34. Oscar Carey (1884), performer in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show. He is buried in fall regalia. 86/547
35. Quaw Quaw Mah Pe Quaw (1873), delegate. 82/558
36. Prophet (1859), delegate. 86/547

Winnebago

Winnebago encampment.

Indian Agents & Commissioners

A. Thomas Fitzpatrick (1790–1854), agent for the Platte Tribe of Arkansas. 827/5208
B. Alexander C. Hunt (1825–1894), agent for the Ute tribe and territorial governor of Colorado. 86/554
C. George W. Manypenny (1808–1892), Commissioner of Indian Affairs. 86/556
D. Alfred B. Meacham (1826–1882), agent for the Modoc Tribe of Washington State. 857/521
E. Henry Schoolcraft (1793–1864), agent for the Chippewa Tribe. Discovered the source of the Mississippi River. One of the earliest ethnologists, his collection of traditional Indian legends served as the basis for Longfellow’s poem, “Hiawatha.” 86/552

Arrests on work on behalf of Native American Tribes

F. Belva Lockwood (1830–1917), attorney, first woman to run for President and receive votes. Won a $6 million settlement for the Cherokee nation. 878/596
G. William Wirt (1772–1834), U.S. Attorney General. Fought against the removal of the tribes from Georgia which he strongly opposed. 86/578

Wish 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.

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, dogwalkers, 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.

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A WORD OF CAUTION: The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable. 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, women and children who shaped the new capital and gave substance to the new nation—congressmen and tradesmen, diplomats and domestics, explorers and architects, soldiers and musicians.

Founded in 1807 as the 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 of “Congressional Cemetery.” Responding to the needs of the community, the Cemetery grew from 4.5 to 32.5 acres, becoming the largest privately owned open space along the Anacostia River. The cemetery 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.

This AMERICAN INDIANS tour highlights just a few of the hundreds of fascinating people for whom we have collected obituaries on our web site, which we invite you to peruse for much more information on these and over 25,000 other individuals.

As you walk the trail of this self-guided tour, note the artistry of the memorial stone carvings and try to decipher the cultural language of the iconography.

African Burial Ground

In 1805, the U.S. government established a burial ground for murdered and enslaved Africans. One hundred African Americans lived and worked on the neighboring plantation. They were the first African Americans to be buried in the cemetery. The cemetery’s first African American interment is believed to be that of Tom Le Breve, a Louisiana slave who died aboard ship in 1774. He is buried in the 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 of “Congressional Cemetery.” Responding to the needs of the community, the Cemetery grew from 4.5 to 32.5 acres, becoming the largest privately owned open space along the Anacostia River. The cemetery 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.

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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.
The following grave sites represent all of the known Native Americans whose remains rest in Congressional Cemetery. Most died while in Washington negotiating treaties or conducting business with the U.S. Government. There is no fixed tour route. Refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers and the map on the back to help locate each grave site.

Apache

1. TAZA (TAHZAY) (ca. 1815–1876), son of Apache Chief Cochise. He was brought to Washington along with 22 others of his tribe, by a canny Indian agent. To pay their way, they danced and were exhibited as side shows. While here, Tahzay was stricken with pneumonia. His silver handled coffin was drawn to the cemetery in a “glass coach” and a two hour service gave him the recognition he deserved as Chief of his tribe. R2/S540

Cherokee

2. CHARLOTTE J. COODY (–1849), infant daughter of William Shorey Coodey. R43/S49

3. HENRIETTA JANE COODEY (1832–1849), daughter of William Shorey Coodey. She had been studying at the prestigious Patapsco Female Institute at Ellicott City, Md. R43/S49

4. WILLIAM SHOREY COODEY (1806–1849), nephew of chief John Ross. He accompanied his fellow Cherokee on the Trail of Tears after the forced removal to Oklahoma. He wrote the draft of the constitution of the United Cherokee Nation, was one of the signators of the document, and served as President of the Senate. He visited Washington often and was a close friend of Daniel Webster with whom he often stayed. R43/S50

5. JUDGE RICHARD FIELDS (–1873), judge and administrator of the Cherokee Nation. R44/S506 NO

6. JOSEPH V. HITCHCOCK (1832–1862), resident of the city for 10 years prior to his death. Listed in the city directory as a stone mason. R81/S90

