



THE ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

***THE HERITAGE GAZETTE***  
***WINTER 2007***

**BICENTENNIAL in 2007!**

*Congressional Begins 3rd Century in March*

Congressional Cemetery is 200 years old & getting better every year! Plans are moving ahead for two big Bicentennial Celebrations at the cemetery in 2007; a Heritage Festival on May 19<sup>th</sup> and a Fall Commemorative Celebration in September, sponsored by the Navy Yard. Mark your calendars!

The Heritage Festival will feature enough activities and presentations to satisfy everyone's interests, and is suitable for both adults and children. "We're planning a huge variety of activities," says Patrick Crowley, vice chairman of the Cemetery Association's board of directors and chairman of the Bicentennial Planning Committee. "Guided theme tours, bands playing the music of John Philip Sousa, gravestone rubbings, Civil War re-enactors—including Generals Meade and Humphries, and archeology presentations by Smithsonian experts are just some of the events being planned." Other events will include environmental presentations about the cemetery's place in the Anacostia River watershed.

Support for the celebration comes in part from a \$10,000 Keller Award from The Capitol Hill Community Foundation Community. The fall festival will celebrate the cemetery as a burial and memorial space, a conservation and restoration space, a community and open space, and its place in history. Watch this space for more details about all the 2007 Bicentennial events! Ω



*Marine Corps Band Salutes Sousa*

**On the Road Again**

*At Long Last ~ Road Repair is Underway*

The cemetery Association signed a contract with Greenhorne and O'Mara for the civil engineering work; the first step in replacing the deteriorating cemetery road system. The company will survey the entire property to find a solution the water and flooding issues that plague the southern perimeter and design the new roads and curbs. They will also find a contractor to do the construction.

Currently, the design for the new roads calls for using concrete blocks as pavers, recalling the look of cobbled streets from the time the cemetery was founded. And the new roads will remain dry, as the survey team plans to solve the flooding issues and find a way to move water off the property. The survey began this past fall. Greenhorne and O'Mara were selected as the best of three proposals submitted in a competitive bidding process. Ω

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## Something Worth Celebrating

What a great thing American democracy is. Although often a messy business that can shock our sense of our own nobility, it is a defining feature of who we are. The people speak and the government makes way.

Democracy is still a relatively new phenomenon in human history, not much older than Congressional Cemetery. Sure, there were the ancient Greek republics and the Magna Charta, but practicing democracies where the common folk have their sway? Pretty nifty concept.

I say 'we' but it was a band of very courageous and brilliant men who gathered in Boston and Philadelphia and Williamsburg 230-some years ago to plot a course for freedom. They were joined by many more brave and hardy men in places like Valley Forge and Trenton to fight for new ideas of how government should work.

Thirty six of those men lie in Congressional Cemetery, veterans of the Revolutionary War. Some went on to serve in Congress, some stayed in the military. Through the years Congressional gave final rest to others who also made great contributions to America. Musicians, photographers, military leaders, builders, mayors, and men of commerce. Housewives, tradesmen, slaves, stone carvers, and clerks. It's an impressive collection of patriots we have here. Something worth celebrating.

This year we'll be doing just that: celebrating our heritage and our 200 years of service to the Nation's Capital. We have two big events planned, a festival on May 19th and a remembrance on September 16th. We'll also publish a book about Congressional and inaugurate a stewards program. Plus our usual packed calendar of regular events. So please mark your calendars and join us in celebrating America's heritage.

~ Patrick Crowley

## Chapel Roof Update

### Funding Still Needed

Historic Congressional Cemetery's Redemption Chapel was built in 1903, replacing a large water fountain that stood on the same site. For over 100 years, the Chapel has hosted funerals, weddings, historic meetings and events, and of course the annual HCC Hallowe'en Organ Recital and the HCC Association Annual Meeting.

The beautiful Buckingham slate roof over the chapel is also 100 years old and a large proportion of the slates need to be replaced or reinstalled. The decorative metalwork along the roof line, corners, and gutters is bad shape as well. Electric service to the structure is spotty at best, a new service line is desperately needed.

