

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

The Heritage Gazette Spring 2006

Choctaws Honor Ancestor

Push-Ma-Ta-Ha Was Famed Chief

Chief Phillip Martin of the Missis-sippi Choctaw made a donation of \$10,000 to Congressional Cemetery on behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choc-taw Indians. Chief Martin visited the cemetery in the fall of 2005 to be inter-viewed at Push-ma-ta-ha's grave as part of a documentary. The Choctaws have been long support ers of the Asso-ciation ciation.

Push-ma-ta-ha be-came a leading Choctaw Chief around 1800 and began playing a major role in negotiations with other tribes and peoples, including the Americans. In 1802, he took part in the Fort Confederation meeting, his first major formal treaty with the United States, and from then on played a key role in all dealings be-tween the Choctaws and the U.S.

In the War of 1812 he was the first to lead a party against the British and their Indian allies (Creeks and Seminoles). Continued on Page 3.



Push-Ma-Ta-Ha Photo by Charles Bird King Mississippi Dept Archives & History

New Web Site for Congressional

Features, Photos, & Extensive Records

Historic Congressional Cemetery has a brand new website! Thanks to the tireless efforts of **Sandy Schmidt**, the new website is up and running. The new site not only contains new information but has been redesigned for ease of use. "The new site preserves everything that existed on the previous site," Sandy says, "but things have moved to make it clearer what infor-mation is there."

Most of what was on the old site can be found under the "Genealogy/History" menu. Some things like gravestone photos *Continued on Page 6.*

Walking Tours Available on Web Site

Variety of Interests Seen Through Tours

The repertoire of self-guided walking tours on the website has grown, with three new tours on available to download. All the tours are designed to be used without a tour guide, taking you through the cemetery, highlighting different per-spectives of its famous residents and monuments. **Gravestone Styles** is a tour focusing on impor-tant representations of gravestone styles from dif-

Gravestone Styles is a tour focusing on impor-tant representations of gravestone styles from dif-ferent eras, as well as on unique stones and monuments. Colonial and Victorian monuments and symbols, typical family stones, box tombs, fam-ily vaults, unusual carvings and in-scriptions, and the congressional cenotaphs are all discussed, with ac-companying photos and locations. Navy/Navy Yard tour focuses on the U.S. Navy and the Washington Navy Yard, but other notables are in-cluded at each stop. There are a re-markable number of persons associ-ated with the U.S. Exploring Expedi-tion (1838-1842) and R.Adm. Charles Wilkes, who commanded the expedi-tion. His autobiography contains his opinion of these individuals (slanted as they may be) and they are included where appropriate.

where appropriate. There are 8 commandants of the Navy Yard interred here, you will visit 7 of them. Three others were removed to Arlington. Continued on Page 6.

Don't Be Foolish on April 1st

Come to Spring Volunteer Day

It's no joke, April 1st marks the kick off of 2006 events at Congressional Cemetery with Spring Volunteer Day and the planting of 15 new trees. A combination of shade trees and flowering trees, the planting is part of the on-going work towards fulfilling the Landscape Plan completed last year for the Cemetery. Two or three volunteers are needed to plant each tree successfully, and Casey Trees will provide expert guidance. "We are planting 15 trees at Congressional as a part of our Request for Planting (RFP) program," says **Jim Lyons**, *Continued on Page 3*.

Letter from the Board ~ 30 Years of Stewardship

Next year will be a big year for us here at Congressional Cemetery as we celebrate our 200th anniversary but we should pause nonetheless to note with pride that 2006 marks the 30th anniversary of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery. Founded in 1976, the Association picked up on the rising interest in America's beginnings. The America's beginnings. The founders of the Association, like the founders of the cemetery 200 years ago recognized a civic need and gathered enough citizens and resources to turn needs into dreams and dreams into realities.

The Association's mission is to care for the physical and cultural heritage that is inherent in so many aspects of Congressional Cemetery. Beyond the prominent household names like Sousa and Hoover are scores of others whose lives shaped our city and our nation. Few burial grounds can boast of such a broad sweep of national figures from our nation's earliest days.

