

HISTORIC AUGUSTA
PRESENTS

WALK WITH THE SPIRITS ★ 2026 ★

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

OCTOBER 24 & 25

Seatings at 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30

WESTOVER MEMORIAL PARK

2601 Wheeler Road Augusta, Georgia

WALK WITH THE SPIRITS

*** COMMITTEE ***

**Catherine Robertson, Chair
Joyce Law, Chair
Erick Montgomery
Melinda Elser
Noelle Salinas
Rebecca Wood**

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Platt's Funeral Home for furnishing Walk with the Spirits with tents and chairs for the comfort of our patrons!

In recognition of the mission of Historic Augusta, Inc., photos of Augusta homes or other related buildings or illustrations representing each spirit portrayed on this tour are included with a short sketch of their lives. Portraits of each spirit have been included if available.

The mission of Historic Augusta, Inc. is to preserve historic sites and structures in Augusta and Richmond County, Georgia

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CEMETERY PRESERVATION

Cemeteries represent a community's memory. They provide a final resting place for our ancestors and forebears who shaped the communities in which we live today. The place a person chooses to be buried, or which is chosen by their surviving family members, reflects many things, such as the community where they lived, their family connections, their religious preference, their ethnicity, and often their social status or relative wealth during their lifetime.

Grave markers come in many sizes, shapes, and designs, but they provide information on the deceased, often including birth and death and sometimes genealogical relationships. Graves are often found in groupings of family members, fraternal associations, or religious affiliations. Plots often contain multiple generations of one family group. Family members who moved away years ago or may have never actually lived where they are buried are sometimes brought "home" to be reunited with their relatives. Cemetery maintenance is an increasing problem. Cutting grass and controlling vegetation are an ongoing challenge for cemeteries without a regular source of income. Collapsing graves create walking hazards that need to be filled with new soil. Vandalism is a disgraceful but not an unusual occurrence. Attacks by acid rain, mold, lichen, and other organic factors on grave markers require regular attention but should be removed carefully using chemicals and treatments that will not do more harm than good to the stones.

Cremation has become a more popular option in the United States, meaning fewer cemetery plots are being purchased. Lot sales are a major source of income for cemeteries to help with maintenance and repairs. Fewer sales lead to declining financial resources needed for managing cemeteries. Older cemeteries are filling up and have no more lots to sell. Some have found spaces to create small lots for cremains, as well as in scatter gardens.

