Site Sales Resume
Limited Number Available
Interset rights are again available at Congressional Cemetery, ending a several year hiatus in sales. The year-long project to inventory the remaining sites and complete the appropriate forms concluded in November, allowing sales to commence with the new year. Those on our waiting list will be contacted soon.

As might be expected, the more historic areas of the cemetery have only a few remaining sites while the "newer" sections, dating to the 1870s, offer more options. We currently have 300 sites available.

For those interested in burial sites, a trip to our web site will provide an overview of the location of remaining sites and some of the specifics for purchasing interment rights.

New Rules & Regs
Proposal for Annual Meeting
A new slate of rules and regulations governing the rights and privileges of interment right owners will be on the menu for the 2003 Annual Meeting in April. The last update to the rules was almost 70 years ago. Owners are invited to comment and vote on the proposed rules at the Annual Meeting.

A complete set of the proposed new rules can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

Sousa Memorial Restored
Eagle Scout Project a Winner
Boy Scout Ryan Sullivan of ASPL Troup 32 earned his Eagle Scout Badge this winter with several weeks of toil and sweat at Congressional Cemetery restoring the landscape around the John Philip Sousa Memorial.

Ryan cleared away the overgrown evergreens so we could again see the magnificent marble bench honoring the great Marine Band leader. He replaced the hedges with plants that will offer a lower profile in keeping with the original designs for the site. He also brought in a set of large flagstones to provide easier access for photographers.

Beyond corralling friends to wield shovels, an important aspect of Ryan's project was finding the funding and enlisting professional landscaping expertise. Michael Herbel of Landscape Designs helped Ryan select appropriately sized and durable plantings and (Continued on Page 6)

2003 Restoration Work?
Nothing in the Budget
2002 saw the largest restoration work at Congressional Cemetery in over a generation thanks to the Save America's Treasures grant. Sponsored by the Park Service and the National Endowment for the Arts, the $53,000 challenge grant was matched by a two year campaign waged by former Association Chairman, Jim Oliver. The Kiplinger Foundation funded $25,000 of the match.

The restoration work included over 80 broken gravestones, table top markers, and box markers. The results can be found on our web site, which has the final report by the Dean Reudrich Company.

As much as the board would love to follow up on that success with another year of restoration and preservation work, we simply have no capacity in our current projected budget to undertake any significant program of restoration.

However, the ongoing Cultural Resources & Historic Landscape study will provide the Association with a priority listing of restoration projects. Many of these projects will be such that even a modest contribution will make a difference, like underwriting an ornamental tree along a brick path or buying a replacement slab for the slate carriage way. Keep an eye out for our next Newsletter - we may have a project just right for your budget.

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Halloween Organ Recital
Skeleton Crew on Hand
All Hallows' Eve fell on a chilly dark night here where few souls stir after the sun goes down. Yet that night, darkened figures shuffled among the gravestones and mute observers kept a wary eye over their shoulders as they made their way down to the very center of the graveyard, where so many souls have rested for so many years.

The assembled crowd waited anxiously in the candle-lit safety of the historic chapel until the appointed hour when out of the darkness came the wail of a tormented soul followed by a caped ghoul.

Our mysterious guest was J. W. Arnold, Music Director at Historic Christ Church at 6th & G Street, Southeast. Taking his place at the ancient reed organ, J. W. delighted his audience with a medley of appropriately disturbing pieces including, unnaturally, Phantom of the Opera, Bach’s Fugue, and the March of the Marionettes (the theme music from Alfred Hitchcock Presents).

The evening's presentation came in three sets of 20-minute recitals complete with leaping skeletons, a dismembered plastic hand, and cobwebs. At the close of the recitals, Association Chair Linda Harper lead a tour of the darkened graveyard for a few brave souls.

2003 Budget Shaping Up
Planning for a Lean Year
Work has begun on our 2003 budget using a time honored guiding principle: “Think Lean.”

