

CEMETERY WALK' TO LINK HISTORY, THEATRE

*See Biographies/Stories – Cookeville City Cemetery, History of Putnam Co., TN at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

By DONNA SMITH
Special to the Herald-Citizen: Herald Citizen Newspaper
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A walk through a cemetery is a walk through life, so a city cemetery holds clues to the history of a city. Some of these clues will be revealed and area residents will get a rare glimpse into the history of Cookeville as well as an evening of entertainment and the opportunity to support the Cookeville Depot Museum and History Museum at the one-day event, A Candlelight Cemetery Walk -- A Little Stroll Through A Little History.

It will be produced on Saturday evening, Sept. 21st, with performances set for 6:30 and 9 p.m. at the Cookeville City Cemetery. Tickets are \$10 each; call the Cookeville Drama Center box office for reservations at (931) 528-1313.

Cookeville writers and actors plus scores of community volunteers are teaming with Cookeville Leisure Services' Cultural Arts Division to present the event, a continuation of the dramatic series presented by the Depot Museum. Previous performances include Bits and Pieces and last year's Round Trip.

"The audience will meet many characters during the tour. Some, of course, are figments of our imagination and others are actual people that some members of the audience may have known," says Judy Duke, who is directing Cemetery Walk.

Duke, who is also director of the Cookeville Depot and History Museums, commented on the careful work that has gone into the development of this play. "We've tried to bring these persons to life with diligent research and care for their memory but always with the intent of making their visit with us as interesting as possible," she said.

The audience will be led in small groups to specific gravesites around the cemetery where they will meet some of the interesting and prominent persons of Cookeville's past. Actors interpreting scripts prepared by Cookeville writers will deliver these dramatic vignettes mostly as autobiographical monologues.

These actors include Joyce Tatum, Homer Kemp, Cindy Putman, Matthew Bassett, Janey Bassett, Josh Winscott, Shannan Frazier, Amy Guidry, Burton Putman and Becky Magura.

Script writers Marge Hargrove, Cindy Putman, Opress Walker, Larry Slaboda and Charles Denning created the seven drama segments.

A Civil War widow, a pioneer, a World War II soldier and a young railroader are some of the tour guides who will lead the groups. Actors are doing their own research to become representational period characters for the evening.

Dan Fenlon, one of those who will guide audience groups for the Cemetery Walk, said creating a character without a written script requires special preparation. His character -- who never existed but who could have -- is an 1887 reporter for the Cookeville Press, which was a weekly newspaper at that time.

Fenlon is learning all he can about the time period so he can become that reporter for the night. He plans to tell the audience about life in the mid-19th century and even answer questions.

A WWII Women's Air Force major is Julie Lane's role. She says she is immersed in library books and Internet articles and learning all she can about the war era.

"I'm excited to be a part of the project, and I think it has potential to become bigger every year," said Lane.

Other tour guides include Marcia Reel, Peggy Fragopolous, Don Prince, Kyle Farley and Billy George.

Guides will lead small audience groups to a specific site for each of the seven segments, each lasting about 10 minutes. Gravesite performances will be given continually throughout the show to seven groups, each starting at a different site, then moving to the next site until the tour is complete. Total time for the Walk is just under two hours.

Logistics will be complicated, according to Chad McDonald, Cultural Arts superintendent for the city's Dept. of Leisure Services and producer for the Walk. For example, the location of gravesites was a consideration in the decision about which characters to portray. Even parking cars for the audience will be a challenge.

"Lighting is an interesting problem," according to McDonald. "How do you light performance areas -- the 'stages' -- without electricity?"

He promises some creative solutions.

Rick Woods, director of Leisure Services, will act as master of ceremonies.

Two tours, or shows, are scheduled for the evening, starting at 6:30 and 9, and each will begin with a musical prelude by Bettye and Graham Kash.

According to Duke, the Cemetery Walk is primarily theatre: "We see it as an interesting way of showcasing some of our local history and celebrating the contributions of our citizens over the years," she said.

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A WALK THROUGH COOKEVILLE HISTORY

Lindsay Pride

Herald-Citizen Staff – Cookeville, TN: Herald Citizen Newspaper

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"A little stroll through a little history." That's how Larry Slaboda, one of the writers for the seven dramatic segments to be performed at the 'Candlelight Cemetery Walk,' describes the history-based theatrical event slated for next Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Cookeville City Cemetery on East Spring St.

During the performance directed by Cookeville Depot and History Museums director Judy Duke, tour guides will lead the audience to seven grave sites of prominent and as well as everyday people who lived in Cookeville between the mid-1800s and the end of the 20th century.

Cookeville-area actors will portray the historical characters of those buried at each site from scripts by Cookeville writers Marge Hargrove, Cindy Putman, Opless Walker, Slaboda and Charles Denning.

But however unusual the idea of a cemetery walk may seem, the idea is not unique.

"I had heard of cemetery walks before," said Judy Duke, an experienced actress, director and comedienne nationally known as 'Aunt Mattie Gooch.' "But when I first started the job at the Depot, Judy Roberson told me I needed to do a cemetery walk.

"I have to credit her with planting the idea. It's a great way to share Cookeville history in a way that hasn't been done here before."

Duke and Cookeville Leisure Services Director Rick Woods visited a cemetery walk in Sumner County and decided that they could do one in Cookeville.

There the work began.

"I wanted it to be an educational, respectful way of sharing Cookeville/Putnam County history," Duke said about the Cemetery Walk.

But choosing which grave sites to visit in the Cookeville City Cemetery proved as difficult a task as developing the characters.

"I began reading early history books of Cookeville and Putnam County, and names began to stick out," said Duke, who soon had a lengthy list of big names in Putnam County history.

She narrowed the list down with the help of several local historians beginning with Putnam County cemetery expert Maurine Patton, Tennessee Tech history professors Calvin Dickinson and Michael Birdwell, longtime TTU librarian Christine Jones and Cookeville High School history teacher Hal Denton.

"By that time, people were coming up to me and telling me interesting stories about people they had known," Duke said.

"What it really boiled down to, in the end, is logistics," she said. "We can't have them (grave sites) closer to each other than 400 feet because of overlapping in the sound that night."

"That had a lot to do with determining which sites to visit," she said.

Seventeen performers will be involved in the Cemetery Walk in addition to master of ceremonies Woods and Tennessee Tech professors Graham and Bettye Kash.

Prior to the tour, the Kashes will entertain the audience with music and singing, setting the stage for the performances.

Characters/actors

Many personalities such as Joan Derryberry, Luke Medley and **O. K. Holladay** will need no introduction, but Duke said she wanted several of the characters represented to be everyday people.

"Everybody has their story to tell," she said. "I wanted to get ordinary citizens like you and me. Everybody makes a contribution whether his name is in the paper or not."

