

**Toby Francis, Dr. Stacey Graham, Anne Odom,
Robert Stevens and Frances Victory**

*cordially invite you to a fundraising reception to support
the renovation and preservation of Smyrna's historic*

Templeton Grove Cemetery

at the home of

County Commissioner Robert Stevens

with special featured guest

Rutherford County Mayor Ernest Burgess

and in honor of

**Local Historian, Toby Francis,
former President of the Rutherford County Historical Society**

Saturday, February 22nd from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

137 Laurel Hill Drive, Smyrna, TN 37167

Suggested Contribution: \$25/person or \$35/couple

Please make checks payable to Rutherford County Historical Society

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

R.S.V.P. to (615) 948-5238 or stevens_robert@comcast.net

See the attached letter for more historical information about Templeton Grove Cemetery.

TEMPLETON GROVE CEMETERY

Templeton Grove Cemetery is located on Florence Road on US Army Corps of Engineers property. Buried in this cemetery is John Nash Read and family members. The Corps has granted us permission to restore this cemetery.

John Nash Read was a Major in the Revolutionary War. His family, both the Nashes and Reads, were early American nobility. He was a pioneer to this area in 1806. When land became available after treaties were signed with the Indians, he migrated from Charlotte County, Virginia, to the West Prong of Stones River. He was wealthy. He purchased 600 acres, which once belonged to Andrew Jackson, and built Templeton Grove Plantation. He also built Enon Springs Church. Built on the plantation were some of the finest homes in the South. Farming was flourishing until the Civil War when all was burned as the Union Army was moving to what became the Battle of Stones River.

John Nash Read was the father of 23 or 24 children by three wives. His first wife was a first cousin to President Thomas Jefferson. Several of his children died young. Several who lived became doctors, businessmen, and soldiers. His sons, Sion Read and Nathaniel Read, served in the War of 1812. His son, Edmund Read served in the Texas Revolution. Edmund is buried at Templeton Grove. John Nash Read's grandson, Captain Nat Allen, died at the Battle of Stones River. He is also buried at Templeton Grove Cemetery.

John Nash Read built the Read House Hotel/Tavern in Jefferson. Legal matters were conducted there before Murfreesboro or Smyrna existed. Notables who stayed at this hotel were Andrew Jackson, Sam Houston, Isaac Shelby and others. John Nash Read served on the first Grand Jury of Rutherford County.

John Nash Read was 63 when he died. Before his death, he deeded his property to his wife, Mary Barksdale Read, and to several of his children and Enon Church. Local surveyor, Robert Francis, has platted Templeton Grove Plantation from copies of the original deeds. Much of Nissan is now located on this land: then from Ed's Bait Shop to beyond Enon Springs Road, across to Nissan Blvd.

Prepared by Frances Victory, Cemetery Restoration Committee