The archeological record left for us is a treasure house of cultural history as well. L`Enfant From the simple street grid to the artistry of gentle rose petals carved in from the daily stone, log books the cobblestone to swales, our stewardship in-cludes the physical plant as well as the wealth of biographies you can find on our web site.

Congressional's unique role in the nation's history demands nothing less than Stewardship in the fullest sense. Stewardship requires a deep sense of heritage and an obligation to honor both our past and our future. We've made great strides in that regard in the last few years. In this 30th year of our Association, we can be proud of the work we've done and look forward to our future contributions to America's past.

~ Patrick Crowley

Dig In April 15th

<u> 3rd Saturdays Resume</u>

Congressional Cemetery's 3rd Saturday volunteer program is run by professional conservators who belong to three professional conservation groups, the Washington Conservation Guild (WCG), the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), and the Association for Preservation Washington, Technologies, D.C. Chapter (APTDC). Last year they urged their colleagues to support a year's "adoption" of the Cemetery for the purpose of creating guidelines for the preservation of monuments in the groups, cemetery. These plus the Cemetery's own volunteer corps and the U.S. military, provided labor for at least one volunteer day per month from April through October 2005.

The cemetery's Conserva-Task tion Force (CTF) planned, oversaw and exe-cuted all these volunteer efforts throughout the year. The volunteer days consisted of surveying stones to basic[°] record information about location and condition, treatments including re-setting (e.g., straighten-ing, rebuilding foundations, re-mortaring joints), clean-ing (removing biological and chemical staining), and repairs (e.g., joining broken stones, replacing corroded pins).

2005, approximately In 1,200 stones have been surveyed, and 45 stones have been reset, cleaned and or repaired. The cost of the conservation work done by the CTF, if performed by paid professionals, would be approximately \$30,000. If you are interested in joining the CTF on a volunteer day, please contact Catherine Dewey, <u>cat</u> erine_dewey@nps.gov cath or 202-257-0482 for additional information. Ω

Save the Date:

2006 Annual Meeting

April 15th is the 2006 Congressional Cemetery Annual Meeting and Lecture, held at the Cemetery in the Chapel. Budgets, goals, and projects for the coming year will be reviewed; the meeting is free and open to the public.

Board Members

Linda Donavan Harper — Chair Patrick Crowley —Vice Chair Frank Devlin — Treasurer Sandy Schmidt — Secretary J. Dudley Brown Frederick Davis Rev. Judith Davis Farleigh Earhart Kenneth Eads Scott Kibler Collin Green Catherine Dewey Alice Norris Tabitha Almquist

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

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Choctaws Honors Push-Ma-Ta_ha

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He joined the southern army U.S. with 500 of his own warriors. He took part in 24 battles, and served directly under General Jackson in his Pensacola campaign, winning the General's admiration for his leadership and the skillful discipline of his "wild" warriors. For his services, Push-ma-ta-ha attained a distinction no other Native American has held the rank of brigadier general in the American Army.

In 1824 he was a member of a deputation sent to Washington to visit the President to strengthen the friendship between the Choctaws and the American people. Unfortunately, Push-ma-ta-ha died of diphtheria on December 24, 1824, while in Washington. His last words were: "When I am dead, let the big guns be fired over me", and they were, as a mark of respect to the man.

His funeral was one of the most remarkable the Capital had seen. Thousands lined the route, and the casket was borne in a mile-long procession that included bands, cavalry, infantry, and a host of carriages filled with celebrities. After Push-ma-ta-ha's death, President Jackson sent a medal to his oldest surviving son (he had five children) as a testimony of respect for a warrior whose attachment to the U.S. government had been unshaken throughout his life. Jackson frequently expressed the opinion that Push-mata-ha was the greatest and the bravest Indian he had ever known, and John Randolph of Roanoke, in pronouncing a eulogy on him in the Senate, uttered the words regarding his wisdom, his eloquence, and his friendship for the whites that afterward were inscribed on his monument. Ω

April 1st Volunteer Day

Continued from Page 1.

Casey Trees Executive Director. "RFP was designed to encourage communities to come to us with their own ideas for regreening their neighborhoods.

