

10TH ANNUAL Living History Tour



SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

TOURS FROM
2:00–6:00 P.M.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Skip the line!

*Pre-pay online to join
the next tour:*

[http://2013livinghistorytour.
eventbrite.com/](http://2013livinghistorytour.eventbrite.com/)

Meet Nashville's Leaders



BY KATHY LAUDER
NCCA Board Member

John Cockrill, and they settled near today's Centennial Park to raise their large family. She was the only woman among the early Cumberland settlers to receive a land grant in her own name, earned largely for her courage in defending Fort Caswell (later Fort Watauga) against Indian attack.

William Carroll Napier owned a Nashville livery stable and carried Mayor Cheatham and other city officials to surrender Nashville to Union Forces in 1862. Napier and his son James helped John Berrien Lindsley set up military hospitals around the city by transporting food, equipment, and supplies. James would later become Nashville's first African American city councilor and was Register of the U.S. Treasury under President Taft.

George W. Campbell, one of Nashville's most distinguished citizens, was an attorney, a U.S. Senator and Representative, Tennessee Supreme Court Justice, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, and U.S. Ambassador to Russia. Campbell County, Tennessee, is named in his honor.

Mabel Lewis Imes was raised in New England, where she received an excellent education, learned to speak French, and took voice lessons. Auditioning for the Fisk Jubilee Singers during their Eastern tour, she was promptly hired to sing contralto...at the age of 13!

Thomas Crutcher served as State Treasurer of Tennessee for 25 years. An activist in promoting education for women, he was a founder and active trustee of the Nashville Female Academy, where the students called him "Uncle Crutcher."

Lizzie Porterfield Elliott was the daughter of Collins D. Elliott, president of the Nashville Female Academy, and she was perhaps the most compelling example of his belief in educating women. A bright and interesting woman, she authored the *Early History of Nashville*, still (continued on page 4)

It's time once again for one of Nashville's most popular annual events, the Nashville City Cemetery Living History Tour. This year the Tour will feature some of Nashville's most interesting and historic leaders.

Join us on Saturday, September 21, between 2:00-6:00 p.m. to enjoy a delightful opportunity to see the past come alive before your eyes, as costumed characters step forward from the gravestones to tell you their stories.

Meet hero **Lipscomb Norvell**, a Revolutionary War soldier who served under General Washington at Brandywine, Trenton, and Monmouth. An early pioneer, he raised a large family in Kentucky, then joined family members in Nashville, where he died at 87.

Frank Parrish, a free man of color, was a Nashville entrepreneur, operating a Bathing House and Barber Shop on Deaderick Street. He died in 1867 and was buried in a family plot at City Cemetery.

Meet **Ann Robertson Cockrill**, James Robertson's sister, a young widow with three little girls when she arrived in Nashville with the Donelson party in 1780. She later married

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President's Message



Strolling through downtown Nashville is my favorite part of each work day. History fills my mind as I imagine Fourth Avenue North in 1890, the Church

Street of my youth, or the civil rights efforts centered on Fifth Avenue North. Nashville has changed a great deal during the course of its colorful history, and my walks through its streets remind me of the many leaders who have been instrumental in shaping our city.

Some of these leaders who are (or were) buried at City Cemetery will be showcased in our Living History Tour on September 21. From 2-6 p.m. we will "bring to life" people who have

influenced our city. James Robertson's sister, Ann Robertson Cockrill, received a land grant in her own name, a rarity for a female. George W. Campbell and P.W. Maxey ensured that Nashville would remain the state capital by orchestrating the city's purchase of what is now Capitol Hill. Revolutionary War hero Lipscomb Norvell served under George Washington at Brandywine and Trenton.

These are just a few of Nashville's leaders that you will meet when you join us for the 2013 Living History Tour. I hope each of you will help us celebrate our city and its great treasure, the City Cemetery.

