This spring marks the debut of the brand new www.congressionalcemetery.org. The gorgeous and useful new website was built by the folks at New Media Mill, especially Project Manager Shari Wolk and Managing Partner Stew Harris. Harris recently answered some questions about the new site.

Q: What is the new website able to do?

Stew Harris, New Media Mill: Perhaps the most important change is that visitors now have the ability to search for information about the 59,000 people who have been interred at the cemetery by name and also by other search parameters. The name search has a “sounds like” functionality, allowing users to select from a list of suggested names that are similar to the one that is requested. This is great for people who might not be sure of a spelling. This utility actually searches a couple of databases that can retrieve various data types including obituaries, images of headstones, death certificates, and news articles that have been written about the individual. A search will even produce a Google map pinpointing the location of a gravesite or tomb.

continued on page 8

“Where do you see yourself in 100 years?”

If you’ve seen our new advertising campaign in the local Capitol Hill papers, you’ve also seen the guiding principle of our strategic plan: Where do we see ourselves, as a cemetery, in 100 years?

The long term outlook

continued on page 10
Heartfelt Stewards

Congressional Cemetery is fortunate to have several communities that embody the spirit of stewardship for this old burial ground. Our staff coordinates over 75 groups every year who participate in the restoration of Congressional. It’s a great joy to walk among folks of all ages and backgrounds who are working hard, laughing and sweating, and earning a share of American heritage.

This bounty of volunteers was not always the case. Sixteen years ago, when there was no staff, no management, and no money, volunteers were few and far between. As I recall, we had three board members and about seven dog walkers who provided ALL the services for Congressional. Those were tough times. What a difference our volunteers and membership have made. In December 2009, we completed the last check toward our million dollar match of the Congressional Endowment Fund. To paraphrase the Vice President, that was a big deal.

While we welcome and appreciate every group’s contributions, there is one that has been remarkable in its long term dedication and support, the neighborhood dog walking community. (Disclosure: although I no longer have a dog, I was one of the dog walkers; she was how I got involved back in 1997.)

It is rare to find an historic site that would welcome dog walking on its grounds, yet our dog walking community is very much a part of our success story. Without their support in many areas, Congressional’s revival would have taken a far longer journey.

For example, our endowment fund now disburses sufficient funds to provide for all the contracted lawn and tree maintenance services. However, without the dogwalkers’ dues in each of the past 10 to 15 years, I doubt we could have made half the deposits toward the matching endowment fund. The dogwalkers’ donations provided operations funding so that grants and awards could began trickling in for outreach, restoration, development, and support for the endowment.

Yes, it has its drawbacks and unique set of problems, but this community of heartfelt stewards provided the foundation upon which we built much of our success. As we count our blessings, we should be sure to add the four legged companions that brought many of us into the fold.

Patrick Crowley
From the Executive Director

The future of Congressional Cemetery is decided by the Board of Directors. The staff develops and implements the programs to carry out the mission and the strategic plan. In 2004, the Board of Directors developed three-year term limits with a maximum of two terms. 2009 saw the departure of long time members C. Dudley Brown and Fred Smith. This spring we bid goodbye to three valuable members—Linda Harper, Joyce Palmer and Emily Crandall.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve with these three outstanding women.

Cindy Hays

Linda Harper

In 1999, as Linda Harper was completing a project for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, President Dick Moe asked her to help save Congressional Cemetery which had received the dubious listing as one of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Congress had just established a $1 million endowment to be administered by the National Trust, but the Cemetery received no benefit from it unless the Association made contributions toward the match. Linda offered her assistance to Association Chairman, Jim Oliver, who asked her to facilitate development of a Strategic Plan to address maintenance, funding and the future direction of the Association. After two years of volunteering her time and talents, Linda joined the Board as Chairman in April 2001, in which position she served until September 2007 when she stepped down to Vice Chairman.

Under her leadership, the finances, restoration and interpretative programs of the Association grew. The board of directors continued on page 9

Meet the New Vice Chairman

George A. Chamberlain, Jr. was elected Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, replacing departing member Linda Harper. Although he has only served on the Board for one year, his service and dedication to Congressional Cemetery goes back to 2005, when as Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity Washington, he brought together a team of over one hundred Navy and Marine active and reserve personnel and civilian employees for a community service project to clean brush and debris, raise lost footstones, and do the hard lifting we could never afford to hire.