Like virtually all other non-profits (and for-profits for that matter), 2002 has been a rough year. Belt tightening among our regular contributors has a ripple effect that impacts the budget plans.

Although the final budget is still taking shape, some major elements reflect a change in the approach the board hopes to take. As always, grass mowing is our biggest budget expense; last year’s budget set aside $78,000 to cover the contract for 17 mowings. That’s several thousand dollars more than we could afford, given the state of donations.

In the coming year, the board will scale back its hopes for a well manicured lawn, à la Arlington, and go for a more “natural” look that reflects the realities of our budget. Aiming for about 10 cuts for the year we hope to sign a contract more in the $50,000 range.

The next two large expense categories are for our office manager at $20,000 and, hopefully, a bookkeeper at about $8,000. The re-awakening of Congressional in recent years has brought about a much busier office, so both these items have become a necessity.

On the income side of the ledger, the board expects donations from the K-9 Corps to remain at about $37,000 - our largest source of income. Response to the newsletters and other appeals is hoped to be about $30,000. Disbursements from the Endowment Fund should come in at about $25,000 also.

Resumption of interment sales could raise $20,000 toward the Endowment Fund.

Lecture Series Begins
But Chill Cancels First Event
The Association’s fall speaker series hit a snag on November 17th: no heat in the chapel. That weekend saw the first winds of winter and plummeting temperatures, leaving the chapel a bit too chilly for our guests.

Our sincere apologies to Bill Allen, architectural historian of the Architect of the Capitol’s Office, who was to be the first guest lecturer. If his book is any guide, we missed a fascinating presentation. We hope he can rejoin us next year.

Finding our heating problems insurmountable in the short run, we moved our second lecture into the gatehouse. Our guest speaker was Anthony Pitch, author and historian of The Burning of Washington - The British Invasion of 1814.

Mr. Pitch entertained the small audience with an insightful overview of the War of 1812 and the heroics of several patriotic locals. He noted the foresight and courage of Stephen Pleasonton (R18/S146) who saved the Declaration of Independence and papers of Geo. Washington. We hope to have a return engagement next year.

Board Members
Linda Harper - Chair
Melvin Mason - Vice Chair
Sandra Schmidt - Treasurer
Patrick Crowley - Secretary
Dudley Brown, Rev. Judith Davis, Lisa Rauschert, Carolyn Cheney, Sammel Kilpatrick, Fredrick Davis
Kevin Hildebrand, Dawn Wattle, Farleigh Earhart & James Brookshire

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Historic Congressional Cemetery.

J.W. Arnold (photo: Voice of the Hill)
Congressional’s American Heritage
Adelaide Johnson - Sculptress

In the summer of 1893 the Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus’ voyage of discovery. Prominently featured at the popular Women’s Building was the work of Adelaide McFayden Johnson, an American sculptress who is buried at Congressional Cemetery. Her busts of the founders of the American Women’s Rights Movement - Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Dr. Caroline Winslow - are now exhibited in the U.S. Capitol.

Born in Illinois in 1859, she was reputed to be a natural at carving. She supported herself at first doing woodcarving in Chicago. After an accident and a lawsuit in which she was awarded $15,000, she was able to afford sculpture lessons and thereafter worked in marble. She was, for a time, a student in Rome, part of what Henry James called the “white marble flock.”

Amid her frequent trips to Europe (she crossed the Atlantic nearly 80 times), she encountered H. G. Wells, G. B. Shaw, and, importantly, the Women’s Rights Movement. In 1896 she married an Englishman who changed his name to Johnson - in an era when Lucy Stone caused a sensation simply by choosing to retain her maiden name. The couple studied the occult and lived as vegetarians, to which she attributed her longevity.

