

The following are numbered to correspond with the map on the back. Also refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers to help locate each gravesite.

1. Commodore Thomas s Tingey. (1750–1829) served in the British Navy as a young man before commanding merchant trade vessels in the West Indies. He emigrated to the North American Colonies around the outbreak of the American Revolution, but there is no record that he served in the Continental Navy. In 1798 he officially joined the new U.S. Navy taking command of the 24-gun *Ganges*, and became ranking Commander in the West Indies in 1799. The following year he was appointed to lay out and command the new Washington Navy Yard, a post he held until his death in 1829. When the British invaded the Capital in August 1814, Tingey was the last officer to leave the city, setting his Navy Yard afire on the way out, and he was the first officer to return to the smoldering ruins. A public service-minded gentleman, Tingey served on the first public school board, Vestry of Christ Church, and the board of the Washington Parish Burial Ground (future Congressional Cemetery). R57/S1

2. Cenotaphs. Although the term *cenotaph* means empty tomb, about 80 Congressmen are buried beneath the 165 unusual Aquia Creek sandstone memorials, which were erected to honor Congressmen and senators who died in office. The practice ended about 1870 when Congressman Hoar claimed the sight of them gave new meaning to the horror of death. The average cost was about \$125 each.

3. E lbridge Gerry. (1744– 1814) is the only signer of the Declaration of Independence buried in the mid-Atlantic region. Born into a prominent merchant family in Marblehead, MA, he followed the family trade and became wealthy in his own right. His discontent with oppressive British taxation led him to participate in the revolutionary Committees of Correspondence and Continental Congresses before Independence was won. After the Revolutionary War he served in the Massachusetts legislature and was governor when a redistricting bill became the butt of political jokes because a major district looked like a salamander, thus bringing “Gerrymander” into the political lexicon. He also served as

ambassador to France and was Madison’s second vice president in 1812. R29/S9

4. Dr. William Thornton (1761–1828) was a physician who did not practice medicine. He won the competition for designing the U.S. Capitol in 1793. As an amateur architect, he also designed the Octagon House, Tudor Place and Woodlawn. He won a gold medal for outlining a method of teaching the deaf to speak. His talents as a painter, novelist, and writer, coupled with his social graces and enthusiasm for horse racing placed him in the center of Washington social life. R33/S39

5. Push-ma -ta-ha. (1764?–1824), Choctaw Indian Chief, warrior, and diplomat, served with Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. While in Washington seeking payment of debts owed by the Government to his nation, he died of croup in 1824 (the debts were unpaid until 1888). His military funeral, led by Senator Andrew Jackson, stretched a full mile with thousands in the procession and others lining the way to his resting place. The guns from Capitol Hill thundered the tribute he had requested. “that the big guns be fired over me.” This stone replaces the original which was weatherworn. R31/S41

6. Robert Mills (1781–1855), Architect of Public Buildings. His office was in the Capitol, but he was never Architect of the Capitol. He designed the Washington Monument, Old Treasury, Old Post Office, and the Patent Office at Gallery Place, which is now the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture. He was an innovator of fireproof construction. His grave remained unmarked for more than 80 years until 1936 when monument was placed by the American Institute of Architects. R35/S111

7. J. Edgar Hoover (1895–1972), first director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Born and raised in DC, he earned his law degree at George Washington University night school. Hoover joined the Department of Justice in 1917 and rose to the Director’s office by 1924 at the age of 29. He reformed the FBI by removing political appointees and re-instituting legal and/or accounting backgrounds for agents. Hoover led the 1940s domestic security

efforts against Nazi infiltration and against Communist suspects in the 1950s. He instituted the FBI’s 10 Most Wanted list in 1950. He was buried here in the Hoover family plot in 1972. R20/S117

