



Heritage Gazette

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY • SUMMER 2011

On Kissing Terms with Freedom

The Statue of Freedom crowning the Capitol dome needed some attention in 1993. In order to repair her cracks and rust and corrosion, Freedom was airlifted off the dome by a helicopter, and gently moved to the ground where conservators could reach her. But a hundred years ago, the Statue of Freedom couldn't fly. If she needed repairs or cleaning, you had to go visit her 288 feet above the ground. It was not a job for anyone prone to vertigo.

From 1870 to 1910, the man for the job was Albert Ports (R.3/S246). Employed as a "rigger" at the Capitol, it was Ports' job to keep Freedom clean and swap out her lightning rods on a regular basis. Known as "The Human Fly" for his agility and complete lack of fear, Ports designed and installed scaffolding around the statue the first time he climbed up to give her a bath. In an interview with Capitol Historian Smith Fry, Ports said, "There is only a four inch surface on which to construct a rigging around the Goddess, and it is ticklish work. But I have never been dizzy in my life, and I had an exhilarating experience making the rigging. I can go up there in my stocking feet and climb to the top of the head of the goddess, just by clinging to her bronze robes. Of course, if I'd slip, there'd be a funeral, and there would be lots of nice things said in print about old Al that aren't being said about him while he hustles around this big building."

Ports might have shown no fear, but he did show sentiment. He was clearly fond of the statue, maybe even a little in love with her. "She has a beautiful face.... People can't appreciate her full beauty from the ground. They can't see her splendid features. I like to go up there and admire and worship her." In fact, on one trip up the dome, Ports went so far as to kiss the statue, right on her foot-wide lips.

Join us October 7th at 6pm for wine, cheese, and author Gordon Brown to discuss his new book *The Captain Who Burned His Ships: Captain Thomas Tingey, USN, 1750-1829*



Letter from the Chair

DOG DAYS OBSERVATIONS

Growing up outside Boston, fall and winter have always been my favorite seasons. The summer in DC challenges my internal thermostat. But if I had stayed inside this month (my preference), I would have missed some personal and memorable summer Cemetery moments.



THE “SOLO DOG” CEMETERY

On Sunday July 10th, I walked over to HCC with my dog, Maggie. I had to stop by the office to sign some checks and thank you notes, and to talk with Cindy Hays. Although it was outside dog-walking hours, Maggie and I took a brief walk after our meeting, just a short walk around the chapel and surrounding areas. As I looked around, just me and my dog, the silence was breathtaking. The bustling capitol city seemed far away.

FULL MOON

On July 14th, after the board meeting ended, the almost-full moon was hanging low above the cemetery. As it illuminated certain gravestones, the grounds took on a surrealistic look. Take time to catch one of the 5 full moons left this year.

THE “OPEN SPACES SACRED PLACES” BENCH BOOK

My favorite HCC place is the reflective TKF Foundation bench south of the totem pole, where glancing views of Pennsylvania Avenue always show the comings and goings of cars and people. On Saturday July 16th, I pulled out the book under the bench and read a few entries. The writing showed in black and white the impact this cemetery has on its visitors. Priceless — from the sublime (“Here, surrounded by what is the one certainty of my future – death – I realize a life lived in my head, my dreams, is not a life, not really.”) to the ridiculous (“I am quite fond of Daisy Posey Sowerbutts and her generous sacrifice in taking her husband’s name.”) For more information about Open Spaces Sacred Places like our meditation benches, go to www.TKFFdn.org.

Even (especially) in the summer heat, take time to wander around, to appreciate those silent moments, the ones that make our Cemetery home for all seasons.

—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

This summer, even though the heat has been oppressive at times, there has been so much activity around the cemetery. We have had dozens of volunteer groups spending half a day with us on projects that we could never afford to have done alone. Sixty new trees have been adopted by dog-walking families, and the new Victorian spigots are getting a good workout. We are so fortunate to be joined also by intern Victoria Markovitz, an Anthropology and Archeology Masters Candidate from Catholic University.

A third of the board members are new, and three quarters of the executive committee are serving in new posts. It is a delight to work with them, as they become acclimated to the opportunities for growth in our interpretative

mission, as well as the business mission of new areas of interment.