Adelaide Johnson was equally known for her feminist activities and for her artistic work. The precedent for a building at the Columbian Exposition devoted to the accomplishments of women had been set in the great Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia 1876. The Philadelphia pavilion had been planned, funded, and administered by women. In Chicago, the Woman’s Building was also designed and decorated exclusively by women. The Board of Lady Managers, established by the same Act of Congress in 1890 which authorized the fair itself, organized the Woman’s Building, a pioneer day care center, a Children’s Building, and women’s dormitory to provide low cost accommodation to Exposition visitors.

Upon Miss Anthony’s suggestion, a bust of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who traveled to the sculptor’s studio in Rochester, N.Y. for the purpose, was also undertaken. Miss Anthony then suggested that a bust of Lucretia Mott “with her Quaker cap” be added. This likeness was made from photographs - Lucretia Mott having died in 1880. A bust of Dr. Caroline Winslow was added to create a group of pioneering American feminists.

The busts arrived in Chicago in July 1893 after much misadventure and adversity during the rendering of the plaster model into marble in Italy. Even then the sailing was hardly smooth: a proposal of the building management to place them on pedestals - “upstairs on shelves” as Miss Johnson put it - nearly led to her placing them in the Fine Arts Building in protest. While seeking necessary permits, she fell through an open trap door in the floor of the permit office breaking three ribs, literally adding injury to insult.

Her ultimatum to move the busts had the effect, however, of their being placed to extreme advantage in the Woman’s Building’s Court of Honor. In the center of the court was, in her words, “a fountain flanked with palms which forms the background for my fair white children so no one can enter the building without seeing the first thing the four eminent women.” The Woman’s Building was one of the most popular buildings in an Exposition that drew over 27 million visitors.

Adelaide Johnson’s gravestone is just northeast of the chapel.
Ownership

1. The owner of an Interment Right shall be the owner(s) of record on the books of The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery or its successors, hereinafter called "The Association" or "Congressional Cemetery," and shall be either a sole individual or a joint ownership consisting of no more than two individuals. The right of interment in a burial site shall belong to the owner(s) of record or to those other persons legally entitled thereto in accordance with these Rules & Regulations.

2. An Interment Right shall be defined as the right to bury the remains of one human body in a designated burial site. An interment may be in the form of a full body casket or an urn, and may be placed in the ground or in a crypt or vault. An interment may also be in the form of scattered ashes that may be done only at the discretion of the Association. An Interment Right shall not be construed to suggest any ownership right in the land itself. An Interment Right may be used only for the interment of human remains. A burial site shall be defined as a plot of land designated on the plat of the Cemetery by range and site numbers that contains human remains or may be used for the burial of human remains.

3. Interments or burials may be made only in burial sites which have been fully paid for, except by special written permission of the Association. An Interment Right that remains unused for a period of 75 years will be declared abandoned and will be reclaimed by the Association upon reasonable attempt to locate owner(s) or inheritor(s) of said Interment Right(s).

4. An Interment Right may be sold by the owner(s) of record only after the Association has been offered the right to repurchase the Interment Right. If the owner(s) desire to sell said Interment Right, they shall give the Association written notice. The Association shall have 60 days from the receipt of said notice to repurchase said Interment Right from the owners at the then-current pricing structure. Those wishing to sell an Interment Right must provide adequate proof of ownership of the Interment Right.

5. No gift, devise, or transfer of an Interment Right shall be valid until the Association has received notification in writing thereof on forms provided by the Association and has consented thereto by recording the same on its books. Those wishing to transfer an Interment Right, by sale, gift, or inheritance, must provide proof of ownership of the Interment Right. The Association reserves the right to refuse its consent to a transfer in its discretion. If the Association does not consent, it may repurchase the Interment Right as provided above.

6. Every instrument, adjudication or decree affecting the ownership or use of an Interment Right must be filed with the Association. Until receipt of such filing, the Association may rely upon its own records of ownership for all purposes.

7. The Association reserves the right to use the property of Congressional Cemetery for any purposes whatsoever, consistent with the operation, care and maintenance of a Cemetery, as permitted by the By-laws of the Association and the laws of the District Of Columbia.