Then, as a training project in 2006, the Navy Seabees installed a new water line in the west section of the cemetery. In preparation for the 2007 bicentennial celebration, George and his team were back to set up. When they were finished that day, the cemetery had been licked clean and ready for the 1000 visitors the next morning. Because of his leadership those years ago, we look forward to the annual Patriots’ Project, where the armed services come together to make a real difference at Historic Congressional Cemetery.

George was honored with the John Philip Sousa Award for Outstanding Community Service in 2006. His service to the Board is voluntary, and not an endorsement of the Navy, Captain Chamberlain works for the Chief of Naval Operations as Branch Head for Sea Shaping. He and his wife Carolynn are great outdoor enthusiasts, and whenever the weather allows they spend their free time biking or sailing.
Meet the New Board Members

After a seemingly endless and snowbound winter, the arrival of spring is a welcome change. Another change to which we would like to extend a hearty welcome, is the addition of two new members to our Board of Directors at HCC, Sid Neely and Tom Mitchell.

Sid Neely is a licensed Certified Public Accountant, with a B.S. from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania. With 39 years of management experience, he was Chief Financial Officer for both the Days Inn of America during its early development, and The American Café chain of restaurants and markets. He moved to Washington in 1982, and has since worked with numerous entrepreneurial enterprises, steering them along the path to sound financial stability and growth. He is currently Chief Financial Officer of Isomet Corporation, a company that produces acoustical-optical laser modulators and is based in Springfield, VA.

Sid first became involved with HCC in 2007 when he was asked to be one of the first docents to lead tours in the cemetery. He became captivated by the rich heritage of what he calls the “fantastic historic treasure we have in Congressional Cemetery.” His charming style and knowledge of HCC combine to make Sid a unique and exceptionally skilled guide. He has also enjoyed the past three years as a member and now treasurer of the Vestry at Christ Church, and as such, a keen, vocal supporter of HCC. In late 2009, he was approached by Alice Norris about serving on the Board of Directors as a Representative of Christ Church Washington Parish. After three years literally spent at the “grass roots” level, Sid is enthusiastically looking forward to being involved in the work as a Board Member.

Our second welcome is extended to Tom Mitchell, a Senior Investment Consultant with Cambridge Associates LLC. Tom is also part of Cambridge’s Mission-Related Investing Group, where he develops social investing strategies. Previously, he was an associate with Agora Partnerships, consulted to the World Bank from Brazil, and spent four years as Director of Program Development for the DC-based nonprofit, KaBOOM!. Earlier in his career, Tom helped launch a toy company where he traveled the nation in a milk truck; served two years with AmeriCorps; and began a career in technology marketing in Silicon Valley. He received an AB from Stanford University, an MBA from Duke University, and an MA in Regional Planning from UNC Chapel Hill.

Tom and his wife Amber Gove, first moved to Washington in 1999, and after living abroad and completing graduate school, they decided to return in 2007 and raise their family on the Hill. Tom, Amber, their daughter Riley, and dog Oscar became HCC dogwalkers shortly thereafter. Tom comes to the Board by way of recruitment by Patrick Crowley, who suggested that they meet to discuss some of HCC’s finances. A few chats later, Tom was extended an invitation to join the Board, something that he feels very honored to be a part of. Besides contributing his professional knowledge to the organization, he believes that HCC is an integral part of his family’s life, and is excited to be at the service of an institution with such a deep legacy and diverse membership.

To both our new Board Members, welcome aboard!
HCC on URR

Due to the tireless efforts of historian Sandy Schmidt, we have just learned that HCC will be included on the National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The official title will be Burial Sites of David Hall and William Boyd at Historic Congressional Cemetery. David Hall (R34/S63) was a lawyer who represented black plaintiffs, most notably the DC slaves who attempted to escape on the Pearl in 1848. William Boyd (R5/S222) was a conductor on the Underground Railroad. Caught and convicted for “stealing” slaves, Boyd was pardoned by President Lincoln. Find out more about the Network to Freedom at http://www.nps.gov/history/ugrr/.

TFTC!

If you know that headline stands for Thanks For The Cache, you might be one of the hundreds of happy hunters to find HCC’s new geocache as part of the National Park Service’s Star Spangled Banner Geotrail. For those of you who were flummoxed by that acronym, we should explain that Geocaching, pronounced “geo-cashing,” is a worldwide phenomenon in which participants use a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System) to locate a hidden “cache.” Searching for a cache is akin to going on a treasure hunt and can involve clues, riddles and visits to multiple locations. HCC has had a cache hidden here for many years, and added the new one in February as part of the lead up to the Star Spangled Banner National Trail, which will mark the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Learn more at www.geocaching.com

Five New Interns Pitch In

Continuing our productive partnership with Jim Percoco and his Senior Honors Applied American History students at West Springfield High School, HCC welcomed five new interns this spring. Michael Rybinski, Glenn Feinberg, Brett Kinback, Ross Rosenblatt, and Brittany Arnold have been helping out with everything from transcribing and proofing the proprietors list, to editing the obits for the new website, and now are surveying the 14,000 stones and monuments.

