

# Monuments & milestones

VOL 7 NO 2 FALL/WINTER 2011

## Living History Tour 2011

With its rapidly growing number of fans, the annual Living History Tour at the City Cemetery has become one of Nashville's must-do activities in the early fall. Over 1200 people attended last year, spellbound by the stirring reenactments of figures from Middle Tennessee history.

As visitors follow their guides around the cemetery, local actors dressed in period costumes bring characters from our region's past back to life. One of the remarkable individuals you will meet this year is Lucinda Bedford, a former slave who became one of the wealthiest women in Nashville through judicious investments in gas company stock and real estate. A few years before her death at 94, Lucinda was the victim of an attempted poisoning by her cook that took the life of a family member. The lurid court case that followed headlined Nashville news for weeks!

Another amazing Nashville woman who will greet you on the Tour is Mary Middleton Rutledge Fogg, a member of one of Nashville's early families, and granddaughter of two signers of the Declaration of Independence. Mary was a prolific writer,



**NOVEMBER 5, 1-5 P.M.**

nominated by President George Washington in 1797 to be the first judge of the U.S. District Court for Tennessee and was the only federal judge serving the state until his retirement in 1833. During his career he helped draft the state's first constitution and served as trustee of Davidson Academy and Cumberland College.

We heard about the Honorable Ephraim Foster in a recent Tour when former slave Sally Thomas told how he helped her and her children gain their freedom, but there was much more to this great Tennessean than his kind heart. At 18 he served under Andrew Jackson in the Creek Wars, so distinguishing himself that the General made the young man his private secretary. Returning home, he studied law with celebrated attorney John Dickinson, soon passing the bar himself. Elected to the General Assembly in 1827, he was chosen Speaker of the House two years later. In 1837 he went to Washington, D.C., as Senator from Tennessee, returning to Nashville and the practice of law in 1845.

These are only a few of the fascinating characters you will meet on this year's Tour. A special feature of the event will be an emphasis on music, both vocal and instrumental, to surround you on your journey into the past.

So join us for this year's Living History Tour on November 5th. It's a delightful and inexpensive outing for families, Tennessee history buffs, or anyone else who would enjoy a pleasant stroll through Nashville's finest historical outdoor museum.



Living History "Ghosts" stand ready to share stories of the lives of the prominent Nashvillians they portray.

producing volumes ranging from science textbooks to poetry. She was an active member of Nashville's Christ Episcopal Church and a leader in local education.

You will meet the eminent Judge John McNairy near his distinctive tomb. This schoolboy friend of Andrew Jackson was

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY that I was penning the spring version of this report – the Association has had a most eventful time since then.

On April 29 we played host to the Nashville Tree Foundation's High Tree Party. This event honors Nashville's oldest and largest trees. I'm pleased to report that five lovely old trees in the Cemetery received awards from the Foundation (see article below). Our next goal is to obtain recognition as a city arboretum, a task which involves identifying and labeling all the trees in the cemetery. Board members Lyn James and Robert Mather are spearheading this project, and I'm sure that they would appreciate your help.

Speaking of Robert, he and other members of the Master Gardeners Association led the annual Master Gardener's tour on May 14. The focus this year was on Civil War era gardening practices, most appropriate during this Sesquicentennial period. A large crowd enjoyed the presentation.

We don't yet have the financial results from the Memorial Day Run (see article on page 5), but they promise to be significant. Board member Winder Campbell worked with the Nashville Striders to administer this event, and the City Cemetery Association provided support staff for the race. Runners numbered about 450, significantly more than ever before. This event and the Living History Tour are the major sources of the Association's income (which funds cemetery preservation work), so the success of this event is a good fiscal sign for us.

On July 16 I donned my Confederate artilleryman's hat and led a historic tour jointly sponsored by the Association and the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The theme of the tour, "What Were They Thinking," focused on three Confederate officers who made decisions that produced bad outcomes for themselves (Andrew Wills Gould attempted to assassinate Nathan Bedford Forrest but met his own death instead), their commands (Felix Zollicoffer moved his little army from an easily defensible position south of the Cumberland to an indefensible one north of the river, losing both his army and his life.), and the Confederacy itself (Bushrod Johnson sited a vital river fort on a risky flood plain, enabling the Confederacy's loss of Kentucky and Tennessee). Channel 5 interviewed me after the tour and featured the City Cemetery on the 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. news.

What's coming up? First and foremost is our Living History Tour on November 5. Bill McKee is crafting another of his great programs (see story, page 1), and we hope to top last year's 1200+ attendance record. And, yes, yet another Sesquicentennial tour (a two-parter: "Yes, there's a Yankee buried here," and "The Lost Battle of Nashville") is scheduled for December 3. Finally, we have our annual membership meeting in December, always an occasion for fun and fellowship.

We hope you will join us for many of these activities.



