



The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

The Heritage Gazette Winter 2006

A Friend in Washington?

Dogwalkers Raise Funds

Following up on Mark Twain's famous dictum: *My good man, if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog*, Congressional Cemetery's Canine Corps showed their support at an October 2nd Tree Party by donating over \$10,000 towards the purchase of 30 trees and a John Deere "Gator," a grounds utility vehicle. The Tree Party, hosted by Tom McMillen, former Congressman and NBA basketball player, drew over 40 dogwalkers as well as Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton on a beautiful fall afternoon.

"The party certainly illustrated the variety of our Canine Corps members," notes board member Patrick Crowley, who offered his home for the party. "We had newlyweds with infants, writers, attorneys, retirees, and just a lot of folks who love the cemetery and want to make it better. It was a great turn out by both veteran and new members alike."

The fabulous food for the party, prepared by Judy Niemeyer, included roast beef and gourmet cheeses and dipping sauces, and a spread of delectable desserts and Tim Temple's roast turkey. Partygoers sipped champagne and peach juice as they mingled and chatted and wrote out checks. The landscape plans for the cemetery were on display, motivating partygoers to donate towards their completion; and donate they did, with over \$7,000 raised that afternoon.

Donations kept coming in long after the party was over and the dishes were done—enough to purchase all 30 trees and the Gator, which will be used to haul water for the new trees and help with transporting materials and supplies for the ongoing preservation work at the cemetery. Ω

Military Family Volunteers Make A Difference

Armed Forces Turn Out to Plant, Reset, & Trim

A clear voice soared over Congressional Cemetery on the morning of Saturday, October 29th—it was Musician First Class Courtney Williams of the US Navy Band, also known as "the voice of the Navy," singing the national anthem at the start of a day of hard work and great accomplishments. Over 100 military volunteers and their families from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines came out to Congressional for the annual Make a Difference Day. The enthusiastic volunteers planted 1000 daffodils, conducted archeological excavations, reset 17 headstones, planted 29 trees, cleaned the road gutters, paths and roadways, and landscaped around the gatehouse.



Eduard Delgado family & friends get ready to plant trees and Make A Difference

Make A Difference Day is one day set aside for helping others, an annual event held on the fourth Saturday of October. In 2004, 3 million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns. At Congressional Cemetery every year, the military and their families turn out in force.

Continued on Page 3.

Smithsonian Solves Mystery

Decades Old Injustice Corrected

Although burial sites are meant to be final resting places, William Wirt, interred in Congressional Cemetery after his death in 1834, has had no rest since vandals broke into his family's underground burial vault in the 1970s and not only desecrated it, but made off with some of the contents.

Violating anyone's grave is a criminal act, but William Wirt wasn't just anyone. Born in Bladensburg, Maryland, in 1772, Wirt was a prominent lawyer in the early days of the country, a statesman, an author and a poet. He acted as prosecutor in the conspiracy trial of Aaron Burr in 1807 and served as U.S. Attorney General from 1817 to 1829. Over the course of his career, he argued over 170 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1832 Wirt was the unsuccessful candidate of the Anti-Masonic Party for the Presidency of the United States,

Continued on Page 5.

Gatehouse Bayscaping

Bay Friendly Garden Off Porch

Volunteers from Congressional Cemetery and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay joined forces to plant a demonstration BayScape Garden by the Gatehouse porch on Saturday, October 29th.

Using native plants to create wildlife habitat, conserve water, and prevent pollution, BayScapes are environmentally sound landscapes. Planting native species means that a BayScape will require less mowing, watering, fertilizing, and pesticide use than most non-native varieties, which will lead to a cleaner Anacostia River. Native species are also less likely to overrun surrounding habitats, unlike introduced invasive species such as English ivy, Norway maple, and Japanese honeysuckle. BayScapes

Continued on Page 2.

Letter from the Board

Honoring Our Supporters

The Association presented its annual John Philip Sousa Award and Benjamin B. French Service Award on November 6th, just before the Marine Corps Band struck up its annual tribute to John Philip Sousa. Both of the annual awards honor individuals who helped the Association make great strides in the previous year.