Jill Farringer Meese, President
Nashville City Cemetery Association



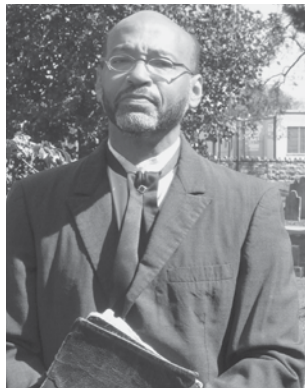
NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY ARBORETUM DESIGNATION CEREMONY

The Nashville City Cemetery was officially designated an arboretum by the Nashville Tree Foundation at a public ceremony at the cemetery on Sunday, June 2, 2013. Nashville Tree Foundation board member George H. Cate Jr. welcomed the enthusiastic crowd gathered within the shelter of the Keeble Building and gave a fascinating presentation on Nashville's trees.

Forester Robin Bible presented a bronze plaque to former NCCA president, Winder Campbell, who thanked the Nashville Tree Foundation for this recognition. He also expressed appreciation to NCCA board members Lyn C. James, Robert Mather, and Steve Sirls, who worked together to apply for the designation, and to Tim Walker and Fred Zahn of the Metro Historical Commission for their support.

Following the ceremony, attendees were invited to tour the cemetery guided by an arboretum map depicting the location of the 40 different species of trees and shrubs. You can see pictures of the event, the ceremony program, and the arboretum map on the City Cemetery website, online at thenashvillecitycemetery.org.

In addition to designating arboreta, the Nashville Tree Foundation seeks to preserve and enhance Nashville's urban forest by educating the public, planting trees in urban areas, and identifying the oldest and biggest trees in Davidson County.



NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION Monuments & Milestones

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John Williams Saunders

In City Cemetery, near the corner of Magnolia and Locust, stands an impressive granite tombstone marking the grave of John W. Saunders (1807-1842). He was the son of Virginian Edward Saunders (1773-1822) and North Carolinian Elizabeth Williams (1777-1847), both of whom are buried in the Williams family graveyard, which stretches across the Kentucky-Tennessee line. Elizabeth's father, Jesse Williams, came to the Robertson County, Tennessee/Logan County, Kentucky, area in 1796 from Hertford County, North Carolina.

Few details are known about John Saunders' life beyond the fact that he married Cynthia Holland Pillow, daughter of Gideon Pillow and Annie Payne of Maury County, Tennessee, on November 5, 1832. They had three children: Narcissa (b. 1835), Edward/Ned (b. 1838); and Cynthia (b. ca. 1841).

The family Bible of Richard Cheatham, his brother-in-law, described John's funeral, held at his Vine St. residence; Episcopal minister John Thomas Wheat delivered the eulogy. Saunders' obituary

BY DANYA DOWNEY
NCCA Board Member

in the *Nashville Whig* (September 1, 1842) attributed his death to "a tedious illness of eighteen months marked by a complication of the severest ills the flesh is heir to."

On the evening of John Saunders' death, he asked his brother-in-law, Gen. Gideon Pillow, and his former business partner George W. Martin (his wife's brother-in-law) for help writing his will. In it he stipulated that he wanted his Mississippi plantations, his former business (the House of Saunders & Martin), and his Nashville property to be sold. He wished to make a gift of \$1,000 to Episcopal Bishop James Otey, and he requested that his children be reared at his recently purchased property on the Franklin Turnpike.

A 1950 article by Margaret Lindsay Warden in the *Nashville Tennessean Magazine* stated that the plantation became known as Melrose during the Pillow-Saunders residence there: Cynthia Saunders chose the name to honor her mother's Scottish ancestry. In 1845, three

years after John's death, Cynthia married Aaron Venable Brown, recently inaugurated governor of Tennessee. "Melrose became the scene of distinguished gatherings and brilliant entertainments." Brown served just one term as governor, but President James Buchanan appointed him U.S. Postmaster General in 1856. When Brown died in 1859, the family left Washington and returned to Melrose.

