# ilage

Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery • Winter 2014

## A Call for Arms

By Margaret Puglisi

CATHARINE J. WELLER

BORN AT MIDDLEBROOK

AUGUSTA Co. VA

APR 1/827

DIED MAY 2,1898.

hough an elegant lady still honors the eternal resting place of Catherine J. Weller, her graceful arms outstretched to a cross have long retired to the basement of the gatehouse. It is unclear how long the statue's arms have been displaced, but evidence of previous failed repairs can be seen on the broken pieces. Standing proudly on the sloping hill of the Barney Circle overlook, this memorial is visibly in need of restoration. The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is launching a fundraiser much like the campaign three years ago that secured Marion Ooletia Kalhert's statue back into her high-buttoned boots. With your generous donations, Marion returned to her site for the first time in thirty-one years. Catherine Weller's statue, witnessing this altruistic act, has politely requested the return of her own missing parts and pieces.

The Catherine J. Weller memorial consists of an intricately carved lady holding a cross with a writing tool in one hand. One knee is kneeling on the rock that serves as the foundation for the cross. The marble statue and two-tiered pedestal sit atop a granite base.

Howard Wellman of Howard Wellman Conservation LLC has provided the cemetery with a cost estimate and treatment proposal to return the statue's cross and arms to their rightful home.

While the large memorial shows no sign of uneven settling, the delicate marble is showing considerable signs of weathering and deterioration. In addition to the fractured elements, Wellman observed signs of biological growth in the form of algae and lichen, black crust caused by pollution, and disaggregation of the surface.

Wellman has proposed to join the many fractures with stainless steel pins and mortar. To add extra support for the reassembled structure and to ensure that this restoration treatment is more successful than the first attempt, an inconspicuous armature will be installed along the main

structure of the cross. The disaggregating surface will be consolidated to reduce future erosion; a misting system will be set up to dissolve the black crust accumulated in sheltered recesses; and a D/2 cleaning solution will be applied to remove biological growth.

The cost estimate for such intricate and skilled conservation

Continued on page 7

# Letter from the Chair

You probably have seen us reference the cemetery's "endowment" (actually there are two) many times over the years in this publication and in other outreach. But you may not know the history of these funds and how they can maximize your support of HCC.



The first endowment of \$1,000,000 from Congress (via the Architect of the Capitol) came in 1999, a few years after HCC received the less-than-desirable distinction of being listed as one of the country's eleven most endangered historic sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. That endowment was followed up in 2002 with a \$1,000,000 appropriation from Congress. Both of these endowments are held at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the interest from these monies is expressly designated to the maintenance of our buildings and grounds. The disbursement that HCC receives every year (paid out quarterly) is determined by a number of calculating factors, including the value of the original monies that are "matched." The first endowment was matched in its entirety after 8 years by the extreme diligence and fortitude of the Boards and Executive Directors of the 2000s. As our operating budget has grown over the years, our ability to match the funds at the previous rate has declined and we have matched less than 20% of the second endowment to date. From our operating funds, we are budgeted to match \$50,000 in 2014, after matching \$75,000 in 2013.

That leads us back to how donating to our endowment can help maximize your support of HCC and ensure its perpetual care. Deposits to the endowment essentially double the value of how our disbursement is calculated. For example, your \$5,000 donation gets "matched" as if we've made a \$10,000 deposit to the endowment! This, in turn, has a multiplier effect on the quarterly disbursements we receive. It is truly the gift that keeps on giving!

As we approach the year's end and you consider the many ways in which you can give thanks and provide a lasting impact, please consider a tax-deductible, double-your-money donation to HCC's endowment. We understand that you likely receive many requests for support during the holiday season, and we are so very grateful for each and every donation, no matter how large or small. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you and yours a warm and healthy holiday season and the very best wishes for the New Year.

-Kelly Crowe



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

you have been reading in the last few issues of our newsletter, Historic Congressional Cemetery (HCC) has had a banner vear with events, historic tours, site sales, and especially coverage in the media. I'm proud to convey that every event we produced, no matter how big or how small, created a positive cash flow for HCC. Much of that is due to the outstanding efforts of our program director Lauren Maloy.

Washington Post and other national and local coverage of our green burial options, our popular fall events, the long awaited inurnment of the first African American Rhodes Scholar Alain Locke (1886-1954), and the December funeral for long time Washington, DC mayor Marion Barry all led to increased exposure for the cemetery. The media attention let many people know that HCC continues to be an active burial ground with many premium sites still available for purchase. Site sales revenue will set a record this year under my tenure, and much of that is due to the efforts of Vice President Margaret Puglisi. The cemetery mapping, digitization, and ground penetrating radar projects that you all helped fund have transformed us into a much more efficient cemetery headed into the 21st century.