Estimates for the Chapel restoration are near \$100,000. The cemetery is in the process of evaluating bids for replacing the roof, as a starting point to the restoration work.

We are actively seeking donations to help us with this effort, as the Chapel has become such an integral part of the cemetery's event planning, and is critical to a successful bicentennial celebration.

To make a donation for repairs to redemption Chapel, you can mail us a donation or contact the Cemetery Office at 202-543-0539 or email the gatehouse at [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org) Mail donations, marked specifically for the Chapel restoration, to us at:

Congressional Cemetery  
1801 E Street, Southeast  
Washington, DC 20003

Oops! We inadvertently described John Pugh as John Philip Sousa's grandson in our last issue; John's great-grandmother Catherine Varela was Sousa's sister. Our apologies.

### **Board Members**

Linda Donovan Harper — Chair  
Patrick Crowley — Vice Chair  
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### Cemetery Manager

Tom Kelly

### Bicentennial Committee

Patrick Crowley  
Lisa Hollingsworth

### Bicentennial Commemorative Book

Laurie Stahl  
Sandy Schmidt

### **Contact**

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[staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org)

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

## Cemetery Construction Work Continues

### SeaBees Begin Phase II of Waterline Installation

The Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202, Detachment Washington, led by Lieutenant Junior Grade Greg Kirk, have been hard at work installing a new water line in the cemetery. Phase II has begun and we will soon have a new water line to the WEST side of the cemetery, with new spigots. The new line replaces the broken water line installed in the early 1980s.

Being able to water trees (and thirsty dogs!) helps us with our goal of restoring the tree canopy in the cemetery to the way it was in the early 1900s.

Our thanks to Jose Miramontes, Project Supervisor; Michael Morretti, Crew Leader; Nancy Barnes;

Melissa Liske; and Nathan Moore, the Seabees who worked on the west side water line. Navy Seabees deploy around the world to provide construction support for U.S. forces as well as humanitarian assistance.

HCC also thanks the Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity Washington, Captain George Chamberlain who has been instrumental in organizing Navy volunteer efforts in the cemetery. Thanks to these enormous efforts, the cemetery will meet many of its landscape and preservation goals, making it a nicer place for the public to visit for the bicentennial and for many years to come. Ω

## Congressional Garden Corps Starting

### Master Gardener Michele Pagan Leads Beautification Effort

#### **New Volunteer Group**

The Buildings & Grounds Committee has created a Garden Corps to beautify and manage the many gardens at Congressional. The Committee is recruiting volunteers to help work on the cemetery grounds in the spring.

Volunteers from the Navy Yard, dogwalker community, and the Burgundy Crescent worked last fall to plant over 8,000 bulbs, and there will be more work to be done to prepare the grounds for the bicentennial celebration in May!

No experience is needed—if you would like to volunteer, contact the cemetery at [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org).

#### **Old Standards**

Did you know that there are particular plants that keep appearing over and over in American ceme-

teries? Buildings & Ground Committee members Lisa Hollingsworth and Michele Pagan recently attended a three-day Cemetery Care and Preservation Course, where they learned about these plants and other issues to help them care for the cemetery.

We'd like to stock our cemetery with the common plants used throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century in American cemeteries of the mid-Atlantic region: Columbine, Daisies (white only), Delphinium, Dianthus, Hollyhock, Tree peonies, Phlox, Poppies, Canna lilies, Day lilies, Lily of the Valley, Violets, Lavender, and Rosemary.

If you have any of these plants you'd like to donate to the cemetery, please contact Michele Pagan at [Michele\\_pagan@yahoo.com](mailto:Michele_pagan@yahoo.com) or phone 202-546-5439. Ω

## *From the Manager's Desk ~*

### **The Buzz**

Human and natural resources make this a place great. Back in September, the Cemetery was buzzing with activity (excuse the *pre-facto* pun—read on): meetings in the gatehouse, people walking dogs, and our groundskeeper, Collin Ingraham, working at the east end. While dumping a load of brush from the bed of our small Gator, Collin suddenly he found himself amid a massive swarm of stinging insects. Showing great presence of mind, he turned off the Gator, took the keys, and then ran for dear life. Once home he counted more than a dozen stings.

