

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

The Heritage Gazette Summer 2004



9/11 Memorial Grove Breaks Ground

Greatest Grounds Enhancement in 150 Years

The Ward Six 9/11 Memorial Grove at Congressional Cemetery broke ground on Arbor Day as the first of nine memorial groves to be placed around the city in memory of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Rosemary Dillard, who lost her husband at the Pentagon on September 11th, spoke to the audience of the healing power of the Groves. Quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, she said, "When evil men plot, good men plan. When

evil men burn and bomb, good men build and bind." The ceremony was also attended by others who lost loved ones at the Pentagon as well as members of the Ward Six community. Community support is vital to the success of the grove.

Barry Goodinson of *Greenspaces for DC*, highlighted the living memorial nature of the groves. Association Chair Linda Harper expressed the Board's appreciation for the honor of caring for the grove. *Continued on Page 6.*

Congressional to Host Healing Totem Poles

Lummi Tribe Carvings Part of DC 9/11 Memorial

Reflecting the national outreach of healing and remembrance that are at the core of the city's 9/11 Memorial Groves project, Washington State's Lummi Indian Tribe is contributing a massive healing totem pole destined for the Kingman Island Grove.

Congressional Cemetery has the honor of hosting the Lummi Tribe's Healing Totem Poles later this year while the Kingman Island site is prepared. The structure includes two 13' bears that are six feet in diameter and a 34' arch across the top that will end in outward facing eagles. Truly an impressive piece of sculpture.

Jewell Praying Wolf James, the master carver, visited Congressional in February to discuss siting and logistics with board members and the *Greenspaces for DC* group that is managing the Grove project.

Jewell explained that the bear is an ancient symbol of strength and endurance and represents the

women who perished on 9/11. The eagle is a symbol of courage and vision and represents the men who perished that day. The Sun and Moon elements represent grandfather and grandmother, suggesting the intergenerational aspects of our nation and our families. The colors of the elements on the poles are red, white, black, and yellow, reflecting the races that compose the United States.

Jewell is carving the poles this summer and shipping them across the country in time for a presentation at the Pentagon on September 11, 2004 and a temporary exhibition at the opening of the new Smithsonian Native American Museum on the Mall in late September. The poles will then be set up in Congressional Cemetery as part of our Ward Six satellite Memorial Grove until the Kingman Island site is ready for them sometime in 2005. For more information see: www.greenspacesfordc.org Ω



*25th Annual Meeting of the
Association on April 17, 2004*

Letter from the Board

25 Years & Counting

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Association took place April 17th under a beautiful display of pink petals outside our one hundred year old chapel. Our Kwanzan Cherry trees seem to hold their blossoms every year just long enough to bless our annual meeting with a blizzard of pink—a sight that delights every year.

Twenty-five years is a big milestone for our little Association. We've seen some great advances and some great setbacks. We've been blessed with extraordinary volunteers and a wide community of supporters. We've seen summers of long grass and seasons of trim lawns. So where do we stand after 25 years of preservation and restoration efforts?

Well I think we've turned the corner. We've stepped up from being a struggling grass roots organization that often couldn't afford to mow the lawn to being a professional, financially sound operation that is making dramatic improvements organizationally and physically. This is no mean feat.

Despite the valiant efforts of many board members and volunteers in the '80s and '90s, the times and the fortunes of this city were not aligned for success. Donations and interest were meager at best. Today, however, the times are right, the city is in renewal, and the cemetery is well on its way to a successful inauguration of its third century in 2007.

The strategic planning documents are in place or under way, the endowment fund is safe, secure, and growing, the board is bringing world-class professionals to our doorstep, and we still have a cadre of volunteers that invites the envy and kudos of sister organizations.

We are on the cusp of making Congressional Cemetery the national treasure it deserves to be. With the help of our friends and members, the Association is creating a multifaceted facility that honors those interred here, celebrates its heritage, welcomes the neighborhood community, and cares for its natural environment. It is an honor to be on board at this moment in history.

~ Patrick Crowley

Restoration Plans for 2004

Varied Funding Expands Options

Reflecting the Association's sound and strengthening financial foundation, the Association is entering the summer construction season with three major projects in the works: hazardous tree removals, gravestone repair work, and a massive tree planting.

