

**THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PRESENTS

“FAMOUS AND FORGOTTEN”

GLIMPSES OF CLARKSVILLE PAST

BURT COBB COMMUNITY CENTER

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER, 2009

4 P.M. & 6 P.M.

SPONSORED BY NEAL-TARPLEY FUNERAL HOME





**Dr. Harold
Vann
President**

**C. David Elliott
Vice President**

A word to our Guests

It is with pleasure that we welcome you to the Burt Cobb Community Center. We always look forward to your presence and hope you will enjoy your experience.

In accordance with our charter, it is our desire to promote interest in the history of Montgomery County, Tennessee, and it's people, and to identify and preserve local historic sites. This year we will take you on a journey through the historical "Trinity Cemetery."

Our staff, members, and volunteers endeavor to create a warm and cheerful atmosphere while you and your family enjoy our local history. We hope you will encourage your friends to join us on this occasion as we take a walk through the history of the "Famous and Forgotten."

**Joe Fillippo
Chairman**

**Ruby Patch
Co-Chairperson**

**Committee
Members**

**Joe Filippo
Sara Gotcher
Eleanor
Williams
Ruby Patch
Glen da Angus**

The Montgomery County Historical Society Presents “Famous and Forgotten”

Directed By
Sara Gotcher

Assistant Director/Choreographer
Riley Braem

Technical/Scenic Director
Jon Penny

Theatrical Consultant
Katherine Bailey

Music Directors
Bill and Carol Morris

Orchestra Members
John Doubler, Banjo
Sally Doubler, Flute
Carl Barton, Guitar
Carol Morris, Keyboard

Playwrights
Joe Filippo
Eleanor Williams
Ruby Patch

Costumes By
Lilo Rogish

Civil War Costume Consultant
Kerry Gallivan

Props Mistress
Jessica Lee

Burt Cobb Site Coordinator
Laconza Gilliam

Publications/Programs
Glenda Angus
Gloria Davis

Greeters

Rev John Calvin Mathis
Ruby Patch
Eleanor Williams
Opal Kennedy
Anna Woodlee





Cast of Characters

Famous and Forgotten

George E. Cooke	Stuart Bonnington
Mrs. George E. Cooke	Sally Welch
William Robert Bringhamurst	Bill Morris
Miss Julie Huling	Brenda Radford
Mr. William B. Settle	Kevin Kennedy
Mr. William A. Settle	Riley Braem
Reverend Jackson	Ricky Young
Mr. Moon	Billy-Frank Morrison
Presbyterian Session Members	Ruby Patch
.....	Eleanor Williams, Anna Filippo,
.....	Kevin Kennedy
Dr. Charles Cooper	Harold Vann
Mrs. Charles Cooper	Ginger Mulvey-Beireis
Anna Cooper	Samantha Bogach
Sarah Wilcox (Anna's friend)	Jolie Hausman
Mattie (the cook)	Melva Boyd
Anna's Beau	Riley Braem
John Stacker	Tim Winters
Tobacco Enthusiast	Edward Garcia
Mrs. Stacker	Anna Filippo
Nancy L. Nelson Poston	Samantha Bogach
John Hamil Poston	Dr. Tristan Denley
Johnny Reb	Marlon Crow
Billy Yank	Richard Hogan
Mollie Ward	Eleanor Williams
Lucy Williams	Ruby Patch
Fielding S. Williams	Reber Kennedy
Dr. Burt	Rev John Calvin Mathis
Mayor	Mystery Guest



Trinity Burial Ground and Parish

According to the History of Trinity Parish, by Emmie Tyler, published in 1917, Mr. John H. Poston presented one acre of land for a church burying ground in 1840, with the provision that a square be reserved for the use of his family. A committee was appointed to lay off the lots and this burying ground was later known as "Trinity Cemetery." The parishioners were asked to defray the cost of a fence enclosure. The Cemetery was located between Franklin and Main Streets about where Burt Cobb School originally stood (now Burt Cobb Community Center). The Cemetery was controlled and managed by the church; however, during the Civil War, the fencing was destroyed, monuments defaced, etc., and there was no means for further support. Therefore it became necessary to sell the lot and it was finally given to Greenwood Cemetery for the expense of removing the dead.

Our "famous and forgotten" were mentioned throughout Trinity church records. After consecration service was held for Trinity in 1838, W.R. Bringhurst and others were elected to serve as a church vestry. In 1842, Fielding L. Williams' name was listed on the vestry.

