

Monuments & Milestones

Memorial Day Dash 5K

Join us again for one of the most popular and delightful running events in Middle Tennessee, the 2014 Memorial Day Dash 5K for runners and walkers of all ages. The race begins Monday, May 26, at 8:00 a.m. at Greer (Sounds) Stadium in Nashville, loops through historic Fort Negley, and ends on the shaded paths of the Nashville City Cemetery.

The race is part of the Nashville Striders Grand Prix Series. Last year's race winners ranged from 8 to 80 in age-group winners. Participants traditionally range anywhere from serious runners to families with baby strollers. Awards are given to the top three overall male and female finishers and top masters male and female; special prizes go to top three finishers in age groups ranging from 9 and under to 80-plus. Also awarded (one of our favorites) is the annual prize for

(continued on page 6)

Walking into the past

BY CHRISTINE KREYLING



Last Sunday, my dog Arthur and I went for a walk in City Cemetery.

I often observe the Sabbath this way, forgoing the solace of Scripture for the solace of the past. The cemetery was established as a public burying ground in 1822, so its limestone walls embrace a lot of history.

When Arthur and I arrive, ca. 8:00 a.m., we're usually the only ones among the living, and the ambience is peaceful, almost prayerful. Occasionally a member of Metro's park police will cruise through, checking for acts of vandalism, I presume, and that dog is firmly attached to leash—although the permanent residents are way beyond leash laws. But

most of the time Arthur is a solitary sniffer, and I commune only with the dead.

There are about 20,000 of them in City Cemetery's 27 acres and they're a diverse crowd: politicians and merchant princes, whites and blacks, educators and warriors. Interred are many of Nashville's "firsts": first settlers James and Charlotte Robertson, the city's "First Lady Schoolteacher" and "First White Male Child." Two of the original Jubilee singers are here, their graves marked each fall by magnolia leaf wreaths trimmed with purple ribbon. So is Confederate General Richard Ewell, who fought at Lee's side, most notably at Gettysburg, to keep them enslaved.

Some of the more affluent have personalized monuments. The *(continued on page 6)*

INSIDE

- 2 President's Message
Free Tour App
- 3 The Rock Mystery Solved
- 4 Upcoming Events
2013 Membership Meeting
- 5 A Lovely Sunday
- 7 List of Donors
- 8 Membership Application

President's Message



The Nashville City Cemetery Association: What We Do

The Nashville City Cemetery Association sponsors outreach programs and events that tell the story of the emergence of a great city from a small frontier settlement. Narratives are developed and shared focusing on the men and women whose final resting place is this hallowed soil. This ground is more than a burial location; it is a beautiful park and an exceptional outdoor museum. The legends of the cemetery chronicle the progress of Nashville.

Research is a major activity of the Association. The focus of these studies is not just on prominent leaders but also on citizens from all income levels, professions, stations-in-life, and religious faiths. Slaves are honored as are free persons, for all groups made a contribution to the success of this community. Without our faithful volunteers many stories of the people of Nashville would be lost to history.

In addition to the continuing research activities, other recently completed projects include replacing broken and damaged tombstones, inventorying and cataloging the

narrative on many monuments, obtaining an Arboretum designation, enhancing the website, replanting native flowers and bushes, plus having the beautiful decades-old trees pruned and shaped.

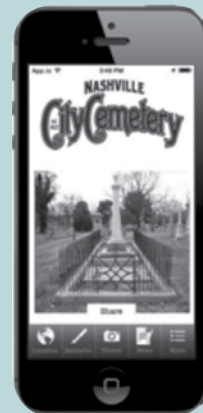
The City Cemetery is public land owned by all citizens of Davidson County. The administration and oversight of the property is entrusted to the Metropolitan Historical Commission and the Board of Parks and Recreation. The Association partners with and supports these two governmental agencies as well as other public and private groups in physically maintaining and enriching the beauty and history of the acreage.

These are exciting times for the Nashville City Cemetery. Please join us in the effort by renewing your membership, becoming a volunteer, and/or making a financial contribution to the Association. This is important work and the Association needs your help!