WESTOVER MEMORIAL PARK

MAP



THE SPIRITS

SUSAN BROOKS CARR WARE SAVAGE

Portrayed by Catherine Robertson
Oconee Hill Cemetery, Athens

REVEREND JAMES HARRIS

Portrayed by Giovanni Jones
Section 1B

GEORGE ROWLEY LOMBARD

Portrayed by Ben Casella
Mausoleum

**MARGUERITE "META" CHARBONNIER
MCGOWAN PHINIZY**

Portrayed by Sallie Metzel
Section 7

DR. ROBERT BENJAMIN GREENBLATT

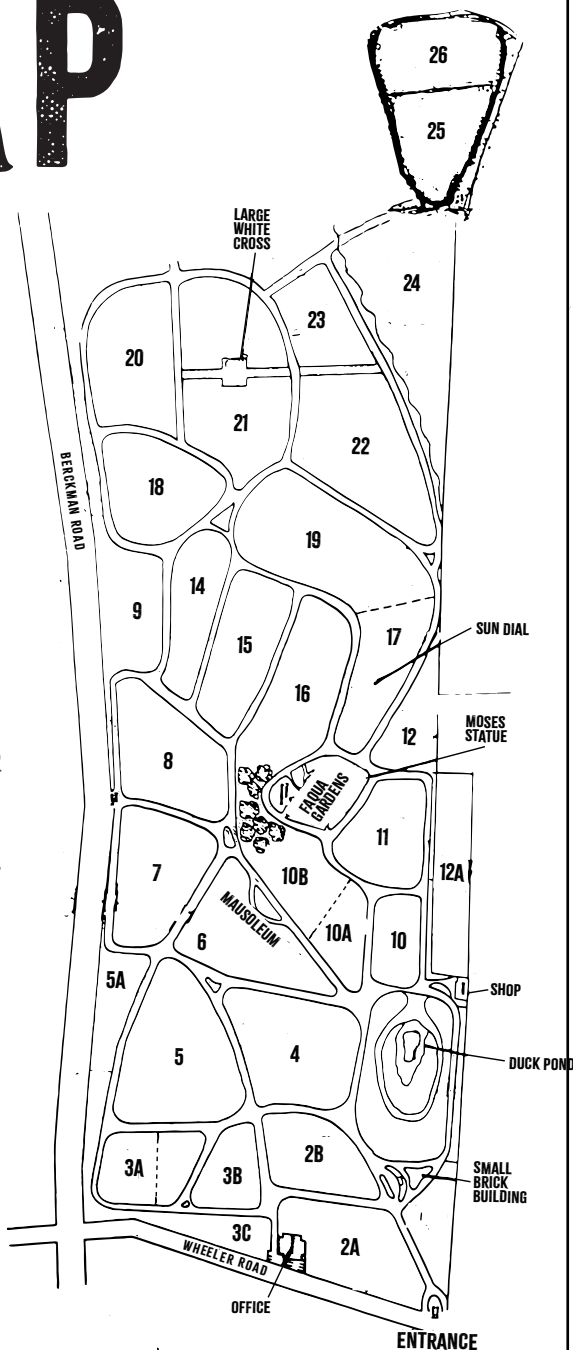
Portrayed by Warren Umansky
Section 3A

DOROTHY FUQUA

Portrayed by Charmain Brackett
Section 17B

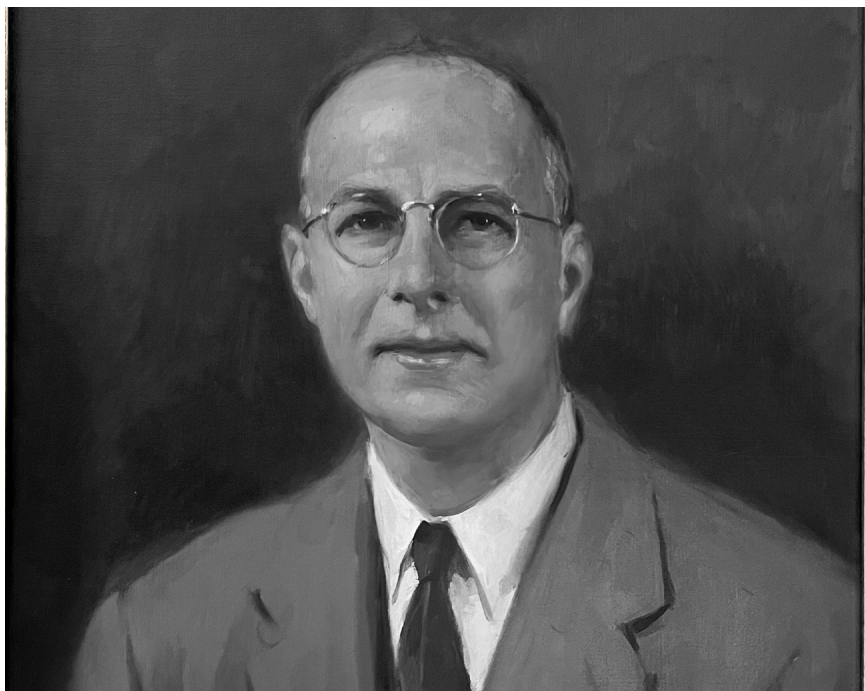
JESSYE NORMAN

Portrayed by Kimberly Dunn
Section 25



1 HOLLIS CHUBBOCK BOARDMAN

(1864-1921) - Portrayed by Bill Ford



Hollis Chubbock Boardman was born on the 29th of March in 1864, the son of Henry M. and Adelaide Chubbock Boardman, of Connecticut. The Boardman parents migrated from Connecticut to Augusta sometime after 1856. In 1875, Henry Boardman died leaving Adelaide and three young children: Hollis, 10; Kate, 8; and Robert Henry, one. The following year, Hollis, as a student at Houghton School, was awarded a Certificate of Distinction. By age 19, he was awarded the best drilled private in the Clinch Rifles. In 1888, at the age of 24, Hollis married Helen "Nellie" Plumb, by the minister of Saint John's Methodist Church. Born in 1864, Nellie was the eldest of six children of Alonzo and Mary Schofield Plumb of the Woodlawn community.

When Hollis Boardman launched his wholesale oil company in Augusta in 1904, it caused a huge ruckus in Augusta and beyond. Boardman had been an agent for Standard Oil in Augusta for twenty-two years when he struck out on his own, founding The People's Oil Company.

His former employer, Standard Oil, owned by John D. Rockefeller, immediately “poured agents into Augusta with instructions to undersell Boardman to put him out of business right away.” One Standard Oil agent contracted with The Augusta Brokerage Company to undersell Boardman by a half cent per gallon. Boardman then set his price at 3 ½ cents per gallon when the regular price was 11 cents. The brokerage firm got busy promoting the deal in Augusta and surrounding areas, resulting in the sale of 40,000 barrels in one day.

According to a family member, Standard Oil men visited Boardman threatening violence. In 1908, Hollis Boardman appeared before a Congressional commission investigating Standard Oil’s violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. He testified that they had used shady tactics to break down the competition, and that “he had taken occasion to horsewhip the agent on the streets of Augusta.” The People’s Oil Company was eventually renamed Boardman Oil. In addition to being an astute businessman, Hollis served on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Railroad and Banking Company and of the YMCA. The Boardman’s last home was at 2637 Walton Way.



Five children were born to the Boardmans: Mary Frances, Clayton Pierce, Alonzo Plumb, Harold Marton, and Hollis Chubbock Boardman, Jr. Their daughter Mary Frances died in 1890, at the age of one, and was buried in the Boardman plot in Magnolia Cemetery, alongside Hollis’ parents. Hollis died suddenly at home on June 28th, 1921. According to his obituary, he had been in robust health until 30 minutes before his death. He was interred in the Mausoleum of Westover. Nell continued living on Walton Way until her death on January 7th, 1943. In 1962, Boardman graves in the City Cemetery were moved to Westover’s Mausoleum.

2 DOROTHY “DOTTIE” CHAPMAN FUQUA

(1921-2015) - Portrayed by Charmain Zimmerman Brackett



When Dorothy “Dottie” Chapman and John Brooks Fuqua met, she was a secretary at Sears, and he was a young entrepreneur who had recently launched Augusta’s new radio station, WGAC. They were married at Saint James Methodist Church on February 10th in 1945. Their life together was a rags-to-riches story.

Dottie was born in 1921, in the rural town of Davisboro, in Washington County, Georgia. She was the daughter of Hugh Frederick and Millie Hattaway Chapman.