Časey Trees provides the trees, tools, and the technical assistance of our trained Citizen Foresters. We count on the community to provide the volunteers, enthusiasm, and commitment to plant the trees and maintain them for years to come. Capitol Hill East is blessed with the beautiful and historic Congressional Cemetery. We're glad to be able to play a role in helping with its restoration."

play a role in helping with its restoration." Anyone interested in volunteering on April 1st should come to the cemetery at 9am that morning, dressed in sturdy shoes and clothes that can get dirty. For more information contact Patrick Crowley at <u>pcrow-</u> <u>ley@congressionalcemetery.org.</u>

The mission of the Casey Trees Endowment Fund is to restore, enhance, and protect the tree canopy of the Nation's Capital. Ω

From the Manager's Desk ~ Time Off to Work for Peace

In my last column, I mentioned having spent most of the last 40 years working in some pretty dicey places around the world. Well, just as we were getting into winter last November, I got a call from an old friend asking if I could take a break from my stress-free semi-retirement job here at Congressional Cemetery to do a small piece of work in *Cote d'Ivoire* (Ivory Coast) in west Africa.

With approval from the Board (I guess they figured a few weeks in the tropics would be good for my disposition), I traveled to Africa late in the month for a temporary reprise of my old career in international development.

My friend is Country Director in Cote d'Ivoire for International Rescue Committee (IRC), one of the most respected US organizations working in conflict areas around the world, and this country has been in a state of sporadic civil war for most of the last decade. My task was to design grassroots activities that might aid reconciliation efforts taking place at international diplomatic levels.

The country was, and still is, divided north-south between rebel and government-controlled areas separated by a UNmonitored Zone de Confiance (usually called a demilitarized zone but it sounds much better in French), which stretches across its mid-section like a cummerbund. You don't hear much about this situation. A relatively small number of people have been killed and/or displaced by this particular conflict, so far. It's very different from Rwanda, for example. There isn't one clearly defined group against another. The government and its local media were displaying a nasty tendency to try and couch the conflict in ethnic terms, and the same canard was being picked up by western journalists, who rightly assume their readers wouldn't be interested in the more complex economic and political reasons.

Unfortunately, organizations like IRC working at the community level have to combat the cynical rhetoric of the politicians in order to do their job. Fortunately, by the time I left, African leaders themselves had had their fill of the egregious behavior on the part of the government and, backed by Kofi Annan and the UN, were stepping in to put a lid on the rhetoric. I'm hopeful, given the fact that there is little "major power" involvement in this particular situation, that this same African leadership will be able to demonstrate its ability to resolve the conflict and let this lush rich corner of the continent return to normal.

Congressional Cemetery's American Heritage John Frazee, Creator of the Elbridge Gerry Monument

long and distinguished patri- carvers. otic career. As a young man, As he been he signed the Declaration of cient and Independence and served in moved his business to larger

the throughout the War that created the new nation. He was a delegate to the Constitu-tional Convention Philadelphia, in and then Governor of Massachusetts. In 1812 he was elected Vice President of the United States with James Madison. Less than two years into his term, Gerry died

Washington, in D.C. and was in-

it would be nearly a decade sioned him to create a mar-

Elbridge Gerry, Signer of

before Congress appropriated funds to create a memorial to mark his burial site.

Gerry's As career came to a close, that of John Frazee, a 24-year-old stone cutter, just beginning. was Following his inden-ture to a local builder, Frazee established his own stone business in his hometown of Rah-New Jersey. way, Among professional pursuits that included building houses and running a singing school, Frazee began carving gravestones.

Grave monuments likely formed a relatively small part of his work life, but it was the part that interested him most during the early years of his career. His sandstone memorials from the 1810s that have survived in Rahway Cemetery in New Jersey show a light touch and an individuality of style that set them apart from most impressive to date.

