



Heritage Gazette

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY • SUMMER 2013

Restoring Beauty

BY DANIEL HOLCOMBE

*A*bout a month ago we started a new program here at Congressional. Volunteers are stepping forward to “adopt” family plots by gardening and maintaining the plantings throughout the year. Our new adopt-a-plot project will both restore part of Congressional’s historic landscape as well as enhance the overall beauty of the grounds. The Cemetery was once called “gardenesque” by our very own George Watterson, the third Librarian of Congress. He described the Cemetery as a place that “the stranger as well as the citizen would feel a melancholy pleasure.” This project is designed to replace some of the lost horticultural beauty of the Cemetery.

Volunteers will choose a family plot to maintain throughout the year, and with only a few exceptions, all family plots that use stone coping around their perimeters are up for adoption. This is not a project that must be attempted alone! All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to work with other people, especially on larger plots. You are free to work whenever you want and we will have tools available for you. We have a list available of suggested plants, including those historically appropriate as well as plants aimed at providing for our bees. With the proper plant choice, only routine weeding will be necessary to maintain these beds.

We have already had more than a dozen plots adopted, and a few have already been gardened. Evelyn Kurhajetz, one of our volunteers, has even spent time researching the people interred in the plots she has gardened in order to ensure the plantings represent those buried there. Thanks to all of our volunteers who are helping with this project, and if you think you’d be interested, please contact us (at dholcombe@congressionalcemetery.org) and start looking for the right plot for you!

Beverley Lumpkin’s adopted plot

Letter from the Chair

Congressional Cemetery is approaching the “dog days of summer” (no pun intended) and it’s time to reflect on the busy and productive spring we’ve enjoyed. From an exciting grant competition to a slew of events, we’ve had our hands full.



We are proud to be taking on our fundraising goals by leaps and bounds. On May 4, President Paul Williams announced a new fundraising effort to raise money for the Sousa Gate, which includes a plan to restore and reinstall the original wrought iron gate and entranceway. Currently, \$18,000 has been raised toward the \$195,000 fundraising goal, which is an impressive achievement for our nonprofit. Additionally, Congressional Cemetery was one of only 24 DC-area participants in the Partners in Preservation Contest, a program sponsored by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation that awards grants across the country.

In addition to those impressive fundraising efforts, Vice President Margaret Puglisi is heading up a major condition assessment project of all of the stones in our 35-acre cemetery. This multi-phase, multi-year project will be completed with the help of interns, volunteers, and staff, and is an important step toward our emphasis on preservation in the cemetery. The condition assessment includes the written and photographic documentation of stones, as well as the entry of this information into a database that will be essential for future use.

Further efforts to document and map the cemetery by GPR expert Bob Perry are well on their way. Mr. Perry has charted about one-third of the grounds, with 11 acres accomplished to date. The staff will soon enjoy using the integrated maps and computer software to more effectively manage the grounds and take inventory of plots still being offered for sale.

If this doesn’t sound like enough of a full schedule, the cemetery also organized and implemented numerous special events and programs (see *Around the Gatehouse* for more information). The cemetery remains an active burial site, and had a marked increase of plot sales in recent months.

With your help, we will continue the Association’s busy and ambitious efforts, looking forward to a bustling summer and fall of fundraising, events, and preservation activities.

— 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 President

To start, I'm excited to announce that I have officially been in my current position as the President of Congressional Cemetery for a year. And what a year it has been.

With your help in voting and attending events, Historic Congressional Cemetery was awarded a \$50,000 grant in the Partners in Preservation program in May! We were one of 24 local historic sites competing for our share of \$1 million from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express. We were up against some formidable landmarks, such as the National Cathedral and Mount Vernon, both of which have hundreds of employees. Our grant will go toward the repair of our mausoleum row roof structures.

