There and Back Again

Five years after their temporary disinterment, the residents of the Causten Vault have been safely returned to their final resting place. Before work could begin on a $25,000 repair to the partially above-ground Causten Vault in July of 2009, Congressional Cemetery contacted National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) forensic anthropologist Douglas Owsley and a team of anthropologists and archaeologists. Owsley and his team removed remains and systematically analyzed the skeletons and associated artifacts of the sixteen individuals buried inside. These remains represent three lineages of families who lived in Washington, D.C. in the nineteenth-century. After an intensive genealogical investigation, researchers discovered a close family connection between the individuals in the Causten Vault and America’s renowned Shriver family.

The Smithsonian research team was able to successfully identify the remains of sixteen people, ranging in age from fourteen days to 86 years, and including the parents of Henrietta Causten Shriver, the wife of Shriver family patriarch Joseph Shriver, and several of her siblings. Causes of death for family members range from illnesses such as dysentery, nephritis, enteritis, and heart disease to death related to childbirth. Infant mortality was also a common occurrence during this time period. In addition to skeletal remains, several silver-plated nameplates belonging to interred family members were recovered from the vault, including the nameplate of Josephine Shriver. Josephine was the daughter of Henrietta Causten Shriver and Joseph Shriver, and died from unknown causes in 1847 when she was only four years old.

On June 11th, Congressional Cemetery hosted a re-interment ceremony and memorial service in the presence of the Shriver family. The descendants listened to presentations by Doug Owsley and Laurie Burgess about the research process and findings, and handled items found in their ancestors’ coffins. Following the services, the remains were re-interred and locked away in the restored Causten Vault. Thanks to the dedicated research of and collaborative effort between Historic Congressional Cemetery and the Smithsonian’s NMNH, the residents of the Causten Vault now are safely interred in a sound home, and we all know a great deal more about their lives and their deaths.
April marked my first month as the new Chair of the APHCC Board. As I transition from my previous position as Secretary, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments of former Chair John Gillespie. He certainly left big shoes to fill, and I hope to continue to build upon and sustain the tradition of strong and thoughtful leadership of our organization. Of course, I could not do so without the support of others, and I am grateful to be assisted by the talented and engaged Executive Committee consisting of Chris Kennedy, Sid Neely, Sue Urahn and HCC’s President Paul Williams.

One of the first things I did as Chair was to invite all past Board members that we could find electronically to a coffee & doughnut hour before the Annual Meeting. About a dozen Board alumni came together and shared their stories and love of Congressional Cemetery. The experience led me to reflect on the past and current board members, dedicated staff, and thousands of volunteers who have poured their time, talent, treasure and emotion into this hallowed site. We are unique in our history of supporters and fans, and I am proud to have a small part in preserving and continuing this outstanding legacy. I want to extend my genuine gratitude for every single one of those people that individually and collectively have paved the way to where we are today.

With stable operations, a full event calendar, an active site sales program (including for our new columbarium), and continuous improvement on the buildings and grounds, this Board is focusing, to a large degree, on our development strategy. Fundraising and development is difficult for any organization but we are committed to creating and building the financial foundation necessary to carry HCC through the next 207 years and beyond. I look forward to sharing our progress with you in the coming months and thank you for your continued support of Congressional Cemetery.

—Kelly Crowe
Summer is in full force at Congressional Cemetery, and April showers have brought many flowers indeed. But many of the blooming flowers are new to the cemetery grounds this year, a benefit from a growing program – pun intended – established by grounds conservation manager Daniel Holcombe that has neighbors, dog walkers, and even staff adopting family gravesites all over the cemetery. Formerly just covered in grass, the new gardens sprouting up provide a fresh and interesting landscape for all to enjoy, planters and visitors alike. If you visit soon, I think you’ll agree.

Program Director Lauren Maloy and former employee Terri Maxfield joined forces this spring to bring a new event to the cemetery: an art show in the restored chapel. Coined “Back to Life,” the professionally curated show was a smashing success and just another example of the diversity of events and uses for the space.