Bill McKee
President



FREE TOUR APP NOW AVAILABLE



Thanks to a generous grant from The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, the Nashville City Cemetery Association is proud to announce the launching of a free app tour of the Nashville City Cemetery. A visitor to the cemetery as well as anyone with a computer may download this tour of the core portion of the cemetery. Encompassing 20 stops, the tour includes videos, photos, and short articles about the cemetery and many of its historic figures. The app may be downloaded to Android or Apple phones and may be found in *play.google.com* or in the Apple "App Store." Signs with the QR code will be (continued on page 6)

NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Monuments & Milestones

P. O. Box 150733, Nashville, TN 37215-0733

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

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Romantic stories of love and tragedy have swirled about The Rock at the Nashville City Cemetery for more than 160 years. Visitors always want to hear the story of The Rock. Over the years the tales have grown increasingly sad. Here is a sampling:

A lover's quarrel caused a young lady to drown herself in the Cumberland River. A bride was killed in a carriage accident on her wedding day. In all these tales, the bereaved young suitor or new husband had "the trysting rock," where courtship had taken place, brought to her gravesite at City Cemetery. One author suggested that "He allowed no name or date upon it. He knew and that was to him sufficient."

Although it was unknown who was buried beneath the ivy-covered rock, in 1959, a stone plaque, with the name "Ann Rawlins Sanders 1815-1836" was attached on The Rock. You will see this was a mistake. Discoveries in 2013 have led to the facts.

Ann's life does not fit the stories. Ann was married to Charles H. Sanders, in Nashville, on August 29, 1832 by Rev. William Hume. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church. On April 1, 1836, the local newspaper lamented her passing, "In her the Church has lost its brightest ornament, the poor their kindest friend, society its strongest prop."

Over the past seven years, City Cemetery Association has made every effort to read and transcribe, from microfilm, articles about the history of the cemetery. In 2013, the discovery of a local newspaper article refuted all the tragic tales. On August 14, 1882, *The Daily American* let readers know:



THE ROCK *Mystery Solved*

BY FLETCH COKE
NCCA Board Member

Some months since a part of the ivy was cut-away on two sides where inscriptions were said to be. There the rough letters were, but nearly worn away; with care and painstaking they were finally deciphered. On the south, the side towards her former home was:

Lucy Rawlins Steele
Died May 9, 1847

On the east was carved:
1848

THE DEAD
The only beautiful that change no more

The reporter learned the truth from the City Cemetery Sexton who remembered that a gentleman named Mr. Steele had the stone carried to the City Cemetery a year after his wife's death. At that time, Edward G. Steele was serving as Secretary to the Building Commission for the new State Capitol. For the construction, stone was being cut, by prisoners from the Penitentiary, at a nearby quarry. According to the Sexton, "Mr. Steele had the stone brought out in a high wagon, drawn by eight mules and six convicts were taken along to aid in unloading it. He put it there and then spoiled

nature by putting that iron fixture on the top, as I said to him at the time. But there isn't any truth in all romances that young people are so fond of telling and believing about the ivy stone."

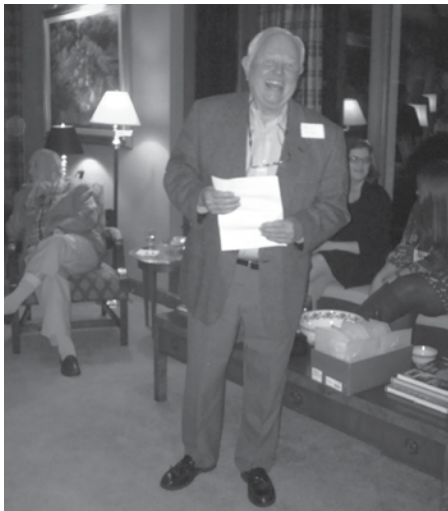
With her name discovered in the 1882 newspaper

article, research in 2014 was directed toward what else could be learned about Lucy Rawlins Steele. Davidson County Marriage records show that Lucy was married to Edward Steele on November 24, 1832, by the Rev. Hume. Their marriage followed three months after Ann Rawlins married Charles H. Sanders. Lucy was baptized at Christ Church, the first Episcopal church in Nashville, on October 13, 1837 and two days afterwards the Steeles' baby, Albert Wagner Steele, was baptized. The Parish Register recorded Lucy's funeral service in May 1847.

The City Cemetery Interment Books listed that Lucy, the wife of E. G. Steele, died of consumption and was buried on May 6, 1847. One *(continued on page 7)*

2013 NCCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Outgoing NCCA president Jill Meese announced accomplishments and awards and member Duncan Callicott presented "Oscars" to the Living History Tour actors at the 2013 annual meeting.



