Captain Jacob Adams (1772- 1807) (Eastern Cemetery)

Captain Adams was a native of Portland, Maine. He captained a number of packet ships and schooners before becoming captain of the Charles. He was married to Dorcas Davis in 1794, and they had five children. His grave marker was carved by Alpheus Cary, who worked in the shop of Bartlett Adams (no relation).

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 activities including summer guided tours, Walk Among the Shadows 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, Lora Burns, Sara Groves, Penelope Hamblin, Kristin Hodak, Brian Kaczor, Susan Martin, Bunny Siegel, Dave Smith, Peter Weigel, Dee Dee Wacksman

Specters and Box Office

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Special thanks to Joe Martin

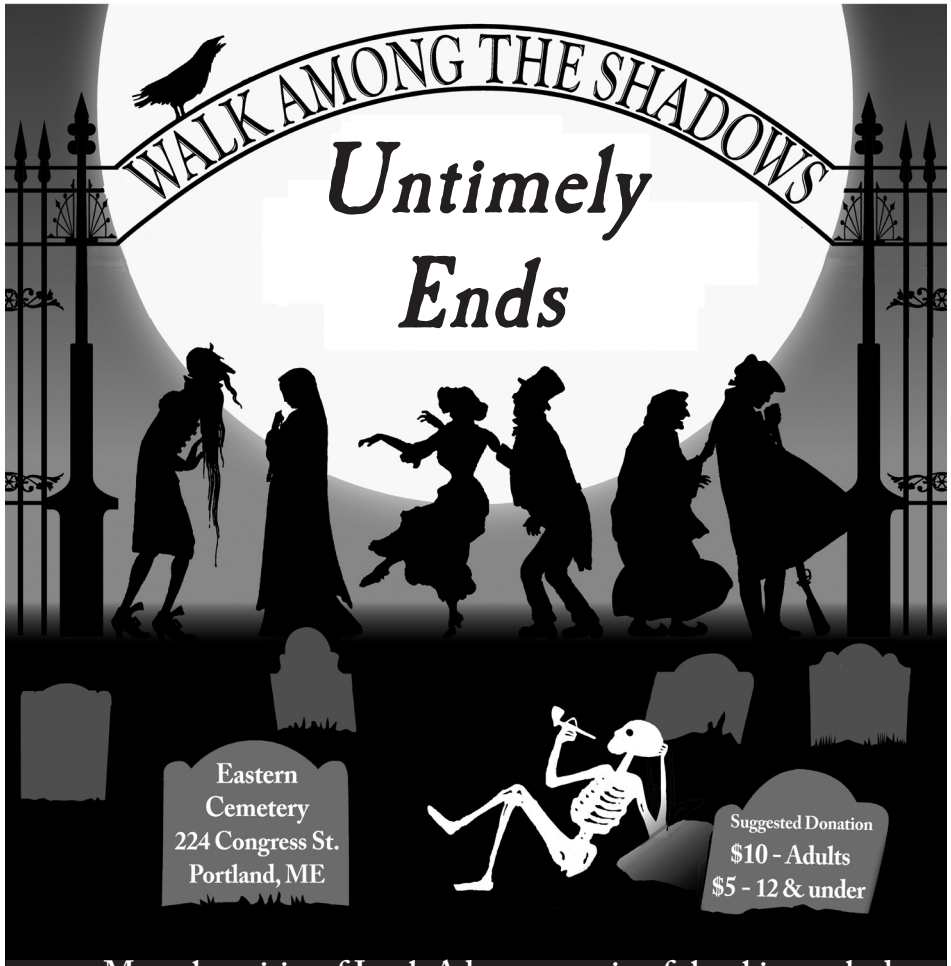
Spirits Alive at Eastern Cemetery

www.spiritsalive.org sa@spiritsalive.org

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P.O. Box 18209, Portland, Maine, 04112-8209

SPIRITS ALIVE



Meet the spirits of Jacob Adams, captain of the shipwrecked Schooner Charles, Thomas Bird, the first man hanged under the new U.S. Constitution, and other victims of premature death by "misadventure." Learn about paupers' graves, burial of visitors far from home, early medicine, and more.