After graduating from Davisboro High School with honors, Dottie lived with relatives in Augusta while she attended Hurst Business College. For 61 years, she was J.B.’s devoted partner, supporting him in all of his endeavors.

J . B. Fuqua was born John Brooks Elam Jr., in Prince Edward County, Virginia, in 1918. He was the son of John Brooks Elam and his second wife, Ruth Fuqua. When Ruth died three months after J.B.’s birth, his father left him



with his Fuqua grandparents who eventually adopted him. He had a lonely childhood on the rural farm with no other children nearby. He became a voracious reader, and educated himself in business and finance as a young teen. When he was 14, he ordered a booklet for 25 cents on how to become a radio operator, which he said was the best investment he ever made. By the time he graduated from high school, his advanced knowledge of radios and Morse Code led him to join the Merchant Marines as a radio operator. Next, he landed a job as a temporary engineer at a radio station in Charleston, and was soon made the chief engineer. In 1940, he moved to Augusta, soon building WGAC, with capital borrowed from several local businessmen. By 1953, with Walter J. Brown, he had established Augusta's first television Station, WJBF-TV, Channel 6, and had amassed his first million dollars. In the 1960's J.B. sold WJBF, and then established Fuqua Industries, which bought and sold 60 companies over several decades.



J.B. and Dottie were both deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement and in the political world. Fuqua served three terms in the Georgia Legislature, campaigning heavily for Carl Sanders to become governor in 1962. His political friends included Robert and John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Jimmy Carter, among others.



2110 Gardner Street

Dottie and J.B. had two sons: John "Rex" Fuqua, born 1949, and Alan Brooks Fuqua, born 1951. The family lived at 2110 Gardner Street until 1967, when the family moved to Atlanta. In 1970, young Alan, a student at UGA, was killed, along with 2 of his classmates and the pilot, when the private plane in which he was a passenger crashed in Laurens County, Georgia. In their grief, Dottie and J.B. created in his memory the Alan B. Fuqua Center in the historic house known as "Montrose," as a part of Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, where they attended in Augusta. J. B. Fuqua died from complications of bronchitis on the 5th of April in 2006, at the age of 87. Dottie died on the 23rd of January in 2015, at the age of 93. Both were buried in Augusta's Westover Cemetery, near their son Alan.

3 ROBERT BENJAMIN GREENBLATT

(1906-1987) - Portrayed by Dr. Warren Umansky



Robert Benjamin Greenblatt was an internationally known endocrinologist whose primary concern was the health of women. He pioneered research in the fields of sequential oral contraceptives and the treatments of infertility and menopause.

Dr. Greenblatt was born October the 12th, 1906, the son of Louis Greenblatt and Anna Rabinovich, in Bessarabia, Russia. During that time, the Bessarabian Jews were targeted in massacres, called pogroms, which focused world-wide attention on the persecution of the Jews within the Russian Empire. American Jews began giving financial aid, and assisting in the emigration of Jews from that region.

During that tumultuous period, the Greenblatts and their eight children, migrated to Montreal, Canada when Robert was five years old. In a short time, the Greenblatts became naturalized citizens of Canada. Early Canadian records show that Robert Greenblatt was born in Russia.

By 1928, Dr. Greenblatt had completed his undergraduate studies at McGill University of Montreal, and his MD and CM degrees there in 1932. In the midst of his medical training, Robert was married to Gwendolyn Stephanie Lande, of Montreal. By 1933, he was working at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. From 1934 to 1935, he served his internship and residency at Englewood General Hospital in New Jersey, where his older son, Nathaniel Lande Greenblatt was born. By 1935, the Greenblatt family was in Augusta, where Robert was a research fellow

at the Medical College of Georgia. In 1939, Gwendolyn gave birth to a second son, Edward Lande Greenblatt. The family was living at 2409 William Street when Robert and Gwendolyn became naturalized citizens of the US, and Robert registered for the draft. By 1950, the family lived at 3011 Bransford Road.

During World War II, Dr. Greenblatt was a senior surgeon of the US Public Health Department, attached to the Coast Guard. He served as senior medical officer on board the USS Cambria, and as



3011 Bransford Road

squadron medical officer to the commander of Transport Squadron 12, Pacific Fleet, during the Okinawa operation.

During his stint in the military, he found a cure for granuloma inguinale. After participating in the occupation of Nagasaki, Greenblatt described the scene a month after the bombing as “utterly impossible to believe until you have seen it with your own eyes...and then you aren’t so sure just one bomb could have done it all!” In 1945, before he was fully separated from the military, he had resumed his position as professor at MCG, and was made head of the Department of Endocrinology the following year, serving in that position until 1972.

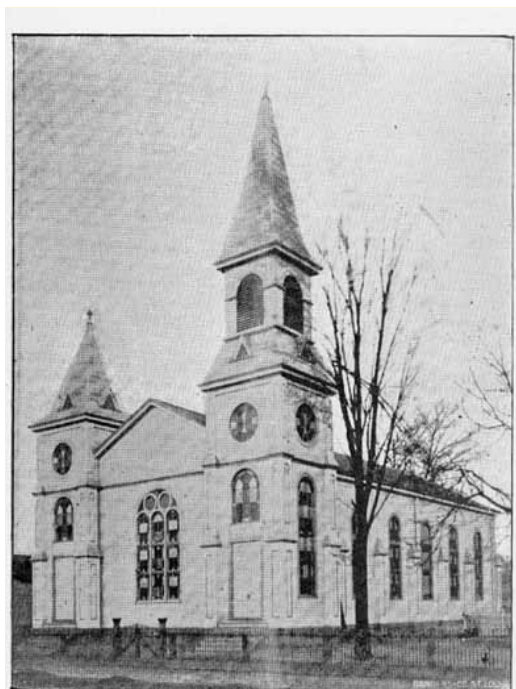
During the course of his life, he wrote or edited 23 books, and received international honors:

