

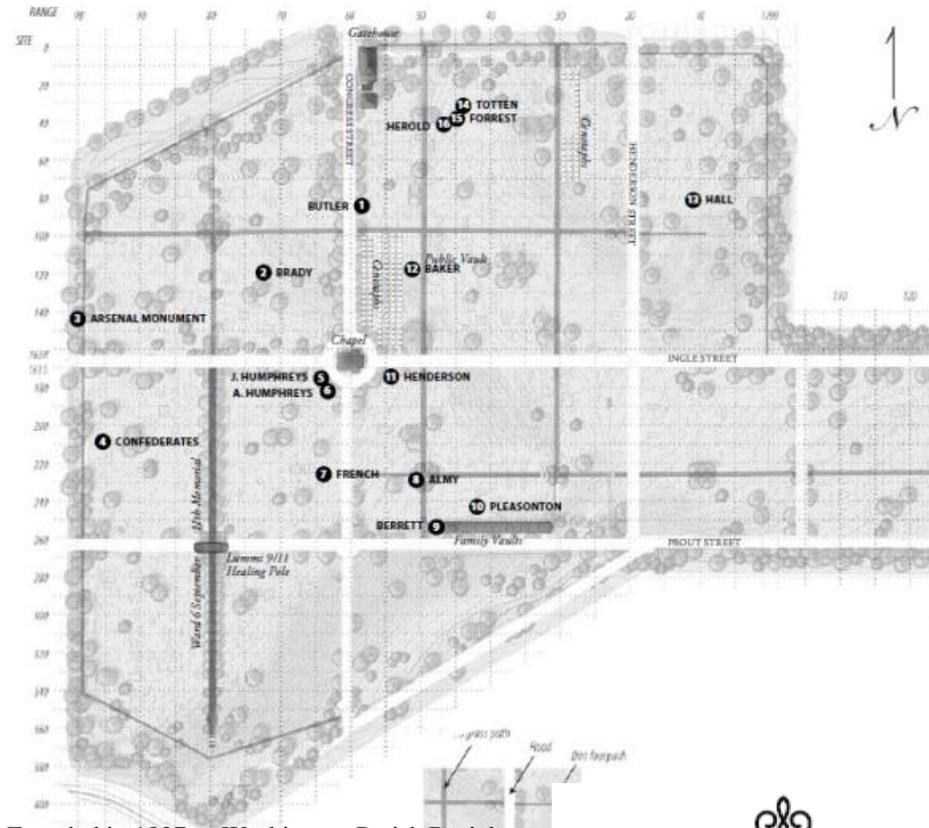
ironclad CSS *Virginia*. He watched the Battle of Hampton Roads from a tug in the harbor in March 1862. When Norfolk fell two months later, he transferred to Richmond and was off the rolls of the Confederate Navy by mid-1864. R45/S42

16. DAVID HEROLD (1842–1865). A Lincoln assassination conspirator, he followed Lewis Powell (a.k.a. Payne) on that fateful night to kill Secretary of State William Seward. He waited outside and fled after Powell's failed stabbing attempt. Herold met up with John Wilkes Booth in Maryland, then traveled to Mary Surratt's house and on to Dr. Samuel Mudd's. Twelve days later they were cornered and Booth was shot. Herold was convicted and hanged on July 7, 1865 with co-conspirators Surratt, Powell and Atzerodt. He was buried on the grounds of what is now Fort McNair, but in 1869 his family petitioned to have his body interred here in an unmarked grave. His sister Elizabeth was buried in the same plot in 1903. R46/S44

OTHER LINKS TO THE LINCOLN

ASSASSINATION—some accounts indicate Lewis Powell hid in a Cemetery tomb the night of the assassination before escaping across the river in the morning. Buried in Congressional Cemetery are seven men who were at Ford's Theater that night (a doorkeeper, an usher, two members of the audience, two musicians and a member of the box office staff); also buried are Emerick Hansell R86/SD4), the State Department courier wounded by Powell during the attempt on Seward; James Pumphrey (R47/S205), who rented Booth a horse that night; John Shelton (R96/S82), a policeman who helped carry Lincoln to the Peterson house; Peter Taltavull (R12/S141), owner of the Star Saloon where Booth grabbed a pre-theatre drink; two of the 16 doctors who tended to Lincoln that night; and three men involved in Lincoln's embalming and burial. For details, see our web site and click on Genealogy > Lists/Rosters > Assassinations.

With thanks to archivist and historian, Sandy Schmidt, whose decade of dedicated research produced over 25,000 obituaries on our web site, without which we could not tell the stories of the hundreds of individuals who make up the tapestry of heritage at Historic Congressional Cemetery.



