1. MARY ROWE SCHOOLCRAFT (1878). WRITER, was the second wife of explorer Henry Schoolcraft, who mapped the upper Missouri River. She was one of several authors who attempted to counter the social impact of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin, by penning The Black Gauntlet: A Tale of Plantation Life in South Carolina. Her “ ethnology” of the “African” embodies some of the worst prejudicial underpinnings of white society’s enslavement of Africans and African-Americans, suggesting that Blacks were happy to be slaves or were unfit for democratic societies. Such works never gained the popularity of Stowe’s work. R68/S31

2. SARAH ALLEN (1850–1889). SCHOOLTEACHER, was born in 1850 in Washington, DC, where she remained all her life. She married Oswald C. Allen in 1875, and taught third grade at the Jefferson school building. Allen soon became unemployed and spent his wife’s earnings for drink, and then for fines after being thrown in jail repeatedly. She grew estranged from him. Then Allen entered the school, grabbed her in front of the students, shot her in the head, and then shot himself. In the chaotic aftermath, students ran screaming into the streets, and thousands of bystanders crowded the entrance of the building, making it difficult for police and other officials to enter. By the time they managed to enter they found husband and wife still alive. Allen died a minute later, but his wife held on for three hours. Sarah Allen died in 1889 at age 39. R92/S104

3. KAREN KING (1941–1990). FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, was born in Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. She received a master’s degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh. King joined the Foreign Service in 1966, serving at the U.S. consulate in Germany from 1967 to 1970. She served in the White House for two years, and then on the staff of Henry A. Kissinger. Secretary of State, from 1974 to 1975. She helped direct and organize Kissinger’s shuttle diplomacy trips to the Middle East and his missions to China. From 1975 to 1976 she was an administrative officer at European NATO headquarters. Following her return to Washington she became a Foreign Service counselor and was associate director of the State Department’s Office of Management Policy. She died of cancer at age 49. R62/S115

4. EARLENE WHITE (1885–1961). WOMEN’S RIGHTS ACTIVIST, was born in Meridian, Mississippi. For a number of years she edited the women’s page of the Jackson Daily News, and later ran a publicity bureau of her own. She founded several professional women’s clubs and businesses in Mississippi and was an officer in many of them, including President of Business & Professional Women/USA. 1937–39. White served in the post office of the U.S. Senate and eventually became Postmistress. She managed to hold a variety of different positions throughout her life, but never neglected her support for equal employment rights for women. In 1938 she waged battles in several states against bills which would deprive married women “the privilege of gainful employment.” At her retirement she devoted her time to DC Village, the Home for Incurables, and Children’s Hospital. R61/S151

5. ELIZABETH BROWN (1915–1962). EDUCATOR, a graduate of George Washington University, was for over ten years the Director of Primary Instruction for DC Public Schools. She also was a popular lecturer on education and related issues. She became a traveling lecturer throughout the U.S. Canada, and Europe. R77/S271

6. BELVA LOCKWOOD (1830–1917). WOMEN’S RIGHTS ADVOCATE AND LAWYER Born Belva Ann Bennett in Royalton, New York, at age 22 with a young daughter, Lura. Lockwood was widowed. She became a teacher and school principal and described herself as “an earnest, zealous laborer in the cause of Education. Sabbath School and Missionary work, and an indefatigable advocate of the Temperance Cause…” At age 36, she came to Washington, DC “to see what was being done at this great political centre—this seething pot. to learn something of the practical workings of the machinery of government, and to see what the great men and women of the country felt and thought.” She obtained a teaching position and spent her free time listening to the debates in Congress and the Supreme Court, which fostered a fascination with law and lawmaking. She married again, to Ezekiel Lockwood, and acted on her ambition to be a lawyer. By then she was already an established leader and a spokeswoman for the DC suffrage movement, and a lobbyist for women’s equal employment. After years of adversity, Lockwood was finally presented with her diploma and admitted to the DC bar in 1873. The first woman licensed to practice law, she was an ardent lobbyist for women’s rights and frequently argued before Congressional committees against sex discrimination. Her law practice in her own name survived for 40 years, and she managed to earn respect for her legal accomplishments. Despite her success, the number of female lawyers remained a small handful, a pattern which did not change until the mid-1970s. She fought to gain the right to present cases to federal courts, until finally the Senate passed the legislation which allowed her to present arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1884, she was the Presidential candidate for the Equal Rights Party. Her candidacy caused her business to decline. She relied on her pension from her husband’s death, lecture fees, and her tenants, to support not only herself but her widowed mother and the orphaned son who survived her daughter. Although she died in 1917 before seeing her dream fulfilled. Lockwood’s tireless efforts to gain women the right to vote had a profound impact on the creation of the 19th Amendment in 1920. R78/S296

7. CECILIA DULIN (1873–1968). EDUCATOR served in the DC school system for 48 years. She received a degree in education from GWU and began teaching elementary and junior high schools. Two of her students were the sons of presidents: Charles Taft, son of President William H. Taft, and Quentin Roosevelt, son of President Theodore Roosevelt. Dulin was the president of the Elementary Principals Association, served on the Southeast Neighborhood Council, was Principal of Buchanan Elementary School, and consultant with the Metropolitan Police Department on juvenile cases. She died at age 95. R79/S333

