Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery + Spring 2000



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Community · Londonship · Di



Lincoln Bicentennial Special Event

FURNS TREATED

REBECCA ROBERTS

On April 14th, 1865, President § Abraham Lincoln was in an unusually good mood. Robert ⁸ E. Lee had surrendered five days earlier, and President Lincoln's son Robert had been one of the witnesses. Now Robert was home at the executive mansion, eager to tell his father all about it Lincoln was in such a good mood, in fact, that he decided to take a break from federal business and went to Ford's Theatre with his wife

LAST NICHT LAFRA KRESE 133 HITTING Mary, to see the famous Laura Keene in "Our American Cousin." Every American knows what happened next. But fewer know what happened after John Wilkes Booth fired that fatal shot

Booth's bulletset in motion a chaotic and dramatic set of events. In a matter of hours, the city of Washington plunged from the jubilant high of war's end to the tragedy of a

Continued on page 6

2009 Restoration Work

NECRY: Playle ill from the fatal night.

Patrick Crowley

If you own a brick home built around the turn of the century, you've probably had to pony up to repoint the old mortar. As painful as that bill is, not repointing when the sun starts shining through the wall could be much more painful. So it is at Congressional Cemetery with our old brick walls and burial vanits

At about 70-year intervals, it's time to call in the masons with their chiæls and trowels. Congressional's vault restoration program tackles at least one burial tomb every summer.

Most historic brick structures were built using lime-based mortais that have the wonderful quality of "breathing" at more or less the same rate as the

Continued on page 10

Transitions for the HCC Board

Patrick Crowley

There are some folks who, when they believe in something, stick with it for the long run. So it is with our board members C. Dudley Brown and Fæderick Davis. Dudley served on the board of directors for the Cemetery for over 30 years, while Fred has given 22 years of service. That's a long commitment by any standard.

Continued on page 2

HCC Annual Meeting

The Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 11:30 AM in the Cemetery Chapel located on the grounds at 1801 E Street, Southeast, Washington, DC 20003. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Fetter from the Chair

The Dual Perspective of Janus

Janus, the Roman god of gates and passageways, had the gift of seeing the past and the future. In many respects Congressional Cemetery could adopt Janus as a patron god since we too are always simultaneously boking at our past and our

Most historic places and landscapes honor people or events tied. to specific time periods. The mission of these sites is to preserve the

past in a way that makes history accessible to the present. Congressional Cemetery's focus as a historic place includes a wide swath of time and concepts: Revolutionary War patriots, builders of the Capitol Building, explorers of the frontier. Native American notables, to name just a

this tapestry of American history. Because of its breadth, it's a difficult story to tell, but it's also chock-full of surprises and new discoveries, offering something for everyone.

But we are more than an historic place. We are a living institution with an ongoing mission to serve the community in the same manner as the founders of this burial ground did—as a burial ground. And we intend to continue to be a part of America's history. In fifty years visitors will take tours that highlight the

contributions of people we think

of as our friends, neighbox and contemporaries. To accommodate them (no time soon, we hope!), we are planning new interment options and structures to ensure that HOC remains a living part of the City's future

So while we look back and care for our

for our future—and pay homage to the ancient deity Janus for occasional guidance, 👊



—Patrick Crowley

HCC Board Changes

Continued from page 1

However, this spring we bid them: adieu as term limits take effect and they rotate off the board.

One of our organizational rejuvenation goals over the last several years has been to bring professional standards to our operations and governing provisions. In 2006 the Board voted to establish term limits on board membership. Each board member is now limited to two three-year terms. The term limits take effect in 2009.

We have had the pleasure of working with both Dudley and Fred for several years. Their good humor, institutional knowledge and wise counsel have been a big help to many Association officers over many years

of Cemetery activities. While we look for ward to fresh faces and ideas of new folks, we'll miss the familiar faces, contributions and laughter of the old hands at the board meetings.

But transitions also bring new opportunities. We are proud to welcome to our board Amy Ballard and George Chamberlain. Amy is an historic preservation specialist with the Smithsonian Institution who will assist the Association in developing its conservation protocok and agenda. George is a Navy captain who served as Commandant of the Navy Yard and was instrumental in establishi ng our Patriots Day volunteer program. 👊

> See pages 4–5 for stories about C. Dudley Brown and Fred Davis.



