

Heritage Gazette

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY • SPRING 2011

Changes on the Board

Sew executive officers of the Association were introduced at the Annual Meeting in April. John Gillespie, who served as Treasurer, is the new Chair. Vice Chairman George Chamberlain held his position; five year board member and site owner Clyde Henderson is Secretary and new member, Stephen Lybarger, will serve as Treasurer.

After the required business, glowing tributes were paid to outgoing Board Chairman, Patrick Crowley, and Secretary Alice Norris for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Association and the Cemetery.

Patrick Crowley became familiar with Congressional in

the early 90's as the neighborhood place to walk his St Bernard. As the grounds were not kept on a regular basis then, he started his many years of volunteering here by shoveling the muck out of the gutters to keep his dog from eating it. That single job turned into recruiting other dogwalkers to help by taxing themselves and giving the money to the board of directors to mow the grass. Patrick was recruited to join the Board in 2001, and was elected secretary of the Association.

His emphasis was always on the grounds and infrastructure. Patrick served as chairman of the 2007 bicentennial celebration, and traded positions with Linda Harper becoming chairman of the Board at its conclusion. Taking early retirement from the Federal Energy Regulatory

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ROLL YOUR STOCKINGS DOWN AND COME JOIN THE PARTY to meet the lawmen, bootleggers, temperance ladies and bartenders who faced off in the local war over demon rum. We will celebrate those citizens, dry or wet, with "Last Call: Historic Congressional Cemetery's Prohibition Tour." Details on page 6





Letter from the Chair

LISTEN FOR THE INVITATION

As I begin my tenure as chairperson of the board, my heartfelt thanks goes to departing board chair, Patrick Crowley, and board secretary, Alice Norris. Their leadership, advice, humor, and commitment to the Cemetery will be missed.

Back in late 2007, I was already a dog walker for 18 months, and stopped by HCC for an event. Linda Harper, board chair at the time, and a client of my consulting company, asked for my help with some of the HCC financial reporting, and I volunteered. I had done other volunteer work but wanted to make a difference, close to my neighborhood. I became Treasurer in 2008 and board chair in March, 2011.

As we move from the “infrastructure” period (new roads, water lines, etc.) to one of sustainability, it will take involvement from all of our stakeholders. I’ll be asking association members, dog walkers and those in the community to listen for the invitation to participate and to find opportunities for involvement and engagement. Working together, we will insure that HCC continues to be a historic treasure for all to enjoy.

A few months ago, we invited six new people to our board; they accepted and were elected at the March board meeting. As we start this new era, we’ll be inviting others to assist the board and cemetery staff on key issues. I look forward to getting to know more of you in the HCC community, and to working together. I am honored and humbled to continue to serve, and to be your board chair.

John Gillespie



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

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The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are deductible to the extent permitted by federal tax laws. Funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided in part by the Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the U.S. Congress and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.





From the Executive Director

As spring brings new life with new leaves and blossoms on trees and the grass grows again, so our Association renews itself. Eight years ago, the Board voted to establish term limits of a maximum of six years. This year two very special members, Chair Patrick Crowley and Secretary, Alice Norris, both of whom I respect very much and counted on their advice, termed off. But we also gained six new members who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board.

The Oehme van Sweden landscape development plan, adopted in 2010, laid a course of replanting the cemetery with hundreds of new trees over the next ten years, as well as new burial opportunities. We are still considering the burial opportu-

nities, but with the new cemetery-wide watering system established, the first series of trees were planted in March. The plan is to plant each fall and spring as many trees as there is money to purchase them.

Our good friends at the Casey Tree Foundation donated 28 Shagbark Hickory and Black Gum. On March 26th, Casey staff and citizen foresters, and our dogwalker volunteers planted them along Pinkney (20th Street) and Wittingham (21st Street). Another 30 trees were donated by Edward S. Miller, chapters of the D.C. DAR, the D.C. CAR, and several individuals, on the main roads around the chapel and at the end of the cemetery. The trees have been adopted by dog-walking families who will water them for the next two years.

