



# Heritage Gazette

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY • WINTER 2012

## Straight and Narrow

Thanks to funds raised by our generous K9 Corps, the 1854 Lane family memorial is back on the up and up. After years of cracking, leaning, and threatening to fall, you can now find a newly restored and reinforced Lane memorial at R42-43/S106-110. The monument had been fixed at least once before, in 2002, but those measures didn't hold. This time, Jeff Raymond of Dignity by Design made sure the improvements will hold. He lifted the top portion and urn from the base panels, removed the ten-year-old stainless steel threads that failed to keep the structure plumb, and inserted new ones that hold the side panels tight against the corner pieces. Joints were filled with dyed-to-match lime based mortar manufactured by Virginia Lime Works for a water tight seal.

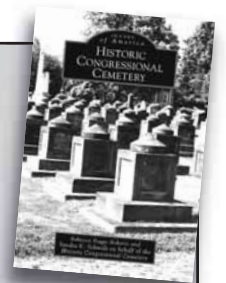
The Lane Memorial is just the first in what we hope will be a long series of restoration projects. The second stone that Raymond repaired can be found close by at Range 42, Site 111. This three part monument was lying face down in the soil. The 166-year-old marker is the grave of William Henry, who was interred there in 1846. A lawyer and native of Kentucky, he died while serving an appointment at the Federal government's Land Office.

The Henry memorial is composed of a base, long plinth, and carved cap. Raymond leveled the base, affixed the plinth to the base with a thin layer of lime based mortar, plumbed the stone with shims, and then affixed the cap using the same material.

Barry Hayman, our grounds conservation manager, has located additional stones in immediate need of repair using the K-9 Corps fund, and we are in the process of getting quotes for those memorials. Look for before-during-and-after pictures on our social media and websites when the process is complete for these stones and future memorials restored by the K-9 Corps.

### HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY: THE BOOK

We are delighted to announce that our new book has been published by Arcadia Press and is now available for purchase! With gorgeous photographs on every page, *Historic Congressional Cemetery* explores the wonderfully rich history of this enchanting place. Visit [www.congressionalcemetery.org](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org) to order your copy.



## *Letter from the Chair*

### SO MANY REASONS TO BE THANKFUL

The leaves have fallen from the cemetery trees, visitors arrive bundled against the cold, and the squirrel-chasing dogs have to search harder for their furry targets. It's the time of year when the monuments of the cemetery stand out in stark beauty against the bare ground, and our thoughts turn to thanks for the past year and resolutions for the new.



We have much to be thankful for at Congressional Cemetery. Our finances are healthy, thanks to site sales, grants, K9 dues, and contributions from members. We weathered a potentially rocky leadership transition, and came out stronger. We hosted many successful events, published a book, and earned excellent press. We restored and protected some of our most treasured monuments. We received a jolt of fresh energy from new, eager staff members. We are profoundly grateful for all we have, and the fact that hundreds of new people are discovering what we all know to be true: Congressional Cemetery is a truly special place.

But we cannot just sit around and admire ourselves. Our New Year's resolutions are ambitious. We plan to map the entire property with ground penetrating radar (see Paul Williams' letter for details). We hope to build on the success of events like Dead Man's Run and Ghosts and Goblets. We expect to restore many more monuments and vaults to their original splendor. We look forward to welcoming many more visitors with new tours and programs. We have ambitious fundraising goals.

If I had to capture these goals in one resolution, it would be this: In 2013, the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery will do our very best to preserve our past, celebrate our present, and ensure a future we can all be proud of. We look forward to having you be part of it. A very happy holidays season to you all, and all the best for the new year.

—JOHN GILLESPIE



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION  
OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

1801 E Street, Southeast  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-543-0539

[www.congressionalcemetery.org](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org)  
[staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org)

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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.

## HCC Announces Ground Penetrating Radar Project

Congressional Cemetery will soon be at a turning point in its long and rich history, when we implement an underground mapping project using state-of-the-art ground penetrating radar (GPR). The resulting digital map will not only reveal the locations of used and unused gravesites but hundreds, perhaps thousands, of buried headstones and pieces and parts of funerary statuary for eventual restoration. The most pressing issue, however, is its ability to help streamline new site sales and reveal sites that can be added to the available site list. Combined with easy to use cemetery specific software, the project will capture every possible piece of information known about any particular site, along with photographs, obits, genealogical information, sales, and transfers.