New Advertising Campaign Hits Local Press

After 60 years of selling a few sites a year, Congressional Cemetery is now open for business again. The most frequently asked question is “who can be buried there.” The answer is simple, you have to be dead. To announce that plots are available, a new marketing and advertising campaign was launched in April. The series of monthly ads designed by Capitol Hill based Hunt-Smith Design, will run initially in the Hill Rag and Voice of the Hill. Check out the first ad on the back panel of the newsletter, and call us if you want to know “Where you will be in 100 Years?”

Dogwalker’s rededicate chapel windows

Members of the dogwalking community are most aware of what problems exist in the cemetery since they are on the grounds so often. In late 2007 and 2008, they held a fundraising event to provide funds to the cemetery to restore the chapel windows which needed repair, paint, and new coverings. The 22 year-old plexiglass covering was yellow and the beauty of the windows was hidden. They raised over $13,000 and the widows were restored. Finally, on April 11th, a formal rededication was held. A new plaque with the donors’ names has been hung in the Chapel.
By 1913, the women's suffrage movement in this country was desperately in need of new energy. Despite sixty years of campaigning and fighting for it, only six states allowed women the right to vote. Movement godmothers Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott were dead. And Theodore Roosevelt’s Progressive Party, the first major political party to promise women's voting rights, had just lost the 1912 presidential election.

A 28-year-old Quaker from New Jersey named Alice Paul filled the vacuum. Just back from England where she had learned some radical tactics from the British suffragists, Paul proposed a grand scale march on Washington to coincide with President Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration. Paul and the National American Woman Suffrage Association raised an astonishing $15,000 to stage a huge procession with floats, speakers, bands, flags, and an official program that ran to twenty pages.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to close Pennsylvania Avenue to traffic. But the debate included some not-so-good-natured ridicule of the suffragist movement. As the New York Tribune reported, Congressman Tom Heflin of Alabama said, “Suppose Washington and Jefferson could be on Pennsylvania Avenue next Monday afternoon. Washington would ask Jefferson what it was all about, and Jefferson could only reply that the land was filled with stump speakers with dresses on. Great God of our Fathers, what is this country coming to?”

Despite Congressman Heflin, the march went on as planned. Led by lawyer Inez Milholland Boissevain on a white horse, the 5000 marchers included representatives from countries that allowed women to vote, suffrage pioneers, working women grouped by profession, state representatives, and finally pro-suffrage men. But the spectators -- mainly men in town for the inauguration -- misbehaved. They blocked the parade route, taunted and tripped the marchers, and, according to the New York Tribune, “many of them were so drunk, they had to be held up by their companions while all shouted their insults.” Even the police seemed to join in the mocking.

The public outcry and press coverage that followed led to another familiar Washington sight – the Congressional Hearing. One who testified was Elizabeth V. Brown, who had
The sharp, woody scent of rosemary knifes through the cemetery this time of year, especially near the public vault and the Arsenal Monument rose garden. Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis) is an evergreen, and you can see its needle shaped leaves all year round, but in spring it develops little clouds of sky blue (and sometimes white or pink) flowers that last into the summer. The smell may evoke roast chicken and potatoes for you, or may remind you of summer dinners from the grill. Or a soothing herbal bath. Many smells bring back memories, but rosemary is particularly good at it.

Rosemary has, for centuries, been the symbol of memory. The nine Muses in Greek mythology are often depicted with rosemary in their hands. The Muses’ mother was Mnemosyne, the personification of memory. In Act IV, scene 5 of Hamlet, Shakespeare gives these words to the increasingly daft Ophelia before her suicide: “There’s rosemary, that’s for remembrance; pray, love, remember.” And in the sixteenth century, Sir Thomas More wrote of his Chelsea garden “as for rosemary I let it run all over my garden walls, not only because my bees love it but because it is the herb sacred to love and remembrance and therefore friendship.” In this century, a scientific study at the University of Northumbria tested the link between the scent of rosemary and memory in a lab. The results, published in the International Journal of Neuroscience, were that “rosemary produced a significant enhancement of performance for overall quality of memory and secondary memory factors.”

