This stately sandstone tablet headstone marks the burial site of two of Congressional Cemetery’s countless little-known occupants. A 34-year-old native of Scotland, James Stewart died almost exactly one year after the death of his eleven-year-old daughter Anne. There are no obituaries in our files about James and Anne, and the majority of our information about them is presented on their memorial.

Based on our Daily Interment Log and our Range Book, we were able to reveal a bit more information about their time spent at Congressional Cemetery. James Stewart originally owned three plots in Range 52, where he and his daughter were eventually buried, with one plot in-between them, presumably for Magdalin, wife and mother. So how did James and Anne come to take up residence in Range 47 in the Ogilvie family burial plot? Our Daily Interment Log indicates that R.W.F. Ogilvie relocated the two from Range 52 / Site 30 and 32 to Range 47 / Site 171 in May 1892 for a fee of $100. This plot had been purchased by Robert Brown in September 1869, and interestingly enough, there is record of a Magdalena buried in the same plot. Magdalena was Robert’s wife. With spelling errors prevalent in historic records, it is possible that this is the family plot of Magdalin/Magdalena’s second husband, and that James and Anne were moved to be reunited with their loved one. It is unclear whether the sandstone headstone dates back to the 1820s after their initial burial or the 1890s after their relocation.

Despite not knowing the tablet’s exact origin, we do know that sandstone was commonly chosen to mark burials in Washington, D.C. in the nineteenth-century due to the close proximity of sandstone quarries such as Seneca Quarry in Maryland and Aquia Creek in Virginia. Composed of layers of sediment from water environments, such as rivers and lakes, sandstone’s defining features are its bedding planes and porosity. While metamorphic rocks go through intense heat, pressure, and folding, sandstone is only exposed to lithification, cementation, or compaction, or a combination of the processes. Pigment variations are determined by composi-

Continued on page 8
After a busy fall replete with successful fundraising, numerous preservation projects, and diverse events, we can all sit back and take a breath (or two) and contemplate the past year. If you happen to be a visitor who intentionally avoids the crowds and humidity of DC in summer, this is truly one of the best times to make your way to our historic cemetery. Early but brilliant sunsets often leave the cemetery glowing, inviting dog walkers and visitors alike to wander the grounds in peace and quiet. For the board and staff at APHCC, winters at Congressional Cemetery offer a time to reflect, to gather resources, and to plan for a new year full of fresh opportunities.

We could not have asked for more from 2013. For over two weeks in May we participated in a contest that put our social media savvy to the test, and we were rewarded with $50,000 to restore our historic Mausoleum Row. In other preservation efforts, we launched a massive condition assessment project of the entire cemetery and successfully conserved 10 markers and one mausoleum. The GPR survey of the cemetery is over halfway completed, fundraising for the Sousa gate is well underway, and we have some successful spring and fall events under our belts. And of course, you can’t forget the goats.

With these achievements behind us, we can turn our eyes to 2014. Currently, the Board is recruiting new members, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Susan Urahn, our newest board member. She comes to us with a background in development, policy, and program management from her 19 years at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

In addition to recruiting new board members, the Board has introduced further changes to strengthen and renew the governance of the Association. We recently decided to reinstitute the committee system in order to further support the cemetery’s efforts and lend our expertise and knowledge to the operations of our nonprofit. The committees include Development, Buildings and Grounds, Communications, Preservation, and a K9 Corps committee. For these committees we are also asking for input and involvement from the public, creating dynamic relationships among the Board, staff, volunteers and greater community of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery. Bolstered by the knowledge and support of many, the Association has never been stronger.

We are blessed in having a committed staff and we’re thankful for all of their efforts this year. In summary, our organization is happy and healthy. Enjoy the holiday season and have a very Happy New Year.