Rights of Ingress & Egress

8. The Association reserves to itself, and to those lawfully entitled, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over individual burial sites for the purpose of passing to and from other burial sites and for necessary maintenance. No easement or right-of-way is granted to the owner of an Interment Right in any road, drive, alley, or walkway within the Cemetery. The Association reserves the right to close or alter any road, drive, alley, or walkway within the Cemetery at any time. The Association has the right to refuse admission to the Cemetery property to any person or persons deemed objectionable to the best interests of the Cemetery or whose behavior is unbecoming to a sacred place.

9. Proposals for improving a burial site in any way, including plans for the installation of monuments, markers, gravestones, trees, shrubs, or flower beds, must be submitted in writing in advance to the Association for approval. Proposals that are not consistent with the Landscape Plan of the Association may be denied. Proposals may also be denied on aesthetic grounds at the discretion of the Association. All plans for markers or burial site improvements must be accompanied by documentation regarding type of stone, inscription, size, location on site, facing direction, photograph, approximate date of installation, and any other pertinent information.

10. The Association has the authority to remove, without notice, all improvements or changes to burial sites made without its consent and all improvements or changes that, in spite of reasonable care and maintenance, have deteriorated beyond reasonable repair because of the elements or other causes. It further has authority to remove all flowers, wreaths and other decorative arrangements, and all trees, shrubs, plants, roots, branches and limbs, from burial sites as soon as they become unsightly, dangerous,
detrimental or diseased. No trees, shrubs, plants, herbage, markers, or fencing may be removed from a burial site unless the Association has given its approval in advance.

11. The Association reserves the right, at its option, to charge a reasonable rate to persons or firms for permission to install monuments, markers, gravestones, or other such improvements on burial sites.

12. Maintenance of markers, monuments, stones, fencing, and other permanent improvements to a burial site is the responsibility of the owner(s) of the associated Interment Right. The Association, however, reserves the right to restore, repair, or replace markers that have become unsightly, unstable, or dangerous, and may, at the discretion of the Association, charge the owner(s) of the associated Interment Right for the costs of labor and materials for such restoration.

Interments & Disinterments

13. When an interment is to be made in a site, the Interment Right owner(s) or other authorized person(s) shall present proof of ownership of the Interment Right for the intended burial site to the Association, and shall complete an Interment Authorization form and any other forms required by the Association. Should the Association not receive timely notice and all required documentation, the Association reserves the right to deny interment in that burial site.

14. All interments, and disinterments must be made at the time, in the manner, upon the conditions, and upon payment of the charges fixed by the Association. No less than twenty-four hours notice must be provided to the Association prior to any interment and at least one week’s notice prior to any disinterment is required.

15. No more than two full bodies shall be interred in one burial site, one upon the other in double depth interments. Interments shall be made in accordance with the layout of the plat and other records on file at the offices of The Association. The Association retains the right to authorize multiple interments in one burial site.

Where a full burial site is used inurnments, not more than three urns containing the remains of one body per urn may be placed in one burial site. The Association may designate areas wherein multiple inurnments may be made, consistent with the Landscape Plan of the Association.

16. The interment of caskets and urns shall be in vaults constructed of natural stone, metal or reinforced concrete or other specifications as established by the Association.

17. Disinterments will not be permitted unless and until all terms and conditions of these Rules & Regulations and the laws of the District of Columbia are met. Disinterments shall require receipt of the appropriate governmental forms and authorizations, to be supplied by the family or appropriate legal representatives seeking the disinterment. The presence of a funeral director, as required by the laws of the District of Columbia, shall be the responsibility of the family member or legal representative seeking the disinterment. The family member or legal representative seeking the disinterment shall complete the Association's Authorization for Disinterment form and provide it to the Association for review and signature prior to the disinterment.

