Goats Grazing in the Graveyard

We’re not technically a graveyard. But, we couldn’t resist using this article’s catchy title as a headline for a press release. We must have done something right. In August, Congressional Cemetery hosted Eco-Goats, a herd of 58 goats placed along the perimeter of the cemetery’s grounds. Their mission: to graze around the clock for a week, consuming all of the invasive species in a 1½-acre space. The goats did a superb job of devouring the massive amounts of poison ivy, English Ivy and kudzu in the area, but they particularly excelled at attracting press from around the world to Congressional Cemetery.

The staff and board members of HCC were astounded by the amount of attention the goats received. A media event held when the goats arrived drew numerous reporters, and the coverage didn’t stop there. The Eco-Goats landed on broadcasts and publications such as the BBC, NBC Nightly News, the front page of the Washington Post (above the fold!), and even got a mention on the Times Square ticker. Needless to say, the goats were everywhere. Perhaps the most gratifying outcome of the experience was the incredible interest from the local community, which gathered every day to see the herd in action.

To find out more about the goats in this newsletter, check out the “From the President” letter on page 3. We’d love to bring the goats back next year, and we’re organizing a fundraiser to do so. To fund “Return of the Goats,” you can make donations specifically to the goat fund by check or through the donate button on Congressional Cemetery’s website. Just tell us what your donation is for, and we’ll make sure it goes toward hosting our lovable publicity hounds in 2014.
The approach of fall signals the most eventful time of year for Congressional Cemetery. As is expected with a historic cemetery, October is the busiest of months, with Halloween events and an increase in visitors that comes hand in hand with the cooler weather. And with all the activities that we expect over the next few months, we are still forging full steam ahead with our fundraising efforts.

With this spirit in mind, I am happy to announce a significant donation from board member Edward S. Miller. Thanks to his generosity we are making substantial progress with our fundraising for the Sousa Gate Campaign. To date, we have raised over $25,000 towards our goal of $195,000 in total, and to further support these efforts, Mr. Miller has pledged a $10,000 donation. For every Sousa Gate contribution before December 31, 2013, he will donate a matching amount. We are truly thankful for the added impetus that this provides for donors to give to this important fundraising campaign.

In other news around the cemetery, our 1894 funeral bell is safely back at Congressional Cemetery. Thanks to a grant from the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, the cemetery was able to fund the restoration of the bell. Read “Around the Gatehouse” on pages 4-5 for more information about this exciting and meaningful project.

These fundraising successes are not the only indicators of the health of our non-profit. While wandering the grounds recently, I couldn’t help but notice that the cemetery has never looked better. The adopt-a-plot program, as featured in the previous newsletter, has greatly enhanced the overall beauty of the grounds. Moreover, it is immensely apparent that this cemetery is being well loved and cared for, both by those who maintain it and those who visit it. Thanks to the continuing donations from the K9 Corps, Congressional Cemetery is able to fund numerous stone restorations, slowly repairing and restoring our historic gravestones. The Congressional Cemetery community of staff, dog walkers, volunteers and visitors has never been more vibrant, and the results are impossible to ignore.

— John Gillespie
The dog days of August in Washington, DC, are usually a slow time in the city — but they’re not at Congressional! In August, we hired a herd of 58 goats from Brian Knox’s farm in Davidsonville, MD, to munch on our grounds for a week. But, you probably already heard about these Eco-Goats. The media attention these grazers generated went truly international.

A week before the goats even arrived, over 100 newspapers covered the story of our unique way of handling invasive plants without the use of chemicals. It was the first time goats had been used in such a manner inside the DC beltway. More than 50 live television stations, radio and print media outlets ran pieces on the press event and the running of the goats into their pen. I stopped counting after giving 50 interviews that day.

