




Candlelight  Tours

Old City Cemetery
Museums & Arboretum

2022



All proceeds from
Candlelight Tours benefit
the Southern Memorial
Association, a non-profit
organization established in
Lynchburg in 1866.

Our mission is to make Old
City Cemetery a sustainable
and enduring landmark that
engages the greater Lynchburg
community through its history
and horticulture. Our vision is a
landscape that *remembers,*
comforts, and *inspires.*

Thank You

Candlelight Tours

A PRODUCTION OF

Southern Memorial Association

Lynchburg, Virginia

CREATED BY
Dawn Fields Wise

PRODUCER
Denise Adams McDonald

DIRECTOR
Loretta L. Wittman

PLAYWRIGHTS

Teresa Harris
Kirin McCrory
Rebecca Pickard
Catherine Ann Taylor
Claire Wittman

RESEARCH

Ted Delaney
Cathy Dalton
Judith Harvey
Michael Hudson
Kathy McGlothlin
Rebecca Pickard
Angelica Walker

PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Director, *Melora Kordos*
Technical Director, *Austin Downs*
Head Production Assistant, *Jason Fleshmen*
Production Assistant, *Olivia Price*
Costumer, *Hope Maddox*
Assistant Director, *Savannah Bower*
Wardrobe Mistress, *Olivia Green*

BOX OFFICE

Joanna McGlothlin

MUSIC

Jim Robertson

COMPOSER

James Ballard

HERITAGE SINGER

Temika Younger

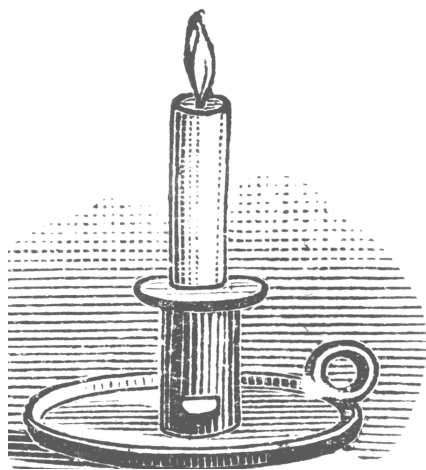
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Welcome to Candlelight Tours!



Be prepared for a hauntingly good time as you meet several of the residents of Old City Cemetery and citizens of Lynchburg's yesteryear. As you walk the grounds of this special place, you will hear six stories from Lynchburg's past and learn a bit about your tour guide and the life they led. All of us here at OCC thank you for supporting us by coming to this Lynchburg fall-time favorite and hope that you have a wonderful evening.

Welcome from the Executive Director

Welcome to our 15 th annual Candlelight Tours at Old City Cemetery! I am pleased and honored to have you join us for this special season of living history as told through the stories of Lynchburg residents of the past two centuries. We remain committed to our mission “to engage the community through history and horticulture,” and the tours exemplify our historical mission.



This season we welcome back Artistic Director Loretta Wittman for her second season with the tours. Loretta brings to the tours her creativity, enthusiasm and commitment to excellence at all levels. We are thrilled to have her leading us again. This year’s tours will again feature a musical element, with the debut performance of a new song written by James Ballard and performed by Temika Younger.

This season we will tell the stories of a fascinating array of characters: Martha Spence Edley, an African American Civil War nurse; Dewey S. Bryant, a coal miner fighting for miner’s rights; Dr. Mosby Perrow, Lynchburg’s Health Department Director during the Spanish flu epidemic 1918-19; Samuel Kelso, one of the first local African Americans elected to political office in 1867; Minnie Coles Shoumarker, a young woman who died in a boating accident in 1915. Old City Cemetery Museums and Arboretum also holds other events throughout the year including: workshops, tours, concerts, and our Antique Rose Festival in April-May (www.gravegarden.org).

We invite you to return often and look forward to seeing you.

Denise Adams McDonald
Executive Director

Director's Note

Each summer when I was a little girl, my “Grammy” would pack my sister and me up in the car, and we would travel the backroads of Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky in search of our family’s history.



Loretta Wittman

We would wade through tall grass to find abandoned tombstones that we would “chalk” to read inscriptions or epitaphs or spend hours in dusty courthouses looking through old records. (This was long before there were computerized records or ancestry.com!)