Association for the Presengtion of Historic Congressional Cemetery Community - Leader ange - Dado very)

BOURD OF DERECTORS

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BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE. Emily Candall, For Geolming Tol Bochtol, For and Laum Ger

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE. Robocca Roberts, Program Devotor Jayoo Palmor, Missic and Dooms Sandy Schmidt, 486 Misson Patrick C pulley, Newhorn

ARCHIVES AND GENERACTY COMMITTEE. Sandy Schmidt, Geralogy Dayle Deolog, Archive

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HEUTAGE GAZETTE: Spring 2009 Describ Eugenia Kim, Gene Kim Graphics

@ 2009 Amodation for the Presentation of Historic Congressional Comotony

Possel Source, and address change to: ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERS 180 EStroct SE

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From the Jesk of the Executive Director

The advent of Spring gives us the opportunity for new undertakings and that is exactly what we are doing here. Cemetery Manager Alan Davis has begun an inventory of our unsold sites as well as those purchased 100 or more years ago, but never used. Following the legal reclamation. procedure, we should have several hundred new sites available for purchase. Archive Diva, Dayle Dooley has a regular corps of volunteers who have dipped and organized the last century's newspaper articles pertaining to the cemetery, archival skeved thousands of nineteenth century plot deeds, transfers, endowment cards and correspondence, digitally scanned the early 1800's business records, and made new files that contain family information

for hundreds of our cemetery sites. Historian Sandy Schmidt is still digging up death records and obits and old published newspaper articles, and her team of volunteers is transcribing away to get this information on the website. Our newest addition, Rebecca Roberts is writing scripts.

And this spring, we are the recipient of four interns from James Percoco's West Springfield High School Senior Applied History Honors program. Each spring Percoco dispatches student interns to the history work. force. Nicole Richardson and Carley Warden are researching and writing a new self guided walking tour on Washington Early Firefighters, Cory Woods is working on details and research for the actors' scripts for the Lincoln Assignation Performance,

and Paul Schmidt is researching the use of cobblestone swales in early Washington landscape and mads.

If you haven't been recently, and are near enough, come visit us. You'll be surprised what Spring has sprung. Ou

–Cindy S. Hays



We are pleased to introduce -

Due to a very generous bequest from George Marshall Holmes, HCC is able to move to a new level of professionalism in its preservation of its history and records, and the development of educational programs and materials with the additions of a parttime Archivist and Program Director.

Dayle Dooley's interest in Congressional stems from her family's burial plots dating back to 1868. An avid genealogist, Dayle has many years' experience exploring library and courthouse archives, connecting the dots between obituaries, military pension records, and U.S. Census reports. A frequent visitor, Dayle eventually met board member Joyce Palmer who enticed Dayle to join the Dozen. Decent Docents in 2007. Combining her new tole as a docent with her understanding of how archives are actually used, Dayle began straightening up various boxes and drawers of old records at the Gatehouse.

When Executive Director Cindy Hays began renovations at the Gatehouse offices, Dayle announced, loudly, that something better must be done with the thousands of index cards, site deeds, and handwritten letters than moving them from one pile to the next. Together, Cindy and Dayle designed an archive storage room out of unused closet space. As our new part-time archivist, Dayle directs a team of several volunteers in sorting, cataloging, and filing these pieces of heritage destined for an organized archive room.

Program Director Rebecca Roberts joined our staff in February. It is her job to help bring the fascinating residents of Congressional Cemetery to life (not literally, she's not that good) with programs designed to delight, inspire, and educate. Her first project is the Lincoln Assassination tour (see more on page 6). And with her deadline fast approaching, don't

be surprised if she calls you up and asks to borrow a hoopskirt or two.

Rebecca comes to us most recently from the POTUS 08 channel on XIM Satellite Radio, and is a substitute host for National Public Radio and WAMU-FM. As a reporter in search of good stories, Rebecca has interviewed dairy cows and transgenic goats, spent the night on a freezing mountaintop with amateur astronomers, and investigated Icelandic geysers in high heels. Her work has been heard on programs such as Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Weekend America, and Talk of the Nation.

Rebecca, like Dayle, also has a personal connection to Congressional. Her grandfather, Congressman Hale Boggs, is memorialized with a cenotaph at the cemetery. ~~

C. Dudley Brown Tops 33 Years on the Board

Not only does C. Dudley Brown have a long history of active support for historical societies in Washington, DC, he has been a member of the Congressional Cemetery board since its inception in 1976. Dudley's resume lists work in almost every significant historic structure in the metropolitan area. A pencil, pad and measuring tape are never far from his grasp.