But the contest didn't just award the top few sites with the most votes: we had to earn our funding through innovative posts on the social media sites Facebook, Foursquare, Twitter and Instagram. Your feedback, checks, and diligent activity on those sites were shared with a review committee. They chose just 11 of the sites to receive funding; so, we offer our heartfelt thanks that you all got involved.

We also received a grant for \$2,000 from the Capitol Hill Community Foundation for the restoration of our funeral bell, part of the overall main gate restoration project. The 500-pound bronze bell will be sent



Paul Williams (right) with John Philip Sousa IV

back to the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, where it was manufactured in 1893. After the bell returns, we will display it on the grounds, and work to raise the funds to place it in a prominent structure at our entranceway.

The Sousa Gate Capitol Campaign is off to a resounding start, with over \$18,000 raised since May 4. Frances Kane graciously donated stock in memory of her husband, Paul L. Kane, and many dog walkers and donors have sent in contributions specifically for the project. We hope to raise \$195,000 by next year to restore and reinstall the original wrought iron gate; create two pedestrian gates and an automated entry

system; and, finally complete the main road.

I attended the International Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association conference in Tampa in April, and HCC was featured in its newsletter the prior month as new members. The industry is constantly changing, and I had the opportunity to meet many other historic cemetery managers and employees. We also became a distributor for the popular Light of Hope memorial solar light, which site owners or donors can purchase for a plot. For more information visit: www.lightofhope.com.

— PAUL K. WILLIAMS

REVOLUTIONARY WAR LIVING HISTORY EVENT & ANNUAL MEETING



Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps honoring Jacob Gideon

If you were anywhere near Congressional Cemetery on April 20, you would have heard us! Our Annual Meeting and Revolutionary War Living History event brought the local community to HCC for an exciting day. After covering the year's business with a meeting in the Chapel, the day took off with firing demonstrations of reproduction antique firearms. Guided tours, a wreath laying at the grave of Jacob Gideon, and a musical performance by The United States Army Historic Trumpet and Flute Ensembles of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps helped make the day a booming success.

SOUSA PALOOZA!

event lived up to its energetic name. Not only was Sousa Palooza a scheduled HCC event, but it also served as our Open

House for the Partners in Preservation Contest (see the President's letter for details). "Tuba

Guy" greeted visitors as they strolled in, and children scoured the cemetery to complete our challenging scavenger hunt. Bands gathered at Sousa's grave to serenade the March King, and John Philip Sousa IV himself judged the delicious Spaghetti Sauce Contest. A lecture by Sousa IV about one of our most famous residents capped off Sousa Palooza, along with a

fundraising kickoff announcement for our much-anticipated "Sousa Gate."



"Tuba Guy" at Sousa Palooza



Paul Williams addressing the runners

PRIDE 5K

Despite the threat of rain, hundreds of runners flocked to Congressional Cemetery on June 7 for the first Pride 5k. The event was sold out, with 750 runners participating. Sponsored by DC Front Runners, this race launched Capitol Pride weekend in DC. Competitors ran through the cemetery and along the Anacostia trail, enjoying a post-race party after dodging stray mud puddles on the racecourse. Paul Williams also gave a LGBT tour, starting with Leonard Matlovich at the cemetery's "gay corner." The area served as the focus of the evening's festivities, and the start of the 5k.

FLOWERS & WREATHS

HCC is reviving a Victorian-era tradition once offered on the grounds — the ability to arrange for flowers and ceremonial or holiday wreaths to be placed at a grave. We've snagged a reduced rate at a local florist, and our staff will place the pieces at sites. We



can even send along a digital picture for you. It's a nice way to remember a relative or pay homage to your favorite veteran or resident from afar. Visit www.congressionalcemetery.org for more information or email staff@congressionalcemetery.org for more details.