We again welcomed new interns from West Springfield High School – this year four seniors who will spend 100 hours each working on stone projects. Jim Percoco is well known for his outstanding Applied History course that adds to the regular classroom curriculum tours and internships. Emily Dorn, Emily Cox, Ryan Lugo and Thomas Fish have inventoried the 171 cenotaphs, photographed each stone and the engraved marble face plate, added them to our website, confirmed spelling of names where the stone disagreed with the Congressional Bibliographical materials, and counted the number of bodies that still reside under those monuments.

We have a full course of spring programs and activities lined up. If you haven't been here in a while, come on back.

Cindy Hays

Stone stories

Friendship, Benevolence, and Charity in Civil War's wake

The mid-nineteenth century was not a time when many Americans were making unity and friendship priorities. Justus Henry Rathbone was born in 1839, and grew up in the time when the United States was making its way toward becoming the Divided States. In his twenties, Rathbone served as a hospital steward during the Civil War. He was a man of intelligence and gentle character, graduating from

Colgate University and attending Carlisle Seminary. He loved music and acting, and though the foundation of his moral fiber was established during one of the bloodiest and saddest periods in American history, Rathbone developed a deep love for humanity and a great respect for honor and true friendship.

After the War Between the States ripped gaping holes in the unity of this country, Rathbone

responded to the residual hatred, division, and anger, by striving to create an environment that would rekindle brotherly sentiment. While at university, Rathbone was deeply impressed by the Greek myth of Damon and Pythias, and the trust and loyal friendship it represents. According to the legend, Pythias was accused and found guilty of a plotting against the tyrant Dion-

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Around the Gatehouse

CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES TOUR

On a beautiful April night, under the Kwanzan cherry blossoms (see page 5) a crowd gathered to hear the stories of HCC's Civil Rights heroes from the past two hundred years. The event was put together in partnership with the Faith and Politics Institute, and featured abolitionists, American Indian advocates, suffragists, and gay rights activists who had dedicated their lives to social justice. Many of the biographies were read by representatives of organization that remain dedicated to those causes.



Jarrod Chlapowski of GLAAD tells the story of Gay Rights hero Leonard Matlovich

A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO QUENCH YOUR THIRST

Thanks to our dedicated dogwalkers, and in particular the efforts of Toni Burnham, our four-legged visitors (and the people that love them) now have two amazing new water fountains! The striking Victorian fountains have two bowls — one up top for humans, and one at ground level for dogs. Thanks to

all the dogwalkers who bought and sold K-9 corps t-shirts to provide this fabulous and much-needed additions.



The indefatigable Toni Burnham unveils the new fountain

PARTYING WITH JOHN GASDBY

John Gadsby's legendary hospitality (see page 9) lives on, 167 years after his death. The Alexandria Association's Spring Event, hosted by Gadsby's Tavern Museum in Old Town Alexandria, celebrated the life and times of Mr. Gadsby at the cemetery on April 30th. Champagne-sipping patrons got a rare peek inside the



Gadsby family vault, and a tour of the graves of prominent Washingtonians who patronized Gadby's properties, including the Tavern, Gadsby's Hotel (on Pennsylvania Avenue between 20th & 21st Streets, NW) and the famous National Hotel at 6th and Pennsylvania NW.

DEAD MAN'S RUN

The cemetery's first 5K Dead Man's Run was to die for! Almost 600 runners spent the early hours of Mother's Day running the trail through the cemetery and the river trail beyond. Thanks to Patrick Crowley, our sponsors, and everyone who ran for making the event such a success. Proceeds will go toward our stone restoration and educational outreach programs.



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From the Ground Up

Kwanzan Cherry Trees

When they are in full bloom, it's impossible to miss the showy, bubble-gum pink double blossoms of the Kwanzan cherry trees (*prunus serrulata* "Kwanzan") near the cemetery chapel. Kwanzan blossoms are more full, more ruffled, and frankly more pink than the delicate, restrained cherry varieties that attract crowds to the Tidal Basin. Our exuberant blossoms are a popular backdrop

for photographers, who can be found on the grounds almost every sunny hour in mid-April when the trees bloom. But even when the last of the blossoms have fluttered to the ground in a frothy shower, the Kwanzans are striking. The leaves (which, rather unusually, begin to grow while the flowers are still in bloom) start off bronze and quickly turn a rich green. The