Founded in 1807 as Washington Parish Burial Ground, Congressional Cemetery soon became America's first de facto national cemetery, predating Arlington Cemetery by 70 years. By the 1830s, several decades of congressional appropriations for infrastructure gave rise to the popular name "Congressional Cemetery." The Cemetery grew from 4.5 to 32.5 acres, and holds more than 55,000 individuals in 30,000 burial sites, marked by 14,000 headstones. The federal government owns 800 sites, including 165 cenotaphs which honor members of Congress. The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the restoration, interpretation, and management of Congressional Cemetery. It is predominantly a volunteer-based organization relying on over 400 neighbors, history buffs, conservators, dog walkers, and armed forces personnel each year to restore and maintain this national treasure. Established in 1976, the Association is listed on the National Register of historic Places. We welcome you to become a member of the Association to help us continue our third century of service to the Nation's Capital.



BICENTENNIAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL

1807  2007

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
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Walking Tour
A HOUSE DIVIDED

History comes to life in Congressional Cemetery. The creak and clang of the wrought iron gate signals your arrival into the early decades of our national heritage. Surrounding you are the men and women who shaped the new capital and gave substance to the new nation—congressmen and tradesmen, diplomats and domestics, explorers and architects, soldiers and musicians. The Civil War was arguably the most divisive and the most significant four years in the history of the United States. The war produced almost a million casualties, with over 600,000 men from the two sides dying of wounds, injuries and disease. The repercussions from the war, its aftermath and the Reconstruction era still affect our social conscience and political environment. Congressional Cemetery is the final resting place for over 700 men (approximately 600 Union and 100 Confederate) who fought in the war. Generals lie next to privates, and brothers who fought on opposite sides rest only a few feet apart. The Cemetery is also the burial site for many local residents who contributed to the history of the area and the country during that era. Like the rest of the city, the cemetery has many ties to Abraham Lincoln—including the graves of the man who took the photo reputed to have gotten him elected and a man who was a co-conspirator in the plot to kill him. As you walk the trail of this self-guided tour, note the artistry and craftsmanship of the memorial stone carvings and try to decipher the cultural language of the iconography.



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The following are numbered to correspond with the map on the back. Also refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers to help locate each gravesite.

1. ANDREW PICKENS BUTLER (1796–1857), Senator from South Carolina, was co-author of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which undermined the Missouri Compromise of 1820 allowing slavery in a region where it had previously been prohibited. It is said the first blows of the Civil War were struck defending his honor: in 1856, Sen. Charles Sumner (MA) denigrated Butler in the Senate. Two days later in Senate chambers, Congressman Preston Brooks (SC)—Butler’s cousin—defended his family’s honor by caning Sumner viciously. The attack outraged Northerners and transformed the struggling Republican Party into a significant political force. R60/S84 CENOTAPH

2. MATHEW BRADY (1822–1896), the definitive and prolific Civil War photographer. Historians credit his 1860 photograph of Abraham Lincoln prior to his Cooper Union (NY) speech with facilitating Lincoln’s election. Brady’s 1862 exhibit, “The Dead on Antietam” was the first time citizens saw battlefield carnage. A pauper at death, Brady’s burial with his wife’s family was financed by veterans of the 7th New York Infantry. The newer headstone was placed in 1988 by 11 people from Ohio. R72/S120

3. WASHINGTON ARSENAL EXPLOSION MONUMENT On June 17, 1864, sparks from a small explosion blew into the Washington Arsenal on the grounds of what is now the Navy Yard. The ensuing explosion and fire killed 22 women; 16 are buried here (8 of the bodies were never identified), with two others in family plots nearby. The funeral procession, the largest at the time in the city’s history, was led by Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. The statue atop the monument is by Lot Flannery, who sculpted Lincoln’s statue at Judiciary Square. R98/S145

4. CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS’ HEADSTONES can be distinguished from the other government-issue markers by their pointed rather than rounded profile. Legend says this choice was so that “no damn Yankee

will sit on it.” Historians believe that these wartime burials were Confederate soldiers who succumbed in nearby hospitals. R95/S211

5. JOSEPH (JOSHUA) HUMPHREYS (1813–1873), Andrew’s younger brother (see below), served in the U.S. Navy until 1853. He had married a woman from Virginia and ran a business in Fredericksburg. When the war broke out, he joined the C.S. Navy. It is believed that his marriage and business ties led him to join the Confederate cause. Any animosity was apparently forgiven since he was brought from Fredericksburg to be in this family plot. R64/S177

