

# Monuments & milestones

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## LOST GRAVES UNCOVERED

In February the Metro Water Department began working to correct an ongoing waste water problem that a neighboring business owner on the west side of the City Cemetery was having. The waste line causing the issue runs both adjacent to and across the cemetery, and due to the sensitive nature of the problem, Metro Historical Commission staff worked with Metro Water to monitor the excavation that was required to make the repairs.

While excavating the water line, three graves in the Parker family plot, marked with gravestones were uncovered. The graves sit outside the boundary marked by a chain link fence dating back to the 1950s and are under the edge of a parking lot for the adjacent business. The three Parker family members that were uncovered are identified in the 1908 Survey, and include Cynthia Parker who died in 1898, W. L. Parker who died in 1893, and Mary Temple who died in 1884. A recent property line survey conducted by the Metro Historical Commission verifies that the actual property line is approximately four feet outside the chain link fence and in line with the family plot uncovered.

Metro Historical Commission is currently working to put up a new fence that should be in place this summer and will sit on the true property line. A new fence will be placed along the railroad tracks. The existing chain link fence, along the side property, will be replaced with a new fence. All of



The three Parker Family plot tombstones after being uncovered by Metro Water Department workers.

this work will put the Parker family plot back inside the City Cemetery.

Coincidentally, Parker family descendants had recently been inquiring about the location of their family plot. Upon being told of the discovery, family members expressed delight and appreciation to the Metro Historical Commission and to the Nashville City Cemetery Association for working together to ensure that potential discoveries were handled appropriately and that research was conducted to verify the people buried there.

Descendant Harriette Maloney had only discovered her Parker ancestors two years ago. "Fletch [Coke] and I talked about where their graves might be when I was helping her with the tombstone inscription project," said Ms. Maloney. "We knew they were somewhere along that fence line, so when Mr. Zahn, of the Metro Historical Commission, told Fletch about discovering the actual tombstones and she told us, I was totally overwhelmed with the news."



An inscription is still visible on one of the Parker family gravestones.

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hese are very exciting times for the Nashville City Cemetery. Implementation of the \$3 million Master Plan has begun and will continue through 2008. The first step is to clear out the back portion or southern boundary fence line and install a secure fence to offer a long term deterrent to the vandalism which has been a serious problem in recent years. If you haven't been to the cemetery lately, stop by and see the progress being made. Soon very noticeable changes will become apparent as much needed maintenance and restoration begins. We are very grateful to our city's leaders for their foresight in allocating the funds to restore this historic Nashville treasure.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Other great things are happening as well. If you haven't visited our new website, you will be pleasantly surprised when you check it out. You will see the result of many hours of hard work led by Board member, Fletch Coke, Web Master, Alice Swanson, and volunteer, Kim Batts, to make tombstone inscriptions and burial information available for descendants and for research. Many volunteers worked to record, photograph, input and make available this information and we appreciate everyone who volunteered under the leadership of Fletch and Bill Coke.

Board member, Terry Jackson, works tirelessly each year to coordinate the Living History Tour, and Board Member, Jason Holleman gets the summer season off to a great start by coordinating the Memorial Day Dash in conjunction with support by the Nashville Striders. The planning efforts of Clara Wood and Anne Guerra ensured that the NCCA Annual Meeting held in December was a festive occasion celebrating the members and volunteers who make the Nashville City Cemetery Association the strong and viable organization that it is. Currently, Anne and Clara are working on plans for the Descendant's Day Reunion and Picnic, an event that you won't want to miss whether you are a descendant or not.

As you read this newsletter please mark your calendar for upcoming events including the annual Memorial Day Dash, U.S. Daughters of the American Revolution Flag Day Ceremony, Descendant's Day and Living History Tour. Also, if you haven't attended our free Second Saturday Tours, please join us for an informative stroll with a different topic each month. These informal tours are led by local historians, college professors and authors who offer great insight into early Nashville history and the people who settled here.

The NCCA Board is comprised of hard-working, dedicated members who are responsible for our great progress and successes on our many projects and events. We hope you'll join us as a member of NCCA during this tremendous period of revitalization of our city's cemetery.

— Nick Bailey, NCCA President



# TOMBSTONE SYMBOLS ABOUND AT THE NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY

by Jim Hoobler

**N**ashville City Cemetery is rich in the symbolism of the mourning rituals of the past. Walk along the paths on a beautiful spring day to enjoy a search for these, and other symbols.

The anchor is a symbol of Hope, as well as of a sailor. The monument to William Driver (*above right*), a sea captain, has an anchor on it.



The William Carroll monument (*right*) is rich in military symbols, as he fought alongside Andrew Jackson in the Creek War and at New Orleans. It has cannon balls, cannon tubes, medieval armor, a sword, victor's wreath, and an American Eagle to signify for whom he was fighting.



On the monument to Robert Whyte (*above*), is an open book, within a wreath meaning that his faith everlasting is founded upon the Bible.

