Duelist," *The Daily American* (Nashville), February 18, 1877. Thanks to Dr. Wayne Moore, Jim Hoober, Fletch Coke, Mike Slate, Carol Kaplan, and James Castro for their input.

Memorial Day Flags



As part of the 2010 Memorial Day celebration the Nashville City Cemetery Association honored the 80 military veterans buried in City Cemetery by placing flags at their graves. The flags were set in place by members of the Boy Scouts of America Order

of the Arrow, the honor society of scouting. The 19 Scouts who took part, under the direction of parent Paula McClain, came from nine different troops in Middle Tennessee. A.J. Hessock played the bugle as Trey McClain led the group in their respectful task.

The veterans honored by the flag ceremony served in nine different conflicts: the American Revolution (10), the Creek War (8), the War of 1812 (18), the

Seminole Wars (7), the Mexican War (11), the Civil War (1 U.S. Navy and 16 Confederate Army), the Spanish American War (3), World War I (3), and World War II (1). Another veteran served in the U.S. Navy during the 1830s, and one more served after World War II. Five of the men were killed in action – one in the Mexican War, and four in Confederate service during the Civil War.

During the Civil War a large number of soldiers, both Federal and Confederate, were buried in the City Cemetery but were later removed to other burial grounds: 3,021 Union soldiers were re-interred in the Nashville National Cemetery; 1,400 Confederate soldiers were moved to Confederate Circle at Mt. Olivet Cemetery; and a few were taken home by their families to private cemeteries.

To learn more about these Veterans and to view their tombstones, visit the NCCA website at <http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org/>.

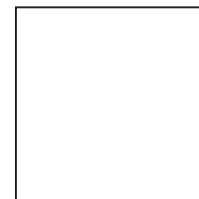


Robert Mather
Davidson County Master Gardener
and NCCA Board Member

GARDEN TIP 2

Everyone remembers those wonderful plants Grandmother grew. Perhaps you still have some of those flowers yourself or enjoy them in your neighbors' lawns. September is the best time to transplant peonies (*Paeonia*), among the favorite flowers in any American garden. They are often situated in the middle of the lawn so they can be admired from all angles. Spring brings single blooms of these semi-double flowers in white, pink, and red. When you are ready to transplant, use a spade to dig up the roots and divide. Prepare the hole with compost before planting. Plant so the "eye" of the plant is just above the ground (it won't bloom if planted too deep).

Master Gardener and NCCA Board Member Robert Mather provides a seasonal gardening tip in each issue of the NCCA newsletter.



Address Correction Requested

Coming In October!



Saturday, October 2, 2010
from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
 (details inside)

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NCCA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Please take the time to become a member of the Nashville City Cemetery Association this year. Your membership is valuable to us and helps the NCCA offer such programs as **Descendants' Day**, the **Memorial Day Dash**, and the **Living History Tour**. So sign up today and help support our effort to restore and preserve this invaluable historic resource.

☐ **Join**
☐ **Renew**

NCCA Membership Levels (circle one)

Individual	\$20	Preserver	\$150
Family	\$35	Conservator	\$500
Protector	\$75	Restorer	\$1000

(All members receive the newsletter and invitations to special events.)

I would also like information about:
 (check all that apply)

☐ **NCCA Membership**
☐ **Tax Letters**
☐ **Volunteer Opportunities**

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____ Phone Number () _____

Names of ancestors buried at Nashville City Cemetery (if applicable):



Fill out this form, clip out and mail to:
 P.O. Box 150733, Nashville, TN. 37215-0733.