CIVIL WAR BOOK PARTY

At Congressional, we know the best way to throw a party is to open up the Public Vault. We

made sure to showcase the space at our Civil War Book Party on June 14. Authors Lucinda Janke and Jim Garrett gave brief lectures and signed their books, *A Guide to Civil War Washington, D.C.* and *The Lincoln Assassination: Where Are They Now?* Visitors enjoyed performances by the Susquehanna Travellers and sampled a historic punch that we can safely say is a bit too dangerous for modern consumption. A good time was had by all.

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Dapper guests at the book party

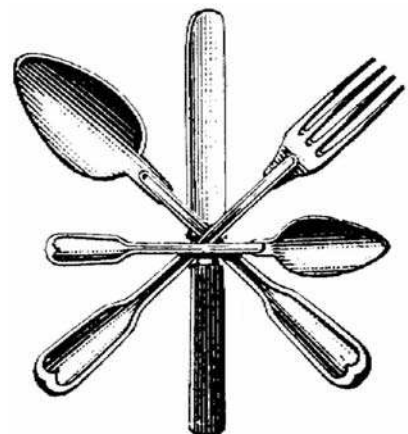
Crystal Pate (cpate@congressionalcemetery.org) with your name and email address. If you would still like to receive your hard copy but are interested in more frequent updates from Congressional Cemetery, we'd still love to have your email address, so just let Crystal know in your email that you would like to continue to receive the hard copy of the newsletter.

Congressional Cemetery Cookbook: "To Die For"

BY CRYSTAL PATE

It's that time of the year. Everyone wants new recipes for the holidays, family functions, and company potlucks, and Congressional Cemetery wants to make sure those meals are "to die for." We have come up with some interesting concepts for a cookbook, and want your help to fill its pages. If you would like to submit a family dish or a recent favorite, go to www.typensave.com to add your recipes and save them online to the cookbook. To log in, type the username "hcc cookbook" and the password "popcorn922." Or, email a typed or copied recipe to cpate@congressionalcemetery.org and we'll enter it ourselves; mailed recipes also welcome! The cookbook will be printed and sold in the cemetery gift shop.

Thank you in advance for your help and support. We hope to see many submissions from the HCC community!



A Forgotten Cartographer

BY STEPHEN SCHELL

In the modern world, cartography is both a science and an art that incorporates the latest earth and space technology. Today, this skill requires a degree or degrees in multidisciplinary subjects. In the world of our forgotten cartographer, training was also necessary but was based on the power of observation, use of a sextant, star tables, note taking, and hand drawn art.

The history of cartography is uniquely significant to the narrative of westward expansion. Since 1803, when the Lewis and Clark Expedition began, government survey and mapmaking expeditions have spanned the United States. Within the grounds of Historical Congressional Cemetery rests a cartographer whose work in the American West has largely been forgotten.

Our mapmaker, George Karl Ludwig Preuss, was born in Germany in 1803. He went by the name of Charles, and got his start in cartography in 1834. Ferdinand

Hassler, a German immigrant who became Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Survey, sent Preuss to work along the East Coast. Preuss left to work for a British mining company. When he attempted to return to the Coast Survey, Hassler did not have work for him. Instead, Hassler recommended Preuss to 26-year-old John C. Frémont, a young officer in the Topographical Corp of Engineers. Frémont was



