

## Candlelight Tours

2024

A Living History Production By:

Old City Cemetery Museums & Arboretum



A PRODUCTION OF

#### The Southern Memorial Association

Lynchburg, VA

All proceeds from Candlelight Tours benefit the Southern Memorial Association, a non-profit organization established in Lynchburg in 1866. SMA is responsible for the care and upkeep of the cemetery, the preservation of it's history and all efforts to share it with the community.

## Thank You

## About Old City Cemetery:

Old City Cemetery was established in 1806, and We are home to over 20,000 "residents" from all walks of life, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and socioeconomic status. About 2/3 of our population is African American, and at least 1/3 are children under the age of eight.

Our mission is to make Old City Cemetery a sustainable and enduring landmark that engages the greater Lynchburg community through its history and horticulture.

We offer history & horticulture education to the general public, including field trips, guided tours, workshops and lectures. If you or someone you know is interested in booking a tour or a field trip, please call (434) 847-1465.

### 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.

## A Welcome from Old City Cemetery's Executive Director:

I want to personally thank each of you for attending the 2024 Candlelight Tours. Your presence and contributions play a crucial role in helping us continue our mission to educate the community, preserve the rich history that surrounds us, and care for the stunning landscapes that make this place so special.

This event is more than just a tour—it's a way for us to connect with our shared heritage, honor the lives of those who came before us, and keep their stories alive for future generations.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in making this year's Candlelight Tours a success—from the volunteers, staff, and actors who brought the stories to life, to those working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure a smooth and unforgettable experience. Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed, and I am grateful for all that you do.

I hope that you find the tours both fun and educational. Thank you again for being part of our community. We couldn't do it without you!

Jay Brooks

#### Cast & Crew

#### Melora Kordos, Director

Melora is originally from Chicago. She received her B.A. in Theatre from Columbia College Chicago, and M.F.A. from the ACA Shakespeare Theatre at GWU. This is her 4th year with Candlelight Tours. Between acting, directing, and producing she has done over 100 productions around the country. Credits include Wolfbane, Endstation, Shakespeare Theatre D.C., Signature Theatre, Folger Theatre, and TJ's Poplar Forest. She has appeared on TV, films, commercials, narrated over 40 audio books, and writes plays and fiction. She is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

#### Scene Actors

#### **Adrienne James (Frankie Anderson)**

Adrienne is a Lynchburg native who has been involved in the fine arts her whole life. She recently appeared in Commerce Street Theatre's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She has also been in productions of *Fame, The Wiz* and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. You may have seen her volunteering at the Academy Center of the Arts or the Downtown LYH Association's Bright Nights on the Bluffwalk. She enjoys photography, painting, playing violin and keeping up with her Chihuahua-mix named Cricket.

#### **Ted Kraje (Walter Steele)**

We don't know why we keep on reincarnating Ted Kraje, but this is his 5th Candlelight Tours. During the day, he works as the Director of Enterprise Applications at OrthoVirginia and as a house manager at the Academy Center of the Arts, but you may know him better as Teddy Spaghetti the Clown. He has been seen recently as Boo Radley and Tigger at Commerce St. Theatre, Col. Thomas McKean at Poplar Forest, Windward at MasterWorx, and Alvin T. Patterson at Little Town Players. His poor wife Angie recently acquired two cats, Gizmo and Puck, because once they became emptynesters, she realized she was stuck alone taking care of an adult kid for the rest of her life (albeit one that can balance a ladder on his chin). Shout out to their kids Maria and Zak, Ariel, and Taylee and Derek. But pretty good for a dead guy, eh?

#### Olivia Green (Arabella Dormile)

Olivia is a native of Lynchburg, Virginia and is an alum of Randolph College where she got her bachelors in History and Theatre, with a concentration in acting and directing. This is her second year with the Old City Cemetery's Candlelight Tours, and she is excited to be back. Most recently she played Judy in Endstation Production's reading of *Dry Bones* and she spent the latter half of last year as an acting apprentice at Florida Studio Theatre. She is grateful to her friends and family for all their support.

#### Jordan DeWitt (Ann Kidd)

Jordan has been involved in theater since 2021 and performed in shows such as *Pride & Prejudice* and *Bring It On.* She made her Old City Cemetery acting debut in the well received *Scandalous*, and is thrilled to be a part of her first Candlelight Tours. A junior at Brookville High School, she spends her free time writing and reading. She also volunteers here at the cemetery and with the local chapter of Out of the Darkness promoting suicide awareness and prevention.