As he became more profisuccessful, he Continental Congress venues, first to New Bruns-

wick, N.J., and then to New York City in 1818. There, in partnership with his brother William, he began carving ornamental mantels for prosperclients ous and memorials for church interiors. The memorial he created for Sarah Haynes in Trinity Church in New York City in 1821 shows the quality

Declaration of Independence of his work. It terred at Congressional was likely works like this Cemetery, a burial ground one that brought Frazee to that had come into being the attention of the U.S. just seven years earlier. But Congressmen who commis-

Elbridge Gerry enjoyed a neighboring stones by other Rising from a two-stepped base, the body of the monument carries inscriptions that pay homage both to Gerry and to the Congress that commissioned the work. Sitting on an octagonal base above the capstone is an urn and an eternal flame that monument's the patrons hoped would keep alive Gerry's memory.

Even though its details have been softened by nearly two centuries weather, the fineness of Frazee's carving is evident in the acanthus leaves and garlands that soften the memorial's corners, as well as in the varied typography of his inscriptions. But to really glimpse the quality of Frazee's memorial carving, visit the churches of Manhattan—Trinity lower Church, the Dutch Reformed Church [now First Chinese Presbyterian Church] and especially St. Paul's Chapel monument to John Wells.

Completed in 1825, the Wells Monument is crowned by Frazee's earliest marble por-trait bust. It may also be the first marble portrait carved by an American born sculptor. Portraiture would be Frazee's mainstay by the 1830s. A second Congressional commission came his way in 1831 when he was employed to carve a marble bust of John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, for placement in the Court's chamber in

the Capitol. The commission was a coup for the largely self-taught sculptor. Earlier government commissions for sculptural projects had invariably gone to academically-trained, foreign-born sculptors. The Jay portrait was well-received and Frazee soon found himself creating *Continued on Page 5.*



Elbridge Gerry Grave marker at Congressional

ble memorial for Gerry's gravesite nearly a decade afthe ter Vicě President's death.

The twelve-foot tall Gerry Memorial that Frazee completed during the summer of 1823 was the cemetery's

Benjamin B. French Allee Installed

Namesake Lodge Plants Trees

Fourteen Kentucky Coffee ing to Washington served in extension of the U.S. Capitol the New Mampshire Legisla-min B. French Allee, now line ture. In Washington, he was Institution and the Washing-Congress Street south of the elected Assistant Clerk of the ton Monument. Nationally Chapel, installed thanks to the Benjamin B. French Ma-sonic Lodge. The Lodge do-nated the trees this past fall in honor of French. Kentucky Coffee Trees have foliage re-sembling the acacia tree, which is revered by the Ma-sons and important in their symbolism. Benjamin Brown French (1800-1870), is known today for his extensive diaries cov-ering the Civil War period, and dedicated his life to pub-lic service. He was educated as a lawyer and before com-

John Frazee, Sculptor

ster, shall.



beginning were the

commissions that he thought were his due and he never missed an opportunity to condemn the work of more successful competing sculptors. His grandiose nature, coupled with the verbal attacks he leveled at colleagues, did little to endear him to prospective clients.

By the end of the 1830s, Frazee's sculptural production slowed to a trickle and he became supervisory architect for the con-struction of the New York Custom House on Wall Street. In returning to the building trades, he was able to bring a sculptor's eve

Continued from Page 4. to the design of the building's interior plan Neo-classical portrait busts for a host of and ornamental finishes. More important, prominent New Yorkers and Bostonians, the work provided him with a steady pay-among them Nathaniel Prime, Daniel Web- check when his health was failing and his ster, Nathaniel Bowditch, and John Mar- responsibilities as a family provider were

While the 1830s Jane Probasco, Frazee's wife of nearly were the salad twenty years, died during the cholera epi-days for Frazee, demic of 1832. Together they bore ten chil-they would prove dren, five of whom survived childhood. A to be the beginning year after her death, Frazee married seven-of his decline and teen-year-old Lydia Place, with whom he eclipse by younger, would have ten more children. Chronic rheu-better-trained matism plagued him since at least the mid-American sculp- 1830s making work difficult to impossible American sculp- 1830s making work difficult to impossible tors who always and contributing to the financial trouble that seemed to get the followed him until his death in 1852. The plum commissions tiny monument that marks his own grave in that he wanted. Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery records Portrait busts were only his name and the dates of his birth and fine, but large- death. It is a meager, impoverished remem-scale public monu- brance, light years from the elegant memo-ments to Washing- rial he carved for Elbridge Gerry nearly thirty ton and other he- years earlier, a time when all things seemed roes of the nation's possible. Ω

To learn more, see: Frederick S. Voss, John Frazee 1790-1852

Sculptor (Washington City and Boston: Na-tional Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institu-tion and The Boston Athenaeum): 1986. John Frazee, "The Autobiography of Fra-zee, the Sculptor," Parts 1, 2. North American Quarterly Magazine 5,6 (April, July 1835): 395-403, 1-22.

