Spirits Alive at Eastern Cemetery

Spirits Alive at Eastern Cemetery is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Portland's historic Eastern Cemetery through a range of activities including regular and special summer guided tours, the annual Walk among the Shadows event and their Winter Lecture Series. Proceeds earned from these events fund the stone conservation activities so important to preserving the antique stones.

We are volunteers and welcome volunteers of all ages. Thank you for helping us and the City of Portland keep the gates to our cemetery open so that everyone can benefit from this spectacular piece of history.

This Is a Sacred Place

Thank you for supporting Eastern Cemetery by attending our event. Although we are providing entertainment this evening, it is our goal that everyone remembers this is a sacred burial ground. Please maintain a respectful demeanor, stay on Funeral Lane, follow your specter, and refrain from touching stones or markers. Funeral Lane is uneven and dimly lit, so please watch your step.

Members of the Research and Education Committee

Jeanne Bull, Penelope Hamblin, Kirstin Henry Brian Kaczor,
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Poster and Program

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SPIRITS ALIVE



Secret History of Eastern Cemetery:

Movers & Shakers in the Old Burial Ground

Written & Directed by Lynne Cullen

Spirits outside the gates

Julia . . . . . Kathleen Carr Bailey

Billy Hans . . . . . Peter Weigel

Spirits within the gates

Reverend Thomas Smith . . . . . Herb Adams

Mary Green . . . . . Brenda Tubby Chandler

George Cleeve . . . . . Seth Berner

Dorcas Hopkins . . . . . Rose Humeniuk

William Brown . . . . . Daniel Gay

Mary Deering Preble . . . . . Molly Donlan

Bartlett Adams . . . . . Chalmers Hardenbergh

The Facts behind the fiction . . .

Reverend Thomas Smith (1702-1795) (Eastern Cemetery)

The pastor of First Parish in Portland for 57 years. He also worked as a physician and real estate speculator, becoming very wealthy. In 1757, Smith responded to the call for sanctioned violence against the Wabanaki. Smith and other founders of the First Parish Church not only organized genocide of the Native people, they strove to grow personal fortunes by populating Maine with White settlers.

Mary Green (1663-1717) (Eastern Cemetery)

Mary Green's head and foot stone mark the oldest known burial at Eastern Cemetery. The inscription says, "Daughter of Cap Nathaniel and Mrs. Mary Green of Boston Aged 54 years." Records indicate she was born on May 3, 1663 and never married.

George Cleeve (1586 – after 1666) (Burial place unknown)

Early settler and "founder of Portland, Maine"; Deputy President of the Province of Lygonia from 1643 until the submission of its Maine towns to Massachusetts in 1658. Cleeve was born in England. He married Joan Price, 7 Sept. 1618. His daughter Elizabeth married Michael Mitton, from whom there are numerous descendants.

Dorcas Hopkins (1787-1816) (Eastern Cemetery)

Dorcas was the daughter of Daniel and Lydia Tucker. She grew up in Portland and was probably living at home when the 1800 Census was taken. Her father was Captain Tucker, a privateer during the Revolutionary War, and partner in an import business with Thomas Hopkins, father of her future husband.

William Brown (1786 - 1854) (Eastern Cemetery)

Thought to have been born in Baltimore in 1786, Billy joined the Navy in childhood, not unusual at the time. Billy may have started life as a slave, but that is uncertain. He held the job of "powder boy" on the U.S.S. Constellation during the little-known "Quasi War" with France from 1798-1800.

Mary (Molly) Deering Preble (1770-1851) (Eastern Cemetery)

Daughter of Nathaniel Deering and Dorcas Milk, married Commodore Edward Preble. They had one child together, Edward Deering Preble. She died aged 81. Her remains are buried with her husband and son in a tomb in Eastern Cemetery. In 1879, the Deering family donated what is now Deering Oaks Park to the people of Portland.

Bartlett Adams 1776-1828) (Eastern Cemetery)

Born in Massachusetts, Adams was the first stonecutter in Portland, and owned the only stonecutting shop in the area from 1800 to 1828. At least 8 other stonecutters worked with Adams in his shop over the years: his brother, 2 nephews, and others who would have their own successful careers. Adams' gravestones appear in other parts of Maine.

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