During the summer holidays we honor our many veterans, from the Revolution to Afghanistan. Patriotism was certainly visible with 1200 flags on veterans' graves, ceremonies and dedications, and visiting bands playing John Philip Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever at his monument.

Although we do not have that many burials at Congressional, we were honored to recently inter the 9th Architect of the Capitol, George M. White who served from 1971 to 1995. Mr. White joins William Thornton,



designer of the Capitol, William Hadfield (Old City Hall), and William Elliot (additions to the Patent Office and Treasury Department) in the old section of the cemetery we've dubbed "Architects' Row".

The first of the supplemental curriculum materials we are preparing for DC third grade teachers will be Beta tested this summer and rolled out in the fall. We have been fortunate to receive grants from the Victoria and Max Dreyfus Foundation and the Capitol Hill Community Foundation to help us partially fund this endeavor.

Our "honey-do" stone restoration project has started, and with a professional stone mason on the property one day a week, lots of wonderful progress is being made. Come see it for yourself, next time you can.

—CINDY HAYS

Introducing Victoria Markovitz

Victoria Markovitz joins our team as a summer intern, and is excited to help the Cemetery learn and publicize more about its many famous "residents." She wrote the scripts for our Prohibition event, and is working on a tour starring our diplomats. She has also contributed to this newsletter. Victoria got her undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, interning for area institutions such as National Public Radio and USA Today. After graduating in 2007, she worked as a reporter for Hanley

Wood's construction publications. She wanted to pursue interests in history and archaeology, however, so she returned to school in 2010 as a Masters candidate in Anthropology and Archaeology at The Catholic University of America. She hopes eventually to combine her experience as a journalist with her passion for the past. You can

find Victoria in the gatehouse fulltime, and after hours, you might see her exploring the grounds with her dog, Riley. Feel free to say hello!





Around the Gatehouse



Terri Maxfield, leader of the pack

MEMORIAL DAY TRADITIONS OLD AND NEW

At the beginning of this Memorial Day weekend, Boy Scouts and their leaders from Troop 1688, sponsored by American Legion Post #66 in Bowie, MD, placed flags on veterans' graves. They were led by former Cemetery Manager Melvin Mason and Historian Sandy Schmidt, who had developed maps of the cemetery showing each vet's grave. The boys and their adult leaders spread out across the 35 acres and placed over 1200 flags.

The annual Memorial Day Rolling Thunder motorcycle rally on the Mall has become an enormous tradition. A slightly quieter ceremony (if dozens of motorcycles could ever be called quiet) takes place at the Cemetery on the Friday before Memorial Day, when the national officers of Rolling Thunder come here to mark the grave of a veteran. This year, led by office manager Terri Maxfield on her intimidating pink motor scooter,

the members of Rolling Thunder marked the graves of Alexander Dallas Bache (R32/S194) and his brother, George Mifflin Bache (R32/S191), as well as the grave of a Civil War unknown.

The culmination of the weekend was the dedication of the

National Garden Clubs Blue Star Memorial plaque, the national marker honoring all veterans who have defended this country. The Plaque stands at the corner of 17th and E Street SE, just outside the cemetery fence.



The new Blue Star Memorial plaque

4TH OF JULY

To celebrate the anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, ceremonies were held by the DC Children and DC Sons of the American Revolution. The CARs dedicated a new red oak they donated, which is planted near the grave of George Washington's drummer boy, John Hunter. The SARs and members of other lineage groups

honored Vice President Elbridge Gerry, the only signer of the Declaration of Independence buried in Washington, DC. Afterwards, the DC Society and the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Virginia SAR marked the grave of Benjamin Harrison, a private in the Revolutionary War. Although a very warm day, the patriotic spirit was strong.

HISTORIC BRICK PATH EXCAVATED

There has long been a sign of a brick path between Henderson (19th) and Pinkney (20th) Streets. It was even named Naylor Way on the old maps, and had a grand brick stair case leading down to it. Seventy five employees from metro DC Deloitte offices agreed to excavate it for us. Using picks, trowels and shovels, they unearthed the block-long path. We have learned that the path was built about 1892 as Square 1130 was being developed. The new path was named in honor of Henry Naylor (R50/233), a member of the Christ Church + Washington Parish vestry for over 30 years.