Actress Joyce Tatum, who directs Prescott Pups at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, will play the part of Mahaley Shaw. Shaw and her husband, Thomas Jefferson Shaw, were among the earliest settlers of the area. They opened the Shaw House, a hotel and restaurant near the Courthouse Square.

According to Duke, there is not an actual grave site for Shaw but a plaque at the cemetery indicates her importance in forming the city-owned City Cemetery.

"Mahaley Shaw will be the first character the audience will see," Duke said. "Her family donated the land to start the cemetery."

Putnam County teacher Cindy Putman will portray Letitia Pearl Arnold Wilson, and her husband, Burton Putman, will play Luke Medley.

Pearl was married to Clarence Wilson who helped found the Granite and Marble Works which is still located across from the cemetery.

"She was selected to be part of this Cemetery Walk because she lived a life that was very typical of the times ... times when parents, because of disease and the state of medical practice, too often outlived their children," Duke said.

Many are familiar with the accomplishments of Luke Medley who began Cookeville's first radio station, WHUB, in 1940, and served as Cookeville's mayor in the 1960s.

He also served as a county judge and magistrate instrumental in building roads and schools and in getting Interstate 40 routed near Cookeville.

But unlike Medley, other characters represented in the Cemetery Walk may not be as easily recognizable.

"There's names like James P. Barnett and Mary Lee Barnett that aren't going to ring a bell with anyone but the descendants," Duke said.

Professional nanny and local actress Shannon Frazier will play the part of Mary Lee Barnett, and veterinary technician Josh Winscott will play the part of James P. Barnett.

The Barnett family lived in Cookeville until the early 1930s during the days of the Great Depression when James accepted a much-coveted position as a mail carrier in Nashville.

The couple will share their dramatic event, explaining their connection to Cookeville.

Amy Guidry will portray Emma Hensley. "Her story is very interesting," Duke said.

Hensley worked for Albert Gore Sr. while he was Tennessee Commissioner of Labor and later when he was elected to the US Senate.

She later moved on to the Legal Division of the Reconstruction Finance Committee under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Her government career peaked when she became one of the two stenographers selected under Secretary of State Edward R. Stetinius to transcribe the original United Nations Charter documents at the founding event of the UN in San Francisco in 1945.

TTU English professor Homer Kemp will play Thomas Grishom Smith, a Civil War veteran who was seriously injured as a member of Gen. Dibrell's 13th Tennessee Cavalry and became a Presbyterian preacher.

Other actors have a personal connection to the people they're portraying. WCTE-TV station manager Becky Magura will be Joan Derryberry, wife of longtime TTU President Everett Derryberry and a driving force in support of the arts in the Upper Cumberland and Tennessee.

"They were good friends," Duke said. "Becky Magura has her own memories of Joan Derryberry."

Other actors are direct descendants of the people they're portraying.

Matt Bassett is the great-grandson of Judge O. K. Holladay whom he will be portraying. Actress Janey Bassett is his granddaughter.

"Janey is portraying a character that the scriptwriter wrote in," Duke said. "Many of these people didn't like to talk about themselves, so we created a character who admired him."

Holladay was a lawyer, circuit judge, state senator and president of Citizens Bank who was active in several civic organizations.

But even the actors who have no connection to the roles they're playing have developed their characters by talking to people who knew them.

"Many have taken it on themselves to talk to family members of the characters," she said.

Tour Guides

Seven tour guides will lead the audience through the eight-minute monologue segments at the seven grave sites, and while they don't portray "real" characters, their roles are based on several types of people important to Cookeville history.

"These tour guides will tell the audience about the eras they're from," Duke said. "They have to be able to talk and think on their feet and be in control of 30 people.

"Julie Lane is portraying a member of the Women's Air Corps," she said. "Don Fenlon is portraying a reporter from the Cookeville Press."

Cookeville High School student Kyle Farley will play a man who has just gotten a job at the railroad. Farley has been a volunteer apprentice at the Depot Museum for the past two years.

"He's well-versed in railroad," Duke said.

Actress Marcia Reel will portray a Civil War widow, and Cookeville High School student Billy George will be one of the tour guides portraying a World War II soldier.

Peggy Fragopolous and Don Prince are the other two tour guides for the Cemetery Walk.

Chad McDonald is the technical director, and Mary Daniels -- both of the Leisure Services Dept. staff -- is the site coordinator.

Performance information

The two evening performances of the Cemetery Walk on Saturday, Sept. 21, will be candlelit, and some hay-bale seating will be available at most grave sites.

The early show will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the later show will begin at 9.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available by calling the Cookeville Drama Center at (931) 528-1313. Proceeds will benefit the Cookeville Depot and History Museums.

Parking will be available at First Baptist Church on Spring Street, and shuttles will run from parking lot to the Cemetery Walk. Ticket holders will meet at the cemetery office on South Walnut Ave. and gather at the wagon.

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COOKEVILLE WRITERS BRING TO LIFE SEVEN FIGURES FROM CITY HISTORY

By LISA BROOKSBANK
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Five Cookeville writers will bring history back to life in a first for Cookeville on Saturday night -- the Cookeville Candlelight Cemetery Walk.

Oplless Walker, Cindy Putman, Larry Sloboda, Marge Hargrove and Charles Denning have all called upon their research and writing talents to prepare the scripts that will tell stories about Cookeville's past in an unusual way.

These writers are taking part in a new and dramatic way of telling interesting, autobiographical stories from Cookeville's history.

Judy Duke, who heads Cookeville's Depot and History Museums, is the director of the theatre portion of the event. She says she has wanted to do something like this in Cookeville for quite a while.

She, along with Leisure Services Director Rick Woods and his wife, Amy, participated in a cemetery walk in another town before deciding to try it here.

"It's a unique way of telling your community's history," Duke says.

Seven grave sites will be visited on the walk, she explained, with a monologue performed at each site by one or more actors portraying individuals from Cookeville's past. The actors will tell stories from the person's life and how it was impacted by local customs and current events at that time.

Many people are involved in the planning, logistics and production of this project, Duke said, and she has counted on many volunteers to bring it all together.

The five people who wrote the monologues have played a key role in this endeavor, she said. The writers researched their topics and wrote drafts and then second drafts.

The five writers all became involved for different reasons but all agree that Duke was instrumental in recruiting them for this project.

Duke listened one day as Oplless Walker told a dramatic and tragic story about the Whitson family from the 1930s. She enjoyed the story and thought it would be perfect for this project. When she asked Walker to write a script based on the story, he was thrilled.

He had just completed an in-depth research of this 1931 tragedy in the Whitson family and agreed it would be an interesting story for the audience.

Walker, director of the pharmacy at Cookeville Regional Medical Center and an avid historian, first became interested in the story of James P. and Mary Lee (Whitson) Barnett when he heard the family's tragic story from someone who had actually attended the funeral of the five Whitson family members who drowned in 1931.