And the excitement continued for the entire week! The whole staff was interviewed, because we had to split up to accommodate all the requests. What was truly amazing, however, was the reach. Local stations ran the story, as well as a few you might not have expected: CNN, NBC Nightly News, PBS NewsHour, the Times Square news ticker, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Reuters, AP, TIME, US News & World Report, BBC World News, Tokyo TV, CCTV China, Komsomolskaya Pravda (Russia), Bangkok Post, and Al Jazeera!

We also got the message out that we are an active cemetery, and we can link about $85,000 in site sales to the goats themselves. One purchaser was quoted as saying “I want to be buried in a cemetery that is cool enough to have goats, and I want to get a plot before they are all gone.” Whatever gets your goat.

PAUL K. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

The goats getting attention before they were off the trailer.
Funeral Bell

Our funeral bell is back! The McShane Foundry in Baltimore restored and returned our 1894 copper and tin tolling bell, and we have it secured atop one of the entrance piers. The restoration was made possible by a grant from the Capitol Hill Community Foundation. The bell was in sad shape when it left a few months ago, but the company – the same foundry that actually cast the bell in 1894 – replaced missing parts and the clapper. It now has a beautiful tone when struck, and we’ll use it for events and funerals. Eventually, it will be placed in a small tower above a new side porch, as part of the front gate project.

Death Café DC

The name may sound morbid, but strangely enough, the concept is not. Death Café is an international movement based on the ideas of Bernard Crettaz and developed by Jon Underwood. The objective, according to the creators, is to “increase awareness of death with a view of helping people make the most of their finite lives.” Coffee and cake are served to encourage a more comfortable atmosphere, and a knowledgeable facilitator leads all conversations. Death Cafés have sprung up all over the world, and have recently begun to take root in multiple cities across the United States. If you’re curious about the movement, please check out the Death Café website (deathcafe.com), as well as information on Congressional Cemetery’s website about our very first café on October 15th. Please join us for what is sure to be an enlightening experience.

Dead Man’s Run

On October 19th, outrun the Grim Reaper and other ghouls in the 206-year-old Congressional Cemetery at dusk! The race starts with a toll of the funeral bell, and continues throughout the grounds and onto the Anacostia Trail. Spooky music and a full moon will set the atmosphere for this ghostly evening. Join us in the beer tent after the race to reward yourself for surviving. Costumes are encouraged, with prizes awarded to the best costume and team costume! Sponsorships of $250 are available, and for this amount, sponsors receive their own banner at the start and finish line of the race. If interested, please contact staff@congressionalcemetery.org for more details.

Ghosts and Goblets

Are you ready for the best Halloween bash in town? On October 26, liven up your spooky schedule by attending Congressional Cemetery’s annual Ghosts and Goblets. With visits from some of the cemetery’s 65,000 departed inhabitants, and one of the creepiest Halloween atmospheres in town, this is a party you won’t want to miss. Relax in the heated tent or dance inside the Chapel to live DJ entertainment. Although costumes aren’t required, they’re encouraged, so you’ll want to dress in your best to attend this ghoulish soiree. We promise; you won’t be disap-
pointed. For further information and to purchase tickets, please see www.congressionalcemetery.org.

GRAVESTONE ENTHUSIASTS UNITE!
We are thrilled to announce that Historic Congressional Cemetery is officially the sponsor of the newly established DC Metro Chapter of the Association for Gravestone Studies. Our first meeting will be held at the cemetery’s chapel on Saturday, November 2nd from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. In addition to presenting information about the organization, the meeting’s speakers will discuss historical research topics. Bob Perry from Topographix will address the use of ground penetrating radar in historic cemeteries. Jeff Meade from the National Postal Museum will discuss education in cemeteries, and how cemeteries can engage audiences. The AGS DC Metro Chapter is the perfect place for anyone interested in conservation, architecture, genealogy, archaeology, or anthropology.