On 17 May 1845 the death of Mr. Thomas W. Frazier, senior warden of the Parish, was announced and his will directed the vestry to purchase a suitable lot in Clarksville to build a Female Academy out of an annual fund. It appeared that because of the Civil War, and the emancipation of slaves, this bequest was not carried out and no building was erected. However, in this connection, White Hall, a church school for girls was established about that time by Mrs. Lucy Williams in her beautiful country home, six miles from Clarksville.

William Benton Settle was described as "the very best of men" who followed Christ and illustrated the life of saintship. Ms. Tyler remembered too, the soul stirring anthems sung by the quartette choir, comprised of Miss Mollie Settle, Willie Settle and others. Mrs. Charles W. Tyler (Nee Mollie Settle) was cited for her magnificent voice.

Mrs. Lucy Williams who died in 1898 was the President of the Ladies' Aid Society, the oldest organization in the parish, for fifty years.

Memorials for some of our lost and forgotten are still to be found at Trinity Church. There is an alter in carved oak in memory of Mrs. Lucy Williams and Mr. Fielding Williams. There is a solid silver paten and chalice in memory of the Honorable Cave Johnson and wife; and also a solid silver flagon and ciborium, set with jewels remembering Cave.



Meet the Characters

William Robert Bringham (1804-1880)

Born in Germantown, PA Bringham was determined to "Go West." Steaming down the Ohio River, he stopped in Nashville, TN. Not liking Nashville, on his return to Cincinnati, he made an unexpected stop in Clarksville for the steamship to load cargo. Fortunately, his puppy ran off the ship. While searching for his dog, Bringham learned that another young Pennsylvanian, Julia Huling, was in town teaching music. They were introduced and BINGO! She, from Harrisburg, was lovely, beautiful, talented and their attraction was immediate. The two married and settled in Clarksville, where Bringham opened the first local carriage factory introducing the Prince Albert style. Handsomely and stylishly built with a high wooden dash heavily ironed, the carriage was said to last a lifetime. The Bringhams reared six children, three sons and three daughters. The likeness of one son, W.R., Jr., stands atop the Greenwood Cemetery Civil War Memorial. W.R., Jr. later owned The Franklin House, a hotel on the Square, when Franklin Street went all the way to the river. This site is now occupied by F&M Bank. When Julia died, the distraught W.R., Sr.--determining to find contentment again-- sought the hand of Miss Virginia Manlove of Robertson County who accepted. To them were born two additional sons. W. R. Bringham, Sr. died in 1880

William Benton Settle (2 Apr 1819-May 1880)

William B. Settle, born in Lynchburg, Virginia, on 2 April 1819, was reared in Culpeper County, VA, arriving in Clarksville at the age of 14. He first worked at the tannery of Austin Caldwell, and later, in 1846, he entered the grocery business with James Carr. After dissolution of that partnership, in 1852, he purchased Mr. Matill's confectionary in partnership with George A. Ligon. Ligon and Settle Confectionary was located on the south side of Franklin Street near Public Square and the partnership continued until the Civil War. In 1859, Mr. Settle was also proprietor of the Planter House on Public Square. In 1846 William married Margaret J. Keller. After the war, he was in the grocery and confectionary business alone and also with his son, William A. Settle. His son became a prominent businessman in Clarksville, owning the Settle Brick Manufacturing Co at 9 Settle Ave, near McClure Street. Settle brick can still be seen in many of Clarksville structures. The murder of Rev. John M. Jackson in November 1846 was recorded in the "Jeffersonian," a local newspaper. The paper stated it was a cold blooded and atrocious murder by a fiend in human shape named Moon who is a citizen of Missouri and late of Bardstown, KY. The paper further stated it may be important to try the wretch at the present term of the Circuit Court. Rev. Jackson was buried in Trinity Episcopal Cemetery. William B. Settle was a pioneer in the Trinity Episcopal Church, serving as a trustee and vestryman. There is a bronze memorial tablet in the church that reads 1819-1880 William Benton Settle. In a history of Trinity Episcopal Church, Settle is listed as one of the very best men. He was well known for his great kindness and charity in attending the sick and dying. In his declining years he was in ill health, and died in May 1880. He was buried in Trinity Episcopal Cemetery and later re-interred in Riverview Cemetery.