**John B. Allyn**  
NCCA President

## NCCA Stands Tall in Big Old Tree Contest



Five majestic trees on Nashville City Cemetery property were nominated for the Big Old Tree Contest, an annual event sponsored by the Nashville Tree Foundation. The contest is an innovative way to create an inventory of the

biggest trees and to enhance conservation efforts in Davidson County. At the Foundation's 24th annual High Tree Party, held at the City Cemetery on

April 29, 2011, the winning trees were announced: a black walnut (pictured at left), a bur oak (right), a hackberry, a magnolia, and a sassafras. The Foundation awarded certificates to Metro Parks and to NCCA board member Lyn C. James who nominated the five champions. Please visit our website at [thenashvillecitycemetery.org/events.htm](http://thenashvillecitycemetery.org/events.htm) to see photographs of the five trees and to read the High Tree Party program listing the 2011 Champions and their measurements.



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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.

visit us at: [thenashvillecitycemetery.org](http://thenashvillecitycemetery.org)

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## Dr. Felix Randolph Robertson (1781-1865)

by Jill Meese, NCCA Board Member

Felix Randolph Robertson, a man of diverse talents, contributed much to the development of Nashville from its beginnings through the Civil War. Born January 11, 1781, to Nashville founders James and Charlotte Robertson, he was the first Caucasian child born in the new settlement.

Although the son of a pioneer, Robertson earned a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He studied under Dr. Benjamin Rush (a signer of the Declaration of Independence) and graduated in 1806, specializing in children's diseases.

Robertson courted Lydia Waters in Maryland, but, uneasy about asking Lydia to abandon her comfortable surroundings for a frontier town, returned alone to Nashville to build his home and practice. He erected a two-story building at 129 Cherry Street (near today's 4th Avenue N. and Church Street) that served him as both office and home, and he became Nashville's first pediatrician.

Eighteen months later Robertson returned to propose to Lydia, who not only accepted but also arranged to bring her mother and siblings to Nashville. The couple married on October 8, 1808.

Lydia and Felix Robertson had eight children before Lydia's 1832 death at 44. Felix never remarried, remaining a widower for 33 years.

Dr. Robertson made many contributions to the field of medicine but is probably best known for advocating the use of quinine to treat malarial fevers. Founder and first president of The Nashville Medical Society, he served as president of the Medical Society of Tennessee from 1834-1840. He was a Professor of Medicine in the University of Nashville's Medical Department, served briefly as president of the Bank of Tennessee, and was twice elected mayor of Nashville.

In 1826 Robertson, as President of the Texas Association, led thirty men to



Portrait by Washington Cooper, courtesy of the Tennessee State Museum.

Texas to survey land and start a settlement in what is now Robertson County, Texas. Though he did not stay in Texas, his cousin, Sterling Clack Robertson did. After winning a legal battle with Stephen F. Austin over the land, Sterling surveyed and established Nashville, Texas, on the Brazos River.

Felix Robertson lived alone in his later years after all six surviving children married and settled outside of Nashville. He died in 1865, at the age of 84, from injuries sustained in a buggy accident caused by a runaway horse. The first-born Nashvillian had lived through the War of 1812, the growth and development of "the Athens of the South," and the devastating Civil War, where family members fought on both sides. His positive impact on Nashville is reflected in his tombstone inscription in City Cemetery: "First white child born in Settlement now called Nashville. Distinguished as a physician. Foremost as citizen."

## coming up in future issues:

Learn how the NCCA website can help you with African-American genealogical research.

Find out more about some of the volunteers and staff members who make the NCCA an effective organization.

Did you know that Nashville City Cemetery is about to become the site of a new Civil War Trails marker?

Go to: [civilwartraveler.com](http://civilwartraveler.com) for information about this fascinating historical program

Visit our website at [www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org](http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org)

# 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, September 17, 2011, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

## **CLEAN-UP DAY WITH HANDS ON NASHVILLE**

Come and join NCCA board members and volunteers to do some of the necessary chores (raking leaves, picking up branches, etc.) around the cemetery grounds. Sign up at the HON website before you come:  
<http://www.hon.org/HomePage/index.php/home.html>

**Saturday, September 17, 2011, 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

## **CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL TOUR**

**"African Americans in the Civil War"** – Join NCCA board member Clyde Thompson for a fascinating and informative cemetery tour entitled, "African Americans in the Civil War." **Free.**

**Saturday, October 15, 2011, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

## **CLEAN-UP DAY WITH HANDS ON NASHVILLE**

Come and join NCCA board members and volunteers to do some of the necessary chores (raking leaves, picking up branches, etc.) around the cemetery grounds. Sign up at the HON website before you come:  
<http://www.hon.org/HomePage/index.php/home.html>



**Saturday, November 5, 2011, 1:00-5:00 p.m.**

## **LIVING HISTORY TOUR**

Make plans now to attend our most popular City Cemetery event, where costumed reenactors bring the history of Middle Tennessee to life. **\$5 for adults; \$10 for families.**

**Saturday, December 3, 2011, 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

## **CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL TOUR**

Join NCCA board member/ Civil War authority John Allyn for an unforgettable two-part tour: Part I, "Yes, there is a Yankee buried here"; Part II, "The Lost Battle of Nashville." **Free.**