If you would like to attend the chapter meeting, contact mpuglisi@congressionalcemetery.org. Please visit our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/DCmetroAGS.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
This year, more than 300 service members and civilian volunteers attended Congressional Cemetery’s annual 9/11 day of service. This record number of eager individuals tackled projects ranging from cleaning headstones and painting mausoleum gates to rebuilding historic swales and clearing massive amounts of weeds and debris. Every year, the incredible work volunteers perform during the Day of Remembrance leaves the cemetery visibly changed. This year, although the Association is incredibly thankful to all the volunteers, we would like to extend a special thanks to volunteers from the Navy, in remembrance of the Navy Yard shooting that happened only a few days later.

RESTORATIONS
This summer, work commenced on several restoration projects for our many memorial stones. Contractor Jeff Raymond finished refurbishing three large stones that had fallen over, thanks to the K9 Community that funded the work. The stones were pinned and set atop a new foundation to prevent future tipping. In addition, private family members restored the Ulrich vault and the Elbridge Gerry monument, under the close watch of Howard Wellman and Devin McDonald, independent contractors at Congressional Cemetery. Wellman also fixed the very delicate sandstone monument of James Stewart that was delaminating, and placed a new foundation under the large Tomkins stone.
Congressional Cemetery and the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

By Sandra K. Schmidt

Congressional Cemetery was first accepted to the Underground Railroad (UGRR) Network to Freedom in March 2010. An amended application including two more individuals was approved this September. As a site on the National Register of Historic Places, Congressional qualifies as the burial site of four individuals associated with the UGRR—William Boyd, John Dean, David A. Hall and Hannibal Hamlin.

The Network to Freedom is a national network of sites, programs and facilities with a verifiable connection to the Underground Railroad. Its purpose is to educate the public and encourage documenting, preserving and interpreting UGRR history. The Network to Freedom was authorized by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-203) and is managed by the National Park Service. The website (http://www.nps.gov/ugrr) and application process were officially launched in October 2000. Since then nearly 500 sites, programs and facilities throughout the U.S. have been accepted by the Network's review board.

William Boyd (1820-1884, R5 S222) was a “conductor” on the UGRR. In November 1858, he was caught near the Pennsylvania border with two escaped slaves concealed in the back of his wagon. It is not known how many other slaves he helped to freedom, but at his trial, witnesses testified they had seen his wagon on other occasions. Boyd was sentenced to 14 years in the penitentiary for stealing slaves. He had served only 3 years when 54 members of Congress—all of the officers of the Penitentiary and other prominent citizens of the District—petitioned for his pardon. President Lincoln signed the pardon on October 3, 1861. Boyd's efforts on behalf of the black community did not end there. During a riot in June 1865, when a crowd of rowdy soldiers began looting...
and beating the black residents in Southwest D.C., Boyd was hit in the head with a brick. A soldier was about to strike him with an axe when a group of black women intervened. He lost an eye and was so severely wounded doctors gave no hope for his recovery. He did recover, but never fully. He went on to serve on the Board of Common Council in 1869, and was a leading member of the Republican Party in Southwest Washington, where he argued for the rights of the black community.

Both David A. Hall and John Dean were attorneys who provided legal aid to freedom seekers and other participants in the UGRR. David Hall (1795-1870, R34 S63) arrived in the District in about 1820 to study and practice law. There are numerous examples of cases heard before the DC and MD courts in which Hall defended or negotiated on behalf of freedom seekers. Among them are the petition he wrote which Rep. Joshua Giddings presented in Congress on behalf of a black Virginian who had been falsely imprisoned as a runaway slave and was about to be sold to pay his “lodging” expenses. In 1848 he was the first attorney to come to the aid of the officers of the Pearl and the escaped slaves found on board. His daughter’s recollection of his funeral is a fitting tribute to his worth. Nothing was “so impressed upon my memory as the sight of the little group of weeping black men and women that gathered around my father’s casket, and in sobbing tones spoke of his goodness to them in the old days of slavery, when he saved them from being sold and separated from kith and kin.”