The Association is pleased to announce the completion of a major landscaping project. Using \$30,000 of the '04 Congressional appropriation, the Board contracted for the removal of 30 dead or dying hazardous trees. Care of Trees, a major landscape and tree care company, removed the trees in March and April.

The Board plans to begin a modest gravestone repair program this summer using the funds provided by the Kiplinger Foundation's three-year \$15,000/year grants. The Building & Grounds Committee elected to focus the repair work in the southwest quadrant of the cemetery in the general area of the planned Ward Six 9/11 Memorial Groves alley. Numerous fallen or leaning gravestones will be righted and made safer.

The installation of the Ward Six 9/11 Memorial Grove will see the planting of over 140 trees. Funding for this \$150,000 project is underway this summer.

The Board will also undertake a number of smaller projects including the repair of the office archival safe, an upgrading of the gatehouse office, and repairs to the brick wall. Completion of last year's vault restoration work is expected to be done by mid-May. In February, volunteer Darrell Isaacs of Standard Restoration went up on the gatehouse roof to make minor roof repairs. Ω

PLCAA to Return in July

Lawn Care Pros Will Treat Yard

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America will return to Congressional Cemetery this summer for the fourth annual Renewal & Remembrance project. The PLCAA's project pays homage to the veterans and founding fathers at Arlington Cemetery and Congressional Cemetery by bringing professional caretakers in for a day of tree care, landscape gardening, and lawn care treatment. The much appreciated assistance saves the us thousands of dollars each year. Ω

Scott Kibler Joins Board

The Association welcomes Scott Kibler to the board. Mr. Kibler is an architect with the firm EWG Architects. A resident of Capitol Hill, Mr. Kibler has acted as a project manager for several residential design projects and looks forward to using those skills as the Association begins to implement the restoration plans embodied in last year's Historic Resources Report. Ω

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Twenty-Two Year Old Cherry Trees Failing

DAR Sponsored 1982 Planting in Honor of G^{eo} Washington

The annual springtime exaltation of flowering cherry trees is without doubt one of the highlights of living in the Nation's Capitol. The Yoshino and Akebono cherry trees donated by Japan as a symbol of peace and friendship burst into view in late March/early April, grabbing the national spotlight with parades, speeches, and international declarations of fraternity.

The beautiful blossoming brings thousands of tourists every year to the Tidal Basin in an annual rite of spring: noisy coughing buses, overcrowded sidewalks, far away parking and a long walk. While it's always worth seeing, you do have to gear up for the trek.

For those in the know, however, there's a secluded spot in the city with a smaller yet equally awesome display of springtime rebirth: Congressional Cemetery. About two weeks or so after Tidal Basin show, the Kwanzan cherry trees come out to play in a show that only our regular members get to enjoy.

Named after a mountain in Japan, the Kwanzan was introduced into America in 1903. It has double pink flowers and is the showiest of the

Japanese cherries. The large bundles of petal clusters also tend to last longer than those of other cherry trees. When the flowering season comes to an end, the Cemetery appears to be blanketed in a carpet of pink blossom snow.

Our allee of cherry trees running along Ingle Street from 17th almost to 19th Street was the gift of the California and District chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The 1982 planting of 50 cherry trees was in honor of George Washington's 250th birthday.

Unfortunately, the Kwanzan has a life span of only 15 to 25 years. Ours are nearing the end of that span and showing signs of insect infestation, disease, and dying limbs. Many branches that appear solid are in fact hollowed and easily broken off.

Twenty new Okama cherry trees will be planted at the intersection of Ingle Street and Tucker Carriageway, close by the John Phillip Sousa Memorial, as part of the Ward Six 9/11 Memorial Tree Grove. Replacement of the Kwanzan trees will be a part of the coming Master Landscape Plan due for completion in February 2005. Ω

Iconography: The Ribbon & Star of The "GAR"

The letters "GAR" stand for a powerful political force. Five Grand Army of the Republic and United States presidents were GAR members as were almost all candidates running for the office for several election cycles.