6. GENERAL ANDREW HUMPHREYS (1810–1883), son and grandson of prominent shipbuilders, chose to attend West Point. After the Seminole War, he joined the Corps of Topographical Engineers and worked on surveys of the Delaware and Mississippi Rivers. In 1861 he served as a major with McClellan. He led a division of V Corps at Antietam, and at Fredericksburg led his division the farthest up Marye’s Heights. His troops supported Sickles’ “aggressive” Gettysburg advance. Five days after Gettysburg, Meade appointed him Chief of Staff. Four months later he took command of the II Corps and distinguished himself at the 1865 Battle of Saylor’s Creek. He became Chief, Corps of Engineers in 1866 until his retirement in 1879. R63/S184

7. BENJAMIN FRENCH (1800–1870) served as Commissioner of Public Buildings under Franklin Pierce and Lincoln. He was asked to hide Mrs. Lincoln’s expensive White House redecorating bills in his budget. The Statue of Freedom, placed atop the Capitol dome in his tenure, has two names engraved on it: French and Lincoln. R63/S228

8. ADMIRAL JOHN JAY ALMY (1815–1895), after serving in the Mexican War, was promoted to Commodore at the start of the Civil War. He commanded the USS *Connecticut*, which captured four notorious blockade runners and destroyed or ran three others aground. He is credited with serving the longest length of time at sea as an officer in the Navy’s history—27 years and 10 months, in 42 years of service. R51/S229

9. MAYOR JAMES BERRETT (1815–1901) was elected mayor of Washington in 1861 by a mere 24 votes. That year Congress passed a law requiring all public officials to swear a loyalty oath. He refused, insisting that his mayoral oath swore his loyalty. He was arrested in August 1861 and imprisoned in New York. After no evidence of enemy complicity was found, he was released a month later, returned to Washington, and then resigned as mayor. R49/S260

10. GENERAL ALFRED PLEASANTON (1824–1897) is buried next to his father, Stephen, who saved the Declaration of Independence and Constitution from the British in 1814. A cavalry officer who saw battle at Antietam and Chancellorsville, he was appointed temporary commander of the Cavalry Corps just prior to Gettysburg. He fought at the Missouri “front,” and after the war reverted from brevet brigadier general rank to major. He resigned his commission in 1868 and later worked for the predecessor of the Internal Revenue Service, but was dismissed for lobbying Congress to repeal the federal income tax. R42/S245

11. CAPTAIN OCTAVIUS HENDERSON (1839–1897), son of Archibald Henderson, fifth Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, he led the 1st Virginia Regulars (the Irish Battalion). When severely wounded at the Second Battle of Manassas, his VMI class ring was shot from his hand. The ring was found and returned to him 32 years later. He returned to VMI to teach infantry tactics. R54/S173

12. COLONEL EDWARD BAKER (1811–1861) a lawyer from Springfield, Illinois, was such a close friend of the President that Lincoln named his second son after him. Baker was elected as Senator from Oregon in 1859. After the war broke out, he organized the California Brigade and served as its colonel. On October 21, 1861, while leading a brigade at the Battle of Ball’s Bluff near Leesburg, he was killed, possibly by a Virginia militiaman wearing a blue uniform who penetrated Union lines. He was the only sitting senator killed in the war. His body was held in the Public Vault before his final burial

in San Francisco National Cemetery. PUBLIC VAULT

13. MARY HALL (1814–1886) is listed on Cemetery records as “business woman” or “entrepreneur.” She was the proprietor of a brothel where the National Museum of the American Indian now stands. In the 1862 Federal Provost Marshall’s catalog of such institutions (which were not banned in DC until 1914), hers is rated as the top of its kind. It was regularly frequented by men from all military branches. In 1864 she was charged with operating a bawdy house, and maintaining a disorderly house. The three-day closely followed trial ended with her guilty of the first charge and innocent of the second. Cemetery records show that in addition to the family graves beside hers, she purchased several other sites, all for single men. R11/S92

14. GENERAL JOSEPH GILBERT TOTTEN (1788–1864) served in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. During the Civil War he commanded the Corps of Engineers, and reviewed the defensive ring of forts around DC. The remains of Fort Totten, named in his honor, are still visible in northeast DC. When the Corps of Engineers and the Topographical Engineers were merged under his command, he rose to Brigadier General and was breveted to Major General the day before he died of pneumonia. R44/S36

15. ADMIRAL FRENCH FORREST (1796–1866), a Maryland native, served in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. He commanded the Washington Navy Yard from 1855–1856. In April 1861 he resigned his Navy commission and, days later when Virginia claimed Confederacy, joined the Virginia State Navy and the C.S. Navy. As the third highest ranking officer in the Navy, he commanded the Norfolk Navy Yard and refit the USS *Merrimack* into the

A WORD OF CAUTION: The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable. Please be careful near grave markers and watch where you step: depressions and sink holes lie hidden in grass, and footstones and corner markers can trip the unwary.