Eleen Harkins, who worked at the hospital for 49 years before retiring in 1999, was 12-years old when she attended the funeral in July of that year, Walker says. Her recollection of the story sparked an interest in him and he wrote an article about the subject. He used the information he gathered to write the script for this part of the Cemetery Walk.

"I believe stories like this should never disappear," Walker said.. "These were real people. I'm just like them -- they're just like me."

Walker, who has written about historical topics for years, including the in-depth research and writings on the Standing Stone near Monterey, says he's more researcher than writer. Writing this monologue was easy, though, he says, because of his intense interest in the subject.

"It was a pleasure (to be involved in this project)," Walker said. "Most people in this region aren't used to walking through cemeteries at night."

The families have given permission for each grave site visited, Walker said, and to him it's an honor for the families of these historical figures.

"This event is in good taste," he says. "If people approach this in the right frame of mind, they'll enjoy it and learn from it."

Cindy Putman, who wrote two monologues for the event, wholeheartedly agrees.

"Together, this whole thing weaves a wonderful story," Putman says. "It's going to be something nobody's going to want to miss. I think it's going to be a wonderful event."

Putman, who grew up in Cookeville, says she really likes the history of Cookeville, and her fascination with local stories led her to write two of the scripts. She's been involved in theatre in the area for many years and not only wrote the monologue about Letitia Pearl Arnold Wilson, she's also the actress who will portray her at the event.

Perhaps even more special to Putman is the fact that Wilson's great-great granddaughter is a friend of hers. She interviewed members of Wilson's family and looked at old pictures and other memorabilia to prepare her script.

Putman's second monologue for the event is about Civil War veteran Thomas Grissom Smith, a Confederate soldier who later became a Presbyterian minister. Because of her interest in local history and in theatre, she found both the scripts to be fairly easy to write but also difficult because of the importance she placed on the topics.

"It was easy and hard," she says. "It was easy because I enjoy doing it. It's easy when you love it. It was hard because I knew it was really important. I wanted to make sure my information was accurate and historically correct."

Putman has written two other theatrical productions, one about the story of Algood School and the Algood community and the other an historical, musical production for children titled, "From Sea to Shining Sea."

Like the Cemetery Walk script, both of these involved actual people and actual events.

"When you're writing about a real person," Putman says, "you have to be true to your character. You want it to be true to her family. It also must be entertaining to the audience."

Putman is a 6th grade teacher at Algood School. This project tied together her love for children, history and the theatre. "If kids don't know our history," she said, "they don't know where we're going."

Like Putman, Larry Sloboda, who wrote the monologue on Joan Derryberry, is involved in more than simply the writing portion of this project. He's involved in almost all aspects of the production except for the theatrical part.

"I'm the jack of all trades in this," he said.

Sloboda works with Judy Duke at the Depot Museum as an exhibits specialist. A retired businessman, he refers to himself as an "inveterate dabbler." Last year he wrote the script for the play, Round Trip, which was presented on the Depot grounds.

Sloboda refers to the monologues for the Cemetery Walk as "autobiographical sketches." The sketch he wrote about Derryberry, first lady of Tennessee Tech University for many years, will portray her talking with an interviewer as she paints in her studio. She will discuss her interests in art, music and education over her life which spanned most of the 20th century.

"These sketches are not a resume of the people," Sloboda says. "I attempted to sketch out the personality of the characters -- to tell stories."

Sloboda gathered the material for his sketch of Derryberry from a variety of sources -- her family, newspaper clippings and a series of taped interviews conducted during Tennessee's Bicentennial. He enjoyed the research and the writing.

"I find this to be a lark," Sloboda said. "It's been great for me."

He admits, however, that he had his doubts about this event in the beginning. It seemed like a project that was too overwhelming, he says.

"Logistically, it's a nightmare," he said.

During the walk, seven different sketches will be going on at one time, with seven different groups walking from site to site until all seven grave sites have been visited. Now that the event has almost reached opening night, Sloboda says, the logistics are all coming together.

Now he sees its potential and thinks it will be an interesting way of showcasing local history through these people and their stories.

Marge Hargrove, the founder and director of the Cookeville Summer Theatre, is the only one of the five writers who says this is her first attempt at writing.

"I've never written anything except papers for history professors," Hargrove said.

What drove her work on this project, she says, is the combination of her interest in history and her love for theatre. The writing part was difficult because it was so important to her that it be historically accurate. When asked if she'll write anything in the future, she responds slyly, "Ask me again in two weeks."

Hargrove admits enjoying the research more than the actual writing. She says people were gracious to help her and she counted on the families of the deceased and local historians to provide her with accurate information.

"I rather enjoyed the research," Hargrove says. "The details, I was picky about."

Hargrove penned three monologues for the event. The first, Mahaley Shaw, will actually introduce the Walk and set the mood for the evening by telling how the Cookeville City Cemetery came to be.

Her second monologue is about Judge O. K. Holladay, a lawyer, Circuit Court judge, state senator and president of Citizen's Bank. Hargrove's third script is about Emma Hensley, a Cookevillian who was one of the government secretaries assigned to take notes when the United Nations was chartered in San Francisco in 1945.

With her writing now finished and critiqued and polished, Hargrove may still not be finished with this event. Because of her extensive background and experience in drama, she says she might also be involved in some of the theatrical aspects of the Cemetery Walk.

Charles Denning, executive editor for the Herald-Citizen, wrote the sketch on Luke Medley, founder of Cookeville's first radio station and one of the most influential figures in the government, history and growth of Putnam County.

When Denning was a news reporter for the Herald-Citizen in the 1970s, he said, he would spend hours with Medley who "educated" him on county government.

"I would go to his office when he was the county judge," Denning said, "and he'd explain things to me, like the county budget. We'd spend time with his educating me. He did most of the talking."

In 1982, Denning conducted an extensive interview with Medley for an article for the Herald-Citizen. He referred to the pages of notes he'd written for that article to write the script for the Cemetery Walk. He rearranged the information, much of which is direct quotations from Medley, and made it into a monologue.

"Writing this script was a renewal of my acquaintance with Luke Medley," Denning said. "I've never met a person with vision like he had -- vision for the public good. I really thought he was extraordinarily competent. He was in on the ground floor of modern county government in Putnam County. He watched the money very closely. We need Luke Medleys around today. He wasn't afraid to lead."

Writing about Medley came fairly easily to Denning but like the other four writers, he was concerned with portraying the historical figure accurately.

"In anything I write, I'm hearing it in my head," Denning said. "What made it difficult was wanting to get an accurate representation of an individual."

And the writers all agreed that being historically accurate and true to the individuals they wrote about was the most important aspect of their work in this project. Hours of research, writing and rewriting will ensure their portrayals of these special Cookevillians will bring realistic and entertaining moments of history back to life in Cookeville -- if only for one evening.