As with other wars, returning veterans faced many problems that could not be addressed alone. One of the chief goals of the GAR was to look out for the welfare of retired soldiers in regard to retirement homes and soldiers pensions. With a membership of over 400,000 in 1890, the GAR became



throughout Congressional Cemetery. But you won't find them on any newer stones: the Grand Army of the Republic was an organization limited to veterans honorably discharged from the Union Army after the Civil War.

As a social organization the GAR held Encampments from time to time, which were elaborate multi-day events that included camping out, formal dinners, and memorial events. The GAR was one of the main groups that established Memorial Day as a national holiday.

The last Encampment was held in 1949 and the last GAR member died at 109 in Indiana in 1956. Ω

This is the fourth in a series of articles discussing the history and symbolic meaning of the forms and decoration of grave markers and other memorials.

Cemetery Manager's Notes

A Year in the Life of a Cemetery

It's been one year since I accepted the cemetery manager's position of this cemetery, so a bit of reflection is in order. The Association just published our annual report and to read through the list of accomplishments is impressive. We've managed to achieve many of our goals this last year through the hard work of many people, and I want to thank all of those who helped make it possible.

First and foremost, I have to thank those who've volunteered their time and talents. Some of the volunteers you've read about in this newsletter, but many others have labored with and without our recognition picking up trash, tending a grave, or sending in family information. These volunteers continue to help this organization achieve more every year.

Secondly I must thank our board of directors who continue to lead the organization by example, volunteering countless hours researching individuals, organizing projects, and reaching out to others. Their leadership in all aspects of our accomplishments has been instrumental. The organization and this cemetery are being carried forward by this dedicated group.

Finally I have to thank the many readers of this newsletter, who stay in touch with what is happening to this historical site in our nation's capitol. Your continued support, through large and small donations, has been the difference. Without you we couldn't have accomplished much this last year, and I wouldn't have been here in the first place. Congress has given us some support, and certainly a good endowment, but it's because they've seen an interest from private individuals that they've continued to stay involved.

When I first arrived here, one look around convinced me of the magnitude of work to be done. I came into this job, without a lot of preconceived notions of how it could be done. One notion I did have is that a cemetery is a quiet place. I couldn't have been more wrong. Congressional may well be a resting place for sixty thousand Washingtonians, but it is active in so many other ways.

~ Bill Fecke

Congressional Cemetery's American Heritage

Commodore Thomas Tingey

The summer of 1814 began with the war between Britain and the United States, which had sputtered for two years, a distant rumble at best. But the end of the Napoleonic Wars that spring freed the British army to focus on America. The year before, U.S. forces had burned government buildings in York (now Toronto), the capital of the Canadian province of Ontario. The British hunger for revenge set the stage for a dramatic calamity to befall the capital of the new nation.

About dusk on August 24, 1814, the British marched on Washington, setting fire to the American's capital. From the heights of Georgetown, witnesses could see the towering red flames consuming the Capitol Building and Presidents House in Washington. Adding to the flames that could be seen 50 miles away was a fire set to destroy the Washington Navy Yard. However, the Navy Yard fire, which consumed about a million dollars of Navy property, was not set by the British army but by the Navy Yard's own commandant: Commodore Thomas Tingey.

Thomas Tingey was born in London, England, on September 11, 1750, the son of a clergyman of the Church of England. In his youth he served as an officer in the British Navy until 1771 when he left to take command of merchant vessels trading with the West Indies. There he met Margaret Murdoch (b. 1751) whom he married in 1777. Their 30 year marriage ended when she died in 1807.

It is most likely that Tingey served in the Continental Navy during the Revolution, however, there are no records surviving to demonstrate that he did. After the Revolutionary War, he commanded ships in the American merchant service and he is known to have lived in Philadelphia after 1783 and in Kingston, New Jersey, after 1797.

In 1794 Congress established the United States Navy and Tingey was commissioned a captain four years later in September 3, 1798. During the short lived War with France (1798-1801) he commanded the 24-gun ship *Ganges* guarding the Windward Passage with much acclaim. In February 1799, officers of the 44-gun British frigate *Surprise* boarded the *Ganges* off Hispaniola,

demanding that all English sailors aboard be handed over. Tingey firmly replied, "*I do not expect to succeed in a contest with you; but I will die at my quarters before a man shall be taken from this ship.*" His crew gave three cheers and the *Surprise* departed empty-handed.