—JOHN GILLESPIE
Our Sousa Gate restoration project is coming along nicely, thanks to your many donations targeted toward the most important restoration project the cemetery has undertaken in years. And if you donate before December 31st this year, we can double your money! That’s thanks to generous Board member Edward S. Miller who donated a $10,000, dollar-for-dollar matching grant this fall. We’ve already raised almost $40,000 toward our goal of $195,000.

It will restore the original c.1856 gate, incorporate our sign, create handicap access to the Gatehouse, complete the road, and add a side porch and bell tower to the gatehouse. The recently restored 1894 McShane foundry bell sits temporarily atop a brick pier awaiting its new home. Come by and have a ring — she sounds beautiful and we’re now able to use it for its intended purpose by announcing the arrival of the funeral procession.

We also have a need to physically preserve some of our original record books. We’ve had them assessed by a professional and they need varying degrees of preservation: from gentle cleaning to full on rebinding. We can target your donation to a single book and incorporate your name into the nameplate and date of restoration. They range in cost from $200 to $1,500.

I am pleased to announce that in mid-November, a custom-made gantry truck was delivered to the cemetery to support our many preservation and conservation activities. What is a gantry you ask? We get that question a lot. It’s a hydraulic device that will allow us to right fallen headstones and pick up, disassemble, move, and reassemble complex monuments and markers. Our ability to do this in-house in the past was limited to what a single person could pick up by hand, and the vast majority of our stones in need of repair were beyond our capabilities.

Our ongoing headstone condition assessment report being done by volunteers has already created and prioritized a long list of stones and markers that need to be lifted and restored to their proper place, and this machine will make that possible. We’ll also be able to rent it to onsite conservation contractors who work on our most delicate memorials and stones.

The gantry is self-propelled and can maneuver in and around even our most crowded spaces. It was manufactured in Bellefontaine, Ohio, by the Axis Corporation, and is a customized version of what was first designed as a cement vault handler. Its hydraulic lift can pick up 3,500 pounds easily and safely. And it’s not just headstones that will benefit; the grounds crew and staff can use it to move boulders, heavy equipment, supplies, and even pull out stumps and large fallen tree limbs.

And if you were anywhere in Washington, DC, during October, you would have likely seen us in the news once again. We had fantastic live and print coverage of many of our events — Dead Man’s Run, Chapel concert, Bike DC party, and of course our annual Ghosts and Goblets gala that attracted a record 550 costumed guests to what turned out to be a spook-tacular evening in the cemetery.

— Paul K. Williams
Ghosts and Goblets

Beginning at 8 pm on October 26th, guests trickled through the cemetery gates wearing a multitude of costumes. With both a general and VIP admission option, all tickets included admission to the heated tent behind the historic 1903 Chapel. Inside the Chapel, the band Violin Dreams serenaded party guests and prompted party-goers to drop their drinks for a bit and dance inside the historic structure. VIP guests were invited to enjoy premium cocktails in and around the Public Vault area, sampling a specialty punch crafted by a local mixologist. In addition to access to the party itself, admission to Ghosts and Goblets included guided tours of the cemetery. Along the way, actors portraying the deceased “residents” of Congressional Cemetery entertained the tours by speaking about their lives. Stops on the tour included the eminent John Philip Sousa, Civil War-era photographer Mathew Brady and George Washington’s personal secretary, Tobias Lear, among many others.

Dead Man’s Run

The third annual Dead Man’s Run was better than ever. This year, we strongly encouraged runners to race in costume, and the DMR runners delivered. We had a Pac-Man troop, the Washington Monument under construction, pirates, ghosts and bumblebees galore. Runners of all ages lined up near the grave of Leonard Matlovich and continued through the cemetery and along the Anacostia Trail. Congratulations to all our runners!

Tweetup?