I am pleased to announce that HCC is one of four finalists for the national 2014 American

Cemetery Excellence Awards that will be announced early next year. We join in that honor Curlew Hills Memory Garden (Palm Harbor, FL), Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens (Timonium, MD), and Historic Union Cemetery (Bakersfield, CA).

Grounds Conservation Manager Daniel Holcombe discovered three antique Victorian era chairs in the garage attic last spring, and we suspect they are from the original gatehouse. They were in severe disrepair, however, but my retired father Charles Williams offered to donate his time and materials to replace missing parts, refinish, and expertly cane the seat back and bottom. They have been transformed indeed, and will be a welcome addition to our front office. It may take a while, however, as they currently reside near Syracuse, New York so let us know if you're traveling there this winter and spring and can bring one or more back to the cemetery.

Of course everything we accomplished, restored, and planted last year could not have been possible without your generous contributions. Please consider a year-end donation, sponsorship of a light pole or receptacle, gift of stock, bequest, or specify that your donation go towards the Sousa Gate restoration or to match to our endowment held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

We look forward to an even more packed 2015, and I thank you for your support!

—Paul K. Williams, President



# Ground the Galehouse



The Historic Congressional Cemetery staff.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE **HCC STAFF!**

Warm wishes from the HCC staff this holiday season. And to anticipate your question: no, this photograph was not at all photoshopped.

## TO WANDER IS TO WONDER

The ideal way to experience Congressional Cemetery is by foot, and it is always best practice to allot a few hours to explore



Garrett Peck, author of the Brewers Tour.

our sprawling 35 acres. And although wandering aimlessly certainly has its own charms, we offer a variety of self-guided walking tours to help direct your interests. Over a dozen of these tours have been developed over the past few years, and in 2014 we introduced three new walking tours: the Brewers Tour, the LGBT Community, and Chinese Americans. Our thanks go out to the authors who took it upon themselves to research and expand upon these topics, and all of the tours will be available on our website and in the Gatehouse in the new year.

## 2014 Sousa Awards

Every year Congressional Cemetery celebrates John Philip Sousa's birthday with cake and a special performance by the Marine Band. In addition, HCC marks the occasion by holding

an annual awards ceremony to recognize outstanding volunteers. This year, the Benjamin B. French Lodge No. 15, F.A.A.M. Volunteer Award was presented to Beverley Lumpkin, who serves on multiple committees and selflessly devotes hours of her time to HCC. The John Philip Sousa Distinguished Service Award was presented by the Hiram-Takoma Lodge No. 15 F.A.A.M. to David W. Jones (more about David on page 8). And last, but not nearly the least, the Connolly-Didden Docent of the Year Award was finally given to Dayle Dooley, HCC's archivist, long-time docent, and all around great gal.



Dayle Dooley receives the Connolly-Didden Docent of the Year Award.

## **GHOSTS AND GOBLETS**

What can we say — Ghosts and Goblets was a blast, as always! This year's event drew hundreds of costumed guests and elicited visits from the tragic Mary Fuller and the doomed David Herold, among many others. The Chapel served as a special VIP area, although the beautiful weather on that Saturday evening lured







many out to mingle amongst the gravestones. It was a spooky and successful evening!

## INURNMENT OF ALAIN LOCKE

Alain Locke was a prominent African American philosopher who has been hailed by many as the father of the Harlem Renais-



Alain Locke

sance. In 1907 he became the first African American and firstknown gay Rhodes Scholar, and went on to teach in the philosophy department at Howard University for over four decades. Thanks to the efforts and donations of African American Rhodes Scholars, Locke's remains were interred at Congressional Cemetery on September 13, 2014, sixty years after his death. The beautiful memorial service appropriately recognized Locke's monumental achievements, and we are proud that Alain Locke's permanent resting place is Congressional Cemetery.

## THE OBELISK IS HERE!

The wait is over! Congressional Cemetery's brand new obelisk officially arrived on November 19th. This new structure now

graces the area at the end of Congress Street, south of the Chapel, and landscaping will take place over the winter. Niches are now available for purchase, and you can get more information about available spots by either calling the



Gatehouse (202-543-0539) or by emailing staff@congressionalcemetery.org.

## HONEY HARVEST

Congressional Cemetery's bees were especially productive this year! The busiest workers at HCC produced enough honey for over 50 jars of honey, harvested over the course of a few hours under the direction of head beekeeper Toni Burnham. This delicious honey sold out in only a few hours, so here's hoping that our bees up the ante and decide to make even more next vear.