Prohibitions & Grounds Rules

18. The following activities are prohibited anywhere within the Cemetery: loud or boisterous talking; idling or loitering; bringing and consuming alcoholic beverages; peddling or soliciting the sale of any commodity except as permitted by The Association; placing signs, notices, or advertisements of any kind; bringing or using firearms, except in connection with a military funeral or memorial service; littering the grounds with paper, trash or other refuse; the defacement, destruction or desecration of graves, gravestones, monuments on the Cemetery grounds.

19. Use of the Cemetery grounds for special events, festivals, tours, educational programs, musical concerts, seminars, picnics, dog walking, races, marathons, bicycling, ball games, or other recreational uses is prohibited except by permission of the Association. The use of Cemetery grounds or facilities for purposes other than interments, disinterments, or the visitation of graves, shall require adherence to and signature upon the Association’s Facilities Use Agreement and the payment of any associated fees or charges. Vehicular traffic is limited to paved roadways. The speed limit within the cemetery is 5 mph, no parking is permitted off the paved roadway.

20. The Association is hereby empowered to enforce all Rules and Regulations and to exclude from the Cemetery any persons violating them. The Association shall have charge of the grounds and buildings, including the conduct of funerals, traffic, laborers and other workers, and all persons entering Congressional Cemetery grounds.

Modification to the Rules & Regulations

21. The Association, through its Board of Directors and without the consent of the owners of the Interment Rights, may modify these Rules & Regulations or establish additional Rules and Regulations as it may deem necessary. Any modification of these Rules & Regulations shall be effective upon their passage by the Board of Directors.

Your comments are welcome, please write to us with your comments and suggestions. The proposed rules will be voted on at the 2003 Annual Meeting in April.
Yard Sale Success

Our annual yard sale was a great success again this year. The fall event brought in $8,600 - a big increase over last year. The day brought hundreds of bargain hunters to our front yard for the annual treasure hunt.

A large part of that success is due to Barry Hayman of Antiques on the Hill, who nearly filled the garage of basement with brass works, lamps, rocking chairs, tables, and assorted antiques.

Our many volunteers scoured closets and basements, filling the chapel with books, antique tools, jewelry, cabinets, sewing machines, fine china, and wall clocks. A big thanks goes out to all those who lent a hand or donated goods. Ω

Tree Plan Taking Shape

A master plan for the replenishment of the tree canopy is taking shape this winter. As part of our resources study mandated by Congress, Tom Elmore of Elmore Design is doing a comprehensive analysis of our tree situation.

The initial survey, done by Bartlett Tree, assesses what trees we still have and what condition they are in. The next step is creating a list of "cemetery friendly" species for us to choose from.

At the Nov. 23rd planning session at the garage, board members and consultants put several appealing suggestions on the table for future design ideas such as pathways lined with shade trees and ornamental flowering tree groves.

The Dick Stock Memorial Tree Fund stands at $1,500. That's a good start toward planting several trees in his honor. If you'd like to help bring back our canopy, please send a tax-deductible donation today. Ω

Quarterly Volunteer Report

We have many folks to thank this quarter, we hope we don't miss too many.

The Bartlett Tree folks shred a large pile of tree limbs into mulch. Carol Calza spent many hours making notes on the summer's restoration work and helping with the Women's History Tour.

Thanks also to the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity for hauling fallen limbs away and to the Congressional Pages for setting an early jump on the autumn leaves.

We also want to thank Bob Dalton for fixing lawn mowers and Frank Devlin and son for tackling downed cherry tree limbs.

A big thanks for the volunteers who loan us their pick-up trucks: Gail Martin, Catherine Johnson, Gina Lynn, and Brad Pellet.

A few of our yard sale volunteers: Jeanette Woods, Christine Romero, David & Virginia Wall, Noris Malvey, Jennifer Wells, Greg Bass, Melinda Joyce, Skip & Liz Simmons, Tamara Underwood, and many more K-9 Corps folks.

Bill and Laurie Meyer are managing our K-9 renewal process this year. Cynthia Moses organized some early morning clean up patrols. Nick Sumd and Todd Woods have kept busy clearing away fallen tree limbs.