Lisa Brooksbank is a Cookeville writer.

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CITY HISTORICAL FIGURES COMING TO LIFE AGAIN

Herald Citizen Newspaper: Front Page: 29 August 29, 2004:

'Cemetery Walk' actors to re-create Cookevillians from the past
by Jill Thomas: Herald Citizen Newspaper Staff

Do you know who the city of Cookeville was named after?

He was Major Richard Fielding Cooke and he's coming back next month to Putnam County to help celebrate the county's 150th birthday.

Actor Bruce Welker will be portraying the city's 'Candlelight Cemetery Walk II' on Saturday 18 at the **Cookeville City Cemetery**.

There will be two shows that night, with music on the hammered dulcimer by Phyllis Brown, beginning at 6 p.m. and again at 9 p.m. The actual walks will start at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Two years ago Cookeville's Leisure Services Dept. presented the first cemetery walk to benefit Cookeville's two museums: the Depot Museum on Broad St. and the Cookeville History Museum on Lowe Ave.

That history walk was so popular that Judy Duke, the director of both museums, has put together another walk with the help of area actors and writers and community volunteers, again being produced by the Cookeville Leisure Services' Cultural Arts Division.

And once again the cemetery walk will combine entertainment with education as tour guides lead people past the graves of six of the early citizens of Cookeville. At each grave site the personality buried there will be portrayed by actors in period dress.

But each performance will be more than a recitation of history. Writers have worked hard to create monologues that will hold the public interest.

“Our guidelines to the writers, was that they couldn’t just quote history. Their writing has to be entertaining – they can’t change the facts, but we’ve given them plenty of dramatic license for creativity,” Duke said.

Elmer Wirt, who started the Putnam County Herald newspaper, forerunner of the Herald-Citizen, will be acted by Philip Gibbons.

Clara Cox Epherson, who helped to start a public library in Cookeville, will be portrayed by Bettye Kash.

Joseph Francis Scott, whose family had the brick yard that provided the bricks for the original downtown post office and other buildings in town, will be acted by Josh Winscott.

Viola Greenwood, Cookeville’s first stenographer who later taught shorthand and is now perhaps best known as the grandmother of area golf pro Bobby Greenwood, will be acted by Kim Welker.

Mary Frances Whitson, who was the teenaged daughter of philanthropist **Jere Whitson**, and her best friend will be acted by Molly Malone and Hannah Harris.

Robert Perry Morgan, one of the early entrepreneurs of Cookeville, will be portrayed by his grandson, **Henry Fincher**, a Cookeville attorney.

Jerome Harris, a fictional newspaper reporter, will be played by Kyle Farley.

The one repeat character this year will be Mahaley Wiley Shaw (portrayed by Joyce Tatum) who donated the original land for the Cookeville Cemetery. She will be coming back to join Major Richard Cooke in a dialogue that takes place before the actual walking tours begin.

Writers who contributed the character studies are Charles Denning, Calvin Dickinson, Margery Hargrove, Cindy Putnam and Opliss Walker.

For Judy Duke, the project has been a bittersweet one. It’s the first program the history museums will have put on without curator Larry Slaboda who died last month.

“I didn’t want to do the walk again quite so soon,” Duke said. “Larry was the artistic director and now others are having to take up his role. Fortunately, I’ve been blessed with people who have called and come by offering to help and are doing a wonderful job.”

“A lot of people have asked us to do a yearly walk, but it’s a major undertaking. It takes all the resources of Leisure Services to put this on,” she said.

“Chad McDonald, the superintendent of Cultural Arts for the city, will be producing the show. And Cad and Brandon Walls will be the technical directors,” Duke said.

“That technical work is especially challenging. We want everything to look as natural to the 19th century as we can. That means there won’t be a sound system, and the lighting will all be by candles and torches,” she said.

“And we’ve tried to include characters that will appeal to a diverse audience – we have the educated and social big wigs, we have teens, we have women who worked out of their homes and we have men who were entrepreneurs and men who were self-made.

“We want people here to see where the roots of the city are laid and how one person can influence the history of a town,” Duke said.

Space is limited for the two shows and interested viewers are urged to make reservations. There will be hay-bale seating.

Tickets are \$10 and will be available starting on Monday, September 13, at the Cookeville Drama Center Box Office. For reservations call (931) 528-1313.

U.S. Census 1930: Cookeville City Town: Civil Dist. 1 West of Walnut Street, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl:291 Family: 327 Line: 81: Scott Avenue

SCOTT, Jimmy Head Owns M W 33 Married (23 yrs. married) Brick Layer, Building TN TN TN

SCOTT, Lena Wife F W 31 Married (21 yrs. married) TN TN TN

SCOTT, Joe N. Son M W 6 Single TN TN TN

SCOTT, Billy N. Son M W 4 4/12 Single TN TN TN

SCOTT, Pattie L. Dau. F W 1 11/12 Single TN TN TN

U.S. Census 1930: Cookeville City Town: Civil Dist. 1 West of Walnut Street, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl:292 Family:328 Line: 86: Scott Avenue

SCOTT, Joe F. Head Owns M W 62 Married (25 yrs. old married) Manufactor, Brick Kiln TN TN TN

SCOTT, Mary Wife F W 60 Married (23 yrs. old married) TN TN TN

SCOTT, Oswald Son M W 27 Married (25 yrs. old married) Brick Layer TN TN TN

SCOTT, Aline Dau-in-Law F W 20 Married (19 yrs. old married) TN TN TN

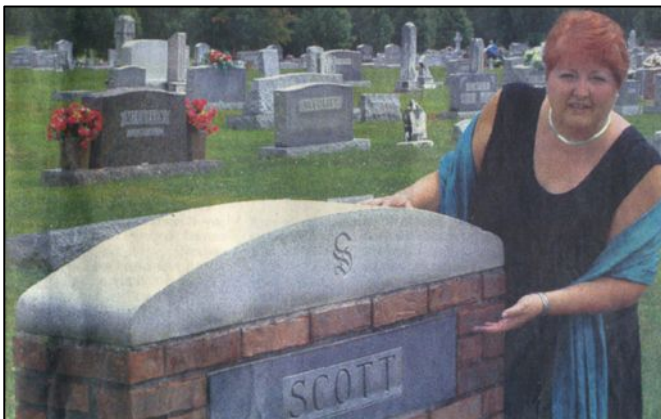
SCOTT, Hugh Son M W Single 23 TN Brick Layer TN TN

SCOTT, T.J. Son M W 20 Married (18 yrs. old marriage) Brick Layer TN TN TN

SCOTT, Ruby Dau-in-Law F W 17 (16 yrs. old marriage) Married TN TN TN

SCOTT, Frank Son M W 18 Single Brick Layer TN TN TN

SCOTT, Mary Dau. F W 15 Single N TN TN



Actress Joyce Tatum takes a moment to 'confer' with Joseph Francis Scott, the Cookeville resident whose brickyard provided materials for constructing the downtown post office and other buildings. Tatum, as Cookevillian Mahaley Wiley Shaw, will be talking to Scott's character in Candlelight Cemetery Walk II.