It was very rewarding to host our second annual Pride 5k on June 6th, with a record 1,000 runners partaking on a glorious spring day. DC Front Runners and Pacers Events had their hands full, but wooed the crowds with food and beer following the dusk race. Short biographies and Pride flags marked the dozens of LGBT graves found in the cemetery; these sites will form the first walking tour converted into a smartphone or tablet app for future visitors, with all of our self-guided tours eventually making their way into the digital age. We believe that HCC is the only cemetery in the world with a dedicated LGBT section.

Vice President Margaret Puglisi has created a two day hands-on workshop on September 20 and 21 for cemetery enthusiasts (for details see page 5). “Operation Conservation” will feature discussions by leading experts in the field, with whom we’ve worked with in the past, providing lectures, demonstrations, and even hands-on sessions showing others how to clean historic stones and upright fallen stones, for example. The workshop will also include talks on topics such as conservation of funerary objects, walking tour apps for smartphones, and even ground-penetrating radar. If you know anyone who may be interested, let them know about this unique opportunity by directing them to our website or via email to Margaret Puglisi at mpuglisi@congressionalcemetery.org.

Work is finishing up nicely on our mausoleum roof restoration project and we expect a new addition to the project to be installed by late July: two green roof systems from LiveRoof. They will retain the rain water runoff, and provide a nice tasty treat for our honey bees, who have newly expanded hives now located on the roofs nearby. We expect to harvest honey from them in July, which will be available in our gift shop.

—Paul K. Williams

From the President

Pride runners on Mausoleum Row.
DRINK UP!

Congressional Cemetery celebrated with bocks and books at Maibockfest on May 10th. The event served as a book party for author Garrett Peck’s recently-published “Capital Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in DC” and also kicked off the Brewers Tour, a brand new walking tour designed by Peck (available in the Gatehouse and on Congressional Cemetery’s website). Stops on the walking tour were appropriately marked with red Solo cups in honor of the occasion. Three local breweries, Port City Brewing, Mad Fox, and Capital City, treated lucky visitors to three versions of bock, a German winter lager named after billy goats. Needless to say, the combination of history, brews, and books was delightful.

SECOND ANNUAL PRIDE 5K

A record 1,000 runners registered for DC Front Runners’ second annual Pride 5k, held again at Congressional Cemetery. This year, President Paul Williams designed and placed interpretive signs at many of the LGBT graves in the cemetery, and runners wandered among the graves on an informal tour following the 5k. The weather was gorgeous, the crowds enthusiastic, and a good time was had by all.

HUZZAH!

Congressional Cemetery hosted the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 20th. APHCC former and current board members, staff and the interested public gathered to hear about how 2013 treated the cemetery and to bid farewell to former Board Chair John Gillespie. Following the meeting, the first of three firing demonstrations kicked off our Revolutionary War living history day. This year, Doctor Wm. Clift graced the event with her presence and interpreted 18th-century medicine and surgery at the most fascinating, yet disturbing, table at the event.

GRAVEYARD GRUB

Hungry locals lined up on May 17th to savor goodies from five food trucks for Congressional Cemetery’s first food truck festival, Graveyard Grub. The event was a huge success, drawing over a thousand visitors to HCC. The festival is the first of what the Cemetery hopes will be many such festivals, with the next gathering scheduled for July 19th. Save the date to enjoy grub in some of the best digs in town!

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF WASHINGTON ARSENAL EXPLOSION

June 17, 2014 marked the 150th anniversary of the Washington Arsenal explosion. The hot June day in 1864 caused fireworks to explode into a choking room where workers were filling cartridges with gunpowder. The resulting explosions and fire claimed the lives of 21 women, many of them young Irish immigrants working as the sole providers for their families. 17 of these victims are interred at Congressional Cemetery.
women were laid to rest beneath the Arsenal Monument, and two are interred separately in family plots. It is a vivid moment in history and a tragic insight into Civil War-era Washington, D.C.