Deloitte volunteers find a new path





PARTY LIKE IT'S 1929

Our Prohibition tour and cocktail party was a huge success, with guests enjoying the Capital Focus Jazz Band, visits from bootleggers and cops, Gin Rick-ey's and rum punch in the Public Vault Speakeasy. Craft bartender David Lanzalone created a special rum punch recipe just for the occasion:

GRAVEYARD PUNCH (SERVES 30)

750 ml Kraken Spiced Rum
 750 ml Appleton Estates V/X rum
 46 oz pineapple juice
 32 oz lemonade
 5 Black tea bags
 3 cans Goslings Ginger Beer
 (optional but highly recommended)
 16 oz soda water
 Lemons and Oranges sliced to garnish the punch bowl



The Public Vault Speakeasy

From the Ground Up

The Arsenal Rose Garden



A rose blooms in the shadow of the Arsenal Monument

The imposing Arsenal Monument (R97/S142), topped by sculptor Lot Flannery's grief-stricken maiden, is a striking sight for all seasons. But it is particularly eye-catching in summer, when the rose garden at its base is in full bloom.

The Arsenal Rose garden was created by our own Dozen Decent Docents, from a design by renowned rosarian Nicholas E. Weber. The three rose varieties were chosen not just for their beauty, but for their special connection to the Arsenal tragedy. The yellow rose with lots of blooms is called Irish Hope, a nod to the Irish heritage of most of the victims of the Arsenal Explosion in 1864. The bright red variety is called Mr. Lincoln, in recognition of the visit President Lincoln paid here for the victims' funeral. The pink rose is called Souvenir de la Malmaison. It was first hybridized in 1843, just about the time most of the victims were born.

The garden is bordered by gray granite bricks. These cobblestones were found on the cemetery grounds, and are thought to be discarded ballast blocks from ships that sailed into the port of Bladensburg in the 1820's.





American Heritage

Thomas Tingey: Spirit of the Navy Yard

BY VICTORIA MARKOVITZ

From his boat rowing down the Eastern Branch, Thomas Tingey (R57/1) looked back at the Washington Navy Yard. He had helped transform the installation from an abstract idea into a bustling dock. But tonight, instead of gazing proudly at its bounty of warships and naval stores, Tingey watched his work erupt into a mess of explosions and flames — destruction started by his own hands.

The order to torch the Navy Yard had come straight from the Secretary of the Navy. But it was up to Tingey to choose the right moment, prepare the trains of powder, and give the directions to start the fire. These became his most famous acts. While some viewed as unnecessary the havoc caused that night, August 24, 1814, many saw Tingey as a hero for keeping naval stores out of the hands of the British, who had invaded Washington bent on destruction.

From 1800, when first appointed to oversee the Yard, to his death in 1829, Tingey remained inextricably



linked with the daily workings of the base, and its commercial and social success. Tingey also had a larger impact on the District. Among other accomplishments, he was one of the founders of Congressional Cemetery. Just as his creations survive, so does Tingey's memory. Eerie legends and far-reaching rumors ensure that his spirit will never leave the city and port he made both his life's work and his home.

Born in 1750 to an English clergyman, Tingey joined the British Navy as a young man and served until 1771, when he left after a disagreement with a fellow officer. Six years later as Master of a trading vessel at Saint Croix, Tingey married his first wife, who was from Philadelphia.

He then went on to command American ships as a merchant marine and rose to the position of Captain in the American Navy during the Quasi-War with France. He also captured a number of enemy ships while in charge of vessels in the West Indies.

Becoming superintendent of the Navy Yard crowned Tingey's stellar reputation. The Evening Star described Tingey as an "indefati-



gale worker and a meticulously exacting administer." He helped transform the Yard from its marshy beginnings to the Navy's largest facility for building and fitting ships. This meant the base not only reached military success, but also turned into a thriving area employer.

Thos. Tingey

While he undoubtedly worked hard, Tingey also played hard. The Evening Star said Tingey was a social fixture, and that "no ball, banquet or reception" was complete without him. The Captain was such a fan of these gatherings that he was among the men who founded the Washington Dancing





Assembly, which hosted dance parties in the winter.