8. ELIZABETH V. FRANZONI (1910–1972). LAWYER, was born in Washington. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in law from Columbus University Law School. She worked for G. Calvert Bowie, Inc. for several years, as vice-president and treasurer. She held positions in the National Bar Association, the Women’s Bar Association of DC, the Business and Professional Women’s Club. Kappa Beta Pi Legal Sorority, and the Zonta Club of Washington. Franzoni was an avid fan of the Redskins and had a parakeet that could say, “Hail to the Redskins!” She died of cancer in Delray Beach, Florida at age 62. R35/S235

9. ADELAIDE DAVIS (1940). EDUCATOR, began teaching in Washington schools in 1883. She taught sixth, seventh and eighth grades before she became a principal in 1903. She was Principal of the Emory School for 20 years, and Supervisor of Schools in Northeast DC for six years. R42/S116

10. ABIGAIL ADAMS (1744–1818). FIRST LADY Known to have been her husband’s intellectual equal, Abigail Adams is famous for her attempts to persuade John Adams, in establishing the nation’s new laws, to support women’s rights. As First Lady, she was also manager of their farm, family financial manager, dedicated letter writer, and held primary responsibility for the education of her children, including the future President John Quincy Adams. PUBLIC VAULT (REMOVED)

11. DOLLEY PAYNE MADISON (1769–1849). FIRST LADY AND NATIONAL HOSTESS Dolley (also spelled Dolly) Payne was one of eight children in a family of Quakers. When Dolley was 11 her family moved to Philadelphia. her father’s business failed and the family went into debt. They took in boarders and Dolley dropped out of school to help. At age 22 she married John Todd, Jr., a 25-year-old Quaker lawyer. She moved to
Washington where Todd owned a house and a thriving business. The couple had two sons. When yellow fever spread through Washington, Dolley left with the children while her husband stayed behind to take care of his parents. He contracted the disease and within hours of reuniting with Dolley he died. Their youngest son, who was only a few months old, died as well. Dolley also contracted the fever but recovered. Less than a year after her first husband’s death, she met and married James Madison, a non-Quaker, for which she was expelled from the Society of Friends. In 1801 Madison became Secretary of State, and Dolley was appointed national hostess by the widowed Thomas Jefferson. Two terms later Madison became President, and Dolley, First Lady. During the War of 1812 when the British burned Washington DC, Dolley saved many national treasures, including a White House portrait of George Washington, many valuable papers, and silver. After Madison’s Presidency ended the couple returned to Montpelier to lead a life full of hospitality and social entertainment. In 1836, James Madison died at age 85. Dolley spent the next four years shuffling between Montpelier and Washington, trying to overcome the debts mounted by her son, an incorrigible gambler. She eventually sold Madison’s presidential papers to the federal government to pay off her son’s debt. In 1844 Dolley was granted the debts legally she was forced to sell her beloved Montpelier. Dolley Payne Madison died July 12, 1849 in Washington DC. This remarkable woman personally knew all of the first 12 Presidents. She is the only woman whose portrait hangs in the President’s Gallery in the National Gallery of Art. A WORD OF CAUTION: The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable. Please be careful near grave markers and watch where you step: depressions and sink holes lie hidden in grass, and footstones and corner markers can trip the unwary. Founded in 1807 as Washington Parish Burial Ground. Congressional Cemetery soon became America’s first de facto national cemetery, predating Arlington Cemetery by 70 years. By the 1830s, several decades of congressional appropriations for infrastructure gave rise to the popular name “Congressional Cemetery.” The Cemetery grew from 4.5 to 32.5 acres, and holds more than 55,000 individuals in 30,000 burial sites, marked by 14,000 headstones. The federal government owns 800 sites, including 165 cenotaphs which honor members of Congress. The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the restoration, interpretation, and management of Congressional Cemetery. It is predominantly a volunteer-based organization relying on over 400 neighbors, history buffs, conservators, dog walkers, and armed forces personnel each year to restore and maintain this national treasure. Established in 1976, the Association is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We welcome you to become a member of the Association to help us continue our third century of service to the Nation’s Capital. History comes to life in Congressional Cemetery. The creak and clang of the wrought iron gate signals your arrival into the early decades of our national heritage. Surrounding you are the men and women who shaped the new capital and gave substance to the new nation—congressmen and tradesmen, diplomats and domestics, explorers and architects, soldiers and musicians. The Cemetery is home to many prominent and not-so-prominent Washington women. Being authors, educators, and activists most of their lives, these women were typically viewed by society as not having appropriate occupations, and their advocacy for advances for women was unwelcome. In this city, however, women eagerly took on a broad variety of professions. Some were early champions for women’s rights, some worked quietly as pioneers in their professions, while others, as wives of presidents, had lasting impact on American heritage. Some even left less-than-admirable legacies. They each provide insight into the early life of Washington, DC. As you walk the trail of this self-guided tour, note the artistry and craftsmanship of the memorial stone carvings and try to decipher the cultural language of the iconography.