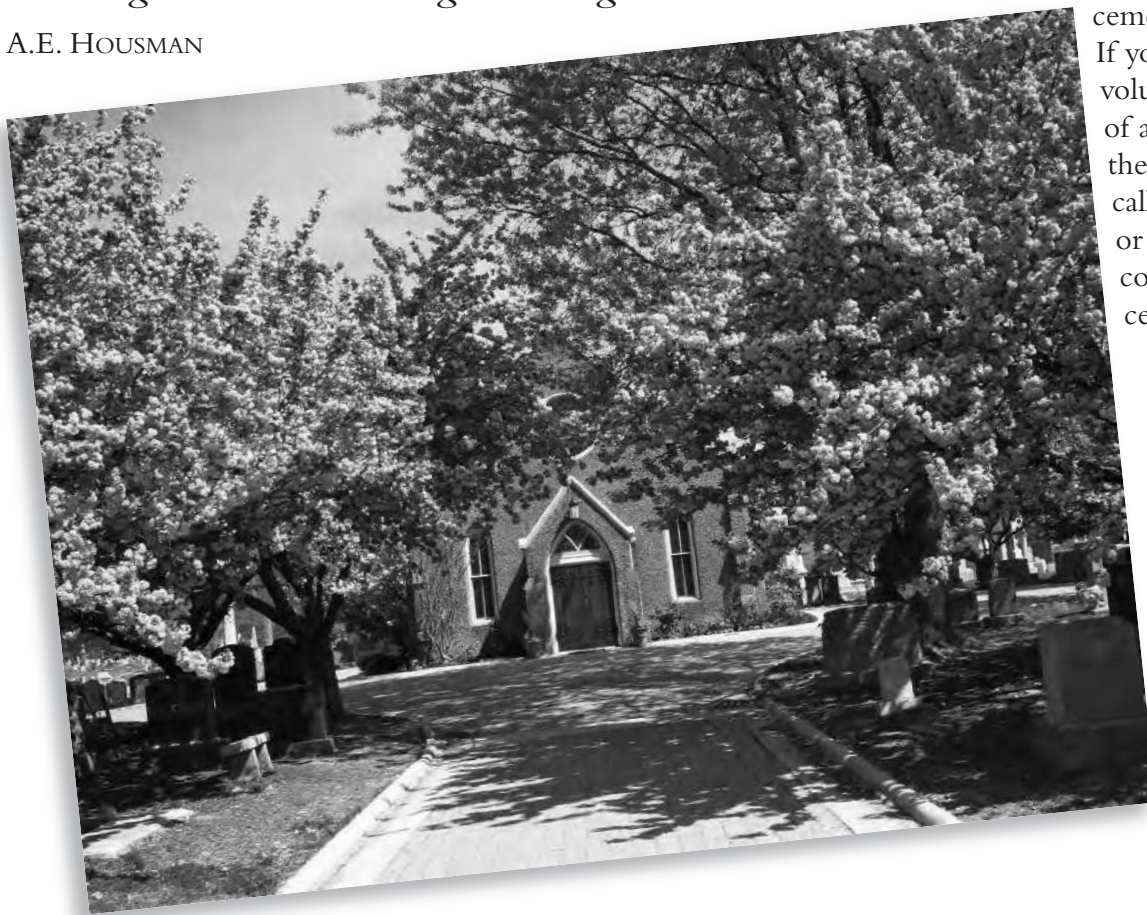


trees' vase-shaped form spreads with age, so the mature specimens between the chapel and John Philip Sousa's grave are wider than they are tall.

On the other side of the chapel, we have planted some new Kwanzans heading down toward Leonard Matlovich's grave. These trees are part of the enormous new tree project we have recently undertaken at the cemetery (see page 8). If you would like to volunteer to take care of a tree or donate to the tree fund, please call 202-543-0539 or email staff@congressionalcemetery.org.

