Dan Rice (McClaren) (1823-1900, Old First Methodist Church Cemetery, NJ)

America's most famous circus clown, known for performances that included singing, dancing, and animal acts. He was a celebrated humorist, whose comedy acts ranged from Shakespearean parodies to biting political satire. Some believed that he was the inspiration for "Uncle Sam."

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

Penelope Hamblin, Brian Kaczor, Susan Martin, Bunny Siegel, Dave Smith, Dee Dee Wacksman, Peter Weigel

Specters and Box Office

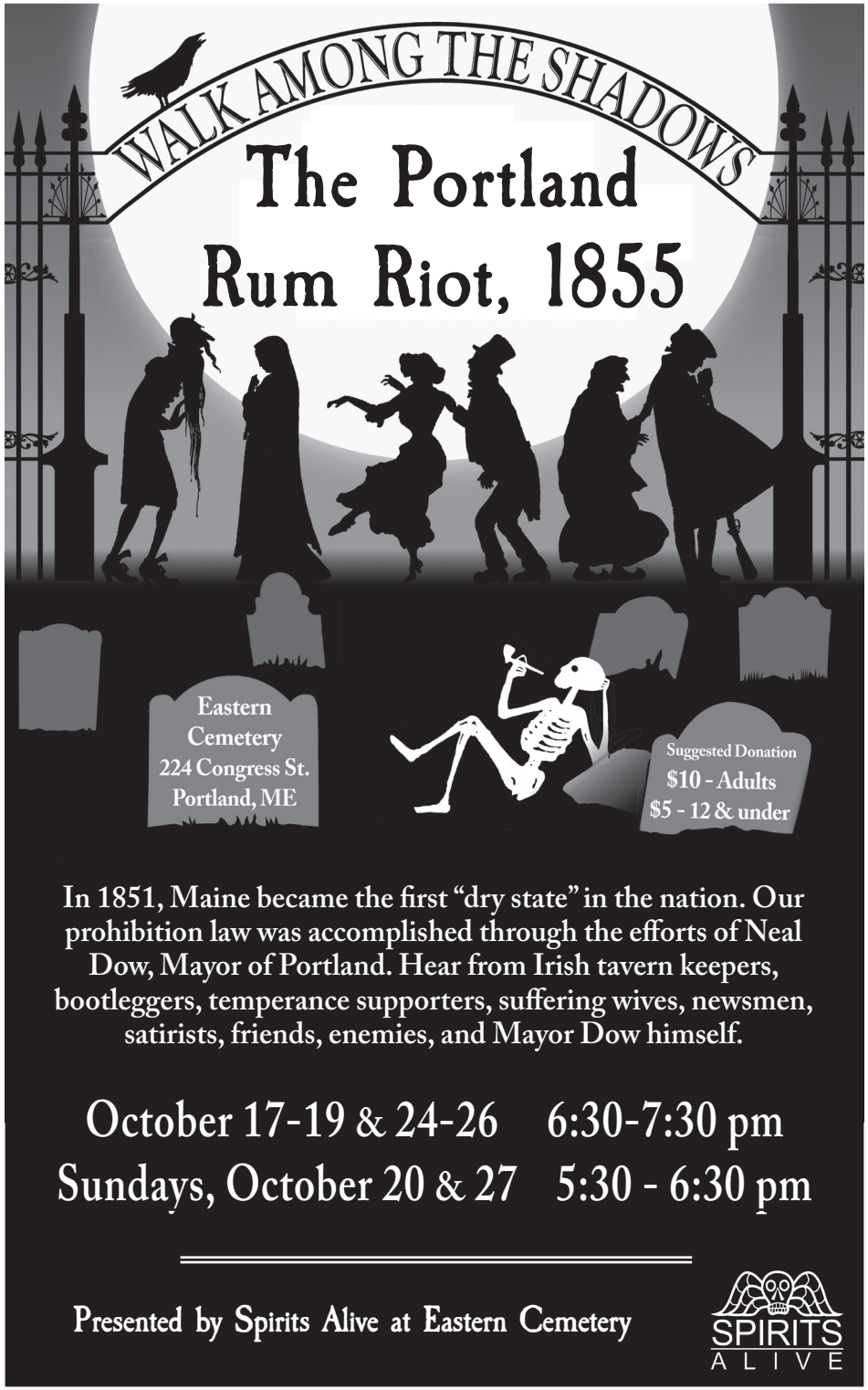
Volunteer coordinator: Sara Astley

Rick Ashton, Adrian Astley, Sara Astley, Ann Babbit, Diane Brakeley, Sue Devine, Laura Dyer, Emily Elmer, Kendra Gaarder, Dawn Gay, Faye Gmeiner, Penelope Hamblin, Brian Kazor, Susan Martin, Tom Oconnor, Anne Payson, Peg Puza, Eleanor Roberts, Bunny Siegel, John Voyer, Dee Dee Wacksman, Sierra Walker

Special thanks to Matthew Jude Barker, author of "The Irish in Portland, Maine" for his input on the Rum Riot.
Special thanks to Parks McKinney

Spirits Alive at Eastern Cemetery
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P.O. Box 18209, Portland, Maine, 04112-8209

2024



The Portland Rum Riot, 1855

Prohibition, Politics, and Protest in Maine

Written & Directed by Lynne Cullen

Spirits outside the gates

Julia Bragdon Parsons . . . . . Kathleen Carr Bailey

Billy Hans . . . . . .Peter Weigel

Spirits within the gates

John Neal . . . . . Herb Adams*

James Bradley . . . . . Adam Ferguson

Jane Hudson . . . . . Lauren Gamble

Leonard Gill . . . . . .Daniel Gay

Caroline Swett . . . . . Molly Donlan

Kitty Kentuck . . . . . Brenda Tubby

Neal Dow . . . . . Seth Berner

Dan Rice (McClaren) . . . . . Jason Iannone

**John Neal's script was written by Herb Adams.*

The Facts behind the fiction . . .

John Neal (1793-1876) (Western Cemetery, Portland)