The GPR project is possible only through the generosity of Board member Edward S. Miller and his friend, Gerry Lenfest, a scholar of the Revolutionary War. Each contributed \$17,000 toward the estimated \$50,000 project. Companies with expertise in GPR are being solicited for bids on the project, which will map above and below ground on all 35 acres in our cemetery. The mapping should take about 30 days to complete, and work is scheduled to begin this winter. Utilized in the

office or on a mobile device, the resulting GPS coordinates could lead the user directly to any site in the cemetery on foot, similar to a car's directional GPS. It will map both the 20,000 marked and approximately 35,000 unmarked graves in the cemetery.

Today, when a new site is sold or a previously purchased site is needed for a burial, cemetery staff need to consult no less than a dozen different documents and records to gather information on that plot, physically locate, measure, and map the plot, and then undertake a physical probing of the site regardless of the weather. The process takes hours or sometimes days for each site to ensure it is vacant and available for burial. No detailed digital map of headstones exist, nor has any GIS mapping been completed beyond the NPS restoration of the cenotaphs. Physically locating a specific plot in the cemetery also requires hours of mapping with string, stakes, tape

measures, and sometimes unreliable references with regard to range and site numbers.

Congressional Cemetery has digitized *hundreds of thousands* of records relating to the people and physical grounds — and the complex databases that have resulted in the past two decades are in a variety of formats, some more user friendly than others, but most not compatible with each other. Over the years, each and every headstone has been photographed multiple times, but have never been tied together to show deterioration and/or restoration over time. Our recently scanned original handwritten logbooks date to 1820, but have also never been tied into a single program; until now.

Software specifically designed for cemetery management provides a user friendly face in front of a complex and powerful database that can tie an unlimited amount of data, pictures, and documents along with digital

maps of both above ground and underground surfaces. The combination of the software and the new GPR mapping will allow us to properly document all past activities, and efficiently and affordably manage future site sales, burials, and infrastructure improvements.

The software maps and connects an unlimited



*Matt Turner of GeoModel*

*continued on page 7*



# *Around the Gatehouse*

## **DEAD MAN'S RUN**

It was a great run! Hundreds of runners and their families gathered in the October twilight to compete in the second annual Dead Man's Run 5K and (new this year) kids' fun run. We had running ninjas, ballerinas, vampires, skeletons, and at least one superhero. Congratulations to Zachary Barter and Elizabeth Karmann, who went home with the coveted skull medals for overall first place finishes.

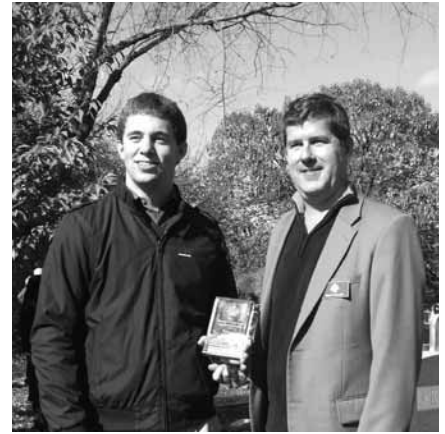
## **GHOSTS AND GOBLETS**

The charitable Marguerite Dupont Lee, the irresponsible Beau Hickman, the formidable Belva Lockwood, and the adorable Marion Kahlert were among the cemetery residents who came to haunt the Ghosts and Goblets Gala on October 27th. Also in attendance: many festive cemetery fans, supporters, neighbors, and dog walkers. All enjoyed a lovely buffet and bar,

and flashlight tours of the aforementioned cemetery residents.

## **SOUSA DAY**

John Philip Sousa turned 158 on November 6th, and over a hundred folks took a break from election madness to come celebrate at the cemetery with music and cake. As usual, the U.S. Marine Band came to play their annual tribute to the March King. The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery took the



*Volunteer of the Year Daniel Holcombe with APHCC President Paul Williams*

opportunity to hand out our annual awards. Congratulations to volunteer of the year Daniel Holcombe, docent of the year Susan Wagner, and John Philip Sousa award winner Rebecca Roberts!