While it was important for Grammy to know names, dates of birth, and deaths, she wanted more. She wanted to learn the history of the people who make up our family. What was their life like, how did they persevere through difficult times, and how did their faith and traditions influence who they became? And how we in the present are a part of that story?

Today, you will glimpse into five lives of the 20,000 souls buried at the Old City Cemetery:

- An African-American Civil War nurse
- A young miner lost in West Virginia but given a unique burial here at the OCC
- A doctor who led Lynchburg through another pandemic in an earlier time (the Spanish Flu epidemic)
- The first African-American elected to public office in Virginia
- A young woman who had dreams for the future but whose life came to a tragic ending

Their lives impacted not only their own families but our Lynchburg community. I hope their stories will help us see the challenges we have faced in the past, more clearly see our present, and walk confidently towards the future.

I loved those trips with my Grammy. I discovered more about my family’s past, and it told me just a bit about myself. As you experience our stories, I hope you sense bits of your history and how you shape your family and our community.

Playwrights

Teresa Harris

Teresa Harris (author of *Samuel Kelso*) is a poet, playwright, actor, and director. She has written, produced, and directed seven original stage plays including *From the Valley to the Peak and Still Climbing*, *The Quincy Armstrong Show*, *In Remembrance of MLK: From Beyond Vietnam to the Dream*, and *The Day is Past and Gone: A Trilogy of Slave Life series at Poplar Forest*. A strong proponent of community activism, Teresa currently serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations including Building Bridges Productions, Inc., Many Voices One Community, and Endstation. This will be Teresa's third year as a Candlelight Tours contributor. She is always excited to share her love of writing and theatre with the Candlelight Tours audience.

Kirin McCrory

Kirin McCrory (author of *Dr. Mosby Perrow*) is a playwright, dramaturg, literary manager and professor. Her plays and devised pieces have been produced across the U.S. and internationally, and her performance art has been shown in galleries in Brooklyn and Los Angeles. She is currently the literary manager for VanguardRep, and co-founded the Windmill Arts Center, a new arts space in Atlanta, GA. She holds these degrees: BA Emerson College; MFA UC Riverside. For more information, visit: kirinmccrory.com.

Rebecca Pickard

Rebecca Pickard (author of *Dewey Bryant*) is a writer and researcher based in Lynchburg, Virginia. Her current projects include research on the early anti-slavery efforts of the South River Quakers, as well as a long poem built from linguistic research, religious experience, and the Blue Ridge mountains. She is @the.pickard on instagram and @ThePickard on Twitter.

Catherine Ann Taylor

Catherine Ann Taylor wrote the original script for Martha Spence Edley, and it was later revised by Claire Wittman for performance in the 2022 Candlelight Tours. Catherine Ann is a writer, director and producer with a decade of experience in show production in four countries. Recently she served as Associate Story Producer for *Tru Colors* Brewing in Wilmington, NC, and producer of *Just Water* short film in Shreveport, LA, among many more productions.

Claire Wittman

Claire Wittman (author of *Foundered & Martha Spence Edley*) is a playwright and educator based in Staunton, Virginia. She has created new plays, musicals, and interpretive programming for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, as well as commissions for Sweet Tea Shakespeare, the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, and Oakcrest School. Claire's adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice* will be performed at Brookville High School this spring, and her plays for young actors and audiences can be found at YouthPLAYS and Stage Partners.

Production Team & Cast

Loretta Wittman (Director Candlelight Tours)

Loretta is an Associate Professor of Theatre and the director of the musical theatre ensemble *Curtain Call* at the University of Lynchburg. She has directed, choreographed, and performed at numerous theatres including Mill Mountain, performing in the American Premiere of *Children of Eden*, Charlottesville Opera, The Academy Center for the Arts where she recently played Phyllis in Sondheim's *Follies*, Music Theatre Louisville, The Station Theatre, The University of Lynchburg and Sweet Briar College. Previously she helped to produce *A Few Steps Shy of Heaven* and performed in *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *the Wardrobe* at the cemetery and she is happy to return for her second year as Director of the Candlelight Tours.