We quickly closed the area and put up warning signs as the angry critters continued to swarm around the little tractor, making a beeline (there we go again) for anyone who came near. We sent out a warning email to our dogwalkers and called a beekeeper. (\$60 for a consultation and over \$100 for extermination if needed, but he couldn't come on the weekend.)

That Monday I received a lengthy email from one of our registered dog walkers, a beekeeper, who had gone down to look over the situation after the email. Our swarm was not bees, she said, but yellow jacket wasps; and they would die off at first frost leaving only the queen burrowed deep into the ground for the winter. No need to take drastic measures. Besides, wasps eat mosquito larvae and thus help the cemetery ecology.

With her help, which included dressing me in a full beekeepers outfit, we retrieved our Gator and put out new signs "Stinging Insect Habitat—Do Not Disturb." Not only did we save ourselves some money, but more importantly, the response from Cemetery users to the ecologically approach was resoundingly favorable.

But that's not the end of the story. Another registered dog walker, who works for the Discovery Channel, was so excited by the story that he convinced Discovery to do a short feature on wasps for their website. You can get a glimpse of that small part of our natural resources and learn some interesting things about our ecology by entering <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvQvcB4oxvc> in your web browser.

Hope you all have blessed and happy holidays ahead of you.

~ Tom Kelly 3

## Congressional Cemetery's American Heritage

### Samuel Nicholas Smallwood—Merchant & Mayor

Never heard of Samuel Smallwood? He's someone we should all get acquainted with.

Samuel Nicholas Smallwood was one of the early merchants and leaders in Washington, DC., as well as the first popularly elected mayor of Washington. Smallwood was also a member of the group of eight city fathers who purchased square 1115 in Washington to establish a public burial ground in the southeastern section of the city. This land eventually became Congressional Cemetery.

Recent issues of the Heritage Gazette have carried biographies of George Blagden and Henry Ingle, two other cemetery founders. With one exception, all the founders are buried in Congressional Cemetery and most had served on the vestry of Christ Church – Washington Parish that became the eventual owner of the cemetery.

Smallwood served with Commodore Thomas Tingey, another cemetery founder, on a committee to acquire funds from Congress to build a brick wall to enclose the cemetery. They were successful in getting a Congressional appropriation of \$2,000 and the first brick wall was erected in 1824.

Samuel Smallwood was born in 1772 in Charles County, Maryland, and moved in 1794 to the area that became Washington. He apparently worked on both the White House and the U.S. Capitol construction projects. There is a report that Smallwood quarried rock used in the foundation of the White House, and in 1795 he was

a superintendent of the laborers at the Capitol.

His entry into city politics was in 1804 when he was elected to the 3rd City Council as an alderman. He was reelected in 1806 and from 1809-1811. He was elected Mayor by the City Councils in 1819. In 1820 Congress amended the city charter to provide that the Mayor be elected to a two-year term by popular vote, and Smallwood was popularly elected in 1820.

Two years later he declined to run because of business pressures and health issues, and Thomas Carberry was elected mayor in 1822. Smallwood did run again, however, and was reelected Mayor in 1824. His term was cut short when he died in September 1824 at the age of 52.

By trade, Smallwood dealt in lumber and building supplies and owned one of the wharves on the Anacostia River near the foot of 4th Street. He lived at 324 Virginia Avenue, S.E. One biographer commented, "The leaders of industry, the wharf proprietors and the brick manufacturers lived nearby in mansions of solid construction and dignified design." From his house Smallwood "could see the wharf and the water bearing the sail-winged craft."

Samuel Smallwood was involved in many enterprises in the city including being a bank director. He was an incorporator of the Washington City Canal, which was expected by its developers to be a source of wealth to the stockholders and a "source of great benefit to the city." The Canal was com-

pleted in 1815.