Congressional Cemetery hosted two ceremonies to commemorate the Arsenal explosion. On June 18th, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister (Tánaiste) Gilmore laid a wreath on behalf of the Government and people of Ireland in honor and recognition of the Irish women who died so tragically 150 years ago. The second ceremony was organized by Steve Hammond, a Civil War historian and esteemed HCC docent who has worked tirelessly for years to recognize and memorialize the young women killed. As a result of his efforts, the cemetery hosted a dedication on June 21st to honor the victims. Erin Bergin Voorheis, the daughter of the late Brian Bergin (author of “The Washington Arsenal Explosion”) spoke about her father’s book and the Arsenal disaster. Both ceremonies shed light on the tragic sacrifice of 21 young women, 150 years later.

WHAT:
The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, partnering with the D.C. Metro Chapter of the Association for Gravestone Studies, will be hosting Operation Conservation, a workshop to provide educational outreach for those in our area who are interested in cemetery conservation.

WHO:
Conservators, Cemetery Employees, Anthropologists, Archaeologists, Historic Preservation Architects, Historic Preservation Students, Preservation Officers, Cemetery Aficionados, Cemetery Admirers

WHEN:
Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm
Sunday, September 21, 2014 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

WHERE:
Historic Congressional Cemetery
1801 E Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003

Metro: Stadium-Armory (Orange/Blue)
Street Parking Available

WHY:
Cemeteries serve as cultural institutions, and by educating the community, we enhance the community’s understanding of the importance of cemetery conservation. The format of the program will integrate a variety of informative lectures with hands-on experience through technique demonstration. Presentation topics will range from conservation of funerary objects and structures to preservation planning and engineering. Cemetery preservation planning presentations will address interpretive and interactive technology options, endangered cemeteries, and discovering unexpected burials. Hands-on demonstrations will consist of repointing, ground penetrating radar, and common cemetery conservation techniques.

Registration Is Open:
https://sites.google.com/site/conservationworkshop/
David Lyman, Jr. was the pride and joy of his family. David had excellent grades at Western High School, he was a star athlete on his club baseball team, and his striking good looks strongly resembled his father.

David also loved baseball. During the spring and summer of 1921, he worked as an usher at Griffith Stadium during Washington Senators baseball games. David would take a baseball to work with him and scope out his favorite American and National league players for their signatures. Over the course of many games, David managed to get his baseball signed by Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, George Sisler, Tris Speaker, and Lee Fohl. David treasured his autographed baseball, and it was his most prized possession.

After school, David played baseball and basketball for a local club team called the Riggs Athletic Club. The boys on the Riggs club went to different high schools in the Washington area but they were all good friends. The team was also very competitive in the Washington, D.C. area. After Saturday games, the boys of the Riggs Athletic club would often meet at the Knickerbocker Theatre to relax, hang out, and watch silent films. It was their Saturday evening routine.

On one particular Saturday, January 28, 1922, the Riggs Athletic Club made plans to meet at the Knickerbocker Theater for a team outing. During that day, however, a record-breaking snowstorm buried Washington under a heavy blanket of snow which stalled traffic and shut down most of the city’s streetcars. The snow depth that afternoon exceeded 24 inches and snow was still falling as evening approached. Most of the boys on David’s team either decided to stay home or could not make it through the snow to the theater.

Undaunted by the heavy snow, David made plans to walk to the theater. He asked his 18 year-old cousin, Charles H. Lyman III, to go see the movie with him. Charles, who was finishing a homework assignment, said he would meet David at the theater after he was done.

David left home without Charles and met a good friend and Riggs teammate, Kirkland Duke, at the Knickerbocker Theater. Kirkland, who attended Central High School, was a year younger than David. David and Kirkland each paid 25 cents for a movie ticket and they took their seats on the left side of the balcony as they did for every Knickerbocker movie. The boys waited for the film to begin as the orchestra played music below. They also waited for Charles to arrive.