Photo by Shawn Sidwell: Herald Citizen Staff.



Joseph Francis Scott:

b. 13 March 1868, Manchester, TN, d. 7 January 1934

Mary E. Scott:

b. 27 March 1870 – d. 23 December 1952

Buried: Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, TN

Photos by: Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert

LOCAL WRITERS BRING HISTORY ALIVE -- IN CITY CEMETERY

Jill Thomas

Herald-Citizen Staff

How do you make history live? For five Cookeville residents, that has been the question as they have worked to make the past come alive again for next week's Candlelight Cemetery Walk.

Margorie Hargrove, Charles Denning, Calvin Dickinson, Cindy Putman, and Op Walker have been working for weeks on scripts that will highlight the lives of eight 19th and 20th century Cookevillians.

Their words will be acted out at the gravesites of the people being honored who were buried in Cookeville Cemetery. Area actors in period dress will tell the historic life stories to those who come to experience the living history lessons in a graveyard.

The cemetery walk is the result of a collaboration between the Cookeville History and Depot Museums' director, **Judy Duke**, and Leisure Services Director **Rick Woods** and his wife, **Amy**. All three had participated in cemetery walks in other towns and wanted to give it a try here.

"It's a unique way of telling your community's history," Duke said.

So two years ago Cookeville presented its first walk spotlighting the lives of early Putnam County founding fathers and mothers by presenting their pasts in monologues at their graves.

The event proved to be a great success, but a lot more work than anyone anticipated.

"I didn't feel we could do another so soon after the first," Duke said. "It takes a lot of people to put this on. I don't think we could do it annually unless we just kept presenting the same people and the same monologues each year."

Instead, this year the writers had to come up with entirely fresh monologues.

For Margorie Hargrove, the choice for this year's monologue was easy - Robert Perry Morgan.

"I know his family! They've all been involved in plays at the Drama Center," she said.

Hargrove, who is the founder and director of the Cookeville Summer Theatre, had never done any dramatic script writing before the 2002 cemetery walk.

The drama of a self-made businessman who literally "put Cookeville on the map" intrigued her immediately but at first she couldn't find the information she needed.

"So I called my friend (historian) **Mary Jean Delozier**, and we checked her note cards from her research on Putnam County. And out of all those cards, we could find only 10 that referred to Morgan."

Morgan was a self-made man who started by selling chickens from a cart in Nashville and ended up sending train loads of chickens to New York.

"You don't have to be educated to know how to make money," Hargrove said.

To add comic relief to her monologue, the author has added a fictional character, a cub reporter.

For Op Walker this year's project was an extension of his interest in the **Whitson family**. Two years ago Walker had written about the drowning tragedy of five Whitson family members.

This year he is writing about the second tragedy that struck the family, the death of 15 year old **Mary Frances**.

For Walker, the fun was in the details as he researched, with the help of Tennessee Tech librarian Charlotte McClain, events surrounding the accident including weather conditions, train schedules and high school graduation ebullience - and the chance that a change in any one event might have saved the girl's life.

Because of the nature of the material, which is poignant as well as tragic, Walker worked with Whitson family members and received their permission to do the script.

For Charles Denning, executive director of the Herald-Citizen, doing a sketch on **Elmer Wirt**, who started the Herald-Citizen at the turn of the century was a natural decision.

Like Walker, Denning received lots of research help from family members, in this case Wirt's granddaughter **Jessie Watts**.

Wirt was a colorful character, a socialist, a prohibitionist, and the town's representative to the Tennessee General Assembly. But for all that Denning knew about Wirt's political activities, there wasn't much in his research that helped with the man's personality.

"I didn't want to take too many liberties, so what may come through may be a little less colorful than he was," Denning said.

Then again, maybe not. Denning has set the scene at the moment of Wirt's greatest triumph - the passage by the general assembly of a bill creating Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. And the colorful nature of the man who was a liberal *and* a prohibitionist stands out.

Perhaps the biggest challenge this year went to Prof. Calvin Dickinson who stepped in after the untimely death of museum curator Larry Slaboda to create the monologues for **Clara Cox Epperson, Viola Greenwood, and Joseph Francis Scott**.

"Judy and Larry had already done most of the research," Dickinson said.

But Dickinson had one advantage over the other writers -- he drives by Scott's grave everyday.

"It's the only brick gravestone in the cemetery," Dickinson said.

"Cemeteries are among my most favorite places. I've always liked them," Dickinson laughed.

"It's a great place to have a show," he said.

The Tennessee Tech history professor has written a lot about history over the years. But dramatizing that history is a little different.

"It's interesting to bring a dead person back and let them talk about themselves," he said.

"I feel related to them. I feel a kinship when I write about them."

Dickinson got to write about two of the most progressive of Cookeville's founding mothers as well as the relatively uneducated brick maker whose product went into many of Cookeville's most recognized buildings.

And, finally, Cindy Putman has returned to write the opening monologues for **Mahaley Wiley Shaw** (who donated the land for the Cookeville Cemetery) and **Major Richard Cooke**, for whom the city of Cookeville was named.

Putman, who grew up in Cookeville, says she really likes the history of Cookeville, and her fascination with local stories let her to write a couple of scripts two years ago. That was so much fun she has come back to write another.

The two shows next Saturday begin at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Cookeville Drama Center box office, or call for reservations at (931) 528-1313.

Published September 11, 2004 4:37 PM CDT : Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

TAKE A WALK IN COOKEVILLE'S PAST TOMORROW NIGHT

By Jill Thomas: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

Cemetery Walk a 'who's who' in Cookeville City Cemetery

Tomorrow night talk a walk into the past.

Thanks to the efforts of multitudes of volunteers, the rest of us can watch history open up in front of us just by paying a modest fee and wearing comfortable shoes.

It shouldn't be confused with adventures that may be happening in cemeteries a month from now. There will be no scary ghosts or goblins, just quiet, and not so quiet memories of some of the people who made a city out of a little place in the middle of nowhere.

Some of the actors tomorrow have personal attachments to the characters they are playing.

Henry Fincher is portraying his own great-grandfather, Robert Perry Morgan, when Morgan was the same age that Fincher is now.

"He was the local 'Chicken King,' and he had a tremendous sense of humor – laughing at himself and setting up practical jokes that I can't repeat here!" Fincher said.

"It was quite a ride he took my great-grandmother on. On one occasion he cleared \$100,000 from one shipment. But the man went broke two or three times as well," he said.