- Legion of Honor Medal (France)
- Gold Medal Award, Society of Gynecological & Obstetrics of Monterrey (Mexico)
- Honorary Fellow, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (Great Britain)
- Israeli Peace Prize, 1974
- Medical Clinic named in his honor, 1985 (Bordeaux, France)
- MCG Library, renamed in his honor, 1988

Dr. Greenblatt died September 27th, 1987 after three years of suffering from an terminal illness. His funeral service was held at the Walton Way Temple, and he was buried in Westover Cemetery. He was survived by his wife Gwendolyn and his two sons Nathaniel and Edward.

4 REVEREND JAMES HARRIS

(1810-1862) - Portrayed by Giovanni Jones



TRINITY CHURCH, AUGUSTA, GA.

Trinity CME, circa 1893

“The Reverend James Harris, 1810-1862,” his tombstone reads, “Sacred in memory of a pioneer and pacesetter whose freedom was purchased to become the first African-American preacher of Trinity C.M.E. Church.” In the 1840’s, the Black membership of Saint John Methodist Church, desiring a place of worship of their own, and with the consent of St. John’s, gathered for weekly worship services on 8th Street. By 1843, a brush arbor structure was built, thus establishing Trinity

Colored Methodist Episcopal Church with 125 members, in Augusta.

According to Cory Rogers, Executive Director of the Lucy Craft Laney Museum, “There is great significance in the establishment of Trinity in 1840...founded 25 years before the passage of the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery. Secondly, Trinity predates the formal organization of the CME denomination by 30 years, making it the oldest CME Church in the world.”

Finding that the original location did not have a clear title, in 1851, the Augusta City Council passed a resolution deeding the land at the northeast corner of 8th and Taylor to St. John’s Church for the use of the new African American congregation. Trinity was served by supply minister assigned by St. John’s until 1853, when the congregation

Known as “Mother Trinity,” the congregation is considered one of the original churches when the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1870. The official name was changed to Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in 1954. In the early 1890s Trinity enlarged its original building, and in 1921 it was brick veneered. For many decades, Trinity CME Church has been a force in its community, promoting racial harmony as its cornerstone.

In 1985, the Atlanta Gas-Light Company, which had occupied a manufactured gas plant on the lot directly across 8th Street from 1852-1955, began soil and groundwater tests which found that the site was contaminated by coal tar that was not disposed of properly. Nine square blocks in the area were found to be contaminated, and Atlanta Gas Light reached a settlement with the church and the affected residents in 1996. Trinity received \$3 million for damages and relocation costs. The church members were devastated, not only at the prospect of losing their home in Mother Trinity’s historic church building, but also fearing its destruction. On August 2nd, 1998, the members of Trinity held a Communion and Exodus Service, which was the last service held at the 8th Street location, before moving to the new location on Glenn Hills Drive. On April 23rd, 2003, the graves of Rev. James Harris and Rev. Edward “Ned” West, “which were originally laid to rest on the church grounds at 818 8th St.” were reinterred in Westover Cemetery, “to rest in perpetuity.”



Trinity CME, circa 1921

Thankfully, preservation efforts by the Augusta Canal Authority, Historic Augusta, and others saved the original Mother Trinity Church building from destruction by moving it directly across Taylor Street in 2016 to a lot that had been mitigated. Restoration is currently underway.

5 GEORGE ROWLEY LOMBARD

(1856-1929) - Portrayed by Ben Casella

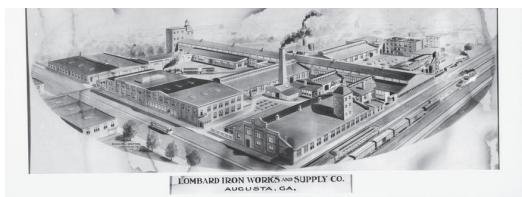


George Rowley Lombard was born January 1st, in 1856, the son of George Obed Lombard and Frances "Fanny" Ellen Rowley, the oldest of their three sons. George attended a public rural school until the age of 13, when he began working in his father's foundry as an office boy. By the age of 21, he had mastered all aspects of the business. After the death of his grandfather in 1894, the company was incorporated as Lombard Iron Works and Supply Company. At the death of his father, young George and his maternal grandfather Harmon Rowley, formed a

new company: George R. Lombard and Company. A 1915 *Augusta Chronicle* article reported that it was "remarkable that such a young man could have possibly managed a plant at such a tender age."

The boilers produced at Lombard's were famous all over the south, found in most cotton and oil mills, as well as ice factories and manufacturing plants. The machine shop had the finest equipped repair shop; the blacksmith shop had the latest tools including a steam hammer; and the sawmill shop produced the best portable sawmill ever constructed. The company was continually growing and improving. By 1916, there was even an auto department which turned out Ford or Republic trucks, complete with a showroom and repair shop.