John Dean (1813-1863, R83 S181) arrived in DC in 1862 to take a position in the Treasury Department. He immediately became involved in a series of fugitive slave cases that, because of the interest of persons on both sides of the slavery issue, were covered extensively by the newspapers. His primary focus was to test the applicability of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. Because the law referred only to slaves escaping from one State to another, Dean argued, unsuccessfully, that the law did not apply to the District or the Territories. Over the next year he represented 7 freedom-seekers, 4 of which were ordered returned to their owners. A fifth, Andrew Hall, enlisted in the army and thus escaped recapture. As a result of his work Dean was extremely unpopular among the Maryland slave owners. He began to fear for his life, and an altercation with Hall’s owner resulted in his being charged with assault. Dean contracted and died of pneumonia before the case could be heard in court.

Hannibal Hamlin (1809-1862, R64 S75) was a cousin of Hannibal Hamlin, Lincoln’s first vice president. He arrived in DC in 1861 to accept a position in the Treasury Department. By early April 1862 it was generally believed that President Lincoln would sign the bill to emancipate the slaves living in the District. Already freedom seekers from Virginia and Maryland were arriving in large numbers in the hope of obtaining freedom and seeking work in the military units occupying the city. In late March/early April Hannibal Hamlin served as chairman of a committee to discuss the formation of the National Freedmen’s Relief Association (NFRA) of D.C. whose mission was to provide food and clothing to the refugees and prepare them for freedom. The group met on April 9th to formalize the organization and Hamlin was elected their President. He worked tirelessly, soliciting contributions from his Boston and Quaker friends, acquiring provisions and organizing medical services. In the fall he traveled to Fortress Monroe to observe conditions among the contrabands there. Ignoring the advice of family and friends, his health gave out and he died in November 1862.

Congressional is proud to have such men interred on our grounds. We hope you will visit their burial places, and keep their stories alive.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

And it won’t cost you a cent. An independent researcher is conducting a survey on Congressional Cemetery, and she would love to have your input. If you could take a few minutes to complete this online survey, the Cemetery would immensely benefit from the knowledge and findings the results provide. To check out the survey, please follow this link: http://tinyurl.com/pc4pw9d.
Stone Stories

What Secrets Lie Beneath…

BY MARGARET PUGLISI

The perfect venues to illustrate one’s personal achievements and interests for eternity (or at least as long as the stone is preserved), gravestones reveal interesting details. Among the typical display – birth date, death date, and religion — there may be mysterious symbols and shields that are not recognized by the average visitor. The majority of people are aware of well-known societies such as the Freemasons, Woodman of the World, and the Shriners, but did you know that there are well over 1,000 symbols that can be found on monuments that denote similar organizations?

Countless members of these societies occupy the grounds of Congressional Cemetery. Among the most interesting and slightly obscure, the cemetery is the resting place for members of the Knights of Pythias, Knights Templar, Knights of the Maccabees, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**Knights of Pythias (KP)**

*http://www.pythias.org/*

*Established:* 1864 in Washington, DC by Justus H. Rathbone

*Name Origin:* Greek mythology, The Legend of Damon and Phintias

*Mission:* Friendship, Charity, & Benevolence (FCB), Universal Peace

*Adage:* “Peace through Understanding”

**Interesting Tidbits:**

- Thanks to Abraham Lincoln, it was the “first American Order ever chartered by an Act of the Congress of the United States.”
- Congressional Cemetery is the resting place of William Murdock Hodges, Past Grand Chancellor.

83 recorded Knights of Pythias members interred at Congressional Cemetery, including:

- Albert Kahlert (Father of Marion Ooletia Kahlert) — Range 97 / Site 198
- William Murdock Hodges (Past Grand Chancellor of KP) — Range 141 / Site 190

**Knights Templar (KT)**

*http://www.history.com/news/who-were-the-knights-templar*

*Established:* 1118 in Temple Mount, Jerusalem by Hugues de Payens

*Original Name:* Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ of the Temple of Solomon

*Mission:* Protection of Christians pilgrimaging to Jerusalem

*Adage:* In Hoc Signo Vinces (“In This Sign Conquer”)

**Interesting Tidbits:**

- The organization was endorsed by the Catholic Church in 1129.
- In the early 1300s, the order was condemned and tortured. Official Templar activity was ultimately suspended in 1312.
- It is believed that Freemasonry stems from the Knights Templar.
- Congressional Cemetery has been the site of many funerals in which fellow members of the society are required to attend “in full Templar uniform.”