What is a tweetup? We weren’t exactly sure either until we co-sponsored our very first tweetup with Gadsby’s Tavern of Alexandria, Virginia. Together we put out the call to interested tweeps (see, we’re getting used to the terminology), inviting all interested to register for the tweetup. Participants gathered at Congressional Cemetery and listened to lectures inside the Public Vault as well as the vault of John Gadsby, live tweeting about their experiences throughout. After the pre-

Around the Gatehouse

G&G guests listening to a ghostly story

Haunter William Cross is pestered by stilt walkers

The bustling tent at Ghosts and Goblets

Energetic start to Dead Man’s Run

Creative group of Pac-Man runners
sentations, our tweeps got their hands dirty and uncovered and restored a sunken cradle grave. The enthusiastic tweetup participants went behind the scenes at HCC, gaining knowledge about the cemetery and John Gadsby, and tweeting all about it. If you don’t already, remember to follow @CongCemetery on Twitter for the latest and greatest news.

HAPPY 159TH SOUSA!
Congressional Cemetery’s grand tradition of celebrating John Philip Sousa’s birthday on November 6th continued this year with a larger-than-ever birthday party. Per usual, a short awards ceremony preceded the Marine Band performance. K9 Corps member Amy Knebel received the Volunteer of the Year Award, and long-time docent Tim Krepp received the Docent of the Year Award. Robert L. “Bobby” Gerry received the John Philip Sousa Distinguished Service Award. Following the awards ceremony, Sousa himself addressed the crowds and welcomed the illustrious Marine Band as they marched through the 17th Street Gate. The Marine Band played an impressive and moving concert, and all were invited to enjoy a piece, or even two, of Sousa’s birthday cake.

NEW GANTRY
HCC is now the proud owner of a brand new gantry! This handy tool will allow us to move and upright headstones, and even remove stumps and haul heavy items. It’s a big step in our conservation efforts here at the cemetery as it will allow us to slowly begin righting the fallen headstones that dot our historic grounds. The completed work in the ongoing condition assessment project allows us to prioritize efforts and pinpoint the headstones most in need of repair. Stay tuned to future newsletters for photographs of the gantry in action.

TOMBS AND TOMES
A few of the staff members here at Congressional Cemetery have always secretly wanted to join a book club. Or perhaps not so secretly. Hence the staff initiative to begin a cemetery book club dubbed “Tombs and Tomes.” To date, the book club has met twice and currently plans to convene every two months. Our first selection was Stiff, by Mary Roach, and our second was Devil in the White City, by Erik Larson. The next meetings are on January 23rd and March 20th, and the picks are: Assassination Vacation by Sarah Vowell and Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand, respectively. If you would like more information on the book club, please contact Lauren Maloy at lmaloy@congressionalcemetery.org.

HOLIDAY WREATHS
Congressional Cemetery is offering wreaths for sale. Wreaths are located on the back porch of the Gatehouse for a suggested donation of $20. Stands will not be provided with the wreaths. You can call the Gatehouse to have a wreath placed at the grave of a loved one, and we’ll even send you a digital picture.
Death by Tiger: The Story of Charles Siegert

BY PAUL K. WILLIAMS

Congressional Cemetery’s website holds thousands of records pertaining to the individuals interred here. A single record for a resident can hold a great deal of information: date and place of birth, last known residence, or an obituary. When scanning such records, the cause of death inevitably catches the eye. So when the cause of death for a Mr. Charles Siegert reads: “Crushed Leg — Tiger Bite,” it is hard not to be intrigued. And a bit of searching proved that the story of Charles Siegert’s death merited further research. His story is a fascinating one indeed.

The Wallace Circus was in town, and so were its many animals. 21-year-old Charles Siegert was in charge of the show’s ponies, but developed a strange and dangerous habit of sleeping on top of the tiger cage, which ultimately led to his demise. As he slept atop a Bengal tiger named “Old Ben” the evening of September 4, 1899, he turned in his sleep shortly after 1:30 am and his leg dropped down the side of the cage. The beast had his calf between its teeth and Siegert’s body caught at the knee of the imprisoned foot and hung full in reach of the tiger. His cries awakened the whole tent and while men ran to his assistance the other animals roared and growled at the uproar. Torches were pushed at the tiger; employees who were familiar with similar accidents got clubs and pushed them hard against the tiger’s nose. He hung on till his own pain caused the grip of his teeth to relax and the instant they did so Siegert was pulled away. His wounds were hastily dressed and the police notified.”