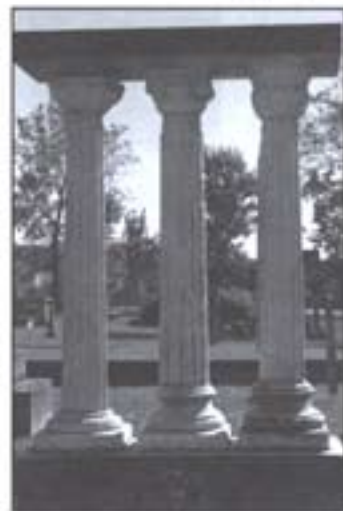
Mattie Scott's monument (*right*) is a lamb, to indicate that a child is buried there.



The Peabody monument (*below left*), in the Masonic section, is a lesson in architecture, with the three orders of classical architecture carved there to instruct all visitors.



The Sarah Walker monument (*left*) has several symbols used on it. Her grieving husband put an urn in the center of an arch, with a torch carved in stone on top of it. The arch signifies victory over death, and being reunited with the loved one. The urn represents a place to catch the tears shed for the departed. The torch means immortality, and clasped hands of a man and a woman denote fidelity or everlasting union.



The Nancy Maynor monument (*below right*) has butterflies on it to signify rebirth.



## MAY

**May 12**  
(10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

**Second Saturday Tour:**  
"Soldier, Mother, Jockey,  
Doctor: The Lives of African  
Americans Buried at City  
Cemetery"

Carol Kaplan, Local Author &  
NCCA Board Member.



**May 28**  
(8:00 a.m.)

**Memorial Day Dash**

Race starts at Greer Stadium.  
Sponsored by Nashville Striders  
(see "Race Schedule" at  
nashvillestriders.com for registra-  
tion and more information).

Co-sponsored by the NCCA



## JUNE

**June 9**  
(10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)

**Kid's Day, Ages 8 to 12:**  
Scavenger Hunt, Tours, Games.  
Contact NCCA website to make  
reservations.  
NCCA Board & Volunteers



**June 14**  
(10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)

Flag Day Ceremony and Marking  
of Capt. Driver Gravesite.  
Daughters of the American  
Revolution, Regent's Council



## JULY

**July 14**  
(10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

**Second Saturday Tour:**  
**Fred Zahn of Metro**  
**Historical Commission to**  
**discuss the \$3 million**  
**Master Plan**  
NCCA Board, Volunteers, & Local  
Historians

## SEP

**September 8**  
(10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)

**Second Saturday Tour:**  
**Descendant's Day**  
NCCA Board, Volunteers, & Local  
Historians



## OCT

**October 6**  
(5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

**Living  
History  
Tour**

**October 13**  
(10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

**Second Saturday Tour:**  
**Arrivals &  
Departures**

Terry Jackson, Association of  
State and Local History and  
NCCA Board Member

## NOV

**November 10**  
(10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

**Second Saturday Tour:**  
**Four Cold Winters: City**  
**Cemetery and the Civil War**  
**in Middle Tennessee**  
John Allyn, NCCA Board Member



**November is  
Membership  
Renewal  
Month!**



## DEC

**December 6**  
(6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

**NCCA  
Annual  
Meeting**

All NCCA members are invited.  
Location TBA

# TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTION PROJECT

During September 2006, 25 people came to the City Cemetery to take digital photographs of those tombstones with readable inscriptions. We want to thank our enthusiastic photo team members: David & Rebecca Martin, Bertie Shriver, Kathy Lauder, Ramona & Steve Rhodes, Warren & Holly Westcott, Greg Ledford,



Little Mother Victoria Green 1890 - 1932 Documentation  
Internet Index: 9-24-1932 Victoria Green Adden 1933 &  
Goritt: Same as Recorded 2005

Jan Duke, Lori & Jordan Sellers, Mary Charlotte Mehlenbacher and Ken Hall, Sam & Alex Burnett, F. Lynne Bachleda, John, Cary &

George Allyn, Susan O'Neill, Alice Swanson, Ann Orth, and Fletch & Bill Coke.

Alice Swanson, the very creative designer of the Nashville City Cemetery web site, continues to update the web site with our current events and happenings and has provided training and technical assistance with the uploading of inscriptions and photographs.

Kimberly Batts was engaged to post the tombstone inscriptions on the web site. All tombstones with readable inscriptions, recorded by volunteers during 2005 & 2006, are now posted on the web site. Kimberly was also asked to post the tombstone photographs with the listed inscriptions on the web site. She has made great

progress. We have taken photographs in 30 Sections and there are only 15 Sections left to shoot.

The importance of this work was underscored recently in a letter received from Laine Sutherland, Director of Public Services for the Tennessee Department of State, Tennessee State Library and Archives. In her letter, Ms. Sutherland wrote: "We were delighted and impressed this morning to be made aware of the new additions to the Nashville City Cemetery website. As you can imagine, we have numerous library users seeking information about the City Cemetery, and your new postings will be of great assistance to them – and to us. We are particularly impressed with the quality of the material and its presentation on the website. Thank all of you so much for this significant contribution to the available research on the history of our city."

Interested in being a Photo Volunteer this spring? Please, send an email to the web site and we will be in touch. Be sure and check out the web site for the Tombstone Inscriptions and the Photographs. ([www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org](http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org))