As with so many families, the Civil War and the years that followed created many hardships for John Saunders' wife and children. The fortunes left to them were decimated. In May 1865 the *Nashville Daily Union* reported the marriage of Miss Cynthia Saunders, step-daughter of Governor A. V. Brown, to Union Colonel Thomas C. Williams. Notations in Jill Garrett's *Obituaries from Tennessee Newspapers* suggest that Williams had gained Cynthia's affections by promising to protect Melrose during the war, but after he moved her to his native Philadelphia, she "pined away and died." Cynthia Pillow Saunders Brown died in 1892; her son Ned in 1908; and Miss Narcissa, as she was called, in 1913. None of the Saunders children had children of their own, so there are no descendants.

The Winders of Louisiana and Tennessee

An imposing obelisk monument stands in the southeast corner of the City Cemetery near the 4th Ave. gate inside an iron fence enclosing the graves of Van Perkins and Martha Ann Grundy Winder and seven of their children.

Van Winder was born in Virginia in 1809. His parents died when he was 13, and he moved with his sisters to Concordia Parish, Louisiana, to live with an uncle. The Winder children inherited three cotton plantations there which would afford them substantial wealth.

In 1827 Van Winder came to Tennessee to attend the University of Nashville. Here he met and fell in love with Martha Ann Grundy, the second of seven daughters of Felix Grundy, esteemed criminal lawyer, judge, congressman, and friend of Andrew Jackson. Grundy felt they were too young and would not consent to the marriage. Van and Martha, determined to marry,

BY WINDER CAMPBELL
NCCA Board Member

eloped on December 6, 1828. It is said that Grundy first heard of the marriage on his return from Washington, when he asked a fellow traveler for the news. "Well," said his companion, "they say that Felix Grundy's daughter has eloped with a young man from Louisiana!"

Van took Martha back to Natchez, Mississippi, to raise a family that would soon grow to 15 children. Under the tutelage of his uncle, Van learned the business of managing the family's cotton plantations. A few years later he purchased a sugar plantation in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, and built an impressive new home which he named "Ducros." There the Winders regularly entertained Van's old schoolmate Jefferson Davis and many other prominent guests.

Two of the Winder daughters married residents of Franklin, Tennessee.

Caroline, the eldest, married John McGavock and would achieve renown as the "Mistress of Carnton Plantation" during the Battle of Franklin. Her sister Louise married Professor Patrick Campbell. Their great-grandchildren are NCCA members Winder Campbell and Lillian Campbell Stewart. Van and Martha made frequent trips to Nashville and Franklin to visit their relatives, often staying for months. Van, of course, took every opportunity to impress upon the Grundys that their daughter had married well.

Sadly, seven Winder children would die between 1831 and 1853. All were brought back for burial in the Grundy family plot in City Cemetery. In 1854, when Martha was pregnant with their daughter Sallie, Van Winder, 43, died of yellow fever. He was buried in Nashville beside his children.

Life was difficult for Martha and the family during the Civil War. Her son Felix died at Vicksburg, and Ducros was occupied at various times by both Confederate and

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DASH

The 2013 Memorial Dash drew 330 participants this year. Perennial winner Jacob Carrigan once again blazed first across the finish line, while winners in the various categories ranged from ages 8 to 83. A special treat this year was a musket-shot start, thanks to the uniformed Sons of American Revolution reenactors, who also presented the colors at the finish line. We were grateful to the Order of the Arrow Society of Scouting, who brought 20 Explorer scouts and advisors to help with the ceremony honoring City Cemetery's military veterans. Bugler James Milam provided a stirring rendition of "Taps." We are grateful, as always, to the Nashville Striders for their assistance and support, and to the Nashville Sounds for the use of their stadium.

TOUR (continued from page 1) admired for its historical accuracy.