← *The U.S. Marine Band played their annual tribute to John Philip Sousa*



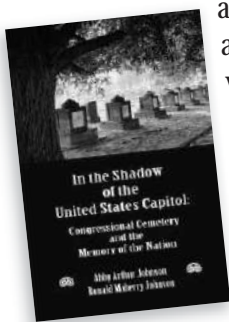


### DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

More than 250 service members and civilian volunteers came to the cemetery on September 8th for a day of service in memory for the victims of the September 11th. With enthusiasm, muscle, and buckets of good will, the volunteers tackled 17 different projects, from cleaning monuments to pulling weeds to righting fallen headstones. In just four hours, this dedicated army of volunteers accomplished tens of thousands of dollars of conservation work. We look forward to having them back next year!

### NEW CEMETERY HISTORY

After years of diligent research and meticulous attention to detail, we are delighted to announce the publication of Ron and Abby Johnson's new book *In the Shadow of the United States Capitol: Congressional Cemetery and the Memory of the Nation*. Copies are available in



the gatehouse, or you can order one through our website at [www.congressionalcemetery.org](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org).

### WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The fall has been a busy one for volunteer groups. Members of the K9 Corps have been busy tending the brick path down by the Methodist Memorial in the east end of the cemetery. An Interfaith Group from Washington-Jefferson College cleared a big part of the overgrown hillside along 17th Street. And a group from Wooster College cleaned and prepped the entire



race route for Dead Man's Run! We rely on groups like these to get big projects done without big budgets. If you would like to schedule a group, please contact Paul Williams in the gatehouse.

### MEET ANDREA O'HARA AND CRYSTAL PATE



Andrea O'Hara owns her own accounting practice, so she usually works from the comfort of home. But once a week, Andrea is the cemetery's accountant, making bank deposits, paying the invoices and payroll and preparing the financial statements for the board. She claims Congressional is her most interesting client (although she admits to finding it spooky enough that she always leaves before dark). Andrea is also working on becoming a Master Gardener and has strong opinions about shrub trimming.

You can find the always smiling Crystal Pate behind the front desk in the gatehouse. Still fairly new to the DC area, Crystal enjoys exploring the region with her kids. She is also a fabulous cook, although she will not tell you the recipe for her chicken, no matter how nicely you ask. Crystal says she enjoys the company of the living more than that of the dead, but the charm and history of the cemetery are growing on her.





## The Accomplished Hyatt Family

Although the Hyatt family monument at (R52-53/S109-114) is perfectly lovely, it does not stand out in a cemetery full of lovely monuments. But it is unusual for two reasons: first of all, it is actually a crypt. Underneath the monument lies a brick chamber containing the remains of 17 Hyatts. The other distinguishing feature of the Hyatt memorial is the distinction of the resident family members.

The crypt was built by Alpheus Hyatt upon the death of his first wife Rachel Stettinius Hyatt in 1836. Alpheus Hyatt was a cabinetmaker of some prominence. His father Seth ran a grocery on Pennsylvania Avenue. Rachel's father ran a grocery, too, and both the Hyatt and Stettinius families date back to the very earliest days of this city.

The east face of the monument is dedicated to Rachel, and is inscribed with this verse, the last stanza of a poem called "Tribute to the Memory of Anne Smedes":

*When ling'ring pains her bosom tore  
Resign'd she kiss'd the chast'ning  
rod.  
Each mortal pang with meekness  
bore  
And smil'd in death to meet her  
God.*

As a historical footnote, the author of the poem is Oliver Oldschool, one of the many

pennames of essayist and federalist Joseph Dennie. Dennie also used Oliver Oldschool as his pseudonym when he wrote a scathing article attacking Jeffersonian democracy in 1803. That article earned Dennie a seditious libel charge, of which he was acquitted.

But back to the Hyatts. After Rachel's death, Alpheus married Harriett Randolph King and had four children, two of whom lived to adulthood. Mary Ida Hyatt married Naval Admiral Aaron Ward Weaver, and is buried at Arlington Cemetery with him, although their three children are all in the Hyatt Vault.

Alpheus and Rachel's son Alpheus, Junior was born in 1838. He attended the Maryland

Military Academy and Yale for a time, but was pulled out of school to travel with his invalid mother to Rome. Despite serious pressure from his mother and her Italian friends to join the priesthood, Alpheus was drawn to science, and enrolled at Harvard when he came back from his travels. At Harvard he was one of many young scientists influenced by legendary natural scientist Louis Agassiz, and devoted himself to the study of fossils.