Melora Kordos (Assistant Director Candlelight Tours)

Melora is originally from Chicago and received her B.A. in Theatre from Columbia College Chicago and M.F.A. from the The Academy for Classical Acting at the Shakespeare Theatre and George Washington University. She has acted in, directed, and produced over 100 plays around the United States. Besides working with Lynchburg's local theatre companies: Endstation, Wolfbane, and Renaissance, her other favorite regional credits include The Shakespeare Theatre in D.C., The Folger Theatre, Signature Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, The Court Theatre, and The Star Plaza Theatre. She has appeared in numerous television shows, films and commercials and has also narrated 40 audio books. She is a member of the SDC.

CHARACTERS _____

Bill Bodine (Dr. Mosby Perrow)

Bill has appeared on virtually all of the local stages and was most recently seen in *Bye, Bye Birdie* with Endstation, and *Xanadu* and *Into the Woods* with Wolfbane. He earned two degrees from the University of Lynchburg, where he got his start in theater, thanks to Bob Hailey and Jeff and Loretta Wittman, who he is thrilled to be working with again. This is his second Candlelight Tour.

Austin Candler (Dewey Bryant)

Austin is an actor born and raised in Lynchburg, Virginia. He recently graduated from the University of Lynchburg (class of 2020) where he majored in Theatre Performance. Austin has performed with several theatre companies in the central Virginia area. He most recently played Proteus in Masterworx Theatre's 2021 adaptation of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. This will be Austin's second time acting in the Old City Cemetery, as he was last seen playing Jo/Si Crowell in Endstation's 2014 production of *Our Town*.

Shelbie Brooke Filson (Grannie)

Shelbie has almost 30 years of involvement in area productions at Commerce Street Theater, Wolfbane, the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center, Endstation, Little Town Players, and Sweet Briar College. Favorite roles include Tanya in *Mamma Mia*, Euterpe in *Xanadu*, Emma Goldman in *Assassins*, Betty Jean in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet*, Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Magenta in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Nurse Ratchet in *Cuckoo's Nest*, and performing in the *RENT* ensemble. This year marks her sixth season with Candlelight Tours.

Production Team & Cast

Libby Jefferson (Martha Spence Edley – matinee performance) is excited to return to *Candlelight Tours* for her fifth season! She’s previously portrayed Rebecca Murphy, Lugie Ferguson, Mary Virginia Reid, Emily Jefferson and Gay Alexander. Libby studied Drama and African/African American Studies at The University of Virginia. Her most recent performances include *Buried Deep: The Lynchburg Pools* and *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* with Endstation Theatre Company; *The Tin Woman*, *Sister Act*, *The Musical* and *Couples* with Renaissance Theater; *Color Me Beautiful: An American Odyssey* in collaboration with Alluvion Stage Company and Building Bridges, Inc.; as well as *Ain’t Misbehavin’* and *Ragtime, The Musical* with the Academy Center of the Arts. You can also find her on the airwaves as local on-air personality “Lady Inez” on The Vibe radio station (100.1 FM). Libby would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support, as well as *Candlelight Tours* Director, Loretta Wittman, and the team for their efforts!

Jameson Ross (Samuel Kelso)

Jameson is a middle school teacher’s aide who lives in the small town of Red House, Virginia. He was last seen in the ensemble in Masterworx’s *Beauty and the Beast* and as Ralph in Renaissance Theatre’s *Kiss Me, Kate*. His professional credits include the roles of Antonio/Second Watchman with James River Theatre Company’s *Much Ado About Nothing* and Newt Lee in Alluvion Stage Company’s *Parade*.

Gloria Robinson Simon (Martha Spence Edley)

Gloria’s educational career has included various positions within K-12 from the classroom to administration in Virginia schools. She has also worked as a Human Resources consultant and held higher education positions at Sweet Briar College and the University of Lynchburg, where she currently serves as Assistant Director of Admissions.. She earned her B.A. from Randolph-Macon Woman’s College and her master’s from Lynchburg College (now the University of Lynchburg). Gloria has performed theatrically locally and, in the Washington D.C.Black Theater Festival with JLP Productions. She most recently portrayed one of the first women of color to register to vote in Lynchburg at the Old City Cemetery Tours. She is honored to have the opportunity to give life to another piece of Lynchburg’s history. Gloria is a proud mother and grandmother, and she truly believes the only way to better our futures is to fully understand and honor our past. *We stand on the shoulders of giants. And we must honor them and never forget them.*

Claire Wittman (Minnie Coles Shoemaker)

Claire is an actor, playwright and educator based in Staunton, Virginia. She has created new plays, musicals, and interpretive programming for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, as well as commissions for Sweet Tea Shakespeare, the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, and Oakcrest School. Claire’s adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice* will be performed at Brookville High School this spring, and her plays for young actors and audiences can be found at YouthPLAYS and Stage Partners.

