

Tannehill, Cooper Honored at City Cemetery

by Fletch Coke, Nashville City Cemetery Board member



Duncan Callicott, spoke about his ancestor, Masonic Grand Master Wilkins Tannehill. (Photo by Kathy Lauer)

On June 22, 1871, following a Called Meeting, the Cumberland Masonic Lodge of Nashville adjourned so members could attend the funeral of Washington Cooper, who was, according to a local newspaper, "one of the oldest Masons in the city and one of the original members of the Cumberland Lodge." Lodge Minutes reported that "the brothers proceeded to the late residence of Bro. Cooper and then to the Cemetery" for the burial "with the usual ceremonies of the order."

On a Second-Saturday Tour 137 years later – May 10, 2008 – fifty people gathered at the City Cemetery for two special events. The first was a talk by **Duncan Callicott**, who spoke to the group about his ancestor, Grand Master Wilkins Tannehill. The second event was a ceremony at the Cumberland Lodge No. 8 burial lot. **William R. Cooper** of Union, Ohio, great-grandson of Washington Cooper, was welcomed by Worshipful Master **W. M. Byrd** and Secretary **Jason Felts** of Cumberland Lodge No. 8. After introductions and a few preliminary remarks, current Lodge members dedicated a

new tombstone for Washington Cooper, replacing one long lost.

In 1845 Cumberland Lodge No. 8 purchased a burial lot and six years later bought the adjoining lot at the City Cemetery. Between 1846 and 1922, twenty-nine interments took place on this Lot. With the addition of Washington Cooper's marker, eight



The newly dedicated Cooper marker. (Photo by Kathy Lauer)



William Cooper speaks about his great grandfather, Washington Cooper. (Photo by Kathy Lauer)

Masons now have tombstones there. To learn the names of the 29 Masons buried on the Cumberland Lodge Lot, visit www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org. Anyone with additional information about these Masons is urged to contact the Association.

Master Gardeners Tour

by Robert Mather, Nashville City Cemetery Board member

The Nashville City Cemetery's Second Saturday Tour on April 12 featured the work of the Davidson County Master Gardeners at the cemetery. Project co-chairs **Lou Anne Sandlin** and **Robert Mather** conducted the first tour of the



Project co-chairs Lou Anne Sandlin (above) and Robert Mather conducted the Master Gardeners Tour on April 12.

year with a gathering of about 30 people. The tour started at the four gardens in front of the Keeble Building, where volunteer Master Gardeners were busy weeding the beds of blue bearded iris, rose campion, lamb's ear, and budding yellow daylilies. Flowers planted in the cemetery are limited to those that would have grown there in the 1860s.

In the early days of the cemetery, many families would come to the cemetery once a month and tend to the graves in their family plots. They often brought flowers from their homes to plant there. Seventeen of the tombstones in the cemetery are called "bed tombs," having been designed in the shape of a bed, with a head and a foot. Flowers are planted in these "beds" to bloom all summer.

Tour members also visited the James Robertson plot, the oldest grave site, where the founders of Nashville were laid to rest. Boxwoods were planted along the path to the grave site during the 1940s. For the past three years Master Gardeners have been shaping those Boxwoods along with the boxwoods around the Keeble building. The most recent project of the Master Gardeners, who work at the cemetery during the spring and fall, is the "Garden Plot" at the McCrory gravesite, where the bridal veil spirea was just beginning to bloom on tour day.