The Kiplinger Family has provided generous financial help to the cemetery for several years. The family donated \$25,000 towards the Save America's Treasures grant that allowed us to repair 70 tombstones, in addition to making three annual donations of \$15,000. These were used for restoration work that included stone work along the 9/11 Memorial Grove walk and repair on the Blagden Vault.

The Kiplinger Foundation, founded by W. M. Kiplinger, is a grant-making charitable foundation. W. M. Kiplinger's grandson, Knight Kiplinger, attended the awards ceremony on Sunday, November 6th, to receive the award for the family. Knight is one of America's most respected economic journalists and business forecasters, and editor in chief of The Kiplinger Letter, Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine and KiplingerForecasts.com.

Barbara Allshouse and John Kreinheder shared the Benjamin B. French Service Award for volunteer help. Following the lead of its namesake, the Benjamin B. French Lodge honors those who put in many hours of work on behalf of the Association.

Barbara is our genealogy researcher; if you have a question, she'll find the answer. In addition to helping with genealogy research, she began transcribing the daily internment logs from the early part of the 20th Century, from 1903 to 1920, a tremendous undertaking.

John Kreinheder is transcribing tombstone inscriptions before they wear away, methodically copying down all sides of each stone, he has to date collected inscriptions for over 5,600 individuals. His interest has made an enormous contribution to the Cemetery's archives.

Our progress is achieved primarily through the dedication, generosity, and hard work of our volunteers and our donors. We are pleased to honor Barbara, John, and the Kiplinger family, and thank all our volunteers and donors for their efforts. We appreciate them all. *Patrick Crowley*

Gatehouse Bayscaping

Continued from Page 1.

also provide diverse habitats for songbirds, small mammals, butterflies, and other creatures.

The cemetery is part of the Anacostia River watershed, and part of the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed; the BayScape garden will help visitors understand ways we can all help preserve the waterways that in turn sustain us. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is a regional nonprofit organization that builds and fosters partnerships to protect and to restore the Bay and its rivers. One of the primary tools in this effort is developing methods for restoration and training citizens to use them.

Some of the native species planted in the new BayScape are: tuberose, sweetly scented with grass-like foliage; snapdragon-like penstemon growing two to three feet tall; purple liatris, four feet of tall feathery flower spikes also known as Blazing Stars; coreopsis, small daisy-like yellow flowers growing in large mounds; Echinacea, or purple coneflower, a prairie native with bright pink flowers up to six feet tall; the tall, fall-blooming purple aster; and brown-eyed susans, bright yellow-orange flowers with black centers blooming most of the summer and fall. A sweet bay magnolia, a tree native to this area, will be planted near the gatehouse. It promises to be spectacular next spring and summer, don't miss it! ~ *Laurie Stahl*

Endowment Fund Mechanics

Fund Preserves Principle

Recent inquiries about our endowment fund suggest there are some misunderstandings of how the mechanics of the fund operate. Donations to the fund are matched dollar for dollar. But these matched funds are not directly available for maintenance or repair of the cemetery; it is the *earnings* of the fund that we use for maintenance.

Donations to the fund are deposited with our account at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. These deposits match dollars already in the account provided by two million-dollar appropriations by Congress. The earnings on the matched dollars are available for disbursement to the Association—the principle is locked away to secure the long-term financial health of the Association. Ω

In Memory

Derek Richardson

The Board extends its deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Eagle Scout Derek Richardson, who died last summer in an auto accident. Derek earned his Eagle Badge at Congressional Cemetery in 2004 by building the visitor pavilion at the main gate of the grounds. Derek was a dedicated, cheerful volunteer whose hard work will be enjoyed by our visitors for many years. Ω

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Make A Difference Day

Continued from Page 1.

Dawn Sweet, a Mission Support Squadron Commander from Bolling Air Force Base, and her son Scott excavated the original swale along the roadway from E Street down past the Hoover gravesite. The Seabees, the U.S. Naval Construction Force, led by LT(jg) Gregory Kirk, will be digging in the same area later this year to install an irrigation system, and the historic swale needs to be located and preserved. Dawn and Scott located the swale about six inches underground and estimated it to be at least 30 inches across.