Charles Preuss



A Pruss map

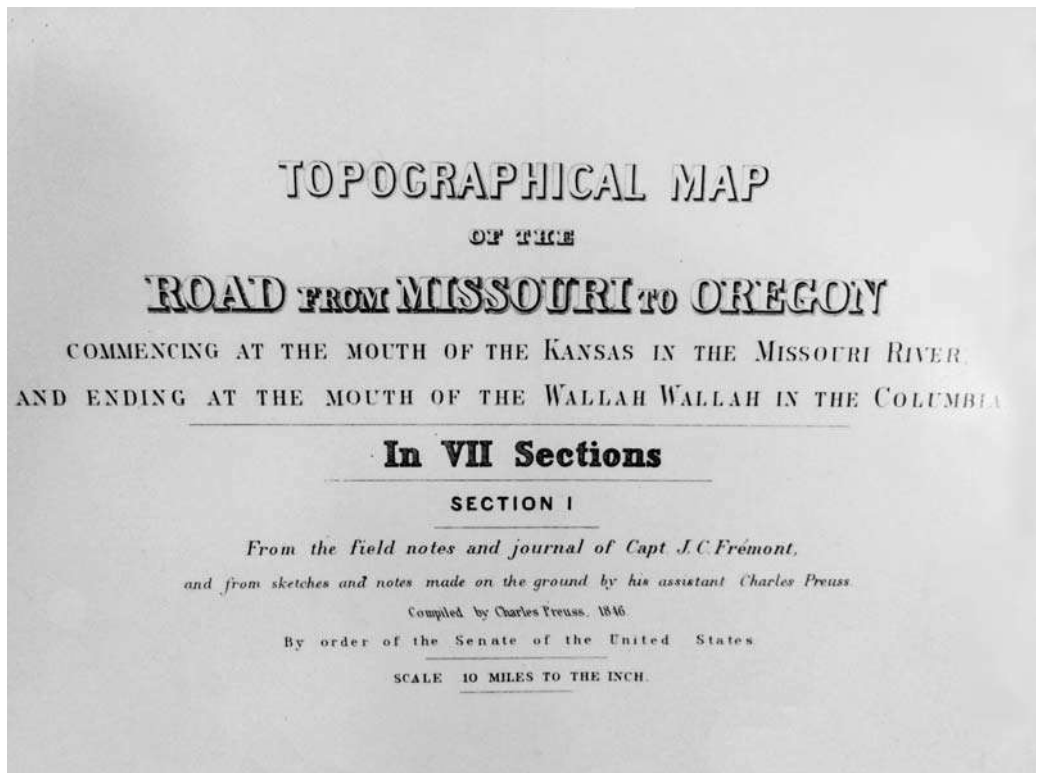
working on map data from his 1839 Nicollet Expedition up the Missouri.

In 1842, Preuss began one of several major expeditions with Frémont. After the 1842 and 1843 expeditions, Preuss was commissioned by the government in 1847 to create a map of what are today Oregon, Upper California, and the central section of the Rocky Mountains. From this map, and data from Frémont's fourth expedition, Preuss was commissioned to create what became known as the

"Oregon Trail" maps. Comprised of seven separate sections, these maps were sold throughout the east and in England to emigrating Mormons. They served the government, wagon train masters, and emigrants all venturing to the West.

Fremont sought out Preuss for a fifth expedition in the spring of 1853. Preuss' wife, Gertrude, intervened because of previous dangers with Frémont. Instead, Preuss took a job as a draftsman on the Pacific Railroad Survey in the Southwest. After his return to Washington, DC, where he lived in Ward 7 with his wife and three young daughters, he became ill. Unable to fulfill his work with the survey, he became depressed. On September 2, 1854, his hanging body was found in Bladensburg, a few miles from DC.

Sadly, Preuss' accomplishments are mostly overlooked, in favor



of the more flamboyant John C. Frémont. Preuss' grave at Congressional Cemetery is unmarked. However, in late July, a marker will be placed there to commemorate his achievements and his place in history.

His obituary in *The Evening Star* (Sept 2, 1854) read:

MELANCHOLY EVENT

We have to record today the most melancholy event that has occurred in our midst for years. Mr. Charles Preuss, surveyor and companion of Col. Fremont in the discovery of the best route to California, is no more. Some four years ago he was sun-struck in California, which more or less afflicted his mind ever since.

About a week ago the malady became worse, derangement fully appearing when he was kept at home, and carefully attended to. Day before yesterday he walked out, and went to the penitentiary,

where he asked the keeper to furnish him with a room. The keeper put him off in a kind manner, when he left the building, and no trace of him could be found until last evening, when his dead body was found back of the farm of Clark Mills, Esq., near Bladensburg. In his insanity he wandered away from home and perished there.