Later that same year, Tingey rebuffed suggestions that he flee hurricane weather. "*No ship in the service will be found better able to sustain this violence that the Ganges—nor a crew that can, with alacrity, bring a ship to a state of preparation to bear heavy weather ... Believe me Sir, that she has out sailed every Ship and vessel of the United States.*"



Tingey's success in the West Indies brought him to the attention of Benjamin Stoddert, the first Secretary of the Navy. When the Washington Navy Yard was established in October 1799, Stoddart, describing Tingey as "*an officer of great merit and understanding, who has seen the Navy Yards of England,*" named Tingey to be the first Commandant, a position he would hold for 29 years.

While he was known to be a tireless and a meticulous administrator, he was also a highly respected social figure. No ball, banquet or reception was complete without him. Tingey's rendition of "Hail Columbia" at President Thomas Jefferson's first reception at the President's House July 4, 1801 marked the first known vocal performance at a "White House" event.

His strong sense of civic responsibility led him to take an active part in public affairs. He was a public education school trustee as early

as 1805. He headed the Vestry of Christ Church for a long time and was one of a group of Christ Church parishioners that established the burial ground that became Congressional Cemetery.

In December 1812 Tingey married Miss Ann Dulany (b. 1785), daughter of Daniel Dulany of Alexandria and the sister of his son-in-law. Tragically, this marriage was cut short by her death in April 1814, even though she was much younger than he.

However, three years later in 1817 Tingey married once again to Ann Evelina Craven (b. 1789). She too was the sister of a son-in-law and many years his junior. Their son, Thomas Tingey Craven went on to become a naval hero himself. For some twenty-four years, the Tingey's lived in the rambling Commandant's mansion in the Navy Yard that had been designed by Benjamin Latrobe. He and his wife had become quite reluctant to part from it—even in death. Old newspaper articles say that Captain Tingey attempted to will the home to his wife. (There are no official records to support this tale.) Ann outlived Tingey by 32 years.

As the first commandant, Tingey was responsible for the building of the Yard, which was then the Navy's largest ship building and refitting facility. As the British marched into Washington, holding the yard became impossible; losing it unthinkable. Commodore Tingey, seeing the smoke from the burning Capitol at half past eight in the evening, ordered the yard burned to prevent its capture. He wrote to his daughter, "*I was the last officer who quitted the city after the enemy had possession of it, having fully performed all orders received, in which was included that myself retiring, and not to fall into their possession. I was also the first who returned and the only one who ventured in on the day on which they were peaceably masters of it.*"

Commodore Tingey died on February 23, 1829, in Washington, and was buried with "usual military honors" in Congressional Cemetery. His gravestone stands immediately behind the Gatehouse in Range 57/Site 1, next to his first and second wives Margaret Murdoch and Ann Dulany. Ω

Outstanding Volunteer

Barbara Hacker-Allshouse

Barbara Hacker-Allshouse is our Association's genealogy assistant; if you have a question, she'll find the answer. Barbara's interested in genealogy started in high school watching her Aunt Jo-Ann explore her father's side of the family. When Jo-Ann passed away, Barbara began organizing and transcribing her aunt's research.

Since little was known about her mother's side of the family, she began researching it. She located a distant cousin in Oregon from the Eckloff side of the family who reported that there were two brothers (Christian and Godfrey) who emigrated from Prussia in the early 1800's to Washington, DC, where they settled and became tailors.

Seeking pictures of Godfrey's head stone, Barbara visited Congressional Cemetery in 1997 on the day of the annual meeting where the speaker was highlighting Push-Ma-Ta-Ha and his son, Peter Paul



Pitchlyn (both of whom are historic figures in the Choctaw nation). Pitchlyn was married to Godfrey's daughter, Caroline.

While there, Barbara perused the Association's records, finding more Eckloffs at Congressional, including five of her grandmother Nellie Eckloff's siblings, none of whom made it out of childhood.

After a few more visits to Congressional, Barbara volunteered to help transcribe the daily internment logs from the early part of the 20th Century - 1903 to 1920; a very large undertaking. More recently, she has begun helping others find out about their ancestors.