Charles, who had stayed home to finish his homework, finally finished and rushed out into the snowstorm to meet David at the theater. The time was about 9 p.m. and Charles quickly trudged through knee-deep snow toward the Knickerbocker Theater, thinking that he would only be a few minutes late. Heavy snow fell as Charles approached the theater. When Charles was only one block away from the Knickerbocker Theater he heard a very loud, crashing noise. The roof of the theater had just collapsed under the weight of the snow.

Charles rushed into the theater. Under huge heaps of rubble
that had once been the roof of the Knickerbocker Theater came cries for help and moans of pain. Over one hundred movie-goers were buried under the rubble. Charles joined a chaotic rescue effort that grew larger as more volunteers, police, and firemen arrived. The rescue effort became much better organized late in the evening when hundreds of soldiers arrived carrying lights, saws, sledge hammers, chisels, acetylene torches, and jacks. Charles assisted with the rescue effort that night but he never found his cousin, David.

The next morning, David was identified at the morgue by his mother, Josephine Lyman. She recognized his Boy Scout pants and boots. His cause of death was documented as a crushed chest. David, like many of the other Knickerbocker Theater victims, was identified by their clothing because many of the victims were horribly crushed. David’s friend, Kirkland Duke, was also among the dead. The death toll for the disaster was 98.

The Lyman family sued the Knickerbocker Theatre Company but the courts were unable to determine who was liable. The Knickerbocker Theatre Company’s defense was simple: a huge, unforeseeable snowstorm was to blame for collapsing the roof of the theater and the company had previously complied with all building codes and regulations. The Lyman family appealed the court’s decision. In the appeal, Lyman vs. Knickerbocker Theatre Co. (5 F.2d 538), the court again sided with the Knickerbocker Theatre Company. The Lyman family, like all of the families impacted by the disaster, never received a cent. On November 21, 1922, the United States Supreme Court refused to consider Knickerbocker appeals.

In 1923, a year after David’s death, tragedy struck the Lyman family again when David’s father died of tuberculosis. David and his father were buried side-by-side in Congressional Cemetery. David’s mother, devastated by the loss of both her husband and oldest son, would never go to church again for “fear of crying.” The family of David H. Lyman, Jr., however, would rarely discuss the tragedy and most of their Knickerbocker-related information would remain hidden from the family for many years.

Charles Lyman, David’s cousin who missed the collapse by minutes, was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1923. After graduation in 1926, Charles received a commission to the US Navy. Charles did very well in the Navy. In September of 1943, Charles was given command of the destroyer USS Lewis Hancock with its 327 officers and men. In 1945, Charles was given command of Destroyer Division 10 and became assistant chief of staff for operations of Amphibious Group Three, Pacific Fleet. Charles led his men in multiple WWII battles and engagements, including assaults on the Marshall Islands, Guam, Leyte, Truk, and Lingayen Gulf. Charles was later promoted to rear admiral.

David’s mother, Josephine, never remarried after her husband died in 1923. She found various jobs as a building rent collector which allowed the family to live rent-free, she worked in a boarding house, and she worked in an antique shop. The family lived paycheck-to-paycheck and struggled financially. Their Knickerbocker lawsuits had failed and they were unable to replace David Sr.’s income.

Josephine’s brother, Dessie Trenholm, was a lawyer in New

Knickerbocker Theatre during recovery efforts.
Thanks to our Partners in Preservation Grant and the loyal support of our community, two of the structures on Mausoleum Row have been getting a great deal of much-needed restoration attention. After being awarded a $50,000 grant in June 2013, the next step was to find a structural engineer.

Nathan Hicks is a Senior Engineer at Robert Silman Associates Structural Engineers. His role was to provide a structural investigation of our 17 mausoleum roofs. The main issue was to investigate the roofs of the mausoleums and explore methods of reducing water infiltration.