Mr. Preuss was one of the most scientific men in his profession, and bore a most excellent character. His last trip was with Capt. Williamson, surveying a route for the Pacific railroad, during which he was afflicted with an attack consequent upon the first injuries received. He was a Prussian by birth, we understand, and leaves a deeply afflicted wife and family and numerous warm friends to mourn the melancholy event.

Deathdate:
September 2, 1854

The Venerable Gerry

BY MARGARET PUGLISI



Flame — “eternal life,” “eternal vigilance,” “martyrdom” (Keister, 123)



Urn — distinguishing earthly remains from the dead (Keister 137-138)



Acanthus — “prickly journey of life to death and, ultimately, the final triumph of eternal life” (Keister, 41)

Oak Leaves — “strength, endurance, eternity, honor, liberty, hospitality, faith, and virtue” (Keister, 62)

Elbridge Gerry — a merchant, patriot, and politician — is known for being a man “full of years and full of honors.” Involved with the Continental Congress, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the fifth Vice President of the United States, Gerry made a significant contribution to the founding and success of our country.

It is important to realize that not all carvings on grave-stones are symbolic. Frequently, images are incorporated into the design of the memorial solely for personal interest or aesthetic purposes. For example, the tulip may have been chosen to adorn Gerry’s grave for its symbolic meaning from a Turkish folktale, or it could have simply been chosen because Gerry’s home state of Massachusetts is believed to have been the setting of the first tulip planting in America.

Due to the severe weathering on the Elbridge Gerry memorial, it took several days of research to determine what types of images are represented. Thanks to a thorough journalist from The National Intelligencer in July 1823, the eroded marble carving can be identified and interpreted. The symbolic meanings of these images depict Gerry as a strong leader steadfast in his convictions, whose accomplishments and memory will live in perpetuity.

In order to maintain the historic integrity of the Elbridge Gerry memorial, conservation efforts will begin in the near future. Howard Wellman from Wellman Conservation, LLC will perform a consolidation treatment, gentle cleaning, and repointing in order to conserve this historic record for generations to follow.

Information about symbols found in Douglas Keister’s *Stories in Stone*. Information about Gerry found in HCC archives.

Dock — “patience” (<http://www.joellessacredgrove.com/language.html#d>)



Parsley — “commemorating the death of important personages” (<http://www.angelfire.com/journal2/flowers/p.html>)



Amaranthus — “symbol of immortality” (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/amaranth>)



Tulip — “historic symbol of perfect love” based on Turkish tale in which a man rides his horse off a cliff after finding out about the death of his love. “From each droplet of his love, a scarlet tulip sprang up.” (<http://americanmeadows.com/history-daffodils-tulips>)



This is a sad story with what we hope will be a happy ending. More than anything, this story reveals the generosity and kindness of the K9 Corps.

Recently, a K9 Corps member found a little dog (see picture) wandering the grounds. Elderly, blind, and without an owner, this dog had been abandoned. . Fortunately, someone dropped the dog at Congressional Cemetery. While he should never have been deserted, he couldn't have been left in a better place.

The kind-hearted dog walker scooped up the pup and took him to a local vet's office, where he received vaccines, a general check-up, and grooming. The dog walker cared for the dog and

got him back on his feet, dubbing the small pup "Jack."

When we heard about this in the Gatehouse, we promptly sent out a message notifying all dog walkers of the abandoned dog. His vet bills were substantial, and at a personal cost to the dog walker who rescued him. The response was overwhelming. We were inundated with queries about how to help this dog, along with much-needed, generous donations. After a few weeks recuperating in the dog walker's home, Jack has now been placed in a good, caring shelter dedicated to finding him a forever home. The K9 Corps have continued to help Jack, sending donations in his name to the local shelter.