Then the Civil War broke out. Alpheus, with his military academy training, immediately volunteered for the Union army. This decision did not sit well with his Washingtonian family, who sympathized with the Confederacy. Some southern relatives did not

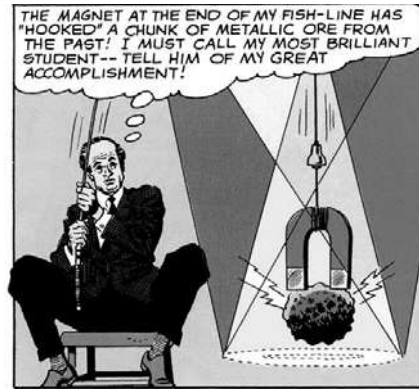


*One of Alpheus Hyatt's medals is embedded on the monument. The spaces below once held bronze plaques.*

reconcile with their Yankee cousin for thirty years.

After the war, Alpheus quietly became the world's leading expert on fossil cephalopods (invertebrates such as squid and octopi). He married Audella Beebe and had four children, three of whom survived. Daughter Anna Hyatt Huntington became a famous sculptor, known for massive bronze statues of animals, particularly horses. Another daughter, Harriet Hyatt Mayor, was also an accomplished artist. Her son A. Hyatt Mayor was a well-known art historian in New York. Alpheus taught zoology at Harvard and MIT, and founded a marine biological laboratory in Cape Cod, the predecessor of today's Marine Biological laboratory at Woods Hole. He died very suddenly in 1902, on his way to a meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History. One of his medals is embedded in the north side of the Hyatt monument. Below that medal were once two bronze plaques, one depicting Alpheus Hyatt peering into a microscope, the other showing Audella Hyatt with a painter's palette. The plaques are no longer affixed to the brick, but we are keeping them safe in the cemetery gatehouse.

The entire west side of the Hyatt monument is inscribed with verse, stanzas 7-10 of "Verses to the Memory of a Child of Superior Endowments and Extraordinary Piety" by Bernard Barton (better known as The Quaker Poet). Perhaps we may read in this that the Hyatt family's talent in science and art did



Alpheus Hyatt became a DC Comic book character.

not extend to taste in poetry. But as the inscription fades with time and weather, we immortalize it here.

*The brightest start of morning's host  
Is that which shines in twilight skies;  
Scarce risen, in brighter beams 'tis  
lost,  
And vanishes form mortal eyes.  
Its loss inspires a brief regret  
Its loveliness in ne'er forgot  
We know full well 'tis shining yet  
Although we may behold it not.  
And thus the spirit which is gone  
Is but absorbed in glory's blaze  
In beaming brightness burning on  
Tho' lost unto our finite gaze.  
There are who watched it to the last  
There are who can forget it never  
May these, when death's dark shade  
is past  
Partake with joy its light forever!*

Alpheus Hyatt was also memorialized in a less traditional way. The DC Comics character Ray Palmer, better known as The Atom, was supposed to be a scientist at Ivy University. The other scientists at the school are named after real people, including Alpheus Hyatt. The comic book Dr. Hyatt invented the "Time Pool", a device that opens a portal into other times. ☹

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*continued from page 3*

amount of data into any one particular plot:

- Site sales, ownership information, interment dates, and names of those interred
- Deed transfers, reclamation, and associated plots owned by the same family
- Headstone pictures, aerial map, and map of headstone locations (above and below ground)
- Obituaries, family genealogical pictures, papers, and historic letters or biographies
- Underground GPR map (down 10') showing interments, obstructions, infrastructure
- Pdfs of all original handwritten records related to the site from log books, interment records, etc.
- Physical property structures, utilities, waterlines, sidewalks, etc.
- New deed and permit generation, reports, and summaries
- Custom plot manipulation to show multiple interments, sites out of line, and any anomalies

Maps of the entire cemetery or a specific area can instantly be created to show available plots, unusable plots, site issues or questionable sites, and even historical maps that could show everyone that served in the American Revolution, died of typhoid in the 1900s, or even maps of all the people that once resided on the same street.