Nashville City Cemetery Calendar 2014

Free tours of the cemetery begin at 10:00 a.m. on the same Saturday each month as Volunteer Work Days. Most tours last about 45 minutes. In case of unfavorable weather (i.e., tornado, hail, drenching rain, or piles of snow), a canceled tour will take place the following Saturday. All public events are held at the cemetery unless otherwise indicated. The Nashville City Cemetery is open to visitors every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 10 MASTER GARDENERS TOUR 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

The Davidson County Master Gardeners maintain the historically accurate gardens in City Cemetery. Their popular tours instruct and inspire amateur gardeners of all levels. Come celebrate spring with us. FREE

Saturday, May 10 Volunteer Work Day* 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 20 NCCA Board Meeting, Sunnyside, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, May 26 MEMORIAL DAY DASH Registration 6:30 a.m., Start time 8:00 a.m. at Sounds Stadium

Our popular 5-K race, part of the Nashville Striders' Grand Prix Series. All runners and walkers welcome on this beautiful course.

Saturday, June 14 Volunteer Work Day* 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 24 NCCA Board Meeting, Sunnyside, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 12 Volunteer Work Day* 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 22 NCCA Board Meeting, Sunnyside, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 9 Volunteer Work Day* 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, August 26 NCCA Board Meeting, Sunnyside, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 13 Volunteer Work Day* 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 16 NCCA Board Meeting, Sunnyside, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 4 LIVING HISTORY TOUR

(Watch for more information about the Tour in our fall newsletter!)

*Note: To Volunteer for Work Days, please sign up on the Hands On Nashville website: hon.org or "Volunteer Central," tennessean.com/volunteer

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBPAGE LATELY?

Read about the 190-year history of City Cemetery in early NEWS ARTICLES, OBITUARIES, and other records. Access our newsletter archives. Link to the interment list at Nashville Public Library.

Discover maps, tombstone inscriptions, and African American history links. See PHOTOS of our events. Order books, follow useful links, and join & support the NCCA. Visit the NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION page on Facebook.



thenashvillecitycemetery.org





A Lovely Sunday for the Cemetery

On a beautiful early spring Sunday afternoon, about twenty descendants and relatives of Private Robert Bradfute (1794-1861), a veteran of the War of 1812, gathered for a dedication of his recently installed military marker. The ceremonies were arranged by Ruth (Bradfute) Heizer, of Knoxville, a great-granddaughter of Private Bradfute's brother and were conducted by the United States Daughters of 1812.

Robert Bradford was a Virginian and sometime after 1821, following his war service with the Virginia Militia, he and his wife Lucy Ann Vasser came to Nashville where he was a brick mason. One of his many buildings was the old insane asylum which was torn down in 1999 for the new Dell campus.

In addition to the VA marker for

BY CARTER G. BAKER
NCCA Board Member

Robert, Mrs. Heizer and her husband, Jim, purchased monuments for six other relatives who are buried in the Bradfute lot. Another marker was placed for Lucy Ann, who died in 1826 as a young mother of three or four children. Lucy Ann is buried about 50 yards from the Bradfute lot on Oak Street.

William R. Bradfute was the oldest son and second child of Robert and Lucy Ann. He was a captain in the Mexican War and was a colonel in the Confederate Army. While living in Nashville his first wife, Ann Bennett, died in 1853 at the age of 22. She, too, is buried in the City Cemetery, though her grave is not now marked. The Colonel is buried in the National Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

After the death of Lucy Ann, Robert remarried Sarah Holman Snead and they had four children. Sarah is buried next to her husband along with one of her children. Robert's brother, Hamilton, his wife, Nancy Robinson, and their daughter Blanche, are also buried in the Bradfute lot.

Other members of this family went to Texas and a number of descendants at the ceremony were from there. One of them, Roland Bradfute, Jr., a four times great-grandson of Robert, sang the National Anthem a cappella; I have never heard it sung so well and it was especially inspiring to hear the words, written during Private Bradfute's war, and in the shadow of the 15-star U. S. flag. In addition to the present U. S. flag, a 15 stars and stripes flag was displayed at the ceremony as that was the national flag at the time of the War of 1812.

NEW APP (from page 2) placed in the cemetery for easy downloading to smart phones on site.

Thank you to Fletch Coke for designing the tour and to the many who contributed their knowledge and talents in writing the content. Gene Stevens developed the app and provided technical expertise and advice along the way. This is the initial release of the app tour. In the future it is hoped that we can add an introductory film and additional tour options to further enhance the education and enjoyment of our historic treasure.