Production Team & Cast

Abigail Reynolds (Dollie A)

Abigail is 11 years old and attends Brookville Middle School. She has enjoyed participating in several Brookville shows. Her favorites include *Footloose*, *101 Dalmatians Kids*, and *Aladdin Kids*. Abigail's hobbies include singing in chorus, painting and youth activities at her church. She is excited for the opportunity to play a role in this year's Candlelight Tours at the Old City Cemetery.

Kates Sanchez (Dollie B)

Kates is 8 years old and attends third grade at Leesville Elementary school. She is a caring, lovely, funny, and passionate child, who loves to dance, sing, and act. Kates loves God, and admires the sunset and the sunrise.

Temika N. Younger (Heritage Singer)

Temika is excited to be a part of Candlelight Tours for the first time. By day, Temika is a RN, MSN educator and business owner but has found much joy in singing and the performing arts for most of her life. Aside from singing on the worship team at Family Life church, her local performances have included *The Days are Past and Gone: A Trilogy of Slave Life* at Poplar Forest (Maria); *The Quincy Armstrong Show: Juneteenth Edition* (Harriet Tubman); *Sister Act: The Musical* (Delores Van Cartier/Sister Mary Clarence) with Renaissance Theater and *Color Me Beautiful: An American Odyssey* (Venus/Star) with Alluvion Theater Company & Building Bridges Productions. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support and encouragement and a big thanks to Candlelight Tours and Old City Cemetery for this opportunity.

James Robertson (musician)

Jim Robertson is over the moon to be playing at the Candlelight Tours for a fifth year. Jim started playing guitar during the folk music boom of the 60s, and now also plays banjo, ukulele, fiddle, mandolin and many more. He's played in classic country, bluegrass, old time, jug band, jazz, and rock bands. He has been teaching music since 1975 and currently performs 18th and 19th century American music at historical sites and museums, is in several musical groups playing a variety of genres, and has played with several local professional theater companies.

HERITAGE INTERPRETERS

Merry Barth

Merry is excited to be back for her fifth year as a Heritage Interpreter! She was previously seen in *Seussical* (Masterworx), *Kiss Me Kate* (Renaissance), and *The Secret Garden* (Little Town Players). She is looking forward to being in her first opera, *Tosca*, with Opera on the James in November. In loving memory of those she has lost this year - "The last enemy to be destroyed is death" 1 Corinthians 15:26

Production Team & Cast

Olivia Green

Olivia is a recent Randolph College graduate majoring in History and Theatre, with a concentration of acting and directing. Most recently she played Rapunzel in Wolfbane Productions' *Into the Woods* and Shelby Thorpe in Randolph College's *Spitfire Grill*. She has been involved with theatre at Wolfbane Productions, Randolph College and the Academy of Fine Arts. This past year she has completed her history capstone titled, *The Pierce St Greats: The Talented Tenth of Lynchburg*; she has also directed a one-act this past spring. She is grateful for her friends and family for all of their support.

Angie Kraje

Angie is thrilled to be making her Candlelight Tours debut and grateful for the opportunity to perform alongside her husband Ted. You may have recently seen Angie in *Bye Bye Birdie* with Endstation Theatre and *Beauty and the Beast* with Masterworx. Other performances on the Academy's historic stage include *Kiss Me Kate*, *In the Heights* and *Sondheim's Follies*. Other regional credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* and *A Christmas Carol* with Alluvion Stage Company. By day, Angie works as a reading specialist with Bedford County Public Schools. In addition to teaching, Angie gives back to the literacy community by serving as Vice President and Webmaster of Virginia State Literacy Association.

Ted Kraje

Ted is returning for his fourth year with Candlelight Tours. You may have seen him recently performing in *Beauty and the Beast* with MasterWorx, *Bye Bye Birdie* with Endstation, and *Kiss Me Kate* with Renaissance. Ted is the Director of IS at OrthoVirginia, but is more well known in the community as Teddy Spaghetti the Clown. Cut him a break tonight, because his real wife Angie is following him around and haunting him here at Old City Cemetery.