You will also meet other remarkable individuals on the Living History Tour. Before the section of the city north of the Cumberland River was known as Edgefield, it was called Wetmore's Addition. **Moses Wetmore**, the first person to subdivide the area into lots for homes and businesses, also donated the land for Holy Trinity Church and gave his name to two city streets. Mayor **John Patton Erwin** served two terms as Mayor of Nashville. He worked as a bank cashier (then the equivalent of a bank manager), was editor of the Nashville Whig, and served as Postmaster, Justice of the Peace, and clerk of the Tennessee House of Representatives. **Powhatan Maxey**, an alderman for seven terms and mayor twice, negotiated the purchase of Capitol Hill from William Nichol and George W. Campbell, and then donated the land to the TN General Assembly, provided they would locate the State Capitol on that site. Join us on September 21 for a dazzling trip into the past!

NCCA 2013–2014 Calendar

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, September 14 Volunteer Work Day* 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 21 **ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY TOUR** 2:00–6:00 p.m.
Our most popular cemetery event! See costumed reenactors bring Nashville history to life. New characters and stories every year!
ADULTS \$5 – FAMILIES \$10

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

Saturday, October 5 Volunteer Work Day* 9:00–11:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, November 9 **CIVIL WAR TOUR** with John Allyn, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
This year's tour, "Bad Decisions," will visit Felix Zollicoffer, Bushrod Johnson, & Paul Shirley. Come and enjoy—FREE

Tuesday, November 19 NCCA Board Meeting, (3rd Tuesday) 5:30 p.m. Sunnyside

Thursday, December 5 **NCCA ANNUAL MEETING** All members will receive invitations listing time, address, and directions.

Saturday, January 18, 2014 NCCA Board Retreat, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Sunnyside.

Saturday, Feb. 8 & 22 Master Gardeners' Boxwood Trimming Class, 9:00 a.m.—FREE

Tuesday, February 25 NCCA Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Sunnyside

Tuesday, March 25 NCCA Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Sunnyside

Saturday, April 12 Volunteer Work Day* 9:00–11:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, May 10 **MASTER GARDENERS' TOUR** 10:00–11:30 a.m.—FREE
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 (3rd Tuesday) 5:30 p.m., Sunnyside

Monday, May 26 **MEMORIAL DAY DASH** 8:00 a.m., Sounds Stadium
Watch for details in the Spring Newsletter!

*Note: To Volunteer for Work Days, please sign up on the Hands On Nashville website: hon.org

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEB PAGE 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

AN INTERVIEW WITH *The NCCA Support Team*

BY CARTER G. BAKER
NCCA Board Member

Behind the scenes at the Nashville City Cemetery Association, three members of our support team help with administrative duties; maintain the website, which is the face of our organization; and help us apply for grants to augment our fundraising activities.

Angie Nichols is the administrative staffer who prepares correspondence, manages our membership list, handles our mail and printing, and performs a myriad of other necessary chores. She is the mother of two-year-old twins Adam and Sarah and the wife of Michael, a business analyst with TDOT.

Now a resident of Burns, Tennessee, Angie grew up in Lexington, in West Tennessee, where she lived until her 1995 marriage. She majored in social studies at Union University in Jackson where she specialized in history and developed an interest in historical non-profits. She spent five years at The Hermitage as Executive Assistant to Executive Director Jim Vaughan, whom she considers an important mentor. Angie credits Jim with broadening her knowledge of museum and historical home management.

Later she spent five years as Director of Operations at Belmont Mansion. Through her work at Belmont and The Hermitage she came to know NCCA Board Members

WINDERS *(continued from page 3)*

Union troops. Nevertheless, she managed to keep the plantation going during this stressful time. In the years following the war, with much of the family's wealth lost, her attentive son-in-law John McGavock helped her handle management and financial issues.

In 1872 Martha Winder sold her beloved Ducros and spent her remaining years with her youngest daughter, Sallie, in New Orleans. Her granddaughter Nina vividly remembered "grandmother weeping when news reached the household of the death of Jefferson Davis." Martha died December 19, 1891, at the age of 79, having outlived her husband and 12 of their 15 children. As was her wish, she was laid to rest in the City Cemetery with her husband and her children.