Tingey also worked his way into the public's heart by taking part in social causes. He served on the first school board, helped friends with financial problems, and treated his workers fairly. For over 20 years, Tingey served on the Vestry of the Christ Church, and signed the document that formed the Congressional Cemetery (then the Washington Parish Burial ground) in 1807. Only 21 days after signing the document, Tingey's first wife, Margaret (R57/2), became the second person to be buried in the grounds. And, while Tingey was described as a "withered, tremulous old man" compared to his 27-year-old second wife, Ann Bladen Delany (R57/3), who was 35 years his junior, she died only 17 months after their marriage. Tingey did not outlast his third wife, and died February 25, 1829, at 79 years of age.

The rumors that would immortalize his presence at the Navy Yard started not long after his death. One legend states Tingey lived in the Commandant's House at the Navy Yard so long – 22 years – that he thought he owned it, and bequeathed it in his will. The government then had to start a drawn-out legal battle to win back the house. However, Tingey died without a will, so he could not have bequeathed the house.

Another tale states Tingey haunts his old home. His eerie

figure looks out the house's upper windows, and the home's living residents feel traces of his presence.

Whether true or not, the stories reveal how Tingey will remain forever linked with the Navy Yard. Tingey's determined supervision of the yard, tireless presence at the base, and heartfelt connection to society merged him in the public mind with the port and the city. As long as the Navy Yard continues to thrive, so will the memory of the superintendent who worked hard to build, rebuild, and maintain it.

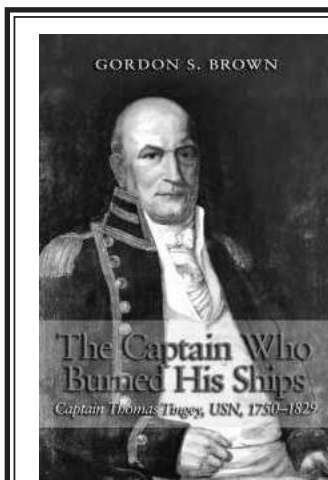
This is an excerpt from the book, which frames the events of August 24, 1814, the day Tingey was forced to burn his creation to keep it out of British hands:

Tingey looked at his watch and made a record of the time. It was 8:20 at night, and British troops were within a half-mile of the undefended yard. There were no American troops in the area or, for that matter, in the city. The wind had died down, and with it the risk of unintended damages to the private homes outside the wall. The secretary's conditions, and

Tingey's own, had all been met, and to delay longer could risk being overrun and letting the yard fall into enemy hands — surely a court martial offense. Tingey had no choice but to set fire to his yard, his ships, his work of the last ten years.

At least it was quick work. Proceeding systematically, Tingey, [John] Creighton, [Mordecai] Booth and the few remaining clerks, marines and sailors first lit the powder trains to the warehouses. Then they set fire to the frigate Columbia, the fire from there spreading quickly to the storehouses on the wharf and the workshops behind. Then the Argus, tied up at the wharf. On what he called a "momentary impulse," Tingey decided not to set fire to the schooner Lynx, lying further down the wharf. Finally, the more distant storehouses and the hulls of the frigates New York, Boston and General Greene were set on fire. By the light of what had become a towering inferno, the two gunboats set off, and then the commodore's gig, loaded with the remaining personnel, and headed for Alexandria.

Tingey



On Friday, October 6, the Cemetery will host Gordon Brown to read from his book, *The Captain Who Burned His Ships: Captain Thomas Tingey USN 1750-1829*. The work covers the challenges Tingey faced, as well as the events that shaped his career and the evolution of the District. We look forward to learning more about the man behind the Navy Yard, and invite you to join us for wine and cheese and book signing from 6 to 8 p.m. More details at www.congressionalcemetery.org





Stone stories

When is a stone not a stone?

BY TERRI MAXFIELD

Hidden in plain sight on the grounds of Historic Congressional Cemetery are at least five grave markers that at first glance look like an unusual type of granite or an oddly-colored sandstone. You may have never noticed their unique blue-gray hue before, but once you know what they are, they'll never go unnoticed again.

In 1874, a small business in Bridgeport, Connecticut began producing a new type of grave marker. The material was referred to at the time as "White Bronze," so as to sound more appealing to the consumer, though bronze had nothing to do with it. For forty years, the Monumental Bronze Company molded pure zinc into elegant, personalized, and inexpensive cemetery memorials, available to the public through mail order catalogs.