Volunteers also reset 4250 pounds of military headstones—17 in all. Eric Krebs, who works in the Pentagon for the Navy, and his son Sam were two of many who dug, pulled, and hoisted headstones to reset them to the proper height of 24 inches above ground. The headstones weigh up to 250 pounds each and over time settle into the soil or sometimes tip over. It's an enormous job to pull them up. Once they are out of the ground, the volunteers build up a foundation on which to reset them. Howard Wellman, a conservator for the state of Maryland, oversees much of the headstone restoration at Congressional and estimates that there are several hundred military stones that need attention. "A full three quarters of the 14,000 headstones at Congressional, military and otherwise, need restoration," he says.

Joshua Hodgins, Honor Guard member from Bolling AFB, helped manage the planting of the 29 trees bought from funds raised at the K-9 Corps tree party October 2nd. Twenty-four tree planters, including five children, broke into eight groups to tackle the job, supervised by Josh and by Jim Lyons, Executive Director of Casey Trees. "It was very educational," Josh says. "We learned the different varieties of trees, how to plant them, and how to care for them—there is much more to tree planting than meets the eye." He reports that the ground was fairly soft from recent rain and, despite finding rocks, bricks, and in one case a sunken foot stone, each tree only took about ten minutes to plant with all the volunteers working hard. In addition to the trees, volunteers planted 1000 daffodil bulbs, donated by the America the Beautiful Fund.

Jim Lyons was there specifically to lend his expertise to the tree planting. "We brought along some citizen foresters to help with the planting because planting the trees correctly will ensure they have the best chance to thrive. Some of the trees were planted in small groves, like the oaks and white pines, and all the trees, once mature, will help block the view of the prison." Two of the citizen foresters helping out on Saturday were Margaret Missiaen, who has been planting trees around Capitol Hill since 1992, and Bette Garratt. Casey Trees works actively to teach volunteers how to plant and care for trees, and donated the trees for the Ward Six 9/11 Memorial Grove also planted in Congressional Cemetery last year.

Two other important members of the volunteer planting team were NCC Cliff Alegre who works with the Atlantic Fleet Career Information Team, and Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity in Washington, George Chamberlain, who commands the 30,000 military personnel of the Navy Yard, Anacostia Naval Station, Naval Research Laboratory, and the National Maritime Intelligence Center. "I'm very happy to provide volunteers to Congressional Cemetery," he says. "It's a place of great historic significance, and has personal significance for me—there are twelve commandants of the Navy Yard buried here, including the first Commandant Tingey, who served from 1800 to 1828. We're very proud to be able to make Congressional a better place, well beyond just one day a year. Part of our ongoing help will be having the Seabees come put in an irrigation system later this year." Ω



From the Manager's Desk

I took a little vacation in October. Actually my mother had summoned me back to Arkansas to do yard work. I enjoy it, and did get in a little fishing. My family had a barrage of questions: "How did you get into that work? What do you actually do?" I've had the same questions, more diplomatically phrased from people I meet here. "What brought you to cemetery management?" Actually, I had a part time job as night attendant at the Golden Door Mortuary in Sun City when I was in graduate school out in Arizona so this job is one of those tidy Buddhist Wheel of Life episodes.

I tell most people that, after spending most of the last 40 years working in some pretty dicey places around the world, managing Congressional Cemetery is the ideal stress-free semi-retirement kind of employment. Mind you, it's not dull.

My first day back at the office I was visited by two DC homicide detectives who were looking into the unidentified remains found in the Wirt vault (see accompanying article). I had a feeling that I was in the middle of a "Cold Case Files-CSI-Law and Order" script.

There are other things about the job, like the pleasure of sitting on our new back porch as the setting sun bathes our gardens of stone in soft amber light. There's also people like Mrs. Howell.

Back in August, Mrs. Howell sent us a contribution and a note, telling about all her ancestors and her first child who had died in a freak accident at the age of 2 ½ years buried here. She said she was an 88 year-old widow and had not visited the cemetery for 25 years and it was her dying wish to do so again. She had heard that "the neighborhood around the cemetery has become very dangerous." I called and told her this wasn't true and she should come for a visit. She can't drive so she made her son call and listen to my pitch.

Mrs. Howell and her son stopped by last week and spent an hour or so, on a crisp sunny fall morning, strolling the grounds. She told me stories about her long streetcar rides here as a young girl and had her son take our picture as we were talking. It was another good day on the job.