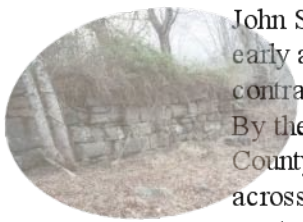
Mleet the Characters

Dr. Charles R. Cooper (1805-1865)

An early Clarksville, Tennessee, physician, Dr. Cooper was born in Carlyle, Pennsylvania, where he married Mary (1809-1861), also a native Pennsylvanian. In 1836 shortly after their marriage they moved to 202 Madison Street (house still standing) in Clarksville where Dr. Cooper's ground-floor medical office was entered from the rear. Among the Cooper's seven surviving children was a daughter named Anna, sprightly and full of fun. Despite her strict Presbyterian up-bringing, Anna liked to dance, making no bones about it. Brought before First Presbyterian's Session to be reprimanded for her misconduct, she defiantly refused to change, thus was excommunicated from the church in 1856. In 1859, Anna married Gilbert Breed of Connecticut who was boarding at the Cooper residence while serving as chief engineer of the Louisville, Clarksville and Memphis Railroad. Thereafter the couple moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where he died in 1886 and she in 1901. Both are buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Mrs. Charles (Mary) Cooper, who died in 1861, was buried in Trinity Episcopal Cemetery as was Dr. Cooper, during the Civil War, in 1865.



John Stacker (1790-Aug 1869)



John Stacker was a native of Pennsylvania, moving to Montgomery County at an early age with his brother, Samuel. He and Samuel first came to Nashville in 1819 as contractors and builders of a bridge in Nashville that spanned the Cumberland River. By the 1820s, the Stacker brothers had purchased an iron furnace in Montgomery County and in succeeding decades they expanded their land, ore and furnace holdings across the Kentucky and Tennessee iron region. They soon became renowned iron masters in the iron industry. Among the many furnaces which the Stackers built or held interest in were Bear Springs, LaGrange, LaFayette, Vanleer, the Cumberland Iron Works and the Washington Furnace. In 1852 the Clarksville Ferry Turnpike was incorporated by John Stacker and others to build a plank road from the city limits near Charlotte Road to the ferry. In 1859 John Stacker was on the board of trustees for Stewart College, located on the site of present day Austin Peay State University. John Stacker and his wife were faithful members of Trinity Episcopal Church, where John served as a vestryman. In 1838, when the first Episcopal Church was built, John and his brother donated the large bell that was located in the bell tower. Several windows in the church were donated in memory of John Stacker, Mrs. Mary Stacker and Mrs. Maria Stacker. John Stacker died at the home of George T. Lewis in Clarksville and was buried in Trinity Episcopal Cemetery.





Fleet the Characters

John Hamil Poston (1786-1848)

John Poston was born in Maryland of Scottish and English ancestry and arrived in Clarksville in 1806. He married Nancy L. Nelson, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Bell Nelson in 1808 and settled on the Warfield Plantation outside Clarksville. The couple had thirteen children. Poston was elected alderman for the town of Clarksville in 1819 and as mayor in 1830. He was the city's Postmaster in 1836 and also became the President of the Clarksville branch of the Bank of Tennessee. John was widely known as a planter throughout Mississippi and Tennessee. In 1843 Poston built the "Poston Block, which anchored the old town square. Other business pursuits had him founding bridge and insurance companies. Because he was fond of education, Poston became a trustee of both the male and female academies in Clarksville, including the Clarksville Academy in 1825. His home in "Poston Spring," subsequently the site of "The Ice House," was a popular location for Mayday celebrations in Clarksville.



Cave Johnson (1793-1866)

Cave Johnson was born in Springfield, Tennessee. His early education took him to various parts of Middle Tennessee, including Cumberland College in Nashville. Naturally assuming leadership in Clarksville, he became one of the town's first aldermen. Johnson served in the U.S. House of Representatives for fourteen years and became an outspoken critic of the Bank of the United States. He was later appointed the Postmaster General of the United States under President James K. Polk, during which time he introduced the postage stamp. Philosophically, Johnson identified himself as "a Union man"; nevertheless, he could not overlook perceived injustices to individuals living in southern states, especially as they related to property rights and arrests and imprisonment without warrant. Cave Johnson died in Clarksville in 1866. Although his Madison Street Clarksville home was destroyed by fire in 1868, Johnson's heirs rebuilt on location and lived there until the early twentieth century.