Siegert, ironically a butcher by trade, had joined the circus just eleven weeks before, when it rolled out of Tolleston, Indiana. He had endured the horrible accident for a full ten minutes. He was taken to Emergency Hospital, where the reality of his wound was revealed. The Post described that “part of the calf had been torn away, and at the knee the exposed bone showed indentations of the great teeth of the beast. Muscles, sinews, and flesh hung in ribbons from the
great wound.” An employee of the circus visited the hospital, but it was reported that he had no interest in Siegert, and coldly announced that he was only there to reclaim the bloodied quilt which had been wrapped around Siegert’s leg.

Surgeons initially thought they could sew the wound back together, but eventually, at 8 pm on September 5, 1899, the leg was amputated below the knee by William P. Carr. The stress, blood loss, and infection took Siegert’s life just five hours later, at 1 am on September 6th. As they say in the business, “the show must go on,” and the Wallace Circus pulled out of town that morning. Little was known about his family, and after several days of local media attention, a local insurance man named Robert Cook took pity on the situation, purchased a plot and buried him in Congressional Cemetery on September 7th. The site remains unmarked to this day (at Range 250/Site 130).

A week later, the circus finally located his father, Julius G. Siegert, in La Porte, Indiana (who had been born in Russia about 1847), and sent him a telegram about the death of his son. He wrote a letter to the Washington Post which was received on September 12, offering to pay for his son’s internment, but the funeral had already taken place.

Sadly, the final resting place of Charles Siegert has gone unmarked for 114 years. Interested visitors can find him at Range 130, Site 250 to pay their respects to this forgotten casualty of the Wallace Circus.

**HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY WISH LIST:**
Your generous contributions to Congressional Cemetery make it possible for us to continue to preserve, interpret, 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.

- 10 to 12 slightly used board room chairs — or $1,000
- iPad stand for gift shop — or $100
- Oriental Rugs for boardroom and hallways — or $1,000
- Shelving or display cases for our gift shop — or $250
- Storage shelving for our archive collection — or $750
- Preservation of our record books—donations from $200 to $1,500 each
STONE STORIES
(continued from front page)

tination of minerals and organic substances. Type of sediment, rate of movement of running water over the sediments, and bonding agents affect the texture of the final product. The environment in which sandstone is formed influences the varying densities, colors, and textures of the sandstone. (United States General Services Administration)

As a sedimentary rock, sandstone is prone to severe deterioration not only due to natural properties and characteristics, but also manufacturing flaws. The usual source for the majority of preservation issues, moisture is sandstone’s biggest adversary, responsible for weathering, delamination, efflorescence, cracking and its ongoing deterioration. Bedding planes offer the perfect environment for water to infiltrate, presenting the risk of delamination due to the expansion and contraction of water molecules during freezing and thawing. This inherent imperfection is only intensified by the common technique of “face-bedded” manufacturing, which is chosen for aesthetic reasons. Despite an appearance of uniform grain and texture, this cutting method positions the bedding planes vertically to brave the elements. A more resourceful technique, “naturally-bedded” manufacturing produces a more resistant product by cutting perpendicularly to the delicate bedding planes, sheltering them from the environment. (Powell)

While the Stewart tablet is a beautiful memorial, it was designed without longevity taken into consideration using “face-bedded” cutting. The headstone was so deteriorated that entire layers of bedding planes were missing on the interior of the stone, a hollow void. The layer in which the inscription is presented was essentially hanging on by a thread. If James and Anne’s stone had been manufactured differently, it is possible that it may not have been so prone to severe deterioration.