Dennis Montagna, Ph.D., does Monument Research and Preservation for the National Park Service in Philadelphia, Pa.

Continued from Page 1.

Holďup Stevens), (Thomas` Oak Hill (Beverly Kennon, his monument remains at Congressional Cemetery) and Baltimore (Alexander Semmes). The online tour includes an interactive cemetery map with 20 stops and information about each one.

Vistas is an interactive cemetery map with views from 16 locations, with accompanying interpretive explanations.

The General Tour remains a popular choice, with 18 stops showcasing the most interesting, significant, and unique resi-dents and monuments of Congressional Cemetery. An accompanying map shows all 18 locations so that the tour can be walked independently.

Check out all the cemetery tours at <u>www.congressionalcem</u>etery.org Ω

Bayscapes Seminar & Tour at HCC

Alliance for Chesapeake Bay

Join the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for a Bay-Scaping Seminar and Tour on Saturday, May 20th, 9am – 11am. Discover how Bay-Scapes are not only low maintenance, but beneficial to the whole community and local wildlife.

BayScapes are environmentally sound landscapes that create wildlife habitat, conserve water, and prevent pollution. By us-ing native plant species, BayScapes require less mowing, less fertilizing, and less pestiless mowing, less fertilizing, and less pesti-cide use than most non-native varieties. throughout the year, which costs approxi-Less maintenance means less chemical and mately \$55,000. In addition, dog walker nutrient pollutants make their way into the fundraising and volunteer efforts in 2005 Anacostia River and the Bay. In addition, saw 30 new trees planted in the Northeast native plants are often more drought-resistant than traditional lawns, requiring less watering.

Along with reducing maintenance, Bay-Scapes provide diverse habitat for songbirds, small mammals, butterflies, and other creatures. Native species are also less likely to take over surrounding habitats, unlike introduced invasive species such as

ter quality, then tour the grounds to view the cemetery's own BayScape gardens, in-stalled in 2005 and 2006 by local volun-teers. Refreshments provided. Please RSVP to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at to thank the many K-9 Corps members who (410) 377-6270 or kdowling@acb-online.org. No cost, rain or shine.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is a regional non-profit that builds and fosters partnerships to protect and to restore the Bay and its rivers. Ω

Continued from Page 1. are now divided between multiple menus to make them easier to find. A new section, "Tours/Education," contains new walking tours and an enhanced Washington, D.C. school tour.

The complete Interment Index and Inter-ment Index for the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery are now under a new section, "Cemetery Records." Most of the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery remains were reinterred at Congressional in 1898. Sandy and other volunteers are adding the Daily Logs from 1898 on and plan to include the Range/Site book as well.

book as well. Another new section, "Local History," con-tains articles written by James Croggon (Range 66, Site 273) and the Rambler, de-scribing people and neighborhoods in the early days of Washington, D.C. This is a won-derful adjunct to the profile of city history through all the people buried here who did so much to shape the city. Future plans for this section of the website also include adding newspaper clip files highlighting Washington, D.C.. policemen, firemen, and others, many D.C., policemen, firemen, and others, many of whom are interred at Congressional.

