

Heritage Gazette

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY • SPRING 2007

Building Up to HCC's Bang-up Bicentennial Festival

*M*arching bands! Reports from the war front! Lemonade with the First Lady! Tomb openings... guided tours... stone rubbings! Welcome to Congressional Cemetery's Bicentennial Heritage Festival.

We're finishing up our second century with a fantastic success record of restoration and rejuvenation—and we're celebrating! On May 19, 2007 we open the gates at 9:00AM and officially kick off the festival at 10:00AM. We'll have guided tours all day by our new Dozen Decent Docents, with special tours highlighting Civil War figures, Capitol connections, Walt Whitman's Washington, and the evolution of gravestone design.

You will see state-of-the-art stone restoration by the National Preservation Training Center, and stone repair by our own Conservation Task Force. For hands-on activities: try old-fashioned stone carving presented by Corinthian Stone, or stone rubbings with the Washington Conservation Guild.

Care about the Bay? The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will show you what you can do in your own yard to help, and DC WASA will show you what they do for all of us. Casey Trees will feature an event on the importance of street trees, and you'll bask in the 8,000 spring bulbs

continued on 5

Saving the Cenotaphs

*T*he National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC), Masonry division, has entered into a partnership with the Veterans Administration's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) to conduct preservation and conservation work on the 166 cenotaphs and two other NCA-owned marble monuments. HPTC has completed work on four cenotaphs as submittals of work quality for NCA approval. While executing this preliminary work, HPTC performed numerous tests on the materials to develop the best and most sustainable cleaning protocols, replacement components, and stone repair techniques.

Currently HPTC has initiated
continued on 10



HPTC conservator uses micro-abrasion to clean the sandstone cenotaph.

MOSS STUDIO/ANSA/PHC

Looking beyond Two Hundred Years

Our little burial ground has seen a lot of history over the last two hundred years, and still cares for the final resting place of the many who left their mark on our city and nation. Like the nation, Congressional Cemetery has had its own ups and downs over the decades.

In 2000, the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (APHCC) Board took stock of where we were and where we needed to be. The result was a strategic plan designed to bring the cemetery to a condition worthy of its bicentennial heritage. Lo and behold, through much hard work and a host of wonderful volunteers, we've met most of the strategic goals set in 2000, including: regular grounds maintenance, a master plan, and a new water line and roads coming this fall. We have reset 500 gravestones, restored 20 percent of brick vaults, and planted 300 trees.

On the interpretive side is our outstanding archives and genealogy presence. Our web site far outshines

any other cemetery's, with obituaries for nearly 40 percent of those interred, and photographs of every grave marker. Inscription surveys and condition surveys are well under way.

We meet our bicentennial with much to be proud of, yet with much still left to do. We have hundreds of stones to right, and as many stories to research and tell. We have gardens to tend, trees to plant, fences to mend, and structures to restore.

We extend heartfelt thanks to you, our neighbors and friends, for without you we could not have accomplished any of our goals. And we need your continued support. Money is needed to fund restoration work; volunteers are needed as tour guides, gardeners, and researchers.

To become a member of the APHCC, fill out the form on the enclosed envelope, or use the coupon on page 12. We hope you will join us for the exciting changes we anticipate at the dawn of our third century as we work together to bring our rich heritage to life. ∞

—Patrick Crowley

A Fresh Look for the Bicentennial

HCC turns 200 with a new logo and a new slogan. In anticipation of our birthday, as the Board explored our short- and long-term past and the great wealth of history embodied by the individuals interred at Congressional, three themes continued to rise.

Community: the small, close-knit group of founding families who knew each other well, intermarried, and worked to build this city; the many groups represented by the interred; and today's researchers, gardeners, conservators, and

dogwalkers. **Community** speaks strongly to who we were and who we are.

Leadership: captures the role of thousands of the individuals interred here, as well as our spearheading work in cemetery preservation.

Discovery: fascinating history is revealed in many ways at HCC. Discovery also reflects the fun and excitement of volunteering at HCC.