~ Laurie Stahl

~ Tom Kelly3

Congressional Cemetery's American Heritage

George Blagden: Capitol Builder

George Blagden was a man of many parts that, taken together, reflect a responsible, competent, compassionate and well-regarded citizen of early Washington. Blagden, a stonemason by trade, was born in Yorkshire, England, and settled in Washington in 1793.

In 1792 the new city celebrated the laying of cornerstone of the President's house, later known as the White House, which was followed by continual labor disputes and supply problems. The Aquia quarry was the source of the sandstone used to face the brick walls of the White House. As the superintendent of the Aquia quarries, George Blagden succeeded where several predecessors had not. Eventually, Scottish stone cutters and masons were recruited to work in the quarries and new structures in Washington. Blagden, the Yorkshire man, was very successful in supervising the Scottish workers, earning him high marks from the architect, Benjamin Latrobe.

The construction of the Capitol did not proceed as smoothly as the President's House. After the cornerstone was laid in September 1793, the project manager had to be replaced for non-performance. George Blagden was in charge of cutting the stone at the Government Island quarry as well as dressing and installing the stone in Washington. He was named Superintendent of the masons employed in the construction of the Capitol.

Following the burning of the Capitol by the British in the War of 1812, Benjamin Latrobe was contracted for the restoration and appointed George Blagden as foreman of the stonecutters. A dispute arose over the domes intended to cover both the Senate and the House chambers. Latrobe strongly favored masonry construction while Blagden advised wooden domes. Blagden was credited with convincing Pres. Monroe to select the wooden domes. It was reported that "coming from the most experienced and trustworthy mason in the city, Blagden's advice carried at least as much weight as Latrobe's, and his reputation as a practical man placed him higher in many minds." In a letter Blagden offered his opinion on brick domes, which he thought extravagant, and he also thought a

row of proposed marble caryatids in the Senate galleries wildly expensive. Blagden's letter ended Latrobe's plans.

George Blagden held the position of Superintendent of masons at the Capitol until his accidental death in June 1826. He died after being caught in a cave-in while inspecting a part of the old foundation.

Blagden was active in a variety of civic matters. In June 1802 he was elected to the first City Council in Washington. A measure of the respect for Blagden was that, of the 12 elected members, he was second only by two votes to Daniel Carroll of Duddington. Following a vote of the City Council to establish an institution for the "education of youth," Blagden was elected in 1805 as a trustee for the management of public schools. At that time there were to be two schools, one within a half mile of the Capitol and the other the same distance from the President's House.

George Blagden was a member of the vestry of Christ Church, located in the 600 block of G Street, SE. Robert Alexander, an associate of Benjamin Latrobe, designed the church, which was built in 1807. Several sources list Blagden as responsible for the construction of the church.

There had been considerable settlement near the Capitol and Navy Yard about 1800, as well as an increasing need for a public burial ground in that area of Washington. In 1807 George Blagden and others, in association with Henry Ingle, started a subscription to purchase a square for a burial ground. This eventually became what is known as Congressional Cemetery. Blagden, Ingle, and others involved in this project were on the vestry of Christ Church, which is the historic owner of Congressional Cemetery where the Blagden family vault, currently under repair, is located.

George Blagden had wide-ranging interests outside of his primary profession as a senior stonemason and manager involved with the White House and the Capitol

and his roles on the City Council, in school management and as a religious man. They included an active involvement in the economic growth of Washington.

He, with his friend, Daniel Carroll of Duddington, were two of the directors of the Washington Bridge Company, which resulted from a petition of Washington and Alexandria residents to Congress in 1805 to build a bridge linking them across the Potomac. Latrobe, consulted on the issue, offered that it would improve the commercial character of Washington and improve property values.

The bridge, which was the first Long Bridge, was completed in 1807.

In another move to improve the economy of Washington, discussions for converting the Tiber Creek into a canal linking the Potomac River to the Eastern Branch, i.e., the Anacostia River, had been ongoing for several years when a committee, which included Blagden, was appointed in 1807 to propose the means of creating the canal. The result was the Washington Canal Company. The canal's completion in November 1815 was celebrated by a cruise with the mayor and other officials on a barge with music and "jubilation."