In December of 1875, shortly before the death of his mother Fanny Rowley Lombard, George married Alice Hephzibah Kendrick, the daughter of Eli Simpson Kendrick and Frances Virginia Wilkinson. Alice was born and reared in Richmond County in the old Kendrick home on Milledgeville Road. The young Lombards, both 19 years of



age at their marriage, were members of the Greene Street Presbyterian Church. They eventually had two children: Alice Etta Lombard, who married Samuel Fortson, and

George Simpson Lombard, who married Alice May Clark. The Lombard's house at 248 Broad Street, where they had lived for much of their married life, was burned in the Great Fire in 1916. Mrs. Lombard, who had been in poor health for some time, never recovered from the shock of losing her home. She died one month later at their new residence on Winter Street. Her obituary described her as being one of the gentlest and universally beloved women in Augusta. After the death of Alice, George contracted to build a two-story house on the site of their burned home on lower Broad, at an estimated cost of \$7,500.

In May of 1917, he married Miss Martha Swindell, in Pendleton, South Carolina. By October, he had bought property on The Hill, between Gardner Street and Battle Row, for \$3,200. There, at 2104 Gardner Street, the juncture of Battle Row and Hickman Road, he built an Italian Villa style house designed by Willis Irvin, constructed of Dennison interlocking tile, and featuring an ornate staircase fashioned at the iron works along with other extravagances.



Although the original cost of the building had been estimated to be \$35,000, the ultimate cost was whispered to have been in the neighborhood of \$75,000.

George Lombard died the 20th of April in 1929, at the age of 73, from an illness of 3 months. He remained in active charge of the Iron Works until the last month, when he was confined to his home. Funeral services were held at the Greene Street Presbyterian Church, with interment in the mausoleum at Westover Cemetery. According to his obituary, Lombard was survived by his wife Martha, his two children, 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. In his lifetime he held public office, was a director of both the John P. King and Enterprise Mills, a supporter of the YMCA, and an active member of the Greene Street Presbyterian Church.

6 JESSYE NORMAN

(1945-2019) - Portrayed by the Rev. Kimberly Dunn



Augusta-born Jessye Norman was a magnificent American soprano whose voice was likened to a “grand mansion of sound,” by Edward Rothstein of the *New York Times*. Her voice “contains sunlit rooms, narrow passageways, cavernous halls,” he wrote. In addition, her performances exhibited a keen dramatic interpretation of the music.

Jessye was born September 15th, 1945. She was one of five children born to Silas and Janie King Norman, both of whom were amateur musicians. Silas was an insurance broker who also sang in church choir, while Janie was a piano teacher, who started Jessye’s lessons at an early age. At the home of her grandparents, Jessye was fascinated by the harmonium, or grand pedal organ, which she described as “the most exotic thing I had ever encountered.” She began singing in Mount Calvary Baptist Church at the age of four. She loved listening to opera on the radio, and received a radio of her own for her ninth birthday. In her 2014 autobiography, *Stand Up Straight and Sing*, she recounts that as a child, she thought opera was no different than any other childhood story. Boy meets girl and falls in love. For some reason, they can’t be together, and the story either ends happily, or it doesn’t.

Jessye attended C.T. Walker Elementary School, A.R. Johnson Junior High, and Lucy Craft Laney High School. As a student in junior high, Jessye received her first voice training from Rosa Harris Sanders Creque, and performed an aria for the school, “My Heart at thy Sweet Voice,” from Samson and Delilah. Mrs. Creque continued to coach her throughout high school. After graduating, Jessye attended Howard University with a “full ride” scholarship, receiving her bachelor’s degree in music. She also studied at the University of Michigan and the Peabody Institute.

Although Jessye Norman faced racial barriers early in her career, she gave credit to other great Black singers such as Marian Anderson, Dorothy Maynor, and Leontyne Price, who made it possible for her to sing all types of operas, "...instead of being told to sing 'Porgy and Bess.'"



C.T. Walker School

Many of her first successes were in Europe, where she won first place at the Munich International Music Competition in 1968. After performances at the Hollywood Bowl in '72 and the Lincoln Center in '73, her career began to gain momentum

In 1983, Jessye made her Metropolitan Opera debut, portraying Cassandra in "Les Troyens," by Berlioz. The next day she was featured on NBC's "Today" show. Eventually, she would perform more than 80 times at the Met, and was asked to perform at many special events:

- The second inauguration of Ronald Reagan, 1984
- Queen Elizabeth's 60th birthday, 1986
- The 200th Anniversary of the French Revolution, 1989, performing the French National Anthem
- The funeral of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, 1994
- The opening of the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, 1996
- The second inauguration of Bill Clinton, 1997
- The memorial service for victims of September 11th attack on the Twin Towers, performing "America the Beautiful"

Her many awards included 5 Grammy Awards, four for her recordings and a lifetime achievement award. In 1997, she was honored at the Kennedy Center, and in 2009, she received the National Medal of the Arts. Her crowning achievement was the establishment of the Jessye Norman School for the Arts, which was an after-school arts program in Augusta for underserved students, in conjunction with the Rachel Longstreet Foundation. In appreciation for her contributions to the youth of Augusta, the city designated part of 8th Street, as Honorary Jessye Norman Boulevard. A ceremony to celebrate the renaming was scheduled for October 11th, 2019, but sadly she passed away September 30th, at Mount Sinai - Saint Luke's Hospital in New York, of septic shock and multiple organ failure, after a spinal cord injury and back surgery in 2015, which left her paralyzed and wheelchair bound. Her funeral was held at Augusta's William B. Bell Auditorium, and she was buried here at Westover Memorial Park.

7 MARGUERITE “META” CHARBONNIER MCGOWAN PHINIZY

(1870-1961) - Portrayed by Sallie Metzel



Marguerite “Meta” Charbonnier was born the 3rd of September 1870, in Athens, Georgia, where her French-born father, Leon Henri Charbonnier, was a professor of chemistry and physics at the University of Georgia.