Community, leadership, discovery—that's what Historic Congressional Cemetery is all about. ∞



BICENTENNIAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL

1807  2007

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

Community • Leadership • Discovery

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Donovan Harper, <i>Chair</i>	Rev. Judith Davis Sandy Schmidt
Patrick Crowley, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Farleigh Earhart
Frank Devlin, <i>Treasurer</i>	Scott Kibler
Alice Norris, <i>Secretary</i>	Tabitha Almquist
C. Dudley Brown Frederick Davis	Joyce Palmer Jan Gaudio

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Linda Harper, *Chair*
Mary Hewes
Jill Beatty

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Scott Kibler, *Chair*
Catherine Dewey, *Conservator*
Collin Ingraham, *Groundskeeper*
Michele Pagan, *Garden Corps*
Lisa Hollingsworth, *Trees*
Howard Wellman, *Task Force*
Patrick Crowley, *Coordinator*

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Joyce Palmer, *Chair*
Sandy Schmidt, *Web Master*
Rebecca Borden, *Interpretation*
Patrick Crowley, *Newsletter*

ARCHIVES AND GENEALOGY COMMITTEE

Sandy Schmidt, *Chair*
Robert Ellis, *Genealogy*
John Kreinheder, *Inscription*
Barbara Allshouse, *Transcriptions*

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Patrick Crowley, *Chair*
Joyce Palmer, *Co-Chair*

CEMETERY MANAGER

W. Thomas Kelly

HERITAGE GAZETTE: Spring 2007

DESIGN: Gene Kim Graphics

© 2006. Association for the Preservation of
Historic Congressional Cemetery, a non-profit
501(c)(3) organization. All donations are fully
tax deductible according to federal tax laws.

Postmaster, send address changes to:

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

1801 E Street SE
Washington DC 20003
202-543-0539 • 202-543-5966 fax
www.congressionalcemetery.org
staff@congressionalcemetery.org

HCC's Stewards of Antiquity

What does it feel like to begin a new chapter in history?

What does it feel like to be the first organized program of docents to interpret a historical place? How heavy is this responsibility to interpret Historical Congressional Cemetery (HCC) accurately since we are the first to offer this service?

These questions will soon be answered. Recently, a new team of interested and highly motivated individuals formed in order to interpret Congressional Cemetery to the public. Participants braved snow and sleet this past winter as the training began. We had initially hoped that the training would start in good weather, but the new team has already worked many weekends, forming outdoor tours and learning from indoor lectures. Yes, it was cold. The lectures and lecturers included the Civil War by Steve Hammond, congressional



Docents Sid Neely, Joyce Palmer, Eric Summers, Jeff Meade, and Clyde Henderson will lead guided tours at the May 19th Heritage Festival.

participation by Steve Livengood, the historian's view by Sandy Schmidt, the founding members view by Gerry Connelly, the future view by our Chairman of the Board, Linda Harper, and much, much

more. Native Americans, the DAR, stone preservation, grounds and plants, and the Masons are just a few of the subjects yet to explore in our steward education.

The emerging Stewards program, long anticipated, has begun to reveal Congressional Cemetery as a great historical site rich with fascinating and true stories. With the Bicentennial Heritage Festival on May 19, 2007 as our inaugural goal, the team anticipates that a permanent program with scheduled tours, lectures, concerts and much more will occur year round.

The *original* Dozen Decent Docents are Joyce Palmer, Patrick Crowley, Sharon Bosworth, Sid Neely, Emily Crandall, Jamie Sledge, Jeff Meade, Lynn Boyle, Steve Hammond, Clyde Henderson, David Mccahan, Joan Kirchner, Steve Livengood, and Lisa Burkowski. Next in training will be Joanie Sledge, Anne Kelly and others. Thank you to these volunteers. ☺

—Joyce Palmer

Walk With a Wealth of History

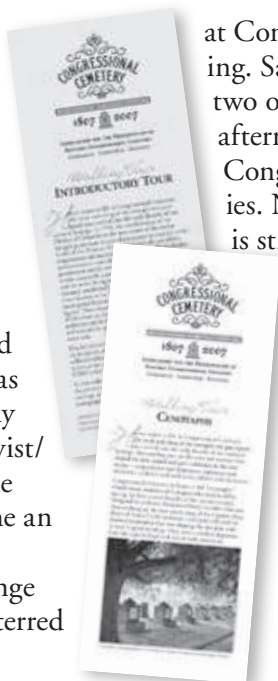
It started with a list. A list of who is buried where at Congressional Cemetery—a list of more than 55,000 names. From that list a few noteworthy individuals were selected to highlight on certain occasions, such as when a visitor's interest was piqued or a historical grouping was examined. And then Sandy Schmidt became an archivist/genealogist/historian at the Cemetery. Now it's become an A-List!

Our centuries-old Range Book lists every person interred

at Congressional since its founding. Sandy's interest in one or two of those names led to an afternoon at the Library of Congress to find their obituaries. Now, ten years later, Sandy is still looking up names, dates, obituaries, family connections, and life stories.