Elizabeth Martin

Elizabeth is a recent college graduate that is very excited to take the stage once again. She received her BA in English and Theatre from the University of Lynchburg where she performed in many main stage shows and sang with the Curtain Call musical theatre ensemble. Her most recent performances with the university were Viola in *Twelfth Night* and Elizabeth Bennett in Kate Hamil's *Pride & Prejudice*. Elizabeth is thrilled to be acting again after a year hiatus and hopes you enjoy your time at Old City Cemetery.

Elijah Smith

Elijah, 17 years old, is a 12th-grade student at E.C.Glass High School. He enjoys acting, singing, dancing, and playing the cello among other instruments. Elijah has been playing instruments since third grade, however, his love for the arts ignited when he was cast in the role of Mr. Mayor in his fourth grade production of *Seussical Jr.* His more recent roles include Ike Skidmore in *Oklahoma!*, Billy in *The Day is Past and Gone*, Chief Tui in *Moana Jr.* and Simon Stimson in *Our Town*. Elijah is currently spinning on the E.C. Glass color guard! He is very excited to return for his third year of Candlelight Tours.

Production Team

James Ballard (Composer)

James is a composer, lyricist, writer, arranger/orchestrator, freelance performer, and the Artistic Director of the Curtain Up Songwriting Workshop at the University of Lynchburg. As composer, his shows include the full-length musical *The Oxford Epidemic*, the one-act musical *The Jerk Next Door*, and the 10-minute operetta *A Door* (commissioned by the 2017 Prospect Musical Theatre Lab), all co-written with lyricist/librettist Seth Christenfeld. As composer/lyricist, shows include the heavy metal oratorio *The Darkest Day* and the song cycle *Worlds To Explore*. His work has been performed at numerous clubs and cabaret theatres in New York City including Feinstein's/54 Below, Joe's Pub, the Duplex, and the Laurie Beechman Theatre, venues across the country including the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Rockwell Table & Stage in Los Angeles, and internationally in the UK and South Africa. www.jamesballardmusic.com"

Austin Downs (Technical Director)

Austin is grateful for this new opportunity he was given. Austin is a Fall 2021 grad from Radford University. He is currently working at the University of Lynchburg as the Assistant Technical Director, as well as working on the Production team at the Academy Center of the Arts. He would like to thank his family for always supporting him and hopes you all enjoy your time.

Hope Maddox (Costumer)

Hope is thrilled to be designing the Candlelight Tours for the third time! Hope works at Randolph College as the Costume Shop Manager and Resident Designer. At Randolph she has designed costumes for: *Doctor Faustus* (running at the end of the month), *Spitfire Grill*, *Hammered: A Thor and Loki Play*, *Squirrel Girl Goes to College*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Sea Voyage*, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Previously she was the Costume Shop Manager at the American Shakespeare Center where she returned to design the 2022 *Romeo and Juliet* and will be designing *A Christmas Carol* this December. She has worked with Endstation Theatre Company, Sweet Briar College and the Lynchburg Museum System. She received her B.A. in Theatre with a Minor in History from Longwood University and her M.A. in Nonprofit Leadership Studies from the University of Lynchburg. She holds a certificate from the University of Glasgow and Historic Royal Palaces in *A History of Royal Fashion*, as well as a certificate from the University of Roehampton in *Tudor History*.

Production Team

Savannah Bower (Assistant Costumer)

Savannah is thrilled to be assisting the Candlelight Tours for the second time! She works for the University of Lynchburg and has designed costumes for shows like: *Pippin*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Peter and the Star Catcher*, *Into the Woods*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She also works for the Burgland and Salem Civic Centers with the Broadway tours and concerts that come into town. She received her B.F.A. in Technical Theatre with a Minor in Music from Longwood University and her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from the University of Lynchburg.

Jason Fleshmen (Head Production Assistant)

Jason has been working and volunteering with local theater productions for nearly twenty years. While he is typically found onstage, he is so excited to be a part of the crew for this year's Candlelight Tours! You may have seen him in several local productions including multiple iterations of *1776* at Poplar Forest, Commerce Street Theater's *The Odd Couple*, and most recently as King Claudius in Jame River Theatre Company's production of *Hamlet*. He also sits on the board of Commerce Street Theatre.