# American Heritage

## Congressional Cemetery Writers

By Karen Lyon

mong the luminaries buried at Congressional Cemetery can be found a passel of local writers. A recent addition, sadly, is Diana McLellan (1937–2014), a Pulitzer Prize-nominated reporter who for years wrote the "Washington Ear" column and was the author of *The Girls: Sappho Goes to Hollywood* and *Making Hay*, a book of poems.

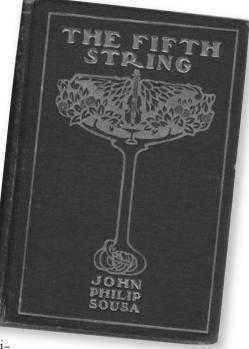
Economist William Niskanen (1933-2011) was the architect of Reaganomics and the author of a book by the same name, as well as numerous other publications. And who can forget Ruth Ann Overbeck, who assiduously researched and helped preserve the history of Capitol Hill? There are no dates carved on her tombstone, which famously exhorts visitors to "Look it up!"

Preceding McLellan by almost two centuries was one of the first female journalists in America. Anne Newport Royall (1769-1854) wrote travelogues, sketches, and essays that were so opinionated they earned her the sobriquet of a "common scold." In an apocryphal tale, she was said to have accosted President John Quincy Adams during his early morning bath in the Potomac, sitting on his clothes until he answered her questions and thereby earning the distinction of being the first woman to interview a president.

Cover of Sousa's first book, The Fifth String.

Less colorful but equally distinguished was Marguerite DuPont Lee (1862–1936), a member of the famous DuPont family of Delaware. Best known for her involvement in social and political causes, she was also the author of a book called *Virginia Ghosts* that contains information on over a hundred historic sites, including vintage photos and even some pictures of the individuals thought to be haunting them

And finally, if you thought that John Philip Sousa's writing skills began and ended with "Dah Dah da-da-Dah da-da-Dah," you're in for a surprise. While better known for "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and other rousing tunes, the March King is also the author of five books. After he retired his baton, Sousa took up a pen, publishing his first novel in 1902. The Fifth String is a Faustian tale about a violinist named Diotti who, having conquered Europe, arrives in New York to make his American debut. At a pre-concert reception, he is smitten by the comely Mildred Wallace, the only child of one of New York's prominent



bankers. Trouble forebodes, however, when Miss Wallace reveals that the purported charms of art and music leave her cold.

"Surely you have been stirred by the wonders man has accomplished in music's realm?" Diotti ventures. "I never have been," she replies sadly.

Determined to move her, Diotti's debut performance is so tender and passionate that the audience, "awakening from its delicious trance, broke forth into spontaneous bravos." Mildred, however, "merely drew her wrap closer around her shoulders."

The desperate Diotti begins practicing feverishly, but realizes that without some edge, he will never win the elusive Mildred. In

despair, he dashes his violin to the floor, cursing, "It is of no use! If God of heaven will not aid me, I ask the prince of darkness to come."

Suddenly a stranger appears, proffering a business card (helpfully engraved "Satan") and a bargain: Diotti will be given a violin on which he can express the most transcendent emotions known to man. In return, he must never play upon the mysterious fifth string, for "it is the string of death, and he who plays upon it dies at once." Suffice it to say that the diabolical violin delivers—in spades.

Sousa's next book, a novel for young readers called Pipetown Sandy (1905), is a partly autobiographical account of the author's boyhood experiences growing up in Washington during the Civil War and Reconstruction. A kidnapping and moonlit boat race keep the story moving along, as does the style, which is a trifle less stilted and melodramatic than its somewhat florid predecessor.

In 1910, Sousa published Through the Year with Sousa, in which each day offers a selection of his work, including bars of music, and excerpts from songs, verses, and writings. Another novel followed in 1920. The Transit of Venus concerns a sea voyage organized to photograph an astronomical phenomenon. In comic opera fashion, the ship is manned by the misogynists of The Alimony Club, whose attitudes are adjusted over the course of the voyage thanks to the charms of the captain's stowaway niece.



Illustration from The Fifth String.

Sousa's final book, Marching Along (1928), was so popular that parts of it were published serially in the Saturday Evening Post in 1925 under the title Keeping Time. An autobiography, it is filled with anecdotes about the

famous people he met, humorous incidents from his life, accounts of his musical triumphs, and even a twelve-stanza poem called "The Feast of the Monkey," which he called "nonsense verses which have served to amuse my own grandchildren."

John Philip Sousa died in 1932, having added vet another accolade—best-selling author to his already stellar career.