A plant known for remembrance is particularly apt in a cemetery, or course. In ancient times, sprigs of rosemary were laid at the grave of loved ones as a token of loyalty and commemoration. Many different burial customs call for placing rosemary inside the coffin for remembrance. We plant it at HCC for its bright evergreen needles, its hardiness, and its lovely scent. Feel free to pick a couple of sprigs off the bigger bushes by the public vault to bring home and remember us!
I need to say, we were like kids in a candy shop when it came to this aspect of the project. And for that we owe a big thanks to Sandy Schmidt, who has worked ceaselessly for many years to collect, sort and make sense of the records at the cemetery, and many other sources of historical information. Our goal is to make this utility worthy of Sandy’s hard work and sacrifice.

Beyond this amazing database utility, the site is festooned with all the latest utilities, including a robust administrative back end that allows cemetery staff and volunteers to post stories, calendar items, photo albums and videos. The cemetery site is built using the same content management system deployed by the White House. For the techies out there, it is Drupal.

Q: What were some of the design challenges and opportunities?

SH: Our original proposal was to present the natural beauty of cemetery as prominently as possible, without the distraction of clip art or excessive typography. But the natural beauty of the cemetery is not static; it changes with every season. For that reason, we have built four different themes to represent each season. The masthead photo and the background colors change with each season, allowing visitors to get a sense of what they might find if they came in person. We pitched this idea well before the winter snows fell. So, we were crossing our fingers for weeks hoping that there would be a lot of white stuff to photograph this year. We were not disappointed. A lot of the photos on the new site were shot by New Media Mill.

Websites evolve. We never consider a website finished and CongressionalCemetery.org is no exception. We have built in administrative tools to measure site traffic and other human factors. This kind of empirical data will be significant as the professional staff at the cemetery evaluates the utilities and design. The entire site was built on a very flexible platform that allows changes in navigation and story layout with no experience in website coding tools.

Q: Did you and your team like working on this project?

SH: We could not have enjoyed this project more. We meet with Cemetery staff every week. Going to the gatehouse for meetings was a highlight, just being around the history and natural beauty is an inspiration.

Q: How can users post feedback? Content? Photos?

SH: Photos can be uploaded using an email program. This will deposit them in the Congressional Cemetery Flickr account. Once there, cemetery staff can sort and present the photos on the website. We have also added “wiki” functionality to the articles about people buried in the cemetery. In this way, visitors to the site can add comments and historical tidbits that can be incorporated into the public story. These submissions are not automatically published, but need to be validated and incorporated by Cemetery staff and volunteers with permission. For those who are familiar with Wikipedia’s discussion tab, we have built this into this functionality.

Q: Who is that foxy dog we see sneaking into your photos?

SH: You outed me. I have been an HCC dogwalker since 2001. That’s Mike, our purebred West Virginia Porch Dog. He is kinda handsome, but not the sharpest tool in the shed.
was rejuvenated, working committees developed, new strategic partnerships were forged, and modern business practices were instituted. Grants were secured for interpretive signage, the 911 Grove, a computer system, volunteer and docent programs, brochures, the bicentennial and Remembrance celebrations, restoration of stones and vaults, a $1.75 million restoration of the cenotaphs, and over $3 million in authorizations and appropriation to replace the paths and roads and drainage problems. With all of this activity, she still kept the Board focused on fulfilling the plan and making the tough decisions that laid the groundwork for accomplishing its objectives.

Joyce Palmer

Joyce Palmer joined the board in 2006 as a member from Christ Church and made an impact the day she walked in the door. The Board had talked about offering regular guided tours for many years – she made it happen. She recruited and trained the Dozen Decent Docents—professionally trained volunteer tour guides who are bright, eager, fun, dependable, responsible, and dedicated. The DDD program is a centerpiece of the Association’s outreach to the city and the nation, imparting the joy of discovery, along with bits of history. Because Docent-led tours were only available on Saturdays, she developed our cell phone tours to allow our visitors to dial a number to hear a story about the person’s whose grave they are standing over. She professionalized this by recruiting Madeleine Albright to record our Secretary of State and Sandra Day O’Connor our Supreme Court Justice.

Emily Crandall

An accordion player, Joyce loves music and what more perfect match than John Philip Sousa and a marching band. Each year we now welcome the visits of over 20 marching and community bands from across the nation who “play” tribute to the March King at his grave site. It is a unique and wonderful gift to both our community and the hometowns from which they come.

