

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 looking at our past and our future.

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 few. Part of our mission is to interpret 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, neighbors 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 as well as its past.

So while we look back and care for our heritage, we also look forward to care for our future—and pay homage to the ancient deity Janus for occasional guidance. ~

—Patrick Crowley



Association for the Preservation
of Historic Congressional Cemetery
Community • Leadership • Dedication!

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C. Dudley Brown, retired
Fred Davis, retired

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HERITAGE GAZETTE: Spring 2009
DESIGN: Eugene Kim, Gene Kim Graphics

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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 forward 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 protocol and agenda. George is a Navy captain who served as Commandant of the Navy Yard and was instrumental in establishing our Patriots Day volunteer program. ~

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

From the Desk 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 clipped and organized the last century's newspaper articles pertaining to the cemetery, archival skewed 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 Perocco's West Springfield High School Senior Applied History Honors program. Each spring Perocco 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 Assassination Performance,

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

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

—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 part-time 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 role 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 XM 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, D.C., 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 agencies.

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. Dudley Brown inspects the main gate plaque in 2008.

Cemetery afloat 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



Henry Clay (above), and John C. Calhoun



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! ~

Reviewing 22 Years on the Board

FRED DAVIS

"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 learned 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. Within 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 than 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 deserving 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 Yard...

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

from the main gate at 18th Street will be completed this month. We'll then turn our attention to the drainage problems along the south fence. Installation of a new 30-inch storm 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. ~



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 séances 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, 10:00AM and 1:00PM. 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.
- ☛ Margaret Laurie, his wife, also a medium, age 40-something.

THE PLAYERS:

- ☛ Charles Forbes, age 29, valet and footman to President Lincoln. Forbes woke Lincoln on the morning of April 14th and prepared the President's day, scheduling appointments and meetings. Forbes 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 bar that 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?



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



ABOVE LEFT: Booth's getaway. RIGHT: Image from a stereograph, "Ford's Theatre as it was in 1868."



John Buckingham, age 37, Ford's Theatre doorman. Buckingham managed the ebb and 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 hallways and underground tunnels?



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: "Wanted" poster for Sumrat, Booth and Herold. Secretary of State Seward is attacked by Lewis Payne. Carrier of June 1865. Photograph of the martyred President with his cabinet. A captured and murdered David Herold. Commissioner Benjamin French. Atypical livery stable of the era.



Hansell was stabbed, though not fatally, defending the Secretary from Payne's murderous assault.

David Herold, age 22, 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?

Doctor 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.



James Pumphrey, age 33, livery stable owner. Pumphrey's livery stable is near the National Hotel where Booth often stayed. Pumphrey knew the Sumratts, 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?

Benjamin French, age 65, Commissioner of Public Buildings. The morning of April 15th, French woke to find a guard at his front door. He



Emerick Hansell, age 48, State Department courier. Delivering important papers to the Secretary of State the evening of the 14th, Hansell was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Co-conspirators Lewis Payne (Lewis Thornton Powell) and David Herold arrived at the Seward home for their assigned nefarious deed. In the melee that erupted,



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

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- ☐ 10:00 a.m. Performance Tour
☐ 1:00 p.m. Performance Tour

☐ Please make _____ reservations in my name at \$35 per person. Tickets will be held under your name at "Will Call" 30 minutes before the show.

☐ If/We cannot attend but enclose a tax-deductible contribution of:

- ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100
☐ \$125 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$_____

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to APHCC.

☐ Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

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PLEASE PRINT

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*List additional guests and contact information on separate paper.
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SATURDAY, APRIL 18 • 10:00am & 1:00pm

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A THEATRICAL WALK THROUGH HISTORY

RENEZA BOUGH EMMETT, PLAYWRIGHT

FEATURING

EYE WITNESSES AND PARTICIPANTS FROM THE DAY
Gerrit Lenoir... Post Office clerk and advance mailing
Margaret Lenoir... His wife, also a mailing
Charles Foster... President Lincoln's valet and footman
Peter Talbot... Owner, Star Saloon by Ford's Theatre
John Buckingham... Ford's Theatre doorman
Doctor James Hall... Physician in attendance
James Pennington... Library owner, turned house to Booth
Harjash Ferooh... Commissioner of Public Buildings
took control of the city to forest out conspiracy
Emeric Hassell... State Department member
watched defending the Secretary

David David... Assassination co-conspirator

SAURDAY BENEFIT PERFORMANCE TOUR

TWO APRIL 18TH PERFORMANCES: 10am & 1pm

PERFORMANCE BEGINS AT THE CEMETERY CHAPEL

TICKETS \$35 ADULT TICKETS ONLY
LIMITED SEATING

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Gardening Agenda 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 10:00 a.m. first-Saturday-of-the-month morning events will feature a short discussion period of a timely garden topic (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 entryway 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 9/11 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 a surrounding 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 a.m. Bring your gloves and prepare to have a good time.

This year's favored spot is the planned Docents Rose Garden at the Arsenal 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 darndition in the dove photo is making your fingers itch to weed, come to the First Saturday gardeners' gathering, led by Emily Crandall (pictured at left) every month, 10:00 a.m.



Restoration 2009: Repointing Lime-Based Mortar

Continued from page 2

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 Causton 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 infrastructure. ~



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Dramatic mortar loss at the Causton vault, caused by acid rain, shows gaps in areas where the rain isn't supposed to drip.
INSET: Acid rain has removed most of the detail 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 seeking redress 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 W.'s 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

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 Jane'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 retired 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 slightest knowledge of it whatever, the burial sites for my family have been transferred to one H. C. Christian a rum seller whose place is frequented by the said John W. I appeal to your vestry to know whether or not I have any rights in the premises. If not, has not your Vestry or Sexton who have control of the cemetery, some discretionary power in such matters?

I am very respectfully
Mrs. Jane W.

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202-543-0539

or email

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Thank you!

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June 20
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July 11, 2009

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MIDDAY

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on the grounds
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wherein
he shall gladly acquaint visitors
and guests
from the North and South alike
*
the accomplishments and deeds
of several individuals of
SIGNIFICANT CIVIL WAR NOTORITY
who now rest
at this historic burial ground.