Olivia Price (Production Assistant)

Olivia is a senior at Amherst County High School and is thrilled to be joining the Old City Cemetery Team for this year's Candlelight Tours. No stranger to the theatre, this is her first time on a production team. Her previous experience has seen her on college, community, and professional theatre stages. Favorite roles include Teenage Fiona/Ensemble in *Shrek* as well as a daughter of the King of Siam in *King and I* at Sweet Briar College, Ruth Putnam in *Wolfbane's Crucible*, and *The Miracle Worker* from the production team at Commerce Street Theater.

Cast List

MAIN TOUR (in order of appearance)

Martha Spence Edley Gloria Simon, evening performances
Libby Jefferson, matinee performance

Dewey S Bryant Austin Candler

Mosby Perrow Bill Bodine

Samuel Kelso Jonathan Pannell

Minnie Coles Shoumarker Claire Wittman

Grannie Shelbie Filson

Dollie A Abigail Reynolds
Performs Oct. 6, 8, 14, 16, & 21

Dollie B Kates Sanchez
Performs October 7, 13, 15, 20, & 22

HERITAGE INTERPRETERS (Lead Tour Guides)

Ted Krage James Scurry (6:10pm)

Angie Krage Martha Constance "Sully" Scurry (6:10 or 6:30pm)

Elijah Smith Rio Grande Roberts Jr. (6:30pm most nights)

Merry Barth Nannie Laura Burnett Bagby (6:50pm)

Olivia Green Cora Lee Burks (7:10pm)

Mary Massie Mary Tilden Doniphan (7:30pm)

Elizabeth Martin Elizabeth A. Phillips Akers (7:50pm)

Melora Kordos Cora Mina Brooks Mayberry (8:10pm)
Assistant Director & Heritage Interpreter

Martha Spence Edley

(1826-1920)

Original Script Writer: Catherine Ann Taylor

Current Version: Claire Wittman

Performed by Gloria Simon (evenings) & Libby Jefferson (matinee)

Martha was born into slavery in Amelia County. Described as mixed race and small of stature, she was sold at age 24 in 1849 to a young lawyer named David Edley Spence of Lynchburg to care for his wife Sarah and infant child Mary. While enslaved, Martha accompanied Sarah and Mary on many trips by boat down the James River to Powhatan County to visit Sarah's mother. She met and married, after permission was granted by their owners, George Edley, an enslaved man owned by Mr. Spence's uncle, David Rittenhouse Edley. Baby Adeline was born in 1853, Hannah in 1857, and a baby boy in 1861. Martha and George buried all three of the children before any of them reached their seventh birthdays. Martha was left alone when George died in 1862.

During the Civil War, Lynchburg became a city of hospitals. Martha went regularly with her mistress, Sarah Spence, to the hospital at Main and Sixth Streets to help care for the wounded and dying soldiers. She remained with the Spence family through the generations, caring for Sarah's daughter Mary, and then for Mary's daughters. She died in 1920 at age 94, while still living with one of those daughters, Elizabeth Spence Gish, on Rivermont Avenue. She is buried with her husband and three children in Old City Cemetery. Her newspaper death announcement—despite all her personal loss and faithfulness to the Spence family—read only, “Colored Woman Buried.”

Dewey Bryant

(1898-1921)

Written by Rebecca Pickard
Performed by Austin Candler

Dewey Bryant was the fourth of six children born to Ada Love Bryant and William Littleberry Bryant. His father was known as “Trotting Billy,” because he moved his family around so much. Dewey grew up in Nelson County and moved to West Virginia to work in the coal mines. He joined the United Mine Workers of America and died at age 23 near the end of the battle of Blair Mountain, West Virginia, in Logan County. Blair Mountain was the largest labor uprising in U.S. history, fought with machine guns over conditions for workers in the mines.

For five days from late August to early September 1921, some 10,000 armed miners confronted 3,000 lawmen who were backed by coal mine operators during the miners’ attempt to unionize the southwestern West Virginia coalfields. Dewey and a friend Keenis Williamson made a push to take out a gun nest held by the lawmen. Both were killed, Keenis by multiple machine gun rounds, and Dewey by one shot to the heart. The battle ended after approximately one million rounds were fired and the West Virginia Army National Guard intervened by presidential order. Dewey’s body, left out on the field for some time, was retrieved by his fellow union members so that it could be sent home to his father and stepmother in Lynchburg.