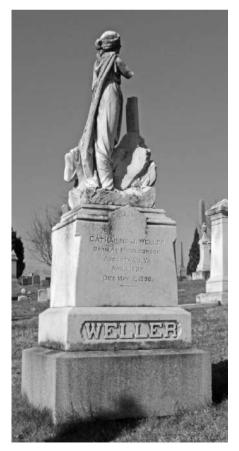
Karen Lyon writes Literary Hill column for the Hill Rag, from which this piece is adapted, and is currently organizing the fifth annual Literary Hill BookFest (www.literaryhillbookfest.org), scheduled for May 3, 2015, at Eastern Market. She is also the managing editor of Folger Magazine, the Folger Shakespeare Library's membership publication.

## Weller continued from page 1

work comes in at \$8,000. With your support, we hope to raise the funds to preserve Catherine Weller's marker. When you send in a donation, please indicate that you would like it to be set aside for A Call for Arms Campaign. And it won't even cost you an arm and a leg. Just an arm and an arm.



The nine pieces of Catherine.



## Volunteer of the Year & DC Scottish Rite Community Service Award Recipient David W. Jones





ne of our volunteers really took to heart our fairly new adopt-aplot program in the cemetery to garden and maintain a neglected burial site. David W. Jones adopted the family plot of Civil War Brigadier General Albin Francisco Schoepf, a native of Warsaw, Poland. The plot was plain grass, surrounded by a granite coping. Despite never having gardened before, David jumped right in and transformed the plot into a blooming garden that can be seen all the way from Potomac Avenue.

He also researched the General and his family for our archives and future visitors or family members themselves. He inspired many others, including his brother, to adopt and garden plots at HCC that have collectively transformed close to twenty spaces on the grounds to the delight of many. David is also a problem solver—when our hoses would not reach his plot, he simply bought several 100 foot hoses and had them sent to the cemetery for use wherever we needed them. David has also been generous with donations throughout the year toward the Sousa Gate.

David Jones received our volunteer of the year award at the annual Sousa Marine Corp Birthday celebration on November 6th, and promptly donated to the cemetery that \$500 award that is sponsored by the Masonic Hiram-Takoma Lodge No. 10 in Washington, DC. Unbeknownst to David, the cemetery had also nominated him for one of only five DC Scottish Rite 2014 Community Service Awards, which he received in an elaborate ceremony on November 25th at the Scottish Rite Center at 2800 16th Street, NW. David donated his entire \$2,000 cash award to the cemetery, and the surprise of the night was that HCC was also awarded a cash prize by the Scottish Rite of \$5,000.

## **CEMETERY ENDOWMENT**

As you may or may not know, the cemetery has an endowment established in 1997 that is held and invested by the renowned National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the principal secure, the cemetery receives a quarterly dividend payment that is restricted to restoration, preservation and buildings and grounds maintenance.

Donations toward the match are fully tax deductible, and can be made anytime of the year, and in any amount. The endowment language stipulates that the quarterly interest received by the cemetery can only offset grounds, building, monument and infrastructure maintenance costs, and are not to be applied toward salaries or event costs.

Your donation match to the endowment ensures that the cemetery is not only able to maintain its current level of aesthetics, but continues to improve,

restore, and conserve its historical features in perpetuity. And when our remaining \$870,000 is matched a new interest calculation is triggered that tremendously increases the amount of interest the cemetery would receive in quarterly installments throughout the year to provide for grounds, monument, and building maintenance in perpetuity. If you would like to contribute to the endowment, you just have to indicate so on your next contribution and we'll see that it is added to the endowment match at the end of the year.



Information for your estate planning, bequest, stock gift, endowment match, or end of year donation:

Legal Name: The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

Legal Address: 1801 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

Telephone: 202-539-0543

Tax ID Number: 52-1071828

Please contact us for wire instruction or banking information

From the Ground Up

## Earth Shaking News at HCC

By Daniel Holcombe

A little more than three years ago, many people in the Eastern United States experienced their first earthquake. The epicenter of the quake was nearly 90 miles from DC in Mineral, VA. It was a 5.8 on the Richter scale, making it relatively small by West coast standards, and yet caused damage over a much larger area than a more intense earthquake would on the West coast. In an effort to understand why this occurred, and specifically why many sites in the District, including the Congressional Cemetery, suffered as much damage as they did, the US Geological Survey (USGS) is in the process of installing 30 seismometers in various locations in the DC metro area.