Suffering from symptoms of biological growth, missing historic fabric, and severe delamination exhibiting separations up to one inch, the condition of the Stewart tablet was presented to Howard Wellman of Wellman Conservation, LLC for special attention. The restoration project began in May 2013 with a gentle cleaning with D2 Biological Solution, a biodegradable, non-toxic biocide, in addition to Vulpex Spirit Soap. The hollow voids were rinsed in order to remove any material accelerating the interior decay. The following week, Wellman applied Prosoco OH-100 Consolidation Treatment which bonds the particles of sandstone together to strengthen the stone and reduce future erosion. By September, the consolidant had properly cured.

Over a period of three days, with gravity as an assistant, Wellman encouraged mortar to fill the hollow areas of the tablet. Mortar was color-matched to conceal the filled voids. Due to the condition of the sandstone, the only limitation of this conservation treatment was that in order to ensure that all of the voids are adequately filled and water is unable to penetrate into the bedding planes, drilling into the memorial would have been necessary, a treatment determined too invasive for such a fragile stone. James and Anne’s stone will need to be monitored for gradual deterioration on a regular basis. (Wellman)

Yet again, our K9 Corps have come to the rescue of Congressional Cemetery’s invaluable monuments. This headstone is the most informative historic record we have for James and Anne Stewart. Without this con-
An up-close view of the side of the tablet prior to conservation illustrating the separation along the bedding planes.

Although the mortar was color-matched to aid in concealing the repair from a distance, it is easy to distinguish from the sandstone.

...would risk losing one of the last tangible aspects of their lives. With the severe delamination of the sandstone, the face of the tablet would have detached and resulted in tragedy for this memorial. Thanks to the conservation efforts of Howard Wellman and the financial support of our K9 Corps dog-walking community, the Stewart tablet will stand proudly at the final resting place of James and Anne Stewart for many years to come.

SOURCES:
Information about Stewart found in HCC archives.

ome might raise their eyebrows at the prospect of a wedding in a cemetery. But for two K9 Corps members, it was hard to imagine getting married anywhere other than Congressional Cemetery. Happy couple Tom Dunkel and Jessica Lefevre married in the evening on November 2nd, and they were gracious enough to share thoughts about their life together and their association with the K9 Corps.

Tom and Jessica met on a blind date in November 2010. Tom is a freelance writer (a frequent contributor to the Washington Post Sunday Magazine, his first book, Color Blind came out in April). Jessica has her own law practice in Alexandria specializing in human rights and environmental law. Both recall their first meeting as being rather unmemorable, as blind dates often tend to be. Happily, the two pressed on and any first date glitches were quickly smoothed over. In Tom’s words: “Things picked up once we discovered that we had a lot of common interests: music, physical fitness, reading, simple lifestyles…and doggies.”

The doggies, of course, provided the essential connection to Congressional Cemetery. Jessica is the owner of two Briards named Baron and Juneau while Tom’s pup is a mixed-lab shelter dog named Riley. Tom joined as a dog walker in 2010 when he moved back to Capitol Hill after a stint in Baltimore writing for The Sun, while Jessica became a member last year. Tom shamelessly used Riley (pictured here with Tom and Jessica), in his clever marriage proposal. Last Valentine’s Day, while Jessica was calmly sipping wine downstairs, Tom and Riley snuck upstairs to allegedly get something from the second-floor office. That something turned out to be a marriage proposal when Tom affixed a “will-you-marry-me?” card to Riley’s collar. After being shooed downstairs, Riley’s arrival was met with a shriek. Thankfully, the shriek meant yes.

After getting engaged Jessica and Tom set about integrating...
their households and getting the dogs accustomed to one another. Bringing three large dogs together in one family and one townhouse has certainly been a journey. Tom and Jessica both separately owned homes: Tom in DC, and Jessica in Alexandria. After much deliberation, the two decided to settle in Tom’s house on Capitol Hill, a move decided in large part because of the proximity of the cemetery. Ultimately, they decided that Congressional Cemetery meant so much to them that they wanted to hold their marriage ceremony in the Chapel.