Meet the Characters

Fielding L. Williams (1794-1845)

Fielding L. Williams was one of the early pioneers in the tobacco industry who established stemming houses in Clarksville in the early 1800s. Williams, a wealthy widower from Virginia, married, for the second time, shortly after arriving in Clarksville. In 1839 he built his plantation home that was an unusually large house for the time period. Williams was not only an important tobacconist, he was a stockholder in the Clarksville-Hopkinsville Turnpike Co. in 1837. In the early 1800s, he became owner of the nearby mill that would become Ringgold Mill. In 1848, the Davie family became owner of the mill and, in 1853, built a stone dam. Fielding Williams died in 1845 at the age of 52 and was buried in the new burying ground. After his death, his wife, Lucy and her sister, Miss Mollie Ward, established a girls school known as White Hall in the plantation house and the school continued during the Civil War years. Students from the vicinity attended classes daily; boarding students were housed on the second level of the residence. Fielding Williams and his wife were members of the Trinity Episcopal Church and Lucy served as president of the Ladies Aid Society for 50 years. She also actively participated in the church's mission, St Andrews, in South Clarksville. Bronze memorial tablets within the church listed Fielding L. Williams, 1794-1845 and Fielding L. Williams, Jr., 1832-1898. In 1895, F.L. Williams, Jr., lived at White Hall and Mrs. Lucy Williams, widow of Fielding Williams, Sr., resided at 326 Madison Street, Clarksville with the Clark family. Howell Williams later resided at White Hall. The Foster family also occupied White Hall and, in 1946, Dr and Mrs. Harry Morgan purchased the property and lived there many years. Today, after meticulous restoration, the residence is owned by Mayor Johnny Piper and his wife, Donita. The property is on the National Register of Historic Places.



A Very Special Thanks

Neal-Tarpley Funeral Home

Burt Cobb Community Center, Laconza Gilliam

Kennedy Law Firm

Trinity Episcopal Church, Tia Batterson

Swift Cleaners

Sherwin Williams Paint Store, Andrea Long

Montgomery County Historical Society refreshment Committee

The Leaf Chronicle

Kroger's, Madison Street

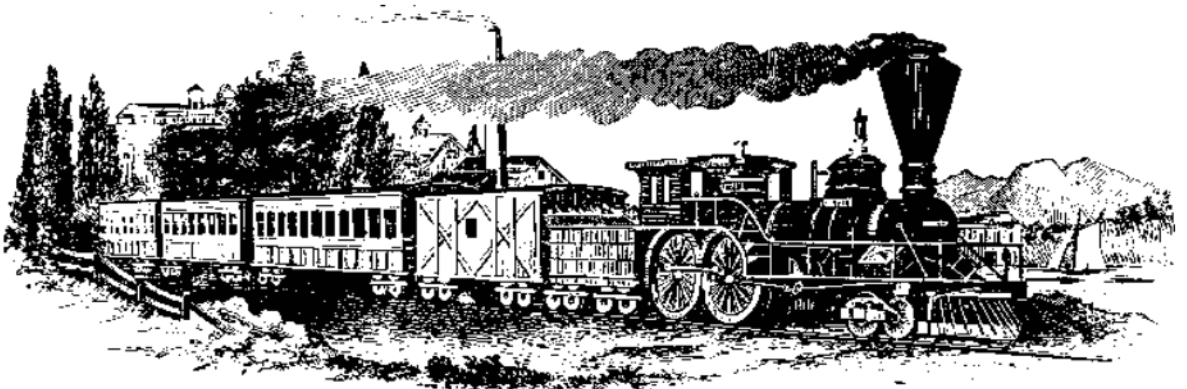
Coca Cola/Pepsi Company

Elinor Howell Thurman

Theatre & Dance Department, APSU

David Brandon, Stagecraft Class , APSU

APSU Scholarship Students



Old Trinity Parish



The Old Church

From "A History of Trinity Parish" by Emmie Tyler, 1917

“Will the Circle Be Unbroken!”

Will the circle be unbroken
Bye and bye Lord bye and bye
There`s a better home a waiting
In the sky Lord in the sky

Will the circle be unbroken
Bye and bye Lord bye and bye
There`s a better home a waiting
In the sky Lord in the sky



Montgomery County Historical Society

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Clarksville, TN 37041-0262

Phone: 931-553-2486

<http://www.mchsociety.org>

The Famous and the Forgotten
is dedicated to
Kathleen Thayer Beach

Last week a young woman from Clarksville who would have proven famous, and who will never be forgotten, perished in an automobile accident. A mere eighteen years old, brilliant, talented, and beautiful, Kathleen Thayer Beach left this world far too early. Like others, I am heart-broken by her death. She was one of that small number of magical people whom you love, admire, and know was going to make a major difference in our entire world. Certainly her life and accomplishments have already made a difference for those whose lives she touched. Kathleen, I dedicate this production to you.

*Sara Gotcher- "Famous and the
Forgotten" Director*



*The Kathleen Thayer Beach
Memorial Speech Scholarship Fund*
If you would like to make a donation, please
make checks payable to: THSSDL. Send
donations to: THSSDL, c/o Mike Gotcher,
430 Dixie Bee Rd,
Clarksville, TN 37043