8. Taza (Tahzay) (1815?–1876), son of Apache Chief Cochise. He was brought to Washington in 1876 along with 22 others of his tribe by a canny Indian agent who had no travel or expense money. To pay their way, they danced and were exhibited as side shows. Taza was fatally stricken with pneumonia, the only casualty of the trip. His silver-handled coffin was drawn to the cemetery in a “glass coach.” and a two-hour service gave him the recognition he deserved as Chief of his tribe. This marker was placed in recent years by the American Indian Society of Washington. R2/S125

9. Anne Royall (1769–1854) is generally considered the nation’s first newspaperwoman. She married William Royall in 1797. Upon his death in 1812 his family claimed his will was a forgery and succeeded in having it annulled. Left nearly penniless, she turned to writing to make a living and came to Washington to fight for her husband’s veteran’s pension. She is reputed to have acquired an interview with President John Quincy Adams by sitting on his clothes while the President bathed in the Potomac River. Her unflinching aggressive reporting earned her many enemies in Washington leading to a trial on the charge of being a “common scold.” R26/S194

10. Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General Archibald Henderson. (1783-1859) served as Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1820-59, longer than any other. Earned distinction in the War of 1812 and was awarded the Silver Medal. During the 1836 Creek and Seminole Indian War in Georgia and Florida, Henderson offered the services of a regiment of Marines to support Army troops already there. He left a note on his office door: “Have gone to fight the Indians. Will be back when war is over.” The story is told that during World War II when formation of the Women’s Marine Corps was announced, Colonel Henderson’s portrait fell from the wall. R55/S171

11. Joseph Gales, Jr. (1786–1860) one of ten mayors of Washington buried at Congressional. He was editor and owner of The National Intelligencer, a politically and socially powerful newspaper. His anti-British tirades earned him the enmity of the British Army and when they attacked the US capital in August 1814 they destroyed his presses even though all other private homes and businesses were left untouched. He was back in business in a few days using borrowed metal type. R55/S168

12. Belva Lockwood. (1830–1917) was nominated for President of the United States in 1884 by the National Equal Rights Party. Even though women did not have voting rights, she received 4,000 votes. Widowed in 1853, she was determined to attend college and graduated at age 27 in 1857. After the Civil War she moved to Washington, DC. Despite her fine academic rating and ten years in the teaching profession, two law schools denied her applications for fear that a 40-year-old woman would “distract the other students.” The Vice Chancellor gave her private instruction, but the faculty withheld her diploma until President Grant as a Chancellor of the National University Law School signed her diploma. Barred from the Supreme Court based on “custom,” she drew up legislation to allow women to practice in that court. She practiced law 43 years, dying three years before the suffrage amendment passed. R78/S296

13. John Philip Sousa. (1854–1932) was born in 1854 near the Washington Marine Barracks where his father Antonio was a musician in the Marine Band. He enrolled in a private conservatory of music where he studied piano and other instruments, becoming proficient at the violin. At the age of 13 he tried to join a travelling circus band, but his father enlisted him in the Marine Band. Sousa eventually rose to become leader of the band for 15 years. Upon retirement he organized his own band and toured the U.S. and Europe. Sousa composed the official song of the Marine Corps, “Semper Fidelis” at the request of President Arthur. He produced numerous comic operas, novels, waltzes, songs and symphonic poems. His many marching band pieces earned him the title March King. R77/S163