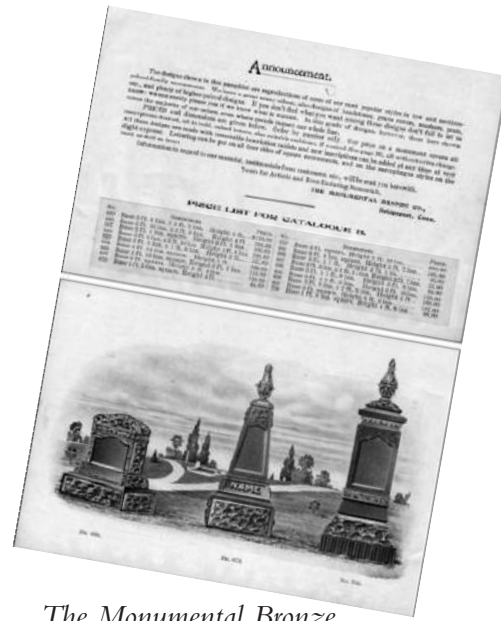
The concept was novel, as were the monuments themselves. Zinc, a non-magnetic metal roughly the same weight as iron, develops a protective coating of zinc carbonate and zinc oxide when exposed to the air. The coat-

ing is usually dark gray in color, but the Monumental Bronze Company sandblasted their products. This technique lightened the patina to the distinctive blue-gray these unique monuments are known for. The sandblasting had the added advantage of giving the surface a texture similar to stone. The company's main focus was "family monuments," but they also produced large scale custom war memorials, with zinc-cast soldiers and sailors standing on the battlefields and city greens of 31 of the 50 U.S. States.

A full-time artist for the company (whose name appears to have been lost to history) created the wax models from which the monuments were cast. They were created in panels, and could be assembled later by clamping the pieces together and pouring hot zinc in the joints. Since the panels were made of the same material, the edges of the panels melted and fused together. This process has helped the monuments stand the test of time, solidly and successfully, allowing works of Monumental Bronze Company to look nearly new even well over a century later.



One of Congressional's distinctive "zinkers"



The Monumental Bronze Company sold their products by mail order catalog

The company did not fare as well as their creations. Their production facility was taken over in 1914 by the U.S. government for World War I munitions manufacturing, and though the company struggled on after the War, they never again crafted their exceptional memorials. Increased taxes and regulatory restrictions are credited for the decision to close shop in 1939, but their legacy is not forgotten. Many gravestone enthusiasts have a special place in their hearts for "Zinkers," chatting about them in forums, collecting pictures of them, and posting national locations so that other admirers may seek them out.

Congressional Cemetery is proud to have 5 recorded zinc monuments on the grounds. And whether you're a gravestone aficionado or just enjoy the serenity of walking here, we encourage you to seek out these metal masterpieces. Sometimes, not all memories are written in stone.





Conservation Restoration

The first headstone placed in Congressional Cemetery was for William Swinton, master stone mason building the US Capitol, who died on April 11, 1807. It was carved from the same stone as was being used to build the Capitol by his fellow masons. It stands tall and straight and is as easy to read today as it was 204 years ago. Unfortunately, that is not the story of every one of our other 14,000 stones and monuments. When a stone is broken, precarious or about to fall, we lay it flat on the ground or secure it some way to keep it from breaking or hurting someone.

With funding from our Congressional Endowment, held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and private contributions, we have contracted with Patrick Sanders

and his team from Corinthian Stone Works, for lifting and resetting fallen or about to fall stones. Since there is such a large collection from which to choose, we decided to start in the original 4 ½ acres, or Patriot's Square.

Known as "Honey do days" (with Executive Director, Cindy Hays, as Honey telling the guys what stones to do) these full days



of stone repair and resetting are beginning to make a difference. Mrs.

Tabb's 1823 headstone had been laid down on its back for security. With a new foundation;

a little Sacreete to hold it secure it to the ground; new steel pins, and mortar epoxy to hold the stones in place, it will be good for another 50 years or so.



Jane Maria Tabbs, 1933 (R32/27)
Before and After



John and Elizabeth Jolly
(R30/18 & 19)
Before and After

We have the Jolly family on the path just down from Elbridge Gerry. Mr. Jolly's 1814 marble stone was broken and it and Mrs. Jolly's 1842 head stone were laid against the base. Someone planted a Yuka plant before the mid 1990's which had also undermined Mrs. Jolly's base foundation.