American writer and activist. Neal wrote essays, novels, and poetry. He advanced American art and advocated for early feminist causes and the end of slavery. He and Neal Dow were cousins, and enemies.

James Bradley (1824-1901, Calvary Cemetery)

Born in County Derry, Ireland, James sold liquor from the Bradley Hotel, located on the corner of India and Commercial Streets. James's cousin John managed the McGlinchy Brewery, owned by the infamous bootlegging family.

Jane Hudson (1836-1925, Calvary)

According to records, Jane was engaged to John Robbins, the man who was shot dead by the Portland Rifle Guards during the 1855 Rum Riot. She married Joseph Towle (Toole) in 1857.

Leonard Gill (1830-1864, Eastern Cemetery)

It is not known if Gill served in the Portland Militia at the time of the Rum Riot, but he was representative of the local men who served during the Rum Riot. He was killed in action during the Battle of Pleasant Hill in Louisiana in 1864.

Caroline Swett (1822-1897, Evergreen Cemetery)

Caroline was wife of Jeremiah Swett, a "truckman." In April, 1849, she vandalized H.G. Cole's shop on Exchange Street, where her husband had purchased liquor. Her trial in July was a sensation. Her defense team consisted of Neal Dow and William Pitt Fessendon.

Kitty Kentuck (abt. 1810-1866, prob. Eastern Cemetery)

She was born Margaret Callaghan in Cork, Ireland. Kitty (as she became known) immigrated to New Brunswick, then Portland, in 1846. She became owner of a sailors' boarding house and brothel on Hancock Street.

Neal Dow (1804-1897, Evergreen Cemetery)

Dow was a temperance leader, Mayor of Portland, and architect of the "Maine Law", which introduced prohibition to the state: the first such law in the nation. He was raised a Quaker. A man of contradictions, he abhorred slavery, but looked down on Irish (and other) immigrants.

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