The officiant of the wedding, Capitol Hill resident Sean Cosgrove, spoke about Tom and Jessica’s affection for Congressional Cemetery, including their love of history and dogs. In particular, he referenced a sentiment that all dog-lovers should relate to: “There is a wonderful expression that dog owners use when somebody buys a dog or, more often, adopts one from a pet shelter: they say that dog has found its “forever home”. Think of what that expression implies: permanence, security, unconditional and lasting love. Whether you’ve got four legs or two legs, that’s what we all want and all need. In dog-speak, Jessica Lefevre and Tom Dunkel fell in love and found their forever home.”

Tom and Jessica’s small and peaceful ceremony was beautiful, with 75 guests squeezed into the chapel. Handsome Riley showed up in time to take some very sweet pictures. And life has been good to them both. When asked about their new lives together, Jessica summed it up perfectly: “Despite the dog hair and raucous barking, we could not be happier with our lives, our neighborhood, or our ability to walk to and enjoy the Cemetery, a beautiful park full of history and dogs! What’s not to like?!”

Better words could not be said. From the community at Congressional Cemetery, we wish all the best to the newlyweds and their canine family.

Joseph Bell Alexander’s Amazing Machine

Not much is known about Joseph Bell Alexander, interred in Congressional Cemetery at Range 30/Site 228. But the few known aspects of Alexander’s life reveal the character of a fascinating and creative man.

Joseph Bell Alexander happened to be the co-owner of Brown & Alexander, the undertaking firm that prepared Abraham Lincoln’s body. But Alexander also had a side job as an inventor, envisioning a slew of interesting contraptions. He took out patents for improvements of oil-burning lamps, siphon bottle and bottle-stopper, and an automatic railroad switch, among others. Perhaps one of his most interesting designs, however, was the calculating machine.

It’s probably best not to go into too much detail about this invention (says the author who doesn’t entirely understand it works). Suffice to say, it never took off, but the concept is interesting. The contraption has eight cogged wheels that are all linked to levers, and the machine was capable of addition, multiplication, and division. Alas, schoolchildren never had the pleasure of utilizing Mr. Alexander’s device, but it’s good to know that his invention is safely stored at the National Museum of American History.


Image courtesy of Smithsonian Institution
Imagine all the Historic Congressional Cemetery records in a single location, easy to use and accessible to the public. Does it seem like a pipe dream? Until recently, it was hard to envision as a reality. But within the next year Congressional Cemetery’s website will host a single map that contains countless forms of documentation, including obituaries, articles, archives, conservation reports, photographs and more. And all of it will be prominently displayed on our homepage, accessible to the public.

In years past, a site sale in the cemetery required a great deal of staff time and effort. In order to prepare the correct documentation and ensure accuracy, a staff member (typically Vice President Margaret Puglisi, pictured here) had to cross-check multiple paper and digital records. Individual files, an Access database, old range and site books, and a 1935 map had to be analyzed and researched in a process that could often take hours, if not more.

Last year HCC began searching for a solution and contracted with NewCom Technologies, Inc. to embark upon the project. NewCom has utilized satellite imaging and field measurements to create an accurate representation of the cemetery. Within this map, NewCom is in the process of embedding existing records, such as obituaries and conservation reports that are already located on the network.

Our new interactive map is more than a fun tool to play with. It will enable staff to research the archives and sites more efficiently. In addition, it provides a wealth of information to you, the public, granting access to all of our records in one space. Keep an eye on the Congressional Cemetery website in the upcoming year for this exciting new research tool.

**Archives**

**Records and Maps and Databases, Oh My!**

Excerpts from the Daily Interment Logs.
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 # ____________________________ Exp ______
Cardmember Name ____________________________
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

JANUARY 2-31ST
• K9 Corps Renewals

JANUARY 12
• NSO: In Your Neighborhood Concert, 12 pm

APRIL 19TH
• Annual Meeting and Revolutionary War Living History Event

MAY 17
• Food Truck Festival

JUNE 6
• Pride 5k

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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