The little dog in need of rescue

This small, sweet story about a tiny, lonely dog highlights the incredible K9 Corps community. Congressional wouldn't be the same without them, and it's touching to see an example of such generosity. Cross your fingers for this little guy. He's had a rough go of it, but with the K9 Corps behind him, we think he'll be just fine.

Meet Anna Hong, Caitlin Merritt, and Zack Biro

CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY'S SUMMER INTERNS

Anna received her Bachelor of Architecture from Carnegie Mellon University in 2011, and is working toward a Master of Architectural History at the University of Virginia. She is excited to start her thesis, and is applying to Ph.D. programs this summer. On the side, Anna likes to travel and explore different cultures through food. At the Congressional Cemetery, she will be out and about on the grounds. If you're around and see her, stop by and say hello. She would love to meet you and your dog!

Caitlin recently graduated with a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. After spending two years in Rhode Island, Caitlin has moved back to her hometown of Baltimore, MD. Her interests include hands-on preservation, and she will spend the summer working on gravestone condition assessments and other tasks. In addition to interning at Congressional, Caitlin is busy looking for full time work in the preservation field. Zack graduated from Lehigh University in 2011 with a Bachelor's Degree in History. He worked for Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites and the Moravian Church Archives in his hometown of Bethlehem, Pa. before returning Lehigh to start his Master's Degree in Public History. He hopes to help with research and archiving while interning at the Congressional Cemetery.



**Top: Anna Hong and Caitlin Merritt.
Bottom, Zack Biro**

Want to Help Congressional Cemetery? Here's How:

SEEKING STOCK DONATIONS:



HCC has created a brokerage account at our locally owned National Capitol Bank to receive donations in the form of stock. You can take advantage of significant tax savings while supporting the critical mission of the cemetery. Donors to the Sousa Gate project will be listed on a plaque at the main entrance. Consider donating today! Contact pwilliams@congressional-cemetery.org for wire instructions.

SOUSA GATE CAPITOL CAMPAIGN

Donors can now request that their funds be designated toward the Sousa Gate restoration project, which will restore and rein-

stall the original 1856 wrought iron gate at the main entrance. Kicked off on May 4, over \$18,000 has been raised toward our goal of \$195,000. Donate by check or online today, and we'll include your name on a plaque at the main entrance!

HCC HISTORIC RECORD BOOKS

Our many record books – some that date back to the 1820s – are currently being surveyed by a conservator to determine their restoration and rebinding needs. We have several dozen books that need conservation, and we



would welcome your donations toward the effort. Those who contribute over \$500 will be recognized with a bookplate installed during the process.

HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY WISH LIST:

Your generous contributions to Congressional Cemetery make it possible for us to continue to preserve, restore, and enhance our historic grounds and markers. 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!



- Heavy, industrial metal shelving to hold our collections for cataloging — or \$1,500
- Portable air conditioners for the chapel — or \$900
- Oriental rugs for the gatehouse and chapel — or \$2,000
- Office plants — or \$50
- Daylilies, bulbs, Liriope, or low-maintenance groundcover for newly adopted plots — or \$50
- New or used garden tools (any value)
- Modular greenhouse — or \$2,500