114 recorded Knights Templar members interred at Congressional Cemetery, including:

- William E. Luckett (Potomac Riverboat Pilot) — Range 98 / Site 265
- Peter Pitchlynn (Chief of the Choctaw Nation) — Range 87 / Site 294

**Knights of the Maccabees (KOTM)**

*http://dubsarhouse.com/fraternal_orders/kotm/index_fo_kotm.html*

*Established:* 1878 in London, Ontario by Nathan S. Boynton

*Name Origin:* A Jewish rebel army from the 2nd century BCE

*Mission:* Steadfastness and persistence
Adage: Astra Castra Numen Lumen ("The stars my camp, the Deity my light")

Interesting Tidbits:
- The Knights of the Maccabees was an insurance fraternity that provided financial help for their members in times of death and sickness.
- Knights of the Maccabees members interred at Congressional Cemetery, including:
  - Guy E. Padgett – Range 12 / Site 56
  - Benjamin Wesley Reid — Range 144 / Site 171

Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF)
http://www.ioof.org/
Established: April 26, 1819 in Baltimore, Maryland, by Thomas Wildey
Name Origin: Were believed to be “an odd bunch of fellows” to be so interested in philanthropy and community.
Mission: Friendship, Love and Truth. “To promote good will and harmony amongst peoples and nations”
Adage: “To improve and elevate the character of man.”

Interesting Tidbits:
- The mission of Washington Lodge No. 1. was to “Visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan.”
- The first national co-ed fraternity.
- The Rebekahs are a branch of the Odd Fellows.

290 recorded Odd Fellows interred at Congressional Cemetery, including:
- John Lewis Clubb (Member of the Marine Band & Library of Congress Employee) — Range 55 / Site 41
- Frederick Stuart (Navy Expedition to Behring’s Straits, Grand Sire of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows) — Range 57 / Site 237

K9 Corner

Day of the Dog at Congressional Cemetery

Dogs are a familiar sight on the grounds of Congressional Cemetery. At any given time, a visitor to the cemetery may see multiple pups roaming the grounds, happily chasing squirrels or racing among the grave stones. However, the day-to-day volume of pooches on cemetery grounds was surpassed by leaps and bounds on September 21st, Congressional Cemetery’s first Day of the Dog.

The gates opened at 10 a.m., and the cemetery was soon teeming with families and dogs ready to experience what the festival had to offer. Activities included bobbing for hot dogs, obstacle courses, a derby, trick and costume contests, and a photo booth with John Philip Sousa. Local training clubs, such as Capital Dog Training, Anytime K9, and ThankDog! Bootcamp, performed demonstrations that included audience participation. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to visit multiple local vendors, such as Howl to the Chief and Atlas Vet, and parched their thirst at a beer tent and with tastings provided by Port City Brewery.

Serenaded by the sweet tunes of the Charlottesville band Red and the Romantics, festival-goers also visited the adoption section of Day of the Dog, which hosted a variety of lovable pups from local rescue organizations. This was the greatest success of the day, with eight dogs adopted on the spot, and applications for at least five more dogs completed throughout the day. Look for Day of the Dog next year, as this promises to be a fun reoccurring event for Congressional Cemetery.

Dogs racing in the derby

One of the lucky pups adopted

Pictures with J.P. Sousa
Celebrating 110 Years and Honoring Arthur Martin Poynton

BY PAUL K. WILLIAMS

In a lovely September afternoon, about 20 relatives of our chapel’s architect, Arthur Martin Poynton (1870-1940), gathered in the building to unveil a new plaque for the chapel’s walls: a portrait, historic photograph and short biography of Poynton. Family members came from all over the country for this reunion, inspired by research conducted by Congressional and Poynton’s granddaughter.