October 20-22 & 27-29 6:30-7:30 pm

Sundays, October 23 & 30 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Presented by Spirits Alive at Eastern Cemetery

Untimely Ends

Written & Directed by Lynne Cullen

Spirits outside the gates

Julia Bragdon Parsons . . . . . Kathleen Carr Bailey

Billy Hans . . . . . .Peter Weigel

Spirits within the gates

Dr. Nathaniel Coffin Jr. . . . . Brenda Tubby

Dr. Jeremiah Barker . . . . . Seth Berner

John Robbins . . . . . Daniel Gay

John Flett . . . . . Jason Iannone

Dorcas Lewey . . . . . Molly Donlan

Thomas Bird . . . . . Chalmers Hardenbergh

Lydia Carver . . . . . Lauren Gamble

Captain Jacob Adams . . . . . Herb Adams

The Facts behind the fiction . . .

Dr Nathaniel Coffin, Jr (1744-1826) (Eastern Cemetery)

Dr Coffin was an important figure in Falmouth (Portland), Maine, and supported independence from Britain. In 1775, he was one of three men who tried to talk Captain Mowatt out of bombarding Falmouth. After studying in England, Coffin practiced medicine in Portland. In 1785, Dr Coffin and Dr Barker had a disagreement printed in the Falmouth Gazette regarding the treatment of women with childbed fever.

Dr Jeremiah Barker (1752-1835) (Stroudwater Cemetery)

Dr Barker documented his efforts to keep up with and contribute to medical literature in a changing medical landscape. He intended to publish his *Diseases in the District of Maine 1772–1820*, but he never did. We know much of how elite physicians practiced 200 years ago, but little about the practice of an ordinary rural doctor. Barker intended a book to be "understood by those destitute of medical science." His book is now available.

John (Jack) Robbins (d. 1855) (Eastern Cemetery)

After the Rum Riot, opposing factions painted pictures of Jack Robbins's role in the event that took his life. An anti-temperance editorial declared Robbins a martyr remembered for all time, while Neal Dow would be "lost among the wild grasses and weeds that spring from carrion carcasses." Dow is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. [Many thanks to Troy R. Bennett for permission to use his ballad, "Here's to Neal Dow".]

John Flett (1734-1760) (Eastern Cemetery)

In his *History of Portland 1632-1864*, William Willis writes: "... the collapse was due to the garrett floor loaded with corn ... This fell upon McLean in the chamber, carried that floor down and killed John Flett in the kitchen." According to Thomas Smith's diary, "One of the servants was wounded, but the rest escaped in the chimney." Mr. Ross's house was on the corner of Middle Street and the street that leads to Clay Cove.

Dorcas Lewey (d. Dec. 11, 1845) (Eastern Cemetery)

Little is known about Dorcas Lewey, save she was married to a seaman, William LaRue, and the date and manner of her death. For wives of whalers and naval men, the quality of life was determined by their social and economic status. Dorcas's husband was probably an ordinary seaman. Officers' wives could count on support from their community, but the spouses of poor sailors were often isolated and short of money.

Thomas Bird (1749-1790) (Eastern Cemetery)

By the late 1700s, 40 European slave forts, called factories, stood along the 1,500 miles of cliffs, mangrove swamps, and beaches along the Guinea coast - 14 of them were English. The Portland jailer, Thomas Motley, was born in Ireland. A maritime judge assigned to the Supreme Courts of several states was authorized to try cases of felony and piracy. It was under this law that Bird and Hanson were arrested and tried.

Lydia Carver (1783-1807) (Crescent Beach Cemetery, Cape Elizabeth)

Lydia Carver was one of 16 passengers and crew who died in the wreck of the Charles. Seven bodies were never recovered, and are considered to have been "buried at sea". Except for Miss Carver, the other eight found bodies are most likely buried in Eastern Cemetery, only half with markers. Ship's cook Eben Ruby was the only African-American aboard. He drowned in the wreck.

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