Nathan’s Observations:
- Spalling due to freeze-thaw of moisture
- Organic growth and staining
- Hairline cracks in 3D ornamentation
- Deteriorated concrete slab over barrel vaults
- Hairline cracks in interior
- Water infiltration
- Corrosion
- Stresses from lateral thrust
- Deteriorated mortar

By recording his observations of the current state of the structure and employing ground penetrating radar to investigate and evaluate the stability of the roof configurations, Nathan was able to establish the priority of repairs needed and prepare recommendations for a contractor to follow.

Recommendations
- Removal of fill material
- Repointing of barrel vault
- Installation of tie rods for stabilization
- Installation of polystyrene foam blocks
- Installation of waterproofing layers
- Pouring of 3” lightweight concrete slab
- Installation of a green roof system

Nathan put us in contact with several preservation construction firms, and we ultimately chose Worcester Eisenbrandt to per-
form the work recommended by Robert Silman Associates.

Based on the amount of our grant and the prioritization of risk, Worcester Eisenbrandt chose to focus on the Graham and Hodges vaults. Their proposal aligned exactly with the recommendations from the structural engineers, and we accepted.

Construction began on May 12th with the removal of the fill material, but we quickly ran into issues. Instead of the expected soil and rock mixture, the fill above the barrel vault turned into a slurry of concrete and brick. This issue brought the removal to a halt as Robert Silman Associates reexamined the capacity of the roof and determined what amount of material removal was required to continue the project. During the standstill, the crew moved on to other phases of the project including cleaning the exterior, reparging the back of the parapet, and repointing mortar joints. Fortunately during this time period, the structural engineers determined that the location of the fixed concrete and brick fill material would not affect the integrity of the mausoleum roofs. The scope of the work had to be revised to include the incorporation of new concrete curbs to make sure that the roof would slope appropriately because, with the removal of the fill material, it was revealed that the Hodges barrel vault is actually taller than the Graham barrel vault. As an innovative solution to reducing the burden on the barrel vault, polystyrene blocks were installed in place of the removed fill soil. Topped off with a lightweight concrete slab, the roof restoration of the Graham and Hodges mausoleums are almost complete. A waterproof membrane will be mounted onto the cured concrete slab. The installation of the LiveRoof system in mid-August will bring our Partners in Preservation Grant project to a close. Be on the lookout for the next developments of this restoration as we prepare to seek funding to restore the remainder of Mausoleum Row’s late 19th and early 20th century tombs.

We greatly appreciate everyone who supported the Association during this experience and thank the community for rallying around Congressional Cemetery as a place of meaning worth preserving for generations to come.

Polystyrene blocks to reduce the burden on the barrel vaults.

Elevation of Mausoleum Row.
**Knickerbocker**  
*Continued from page 7*

York and he came to the rescue with financial support and also acted as a surrogate father for the other Lyman children, Frank and Lilla. Dessie may have also helped with the family’s Knickerbocker lawsuits.

As for David’s autographed baseball, his most prized possession, it was put into storage and kept safe by his mother, Josephine. In 1942, Josephine moved into the home of her son, Frank, in Bethesda, Maryland. One spring day in 1945, eight year-old Frank Lyman, Jr., David’s nephew, found the baseball in his grandmother’s trunk. The signatures on the ball were meaningless to Frank but he knew the purpose of a baseball. For weeks, Frank and his friends played catch with David’s baseball in the Lyman’s yard. As spring turned to summer, and the games of catch continued, the cover of the baseball began to peel from the ball’s center core. Frank’s last memory of David’s prized baseball was leaving it in a patch of ivy near his house.

On a sunny fall afternoon in November of 1978, the brother and sister of David Lyman, Jr., Frank and Lilla, stood in Congressional Cemetery admiring a set of new gravestones. Their mother, Josephine, had passed away in 1957 and the family did not have the financial means to purchase a gravestone at the time of her death. Twenty years later, Frank and Lilla finally purchased their mother a gravestone. In the process, they also replaced the gravestones of their brother and father who had died over 50 years earlier. The stones were well-cut from granite and would last a very long time. Frank and Lilla paused to reflect and to take photos, and walked out of the cemetery.