The research material she collected forms the basis of the Walking Tours handouts available at the gatehouse. But there are thousands more stories, each as fascinating as the last. A quick peek at

continued on 12



CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

BICENTENNIAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL

1807  2007

Saturday, May 19

Program (tentative)

9:30 Tolling of gatehouse bell, guided tours start	11:00 Civil War Tour
10:00 Festival Parade with military color guard, Dolley Madison in horse-drawn carriage, docents volunteers and participants, and DC high school band. Flag raising and Welcome.	12:00 Rockville Concert Band (at Sousa bench)
10:00 Capitol Connections Tour	12:00 Capitol Connections Tour
11:00 Worldwide Echo Taps (simultaneous playing around the world)	1:00 Capitol Hill Accordion Orchestra Society (CHAOS at Sousa bench)
	1:00 Civil War Tour
	2:00 Historic Dogs Parade
	2:00 Walt Whitman Tour
	3:00 DC high School Band, Closing Comments



PHOTOS: A&A LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Festival Fun

- Bicentennial Heritage Festival Parade
- Welcome and remarks by VIPs
- George Washington University presents "George"
- Christ Church presents lemonade with "Dolley Madison" and founding rector, "Reverend McCormick"
- "Historic Dogs" Parade
- House genealogy, by DC House History
- Hot dogs and sodas by Distad's Auto

Masterful Music

- Springfield Marching Band
- National Echo Taps
- Rockville Concert Band
- Ballou High School Band
- Capitol Hill Accordion Orchestra

Practice Preservation

- Cenotaph restoration by VA/NPS/NPTC
- Stone repair projects, presented by APHCC Conservation Task Force
- Hands-on stone carving, presented by Corinthian Stone
- Gravestone rubbings, presented by Washington Conservation Guild
- Archeology and anthropology (and coffin hardware), presented by Smithsonian National History Museum
- Ron & Abby Johnson discuss forthcoming book about Congressional Cemetery
- APHCC Time Capsule

Intriguing Interpretation

- Docent-guided tours all day
- Civil War battlefield headquarters of Generals Meade and Humphreys, presented by General Meade Society
- War of 1812 Living History, presented by Fort McHenry
- Springfield High School Honor Students present special *Women of Note* tour
- Civil War tour, by Steve Hammond
- Women of Note tour
- HCC Capitol Building Connections tour, by Steve Livengood
- Walt Whitman's Washington tour, by Martin Murray
- Imagery tour: iconography etched in stone, by Jeff Meade
- Gordon Brown discusses his forthcoming book, *William Thornton's Washington*
- Book signing—*Belva Lockwood: The Woman Who Would Be President*, by Jill Norgren
- Free self-guided tour guides and maps
- APHCC Genealogy & Archives

Exhibitions on the Environment

- *Nature by the River's Edge*, presented by naturalists Toni Burnham and Peter Yankevich
- *Small Garden Design*, presented by APHCC Garden Corps
- *Protecting the Watershed*, presented by DC WASA
- *Planting for the Watershed*, presented by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Two Rivers School
- *DC Reforestation*, presented by Casey Trees

Meet the Community

- Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (APHCC)
- Christ Church
- Thibideau Mortuary
- Emergent Catholic Church International
- DC Rotary Club
- Washington Humane Society Companion Animals

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR A FUN AND FASCINATING FESTIVAL DAY!

1807  2007

Saturday, May 19

Heritage Festival, *continued from page 1*

planted by our own Garden Corps.

For history up close check out the Civil War battlefield headquarters of Generals Meade and Humphries, or the Fort McHenry *1812 Living History Project*. On the more genteel



the better costume—the dog or the owner?

The Smithsonian Natural History Museum will explore coffin hardware from the 1800s and describe Congressional Cemetery’s tomb restoration projects. Our own genealogy and archives folks will teach you how to research family records to find your ancestors or get to know them better.

Distad’s Auto will cook the hot dogs, and our Board of Directors



1848 daguerreotype of Dolley Madison by Mathew Brady.

will give out free self-guided tour pamphlets, and will sell Bicentennial Heritage Festival souvenirs.

We gratefully thank our sponsors for the day: the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, and the DC Historic Preservation Office. ∞

—Patrick Crowley

See Festival calendar on page 4.



General Andrew Humphries (1810–1883), in a portrait by preeminent Civil War photographer Mathew Brady, who is also interred at the Cemetery.