7. CAPT. JOHN LOONEY (ca. 1776–1846), nephew of chief Black Fox. Served in the Cherokee regiment under Gen. Andrew Jackson during the Creek War. Severely wounded and granted a pension for life from the U.S. Government. R46/S544

8. CAPT. JAMES MC DANIEL (1823–1868), served in the 2nd Indian Regiment, U.S. Volunteers during the Civil War. Delegate to Washington and Senator of the Cherokees in Congress. R48/S298


10. CAPT. THOMAS PEGG (–1866), Senator and Associate Judge of the Cherokee Nation. Served in the Union Indian Brigade during the Civil War. R40/S544

11. CHILD ROGERS (–1841), child of Capt. John Rogers. R81/S90

12. CAPT. JOHN ROGERS (ca. 1776–1846), Principal Chief of the Western Cherokee. Fought under Gen. Andrew Jackson in the Creek War. R40/S591


14. EZEKIAL STARR (ca. 1802–1846), delegate of the Cherokee Nation. R40/S591

15. BLUFORD WEST (ca. 1808–1846), Judge of the Cherokee Nation. R40/S591

16. A MOOSE OR LITTLE BEE (–1866), Head Chief, died of “black measles.” R31/S521

17. OSK COW BU WIS or SHAWOW WIS (–1866), Chief and delegate. Died of “black measles.” R31/S521

18. ST. GERMAIN (–1866), Chief and delegate. Died of “black measles.” R31/S521

Choctaw

19. EMMITT KENNEDY (1876–1899), grandson of Peter Pitchlynn. R87/S395

20. LEE PITCHLYNN (ca. 1836–1956), son of Peter and Caroline Eckloff Pitchlynn. R88/S393

21. PETER P. PITCHLYNN (1806–1881), delegate representing the Choctaw nation almost continuously from 1853. He wrote to keep the Choctaw Nation neutral during the Civil War. He was a friend of Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay and was spoken of highly by Charles Dickens in his “American Notes.” He was a prominent Mason and received his degrees in the Scottish Rite with Gov. Sam Houston. R80/S524


23. THOMAS PITCHLYNN (1856–1893), son of Peter and Caroline Eckloff Pitchlynn. R88/S396

24. SAMSON PITCHLYNN (1857–1858), infant son of Peter and Caroline Eckloff Pitchlynn. R87/S504

25. PUSH MA TA HA (ca. 1764–1824), Choctaw Indian Chief, warrior and diplomat, served with Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. While in Washington seeking payment of debts owed by the Government to his nation, he died of croup in 1824. His military funeral, led by Senator Andrew Jackson, stretched a mile with thousands in the procession and others lining the way to his resting place. The guns from Capitol Hill thundere the tribute he had requested, “that the big guns be fired over me.” R81/S541

Kiowa

26. DANIEL S. ASPBERRY (–1856), delegate. R25/S213

27. EARL EMARTHALL or DAVID THOMPSON (–1888), delegate. R89/S394

Creek

28. KAN YA TU DUTA or SCARLET CROW (?–1867), served as a scout for the U.S. Army during the Sioux uprising in southern Minnesota in 1861. A delegate to Washington to protest the removal of his tribe from Minnesota to South Dakota. He was kidnapped and then murdered when a ransom was not paid by the Indian Commissioner. R22/S54

Dakota

29. O COM O COST or YELLOW WOLF (ca. 1804–1863), delegate. Died of pneumonia a few days after the above photo was taken. He is buried with a silver medallion presented to his ancestors by President Jefferson. R86/S549

30. WAUB-O-JEAL or WHITE FISHER (–1863), delegate. R66/S148

Lakota

31. FREDERICK D. BROKEN ROPE (1857–1858), served as a scout for the U.S. Army during the Sioux uprising in southern Minnesota in 1861. A delegate to Washington to protest the removal of his tribe from Minnesota to South Dakota. He was kidnapped and then murdered when a ransom was not paid by the Indian Commissioner. R22/S54

Nez Percé

32. UT SIN MALIKAN (–1868), delegate. R25/S213

Pawnee

33. TUCK A LIX TAH or “OWNER OF MANY HORSES” (–1858), delegate. His stone is placed incorrectly about ten sites to the north. R85/S580