Keep checking back often to see how the website continues to new expand! www.congressionalcemetery.org Ω

Dog Walkers Fund Landscaping

Contributions & Fees Maintain Yard

Once again in 2005, the K-9 Corps raised section of the grounds, a terrific new web site, <u>www.cemeterydogs.org</u>, launched in February, and a new Gator purchased to help maintain the landscaping. In 2006 that gator will deliver water to a new watering stop provided for the dogs, and we plan to plant more trees in 2006 in our continuing

effort to beautify the cemetery. Congressional Cemetery's K-9 Corps is English ivy, Norway maple, and Japanese honeysuckle. Participants will learn more about our re-gion's native plants and how they affect wa-tribute \$125/year, which makes them eligi-ble to walk their dogs in the cemetery. There is also a registration fee of \$40 for each dog. These members spend quality time with the canine member of their families in the beautiful and historic setting of Congressional Cemetery. We'd like to take this opportunity volunteered over the last year. Whether it was part of the third Saturday mornings, the tree party, or one of the poop patrols, your help was greatly appreciated and continues to make a big difference in the ongoing effort to maintain this historic landscape. Ω

Congressional Quiz

A Sculptor of Men

John Frazee left his mark on Congressional Cemetery in a way that few others have. He was a self made man and an ac-complished sculptor, but did he do all of the following?

- Frazee was an indentured laborer at a stone quarry before establishing his own stone business.
- Frazee ran a singing school before establishing his own stone business.
- Frazee sculpted the bust of Chief Justice John Jay that resides in the Supreme Court chamber.
- Frazee had a small family by his second wife who was an artist in her own right.
- Frazee's own gravestone ri-vals that of his famous memorial to Elbridge Gerry.

Answer in Essay on Page 4.

Around the Pard

Car Bomb Rattles Neighbors

Gatehouse Windows Destroyed

An attempted murder outside the Cemetery gates in December ended up with a near miss for the intended victim and a houseful of broken glass for the Gatehouse. The 1:00 AM blast shook the neighborhood for blocks and knocked out 16 Gatehouse windows. All 30 gatehouse windows will be replacements with thermally insulated glass with an historic feel. Insurance will cover half the cost of the new windows. Ω

Ruth Obelisk Installed Tall Memorial First in Long Time

Congressional Cemetery has a wonderful and impressive collection path near the Sousa bench. Ω

I want to help	p preserve	Historic C	ongressional	Cemetery.	
-			\$250	•	
Donations of \$250 ment Fund which managed b) or more a	re deposited	in our Third (Centurv Endow	
My check is	enclosed (n	nade payable	e to Congressio	onal Cemetery)	
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Spring Tours: April 22 & 23

DC Cultural Tourism Program

gate at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM each of the pavilion. The plaque was in-day. Tours are free but donations stalled last winter in a ceremony are always appreciated. Tours will attended by over 40 of his fellow be led by Patrick Crowley. Ω

Friends Honor Mr. Cozier

Association Gifts in Liu of Flowers

Association member Marshall The University of Maryland Cozier passed away this year and chapter of Alpha Phi Omega pays Association member Marshall wondertul and impressive collection of tall family obelisks marking the legacies of Washington's early families. Most of them date to the 1800s but we now have a new tall obelisk to honor the parents of As-sociation volunteer Ann Barsi. The 12 foot granite marker can be found along the 9/11 Memorial Grove path near the Sousa bench Ω family. Ω

Eagle Scout Memorial

Scouts Honor Derek Richardson

The Association will continue its participation in the city-wide neighborhood tours sponsored by DC Cultural Tourism. The annual spring and fall tours promote a "beyond the Mall" series of tours throughout the city. The Saturday and Sunday tours begin at the main spring at LiOO PM each of the pavilion The plaque was inscouts, friends, and family. Ω

Fraternity Digs In

Alpha Phi Omega Sculpts

mausoleum row. Ω

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery 1801 E Street, Southeast Washington, DC 20003



Congressional Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The Heritage Gazette Spring 2006

Spring Calendar

Apr 1 – Spring Volunteer Day Apr 15 – Cemetery Annual Meeting Apr 15 – 3rd Saturday Volunteer Day Apr 19 – Bayscaping at Prout Run Apr 22 – DC Cultural Tourism tours Apr 23 – DC Cultural Tourism tours May 13 – Navy Yard Volunteers May 20 – BayScape Seminar and Tour May 20 – 3rd Saturday Volunteer Day





The Ward Six September 11th Memorial Grove at Historic Congressional Cemetery

Your continued support for the Association makes it possible for us to continue restoring and improving the grounds and historic markers.

Non-Profit U.S. Postage PAID Suburban, MD Permit No. 6511