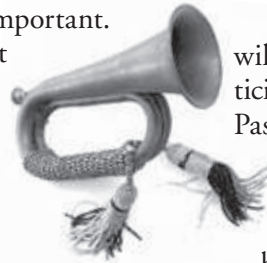
side, Christ Church will offer lemonade with First Lady Dolley Madison and Rev. Andrew McCormick (1807 Rector of Christ Church).

The 60-piece Rockville Concert Band will play Sousa at Noon for the VIP welcome and the Capitol Hill Accordion Orchestra Society (CHAOS) will show us their best at 1:00PM. Then there’s the Historic Dog Parade at 2:00PM. Who’s got

Bugles Across America

A group of very dedicated musicians believe that a live bugle performance of Taps at the graveside services for American veterans is respectful and important. A Chicago-based non-profit organization was formed to provide buglers for these events. The organization supports both the buglers and musical education for those who would like to be buglers. At Congressional Cemetery, we agree with and support their efforts.

On May 19, 2007 at precisely 11:00AM, volunteer buglers will perform taps at all American veterans’ cemeteries around the world.



These volunteers from Bugles Across America will perform “Echo Taps” programs to honor and remember our Veterans.

Congressional Cemetery will be honored by the participation of two buglers, Rick Pasciuto and Michael Fox from Bugles Across America, who will perform at our Bicentennial at an hour before noon in perfect timing and harmony with the entire world. Please join us at the flagpole near the Gatehouse for this event. We are honored that these musicians will join our volunteer activities at the Bicentennial Heritage Festival. ∞

—Joyce Palmer

Taza, Apache Chief

Historic Congressional Cemetery is the resting place of more than 35 Native Americans from 11 tribes. The burial dates range from the 1840s to as late as 1992. Many of the Native Americans who died in the 1800s were members of delegations visiting Washington to negotiate treaties or conduct business with the U.S. government. They were vulnerable to diseases such as measles and croup, which did not exist in the tribal areas.

One of these men was Taza (or Tahzay), Chief of the Chiricahua Apaches and son of

the famous Apache chief, Cochise. As the eldest son of Cochise, Taza became Chief when Cochise died in 1874. He strove to honor his father's peace agreement with the U.S. Army. In 1876, Taza agreed to relocate



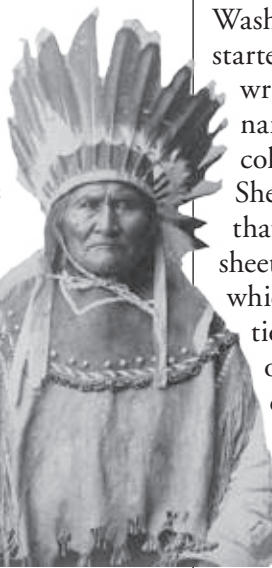
Taza's gravestone.

his people from the Chiricahua Reservation at Apache Pass, Arizona, to the San Carlos reservation. However, he was unable to unite the Apache tribes under his leadership as his father, Cochise, had done. Later, many Apaches fled across the border into

of Mexico led by the Apache chief, Geronimo.

In 1876 Taza joined the Apache delegation to Washington, D.C., to sue for peace. During this trip, Taza succumbed to pneumonia. His silver-handled coffin was drawn to Congressional Cemetery in a "glass coach." He was honored as the chief of his nation. Taza was succeeded by his brother, Nahchez, who with Geronimo led many raids in southern New Mexico, Arizona, and northern Mexico until 1886 when the U.S. Army captured them and eventually took them as prisoners to

Fort Sill, Oklahoma. ♡



Chief Geronimo.

Anne Royall, 1800s Newspaperwoman

Among the more intriguing people buried in Congressional Cemetery is Anne Royall, one of the very earliest newspaperwomen in America. Her most famous and unusual interview was with President John Quincy Adams. While he bathed nude in the Potomac River, she sat on his clothes and refused to move until he answered her questions. Adams found her to be a pest but liked her. He eventually forgave her for the river interview and dubbed her "the virago errant in enchanted armour."

Anne Royall was born in Virginia in the mid-1700s and according to some reports, at an early age was captured by Indians and not released until she was 15. She married Capt. William Royall, who had served under Washington and Lafayette, and then started her education. She became a writer and was the author of travel narratives, and virulent gossip columns that were read nationwide. She published several newspapers that were close to being scandal sheets, but they also carried her ideas which supported liberal immigration and tariff laws, the abolition of flogging in the Navy, better conditions for wage earners, and free thought, free speech and a free press.