Dr. Mosby Perrow

(1875-1943)

Written by Kirin McCrory
Performed by Bill Bodine

In 1918, a deadly influenza pandemic swept the world, carried at first by troop movements during World War I. Many governments around the world, local and national, chose to downplay information about the deadliness of the disease so as not to cause a panic. Spain did not: the government in Madrid chose to provide information on the numbers of deaths, and as their dubious reward, the disease became known worldwide as the Spanish Influenza.

Dr. Mosby Perrow, born in Campbell County and educated at Washington & Lee, was the Chief Health Officer in 1918. He followed the example of the Spanish government, and in conjunction with then-Mayor Royston Jester Jr. provided the citizens of Lynchburg with all the information they needed. Within days of the time the influenza began claiming victims in Lynchburg in early October 1918, Dr. Perrow issued directives about ventilation and masks for forward facing workers. Schools and other gathering places were closed soon after. Students at Lynchburg High School missed 40 days of school and had to make up the time on the weekends and in the summer of 1919. By November 1918, the number of victims began declining. Although an estimated 250 people died in the city, the toll was much less horrific than in other places where information had been withheld. He died of heart issues during the height of another war, in 1943.

Samuel Kelso

(ca. 1825-1880)

Written by Teresa Harris
Performed by Jameson Ross

Although he was born enslaved and only lived to be fifty-five, Samuel Kelso had earned many titles and held various positions such as politician, school teacher, and mail agent by the time he passed away in 1880. In 1867, Kelso was elected to represent Lynchburg and Campbell County in the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1867-1868. During the convention, he introduced Virginia's first resolution supporting free public education for children of all races and advocated for strong public and non-segregated schools. He was a man well ahead of his time, as this idea would not be made into law until the 1950s.

By 1870, Kelso had become one of Lynchburg's first African American school teachers and taught at the Freedmen's Bureau Camp Davis School alongside Jacob Yoder. His teaching career, however, was rather short, and in 1871, he was appointed by the Postmaster General to superintend the transportation of mail between railroad depots in Lynchburg. Despite being slandered by the newspapers and his abilities being doubted by many in the city, Kelso held this position until his passing.

Although his years of freedom were limited, Samuel Kelso forged an amazing legacy during that time and worked diligently to better his community and the education of the city's youth. He is buried at Old City Cemetery, but the location of his grave and whatever marker it had has been lost to history. However, there is a Virginia historical marker documenting his life in front of the Lynchburg City Schools administrative building at 915 Court Street.

Minnie Coles Shoumarker

(1888-1915)

Written by Claire Wittman

Performed by Claire Wittman as “Minnie,” Shelbie Filson as “Grannie,”
and Abigail Reynolds or Kate Sanchez as “Dollie”

Minnie Lee Coles was born to Marion Frost Coles and Emily Sligh Coles as a late-in-life baby when her father was 40 and her mother was 43. She was the seventh and youngest.

Minnie married Henry John Schumacher December 31, 1911, at age 23, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Henry was a seaman with the United States Navy stationed on the *USS North Carolina* in Norfolk, Virginia., and he met Minnie on a visit to Lynchburg. The young couple eventually made their way to Chicago. Minnie went alone to visit family in Lynchburg, and Henry described her as “not well” at the time.

On July 13, 1915, Minnie, age 27, Harry Watson, age 31, of Lynchburg, and James Cochran, age 23, of Norfolk went row boating on the James River. The boat capsized, filling with water but never sinking. Even though Cochran could swim, all three drowned. Minnie’s body was found after a nine-hour search.

One newspaper article describes the three in a hired rowboat “talking” and “having a gay time” before it turned them out. A witness theorized that if the occupants had just held onto the boat they could have been rescued.

Minnie was buried in the family plot at the Old City Cemetery with an impressive gravestone carved with a dove symbolizing resurrection, innocence and peace that reads, “Thy life was beauty, truth, good, and love.”

Henry was never notified of his wife’s death. He got no response when he inquired after her whereabouts from her family. He only found out she was dead when he reached out to Police Chief Seay.

Heritage Interpreters

(Tour Guides, in order of appearance)

James Scurry (1820-1869) - Brought to life in our show by Ted Kraje, Mr. Scurry was a Master StoneMason who worked laying cobblestone for the City of Lynchburg, and likely constructed the walls around his own family plot here in the cemetery. He was from Galway, Ireland, and married Lynchburg woman Martha Constance (see below). He was a member of the Odd Fellows, a quirky secret society not unlike the Freemasons. He died in 1869 of unknown causes.