As a federal employee with a degree in interior design in the early 1960s, Dudley brought interior design concepts to his projects at the Corps of Engineers, and later to projects in the White House West Wing, Treasury Building and the headquarters of several Washington

He was founding president of the Washington Chapter of the Victorian Society when he was asked to join the inaugural Board of Congressional Cemetery, which was at the time in pretty rough shape. Like other early board members, Dudley's sweat equity kept the



C. Du dey Brava irapets the main gate plage e in 2008.

Cemetery affoat through hard times. Dudley helped repair the Chapel in the early 1980s, and found himself stranded on the roof one night when the ladder was removed. At 80, Dudley is just now contemplating slowing down a bit, but we still expect to see him around the grounds, tape in hand, on a regular basis. ~

Ring Up a Moment in History

We aren't ready for a cell phone tower atop the gatehouse just yet but the Congressional Cemetery cell phone tours are gaining in popularity. The two- to three-minute Moments in History offer brief peeks into the lives of

over 30 individuals interred at Congressional. The signs designating the tour stops are scattered throughout the grounds by the grave sites of the individuals.

Many of the recordings were made by our Dozen Decent Docent tour guides, but other Moments in History include notable Americans talking about other notable Americans. For



Heary Clay (bowd), and John C. Calhova

example, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright discusses three of her predecessors: John C. Calhoun,

Henry Clay, and John Forsyth.

The list of current cell phone tour stops can be found on the link at the bottom of our web site, www.congressionalcemetery. org. The process is easy: dial 202-747-3474, at the prompt, punch in the code number for the site you're interested in, and hit the # key. Thinking about an interesting person at the Cemetery that you'd like to hear about? Send us a suggestion! ou

Reviewing 22 Years on the Board

FREE DANS

"When I moved to Capitol Hill in 1971, I began to visit Congressional Cemetery often because several of my ancestors are here. In the three decades since then I've become a big fan of Congressional and am proud to have become part of its history.

My great-great grandfather, John Davis, emigrated from Wales to start a new clan in America. When he died in 1868, he was laid to rest in Congressional Cemetery not far from the 19th Street gate. My great grandfather, Sydney Morris Davis, served in the Union Calvary during

the Civil War and settled in the District afterwards. He died in 1899

and was buried alongside his father. They were joined in 1911 by Sydney's two sons, Lewellyn and James, and Lewellyn's wife Isabella in 1915. Sydney's wife Barbara died in 1920.

During my visits to Congressional Cemetery I leamed more about its history and significance to the development of the city of Washington and our country. My interest in the cemetery quickly grew beyond my family connections. In December 1987,

> I decided to purchase eight grave sites. With in two weeks of my purchase, Ms. Lee Jenney, then the administrator of the Cemetery, approached me to join the Board of Directors. I was honored to be asked to join this fine organization; I said yes immediately.

Over the almost 22 years since becoming a board member, I have held various board positions including several years each as vice chair and treasurer. I have also served on a number of different committees and task forces. I was the "popcorn man" at the annual Halloween functions that were held in the late 1980s and early 1990s. More recently I have been the quasi-official photographer at most cemetery public events. Over the last year I have delved into the cemetery records to help inventory available grave sites.

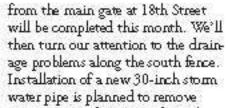
What has given me the greatest joy over these years has been being involved in the transformation of our cemetery. It has come from near abandonment, with weeds taller that many of our monuments due to insufficient funds to even keep the grass cut, to its current position of being on the brink of total restoration to its former beauty and deserve ing status as a national treasure.

Although stepping down from the board. I intend to remain an active volunteer as always. I congratulate our current board for the progress they have made and wish our future boards complete success in seeing this restoration to fruition. 🖘

Around the Yord.

Roads Scholar!

Construction of our roadways is back on track. After sitting out the winter weather, construction crews from Imperial Paving are back at work setting new curbs, building foundations, and laying new paver blocks. The road water pipe is planned to remove



standing water from the grave sites. The permitting process is now underway.

Our entry pavilion is on the drawing board for a new look as well. The patio behind the Gatehouse will be re-bricked and the beat-up iron fence replaced. The new look will be much more accommodating to wheelchairs, strollers and the like. And if all goes well, the re-grading will prevent basement flooding in the Gatehouse during heavy rains, ou



Lincoln Bicentennial Performance Tour

Continued from page 1

martyred leader. Several of the players in that drama are buried at Congressional Cemetery.