Anne Royall was widowed and always in difficult financial straits. Her eccentricities roused both defenders and attackers. At one point she was charged and convicted of being a common scold, but by virtue of the fact that she was 60, she was saved from the dunking stool and only fined. She died penniless in 1854 and was buried in Congressional Cemetery. ♡

—Alice Norris

—Alice Norris



Nachez, son of Cochise and Taza's brother.

Written in Stone

The dead do speak, but only the visitor who knows how to *visually* listen can hear. Sculptured memorial stones present a visual language that today's Cemetery visitor can use to communicate with our ancestors. Learning how to recognize the symbols enables us to see what the deceased wished to say about themselves or what their families wanted to portray, and in the process provides an architectural journey through the American understanding of death.

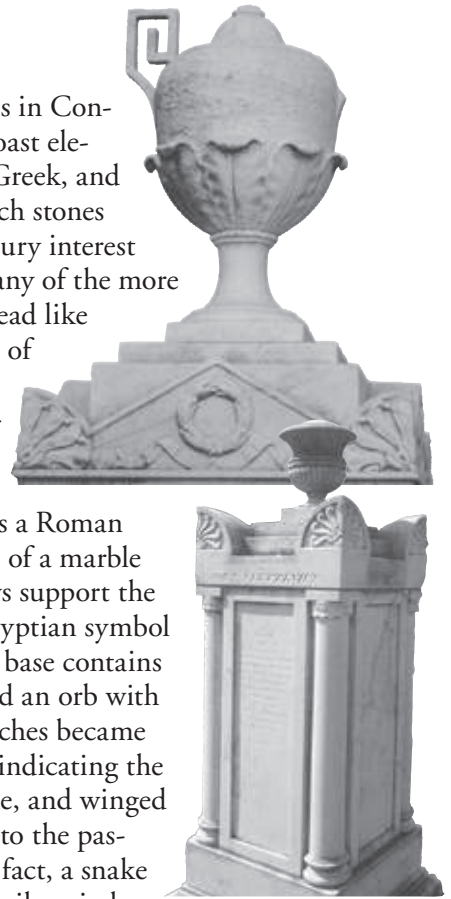
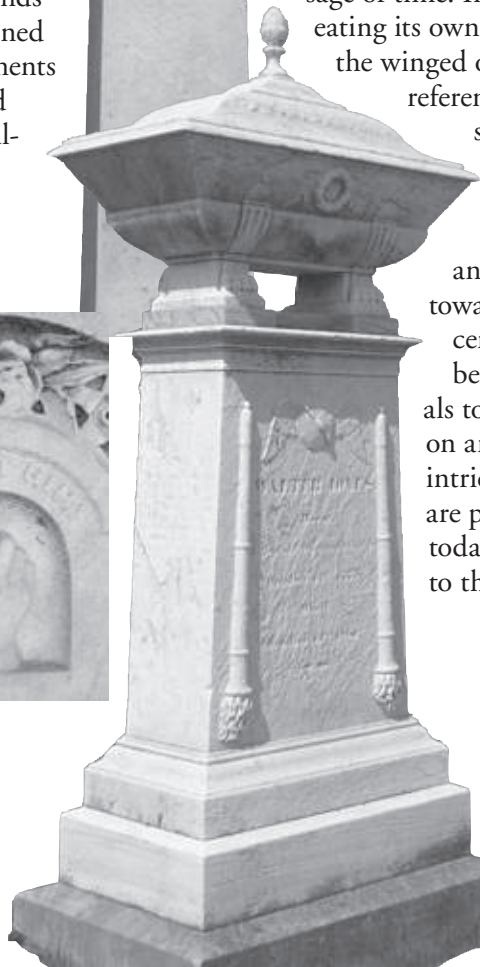
The religious embrace of death in the 19th century prompted artists to carve a myriad of new forms to symbolize death. For example, the marble monument of John B. Peyton declares "Gone Home!" A large hand carved into Mr. Peyton's stone points upward towards the heavens, letting today's Cemetery visitor know that John's spirit moved on. Several monuments in the Cemetery contain hands, either pointing upwards to a divine destination, or depicting the hand of God coming down to pick up the faithful. Clasped hands may be a symbol of prayer, and hands joined together are commonly found on monuments of husbands and wives. Hands are a good example of the changing nature of mortality in the late 19th century.