Meta’s mother was Mary Elizabeth Ware, daughter of Augusta native Dr. Edward R. Ware and

Margaret Bacon, of Athens. The Ware-Lyndon Home in Athens is today a house museum and arts center. In 1892, Meta was married to her first husband James Farrow McGowan, a Laurens, South Carolina native who was employed by a cotton firm in Athens.

Several years later, the couple moved to Augusta where McGowan continued his career in the cotton business. There, they lived at 916 Greene Street with their two children, Henri Charbonnier McGowan and Margaret McGowan. After 15 years of marriage, Meta was widowed after James died after a month’s long illness in 1909, at the age of 44, and was buried in the City Cemetery, now called Magnolia Cemetery. By 1910, Meta and the children had moved to “the Hill,” and were living on Henry Street. In 1917, she bought a two-story house at 2624 Walton Way, on the southwest corner of Glenn Avenue.

In the whirlwind of Augusta social functions, Mrs. McGowan attracted the attention of Bowdre Phinizy, owner and publisher of *The Augusta Herald*. Bowdre Phinizy was born in 1871 in Augusta, the son of Ferdinand Bowdre Phinizy and Mary Lou Yancey. During

his childhood, the family lived on McIntosh Street, (now 415 7th) in the house now known as the Lamar House, headquarters of Historic Augusta. He later lived with his family at the Phinizy Mansion at 519 Greene Street, now known as the Hatcher Center.



2624 Walton Way

He was a graduate of Princeton University when Woodrow Wilson was a professor there. Obtaining a law degree from Harvard, he returned to Augusta to practice law. In 1895 he invested in *The Augusta Herald*, saving it from insolvency. Although confirmed bachelor, Bowdre and Meta were married on the 5th of May in 1928, in Washington, D.C. Sadly, Mr. Phinizy died only 3 years later on February 9th, 1931 from pneumonia at the age of 59, and was buried in Westover Cemetery. After Bowdre's death, Meta continued living in Augusta until the 1940's, when she moved to Savannah to be near her daughter. She died on the 10th of May 1961 at the age of 90, and was buried next to Bowdre at Westover.

8 SUSAN BROOKS CARR WARE SAVAGE

(1789-1869) - Portrayed by Catherine Robertson



When Susan Savage died in 1869, at the age of 80, she had outlived her two husbands: Nicholas Ware and Daniel Savage. She was born Susan Brooks Carr on March 21st, 1789, in Richmond County, the eldest child of Thomas Carr and his wife Frances Bacon. In 1806, she married Nicholas Ware as his second wife at his summer home on Milledge Road on the Sand Hills. As an attorney and a planter, Ware became a wealthy

and influential citizen of Augusta, accumulating a large amount of land, particularly a plantation which he bought in 1813, for more than \$7,000, containing 1,499 acres of land on both sides of Rae's Creek, which he named "Westover." On this property, he built a house and operated a grist mill and a cotton gin. In 1818, Nicholas bought a lot in Augusta on the corner of Telfair and Centre Streets where he built the magnificent house which became known as "Ware's Folly" due to its extravagant cost of \$40,000. Ware served as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, as mayor of Augusta, and as a Member of the United States Senate. In 1824, Nicholas died in New York, leaving his wife Susan deeply in debt, with seven children. Much of his estate was tied up for several years with lawsuits, and many of the properties were lost to foreclosure.

In December of 1830, Susan remarried to Daniel Savage, a widower with four children and a stepchild. The marriage was short-lived. Daniel signed a will in March of 1831, and was dead by August, when his will

was presented in court. All he left her in his will was the property she owned before their marriage, as well as all of her debt. After years of litigation over Nicholas Ware's estate, Susan eventually succeeded in securing her dower rights as his widow. Eventually, she moved to Athens, where she died in on December 30th, 1869, and was buried in Oconee Hill Cemetery. Today, Mrs. Savage is visiting her old home in Augusta from her grave in Athens.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF WESTOVER



Consisting of more than 83 acres of scenic woodlands, the property now creating WESTOVER MEMORIAL PARK was formerly owned by several prominent individuals of Richmond County, including George Walker, Sen. Nicholas Ware, Judge Augustus B. Longstreet, author of the 1835 publication *Georgia Scenes*, and Porter Fleming.

The name of the cemetery was inspired by a nineteenth-century residence known as “Westover,” which existed on the estate purchased by Porter Fleming in 1859. The house burned in the early 1880s. WESTOVER MEMORIAL PARK was chartered as a non-profit corporation in 1912, and was further enhanced by designation as a Perpetual Care Cemetery by the state of Georgia in March 1923.

It has continuously qualified as such since that time. It may easily be said that this property has been developed into one of the most beautiful and prestigious cemeteries in all of the South.

ABOUT THE ACTORS

CHARMAIN ZIMMERMAN BRACKETT

(Dorothy “Dottie” Chapman Fuqua)

Charmain Zimmerman Brackett is a lifelong resident of Augusta and the publisher of *Augusta Good News*, a free digital news publication featuring local people, organizations, and events. She has covered Augusta’s news for 35 years and is the author of several books, including a mystery series based in Augusta. She and her husband, Bret, have been married for 35 years. They have three adult children.

BEN CASELLA

(George R. Lombard)

Dr. Ben Casella is an Augusta native and third-generation owner of an optometry practice downtown. Ben, his wife Laura, and their children all share a love for the arts. He also contributes to our community in any way can, including serving on the Board of Trustees of Historic Augusta, Inc.. He is a veteran Spirit in our annual production.