"It's a good script and I get to tell about a lot of my great-grandfather's adventures. But he was such a character...I hope I do him justice so he won't come back and haunt me," Fincher laughed.

The characters in the production range in age from 16 to 70. And stories range from poignant to boisterous.

For instance, there won't be a dry eye among the visitors who hear of the untimely death of 18 year-old Mary Frances Whitson – not just because a young person died too soon, but because of the amazing reaction, and actions, taken by the community and her classmates on learning of her death so close to graduation.

Participants in the walk will be led from grave site to grave site by hosts. And they will be introduced to each character by a guide who will be dressed in the period of the day in which the character lived.

There will be hay bale seating at each grave site and lighting will be strictly "natural."

"We have over 1500 candles and torches that will lend a sort of ghostly ambiance to the walk – especially on the last walk of the night," said Cookeville history museums director, Judy Duke.

"and don't forget the music that starts everything off," Duke said.

At the beginning of each show Phyllis Brown, as Ernestine Jo Agnes Louellen Bucker; a mountain woman storyteller, will be playing the hammered dulcimer. Familiar tunes such as "The Sweet Bye and Bye," "I'll Fly Away," and, course, "Amazing Grace," will all be played to get everyone in the mood for the walk, Duke said.

In all, six graves will be visited, and two other characters will start the evening before the walks start. Mahaley Wiley Shaw, the woman who donated the original land for the Cookeville Cemetery to the city has a quick talk with Major Richard Fielding Cooke who fought in the War of 1812 and then had a second career in politics after he retired.

"He was the leading person to get Putnam County organized," said Bruce Welker who will be portraying the city father.

"He pushed a bill through the state legislature for the county and after that was done he organized a city. He basically put in a courthouse and then built a town around it," Welker said.

Tickets for the Cemetery Walk are available at the Drama Center and cost \$10. For reservations call (931) 528-1313 after 9 a.m. on Monday.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 19 September 2004.

'CEMETERY WALK' TO BRING HISTORICAL FIGURES TO LIFE

Lindsay McReynolds
Herald-Citizen Staff

COOKEVILLE -- In a few weeks, a group of Cookeville history enthusiasts will lead audiences back through time to examine the lives of several early Cookevillians during the city's third cemetery walk.

The cemetery walk, started four years ago by Cookeville Depot and History Museum Director **Judy Duke** as a fund raiser for the museums, features a variety of historical figures from Cookeville's past who are buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery.

Local actors visit the grave sites and offer audiences a glimpse into the lives of the early Cookevillians.

This year's cemetery walk is slated for Saturday, Sept. 23, in the Cookeville City Cemetery, with two showings beginning at 6 and 8:30 p.m.

During this year's walk, Cookeville actors will portray former Cookevillians at seven grave sites including **Myrtle Hurst Barnes**, **Dr. W.S. McClain**, **Robert Moscript**, **Clara Ann Starnes**, the **Confederate Monument**, **Alice Keith Ford** and **William J. Isbell**.

Duke explained that during the time between the cemetery walks, which have typically taken place once every two years, she tries to find interesting stories about the people buried there.

She said she was assisted by **Chad McDonald** of Cookeville Leisure Services, who produces the event.

This year's cemetery walk include Barnes as a prominent woman active in politics who also had difficulties with the law, **Dr. McClain** as a physician of osteopathy and an author of a Putnam County history book, **Moscript** as a friend of **Wild Bill Hickok** and **Buffalo Bill Cody** who was instrumental in the coming of trains to Putnam County, Starnes as one of the first librarians at the county library, a Civil War mother and her young son telling their story at the Confederate Monument, **Ford** as the former society editor of the Herald-Citizen and **Isbell** as an owner of one of Cookeville's early hotels, the Isbell Hotel.

The main characters in this year's cemetery walk will also be joined by others instrumental in their stories.

Starnes will be joined by a young high school student at the time. The daughter of Isbell, **Amanda Brassell**, will also be at his grave site.

And a previous character in the cemetery walk, **Richard Fielding Cooke**, will also return this year. Cooke isn't actually buried in the city cemetery, but he is the city's namesake and several of his relatives are buried in the city cemetery.

But this time, Cooke will be joined by his wife, **Margeret**.

Behind the historical figures and the stories that will be portrayed in this year's cemetery walk, a wide array of volunteers and history enthusiasts have helped put together the production.

"It's really a community event," Duke said.



Herald-Citizen Photo/Camille Fliss

Kristin Wells and Dwight Henry prepare for their roles as Alice Keith Ford and Dr. W.S. McClain, respectively, in the Cookeville City Cemetery as volunteer Deb Sedlar places candles to guide audiences along the path to each grave site.

Those playing characters in the cemetery walk include **Alice Fincher Kilgrew, Dwight Henry, Lilli Philpot, Dr. Op Walker, Kay Walker, Amy Guidry, Becky Magura, Max Magura, Kristin Wells, Cindy Putman, Burton Putman, Bruce Welker and Kim Frick-Welker.**

Music during the walk will be provided by Tennessee Tech University professors **Graham and Bettye Kash**, and hundreds of candles set by volunteers will light the path to each grave site.

Writers of the scripts include **Cindy Putman, Charles Denning, Dr. Op Walker and Marge Hargrove.**

"Most of the script writers did the research themselves," Duke said. "I take some dramatic liberties, but we try to be as true to the facts as we can."

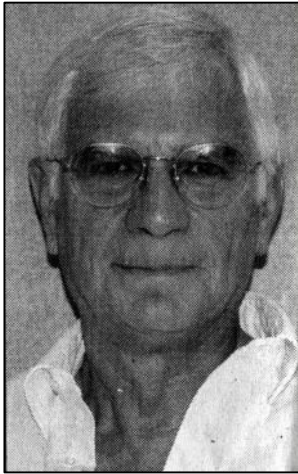
Each grave site stop along the cemetery walk is capped at about eight minutes, according to Duke, in order to be able to make it to all the planned stops within a reasonable amount of time.

Tickets for the cemetery walk will go on sale tomorrow, Sept. 11, at the Cookeville Drama Center box office.

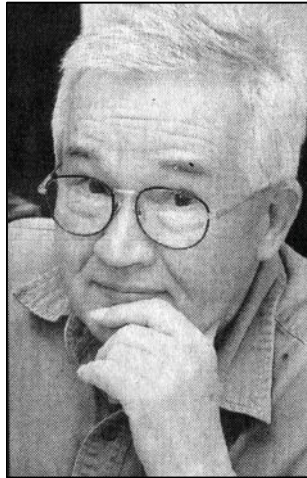
Tickets are \$12 each, and proceeds are used to benefit the Cookeville History and Depot museums.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Cookeville Drama Center at (931) 528-1313.