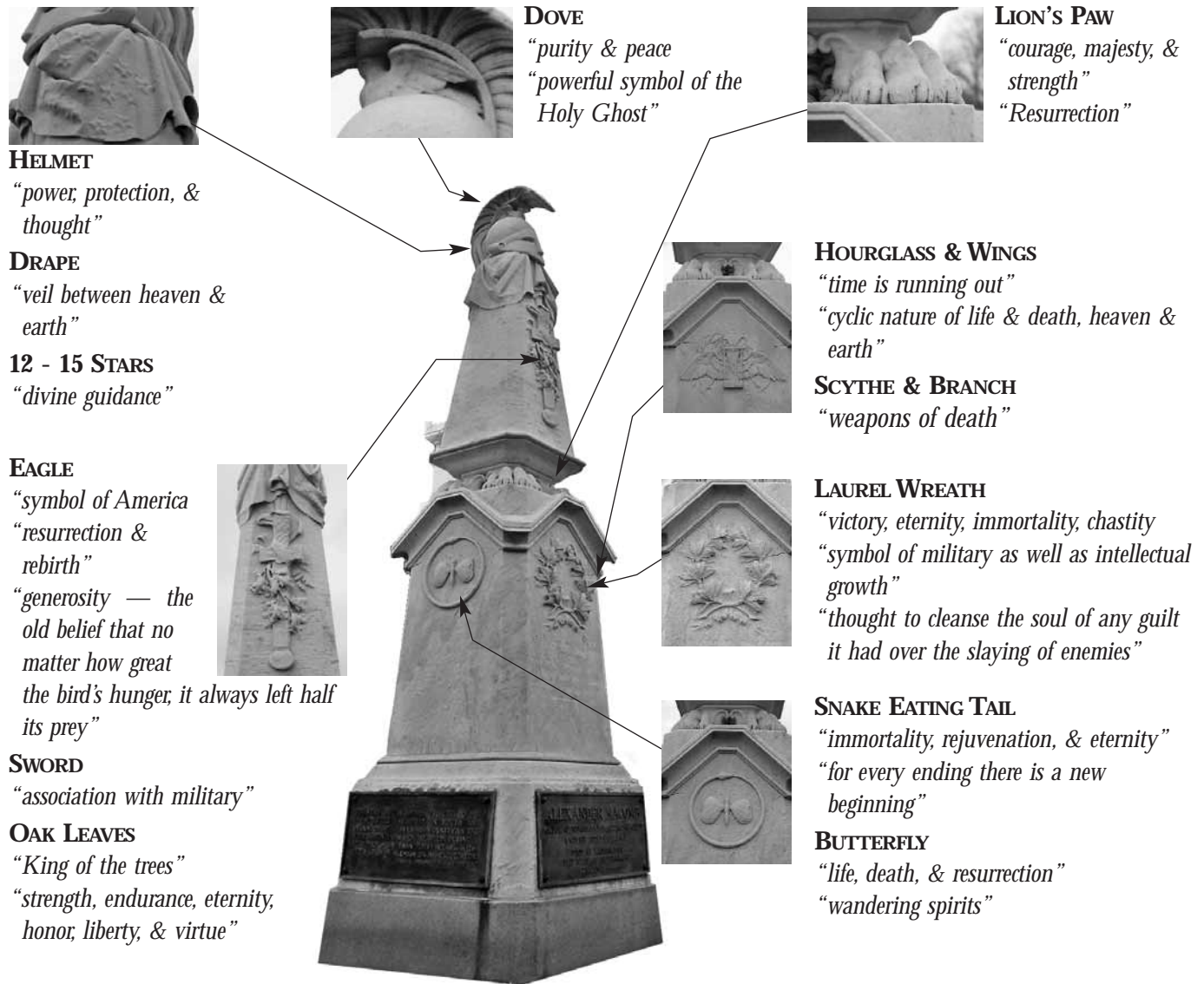
— PAUL K. WILLIAMS

# Meaning in Macomb

BY MARGARET PUGLISI

## DECODING A MILITARY HERO'S MEMORIAL

Imagery on memorial artwork, especially in the 19th century, was a mode of artistically expressing symbolic meaning and would have been effortlessly understood and recognized by onlookers.



**ALEXANDER MACOMB 1782-1841 R55/147**

With an enduring military history, starting at the age of sixteen and best known for his victory at the Battle of Plattsburg in 1814, Macomb was a well-respected and beloved man. Resurrection is an overarching theme illustrated on the monument indicating that Macomb was a strong believer in the continuous cycle of life. The symbols illustrated on the monument greatly exemplify Alexander Macomb's military importance and his philosophies and values in life and death.