In 1808, Blagden served on a committee to encourage "domestic manufactures" that resulted in the establishment of a cotton manufacturing company located at 7th and E Streets, NW. He was a directors of the Bank of Washington. George Blagden continued in these and other activities for the good of Washington. In 1825, the year before his death, he was vice president of the Howard Society, which aimed to give relief and work to the poor and care for children begging on the streets.

George Blagden left all his wealth and possessions of in the United States and England to his wife, Anne Blagden, with the one exception that "my worthy man and friend, George, shall be free in one year from the date of my death."

Contributed by Alice Noris



Mystery Skull Laid to Rest

Famous American Burial Site Restored

Continued from Page 1.

when he ran against incumbent Andrew Jackson. He died February 18, 1834, in Washington, D.C.

Given his renown, imagine the shock when an anonymous caller told the cemetery that he had William Wirt's skull. Thus it came to pass that Dr. Douglas Owsley, forensic anthropologist and his team from the Smithsonian Institute's Natural History Museum entered the Wirt vault on October 19th hoping to identify the original owner of the skull purported to be that of William Wirt.

Whose Skull Is It Really?

In the vault, Owsley and his team found a skeleton lying jumbled at the foot of the vault stairs, its coffin pulled off the shelf. The remains of three of the eight family members buried there had been disturbed, bones tossed and left in disarray. And three skulls were missing.

William Wirt was 62 when he died—the team's preliminary examination of the skull determined the skull probably belonged to a much younger man because its teeth were in such good condition. If not William Wirt's, then whose skull was it? The team hoped to find out.

The first set of skeletal remains brought out were those from the far-from-distinguished heap at the bottom of the stairs. The carefully re-ordered and examined bones indicated they belonged to an older white male – William Wirt. The skull was conspicuously missing.

Next into the light was a military burial - ornamentation, buttons, bones, pieces of shoes. A wool jacket back was intact, with a collar clip that perhaps held epaulets in place. This is a Marine Corps Lieutenant: the grandson of William Wirt, Louis M. Goldsborough, who died of tuberculosis at 24.

The remains were in good condition but there was no skull. Then a piece of lower jaw was found, a criti-

cal piece of evidence, proving the found skull, which has the lower jaw intact, doesn't belong to this set of remains. The teeth in this new piece of jawbone are so exquisitely maintained, gold fillings still intact and very little wear, that Owsley suspects the Wirt skull might belong to someone older than originally suspected. No further pieces of the Lieutenant's skull were found.

The team brought up the last of the disturbed skeletal remains - a woman in her twenties, also missing her skull. Her coffin pieces are amazingly decorative, possibly leather-covered, and patterned with metal studs. The coffin nameplate identifies her as Lizzie Goldsborough, granddaughter to Wirt, who also died of tuberculosis. Pieces of her silk dress are found, wrapped around pieces of her bones and diseased lungs. Her father, Rear Admiral Louis Goldsborough, rests undisturbed in the vault. He was superintendent of the Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1853, and U.S. Navy ships bore his name from 1898 through 1993.

All That Remains

With all three sets of bones re-ordered, the team brought out the skull from its purple satin wrapping. Its color and size match the bones of the Attorney General, but what persuades Owsley are the overall findings of the exploration, especially the amazing condition of Louis Goldsborough's teeth and the fact that the skull could not have belonged to him. Re-examining the coloration of the skull alongside that of the femurs and tibias and the other facts in hand, Owsley concluded that it does belong to Attorney General William Wirt.

When the excavation was over, the Smithsonian team carefully re-interred the Wirt family remains, laying to rest William Wirt with his long-missing skull, and undoing the carelessness and violence done to him and his family by vandals 30 years before. **Q**

~ Laurie Stahl



Anthropologists attend to William Wirt remains

Buttoned Up Archeology: Clothing Can Make the Man

Laurie Burgess is a skilled anthropologist with a great deal of experience in identifying the artifacts of life. Part of the forensics team from the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, Burgess finds critical clues in the smallest artifacts. Buttons, fastening bolts, and bits of fabric all speak to her of bygone eras and fashions. Her assessment of these old relics provides important guide to determining who might be who from decades old tombs and jumbled remains. Dates of burials can be determined by what you find in them, Burgess

says. Buttons can be dated fairly exactly, as can coffin hardware, faceplates, clothing, and shoes.