#### **Amanda Karpen (Celia Hamilton)**

Amanda is delighted to be a part of this year's Candlelight Tours. Most recently, she directed *I Hate Hamlet* and *Barefoot in the Park* at Commerce Street Theater in Lynchburg. Amanda also enjoys acting and was in CST's productions of *Nunsense* and *Steel Magnolias*. Previously, she was seen on stage at Showtimers Theater in Roanoke, on local TV in the series *Tuned Out*, as a member of Big Lick Improv Group, and behind the scenes as a Director and Costumer around the SW Virginia region and the greater Philadelphia area. As always, she gives a big thank you to her family for their unending support and love for all of her theater shenanigans.

#### **Chris D. Evans (Henry Crichton)**

Chris is glad to be back at OCC. Chris was last seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Commerce St. Theatre). Chris has also been seen as Henry James in the Old City Cemetery's Candlelight Tours. Past credits - *La Cage Aux Folles, Our Town, In Sweet Remembrance, Romeo & Juliet, The Full Monty, As You Like It, See How They Run, Urinetown, Cabaret, The Rover, Rocky Horror, The Scene, Chicago, Guys & Dolls, 42nd Street, Fences, Little Black Dress, and As I Stood At The Gate.* 

#### Thomas Bell (Walter Steele, 10/19 & 10/20)

Thomas is thrilled to be back with the Candlelight Tours! A BFA Graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, Thomas has appeared in 6 past Wolfbane shows *Murder on the Orient Express, Macbeth, Clue, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Jekyll & Hyde,* and *Spamalot* and was also seen in Endstation Theatre Company's *Treasure Island.* He'd like to thank his family and friends for their love and support!



#### Spirit Gvides

#### Elijah Smith (Thomas Gladman Pride) 6:00

Elijah is 19 years old, graduated from E.C. Glass High School. Elijah's love for the arts ignited when he was cast in the role of Mr. Mayor in his fourth grade production of *Seussical Jr*. Some of his more recent performances have been *The Day is Past and Gone* at Poplar Forest, Randolph College's Spring Dance Concert: Mosaic, and their Spring Music Concert. Elijah also plays the Cello, Viola, and the Flute as well as dabbles in arranging and composing music. He has also spun on the E.C. Glass color guard.

#### Delores "Bunny" Hipps (Laura Lee Saunders McQuarry) 6:25

Bunny retired from a career in Broadcast Television and spends her time working part-time at Target, making "Junk" journals and cuddling with her dog Bowie. She has been active in the local theaters of Lynchburg and Bedford for more than 25 years, with roles in such productions as *On Golden Pond, Steel Magnolias, The Dixie Swim Club, The Full Monty* and many others. She is thrilled to finally be a part of the much-loved Candlelight Tours, and looks forward to many more adventures in local theater.

#### Rachel Swank (Marion Fontaine Cabell Cabell) 6:50

Rachel joined the local theatre community in 2021 and has been involved with a variety of productions both on and off stage since. She just finished playing Fred Narracott in Renaissance Theatre's *And Then There Were None*. Rachel has been in love with the Old City Cemetery ever since she went on her first Candlelight Tours in 2021 and is very excited to be a part of this year's tours for the first time as a Spirit Guide. When she is not doing theatre, Rachel works full time as a Therapeutic Educational Assistant at Laurel Regional Program and enjoys bike riding, photography, reading, writing, and going on long, aimless drives.

#### Connie Cox (Caroline Morgan) 7:15

The Candlelight Tours is the yearly event that Connie counts as a favorite and she is excited to be returning for her 3rd time as a Spirit Guide. She recently had the pleasure of joining the fabulous women of *Scandalous* for their Encore performance right here at the OCC, and she just finished a run in *The Odd Couple* (Female Version) at Little Town Players. You may have seen her "filling in for a delegate" in *1776 The Musical* at Poplar Forest, or on stage at Commerce Theater. Enjoy your evening stepping back in time as we introduce you to these people and the stories they have left behind.

#### Shelby Grace (Melvina B. Miller Johnson) 7:40

Shelby Grace is a Lynchburg native. She recently graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Emory & Henry College. Some of her credits there include Martha in *Spring Awakening* and Woman 1 soloist in *Songs For A New World*. Locally, she has been in *Second Samuel* and *Willy Wonka* with Renaissance Theatre. She is very excited to be joining Candlelight Tours for the first time. She would like to thank her family and friends for always believing in her.

#### **Bayley Lindevaldsen, (Katie Elisabeth Henderson Stephens) 8:05**

Bayley is happy to be returning to the Candlelight Tours for her second time as a Spirit Guide! She stays active with her work at Amazement Square, her involvement in her hometown's theatre community, and in her all-time favorite role as wife to her wonderful husband Joshua. Recent performances include *And Then There Were None* (Renaissance Theatre), *Pygmalion* (Masterworx Theater Inc.), and *Bright Star* (Little Town Players). All glory to the Lord!