Several monuments in Congressional Cemetery boast elements of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman symbols. Such stones reflect the 19th century interest in antiquity, and many of the more lavish monuments read like a visual travel guide of ancient history. For example, the monument of prominent Washington lawyer Walter Jones depicts a Roman sarcophagus on top of a marble column. Lion's paws support the sarcophagus, an Egyptian symbol of power. Also, the base contains inverted torches and an orb with wings. Inverted torches became Christian symbols indicating the spirit's eternal flame, and winged orbs are references to the passage of time. In fact, a snake eating its own tail encircles

the winged orb on Jones' monument, another reference to the passing of time. Christian symbols also include the snake-circle, an indication of renewal and rebirth, or resurrection.

The monuments of Peyton and Jones depict a changed attitude towards death in the mid- and late 19th century. Instead of fearing death, it became an opportunity for individuals to represent their interests and beliefs on an eternal stone monument. The intricate carvings on some of the stones are public works of art, but also allow today's visitors the opportunity to listen to the Cemetery's residents. ∞

—Jeff Meade



Garden Corps Springs Into Action

On Sunday, March 25, the Garden Corps kicked off its first year of service to Congressional Cemetery, with great cooperation from the weather! It was a beautiful afternoon to be working outdoors in the soil, and the members who could come made a huge contribution by cleaning up winter debris from the prominent flower beds near the entrance and gatehouse. Volunteers with rented weed whackers cleared the liriopie beds, so we will now start to see fresh growth in those areas.

The next volunteer date will be April 22. On that day, a representative from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will join us, bringing some native plant materials for installation throughout the Cemetery. This will probably be the only time all year that we actually planting new flora. In this first year, the Garden Corps' goal is to simply weed out neglected beds, paying particular attention to the high-priority beds identified by Collin Ingraham, our part-time groundskeeper.

In addition, we will subdivide and transplant existing plants

throughout the year, repositioning them in areas where they will receive the correct amount of sunlight. For example, this past Sunday, we removed two large-leaf hydrangeas from the front-left garden on E Street where they were in full shade, and relocated them to the side-patio entrance, an area of full sun. They should reward us with lots of blooms later this summer.

This is the time of year for planting, so if you or your neighbors have extra plants that you are removing from your own gardens, please retain them for the Cemetery. Place the plants in a pot, box or plastic bag, and keep them wet until you can come to the Cemetery to plant them. We do have a plan in place for proper location of all plant material, so please do call me (202-546-5439), if you need some direction on this topic. We welcome your donations, but since we can't plant all your plants ourselves, we REALLY welcome your *joining* in to help the Garden



Volunteers prepped the gatehouse gardens last fall and came back for a spring spruce-up in March.

Corps on our volunteer Sundays.

Please mark your calendars to join us on the following Sundays:

- April 22
- May 6 (to prepare for the May 19 Bicentennial Heritage Festival)
- June 3
- June 24
- July 22
- August 19
- September 16
- October 14
- November 18
- December 9

We meet approximately every four weeks, except for June, which requires more work due to the springtime workload in advance of higher temperatures outdoors. These dates are not carved in stone, and all are weather-permitting.

Absolutely no experience is required, and guests are always welcome to join us and experience Historic Congressional Cemetery from the ground up! ♡

— Michele Pagan



Liriopie gardens are cut back in late March just before the bulbs spring out.

Living Worlds at the Cemetery

Whether you walk the Cemetery's pathways to keep track of your genealogy or to keep up with your dog, you are actually passing through a number of mini-habitats where some lively residents—or evidence of natural life—can be found. Historic Congressional Cemetery rises from the shores of the Anacostia River up to the higher ground of the Capitol Hill neighborhood, so it manages to include riverine and boglike areas, along with thickets, forest edges, meadows, and even a natural spring. Man-made contributions, including mature tree plantings and crypts, offer even more shelter and support for diverse wild-life. Since the National Arboretum and the artificial islands in the river are also close by, we get the benefit of more natural visitors than our small area could support on its own.