Published September 09, 2006 1:37 PM CDT



Tennessee Tech history professor
Calvin Dickinson



Executive editor for the Herald-Citizen newspaper
Charles Denning

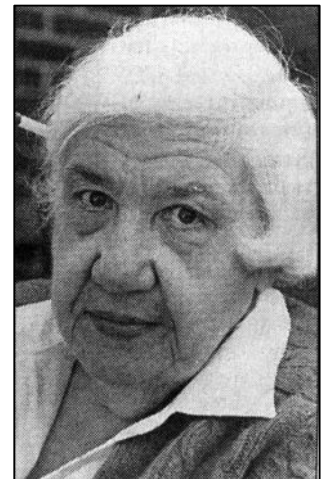


Putnam County teacher
Cindy Putman

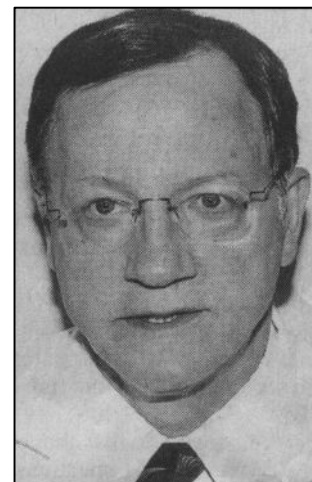


At a recent meeting of the Junior Woman's Club, storyteller Joyce Tatum gave a simulated cemetery walk, an annual event sponsored by Cookeville Leisure Services. Judy Duke of the Cookeville History Museum spoke about an upcoming fundraiser for the museum in conjunction with the cemetery walks. The event, titled "Dining with the Dearly Departed," will be at the Cookeville City Cemetery from Sept. 21-22. From left are Kristin Fincer of the CJWC, Tatum, Duke and Barbara Gaby of the CJWC. For more information on the fundraiser, call Duke at 520-5455.

Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN; Sunday, 6 May 2007, pg. C-5.



The founder and director of the Cookeville Summer Theatre
Marge Hargrove



Director of the pharmacy at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.
Opless Walker

OLD COOKEVILLE LIVES AGAIN IN SEPT. 13 CEMETERY WALK

[Liz Engel](#)

Herald-Citizen Staff

Tuesday, Sep 02, 2008

Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea Joyce Tatum, kneeling, will act out the role of Mahaley Wiley Shaw, one of seven former Cookeville residents that will be visited during an upcoming cemetery walk. In back, Jason Cantrell as Ethan Martin, Tamara Guzlas as Z. Martin, Karen Guzlas as Margaret Harned Harris and guides Denny Guzlas and Matt Hunter will also be part of the walk, which will be held at the Cookeville City Cemetery Sept. 13.



COOKEVILLE -- A walk through history will take place in the upcoming weeks as tickets for an annual cemetery walk in Cookeville go on sale today.

The walk, scheduled at the Cookeville City Cemetery, could lend itself to several interesting stories -- seven which will be showcased at the upcoming Candlelight Cemetery Walk scheduled for Sept. 13.

The event is presented every other year by the Department of Leisure Services and serves as a fundraiser for both the Cookeville History Museum and Depot Museum. It is the fourth year for the event.

"This is not a ghostwalk," said Cookeville History Museum Director Judy Duke. "It's a theatrical event, but it's also an educational and respectful way of telling the stories of former citizens. We've been very successful, and people love it."

More than 1,500 candles will light the cemetery's pathways and old gospel and Appalachian music played by Black Eyed Williams will set the scene.

And along the way, the lives of seven former citizens will be portrayed as local actors interpret scripts -- research is all done by museum staff members and volunteers.

"People over the years always ask how we determine which gravesites we visit," Duke said. "There are a number of ways we do that. One, people who share stories with me about Cookeville citizens, or people I knew from my childhood, people who were the backbone of the city, and not necessarily in the newspaper."

Two walks are scheduled, with the first starting at 6:30 p.m. and a second following at 9. Music will start a half hour before each walk. Haybales will also be available for seating along the way.

Tickets go fast for the event each year, Duke said. The cost of this year's cemetery walk is \$12 and tickets will go on sale starting today. In case of inclement weather, the walk will take place Sept. 15. For ticket information, call the Cookeville Drama Center at 528-1313.

The cemetery walk is underwritten by Community Bank and several anonymous friends of the museum.

HISTORY LIVES

Tickets are still available for this year's Candlelight Cemetery Walk, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.



Saturday at the Cookeville City Cemetery. The lives of seven former citizens will be highlighted during the walk and live music will set the scene. Pictured left: Bruce Welker and Kim Frick-Welker portray Richard and Margaret Cooke. Tickets cost \$12 and are available at the Cookeville Drama Center. Proceeds benefit the Cookeville Depot Museum and History Museum.

Herald-Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN:
Wed. 10 September 1008.

Major Richard Fielding Cooke, b. 8 January 1787, Culpepper Co., VA - d. 15 October 1870, Putnam Co., TN

Wife: Margaret Cox

Father: Robert Cooke

Mother: Susannah

Buried: Cooke Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

Margaret (Cox) Cooke, b. 28 March 1791 - d. December 1849

Husband: Major Richard Fielding Cooke

Buried: Cooke Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

Bob McMillan

Herald-Citizen Staff

Looking back in history, here were some of the happenings in the Cookeville area for the week of March 28-April 3 as recorded in the pages of the Herald-Citizen:

Cookeville City Council learned this week that the **Cookeville City Cemetery** isn't actually owned by the city after all. The city has routinely budgeted funds for its operation for years. Now, city officials have learned that the actual owner of the cemetery where some of the city's most prominent figures rest is hard to determine due to a tangled trail of deeds.

Part of it was established in 1927 by a private corporation. Another was begun in the 1940s. They grew together over the years. Meanwhile, in 1964, one of the groups asked the city to take it over. Everyone forgot about the second group. Figuring out who owns what could take some time, officials say.

(April 2, 1980)

A WALK THROUGH HISTORY PLANNED AT COOKEVILLE CEMETERY SEPT. 18, 2010

by Liz Engel

Donna Quillen will play the role of Mozelle Spain Medley, a former teacher, at the upcoming Cookeville Cemetery Walk. Tickets for the event, a fundraiser for the Cookeville History and Depot museums, go on sale Monday. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea



COOKEVILLE -- Seven former citizens who made an impact on Cookeville and its history will come to life during the upcoming Cookeville Cemetery Walk.

Tickets for the walk, which will be held in two segments at the Cookeville City Cemetery on Saturday, Sept. 18, go on sale at 9 a.m. Monday at the Cookeville Performing Arts Center. The cost is \$15 per person -- the event serves as a fundraiser for the Cookeville History and Depot museums, and tickets

typically sell out fast, said Judy Duke, museums administrator.