The most famous family for whom restoration has been done is the Pleasontons. Stephen Pleasonton rescued the Constitution, Declaration, Articles of Confederacy before the British burned the State Department. Our great thanks to author Anthony Pitch who led a special tour last summer to raise the funds to restore the family set of stones.





News from the Cemetery Manager

Cemetery manager Alan Davis from arranging funerals, managing the grounds, and selling burial plots to talk about a new project: memorial benches.

Q: Why does the cemetery offer benches?

Cremation Benches are now being offered as an affordable above-ground inurnment option. The benches are, in fact, individual columbarium niches that house the remains of two people.

Q: Who can buy one?

Anyone can purchase a Cremation Bench. Our Bench Program is unique in that one does not have to purchase a grave to have a bench, though that is an option. We have designated Bench Sites at several locations where we planted new trees.

Q: Are they just decorative, or do they serve a purpose?

Cremation Benches serve several uses. They serve as memorials, just as headstones do. They can also be commemorative, and they are ongoing because additional engravings can be added at later dates. They are usually placed under trees and offer a site for rest and quiet reflection. As said before, they are actually the burial/inurnment site.

Q: Do they all look the same?

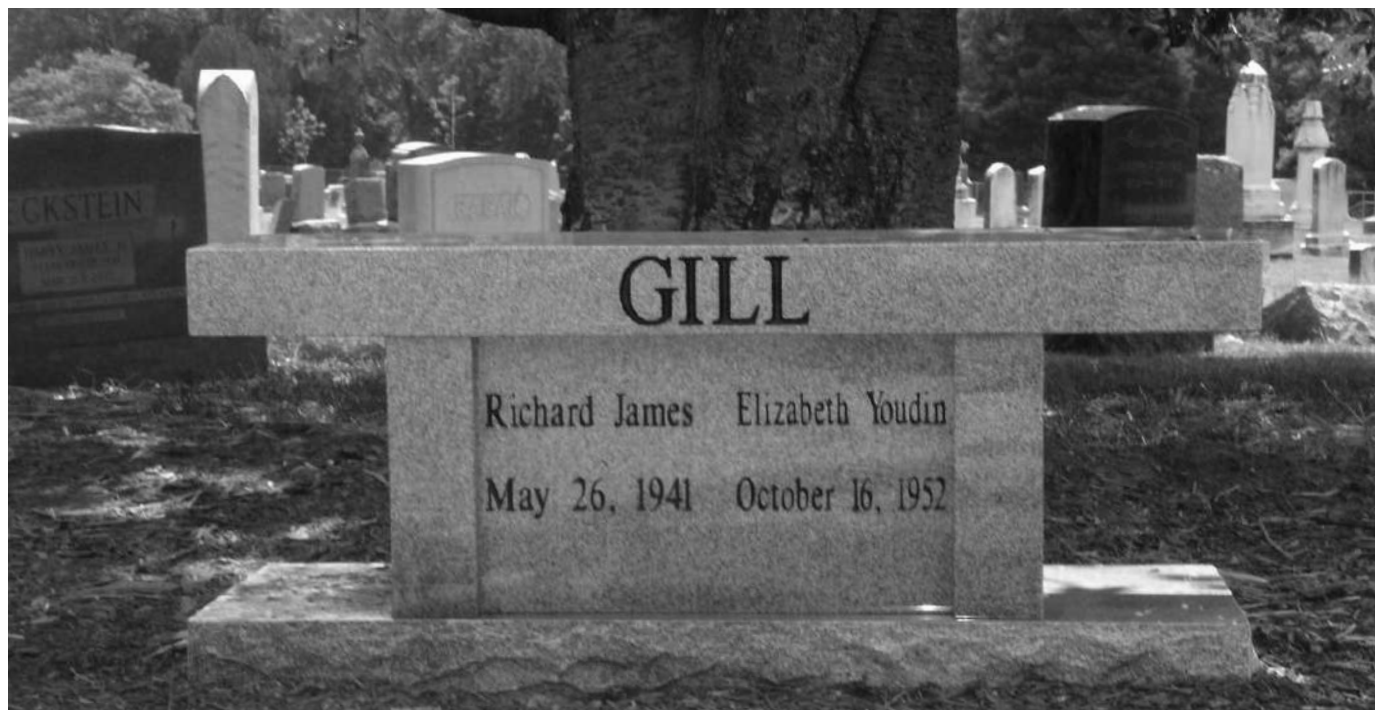
The Benches are all of similar dimensions, and they are all made of polished granite. However, they come in three different colors: gray, black and India Red.