Kevin Ambrose is the author of “The Knickerbocker Snowstorm,” “Washington Weather,” “Blizzards and Snowstorms of Washington, D.C.,” and “Great Blizzards of New York City.” Ambrose is a freelance writer and photographer for the Washington Post’s Capital Weather Gang and currently works as an account executive for Adobe. Ambrose stumbled upon the story of David Lyman, Jr. after a visit to Congressional Cemetery which left many questions about the Lyman family unanswered, and has since lectured about the Knickerbocker Mystery that he solved as part of the Congressional Cemetery lecture series.

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**Historic Congressional Cemetery**

*Wish List*

- Oriental Rugs for boardroom and hallways
- Wall display cabinet
- Storage shelving for our archival collection
- Laptop
- 3D Printer
- Tools
- Used recording/podcasting equipment
- 1200 bricks (approximately $2400)

*Wishing and hoping*
any of us at HCC think of the cemetery as a giant museum full of stones and stories that deserve to be preserved and interpreted. As curators of a sort, in the course of our duties staff members often discover tokens of love, respect, and amusement at gravesites. More often than not, we leave these objects where they lie. Family members and friends often leave cards (which we leave unread), flowers, and small trinkets to remember their loved ones by. But from time to time, the objects left behind are meant to be noticed and remarked upon.

Perhaps the most frequent objects left behind are stones. Once adorning primarily Jewish graves, it is not uncommon to find small stones on a wide range of graves in the cemetery. The accepted reason for placing stones, or at least the one often told on cemetery tours, is that flowers perish quickly. Stones are a more permanent, lasting way to recognize and remember a loved one, and it is touching to see a number of markers adorned with these small tokens.

Champagne bottles, for the most part disappointingly empty, are often discovered at gravesites. The most common individual to benefit from these gifts? None other than Ms. Mary Hall, owner of the best brothel in town in Civil War-era Washington, D.C. The archaeological dig of Mary’s bordello site unearthed all sorts of interesting finds, not the least of which were Piper-Heidsieck champagne corks. The visitors who leave these tokens of appreciation behind know her well, because Mary Hall only served the very best at her establishment.

Like Mary Hall’s champagne bottles, the most interesting objects left behind are those that are suited to something specific about the individual. Thomas Mann, whose gravestone is in the design of a library catalog card, left a groove in his stone for quarters. According to lore, librarians who leave a token of their appreciation at this unique stone will receive luck, although whether it is intended for general luck in life or assistance in cataloging, we’re not quite sure. A similar tribute to a chosen profession was recently discovered on Chip Clark’s marker. Chip Clark was a Smithsonian photographer and his stone can be found a short distance from another eminent photographer, Mathew Brady. Recently, groundskeepers discovered a roll of film on the corner of his gravestone in remembrance of Clark’s passion for photography.

And then there are the puzzling gifts. David Herold, co-conspirator in the Lincoln assassination, does not have a marker in the cemetery. But he does reside in the family plot, and we found an unusual handwritten letter tucked under a corner of the Herold marker. The author of the letter professed her admiration for Herold in no uncertain terms. It would be unseemly to go into too many details, but suffice to say our more historic and unquestionably controversial residents do not often receive such personal notes. The gifts on graves at Congressional Cemetery range from unique offerings to simple tokens of remembrance. But regardless of the intention or the gift, we’re simply glad that these individuals are remembered.

A roll of film at Chip Clark’s grave.
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_____

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

July 19    Graveyard Grub: Food Truck Festival
July 26    D.C.’s Muster the Militia Weekend: Free 1812 tours
July 31    Tombs and Tomes Book Club
August 24  Flee the British 5k
August 30  Day of the Dog
September 14 Notes from the Crypt: Chamber Music in the Chapel
October 4  Dead Man’s Run
October 25 Ghosts and Goblets

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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