In 1819 he and several other entrepreneurs including William Prout, a major property owner in southeast Washington, were granted a charter to build the Eastern (Anacostia) Branch Bridge. It tied Washington at 11th Street with the settlement across the river that became known as Uniontown. During Smallwood's term as Mayor, plans were adopted for the construction of the City Hall, designed by his friend and an early architect of the Capitol, George Hadfield.

Smallwood was also one of the managers of the public lottery that was authorized by the city government to raise funds for building public schools as well as the city hall. His daughter married Jonathan Prout, son of William Prout, the business associate of her father whose holdings eventually formed much of the city in the Navy Yard section. William Prout had donated the land for Christ Church on G Street, SE in 1805.

Samuel Smallwood died unexpectedly. The two boards of the City Council passed resolutions of regret, public loss and sympathy. The shops on Pennsylvania Avenue were closed as a mark of respect for Mayor Smallwood. The members of the boards and numerous city officials attended the funeral, which was followed by burial in Congressional Cemetery. His tombstone is believed to have been designed by his friend George Hadfield, who is also buried in Congressional Cemetery.

*~ contributed by Laurie Stahl*

## Restoration Work Update

### ATTEN...SHUN !

The Philadelphia regional office of the Veteran's Affairs Administration completed a program of resetting almost 70 government-owned grave markers this summer in anticipation of Congressional's 200th birthday in 2007.

Over 60 of the VA markers are military style headstones that had settled down over time, obscuring some of the inscriptions below grade. Working with military precision, A&B plucked each marker from the ground, cut neatly squared spaces for fill, poured in granulated flagstone, and reset the markers.

Although the VA owns over 400 sites on the grounds, there are far fewer actual grave-sites due to the presence of 165 Cenotaphs, which take two to three sites apiece. Ω



*Colonial Dames listen to Jim Oliver explain cenotaph history*

### Cenotaph Restoration begins

The National Park Service National Preservation Training Center began a major restoration of all 165 Cenotaphs at Congressional. The project manager is Chris Robinson expects the work to take two years.

The team will use lasers to clean the stones, which are made out of poor quality Aquia Creek sandstone. Gordon Ponsford will provide the equipment. His is one of only two companies in the country with the right kind of lasers for this kind of work. The team plans to build a small, garage-like structure over each cenotaph with a glass wall so visitors can watch the team work. The "garages" will enclose up to ten cenotaphs at a time and move with the work across the yard.

The congressional cenotaphs, designed by Benjamin Latrobe, honor members of Congress who died in office during the first several decades of the Nation's history. "Cenotaph" literally means empty tomb, and many of the congressional cenotaphs are simply memorials, although some are actual grave markers. Ω



### Five Easy Pieces?

#### Conservation Firm Tackles Difficult Preservation Projects

The Association contracted with Kreilick Conservation of Oreland, Pennsylvania, to repair five important, historic monuments in the cemetery this fall:

- William Prout: an early D.C. landowner and merchant who sold his land for the cemetery, Navy Yard, and Christ Church, his box tomb is near the gatehouse garage;
- Samuel Smallwood: an early D.C. mayor and superintendent of slaves in the building of the Capitol; his obelisk is along the slate walkway;
- James Greenleaf: an early land speculator in D.C., his small obelisk is also along the slate walkway;

- Katherine Sanford: her box tomb is near the Gerry monument;

- Dr. Henry Lee Heiskell: an early D.C. physician, acting U.S. Surgeon General during the Mexican War; his ornamental box tomb was broken by vandals last year.

These monuments are in the oldest original 4½ acre square east of the gatehouse. The Prout, Smallwood, Greeneaf, and Sanford box tombs and obelisks are all made of the soft Aquia Creek sandstone, which is prone to surface delamination. The Heiskell tomb is made of white marble that had bowed over time. Ω





*Carolyn & Capt. George Chamberlain, Comm. R. Adm. Terence McKnight, and Capt. Thomas McQuire After Tribute to Sousa*



*Lisa Hollingsworth (middle) was named Benj. B. French Service Award winner. Board members Sandy Schmidt and Scott Kibler congratulate Lisa after Sousa tribute by Marine Corps.*