#### Cast & Crew

#### Rachel Blomquist (Bertie Blanks Houston) 8:30

Rachel is excited to be a part of her seventh year with Candlelight Tours at Old City Cemetery. This is her third year as a Spirit Guide. Rachel has worked with several theaters in the area including Commerce Street Theater, Little Town Players, Endstation Theater Company, Brian Clowdus Productions and Alluvion Stage Company. Her most recent role was Kanga in *Winnie the Pooh: Kanga Rules* at Commerce Street Theater. Rachel has a B.A. in Theater and an M.A. in Communications. She currently works as a High School Special Education teacher for Campbell County. She truly believes that there is no better way to welcome the Fall season than the historical stories and crisp autumn weather on the Candlelight Tours!

#### Merry Barth (Phyllis Irving) Singing Soul

Merry is thrilled to be back for another year with the tours! She has been a volunteer with the Cemetery for a number of years and even has some of the variations of roses growing at her home. You may have seen her recently on stage in *Bright Star* (Little Town Players), or *Once Upon a Mattress* (Renaissance Theatre). "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

#### Music

#### Thomas Lamb (Harry Crichton, Violinist)

Thomas is a native of Lynchburg who is very excited to be joining the Candlelight Tours for the first time! He stays active in many orchestras such as the Lynchburg Symphony Youth Orchestra and South Central Senior Regional Orchestra. These orchestras played pieces such as *Symphony No. 5* by Dimitri Shostakovich and *Violin Concerto in E Minor* by Felix Mendelssohn. He loves the atmosphere and the people he gets to work with and is excited about what's to come with this program.

#### Jim Robertson, Musician

Jim began playing guitar during the folk music boom of the 1960s and currently performs 18th and 19th century American music at historical sites and museums. He plays a wide variety of genres ranging from Scottish/Irish traditional music to psychobilly-electro-punk-bluegrass. He was the first person of European ancestry to be awarded the Pandit Dr. Laxmikant Doshi Award for excellence as a student of Indian music. Among the instruments he plays are guitar, lap steel guitar, bass guitar, double bass, 5-string and tenor banjoes, bagpipes, ukulele, fiddle, mandolin family, Irish bouzouki, cittern, Nyckelharpa, harmonicas, button accordions, concertinas, flute, and whistles. But not at the same time.

#### James Ballard, Composer

James is a proud wearer of numerous musical & theatrical hats. 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*, 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*. Other works include songs written for the MuseMatch cabaret series in NYC and a musical collaboration with playwright/performer Dana Aber on her one woman show *Baggage At The Door*. jamesballardmusic.com | @iameskballard

#### Cast & Crew

## Playwrights

#### **Teresa Harris** (Frankie Anderson)

Teresa Harris 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 at Poplar Forest. In 2023, she produced her first docuseries about the historic 5th Street district which once served as the center of Black culture and commerce in Lynchburg, VA. This is Teresa's fourth year as a writer for this event and she is super excited about the opportunity to continue to share her love of storytelling with the Candlelight Tours audience.

#### Melora Kordos (Walter Steele)

See Director's Bio

#### Whitney Wilder (Arabella Dormile & Celia Hamilton)

Whitney Wilder, wordsmith and alchemist, is a 43-year-old creative with a life-long passion for learning and self-discovery. She draws inspiration from nature and the life she shares with her family and 2 yorkies. She enjoys bird watching, spiritual exploration, and gets her best ideas while mowing the lawn.

#### Ashleigh Meyer (Ann Kidd & Celia Hamilton)

Ashleigh Meyer is a researcher, poet and author from Bedford County. She writes everything from folk music to YA speculative fiction, and recently authored a play on 19th Century prostitution entitled *Scandalous* which was produced twice here at OCC. Her book series *Keeping Shiloh* is available for purchase on Amazon, and she is currently working on a collection of Appalachian poetry entitled *Hell or High Water*. She also serves as the Manager of Marketing, Historical Research & Storytelling for the Old City Cemetery.



#### **Jason Fleshman, Technical Director**

Jason is a 20 year veteran of the Lynchburg theatre scene. He can typically be found onstage; however, he is thrilled to collaborate on set design, construction, and process implementation and oversight as the Candlelight Tours' Technical Director for the second consecutive year. He is looking forward to working with this phenomenal cast and crew to provide you with an immersive experience that honors the lives and memories of those who paved the way in our beloved Lynchburg.

