

## Remarkable Individuals:

Numerous Macon County women stand out and deserve recognition either because of their own unique accomplishments or because they help us understand better the lives of other women of their time. These examples were portrayed today:

### 1. **Mary Bell – Portrayed by Nelma Jean Bryson**

*Mary's vivid letters to her husband Alf during the Civil War drive home the challenges and opportunities women faced in those difficult days and how they coped with suddenly being heads of household and in charge of everything on the homefront.*

### 2. **Elizabeth McDowell – Portrayed by Abigail Crabtree**

*Buried next to her son, Silas McDowell, the noted 19<sup>th</sup> century historian who was born out of wedlock in what were apparently painful circumstances, she was well read and self-educated. She raised Silas with her father's help and was never married.*

### 3. **Burdell Robertson (as told by her mother Laura) – Portrayed by Sissy Pattillo**

*Mother was Laura Woodfin Robertson who after separating from her husband James, returned to Franklin and supported herself as a seamstress and later a milliner, influencing a young generation of women who took up millinery as a career on Main Street. Burdell was a gifted artist, receiving an honors degree in art from an academy in Asheville. She died from influenza shortly thereafter. Laura erected the most opulent stone in the graveyard in her daughter Burdell's memory.*

### 4. **Margaret Olgivie – Portrayed by Linda Tyler**

*Her will offers intriguing suggestions about the life of this pioneer woman who came to own property in her own name, requested that her slaves be treated kindly and not made servants and rescued her husband's estate from "embarrassment".*

### 5. **Salley, The Sexton's Tale – Portrayed by Stan Polanski With an Interpretative Dance by Jada Bryson**

*Salley (Siler) was a slave of Jesse Siler purchased from Gideon Morris in 1821 when she was 22. Believed to have been nursemaid to Tim (Harriet Timoxena Siler Sloan), she is probably buried in an unmarked section of the cemetery, which holds graves of black members of the church including slaves.*

### 6. **Margaret Love – Portrayed by Graciana Zimmerman**

*Wife of Dillard Love in an arranged/dynastic marriage making her the richest lady in Macon County with all the luxuries and finery she could wish for. She raised not only her children, but also children of his husband's mistress, Delilah. She is buried with her husband and two sons in the cemetery.*

### 7. **Harriet Timoxena Siler Sloan – Portrayed by Janet Greene**

*She was the youngest daughter of Jesse and Harriett Siler. Jesse was one of the first settlers in Macon County following his brother Jacob to the area. She received half of the old Morris reservation (East Franklin) from her father when she married and was the epitome of a thrifty housewife of her era, having to run her large household for many years after her husband's early death.*

### 8. **Alice Siler Robinson – Portrayed by Kathryn Sellers**

*Married to James Robinson, Lieutenant Governor and briefly, Governor of NC. She was the "lady of the flowers" known for her beautiful garden and her generosity with the blossoms in her yard. She owned Dixie Hall and was noted for her hospitality.*

Docents will lead your assigned group clockwise when the bell rings. Bathroom facilities are located inside First United Methodist Church (limited availability at the Franklin Terrace Bed & Breakfast).