To an archeologist, careful sifting of archeological sites like the Wirt vault is critical to associating the skeletal remains with that of an individual. While coffin nameplates may ascertain an individual is there, they may have become disassociated with the individual, a quite likely outcome in this instance. Further evidence is required.

Clothing can reveal more detailed clues. Cow bone buttons, common throughout the 19th cen-

tury, were also mixed in with these bones. Buttons associated with other remains in the vault suggested another era. A beautiful set of intact copper buttons on black wool was found, attached with a decorative cord, indicating a Marine Corps dress uniform. Green with age, adorned eagles and anchors, these buttons proved easy to date within a few years, says Burgess, because military button patterns changed so frequently in the 1800s. Many tiny buttons were also found—underwear buttons, often found in burials of this time period. **Q**

1854 Police Blotter

Dr. George A. Gardiner

Although most of those lying beneath the oaks of Congressional Cemetery had lives of moderation and contributed to their community, some were scoundrels and scoundrels. Their stories should also be told. One of these was Dr. George A. Gardiner, a dentist and adventurer, who died by his own hand in March 1854. It was generally agreed Gardiner would have been a success in any endeavor where he used the talents and intelligence he instead squandered in a devious fraud.

Gardiner was convicted of claiming and receiving over \$425,000 in a false claim of the loss of a silver mine in Mexico. Congress had passed an indemnity act at the end of the Mexican War to protect claims of US citizens. After Gardiner got the money, the claim was discovered to be a fraud, the mine was a myth, and there were forged title papers in the Mexican land office, stained to appear old.

He was indicted and tried in Criminal Court. The jury convicted him and he was sentenced to 10 years at hard labor. Hearing the verdict, Gardiner put his hand to his mouth and 30 minutes later was dead of strychnine poisoning.

According to the National Intelligencer, March 4, 1854, "...the deceased was about to be married to a young lady of our city, with whom he was seen at church on Thursday last...Gardiner's friends were pretty confident of his non-conviction, and he himself, on the day above mentioned, appeared in high spirits."

However charming and talented Mr. Gardiner was, there were no doubts about the justice of the verdict except among his friends and family. Gardiner's funeral on March 5, 1854 was attended by a large number of these friends who followed his hearse in 15 hacks to the Congressional Cemetery burial ground. Ω

~ Alice Noris

Reserve Your Place in History

Interment Sites are available in
Historic Congressional Cemetery
Call for details—202-543-0539



October Tours Populate Congressional

Congressmen, Staffers, Major Donors & Trick or Treaters

The cemetery was a popular tour destination in October. The month opened with a set of tours on October 2nd as part of the DC Cultural Tourism program. The program features over 50 simultaneous tours throughout the city designed to lure tourists off the Mall and into many of DC's wonderful local attractions and neighborhoods. The tours were led by Board Vice Chair Patrick Crowley.

October 14 saw a tour of the grounds by a Victorian era aficionados who also donated \$700 after their picnic and tour. This is the third annual tour for the group, led by Association member Robert Price.

Several Congressmen and their families came on October 27th for a tour conducted by Board Chairperson Linda Harper. Participating were Robert B. Alderholt, Alabama 4th District; Mike McIntyre, North Carolina 7th District; and Mike Parker, former Congressman, Mississippi, 4th District. A larger congressional tour will be scheduled later in the year. The next day, several dozen Senate staffers arrived for their own tour.

Saturday, October 29th was not only Make a Difference Day but also the day 50 National Trust Council members arrived for a tour. The National Trust Council, established in 1997, expands the expertise, perspectives, and resources available to the National

Trust for Historic Preservation. National Trust Council members are business, civic, and philanthropic leaders from all areas of American life who act as ambassadors for the preservation of America's heritage. In doing so, the National Trust Council advances the Trust's mission to provide leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities.

Jim Oliver, former board president, Linda Harper, and Patrick Crowley took these important donors on an in-depth tour of the cemetery, focusing on notable historical figures and current and needed preservation efforts. Highlights included the recent Wirt vault excavation and findings; a chance to go inside the Public Vault, built in 1835 and once housing Dolly Madison; the Lummi Liberty and Freedom poles carved by the Lummi House of Tears carvers in memory of the 184 people who died at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and Belva Lockwood, who was nominated for President of the United States in 1884 and was the first woman to practice law in the Supreme Court.