We are excited to share that we were chosen to host one of these seismometers. It is not large, flashy, nor imposing; it is simply a buried probe with an above ground plastic box to record the data collected by the probe. Researchers from the USGS will visit the cemetery regularly to inspect the equipment and retrieve the data. The cemetery was chosen due to its distance from large roads, construction sites, and other things that would create ground vibrations.

Researchers hope to learn about the geologic formations under Washington that could have caused the increased dam-



One example of the 2011 earthquake damage at HCC.

age, and what we should prepare for in the future. Although this was the only earthquake capable of being felt in the District since 1935, nearly eighty years ago, earthquakes could be felt on average once every ten years for the eighty years prior to that one.

We are happy to host one of these seismometers, and to contribute to an increased understanding of the natural world.



## 1801 E Street, SE Washington, DC 20003 www.Congressionalcemetery.org

December 15, 2014

To the Generous Supporters of Congressional Cemetery;

On behalf of the Board and staff of Historic Congressional Cemetery, we want to thank you for your continued support and past contributions. They have made many preservation and restoration projects possible for our 35 acre National Historic Landmark.

I'm happy to report on the many fund raising and other activities that have taken place in the cemetery this year, attended by over three thousand people. They included three 5K races, tours, ghosts & goblets gala, 9/11 Day of Remembrance volunteer day, chamber music concerts, yoga classes, a Sousa birthday celebration with the Marine Corps, and even a honey bee harvest.

We have also completed the restoration of two of our mausoleums, complete with green roofs, and several major stone preservation projects, in addition to righting many of our memorials now that can be completed in house. Our recent media exposure on our events and our new green burials options has resulted in an increase in site sales, especially with our newly installed columbarium obelisk just south of the chapel.

Despite all of our accomplishments in 2014, we still need your help to restore our front gate, monuments, and historic landscape. For the suggested donation amounts listed below, you can help us accomplish the following:

\$25	Clean a headstone	\$250	Purchase military flags
\$50	Plant a flowerbed	\$500	Restore our 1850 logbook
\$75	Upright a headstone	\$750	Repair a fence
\$100	Repair a monument	\$1,000	Main Gate restoration w/acknowledgement
\$200	Plant a tree	\$1,500	Contribute to the ground radar project

Your support is so very important to our mission, and your contributions make it possible for us to do what we do. You can donate online, provide credit card information, or mail a check with the enclosed envelope. We thank you very much, and we hope you take the time to visit us soon.

Very sincerely,

Paul K. Williams

Paul KNilliam

President

APHCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

## Thank You to Our 2014 Donors!

We are thankful for so many things, including the generous contributions that help support the efforts of APHCC to preserve and interpret this National Historic Landmark. As a small token of our thanks, below are the donors who contributed in 2014 as of December 1st. Please note that this does not include the contributions from the K9 Corps, which are too numerous to recognize in full.

#### \$25 AND UNDER

Javne Blair Leonard Schrank Miranda Selover **Julius Tolson** Robert Hannan Elizabeth Albert C. Harrison Golway Gregory Lusby David Shea Matthew Thompson David Grimes Robert Love David Mears Walter Price Mary Carper Joseph Colley Alan DeFend Pat Dennert Greg Dybalski Peggy Eckel Thomas Gill Audrev Hollaar Alison Holman Jerry Hon. Lewis J. Hal Mackin Margaret MacNeill SAR Society Mass. J. John McGrath Anne Meade Patricia Neumyer Lee Nancy Newell Philip Paule Louise Mary Pugh James Rea Keith Rea Dorothy Rogers William Rust E. Wayne Smoot Angelo Stefani Barrett H. Swink George Talbert Celia Taylor E. Vernon Torney Linda Torrevson

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Amy Ballard Fred John Burgess B. James Crown Kelly Crowe Montreville Holcombe Eleanor Niebell Charlotte Oldham-Moore Jacque Schulman

## \$500 TO \$1000

Robert William Amos Beaty Family Fund Jane Benson Stephen Gardner Joe Kosaveach Bruce Mathews John McGrath Elaine and Nicholas Mischler Catherine Plume W. James Todd

## \$1000 TO \$2500

L. Donna Jamison

## \$2500 TO \$5000

David Jones T. Chris Kennedy National Capital Bank Fund Susan Urahn

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Edward Miller

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Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

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

Galendi	ar of Events			
January 5-31 K9 Corps Renewals				
January 20	Tomes and Tomes Book Club			
February 28	New Docent Information Session			
March 11	Tombs and Tomes Book Club			
April 4	Tour Season Begins			
April 12	Notes from the Crypt: Chamber Music in the Chapel			
April 18	Annual Meeting and Revolutionary War Living History Day			
May 9	Day of the Dog 5k and Festival			