#### **Hope Maddox, Costume Designer**

Hope is the Costume Shop Manager and Resident Costume Designer at Randolph College. Hope has designed for the ASC, Sweet Briar College, and Endstation Theatre Company. This is her fifth year at Old City Cemetery Candlelight Tours. She is thrilled to be back! Hope holds a B.A. in Theatre with a Minor in History from Longwood University and a M.A. in Nonprofit Leadership Studies from the University of Lynchburg. She would like to thank her cat, Sokka, for opening and shutting her doors during the night for his own amusement. This has prepared her for any future encounters with ghosts.

And...

Rachel Blomquist, Assistant Director Neal Tosi, Tech Crew Cheyenne Cundiff, Tech Crew Arilyn Webster, Costume Assistant Olivia Green, Wardrobe Assistant Ethan Bryant, Tech Crew

### Acknowledgements:

Old City Cemetery would like to recognize the following for their time, talents and resources:



Chestnut Hill Bakery
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Rachel Love, Violins & More
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#### Characters

## Sallie "Frankie" Anderson 1904 - 1986

#### by Teresa Harris

Sallie Frank "Frankie" Anderson was a beloved elementary school teacher who lived and worked her entire life in Tinbridge Hill. She taught at Yoder School on Jackson Street for most of the school's existence, from 1925 to 1970, and was the school's principal for a short time. By all accounts, she was deeply invested in the success of her students, and frequently spent her summers attending teacher training conferences to stay on top of the evolving nature of education. She was innovative and creative, and invented a light-up math board for her students, helping them to engage in the study of arithmetic. She was also very socially active, and often mentioned in newspapers for hosting events and participating in local activities.

Ms. Anderson never married and is buried next to her younger brother John Louis Anderson. Her address at the time of her passing was 1113 Hollins Street. If you have a personal memory of Ms. Anderson, we would love to hear about it!

## Walter Steele c. 1860 - 1897

#### by Melora Kordos

"Professor Walter Steele," as he called himself in performances, was born in Canada around 1860. He was a bonafide showman, from a family of stunt and circus performers. It appears that he spent a lot of his younger days travelling around with various circuses and performing companies, focusing on aeronautics as a means of entertaining his audience. By the time Steele achieved name recognition and fame in his own right, he was romantically involved with another balloonist named Nellie - the first female aeronaut in America, according to Steele. Though it is unclear if he and Nellie were ever actually married. Steele had several ladies in his life, and three separate women claimed to be married to him and attempted to pick up his body!

Steele was killed in a balloon accident in Lynchburg at what is now the Villa Maria on Rivermont. At the time of his passing, he was buried here at Old City Cemetery, and later collected by his brother and reburied in Ohio. Nellie also died tragically in a failed balloon stunt, and like Steele, there are reports of her performing in various fairs and shows well after her death. The logical explanation for this is that others in the industry likely adopted both Walter and Nellie's names and personas after their passing, capitalizing on their existing fame.

Aeronautics was a huge fad in the Victorian era, and many career balloonists died during stunts, performances, and attempts at pushing the limits of early aviation.

## Arabella Dormile c. 1849 - Unknown

#### By Whitney Wilder

Arabella Dormile was born enslaved somewhere in the region. It is unknown who her enslaver was, or where they were located, but after the Civil War, Arabella and her mother were emancipated and lived at or near Camp Scofield, which had formerly been a Confederate mustering ground and was turned into a refugee camp for the newly emancipated. Conditions in and around the camp were poor and resources extremely limited. Based on newspaper accounting and court records, our research led us to believe that Ms. Dormile never intended for her child to die. She likely intended for the child to be discovered and cared for by a more capable family, but the child tragically died before that could happen. After the war, race relations in the United States were dire, to say the least, and people of color were often subject to unfair trials and a justice system that did not respect their humanity. The true account of this tragedy, and unfortunately Ms. Dormile's ultimate fate, has vanished from history. It is possible she died in prison, though we hope that she was eventually released, changed her identity, and lived out her life in greener pastures.

## Ann Kidd 1830's

#### By Ashleigh Meyer

There is little information available regarding Ann Kidd or her family, but what we do know is that she and her mother were both "Sporting Ladies" living in Lynchburg in the city's earliest days. Isabella Kidd was, in fact, the first person to be charged with "keeping a bawdy house" here in the city. They resided on the riverfront in an area known as "Buzzard's Roost" among other houses of ill repute, gambling halls, taverns, etc. In those days, the river brought in men from all over, as they would arrive on packet boats. The papers of the time report that Ann Kidd really did claim to be descended from the pirate Captain Kidd, though no proof has ever been discovered. The Kidds rest in our "First Acre," the oldest part of our cemetery grounds.