Fletcher Coke and Steve Sirls, who brought her on board when she decided to move to part-time work. Now, in addition to her duties with us, she works for several other non-profits, primarily in design work and membership management.

Alice Swanson, the NCCA Webmaster, is a Wyoming native who received a B.A. in theatre from the University of Denver and a master's from Memphis State. For many years she was involved in summer theatre at the well-known Arrow Rock (Missouri) Lyceum Theater.

Arriving in Nashville, Alice worked for the Tennessee Arts Commission for thirteen years. During her last few years with the Commission, she expanded her horizons to become their computer expert. After retiring, she spent a few years as a computer guru for various organizations, eventually deciding to specialize in designing and managing websites for non-profits. It is apparent that Alice's interest in designing theater sets has made her a natural for website design. Besides the City Cemetery website (thenashvillecitycemetery.org), you can also see her work at the Colonial Dames Tennessee Portrait site (tnportraits.org/index-metro.htm).

Alice has three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Thanks to the wonders of the internet, she is able to live in Richmond, Virginia, and still be a Tennessee webmaster.

The most recent addition to the NCCA support staff is Connecticut native Jennifer Moncuse, a 2011 business graduate of Belmont University. She has particular interest in music business, house museums, and history.

The Cemetery Board is making plans for improved educational activities, increased signage, and new smartphone and tablet apps to help visitors better understand cemetery history and locate specific graves. Jennifer's expertise in identifying and applying for grants will help the NCCA and other organizations acquire funding for these and other projects.

Each of these individuals brings a wealth of experience to the Association. We are pleased to have them assisting us with administration, managing our increasingly important web page, and applying for grants that will allow us to expand our reach as an historical and educational non-profit.

CHESTNUT TREES RETURN TO CITY CEMETERY

Vicki Turner, a member of the Tennessee chapter of **The American Chestnut Foundation** (TACF), recently contacted NCCA Board member **Lyn C. James** about ongoing efforts to repopulate the American Chestnut tree. Believing that certified arboretums are perfect sites to plant Restoration Chestnut trees, Vicki suggested planting two trees (for cross pollination) at the City Cemetery, recently certified by the Nashville Tree Foundation.

Lyn's DAR chapter, the **General James Robertson Chapter, NSDAR**, had earlier expressed an interest in planting a Tennessee native tree at City Cemetery to honor James Robertson and his family, and the group made a donation to TACF for the planting of two Restoration Chestnut trees.

Fred Zahn of the Metro Historical Commission helped determine appropriate placement of the trees by studying early maps of the Cemetery. On April 1, 2013, Vicki met Lyn at the cemetery to plant the two trees. Four feet tall now, and 20 feet apart, the trees will grow to share a canopy and will reach a mature height of 100 feet.

6TH ANNUAL MASTER GARDENERS' TOUR

Davidson County Master Gardeners **Lou Anne Williams**, **Catherine Atwell**, and **Robert Mather** led their 6th annual Master Gardeners' tour of the Nashville City Cemetery in May, guiding visitors on a morning walk through the cemetery and explaining that all the flowers used in the gardens might have been found in Nashville gardens around 1862. Although the early spring flowers, including the iris, had finished blooming, there were plenty of yellow daylilies. The Master Gardeners conduct a Boxwood Trimming demonstration in February and assist with the Living History tour in the fall.



Don't miss the **Living History Tour** September 21, 2013 ~ 2:00-6:00 p.m.

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 | Other _____ |
| Sponsor: \$50-\$99 | Supporter: \$100-\$199 | Contributor: \$200-\$299 | Gift to be used for: (option) |
| Sustainer: \$300-\$399 | Provider: \$400-\$499 | Patron: \$500 + above | _____ |

Join Members receive the newsletter and are invited to special events. Please provide e-mail address.

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

If applicable, please list the names of your ancestors buried at City Cemetery: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

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