*"Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough."*

A.E. HOUSMAN



Kwanzan cherry blossoms showing off





LAST CALL: Historic Congressional Cemetery's Prohibition Tour



Roll your stockings down, hop in your jalopy, and jive on down to Historic Congressional Cemetery for a stroll through the characters of Prohibition Era Washington. Meet the bootleggers who sold panther sweat and the cops who tried to send 'em to the Big House. Meet the dry-as-dust Temperance ladies and the bartenders who poured out the moonshine with a generous hand. And of course, the Big Cheese g-man J. Edgar Hoover. We will celebrate those citizens, dry or wet, with "Last Call: Historic Congressional Cemetery's Prohibition Tour." Of course, no Prohibition Tour would be complete without a cocktail or two, so our 1832 Public Vault will become a speakeasy for the occasion. It promises to be quite an event.

Congressional Cemetery's Prohibition Tour." Of course, no Prohibition Tour would be complete

without a cocktail or two, so our 1832 Public Vault will become a speakeasy for the occasion. It promises to be quite an event.





FEATURING (AMONG OTHERS) Eugene “Doc” Smith, notorious DC bootlegger, whose body was found dumped in Southeast Washington

Nellie H. Bradley, under the pen name “Stella of Washington” she wrote stirring Temperance Anthems like “Father’s a Drunkard and Mother is Dead”

J. Edgar Hoover, the 29-year-old director of the Justice

Department’s new Bureau of Investigation, eager to prove himself by cracking down on bootleggers.

Major Raymond Pullman, as DC Chief of Police, he created the unpopular “bootleg cordon” by placing whiskey runner guards on roads leading into the District

James Bellew, bartender on Washington’s “Rum Row” at

14th and Pennsylvania NW, where the Rickey cocktail was invented.

Join the party Friday May 20 for walk through history and a cocktail or two (this isn’t rotgut, this is quality hooch!) 7:00 pm. \$75/person (\$50 is tax-deductible). For more information or to reserve online visit www.congressionalcemetery.org or call 202-543-0539

STONE STORIES

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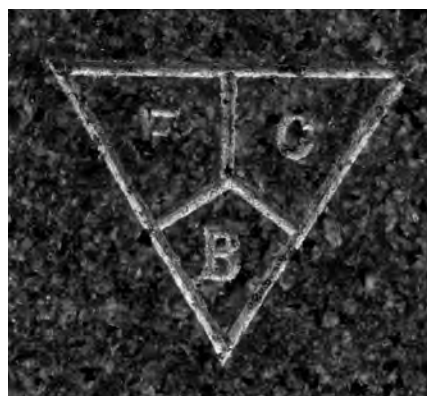
ysis I, and was sentenced to death. He requested that he could return to his family to bid them a final farewell, but Dionysis I would not grant him this request on the grounds that he did not believe Pythias would return. Pythias then asked his dear friend Damon, to take his

place until his return, which Damon did without hesitation, trusting his friend implicitly. The day that Pythias had vowed to return and be executed came and went, and Damon was taken to be put to death in his place. Just as the executioner was to complete his task, Pythias appeared, explaining how his ship had been taken by pirates and he was thrown overboard to drown. But

instead of drowning, Pythias swam to shore and made his way back, thankfully in time to save his friend from his fate. Dionysis I was so moved by the loyalty, trust, and amity between the two, that he not only freed them,

but kept them on as counsel to his court.

Rathbone took inspiration from this story and founded the Knights of Pythias, in Washington, DC on February 9th, 1864. A fraternal order, based on the ideals and principles represented by the three letters often seen in their funerary markers, F-B-C, standing for friendship, benevolence, and charity. Though Rathbone is buried in Utica, New York, his childhood home, Congressional Cemetery is the final resting place for at least 65 members of his organization. Monuments dedicated to the Knights of Pythias are often decorated with symbols of the brotherhood; helmets, swords, skull and crossbones on a heraldic shield, or letters like F-B-C, K-P (Knights of Pythias), and I-O-K-P (Independent Order of the Knights of Pythias). Many of the Knight’s stones that are found on the grounds here at Historic Congressional Cemetery, display such iconography, reminding visitors that faithfulness, compassion, and honest companionship are eternal qualities that we all can share.