THE PAST (from page 1) obelisk of Robert Baxter features a carving of his Tennessee Iron Works. The palmetto of their native South Carolina is inscribed on the pier of Henry and Septima Sexta Middleton Rutledge, who lived on the hill that still bears their name.

Fading inscriptions on tombstone after tombstone record the frailty of women in the 19th century. Ann Rawlins Sanders and Mary Brown Winbourn died at 21, Mary Macon Cannon Bryan and Lydia Jewett at 24, Virginia Randall Tite at 26, Sarah Ann Gray Walker at 28, to name a few. Louisa Gordon Zollicoffer survived to age 38, but it's hard to know how. According to Carole Bucy and Carol Kaplan in *The Nashville City Cemetery*, Louisa died after the birth of her sixth living daughter, having already buried seven other children as infants.

I'm grateful that as a woman of the 20th and 21st centuries, I've not been subject to the same bitter logic. I'm also grateful for City Cemetery, a place of respite from the relentless present, offering me the broader perspective of almost 200 years of history set in stone. In this context, the frustrations and failures, anxieties and angers that periodically plague me subside into dust.

Christine Kreyling writes about architecture, urban and interior design, with the occasional detour into narratives about her dogs and cats. She's the author of several books about Nashville's architectural and planning history, but is most widely known as the oldest living writer for the Nashville Scene.

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Dash (continued from page 1) the Best Patriotic running attire so get your patriotic spirit flowing.

Refreshments, door prizes, and an awards ceremony follow the race, along with an inspiring flag ceremony conducted by local Boy Scouts in honor of our fallen veterans.

Registration fee for pre-registered runners (through May 24) is \$30, or you can register on the day of the race for \$35. Nashville Striders members get a \$2 discount with pre-registration. Race morning

registration and packet pick-up begin at 6:30 a.m. on Memorial Day in the Sounds Stadium parking lot. Parking is free.

You can register online at www.active.com until 8:00 p.m. on May 24 or at the stadium on the morning of the Dash. Call NCCA Board member Liz Parrott with any questions: (615) 642-3311.

The race will be managed and timed once again by the Nashville Striders. All profits from the event go to the Nashville City Cemetery Association to be used for cemetery restoration and repair.

Our Members & Other Benefactors, 2013 • We list them here with our deepest gratitude

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THE ROCK (*from page 3*) month after her death, Mr. Steel bought Lot 9 in Section 18 where both Ann and Lucy were buried. (The inscription, as deciphered with difficulty in 1882, said Lucy had died "May 9th" which is a few days off from the Interment Book. The name of Steel and Steele was variously spelled in 19th century records.)

Less than two years after Lucy's death, Edward G. Steele resigned his position

as Secretary of the Building Commission and moved to New Orleans. With his departure from Nashville, Lucy's name became lost to memory.

In the fall of 2013, the most amazing discovery was the result of a request by Ken Fieth, Metro Archives Director to Beth Odle, Nashville Public Library. The request was to re-photograph the 1908 Plat Book of City Cemetery with the Sections, Lots and Tombstones, identified

by F.R.R. Smith, Engineer, during the first survey of the cemetery. The new photographic copy revealed that, in Lot 9, showing tombstones and inscriptions, the name "Ann Rawlins Sanders" was written on her box tomb and nearby was a sketch identified as "Rock" without a name.

The monument for Lucy Rawlins Steele, wife of Edward G. Steele, is "The Rock."

Gone But Not Forgotten



Don't miss the **Living History Tour** October 4, 2014

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NCCA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Your membership is extremely valuable to us. It helps support our efforts to repair, restore, and preserve the Nashville City Cemetery. It also allows us to offer the Living History Tour each fall, along with other cemetery tours throughout the year, and to sponsor the popular Memorial Day Dash, now designated as a Nashville Striders Grand Prix Race.

NCCA Membership Levels (circle one):

Individual (Donor): \$20

Family (Donor): \$35

Donor: \$20–\$49

Sponsor: \$50–\$99

Supporter: \$100–\$199

Contributor: \$200–\$299

Sustainer: \$300–\$399

Provider: \$400–\$499

Patron: \$500 + above

☐ Join Members receive the newsletter and are invited to special events. Please provide email address.

☐ Renew I would like information about tax letters _____; about volunteer opportunities _____.

Please list the names of your ancestors buried at City Cemetery:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Email _____

Please complete this form and mail to NCCA, P.O. Box 150733, Nashville, TN 37215-0733

You can also apply on our website: thenashvillecitycemetery.org