On April 18th, 2009, we will relive the story of LINCOLN'S LAST DAY, as told through the eyes of our resident witnesses. The performance tour is an original script by program director Rebecca Boggs Roberts, and was written exclusively for us. Our guides will be Cranston and Margaret Laurie, renowned Washington spiritualists who held seances for the Lincolns. The Lauries

will walk us around the graveyard to meet characters like John Buckingham, the doorkeeper at Ford's 'Theatre, and Peter Taltavull, keeper of the Star Saloon who served Booth his last drink. Along the way, you'll learn about Booth's getaway, the massive manhunt that followed, the extent of Booth's assassination conspiracy, and the attending physician's attempts to save the President's life.

Finally, we'll meet Congressional Cemetery resident David Herold, one of Booth's henchmen, who was hanged for his crimes.

So don comfortable shoes and plan to join us during this special theatrical walk through LINCOLN'S LAST DAY. Two performances are offered on April 18th, 10:00AB and 1:00AB. Reserve early (see page 8), as space is limited.



THE PLAYERS

AND THEIR AGES IN 1865 (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

YOUR HOSTS:

- Cranston Laurie, a Post Office clerk and medium, age 57.
- rær Margaret Laume, his Wife, also a medium, age 40-something.

THE PLAYERS:

- Charles Forbes, age ag, valet and footman to President Lincoln. Rorbes woke Lincoln on the morning of April 14th and prepared the President's day, scheduling appointments and meetings. Rorbes has some explaining to do: Why did he choose the theater that night? Was he at his position outside the Presidential box? If not, why not? If yes, why did he let Booth pass?
- Peter Taltavull, age 40, tavern owner of the Star Saloon next door to Ford's Theatre. The Star was an



actor's barthat Booth frequented, and as the owner, Taltavull surely knew his regulars. Could he have alerted authorities? Was Booth at the Star on April 4th? Did Booth, a braggart, talk of his plans or did his behavior disclose any schemes?



ABOVE ZEFT: Booth's get away NXXVT: Image from a storeograph, "Ford's Theatre as it was in 1868."



Photograph of the President taken by Alexander Gardner on April 10, 1865, four days before Lincoln's last day

- ræ John Buckingham. age 37, Ford's Theatre doorkeeper, Buckingham managed the ebband flow of Theatre guests. He knew the President and Mrs. Lincoln were expected that night. Did he know Booth, a known Southern sympathizer, was coming? How did Booth get into the Presidential Box? How did Booth escape through the maze of back hall ways and underground tunnels?
- THE MUNDERER

 IN STREET AT CARREL

 \$50,000 REWARD

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COCKETTE FIGHT ZEFT: "Wanted" y interfor Surrat, Booth and Herold. Servicing of State Seward in attack edb y Payme. Corrier & Ives 1865 I thograph of the martyred President with his rebinat. A raptured and manaded David Herold. Commissioner Benjamin French. A typical livery stable of the era.



- Hansell was stabbed, though not fatally, defending the Secretary from Payne's murderous assault.
- ICEP David Her old, age zz, apothecary student and assassination co-conspirator. A reportedly slow-witted local lad who claims he got mixed up in the wrong crowd, yet he and Booth were the only two to escape, relying on Confederate sympathizers till they were cornered in a tobacco barn. Did Herold engineer the getaway? Did he know the full extent of the conspiracy?

Do ctor James Hall, age 60, physician in attendance. Doctor Hall was one of the first physicians summoned to Peterson's Boarding House where the President had been taken immediately after being shot. He can describe the wounds, the damage caused by the bullet and the efforts to save the President's life.



- Kar James Promphrey, age 33, livery stable owner. Pumphrey's livery stable is near the National Hotel where Booth often stayed. Pumphrey knew the Surratts, assassination co-conspirators, and often rented a particular horse to Booth. Is there more than meets the eye here? Did Pumphrey knowingly supply the getaway horses?
- Early Benjamin French, age 65, Commissioner of Public Buildings. The morning of April 15th, French Woke to find a guard at his frontdoor. He



discovered the president had not been the only target; the vice-president and Secretary of State, William Henry Seward, had also been marked. As Commissioner of Public Buildings, French took control of the city during the crisis to ferret out the extent of the conspiracy.