"It's such an interesting way to learn about where you live," Duke said. "It's not a ghostly tour, but it's meant to be educational, historical and reverent. The people who have not done it yet really should give it a try."

This is the fifth time the cemetery walk has been offered in Cookeville. Since its inception in 2002, it has been a learning experience for all involved.

"It takes a lot of folks, and every year we've learned something new to make it better," Duke said.

As in years past, the candlelit walk will cover the grave sites of seven former citizens as a cast of local volunteers recreate their lives in autobiographical monologues.

But for the first time in the program's history, participants in the walk will visit a trio who have died in more recent years, including Rose Dow Dubois, a former school teacher who passed away in 2000; Mozelle Spain Medley, also a former teacher who passed away in 2003; and Robert Pretorius, who passed away in 2007.

The walk will include visits to the graves of Mary Curtis Denny, Judge Dick L. Lansden, Ann Trigg Robinson, and Robert Byrd Capshaw as well.

"(Capshaw's) probably a more well-known name because the elementary school is named after him. And people will find out why if they come to the cemetery walk," Duke said. "The others are lesser-known, but they still played a prominent role in Cookeville's history. They lived some interesting lives."

Duke said the grave sites for the walk are chosen in a couple different ways. She keeps a running tab of those to visit, chosen from her own personal knowledge, research and the research of others, as well as suggestions made by family members and museum board members.

The Cookeville City Cemetery was chosen as the location for the walk because of its convenience and the

fact that it, like the museums, is city-owned.

"All 900-plus people buried at the cemetery made contributions to the city in their own way, but we can't visit all 900-plus sites," Duke said. "The bottom line, many times, is based on the amount of information we can find on the person."

Music at this year's event will be provided by the Dixie Avenue Barbershop Quartet, a four-man group comprised of Eldredge Eads, Doug Parker, Jim Matthews and Jere Mitchum. Duke said they will be singing some hymns as well as a selection of oldies.

Music for the first walk will begin at 6 p.m. and music for the second walk will begin at 8:30 p.m. -- the actual walks will begin shortly after, and participants will be divided into seven groups as designated by their tickets.

Hay bales will be set up at the concert site, and a few will also be available at the individual grave sites.

The individual monologues run about seven to eight minutes each, Duke said.

Parking is available at the Cookeville Senior Citizens Center on Walnut and the First Baptist Church on Broad.

A few handicap spaces are available outside the cemetery office.

In case of inclement weather, the cemetery walk will be rescheduled for Monday, Sept. 20.

For more information about the event, call 520-5455.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 13 September 2010

DEPARTED 'RESIDENTS' AROUND THE COUNTY
SHARE TALES IN BI-ANNUAL EVENT

by Liz Engel

COOKEVILLE — They'll be telling their stories once again — with a little help.

They are dead, after all.

Some of them are well-known in Putnam County — such as the Uppermans of Baxter Seminary and Arda Lee of Hidden Hollow Park. Others, maybe not so much. But local museum officials are anxious to share some intriguing tales during the Cookeville Cemetery Walk this Saturday.



(Pictured: A few Cookeville City "resident" will be sharing their stories at Saturday's Cookeville Cemetery Walk — among them Horace Ray Lewi, portrayed by local historian Calvin Dickinson, left, who will be catching up with his friend Arda Lee, portrayed by Hank Mannie, who is "visiting" from West Cemetery. The event is being presented by Cookeville city museums, and tickets are available at the Cookeville Performing

Arts Center. Photo by Ty Kernea — Herald-Citizen).

"It's educational and historical," Judy Duke, administrator of Cookeville museums, said. "We don't emphasize the ghostly — we hit it from a respectful standpoint. But we do have fun."

The event, presented every two years by Cookeville city museums under the historical arts division of the Department of Leisure Services and Public Facilities, will have shows at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Cookeville City Cemetery.

And this year's cemetery walk — the seventh since 2002 — will feature more participation than ever before, with seven "residents" of the Cookeville City Cemetery being "visited" by eight of their dearly departed friends from cemeteries elsewhere in the county.

"We wanted to do something different this time," Duke said. "We decided there are so many cemeteries in Putnam County that we didn't want to be limited — we would figure out a way to visit with people from other cemeteries."

For example, the Uppermans.

"They're buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Baxter — so how do you tell a story about someone buried in another cemetery and connect it to the Cookeville City Cemetery?" Duke said.

But museum staff members found a way to do it.

"Not only did we research the Uppermans and their contribution to our community, we also found someone who lived at the same time who possibly had a connection, either a family member or a friend," Duke said.

They came up with a man named Walter Keith Crawford Sr.

"He and his wife were good friends of the Uppermans — and they are buried in the city cemetery," Duke said. "So he is going to be telling the story of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Upperman."

Duke said museum staff members went from "one end of the county to the other" looking at tombstones and names in search of interesting stories to share on the cemetery walk.

And they feel they have some good ones to share.

"Some of them have a lot of humor, but some are terribly sad," Duke said. "They're stories that I've heard growing up or ones people have told us at the museums. It's not always a well known individual; sometimes it's just a normal human being."

Beth Thompson of the Cookeville Depot Museum, one of the directors of this year's cemetery walk, is also looking forward to sharing the stories with the community.

"They're all very interesting and entertaining," she said. "It'll be a fascinating evening."

Duke and Thompson didn't want to give too much away but said cemetery walk participants will be hearing a variety of stories — everything from jealous love and murder to gangster lore.

They'll be led from one gravesite to the next by a guide. During the 8:30 p.m. walk, when it's dark, they'll even use candles to light the way.

But Thompson and Duke stressed that it won't be "spooky."

"There is the solemnity that is called on by the cemetery, but it really is entertaining," Thompson said.

Duke added, "We like to pay homage to the person buried at the gravesite as well as the family for their contributions to our community."

The seven graves to be featured, as well as the deceased "visitors" from others cemeteries (listed second), are as follows:

- Nola York Littrel (1900-1964) and Lester Joseph Gillis (1908-1934)

- George H. Morgan (1841-1900) and Ova Davis (1869-1887)
- Dr. Lex Dyer (1882-1966) and Robinson Crusoe Buck (1844-1954)
- Lillian Young Brown, along with Ann Hawes Quarles (1764-1843/44)
- Horace Ray Lewis (1926-1999) and Arda Lee (1916-2004)
- Mable Broshear Goldman (1904-1951) and Dr. Tom Moore (1876-1966)
- Walter Keith Crawford Sr. (1899-1974) and Harry Lee Upperman (1896-1984) and Elma Clark Upperman (1899-1987).

The evening will also include live spiritual, gospel and jazz music by Carissia and Company beginning at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and available at Cookeville Performing Arts Center. To learn more, call 528-1313.

*See Biographies/Stories – Cookeville City Cemetery, History of Putnam Co., TN at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>