Information about symbols found in Douglas Keister's *Stories in Stone*. Information about Macomb found in HCC archives.



## From the Ground Up

# Bats, Beetles, and Lacewings

All kinds of winged creatures fly through the grounds of Congressional Cemetery. Some are majestic, some are annoying, and some actually help our grounds-keeping crew. Grounds manager Barry Hayman recently found a little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) in one of the cemetery mausoleums. Bats get a bad rap for being creepy or even rabid, but the truth is they are helpful. They eat mosquitos, gnats, and wasps, all pests we have in abundance, as any summer visitor knows. In the winter, when the weather turns too cold for their insect prey, the bats hibernate.

Another helpful creature spotted on the grounds is the six-spotted tiger beetle (*Cicindela sexguttata*). The black and white photo doesn't do this handsome bug justice — it is an eye-catching metallic green. Each of its elytra (outer wings) has three white spots around the edges, hence the six-spotted name



An angry bat guards a mausoleum.

(actually, some beetles have no spots and others have as many as five spots on each elytra, but they're all called six-spotted tiger beetles). In the larval stage, tiger beetles eat ants and spiders and other small insects that might walk by. The adult beetles, which are known for their incredible speed, are among the best predators in the insect world. They catch a lot of pests both on the ground and on the wing. They'll bite you, too, if you get too close. They'll also emit a stinky gas to scare you off.



The six-spotted tiger beetle is a striking metallic green.

Finally, we also found an interesting looking brown lace wing (which could be one of many species in the genus *hemerobius*). Because they hang out in trees,



A brown lacewing hides on the bark of a cedar tree.

particularly conifers, lacewings prey on arboreal pests. Gardeners love lacewings because they eat aphids, and Christmas tree farmers have been known to introduce lacewings to keep the aphid population down. Since sap-sucking aphids are among the most destructive insect pests in climates like ours, we were happy to see this lacewing on a little Japanese cedar tree outside the gatehouse. ☺

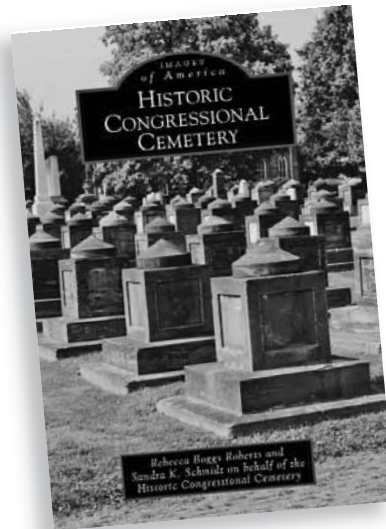
# Dear Santa...

Your generous contributions to Congressional Cemetery make it possible for us to continue to preserve, restore, and enhance our historic grounds and markers. And now, for a donation of \$500 or more, you will receive a stone replica of our most treasured and recognizable cenotaphs. It measures 3.5 inches square, and is composed of molded natural stone in exact scale of the original, imprinted on one side with our logo. A treasure certain to cherish for years to come!



## HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY WISH LIST:

- Golf Cart for site sales (or \$4,500)
- Chairs for conference room (or \$2,500)
- Folding machine for brochures (or \$1,100)
- Button making machine for volunteer groups (or \$250)
- Leather Book Binding evaluation for our old Range books (or \$2,500)
- New or Used Garden Tools (any value)



## Order Form

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# Carriages in the Cemetery

BY LAUREN MALOY

Our archivist Dayle Dooley recently found a treasure in the archives. Addressed to General A.A. Humphreys, a respected Union general who fought in the notable battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, the 1879 letter refers to a complaint that General Humphreys presented to the vestry of Christ Church. Unfortunately we don't have Humphreys' original letter to Christ Church, but the very cordial response to the general reveals volumes about his complaint. General Humphreys must have been upset about the presence of carriages in the Cemetery, even though carriages were only allowed for funerals or by special request. He must have appealed to the vestry to create a new rule banning all carriages from the Cemetery, excluding even these special cases. Although the return letter is very respectful, the representative from Christ Church, J.B. Cross, unequivocally denied General Humphreys' request.