The lasting tribute to Emily is the Docents Rose Garden at the Arsenal Monument. Heritage roses, aromatic rosemary and a granite foundation re dedicate the memorial tribute to the young women who were killed in the 1864 Arsenal explosion. The Docents’ Rose Garden will enhance visitors’ experience of Congressional for many decades to come.
was a constant factor in almost all aspects of the strategic plan, including the development of burial services over the next 100 years. Industry trends show increasing preference for cremation and inurnment rather than traditional full casket burials. Responding to that demand, the Association engaged the local landscape architecture firm Oehme van Sweden to develop a land use plan to make the most efficient use of our remaining available space. Columbaria and in-ground niches became a major thrust of that design plan, called Opportunities for Growth.

Among the many opportunities, the development plan envisions eight low rise columbaria walls anchoring the ends of the north/south streets in the center of the grounds. Modest and intimate, the new structures provide a right angle zig-zag wall that will establish a natural garden and meditative area nestled in the arms of the wall. A red brick façade over an irregular granite foundation will tie back to the walls along the east and west sides of the original squares.

Alan Davis, Cemetery Manager, hopes to see at least two units completed this year to satisfy the many requests he has on hold, pending development of the columbaria opportunities.

**Calendar**

May 22 11:00am-12:00pm & 12:00-1:00pm · Chapel
Sinners and Scoundrels Tour for Walking Town DC
Reserve at www.culturaltourismdc.org

May 29 8:00am · Gatehouse
Boy Scout flag memorial ceremony

June 5 1:00pm · Chapel
Special Walking Tour
Women’s Suffrage Tour

June 12 6:00pm · Chapel
Wine and Cheese Lecture
The History of Congressional Cemetery with Julia Sienkewicz

June 19 1:00pm · Chapel
Special Walking Tour
Civil War History Tour with Steve Hammond

June 26 1:00pm · Chapel
Pre-need burial seminar

July 17 1:00pm · Chapel
Special Walking Tour
Civil War History Tour with Steve Hammond
In his near-century of life, William Mott Steuart saw a lot of changes in America, and he counted many of them. He was born to Texas homesteaders on the eve of the Civil War. When his father died, his mother took the tiny William to Washington DC on a boat, which had to run a blockade to arrive safely.

While putting himself through college at Columbian College (now George Washington University), Steuart got a job with the 1880 census. Census legend has it that the teenage Steuart’s first job was to stand behind an official and blot his signature as he signed letters. Steuart worked on the 1890 and 1900 censuses, too, while he went to law school and opened a law practice.

When the Census Office became a permanent bureau in 1902, Steuart became permanent, also. He worked his way up through various statistical offices, eventually becoming director in 1921, under then-Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover.

The only big census Steuart presided over as Director was 1930. Now-president Herbert Hoover was eager for the census to be accurate, efficient, and, in those desperate economic times, on the cheap. Steuart helped adapt new tabulating machines and methods, and was able to complete a preliminary population total in half the time it had taken the 1920 census.

Steuart left the Census Bureau in 1933, two years past the mandatory retirement age of 70. He went on to enjoy another quarter century of retirement, dying in 1956 at the age of 95. He is buried in the plot of his wife’s family, the Heibergers, at range 87, site 182.

Although Steuart’s methods were state-of-the-art for 1930, his task paled in comparison to that facing the current census takers in 2010. For comparison’s sake:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>2010 (estimates)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Population</td>
<td>122,775,046</td>
<td>309,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US States</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census takers</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>over 500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population of Los Angeles</td>
<td>1,238,048</td>
<td>3,833,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population of Detroit</td>
<td>1,568,662</td>
<td>912,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions on the 1930 census that are not on the 2010 census:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you own a radio set?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What was your age at your first marriage?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions on the 2010 census that were not on the 1930 census:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is your telephone number?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you sometimes live or stay somewhere else?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yes!
I want to help preserve and restore Congressional Cemetery with a tax-deductible donation.
☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ Other ________
☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Congressional Cemetery
☐ Please charge my credit card  ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard

CARD NUMBER
CARDMEMBER NAME
SIGNATURE
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY  STATE  ZIP
PHONE/S
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.

---

Where do you see yourself in 100 years?

Reserve your place in American History

Congressional Cemetery is a non-denominational burial ground open to the whole community.

Introducing Green Burials this fall. Traditional grave sites are available in a number of price ranges.

Call Today
Alan Davis, Cemetery Manager
adavis@congressionalcemetery.org
202-543-0539

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