## Celia Hamilton c. 1860 - c. 1935

By A. Meyer, W. Wilder

Celia P. Bryant was born in Buckingham County and orphaned at a young age. In 1877, at just 18 years old, she married Irishman John Hamilton. They lived together in Nelson County, Va and had 10 children. John passed between 1880 and 1901, though the circumstances of his death are unknown, and Celia was forced to sell the family farm and move her family to Lynchburg looking for employment. They resided in several areas of town, moving often, but at the time of the efforts to financially assist the family, they were living on Dabney Street in Daniel's Hill. Celia and several of her children found work in the factories here in the city, primarily the Craddock Terry Shoe Factory, and thus began a long string of tragedy.

Conditions in these factories were extremely poor. Air quality was bad, machinery was dangerous, and pay was insufficient, forcing more and more children into factory work. Of the ten Hamilton children, nine contracted tuberculosis and passed away between 1903 & 1917 - most of them between Valentines Day, 1903 and December 1905. All nine, to the best of our knowledge, rest here at OCC. Only one, Willie Hamilton Whitten, lived into old age and had children of her own. Celia lived with her and her family until her own passing between 1930 & 1940.

## Henry Crichton c. 1838 - 1899

#### By James Ballard

Henry Crichton, by all accounts, was a larger-than-life guy with more than a few stories to tell. He was the son of wealthy Scottish landowner Winfield Crichton, and an enslaved woman known as Martha Ann. Though Winfield never married Henry's mother, he did recognize his son and raise him as he did his other children. Henry grew up with considerable privilege and was educated and well-travelled as a young man. According to family documents, his father took him to Brazil on a trip, with the hopes that he could someday move his family to this country without slavery. Unfortunately, this never occurred. Winfield also took Henry with him when he was an enlisted man in the Confederate army. It is documented that Henry returned to Lynchburg with the body of Winfield Crichton draped over his horse after he had been killed in action.

After the war, Henry settled in Lynchburg and became a very successful barber, catering to a high-end clientele, both Black and White. He married Emma Jean Burgess, and they had 11 children together. Henry remained politically involved and socially active throughout his lifetime and became the subject of a number of colorful anecdotes. Among them, he claimed to be descended from Scottish Lords, he shot a man who criticized Black teachers in the city (including Henry's own daughter), his children musically and theatrically accomplished, he was personal friends with Jubal Early, and he "tweaked the nose" of future president Andrew Johnson. As far as we can tell, all of these stories are true!

Henry died in 1899 around the age of 61. At the time of his passing, he was living at 401 Thirteenth Street - now the area of Three Roads Brewing.

## Upcoming Events

#### October 30

#### Trunk or Treat

5pm - 8pm

In Partnership with Hill City Paranormal, OCC is hosting a FREE, and family-friendly trunk or treat! Drive or walk through and stop at fun, decorated cars for treats! Costumes are not required but are encouraged!

#### **December 1**

#### Victorian Tree Lighting

6pm - 8pm

Join us as the sun sets over Old City Cemetery. Guests will enjoy caroling & vintage Christmas vibes as we light up our Christmas Tree in 19th Century style. Hot cocoa and other treats will be available for purchase. This event is free and open to the public. Tree lighting will take place at 6:30 pm.

#### **December 8**

#### Wreath Making Workshop

2:30PM

Join us for our 2nd Annual Wreath Making Workshop!! With guidance from OCC Volunteer Sandy Fisher, you'll make and take home a big and beautiful wreath made from greenery, florals and embellishments from our grounds! Tickets are \$75 and advanced registration is required! Space is limited. Tickets will be available November 1.

#### **December 14**

#### Wreaths Across America/Revolutionary Christmas

10am - 3pm

There's a LOT happening on the grounds! It's the kick-off event for Lynchburg's LYH250 Committee: living history reenactments, music, food trucks and a Colonial-themed Christmas vendor market from 10am to 3pm! At noon, our annual Wreaths Across America ceremonies will take place, where guests will be invited to lay wreaths on the graves of veterans. The DAR will also be dedicating a memorial plaque for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution following the Wreaths Across America ceremony! Join us for the festivities!

#### Reservations & event details: www.gravegarden.org













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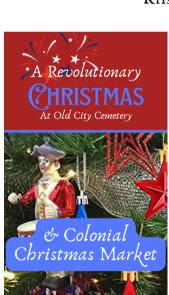




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Join vs on Dec. 14th for Wreaths Across America, and the LYH250 Committee's kick-off event, featvring memorial dedication, living history, and a Colonial Christmas Vendor Market!

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