Q: Where can we see some in the cemetery if we want to check out how they look?

We recently installed a Bench at a prominent location at the corner of Henderson (19th Street) and Ingle (G Street) directly across from the Matlovich grave. Other Benches will be installed soon, in front of various trees along the main thoroughfare (Ingle Street). The newly planted trees along Congress Street just south of the chapel could also be Bench Sites, with the East side of the road with black granite benches and the West side with India Red granite benches.

Q: I'm sold. How do I get a bench?

Call me at 202-543-0539, send an email to alandavis@congressionalcemetery.org, or use the contact form online under the "Sales" tab on our website, <http://www.congressionalcemetery.org/>



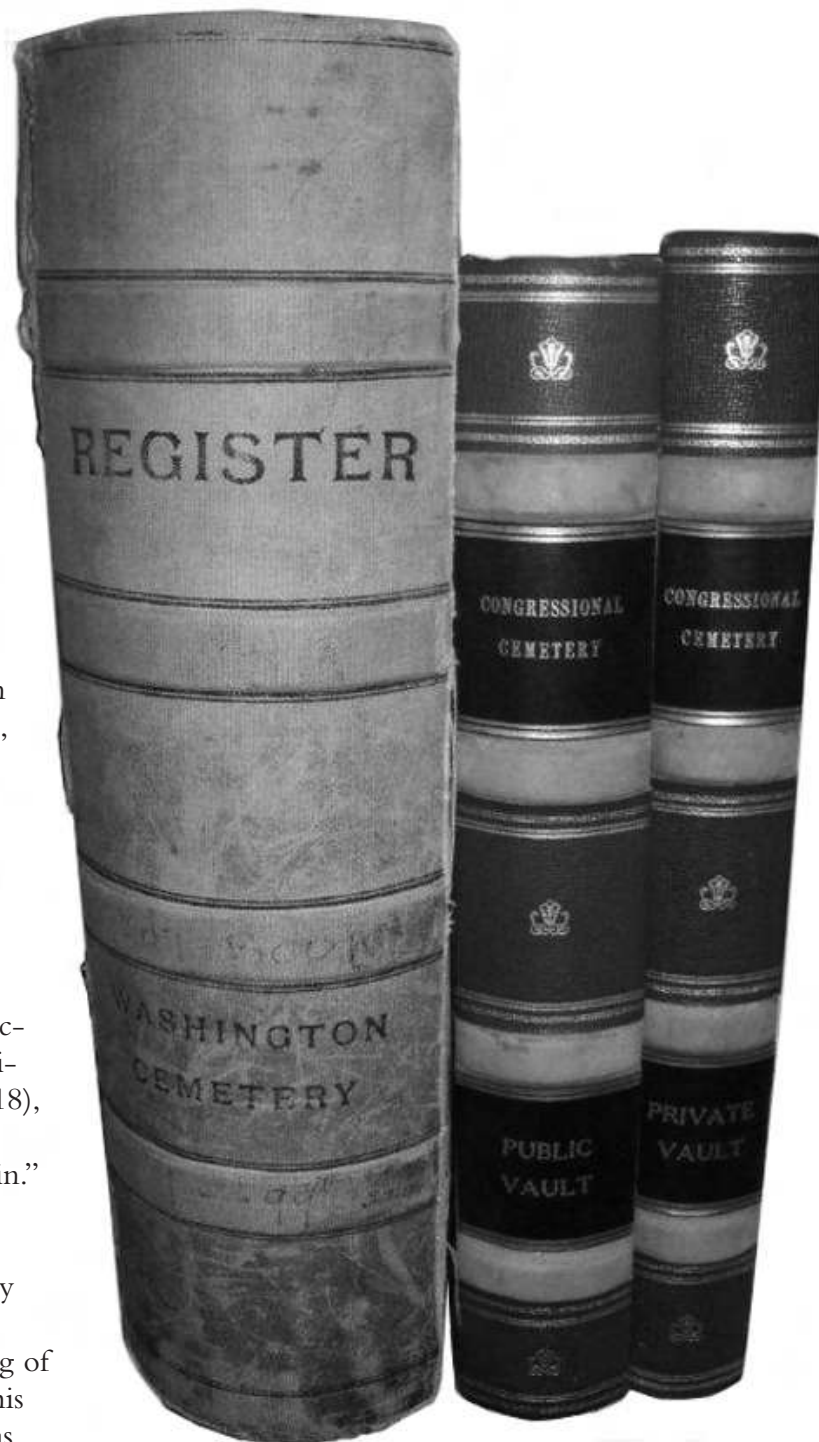
Archives

Oddities from the books

The heavy, temperamental old safe in the front room of the gatehouse looks like something out of a fantasy story: twist the lock the right way and you expect to find treasures behind the door. And treasures are stored inside, but only if you know the value of historical records. The safe contains (among other things) our Daily Interment Logs, going back to the early days of the cemetery. These are written records of every person who was buried here, including who bought the plot and how much they paid for it and many details about their lives and deaths. Flip through the pages of these huge old books, and you can watch “influenza” appear more and more often under the Cause of Death column as 1917 turns to 1918. You can trace the (thankfully brief) popularity of names like “Eulalia” and “Nimrod.” And occasionally, you discover something frankly odd.