Martha Constance Scurry (1824-1896) - Portrayed by Angie Kraje, Ms. Scurry was a Lynchburg native who lived at 600 Monroe Street. Wife of Irishman James Scurry, she had at least 8 children, who were laid to rest with her in the family plot. She attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and "kept house." She was said to have an impulsive nature, and died in 1896 of "epidemic dysentery," outliving her husband by 27 years.

Rio Grand Roberts, Jr. (1900 - 1963) - Portrayed by Elijah Smith, Mr. Roberts was a Merchant Marine and a dapper man in his day. He grew up in a loving home on Polk St. with deep roots in Lynchburg. Genealogical studies reveal that he was related to Edward Spencer, husband to the famous local Harlem Renaissance poet, Anne Spencer. He died of unknown causes while traveling in Puerto Rico.

Nannie Laura Burnett Bagby (1869 - 1952) - Though she lived a simple, hard working life at the Lynchburg Cotton Mill, Ms. Bagby's long lifespan saw major cultural and social changes. To list a few, Nannie witnessed the invention of the telephone, electric lights, radio, automobiles, and air travel. She lived through four major wars, the Great Depression, and Prohibition. She married John Henry Bagby and lived on Oakley Ave. She is portrayed for our performance by Merry Barth.

Cora Lee Burks Roberts (1872-1921) - A native Lynchburg resident, Ms. Roberts was a homemaker and devoted wife and mother from Polk Street. During her short but fulfilling life, she lived through the Jim Crow era, saw the invention of the Ford Model T, the start and finish of World War I, the sinking of the Titanic, and Women's Suffrage, though African Americans like herself would not have full access to voting rights for many decades. She died of cervical cancer in her home in 1921. She is portrayed in our performance by Olivia Green.

Mary Tilden Doniphan (1849 - 1897) - Revived by Mary Massie for our Candlelight Tours, Ms. Doniphan lived a tragically short, but meaningful life as a teacher in the Lynchburg school system. From a prominent family, her grandfather had been a Lynchburg Mayor, and was instrumental in bringing water to the city of Lynchburg in 1825. She attended Court Street Methodist and experienced Lynchburg become a hospital town during the Civil War. She died of consumption at the age of 25.

Elizabeth Ann Philips Akers (1815 - 1842) - Elizabeth Martin plays Elizabeth Ann Phillips, one of six children of Mary and Benjamin Phillips. She married Peter Garret Akers, a plasterer, and had two children. However, just one year after the birth of her second child, she passed at the young age of 27 in her father's home after eight months of suffering from a painful illness.

Cora Mina Brooks Mayberry (1890 - 1918) - Ms. Cora Mayberry, played by Melora Kordos, grew up with her twin sister Minnie Davies at the Miller Female Orphan Asylum, which was located on Lakeside Drive where the Plaza now stands. Though an orphan, her memories of the Miller Home were happy ones. She married William Robert Jr, and died at only 28 years of age from the Spanish Flu Epidemic.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 19, 2022

Thanksgiving in the Victorian Era

Join us for a talk on how Thanksgiving as we know it began, not with Pilgrims, but during the Civil War, and how our traditions were developed through the Victorian era.

December 3, 2022

Holiday Open House

Get into the festive spirit at Old City, where you'll find our grounds dressed up in our holiday best. Lynchburg author Jessica Ward will be serving up treats from her cookbook "Food To Live For," which was inspired by OCC and will be available for purchase in our gift shop, along with many other gifts and goodies to get ahead of your Christmas shopping!

December 10, 2022

Holiday Traditions Tour

Enjoy the sights, sounds & smells of this holiday season as you stroll the grounds with Historian Judi Harvey and learn about where our beloved traditions originated. She'll discuss the history of Rudolph, jingle bells, Christmas cards, and much more. And yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!

December 17, 2022

Wreaths Across America

Please join us in paying tribute to the more than 2,400 veterans laid to rest here at Old City Cemetery with the placement of fresh wreaths upon their graves.

Reservations & event details: www.gravegarden.org

Old City Cemetery Museums & Arboretum

401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501

434-847-1465; occ@gravegarden.org

Acknowledgements

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Thank you for attending
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