

# Conversations from the Grave:

## Meet the Residents of Thornrose Cemetery September 18-19, 2021



### THEY SAY ONLY THE GOOD DIE YOUNG.

Find out for yourself when you meet Denis Shanahan, a talented engineer in the 1850s when the Blue Ridge Tunnel was constructed, or C.G. Sell, the elderly, impoverished man who lived in a shack on the old fairgrounds, his only possession, a beautiful stallion. You may recall Hugh Bell Sproul, a civic leader whose circle of friends and associates included state and national figures, including Charles Lindbergh. And who can forget the lovely Eva Clark, a circus trapeze performer who purportedly died from a gunshot wound as a result of a love triangle gone terribly wrong. Among first-time appearances will be Dr. Samuel Hite, a successful late 19th century entrepreneur who patented a variety of medicines, including his famous "Hite's Pain Cure – A Great Discovery." Miss Bessie Weller, the first nurse hired by the Staunton School Board in 1917, will also make an appearance. For those of you interested in firearms, you will want to hear the amazing story of Lorenzo Sibert who, near the outbreak of the Civil War, invented "The Virginia Pacificator," a straightforward weapon with the capability of firing 48 rounds without reloading. Had it been successfully manufactured, "The Pacificator" may have changed the course of the war. Local costumed actors will tell the stories of the people who made our city their final resting place. Tours take place rain or shine!

Tours are limited to 20 people per tour, so make your reservation now! Please select a first and second choice as these tours will fill up quickly. You can order tickets by calling the office at 540-248-4151 (*Best time to reach manager is Tues., Thurs., Fri., 9-2*), or by e-mail at [augustachs@ntelos.net](mailto:augustachs@ntelos.net), or fill out this ticket form and mail with your check to the address listed below. No tickets will be mailed until payment is received. Thornrose is steep with uneven ground. Wear good walking shoes.

*ACHS is grateful to our sponsors for making this program possible!*

*Charlton & Groome Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. | City National Bank | First Bank | Henry Funeral Home & Crematory  
McDonough Toyota | Thornrose Cemetery Company & Suzanne Berry, Thornrose Superintendent*



I would like \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) at \$25 per person      Ticket amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle **BOTH** in case your first choice is filled.

**My first choice is:**    Saturday, Sept. 18: 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 1:00, and 1:30  
   Sunday, Sept. 19: 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, and 2:30

**My second choice is:** Saturday, Sept. 18: 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 1:00, and 1:30  
   Sunday, Sept. 19: 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, and 2:30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions, call ACHS at 540-248-4151 or e-mail: [augustachs@ntelos.net](mailto:augustachs@ntelos.net)

*Make checks payable to: Augusta County Historical Society*

*Please mail checks to: Augusta County Historical Society, P.O. Box 686, Staunton, VA 24402*