We first contacted one of Poynton’s granddaughters, Mary Palascak, via Ancestry.com earlier this year, and she and other family members were thrilled to visit and tour a building Poynton designed. Alexis Palascak, another granddaughter, combed through documents and archives to gather information about Poynton’s career and life in the District, and made the ceremony possible.

As family members entered the chapel that afternoon, Richard Thibadeau from Christ Church played hymns on our historic organ, and the program closed with a small wine and cheese reception.

When it opened in 1903, the chapel was lauded as the most modern structure of its time in Washington, DC. Poynton was born in Washington and was educated in the city’s public schools. He began his architecture career in 1888 with Smithmeyer & Pelz, the architects of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress, which was being designed and constructed at the time. In 1893, he designed the heating and power plant for the Westinghouse system near Pittsburgh. Later, he supervised the structural steel work of the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York. In Washington, he was Superintendent of Construction and Architecture in the Building Department and also served as Deputy Inspector of Buildings. A prolific architect and builder, he designed and erected numerous buildings in Washington including the George M. Barker Company Warehouse, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the DC Inventory of Historic Sites.
Finding Treasures

BY ZACK BIO
SUMMER 2013 INTERN

Of the various programs and projects I was lucky enough to take part in during my short time at the Historic Congressional Cemetery, cataloging the cemetery’s artifacts and objects was one of the most rewarding. Since the cemetery isn’t as equipped as a museum or archive to take on a growing number of materials, I did some basic cataloging of the existing collection. While I find the process of cataloging personally interesting, the real excitement came from the objects. They varied in size and purpose, but they all told a unique story.

One of the most interesting items is right on the cemetery’s grounds. The large stone cross is part of a larger monument, and is broken into several pieces. It includes a stone arm and hand that were once part of a figure on the monument. The weight and intricacy of this piece gave me a new appreciation for the towering stones that are such a common occurrence in the cemetery.

Not all of the objects were striking because of their grand scale. A simple brick that had been used as a grave marker still sticks out in my mind as being particularly meaningful, although relatively little is known about the marker itself. These two objects were different in many ways, but they were both great examples of the spectrum of stories that rest in the cemetery.

Other objects I admire are rarely seen by visitors. Historic coffin hardware provides a glimpse into hidden parts of the cemetery. Rusted coffin nails and ornate handles show a side of death and burial culture beyond stone monuments. Each of these artifacts had a connection to a person, family, and community during different points in American history.

Staff, interns, and volunteers will continue to catalog and assess the collection, and the ultimate goal is to return these objects to their rightful place in the cemetery. Our knowledge of the collection will continue to grow as we record these pieces, and I can’t wait to return to the cemetery to discover the new stories the artifacts have to tell.
Yes!
I want to help preserve and restore Congressional Cemetery with a tax deductible donation.

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ Other ________

Special donation for the Sousa Gate Project:
Anonymous  ☐ Yes ☐ No

2013 Membership:  ☐ $125 Individual  ☐ $250 Family
☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Congressional Cemetery
☐ Please charge my credit card  ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard

Card # ______________________________________________
Cardmember Name ___________________________ Exp____
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.

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Calendar of Events

**October 15**
- Death Café DC

**October 19**
- Dead Man’s Run, 5:30 pm

**October 20**
- Notes from the Crypt, 4 pm

**October 26**
- Ghosts and Goblets, 8 pm

**November 2**
- DC Metro Chapter of Association for Gravestone Studies Meeting, 1 pm

**November 3**
- Book Party for Tim Krepp’s *Ghosts of Georgetown*, 3 pm

**November 6**
- John Philip Sousa’s Birthday Celebration

**November 10**
- Notes from the Crypt, 4 pm

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"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. 202-543-0539