Emerick Harvell, age 48, State
Department courier. Delivering
important papers to the Secretary
of State the evening of the 4th,
Hansell was in the wrong
place at the wrong time.
Co-conspirators Lewis Payne
(Lewis Thomton Powell)
and David Herold arrived at
the Seward home for their
assigned nefarious deed.
In the melee that erupted,



I/We would like to attend Lincoln's Last Day: A Theatrical Walkthrough History, Saturday, April 18, 2009, starting at the Chapel.

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*Listadditional guests and contact information on separate paper. Contributions are tax delivable according to applicable folloral tax laws:

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CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 = 10:00am & 1:00am



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TWO APRIL 18th PERFORMANCES: 16km 🥩 1ree IMARICE REGIES AT THE CUMETREY CHAPEL

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THERES WILL BE MENTED AT "WILL OUT" IN BRIEF BUTCH STEEL

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De la constant

Grardening Regenda for '09

Patrick Crowley

Master gardener and board member Emily Crandall has a plan for 2009, so you best be weeding, watering or

getting out of the way.

But first Emily invites you to the green thumbs' First Saturday gatherings to get to know your fellow gardeners. The 10:00AØ first-Saturdayof-the-month morning events will feature a short discussion period of a timely garden to pic (the first month will be on pruning), a review of the plan for that month, and then assignments to roll out to the grounds.

The agenda for 2009 includes an overhaul of the Gatehouse entry way with a new entry gate, hardscape, and new plantings. Once the plans are approved and the hardscape goes in, the green thumbs take over. Another overhaul is anticipated for the area around the benches of the W11 Memorial Grove, The small prickly roses made weeding difficult

and the lack of shade limited the enjoyment of the meditative space. Flowering Crepe Myrtle are being considered for asumounding arch around the benches.

Maintenance is a key ingredient in any garden and the most difficult to obtain. Emily hopes to concentrate the green thumb volunteers on just a few essential tasks in just a few areas: pulling vines from

tree trunks and weeding the 17th Street Gate, Chapel gardens, and

the curbed monuments near the Main Gate. Volunteers are always needed—just show up on the first Saturday of the month at the Gatehouse at 10:00 AM. Bring your gloves and prepare to have a good time.

This year's favored spot is the planned Docents Rose Garden at the Assenal Monument near the 17th Street Gate. The garden will feature four specialty rose groupings surrounding the Monument. Outlining the garden will be a low-rise granite block wall inscribed with the names of the donors to the garden fund. Contributions to the maintenance of the Rose Garden can be made to the Docents' Fund at the cemetery, 🖘





If that danddion in the doove that o is making your Bagers it do to weed, come to the First Saturday gardenest gath ering, led by Entity Crandall bistorelatiff) everymenth, 10:00 am

Restoration 2009: Repointing Lime-Based Mortar

Continued from page 1

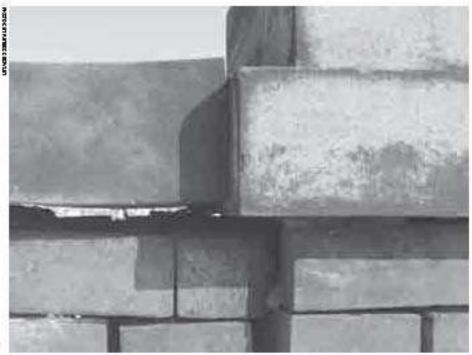
old bricks. The mortar bonds with the bricks to hold the structure together. A certain degree of softness in the mortar is desirable to allow the structure to wick moisture out of the bricks and respond uniformly to expansion and contraction caused by weather fluctuations.

But lime-based mortars often succumb to the nitric and sulfuric acids carried in modern rainfall. As the rain dissolves the calcium carbonate, the bonding quality of the mortar disappears and the sand in the mortar simply blows away. The photos (at right) illustrate the amount of mortar loss at the Causten Vault in just five years. To use stronger mortars would eventually destroy the bricks themselves.

That's the phenomenon we've been responding to at HCC. The historic brick burial vaults and brick walls that imbue the cemetery with much of its character are suffering the effects of acid rain. We have restored eight vaults over the last five years and will continue as long as funding holds out. The Board of Directors is reviewing bids to repair and restore three burial vaults along the old slate pathway with combined funding from the endowment held and managed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a private grant of \$80,000.