You can find Knights of Pythias emblems on graves all over the cemetery





Conservation Restoration

He Who Plants a Tree Plants a Hope

Following the path established by the Oehme van Sweden landscape development plan, adopted in 2010, 58 new trees were planted in March. Six different varieties were chosen to either replace what had once been here or what could have been here.

The Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovate*) is a large deciduous tree, growing up to 80 feet tall, and has a possible life span of up to 200 years — same age as the cemetery. Mature Shagbarks have shaggy bark and a tall straight up canopy, and the squirrels will feast on the nuts in the fall. Donated by Casey Tree Foundation, 14 were planted facing each other in a line down Wittingham (21st Street) by volunteers.

Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) or Black Tupelo tree is noted for its outstanding and consistent fall red color. The leaf of the Black Gum turns from dark green elliptic glossy in summer to purple in autumn, and eventually becomes an intense bright scarlet. The bark is dark grey and flaky now, but will become furrowed with age, resembling an alligator's hide. The wood, which is very strong, was used in colonial times for water pipes. Donated by Casey Tree Foundation, 14 were planted facing each other in a line

down Pinkney (20st Street) by volunteers.

The professionals of Ruppert Nursery Landscaping provided the other donated trees: five Little-Leaf Lindens, five Northern Red Oaks, ten Kwanzan Cherries, and ten Sunburst Honey Locusts.

The magnificent trees that line the main entrance are Little-Leaf Lindens (*Tilia cordata*). We don't know when they were planted, but know that they were mature trees in 1980. In early summer, small yellow-green flowers, resembling strips of silver, grow in clusters and have a rich, heavy scent. This is a favorite tree for the bees.

The Kwanzan cherry (*Prunus serrulata 'kwanzan'*) is well known in Washington around the Tidal Basin and at Congressional. The beautiful pink double blossom flower blooms in mid-April, after the other varieties are gone. Breathtaking in the spring, they are also beautiful at the end of autumn when the green leaves turn yellow, red or crimson. The species was introduced in America in 1903, the year the Chapel was built. In 1982, the California and District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution funded the purchase of 50 Kwanzan Cherry trees in honor of George Washington's



250th birthday. They lined the Chapel road from the 17th Street gate to 19th Street. The remaining 23 trees are now 29 years old, and not likely to last much longer, so the D.C. DAR and some of its members funded the purchase of 10 new trees to start the replacement.

The ten Sunburst Honey Locust (*gleditsia tri inermis*), which now line Congress Street beyond the chapel, are a special thornless, podless variety. The trees grow up to 50 to 70 ft with a spread of over 30 ft. The fine, lacy golden yellow leaves on the open canopy allow dappled light to reach the ground. In autumn, the small leaflets filter into the grass as they fall, requiring little raking.

One hundred years ago, Congressional was populated with hundreds of oak trees providing shaded arbors. Although there are still a few on the property, there were no Northern Red Oaks remaining. Today, we have five new ones in special places. Four now line the formerly majestic brick steps leading to the Barney Circle entrance to the cemetery which was closed off. And the fifth is in the oldest section of the cemetery and will provide shade to Revolutionary, 1812, and Civil War patriots and their families.

The Red Oak (*Quercus ruba*) grows to 60'-75' tall with a rounded canopy spread of 40'-50" wide. The leaves emerge reddish, become dark-green in summer, and turn variable reds in fall. And the fall acorns will provide food for all our squirrels throughout the winter. ~





American Heritage

John Gadsby: A “respectable and useful citizen of this place”

In 1795, before Washington was a city, a young Englishman named John Gadsby emigrated with his wife and family and operated a tavern in Alexandria. Gadsby’s

tavern (still serving today, at 138 North Royal Street in Old Town) became a popular spot for the leaders of our new nation. Nearly all the Founding Fathers

dined and drank there at some point, and it was home to grand society balls as the eighteenth century turned to the nineteenth.

Like most successful businessmen, John Gadsby looked for opportunities to expand. But in those days, Washington was still a very new town, and the more established commerce of Baltimore looked like a better bet. Gadsby established Baltimore’s Indian Queen Hotel, and built a reputation for high standards and elegant hospitality.