**Thursday, December 8, 2011, 6:00 p.m.**

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/HOLIDAY PARTY**

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 John & Cary Allyn, 3602 Hoods Hill Road. **Free to all members.**

**Saturday, May 12, 2012, 10:00 a.m.**

## **MASTER GARDENERS' TOUR**

The Davidson County Master Gardeners have created those lovely, historically appropriate plantings you see throughout the cemetery. Their popular cemetery tours instruct and inspire amateur gardeners of all levels. Come and celebrate the arrival of spring. **Free.**

**Have you seen our website lately?**



[www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org](http://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!**

# A Hands On Partnership

The Nashville City Cemetery Association (NCCA) has renewed its agency partnership with Hands On Nashville (HON) for a second eventful year of collaboration.

Because the NCCA bears the responsibility for maintaining and restoring the Nashville City Cemetery grounds, last year we began to schedule monthly cemetery clean-up days to assist with maintenance efforts and were looking for help.

HON has been at the heart of Nashville volunteerism for the past twenty years. The NCCA tapped into this valuable resource, hoping to attract volunteers to help with the monthly clean-up days. After a successful year of sharing the work with our volunteers, we have renewed our partnership, getting together for several excellent work days so far this year. Volunteers help to rake leaves, remove fallen branches (a big job this year after the storms!), weed, tidy up burial plots, and collect trash. At the end of the day we introduce the volunteers to Nashville's history

through stories of some of the fascinating individuals buried in the City Cemetery.

This year we were fortunate in having several HON volunteers help out with our annual Memorial Day race. They made a perfect addition to our team and helped guarantee a smooth, well-run race. Our Living History Tour in November is another great opportunity to make use of volunteers, who will help us direct the groups through the tour, sell tickets, and staff the water tables.

We look forward to partnering with HON each year, growing with them as we learn how best to utilize their unique resources, while introducing our volunteers to the history and beauty of the Nashville City Cemetery.

To become part of our shared activities, just set up an account on the Hands On Nashville website – <http://www.hon.org/HomePage/index.php/home.html> – and watch the calendar for Nashville City Cemetery activities. It's quick and easy to sign up. We'd love for you to join us this year.

## Scores of Runners Take Part in Memorial Day Dash

A record 450 participants registered for this year's Memorial Day Dash, our annual 5-K run/walk from Sounds Stadium to City Cemetery. Runners included Mayor Dean, Metro Council members, and a wide range of athletes, young and old!

2011 winner Jacob Carrigan, a local runner, earned his third first-place finish – Carrigan won in 2006 and 2009, and was second in 2004. He crossed the finish line at 16:39, nearly 30 seconds ahead of the second-place runner. Emily Ryan, winning the overall female title at 20:39, has also led the pack before: she won in 2007 at 20:38, and she was second last year. Both winners came in smiling despite the crushing heat – great runners make it look effortless. Prizes were awarded in over 25 different categories. Nicole Caruso (7) was our youngest winner, and Fred Lovelace (81) our most experienced. All participants and their times are listed on the Nashville Striders' website: <http://www.nashvillestriders.com/race-results-2011/>

The NCCA is grateful to everyone who participated this year. Our sincere thanks go to the Nashville Striders for organizing and supervising the race, and to the Nashville Sounds for opening the stadium and its facilities to the runners – they have been our partners from the beginning. Much gratitude also to Heather Colvin, the Sounds' marketing director, for her generosity; to David Graeflin, owner of the Athlete's House in Nashville, for providing race numbers for all the runners, as well as



Winder Campbell (center) hard at work, as he is every year, organizing the annual Memorial Day Dash.

water and Gatorade at the finish line; to participating members of the Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow, who placed American flags at the graves of the 75 military veterans buried in City Cemetery and led a brief but touching flag dedication ceremony there; and to our wonderful Hands On Nashville volunteers who help us with so many tasks. The proceeds from this and our other activities help fund our preservation efforts at the Nashville City Cemetery.



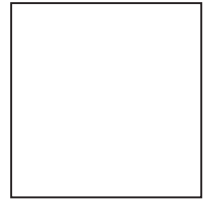
**Robert Mather**  
Davidson County Master Gardener  
and NCCA Board Member

### GARDEN NOTES

Now that the days are getting cooler and shorter, take a look around your flower beds and see what you need to discard. Try something different for some fall color this year . . . asters! The New England aster, Michaelmas daisy (*Aster novae-angliae*), was first introduced by John Bartram around 1710 and is hardy in zones 4 - 8. The perennial blue aster graced the gardens of native plant collectors, and enjoyed even greater appreciation in the 1800s. Try the aromatic aster Raydon's Favorite in a mass for reliable color in October.

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

**NASHVILLE**  
**City Cemetery**  
est. 1822  
 1001 FOURTH AVENUE SOUTH  
 P.O. Box 150733  
 Nashville, TN. 37215-0733  
 thenashvillecitycemetery.org



**Address Correction Requested**

## 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.