### **C. Dudley Brown Honored** *Excellence in Stewardship Award*

C. Dudley Brown, one of the original cemetery Association board members and still an active member of the board, received the Mayors Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for Excellence in Stewardship. This award honors significant contributions made by individuals, organizations, and businesses, promoting historic preservation in the District of Columbia. The award ceremony took place at the Stephen Decatur House Museum, and was sponsored by the DC Office of Planning, the DC Preservation League, the Stephen Decatur House Museum and

### **Assoc Honors Volunteers** *Awards Surprise Winners*

The Association thanked its two best volunteers for 2006 on November 6th by presenting the John Philip Sousa Award and the Benjamin B. French Service Award to Captain George Chamberlain and Lisa Hollingsworth.

Captain Chamberlain has been responsible for bringing hundreds of Navy and Marine enlisted men and officers to help restore Patriot's Square at Congressional Cemetery. Over the course of several Saturdays 50 to 70 servicemen at a time to level out the uneven grounds in the oldest section of Congressional.

Lisa Hollingsworth is our multi-talented, multi-tasking volunteer who shows up every Saturday with coffee, scones, and a can do spirit. She combines humor with a willingness to do whatever we need.

George and Lisa exemplify the best of our varied community of volunteers. The Association is in their debt and grateful for their dedication.



## Congressional Quiz

Samuel Smallwood was one of DC's early movers and shakers. He played important roles in giving shape to DC's governmental, physical, and commercial life. Which of the following are not attributable to Samuel Smallwood?

- Smallwood was the first territorial governor of the District.
- Smallwood was superintendent of laborers at the Capitol Building.
- Smallwood owned a wharf along the Anacostia River.
- Smallwood was made wealthy through his stock in the Washington City Canal.
- Smallwood was elected to the mayor's office twice.

*See page 4 for the clues.*

## 200 Years of Stewardship!

*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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.*

## Short Shifts

### Zelkova Trees Donated

#### Tall Shade Trees Planted Nov 10

Ten Zelkovia elm trees were donated and planted at Congressional in the lawn south of Mausoleum Row this fall. The tall shade trees were donated by R. Tucker Shields of Stanton, VA. The holes, which had been dug by Navy Yard volunteers in October, were ready and waiting for the Nov. 10th planting day. Ω

### Petition to Close G St. Filed

#### Road Along Jail Holds Promise

The Association filed a petition with the Surveyors Office in November to close G Street between 20th & 23rd Streets, along the fence south of the DC Jail property. The road is within the cemetery fence line but does not belong to the cemetery; stay tuned for more.Ω

### Gates Closed for Work Crew

#### Peace & Quiet Drawing Praise

With the new water line work commencing just inside the main gate, the Association closed the grounds to auto traffic for safety reasons. Visitors find the absence of cars a refreshing change and many have suggested the grounds remain closed to general auto traffic. Getting service vehicles past the work site has proven difficult. Ω

### The Art of Living

#### Tom Kelly in Bright Lights

The Cemetery and our manager Tom Kelly will be featured on the Retirement Living Channel's Art of Living show (Comcast Cable CN8 in the eastern US and Direct TV Satellite Channel 238). Their website: <http://www.rl.tv/OurShows.aspx?channel=2> Ω

### Gatehouse Hosts Meetings

#### Meetings Followed by Tours

The Cemetery Gatehouse hosted several meetings in 2006 for groups affiliated with our mission to preserve and interpret Congressional Cemetery. Local DAR chapters, conservation groups, and others have held their annual meetings here followed by tours of the grounds led by Congressional Cemetery board members. Ω

### Church Group Rents Chapel

#### Sunday Service Open to All

The little known Emergent Catholic Church International has entered into a year-long arrangement to use Congressional's chapel for Sunday worship services. With approval from Christ Church's Vestry, the small congregation started services in November. Ω

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WASHINGTON, DC 20003

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***THE HERITAGE GAZETTE***  
***WINTER 2007***



*Crowd Gathers to hear Marine Corps Band annual tribute to John Philip Sousa*

*Dogwalkers plant spring bulbs*

*Burgundy Crescent volunteers landscape grounds in October.*



**Reserve Your Place  
in History**

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