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Annual Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll

by Margaret Belle Crow

History comes alive in Maple Hill Cemetery as voices of Huntsville’s most illustrious and fascinating residents tell their life stories. More than fifty Huntsville residents, in period costume, will represent notables from our past, most of whom are buried at Maple Hill. The delightful personalities on Sunday’s stroll will include five Alabama governors, the president of Studebaker Automobile Company, and Tallulah Bankhead (visiting her mother’s grave).

Here are a few of the people whom Cemetery “Strollers” will meet.
Jane Brahan Patton, wife of Alabama's twentieth governor, Robert Miller Patton (1865-1868), portrayed by Kay Cornelius. The Pattons' sons, who died fighting for the Confederacy, are buried nearby. William was killed at the Battle of Shiloh in 1863, and Robert was killed at the Battle of Selma in 1865. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.


Maria Howard Weeden, poet and artist, portrayed by Linda Wright Riley. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.
Madam Mollie Teal, one of Huntsville’s most colorful businesswomen, portrayed by Leslie Rhett Crosby. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.

Monument maker A.A. Baker and his wife, portrayed by descendants Sarah Huff Fisk and Kerry Pinkerton, who pose before a Baker monument in their family plot. Baker Marble Yard produced many of the monuments in Maple Hill Cemetery. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.

Mark Hallman, as an infantryman, 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment, and his nephew Jake Woodall, as a waterboy with the 4th Alabama, near the Confederate burial ground, Maple Hill Cemetery. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.
Film and stage actress Tallulah Bankhead, portrayed by Dorcas Harris as a visitor to her mother’s grave. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.

Surveyor Thomas Freeman, who established north Alabama’s meridian, portrayed by Earl Mathews. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.
Jacque Grey, at the Hundley family plot, Maple Hill Cemetery, ready to tell interesting tales about her Hundley relatives. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.

Jane Hamilton Childs, Huntsville educator and Principal of Female Collegiate Institute (now Athens College), 1858-1869, portrayed by Phyllis O’Connell. Courtesy Cynthia Massey Parsons.
"The Past Cries Out For Restoration!"