The Riverside Habitat

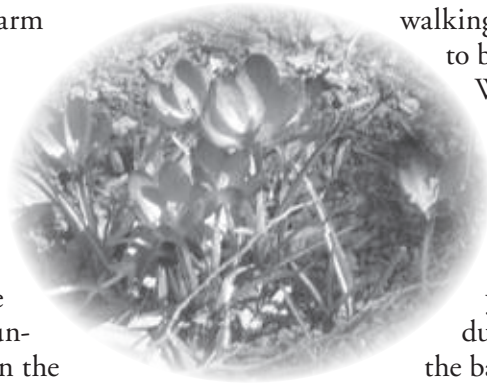
The southeast side of the Cemetery is very close to the water's edge. In rainy periods you can see first-hand the effects of the nearby

water. Amphibians and reptiles from the river sometimes make their way up through the drainage pipes and the ditches just outside the fence during wet and warm weather. Keep an eye out for turtles (watch out, they are Common Snapping Turtles) and an ear out for frogs. Some visitors have reported snakes sunning themselves on the debris piles in the summer. Above, Herring and Ring-Billed Gulls are usually wheeling around.

Thickets and Forest Edges

The fences from the jail side on the east all the way around to 17th Street on the west feature vigorous thickets by mid-summer (though somewhat less after recent renovations). In addition, the tree growth along the southwest creates enough cover for forest life to emerge. Honeysuckle and wild blackberry grow profusely, and attract many birds and pollinators. Most are discernable by their voices: at this time of year you can spot Song Sparrows, Cardinals, Robins, Carolina Wrens, Mockingbirds, and many others who

are singing their hearts out. When you walk by the forest edge, you might sometimes hear something that sounds like a small animal walking. It's more likely to be Sparrows, Wrens, and Juncos kicking around the leaf litter on the forest floor, looking for food. Anytime now, if you are walking at dusk, you should see the bats start to fly.



Meadows and Planted Trees

The grassy areas just inside the forest edge and along the western fence attract some meadow life. Mockingbirds and Eastern Kingbirds perch on fences and gravestones in order to catch and eat bugs. Sharp-Shinned and Coopers Hawks perch in the trees to watch for rodents and small birds. I've seen a (brave) wild rabbit duck under cover here. A succession of wildflowers survives the mowers near gravestones, next to stumps, and between stairs. Right now, common speedwell is blooming in small blue profusion, and henbit is making a purple carpet in the southwest quadrant.

There isn't enough space here to talk about the crayfish in the spring, the swallows in the crypts, or the yellowjackets who will reappear in August, let alone the evidence of woodpeckers in the downed tree limbs, so let's just close with an invitation to you to bring your binoculars or a magnifying glass when you visit Historic Congressional Cemetery. You can join me in looking for toads. ♪

— Toni Burnham



Our 300 new trees provide nesting spots.



Our natural springs are a grounds maintenance headache, but they do make a great bird bath and home for crayfish.

Saving the Cenotaphs, *continued from p. 1*

the full-scale preservation effort and will be sequencing the task to efficiently work on the cenotaphs throughout the cemetery. HPTC will first select about 20 cenotaphs, and will clean them using a low-pressure micro-abrasion technique. A JOS/Quintek machine mixes water and glass powder into a swirling vortex that scrubs the soil off the surface while maintaining sensitivity to preserve the original historic stone. Next, any deteriorated stone will be evaluated to receive either a stone “dutchman” or a composite mortar repair. A dutchman is a stone patch that is fitted using a historically accurate method that is still the industry standard for preservation. A crumbled area of stone is cut out and a new piece, the dutchman, is crafted to fit, then is epoxied into the cavity. Depending on the degree of deterioration, the entire cenotaph could be replaced with new stone that matches the original Aquia Creek sandstone.

HPTC will conduct this work throughout the next two years, so keep an eye out to track their ongoing progress in restoring the Cemetery’s unique cenotaphs. ∞

—Moss Rudley, NPS preservationist



Above—Sections of a cenotaph too damaged for repair are laid to the side, while a replacement monument using the same quality Aquia Creek sandstone stands in its former position.

Left—A preservation worker gets ready to move the approximately ____-ton center section.

Below—A photograph probably from the 1920s shows the roadside cenotaphs in startling clean condition. Note the absence of trees along the road toward the gatehouse.



Infrastructure in the Works

If you visited Congressional Cemetery this year, you couldn't help but notice the orange cones, yellow caution ribbon, and mud. It's a mess, but a very welcomed mess! In the not-so-distant past just getting the lawn mowed was a challenge. But times have changed for the better at Congressional Cemetery, and every season now brings a new round of improvements. Combining directed donations, endowment fund disbursements, volunteer materials, volunteer labor, and the occasional grant, we've put together a great beginning for our bicentennial year.

Improvements can be seen at the heart of the cemetery grounds with work underway at the Chapel of the Resurrection. Last fall our new friends, the Emergent Catholic Church International (ECCI), arranged for the repair of the electric line from the gatehouse to the chapel by Freestate Electric Company of Beltsville, Maryland, through the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers, Local 26. ECCI is following up with repairs to the interior electric work this spring. In the future we'll be able to hear the organ and have the lights on at the same time.