Barbara works as a Senior Systems Analyst in Bethesda and is seeking a degree in database technology at Strayer University. Barbara's husband of three years likes to tease her about her hobby saying, "She talks to dead people." Barbara just considers it another form of learning about history. Ω

The Cenotaph ~ A Mixed Review

Latrobe Design Reflects Classical But Not Universal Tastes

In a city that was designed from the ground up to reflect the grand visions of a new government, it is perhaps not surprising that those members of Congress who died while in its service were given special "cenotaphs" (a Greek word meaning empty tomb) to honor their contributions. Even those whose remains were returned home were honored with a monument at the Washington Parish Burial Ground.

Designed by architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who was then working on the new south wing of the Capitol, these identical cenotaphs - which sometimes marked an actual burial and sometimes not - reflected the classical inspiration that was shaping the city plan and its new Capitol building.

Each monument was made of Aquia sandstone and reported by Latrobe to weigh 800 pounds.

The symmetrical block topped by a simple conical cap was a marked departure from the typical shape and size of early American gravestones.

It has long been uncertain exactly when Latrobe designed the cenotaph form and when the first one was installed at the burying ground. Though Uriah Tracy was buried in 1807 and his grave is marked by a cenotaph, the monument could have been installed years later.

Despite Latrobe's best intentions, public opinion of the cenotaphs tended to be less than favorable even in the earliest years of the burying ground. A visitor to Washington in 1827 witnessed the funeral and burial of a congressman, and described the cenotaphs already in place: "The body was interred in an open

'graveyard' near the city. I did not see the monument erected upon this occasion, but I presume it was in the same style as several others I had remarked in the same burying-ground, inscribed to the memory of members who had died at Washington. These were square blocks of masonry, without any pretension to splendour."

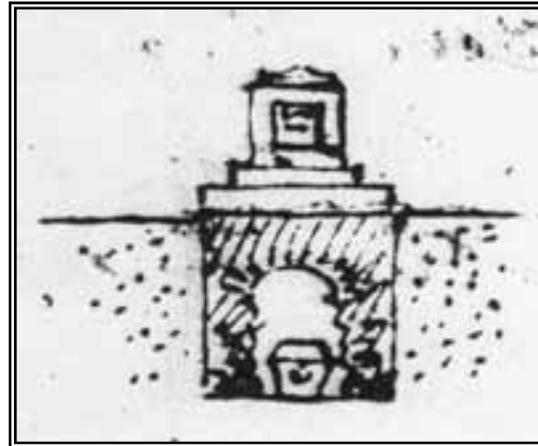
By 1830, the "short, square and plain" sandstone cenotaphs had been painted white. In 1839, a writer complained that the cenotaphs should have been marble and been a more beautiful design rather than "the very plain and tasteless tomb" that was used.

As transportation improved, most legislators who died in office were returned to their home states, and burials of congressmen in Washington had nearly ceased by 1855.

The tradition of erecting cenotaphs in memory of those who died continued for another 20 years (suspended during the Civil War), but the practice became increasingly costly and was discontinued in 1876.

One cenotaph of the original form was erected in the 20th century, after Rep. T. Hale Boggs Sr. of Louisiana and Rep. Nicholas Begich of Alaska disappeared in Alaska in 1972. Nearby, a small granite cenotaph (of modern, not Latrobe's design) was placed by the family of Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. of Massachusetts in 1995. Ω

This is the third in a series of articles about the history of Congressional Cemetery excerpted from a study written by Cathleen Breikreutz of Waterford, Virginia.