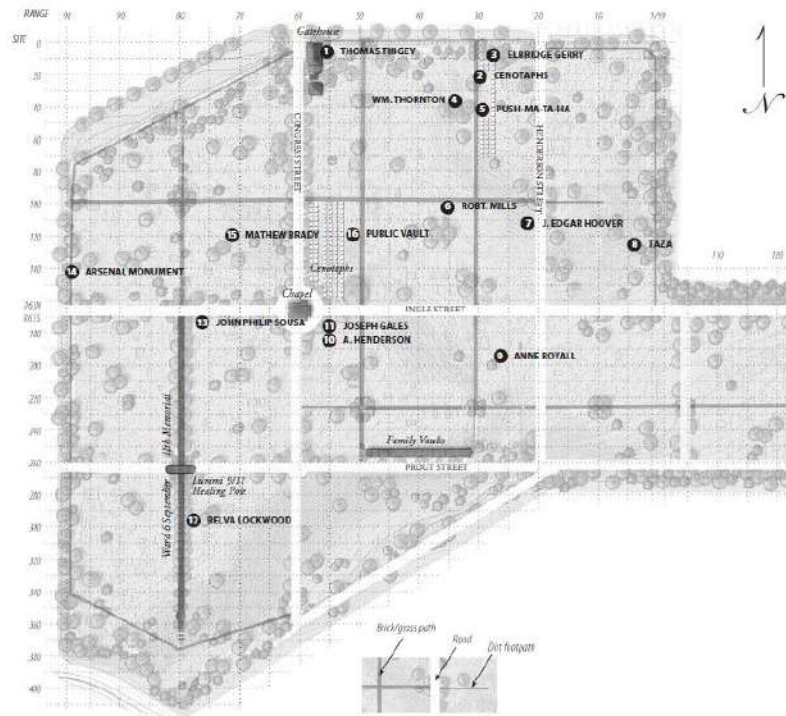
14. Arsenal Monument memorializes the 21 women killed in an explosion at the Washington Arsenal, June 17, 1864. The accident resulted when the sun's heat set off a large quantity of fireworks outside the building where the women were filling cartridges. A burning fuse blew through an open window igniting the exposed gunpowder. The cortege to the cemetery was led by President Lincoln, a band, 90 pall bearers and 2,000 mourners. Local sculptor, Lot Flannery, created the memorial replete with Victorian symbolism. \$2,500 was appropriated in 1864 "for the relief of the sufferers." R97/S142

15. Mathew Brady (1822–1896), father of photojournalism. His daguerreotypes vividly recorded personalities and scenes of the Civil War. Brady followed the Union Army into the Battle of Bull Run where he got lost for three days. The engraving for the five dollar bill is made from his photographic portrait of Abraham Lincoln. The chemicals used in early photography brought on blindness in Brady forcing him to rely on staff to take most images. He had hoped to persuade the federal government to buy his photographic plates after the war. It did not, which left Brady deeply in debt whereupon he moved in with his wife's family in DC. R72/S120

16. The Public Vault was built by Congress in response to the many public burial processions taking place in the Washington Parish Burial Ground. For Congressmen there was no charge for the vault; others were charged a \$5 fee. In sum, the remains of over 6,000 individuals were held in the Public Vault until arrangements could be made for burials elsewhere, including those of Presidents John Quincy Adams, William Henry Harrison, and Zachary Taylor. Dolley Madison was placed in the Vault upon her death in 1849 but because her son had bankrupted the family, she remained there for five years. The Public Vault was built in 1835 for \$5,000, and repaired in 2005 at a cost of \$35,000.

With thanks to archivist and historian, Sandy Schmidt, whose decade of dedicated research produced over 25,000 obituaries on our web site, without which we could not tell the stories of the hundreds of individuals who make up the tapestry of heritage at Historic Congressional Cemetery.

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.



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ESTABLISHED 1807

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY
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Walking Tour INTRODUCTORY TOUR

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. In 1790, the establishment of the District of Columbia as the new center of the nation brought prominent citizens from across the country to the banks of the Potomac River, along with the presidents, Congressmen and justices came builders, military leaders and merchants—and their families—to build the new government and its new capital. A suitable burying space within reasonable proximity to the community was soon in order, bringing about Washington Parish Burial Ground, established by private citizens in 1807. By 1820 it was known as the "national burying ground" due to the many grand funeral processions for prominent national figures. These important individuals from many walks of life create an exciting tapestry of American heritage: architects and builders, musicians and explorers, patriots and scoundrels, pioneers and diplomats, and veterans of every war. This Introductory Tour highlights just a few of the hundreds of fascinating people for whom we have collected obituaries on our web site, which we invite you to peruse for much more information on these and over 25,000 other individuals. 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.

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.*