There are a lot of things to love about the letter itself. First of all, J.B. Cross spells General Humphreys' name wrong. Not off to a great start. Additional quirks in the letter include lovely phrases such as "alight on the street" and perplexing abbreviations including "Your obt. servt" (it was too difficult to write out the phrase in all its Victorian

glory?). Perhaps the best part is a seal scrawled in ink and marked simply as "seal," which seems to be another one of Cross' interesting shortcuts.

Even though we don't have General Humphreys' original letter, it's all too easy to picture this distinguished citizen strolling the grounds of Congressional Cemetery, scowling at the occasional carriage and the nuisance of it

all. You can find A.A. Humphreys today at Range 63, Site 184 near the Chapel. Just don't arrive via carriage. ☺

711-12th Street S.E.  
Washington, DC  
October 16 1879

Gen. A.A. Humphries,

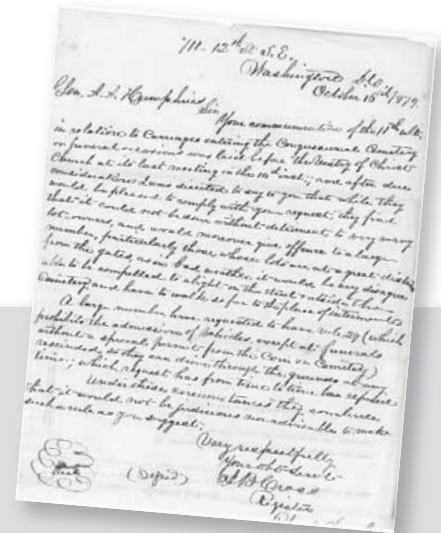
Sir

Your communication of the 11th Oct. in relation to carriages entering the Congressional Cemetery on funeral occasions was laid before the Vestry of Christ Church at its last meeting on the 14th inst.; and after due considerations I was directed to say to you that while they would be pleased to comply with your request, they find that it could not be done without detriment to very many lot owners, and would moreover give offense to a large number, particularly those whose lots are at a great distance from the gates, as in bad weather it would be very disagreeable to be compelled to alight on the street outside the Cemetery and have to walk so far to the place of interments.

A large number have requested to have rule 29 (which prohibits the admission of vehicles, except at funerals without a special permit from the Com on Cemetery) rescinded so they can drive through the grounds at any time; which request has from time to time been refused.

Under these circumstances they conclude that it would not be judicious nor advisable to make such a rule as you suggest.

Very respectfully,  
Your obt. servt  
J.B. Cross  
Register  
Christ Church







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Historic Congressional Cemetery

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\$25  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$250  Other \_\_\_\_\_

2013 Membership:  \$125 Individual  \$250 Family

Check enclosed, made payable to Congressional Cemetery

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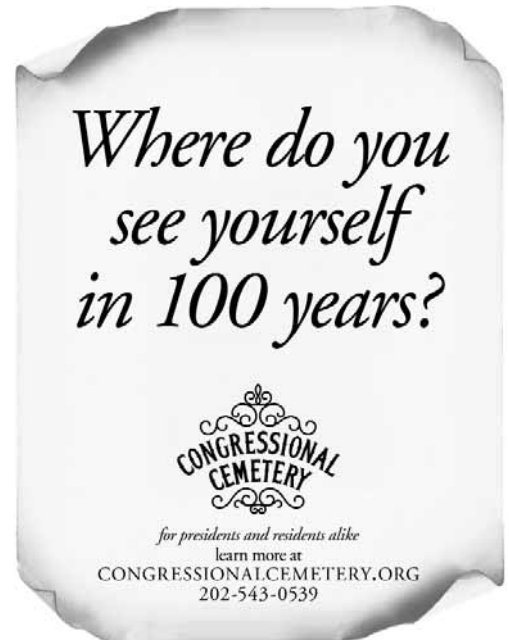
### Thank you!

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

## Planning for 2013

We are in the midst of planning an exciting schedule for the upcoming year. Look for new events including a conservation workshop, "Sousa Palooza," a Revolutionary War event, a Pride 5K and a Day of the Dog Festival. Of course, we'll continue to sponsor our annual events such as Dead Man's Run and Ghosts and Goblets.

2013 promises to be a good year!



**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.  
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