By 1824, Gadsby and the City of Washington were finally ready for each other. Gadsby bought the Franklin Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue between 20th and 21st Streets NW, which quickly became known as Gadsby’s Hotel. But the forty minute carriage ride from Gadsby’s to the U.S. Capitol made that location less than ideal. In 1826, he bought up a row of houses at 6th and Pennsylvania NW and turned them into one grand building. The result was the National Hotel, a grand and stylish destination for Washington’s most fashionable visitors.

Gadsby’s family grew with his fortunes. When he died in 1844 at the age of 78, he had quite a fortune to pass on to his many children and grandchildren. His obituary says, “On Wednesday evening, May 15, at half past 6 o’clock, Mr. John Gadsby long known as a respectable and useful citizen of this place.” He is buried in the imposing Gadsby family vault, along with his descendants, just across from the public vault.



The interior of the Gadsby Family Vault.





CHANGES TO THE BOARD

Continued from page 1

Commission, he became a full-time chairman. During his four years as Chair, he led the organization's transition from a part-time cemetery manager to a full-time professional staff, and worked closely with the engineering firm and contractors to build the roads and cure the decades old flooding and drainage problems.

Although Patrick will no longer have to attend Board meeting, he has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Advisory Committee and will continue to be an important part of Historic Congressional Cemetery.

Alice Norris was appointed to the Board 6 years ago as a representative of Christ Church. As a long term Capitol Hill resident and a social historian, she worked with the local community to raise money and awareness. She was elected Secretary of the Association Board in 2007. Her wit and solid advice in important decisions that will affect the cemetery for many years to come will be sorely missed, but since she has bought a site here, she will always be with us forever.

While it is always sad to bid farewell to our departing board members, we are extremely excited to welcome a large group of new recruits. We look forward to working with our six latest board members, and know we will greatly benefit from the many talents they bring to our organization.

Members of the HCC family already know **Sharon**

Bosworth as one of the Dozen Decent Docents. Not only can Sharon put together a successful marketing campaign, but she is an expert in one of the most important issues in Washington, DC – where to get the best food in the neighborhood. Her day job is the Marketing Manager for Barracks Row Main Street on Capitol Hill. When she's not talking up 8th street, Sharon acts as an independent tour guide, showing people where to grab the best grub in the nation's capitol. Sharon lives on Capitol Hill, serves on the Vestry at Christ Church, and often travels to New York City to visit her three grandchildren.

Kelly Crowe's background in business development has made her expert in strategy formulation, finance, and sales and marketing. Crowe started in 1989 as an Assistant to the National Sales Manager at Morgan Keegan & Company, one of the nation's largest regional investment firms, and has risen to the position of Vice President of Business Development at the Center for Health Transformation in Washington, DC. The Center was founded by Newt Gingrich and aims to create a health system that will save both lives and money. As if her work experience weren't enough, Kelly has a variety of awards to back up her expertise. Among these are being ranked the number one health-care analyst for earnings-estimate accuracy in 1999 by the Wall Street Journal, and receiving recognition as a Top 10 Marketer at the Advisory Board Company in 2004.

Some of the largest national banks in the country entrusted **Stephen Lybarger** with their licensing. Now we get to profit from his impressive experience that spans over 36 years, as he joins our board as Treasurer. As a Large Bank Licensing Lead Expert, Stephen worked with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and he is currently the Deputy Comptroller for Licensing at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. In this role, he oversees the agency's licensing function in its Washington, DC, headquarters and its four district offices. He is responsible for licensing national banks and supervising their activities and structure changes that support a safe national banking system.

Edward S. Miller moved to Washington when he was appointed by President Reagan in 1982 as VP of Finance of the U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation. Since retiring he has lived his passion — researching and writing naval history. His first book *War Plan Orange: The U.S. Strategy to Defeat Japan, 1897-1945* won five history prizes, was translated into Japanese, and was reissued in paperback in 2007. His combined interests in finance and national strategy led to *Bankrupting the Enemy: The U.S. Financial Siege Before Pearl Harbor*, published in 2007. Ed is a member of Madison Council of the Library of Congress and he and his late wife, Joyce, founded the Miller American History Fund, an endowment to acquire works not available through copyright deposit, and an adviser to new researchers at the Library. He is





on the Board of the Naval Institute, and managing trustee of three private foundations.