KIMBERLY DUNN

(Jessye Norman)

The Rev. Kimberly E. Dunn has been the Associate Rector at Saint Paul’s Church in Augusta since June 2023. Her emphasis is pastoral care to those who work, study, live, or visit downtown Augusta. She was ordained a priest at Augusta’s Saint Paul’s Church on December 16, 2023. She holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Vocal Performance in Opera Theater and has been a professional international performer. A native of Kansas City, Kansas, she is a former military spouse and served in Europe during Desert Storm as the Director of Music at the post Chapel in Karlsruhe, Germany. She has two grown sons.

BILL FORD

(Hollis C. Boardman)

Bill Ford is a native Augustan with a lifelong passion for history and a sense of place. Growing up in a historically significant house on William Street built by Ty Cobb, and he spent many boyhood hours exploring the Summerville Cemetery and Augusta College campus, forming relationships with people who have called this place home since the turn of the last century. Bill owns a technology design and installation business and is a member of Saint Paul's Church and the Downtown Kiwanis Club. He and his late wife, Mary Lynn, have one son.

GIOVANNI JONES

(Reverend James Harris)

Giovanni is a born and raised in Augustan with a deep love for his city. He's been living in the arts since the age of 5, and has since expanded from just drawing and painting into other art genres such as theatre, dance, costume design, writing, and music. A man of many talents, Giovanni is always finding some way to surprise you!

SALLIE CAPERS METZEL

(Marguerite "Meta" Charbonnier McGowan Phinizy)

Sallie Capers Metzel is a native Augustan. She taught sixth grade language arts at Episcopal Day School and Perfectly Social at Social Inc. for many years. She is the past chair of the Augusta Town Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. Presently, she is the incoming president for Women in Philanthropy. She is married to Al Metzel, who is her favorite bridge partner. She has portrayed several spirits in past Walk with the Spirits productions.

CATHERINE ROBERTSON

(Susan Brooks Carr Ware Savage)

Catherine Robertson is a retired middle school social studies teacher. In 2014 she returned to her hometown of Augusta after living in Coffee County, GA for 38 years. Catherine is a graduate of Richmond Academy and Valdosta State University where she obtained her AB in History. She serves as Recording Secretary on the Council of the Augusta Genealogical Society and as a Verifying Genealogist on the Georgia Board of Governors of the National Society of the Colonial Dames in America. A life-long member of Saint Paul's Church, Catherine sings in the choir and serves on the history committee. In her spare time, she enjoys playing music, researching genealogy and history, and growing a vegetable garden.

DR. WARREN UMANSKY

(Robert Benjamin Greenblatt)

Warren Umansky grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He began his "acting career" playing a non-descript character in his third-grade play. He followed that with a performance in ninth grade as Thisbe in a snow-shortened run of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." He attended Brooklyn College for undergraduate work. After completing his doctoral study at Indiana University, he found himself on faculty at the University of Georgia. His adjustment to life in Athens was eased by a stint as Tevye in a dinner theater performance of Fiddler on the Roof. His time on the UGA faculty was followed by work as Director of Maternal and Child Health for the Health District. During that time, he met his future wife Jean and they moved to Augusta following the birth of their first child, Derrick. Warren spent time working with the Columbia County Schools and then opened a pediatric behavioral health practice, which continues to occupy his time. He and Jean have two other children, Aaron and Neely, and two granddaughters. Warren looks forward to this event to jump start the last chapter of his "acting career"!

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FROM AUGUSTA TO THE WORLD STAGE

A BRIEF VIEW OF THE 20TH CENTURY IMPACT
OF REVEREND JAMES HARRIS

REVEREND JAMES HARRIS, TRAILBLAZING PASTOR (1810-1862)

Secured from Athens, GA, Rev. Harris became a Free Person, manumitted by the Black members of “Mother” Trinity CME congregation. Due to the limited daily records about People of Color during his lifetime, more reliable details about his legacy and descendants are documented in the memoir of his daughter-in-law, poet and organist Elizabeth Johnson Harris (1867-1942), who married Rev. Harris’ son Jacob Walker Harris (1858-1904) in July 1883.

Now utilized as a major curriculum supplement in Women’s History Studies and African American History at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, Mrs. Harris’ handwritten recollections and family pictures chronicle her ancestry and family events up to 1923.