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Ward Six 9/11 Grove

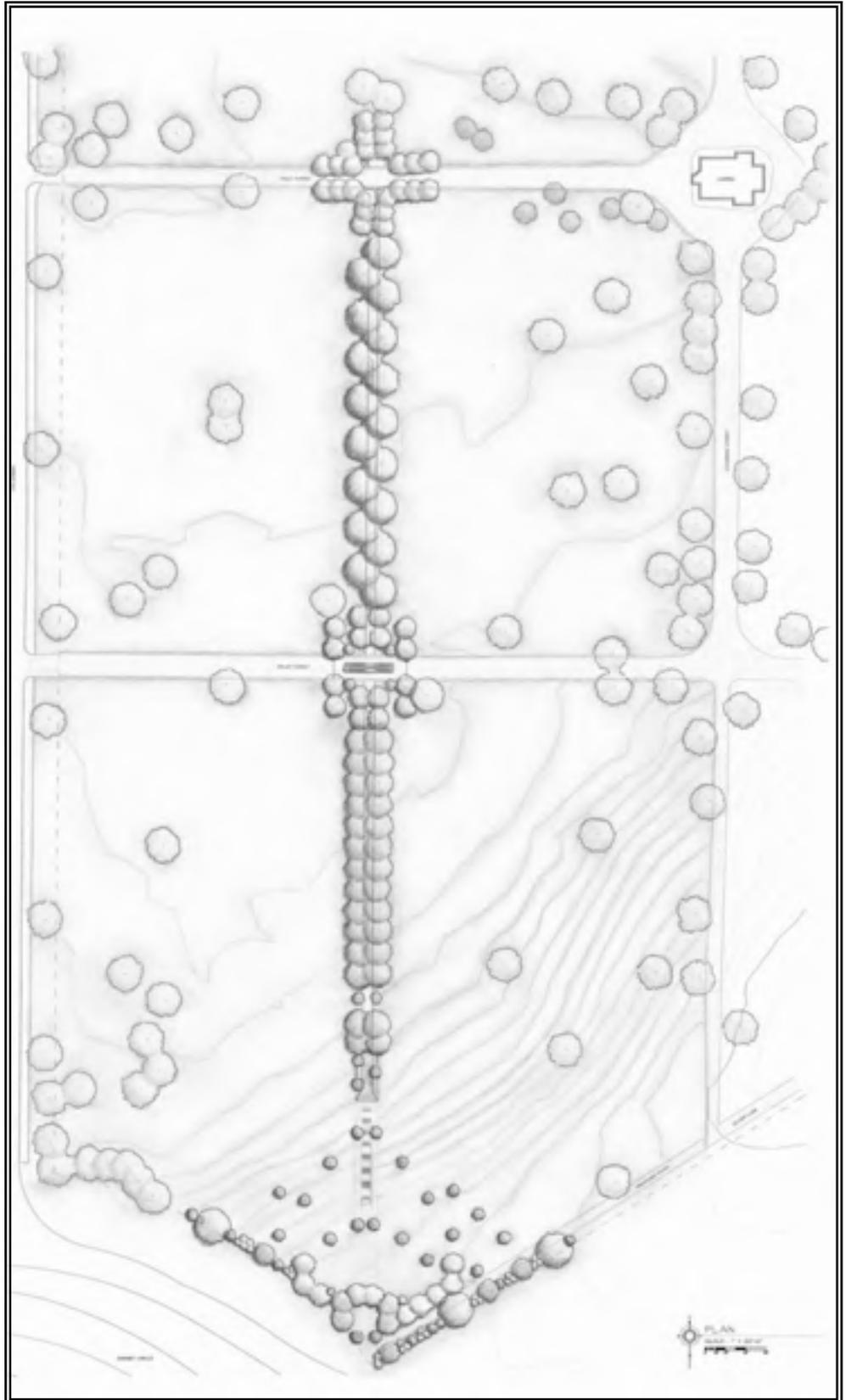
Procurement of the trees and the landscape architecture design services was made possible by funding from the U.S. Forest Service and the TKF Foundation. *Greenspaces for DC*, as the managing organization for the groves, has committed \$45,000 toward the \$150,000 total cost of the Ward Six grove. Installation of the grove will be made possible by donations of Ward Six residents and businesses.

Lee & Associates, a local award winning landscape design firm, is designing the Ward Six Grove, as well as the main grove at Kingman Island. Jeff Lee, principle of Lee & Associates, noted that the Grove is intended to be non-prescriptive, allowing each person to interpret and memorialize the loss of that day in their own way. Association member Jill Dowling, also a member of the Lee design team, was especially pleased to help bring the design to fruition to both remember those lost on September 11th and to enhance Congressional Cemetery.

The Ward Six grove is the largest enhancement of the Congressional Cemetery grounds in over 150 years. It reverses a decades long trend of tree removals and deferred plantings. Chair Linda Harper noted that the Grove continues a tradition of memorials at Congressional like the Arsenal Monument and the cenotaphs. Once installed, the Association will assume responsibility for the care and maintenance of the trees.