Noris Weiss Malvey has supported and enjoyed the cemetery as a member of our K9 Corps. Now, she brings her vast experience in fundraising to our board. She first embarked on her career in 1997 as Director of Development for the National Association of Social Workers, and now she works as the Director of Development for the Alliance for Excellent Education, which focuses on high school reform. In her free time, Noris still helps her community, not only as a K9 Corps member, but also by conducting seminars on grassroots fundraising.

Beverly Ward has worked in two of the most important homes in Washington, DC. She has served in a house of God for 18 years as a member of the Christ Church, and she also worked in the White House with the U.S. Department of Education. Currently, Beverly maintains ties between the Capitol Visitor Center and the House and Senate members' offices, and works directly with Congressional Oversight committees regarding Visitor Center's operations. Although she has lived in Capitol Hill for 25 years, Beverly did not pass up an opportunity to help her home state of Mississippi, as she assisted Senator Thad Cochran in assessing the needs of schools, communities, and individuals in the area who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. ~

Archives

A great accommodation to the visitors



Flower Vendors in 1943. Photo by Joseph A. Horne

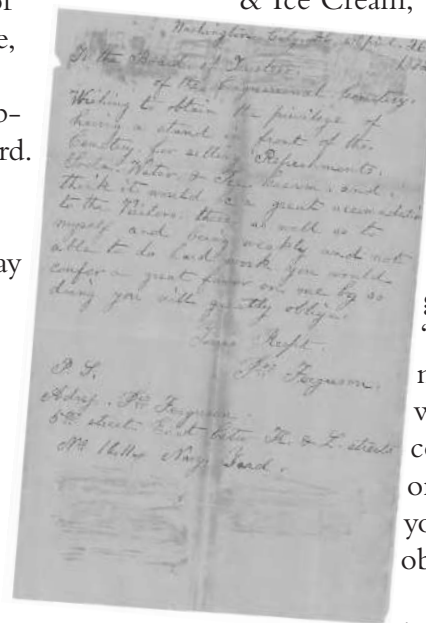
Today, if you wish to place flowers on a grave at HCC, it's strictly B.Y.O.F. But there was a time when flower sellers lined the sidewalk in front of the 17th street gate, eager to provide whatever floral tribute you could afford. In a Library of Congress photo from Memorial Day weekend 1943, women in hats sit by bushel baskets overflowing with blossoms, waiting for empty-handed mourners.

But vendors by the gates were not a twentieth-century phenomenon. Archivist Dayle Doo-ley recently found a letter dated "Washington City DC April 26th 1872". It is an appeal to the Board of Directors from one

Joseph Ferguson, hoping to set up what amounts to a pop stand in front of the cemetery. "For selling Refreshments, Soda, Water & Ice Cream," Ferguson says,

"and I think it would be a great accommodation to the visitors." Clearly hoping for the sympathy vote, Ferguson goes on to write, "being weakly and not able to do hard work you would confer a great favor on me by so doing you will greatly oblige."

Ferguson's plea didn't work. On the back of the letter it is annotated "Petition of Jos. Ferguson to erect a refreshment stand in front of Cemetery, not granted May 13th 1872." ~





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Calendar

MAY 20

7:00pm Chapel Last Call Prohibition Party

MAY 21

11:00am Chapel Free docent led tour

1:00pm Chapel Free Docent led Civil War tour

MAY 28

11:00am Chapel Free docent led tour

JUNE 4

11:00am Chapel Free docent led tour

JUNE 11

11:00am Chapel Free docent led tour

JUNE 18

11:00am Chapel Free docent led tour

1:00pm Chapel Free Docent led Civil War tour



Reserve your place in American History
Congressional Cemetery is a non-denominational burial ground open to the whole community. Introducing burial niches next fall. Traditional grave sites are available in a number of price ranges. Call today.
Alan Davis, Cemetery Manager
adavis@congressionalcemetery.org
202-543-0539