Take William P. White (R18/S203), who died in 1904 at the age of 45. The cause of death is given, without comment, as “decapitation.” His last known address is listed as “East end of Tunnel.” And Mr. White is not alone — there are several examples of the cemetery secretary taking “late address” a little too literally. Maude Pyles (R72/S30), who drowned in the summer of 1901, has her last residence listed as “Potomac River.” Milton Warfield (S18/R226), another drowning victim from 1900, is given “Bathing Beach” as his residence. The residence of Albert Souder (R109/S218), who died in 1902, is given as “RR Bridge.” His cause of death — you guessed it — is “Struck by train.”

And then there is the burial of Joseph Craig (R151/S247) on May 9, 1904. The grave fee was only \$2.50, when the usual charge was \$6.00. Why the discount? It seems not all of Mr. Craig was buried. The Daily Log Book lists the name as “Leg of Jos. A Craig”. The rest of Mr. Craig did not join his amputated leg for another 41 years. His family was charged the full grave fee this time, which was up to \$50.00 by 1945.





Association for the Preservation of
Historic Congressional Cemetery

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Please mail with your donation to the return address on the mailing panel or use the envelope inside this newsletter.

Calendar

SATURDAYS

11:00 Docent led tours

AUGUST 20

1:00 Civil War Tour

SEPTEMBER 17

1:00 Civil War Tour

SEPTEMBER 23

6:30 Diplomats Tour and event

SEPTEMBER 24

11:00-1:00 Walkingtown DC

OCTOBER 1

11:00-1:00 Walkingtown DC

OCTOBER 2

2:00 Blessing of the Animals

OCTOBER 7

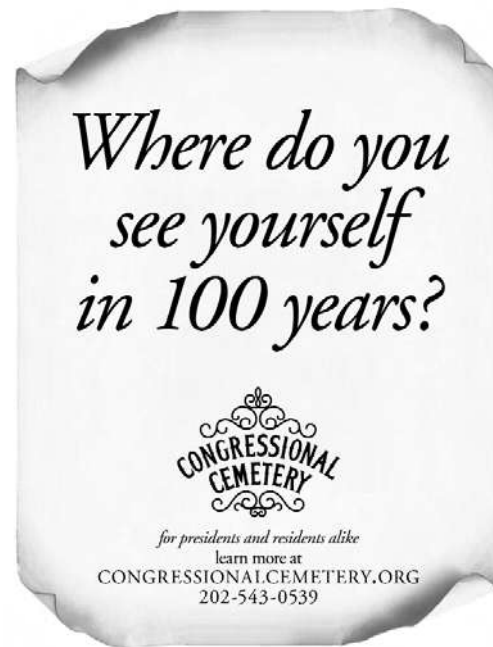
6:00 pm Gordon Brown Book Event

OCTOBER 15

1:00 Civil War Tour

NOVEMBER 6

John Philip Sousa Birthday celebration



Reserve your place in American History
Congressional Cemetery is a non-denominational burial ground open to the whole community. Introducing burial niches next year. Traditional grave sites are available in a number of price ranges. Call today.

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