Finding Treasures

BY LAURA NEAL

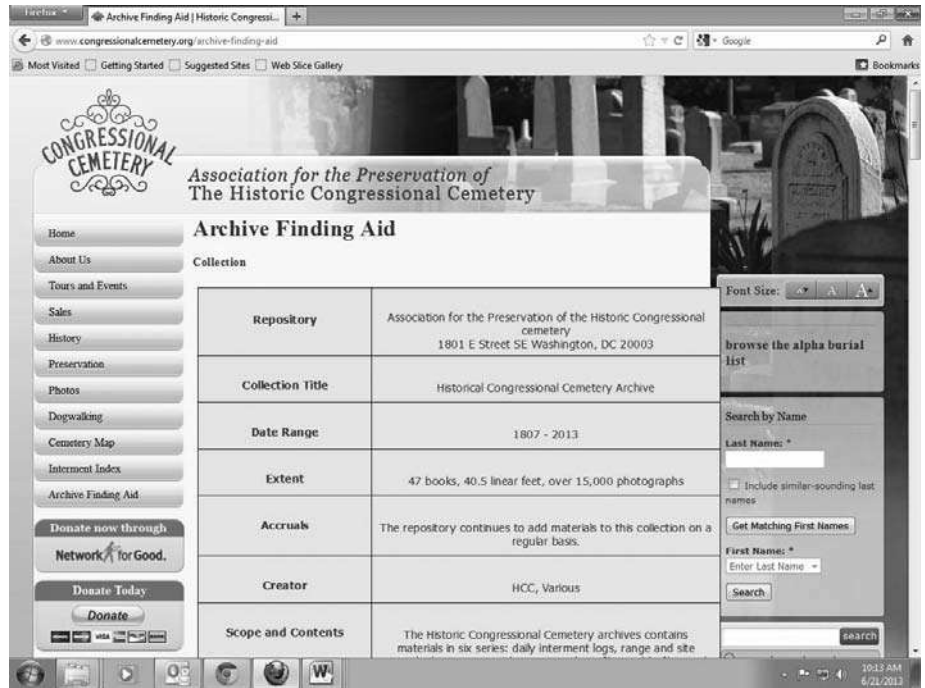
DEFINITION OF FINDING AID:

A document that summarizes the contents and organization of filed records to facilitate their access and use.

Have you gone to our website's Archive Finding Aid page, only to be greeted with the message, "Content will be provided soon"? Well, take another look. I am happy to announce the space now houses a finding aid to help historians, genealogists, and others explore the trove of historical information within the Gatehouse walls. I am honored to have been part of a volunteer team to help Dayle Dooley and the HCC staff complete the project.

I started working on this program last spring, when I audited Library Automation and Project Management, a class at Catholic University of America. The course was led by lecturer Barrie Howard, a Project Management Professional in the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program at Library of Congress. Unlike me, the students taking the class were all graduate students in Library Science. I also work at the Library of Congress, but as a Preservation Specialist in the Conservation Division.

As a dog walking member of HCC, I quickly saw an opportunity to have my project work



The brand new Congressional Cemetery finding aid

double as volunteer hours. I arranged for my class to meet with Dayle to discuss how we could assist the cemetery. We elected to create the finding aid for the website. We believe this is an important link between researchers and the collection.

When historians or family members realize the quantity and categories of records, documents, and photographs available at HCC, they will be better able to contact the archive for access. A large portion of the collection has been digitized. Everyone can now share this information by email, and the staff can arrange onsite access, as well. We hope

the new finding aid will keep the HCC staff very busy with requests!

The project was a learning experience for me, and a chance to become more acquainted with the HCC archive and staff. I would like to thank Dayle for her deep knowledge of the archive and her willingness to share it. I also want to acknowledge the work of my team members:

Katherine Perdue, Elizabeth Bateman, Kimberly Hall, and Maura Williams.

You can view the finding aid online: www.congressionalcemetery.org/archive-finding-aid.



Association for the Preservation of
Historic Congressional Cemetery

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\$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

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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.

Calendar of Events

AUGUST 24

- Food Truck Event

SEPTEMBER 14

- Day of Remembrance

SEPTEMBER 21

- Day of the Dog Festival

OCTOBER 5

- Dead Man's Run

OCTOBER 26

- Ghosts and Goblets



CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY
18th and E Streets, SE.

IT'S BEST TO KEEP AT LEAST SIX PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WHO WILL ALWAYS HELP YOU MOVE.

You don't have to be rich and famous to be buried in Congressional Cemetery. You just have to be dead.

Green Burial Options

Visit CongressionalCemetery.org for details
(202) 543-0539

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