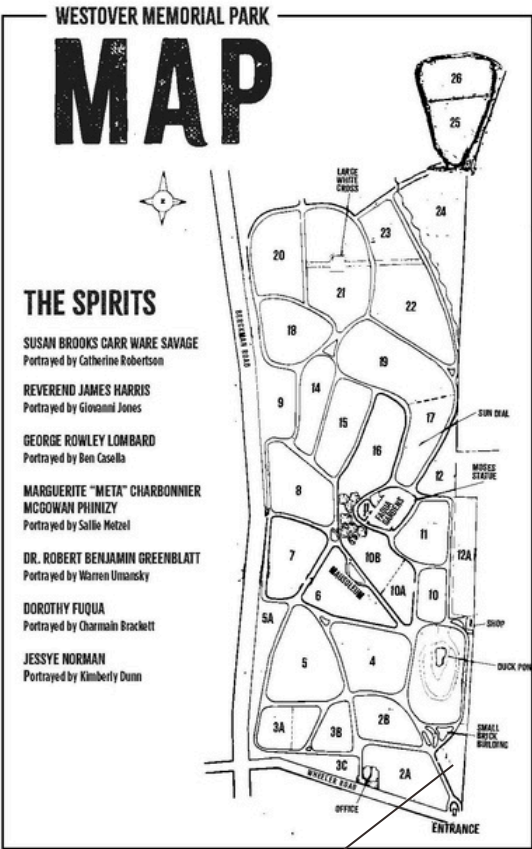
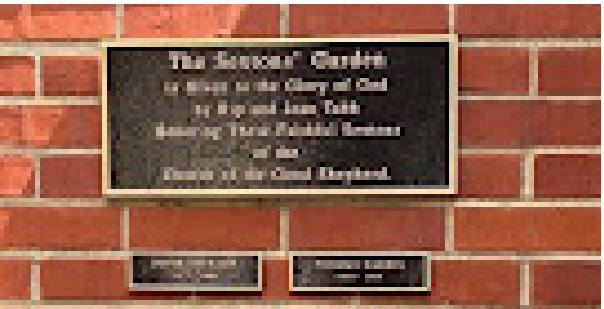
The two (2) most well-known children of Jake and Elizabeth Harris are Professor Charles Jacob Harris (1885-1988) and Thomas O.A. Harris ((1888-1955). Thomas Harris and his maternal grandfather, served as the successive sextons of Church of the Good Shepherd; and, are featured at full length in the Church of the Good Shepherd history Let the Hills Hear Thy Voice. The Sexton’s Garden at the rear courtyard of COGS features a plaque dedicated to them, which cites their dates of service. Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell-Swann narrates a short Augusta Museum of History video on Charles (pictured below).

Three (3) granddaughters of Rev. Harris’ daughter, Susan H. O’Bryant (1856-1926) served together in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps during World War II. Essie Dell and Tessie Theresa O’Bryant served as a pair overseas in the legendary 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Their older sister, Ida Susan O’Bryant, remained stateside. Essie Dell and Ida Susan, slightly older than each other, graduated in the Haines Institute Class of 1935. Most likely, Tessie graduated in 1939 before proceeding to college. However, the records are less readily available to confirm the exact timeline and places.

By LTC (Retired) Joyce G.D. Law,
Trustee, Historic Augusta, Inc.



PROFESSOR CHARLES JACOB HARRIS



REVEREND JAMES HARRIS
SECTION 1B

FROM AUGUSTA TO THE WORLD STAGE

A BRIEF VIEW OF THE 20TH CENTURY IMPACT
OF DR. JESSYE NORMAN

DR. JESSYE NORMAN, HUMANITARIAN AND OPERA SINGER, (1945-2019)

Before her stellar rise on the world stage, Jessye Norman gained popularity in her hometown as a wedding soloist, usually accompanied either by pianists Evelyn Starks or Rosa Harris Creque Sanders. Ms. Norman attributes the many pivotal opportunities presented by mentor Mrs. Sanders in the autobiography *Stand Up Straight and Sing*.

Retaining her mother's recurrent loving guidance, "Stand up straight, Honey," Ms. Norman credits additional influential teachers during her early development. Mrs. Viola Harris Evans, her English teacher at Lucy Craft Laney High School, required students to memorize a poem weekly. This disciplined strategy underpinned Ms. Norman's superior academic and professional agility. Mrs. Elizabeth Golden, Choir Director at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, allowed Ms. Norman's voice range and confidence to percolate, surrounded by other talented singers.

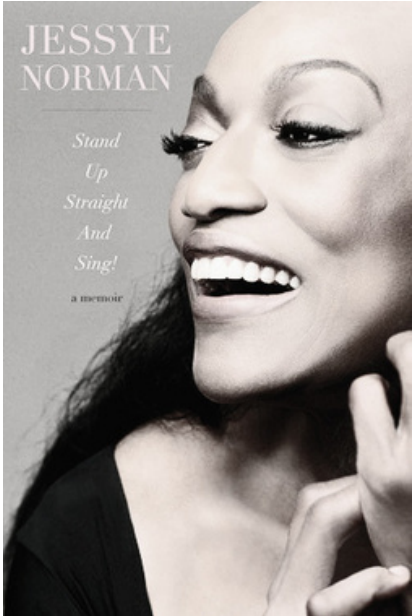
The student civic involvement of Ms. Norman's older brother, Dr. Silas Norman, Jr. as the President of the Augusta Youth Chapter of the NAACP while at Paine College, set the example for her protest participation as an undergraduate student. Her continued commitment to human rights led to her award of the coveted NAACP Spingarn Medal in 2013. Ms. Norman's vocal talent continues through younger sister, Elaine N. Sturkey's participation with the Georgia Symphony orchestra in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area and the students shaped at the local Jessye Norman School of the Arts.

Several important landmarks trace Ms. Norman's lifetime. Her remodeled childhood residence at 1444 Forest Street, in Bethlehem Historic District, still stands among other humble yet distinguished properties to include that of Mrs. Daisy Holmes, RN, next door at 1456.

The National Botanical Garden of France and the New York Botanical Garden feature the Jessye Norman Orchid. The local Jessye Norman Amphitheatre and Plaza prominently gives voice to the whole community. Ms. Norman received over 30 honorary doctorate degrees to include those awarded by Paine College and Cambridge University. Paine College sponsors both the Dr. Norman Silas, Jr. Leadership Award and the Jessye Norman Voice Scholarship.

The final chapter of Dr. Tom Mack's Hidden History of Augusta is tribute to Ms. Norman's dignity in the face of racial and gender bias.

By LTC (Retired) Joyce G.D. Law,
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JESSYE NORMAN
MEMOIR