Also at the chapel, Wagner Roofing is in the process of repairing the old Buckingham slate roof. The hundred-year-old roof has needed work



The chapel undergoes a roof renovation with replacement Buckingham slate.

for some time, resulting in damage to the interior walls from leaks around the chimney. Quick as a wink, Wagner has removed the slate from the southern roof field (right word?) and reused what was salvageable. Some of those old slates may soon find another use in your home—a nineteenth century Post-It note maybe?

Heading outward from the chapel is a muddy trench that holds our new water line, a gift from the Washington Navy Yard Seabees. As part of a training exercise, the Seabees are installing a brand new line from the main gate to the south

end of the yard, both on the east and west sides of the grounds. The Association is footing the cost of the materials.

The old gatehouse kitchen is on the mend as well. Our Building and Grounds crew, Scott Kibler, Lisa Hollingsworth, and Collin Ingraham, has removed the old cabinets and installed a whole new set just in time for our Bicentennial Heritage Festival. Even the mice will now venture to dine in the kitchen!

Not to be forgotten, the old gatehouse garage is getting a face lift, too. The garage doors, sorely showing eighty-some years' wear, will be replaced by custom-built replacements that are in keeping with the historic design of the existing doors. The new set is shipping from Seattle, and we hope they'll be fully installed by the Heritage Festival, May 19th.

We hoped the roads could have been repaved for the Festival, but the engineering was much more involved than we anticipated. Look for new paving this September at our Fall Remembrance Day ceremonies. ♡

—Patrick Crowley



Roof ridge cresting is brought down for repairs.



Garage doors to be replaced.

Yes! I want to help preserve and restore Historic Congressional Cemetery with a tax-deductible donation.

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$125* \$250† Other ___

*Annual membership in APHCC.

†Third Century Endowment Fund, with matching funds from our congressional appropriation (managed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation)

Check enclosed, made payable to **Congressional Cemetery**

Please charge my Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

CARD #

CARDHOLDER NAME

EXP.

SIGNATURE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

My employer makes matching contributions. Please send me the matching gift form.

Thank you!

Please mail with your donation to the return address on the mailing panel, or use the envelope inside this newsletter.

Calendar

- April 21—APHCC Annual Meeting, 11:00AM
- April 22—Garden Stewards
- April 29—Sons of the Union Civil War Tour
- May 4—Wynfield High School Band
- May 6—Garden Stewards
- May 12—Capitol Hill Restoration Society Tours, 11:00AM and 1:00PM
- May 19—HCC Bicentennial Heritage Festival, 9:00AM–4:00PM
- May 25—Rolling Thunder Wreath Laying at Unknown Soldier
- May 26—Scout's Memorial Day Flag Placing
- June 3—Garden Stewards
- June 24—Garden Stewards
- July 22—Garden Stewards
- August 19—Garden Stewards



Volunteer groups like the Washington Conservation Guild, above, are the foundation of Congressional Cemetery's motto: Community, Leadership, Discovery.

RESERVE YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY

Interment sites are available in Historic Congressional Cemetery.

Call for details 202-543-0539

or email

staff@congressionalcemetery.org.

Walk, continued from 3

the genealogy tab on our website (www.congressionalcemetery.org) reveals true stories, from the mundane to the hilarious, the mainstream to the bizarre. Some genealogies on our site include photographs, period newspaper clippings and ephemera sent in from families or gleaned from other sources.

While much can be found on our web site created and managed by Sandy, there are new self-guided walking tours now available for those who would like to know the stories behind the gravestones. The new



walking tour guides are organized around themes and help provide context to the short biographies. Included are: *Men of Adventure!*, *The War of 1812*, *The Burning of Washington*, *A House Divided*,

Building the Federal City, *Cenotaphs*, *American Indians*, and *Women of Note*, all taking their place alongside a revised *Introductory Tour*. With graphics provided by Gene Kim Graphics of Capitol Hill, the new guides are a great on-site addition to a visitor's experience. Look for the free guides at the Association's booth at the May 19th Bicentennial Heritage Festival. ∞

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUBURBAN, MD
PERMIT NO. 6511

CONGRESSIONAL
CEMETERY

1801 E Street SE
Washington DC 20003

WWW.CONGRESSIONALCEMETERY.ORG