



## **Living History Tour:**

**Saturday, September 27, 2008**

**4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

### **The Living History Tour**

The Nashville City Cemetery Association and the Metropolitan Historical Commission will host the its annual living history tour of Nashville's City Cemetery at Fourth Avenue South and Oak Street on Saturday, September 27, from 4-7 p.m.

For this special evening tour, Nashville's history will come to life. The tour will take visitors to eight grave sites including those of Nashville's earliest settlers, a veteran of the War of 1812, a Civil War veteran, an early physician, a sea captain, a Fisk University Jubilee singer, Nashville's first school teacher, and an antebellum scientist. Local actors and singers in period costume will portray those individuals included on the tour.

Tickets are \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families and can be purchased at the entrance gate. Parking is available at the Nashville Sounds Stadium. Trolleys will provide round-trip transportation every 15 minutes. The tour will last approximately one hour. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Proceeds go to the Nashville City Cemetery Association for the continuing restoration and documentation of the cemetery. For more information, call the Metro Historical Commission at 862-7970.

### **Our Mission**

The Nashville City Cemetery Association, Inc. is a membership organization that works to protect, preserve, restore and raise public awareness of the Nashville City Cemetery in collaboration with the Historical Commission and Board of Parks and Recreation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee.

## **Our History**

The City Cemetery is the oldest continuously operated public cemetery in Nashville. On March 9, 1820, the Mayor of Nashville and the Aldermen purchased from Richard Cross four acres of land located "on the plains, south of town, for its burying ground." The cemetery opened on January 1, 1822. Fourteen years later the cemetery had outgrown its original site and more acres were acquired. By 1850 the cemetery was the final resting place for over 11,000 people of every race, religion and economic status. Since the opening, there have been 20,000 interments in the City Cemetery. Over the years, there have been removals such as the Civil War Federal soldiers to the National Cemetery, Gallatin Pike, and the relocation of graves to new family lots in Mt. Olivet Cemetery after the Civil War.

Four of Nashville's founders, James and Charlotte Robertson & John and Ann Robertson Cockrill; four Confederate generals: Felix Zollicoffer, Bushrod Johnson, Richard Ewell, and Samuel Read Anderson; the man who named the American flag "Old Glory", Captain William Driver; Union Navy Commodore Paul Shirley; a Tennessee Governor, William Carroll; 15 mayors of Nashville, and two of the original Fisk Jubilee Singers, Mabel Lewis Imes and Ella Sheppard Moore, are among the interesting people buried in the small and peaceful cemetery. The City Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 because of its historical and architectural significance.

## **Our Future**

In response to the disrepair, vandalism, and neglect over many decades, former Mayor Bill Purcell and the 2007 Metro Council approved the Mayor's Capital Budget request for a \$3MM project to restore the City Cemetery. Many exciting and noticeable improvements are in progress. You can join the Nashville City Cemetery Association in continuing to help to restore this fragile historic site by becoming a member. Visit our website at [www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org](http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org) for more information on upcoming events and programs.

## **Our Board of Directors**

The Nashville City Cemetery Association consists of an all volunteer board of directors. The board works with the Metro Historical Commission and the Parks Department. The mission of NCCA is to raise funds for restoration and maintenance of the city cemetery. Projects include repairing gravestones, raising public awareness, planning events, and creating educational materials that can be used by cemetery visitors. Board members lead events, assemble volunteers, and make decisions concerning the funds raised by the organization.