October ended with three torchlight tours of the grounds after dark as part of the annual Halloween organ recital and crypt tour lead by "CryptMaster" Patrick Crowley. Ω

For Whom The School Bell Tolls

Exploring Community History through Schools and Cemeteries

The Sumner School Exhibit
is now on our web site.

For whom do
our school bells toll?

www.congressionalcemetery.org

Congressional Quiz

A Capitol Builder

The Blagden Vault near the Gatehouse holds a man who was a well regarded leading citizen of the Federal City in its earliest days. Much can be said of him but does it include the following?

- Blagden was the superintendent of the Aquia Creek Stone quarry.
- Blagden was hired to restore the Capitol Building after it burned in 1814.
- Blagden lost an election to James Madison for a seat on the city's first city council.
- Blagden accused the Bank of England of fraud in 1822 after being disapproved for a loan.
- Blagden prevailed in a fight with Benjamin Latrobe over whether to have a wooden structure to hold the dome of the Capitol Building.

Answer in Essay on Page 4.

Countdown to our 200th Anniversary

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.

___ 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 _____

Does your employer make matching contributions?

Would you like the matching gift form? _____

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

Around the Yard

Cultural Tourism DC Tour

Off-The-Mall Tour at HCC

In October, Congressional hosted its second round of tours associated with the Cultural Tourism DC program. The program aims to bring tourists and locals off the Mall and out into the city for a taste of the "real DC." The tour was one of over 30 tours available that day. Tour guide Patrick Crowley of the Association board led the 30-plus group on a one-hour tour of the founders of DC and noted historic figures. Ω

Another Frightening Recital

Halloween Event Draws Ugly Crowd

Goblins and ghouls appeared again at this year's Halloween night organ recital in the cemetery chapel. Hosted by "Count" J. W. Arnold, the three short recitals highlighted frightening music made all the more forceful by Ralph Sordyl's *Optimum Audio* sound enhancement equipment. The performances were followed by candlelight tours of old burial crypts led by board member Patrick Crowley. Ω

Dogwalkers Collect Aid

Pet Rescue Effort After Katrina

Within days of seeing a rebuilt back porch on the Cemetery gatehouse, the Association dogwalking community used the porch as a staging area for disaster relief donations for rescued pets in Louisiana and Mississippi. The drive was organized by Sharon McIlrath. She was joined by Andi Breeskin for a three-car, three-hour to the drop off point in central Virginia. Ω

CFC Campaign

Check off #7537

Congressional Cemetery is back in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)! The Association sat out a year due to the 2004 Congressional appropriation, which put us over the limit of the percent of funding from governmental sources. But now we're back. The CFC is an easy way for Federal employees to make regular payroll deductions to help fund restoration efforts at Congressional. Ω

William McWhorter Family

Please Contact Us Again

The Association web site continues to grow thanks to the valuable information and archival data submitted by descendants of those interred at Congressional. Someone from the McWhorter Family sent us a wonderful set of family tree and photographic data. We'd like to give you credit, but we've lost the original email. Please contact us again at: sschmidt@congressionalcemetery.org.

Dogwalker Registrations

Email & Web Site Forms

Association members who desire to walk their dog on the grounds are required to register their dogs with the gatehouse. This year the registration notices will begin with an email to current dogwalkers with instructions to print out the form from the dogwalker web site www.cemeterydogs.org. The Association plans to build an on-line registration mechanism in 2006 as well as an on-line donations link. Ω 7

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

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



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

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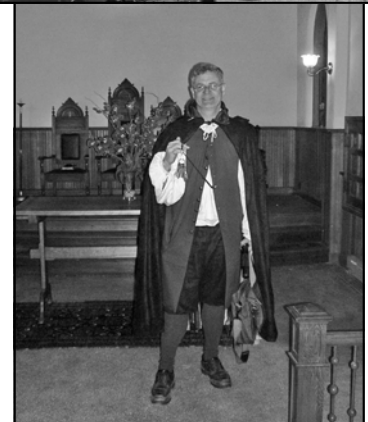
Left: our new porch

Right: our new Gator

Below: our new trees



*Smithsonian Team examines
Wirt Vault remains*



Halloween Recital & Tour