The Board is also reviewing bids to repair and restore the east side brick wall along the DC Jail property and the retaining wall at the H Street Gate on 17th Street. As a component of cemetery infrastructure, the wall repairs are funded through the 2006 Congressional appropriation for roads and infrastruc-

ABOVE AND RECHT: Dramatic morter loss at the Causten vault, caused by acidrain, shows gaps in areas where the win that a phocal to shine DNET: Acid rainhas removed most of the datail from this marble bas relief





Archive Detective Unfolds a Mystery

PATRICK CROWLEY

In May of 1879, one John W. settled his tab with a rum runner by handing over his family burial plots at Congressional Cemetery as payment. His wife, Mrs. Jane W., was not amused. She protested to the vestry of Christ Church æeking redæss of this grievance, noting the reputation of her husband as a worthless drunkard. End of story? Not quite... Not with Dayle Dooley, "archive detective," on the case!

Dayle Dooley is one of our Dozen Decent Docents - those fabulous people who show up on Saturdays to offer free tours to the public. On one particularly rainy

Saturday last spring, the DDDs rescued several boxes of papers about to be submerged in the flooding basement. In the boxes were thousands of documents dating between the early 1800s and mid 1900s. Sorting through the papers, Dayle saw pieces of stories, fragments of lives lived long ago - the kind of stuff genealogists live for. Dayle was hooked and started coming back for more.

Jane Wis carefully folded letter turned up in a file cabinet this year when Dayle, working now as our new archivist, began sorting and cataloguing our backlog of archival materials. Did Jane get her plots

I'm any whitether

back? Apparently so; Dayle's research indicates the plots stayed in the family and were used eventually to inter Jane in 1908, and later three of her children. The rum runner is here too, but John W. is nowhere to be found. End of story? Not quite.

Dayle dove further to uncover what happened to John W. In the 1880 census, taken just 13 months after Tane's letter, Dayle discovered that the widow Jane W. was now living with her children in a police officer's home. Divorce? Foul play? Accidental death? Since Dayle's husband is a retried homicide detective, we're hoping to learn more about the mysterious—and missing—John W. soon.

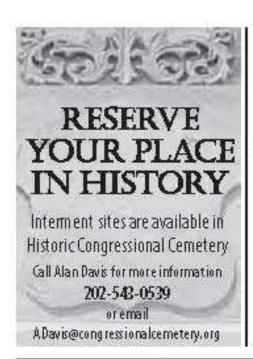
Washington, DC May 26, 1879

To the Vestry of Christ Church

Gentlemen.

I am informed that my husband John W. has disposed of his burial sites at the Congressional Cemetery in a manner that is not altogether right if legal. The said John W. is a drunkard and is known to be a worthless man, and one who has never provided for his family, but on the contrary, has abused them most shamefully. The character of this man is well known and notwithstanding these facts, and without my having the dightest knowledge of it whatever; the burial sites for my family have been transferred to one H. C. Christman a rum seller whose place is frequented by the said John W. Lappeal to your vestry to know wether or not I have any rights in the premises. If not, has not your Vestry or Sexton who have control of home factor of the terration down such the cemetery, some discretionary power io such matters?

I am very respectfully Mrs. Jane W.

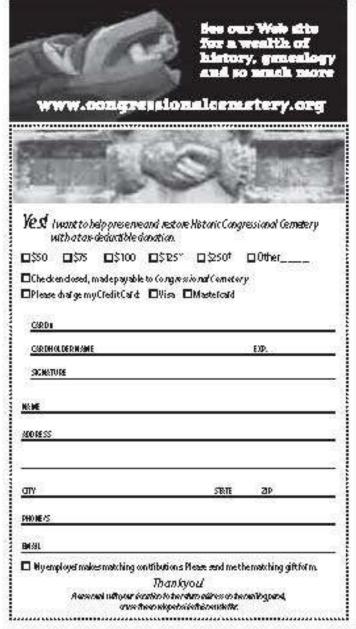




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CIVIL WAR TOURS Photoer join Saturdays Mr. Stephen Hammond on the grounds lune 20 July 11, 2009 ONE O'CLOCK he shall gladly acquaint victors MIDDAY and greats Commonstry as from the North and South althothe Gatelousee uter C Street SC the accessalishments and deeds Three binets one! of several todividuals of 4 POTOMAT ARENDE SECREPART CIVIL WAR NOTDELLITY who now rost THE . M. AND THE COMM at this kisteric bartel ground,