Also attending the groundbreaking were Kitty Stoner and Mary Wyatt of the TKF Foundation, an organization renowned for endowing sacred spaces. Mathew Arnn of the U.S. Forest Service, the primary funder of the project, and Sally Boasberg, President of *Greenspaces for DC* assisted in the groundbreaking.

Approximately one-third of the funding is in hand for the installation of the grove. Fundraising efforts for the remainder will begin this summer. Construction of the hardscape is expected to begin in July and plantings will go in the ground in September. For more information see: www.greenspacesfordc.org.



The allee of trees stretches from Magnolia trees circling the Lummi the Sousa memorial bench to the healing poles. To the south are 28 Hornbeam in a tight formation ending at a meditative space. Looking south are scattered junipers and a fence line of redbuds, witchhazel, and juniper. Ω

Congressional Quiz

A Builder & Destroyer

Commodore Thomas Tingey was a highly respected figure in the early days of the new Federal City. He is famous for having set fire to the navy yard he built as first commandant of Washington's Navy Yard. Are the following statements true or false?

- Tingey served as an officer in the British Navy in the Pacific before emigrating to the Colonies upon retirement.
- Tingey set fire to the Navy Yard during an experimental firing of a new cannon design.
- Tingey's failure as a land speculator lead to the opening of a cemetery on his waterfront property.
- Tingey was the first person to sing at a White House event.
- Tingey commanded merchant ships in both the British and American merchant marines.

Answer in Essay on Page 4.

Restoring America's Heritage

I want to help preserve Historic Congressional Cemetery.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other

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

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The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Around the Yard



*Webmaster
Sandy
Schmidt*



*Masonic Lodge No. 15
donates flags in honor of
founder Benjamin B. French*



*Spring Clean-up
Volunteer*



*Volunteers from the DC Chapter of
Wittenberg University clear Prout Street Creek bed*

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*Congressional Cemetery is listed on the
National Register of Historic Places*

The Heritage Gazette Summer 2004

On The Horizon

School Namesakes Exhibit

Sumner School Hosting History

The Sumner School at 1201 17th Street, NW, is hosting a special exhibit dedicated to those for whom DC schools have been named. Many of these stellar citizens are interred at Congressional. Our own Sandy Schmidt is curating part of the show, which runs from September 11th through November 12. Call the Gatehouse for details. Ω

Nat. Amer. Museum to Open

Corollary Celebration Here

September 23rd marks the opening of the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian. We intend to celebrate the new museum with a weekend tribute to Native Americans who died while in Washington representing their people and are interred at Congressional. Several tribal chiefs will attend to offer memorial services and consecrate the Lummi Tribe Healing Poles. Ω

Sousa's 150 Birthday Bash

Marine Band & Masonic Tribute

November 6, 2004 will be the 150th birthday of Marine Corps Band Leader John Philip Sousa. While the band has made annual visits to Sousa's gravesite every year for 38 years, this year promises to be a bigger celebration. Members of the Sousa family will be in attendance along with the Benjamin French Masonic Lodge. Ω

Preservation Workshop

Seminar on Conservation Matters

The National Preservation Institute will return to Congressional Cemetery on September 13 to offer its second regional cemetery preservation seminar and workshop. The seminar discusses current issues in documenting graveyards, preservation efforts, and conservation techniques. The registration deadline is August 16th. Call NPI for more information at 703-765-0100. Ω

B. B. French Lodge Hits 150

Masons Celebrate Lodge Founder

2004 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Benjamin B. French Masonic Lodge. French was a major figure in the Lincoln Administration and close friend of the Lincolns. The Lodge plans to co-celebrate this anniversary with the John Philip Sousa 150th birthday tribute on Nov. 6th. The Lodge is proposing a major landscape addition next year. Ω

Vault Photo Search

Restoration Work Needs Guide

Good restoration work relies on an accurate knowledge of what used to be. The Association hopes to restore the Williams Vault this summer, but we have no photographs of what it used to look like. If you have any old photos of Congressional Cemetery, especially of the brick vaults, please contact our gatehouse and be part of the restoration team. Ω