Thanks also for special favors from Rochelle Dornett, Libby Gittenstein and Fel Lieborat. Ω

Evans Family Donation

Our thanks go to the Evans Family of Silver Spring for their recent donation of three interim sites back to the Association. The combined value of the three sites is $9,000. The Evans Family donation will eventually equal $18,000 in our Endowment Fund. Ω
Congressional Quiz
The true lesson that we can draw from the many stories embodied within our iron gates is that heroes are in fact ordinary men and women who simply rise to the occasion. Stephen Pleasanton is one such example. What occasion did he rise to?

A) Pleasanton was the principal negotiator for the Treaty of Paris, which secured European acceptance of our independence.

B) Pleasanton's quick actions saved the Declaration of Independence from being burned by the advancing British in the War of 1812.

C) Pleasanton provided the boats used by Washington to cross the Delaware during the Revolution.

ANSWER: A

Mailing List Cutback
2002 was a tough year financially. The recession and other factors hit many of our contributors, which in turn put a squeeze on our budget, which is about to impact our newsletter.

While we enjoy producing these newsletters (and we hope you enjoy reading them), they are taking a bite out of our budget. In an effort to control costs we will be forced to cut back on the number of mailings we undertake for each printing.

Our newsletters strive to bring you the latest news on restoration work in the yard, spotlight our volunteers efforts, keep you informed of our financial situation, and reflect the treasure house of American history for which we are the custodians.

We haven't heard from many of you recently and fear we may have to drop you from our mailings. Please stay in touch, we need you. ☒

I would like to join in the effort to preserve this important piece of America's heritage by making a contribution to Historic Congressional Cemetery.

☒ $25 ☒ $50 ☒ $100 ☒ $250 ☒ Other ______

Donations above $250 are deposited in our Third Century Endowment Fund, which is matched by our Congressional Appropriation and managed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

☒ My check is enclosed (made payable to Congressional Cemetery).
☒ Please bill my credit card ☒ Visa ☒ MasterCard

Card Number __________________ Exp. Date ____________

Signature ________________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City/State/Zip ____________________________

Phone _______________ Email ______________________

Congressional Cemetery is a 501(c)3 organization.
All donations are tax deductible

A Green Silver Lining
Drought Helps Fund Grow

The financial life of non-profits is often a woeful tale of shortfalls and pleadings, but this year we do have some good news, somewhat of a "green" silver lining.

2002 was a rough year for the lawn. The spring rains ended early, giving way to a long hot drought in the Washington area. The parched lawn quit growing by mid-June. The good news, of course, is that a lawn that's not growing is a lawn that doesn't need mowing. And that saved money - about $32,000 for the summer of 2002. It was a bad news/good news situation.

We faced a similar problem on the donations side of our ledger. Despite the wonderful kindness of the late Mr. John Hillhouse in making the cemetery the beneficiary of his estate, the overarching picture of donations in 2002 was a precipitous fall.

As we headed into the spring/summer mowing season, we feared that lawn care expenses would devour the Hillhouse bequest, which we had earmarked for the Endowment Fund. Our "green" silver lining was that the money saved by the drought could be deposited into the Third Century Endowment Fund.

The Fund was established by an act of Congress in 1999 with a million dollar appropriation and augmented in 2002 with another million dollar appropriation. The catch is that we can only use the earnings off the dollars that we match. Every dollar we deposit is matched by the Fund, so the 2002 deposit of $50,000 translates into a $100,000 increase in earning power.

The 2003 goal: match the 2002 deposit. Every donation over $250 heads straight to the Fund where it doubles in value. Your donation does make a difference. ☒
Congressional Cemetery is a designated site on the National Register of Historic Places

Winter 2003 Newsletter

2002 In Review

Annual Meeting (by Fred McBride)

Ryan Sullivan & Crew (by Dale Denton)

Cherry Trees

Mary Hall (by Fred McBride)

Jason Didion & Dean Reudrich