

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. RUTH ANN OVERBECK (–2000), HISTORIAN, moved to Capitol Hill in 1968, and became immersed in preserving the neighborhood’s history. Intending to write about it, she recorded oral histories, collected photographs, maps, and ephemera. She chaired the team that created the Capitol Hill Historic District, which was admitted to the National Register. Believing that history belonged to everyone, Overbeck established Washington Perspectives, Inc. in 1975, believed to be the first and oldest for-profit public history firm in the U.S. More than a “Capitol Hill Historian,” a title she disliked, she completed historical projects around the country. She continued to document the community’s history in the final weeks of her life. She died of cancer in 2000. R62/S58

2. HATTIE BURDETTE (–1955), PORTRAIT PAINTER A native Washingtonian, Burdette’s portraiture of famous people in history garnered acclaim for accuracy, as she used a combination of portraits and photographs to portray the closest likeness possible. She was rated among the top American portrait painters, and created many miniatures that won honors at the Royal Society of Miniature Painters in London. About three years before her death, she was forced to give up her work due to failing eyesight, and instead remained active in Washington art groups. R79/S103

3. ANNA HITZ (1796—1883), NURSE Hitz emigrated from her native Switzerland in 1831. During the Civil War, her visits to the wounded in hospitals around Washington endeared her to many soldiers who called her “Mother Hitz.” Since only three of her own 13 children survived, she may have seen in each of these soldiers’ faces images of her own family. Later when traveling in the East, she was recognized by some of her former patients. R79/S108

4. ADELAIDE JOHNSON (1859—1955), SCULPTOR Born Sarah Adeline in 1859 in Plymouth, Illinois, the eldest of three children, Johnson attended local schools until, in her teens, she moved in with her older half-brother

to attend classes at St. Louis School of Design. At a state exposition, at age 18, she took first, second, and fourth prizes while competing against professionals. She changed her name in 1878 to Adelaide and moved to Chicago to study. With a flair for the dramatic, she used her marriage to Frederick Jenkins, a British businessman, to make a statement: he took *her* name when they were wed by a woman minister, and her bridesmaids were her busts of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Johnson fought public skepticism and lack of funds trying to achieve her dream of a museum honoring the women’s movement. Unable to sell some of her pieces for their worth, she destroyed them in protest. She began inflating her age for more press coverage and sympathy. When she died, her age was reported to be 108 or 109, although she was 96—still a notable age. R61/S152

5. JULIANA GALES MAY (1846—1901), OPERATIC SOPRANO described as possessing a remarkable voice and figure. She studied music in Europe. During the Civil War era she performed to great acclaim on the Continent. Neither a mezzo soprano nor contralto, she was with a perfect equality of tone, according to one reviewer. However, this same reviewer who attended her first concert in America expressed hope that with practice she would improve. The disparity of reviews was perplexing, and the American reviews of her performances were so unkind that she retired from music. R54/S168

6. MARGUERITE LA MOTTE DUPONT LEE (1863–1936), HUMANITARIAN AND PHILANTHROPIST, was a member of the DuPont family of Maryland. At age 18, she married her cousin, a 30-year-old lawyer. She campaigned aggressively for women’s rights and marched for Women’s Suffrage. She worked with many private charities, and built a settlement house in the slums of old Georgetown where she ran a kindergarten, boys club and classes for mothers. She later turned over the house to the Salvation Army before retiring. R54/S172

7. MARY CLAIRE FULLER (1888–1973), ACTRESS Born the second of four daughters on October 5, in Washington, DC. After one

year of high school she embarked upon a stage career. Working with several different agencies, she starred in many one-reelers and short films; including the original *Frankenstein*. She became the star of *What Happened to Mary?*—a film series that gained her notoriety as one of the silent screen’s first superstars. She abruptly ended her film career after starring in *The Long Trail*. Cal York in *Photoplay* magazine asked: “Mary Fuller has disappeared. Her actor friends...have tried to find traces of her, without success. ...No doubt she prefers to remain in seclusion—but, why?” What was not publicly known was her affair with a married man caused her to have a nervous breakdown that necessitated a lengthy treatment. She later moved back to Washington to live with her mother. After her mother’s death, her mental health deteriorated and she remained in St. Elizabeth Hospital for 25 years until her death at age 85. No family was located, her stardom was forgotten; the local papers carried no obituary. R49A/S331

8. ANNE NEWPORT ROYALL (1769–1854), JOURNALIST Born in Baltimore, Anne Newport grew up on the frontier of western PA. Her widowed mother moved the family to the mountains of western VA where she worked as a housekeeper for Major William Royall, a Revolutionary War veteran. Royall delighted in teaching Anne all about his books, and in 1797, when Anne was 28 and Royall was in his 50s, they wed. After 15 years of marriage Royall died, leaving everything to Anne. Relatives contested the will, and after seven years of litigation, it was declared a forgery, leaving Anne destitute. She spent the next four years traveling through Alabama, and eventually published *Letters from Alabama*, and *The Tennessean*. In Washington, DC, she petitioned for the pension due a widow of a Revolutionary War veteran. Anne traveled throughout the northern cities, and at age 57 published her notes as *Sketches of History: Life and Manners in the United States*. She had many enemies, who decried her as a vulgar and offensive. After several confrontations with a group of Presbyterians, she was arrested, charged with being a common scold, and fined \$10. In 1831 she published a newspaper, the *Paul Pry*, “dedicated to exposing all and every species of political evil and religious fraud,

without fear or affection.” The newspaper later became *The Huntress*. In 1848, Royall at last received her husband’s pension after Congress passed a new pension law, but her husband’s family claimed most of the money. She kept *The Huntress* running until her death at age 85. R26/S194

9. EMMA E.M.V. TRIEPEL (1866–1943), WRITER Born in Elizabeth City, NC on December 16, Triepel was educated in the local public school system, where she later taught for several years. She received a B.S. from GWU in 1910. Triepel was a member of the DAR, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Order of the Eastern Star. She helped found the National League of American Pen Women, and was the last charter member to die. She was widowed twice before she turned 30 and turned to writing as a way to support herself. Triepel contributed to newspapers and magazines for many years, including the *Seismograph*, *Scientific American*, and *Science News*. Two years before her death she issued a publication stating, “I hope to continue writing and enjoying life for many years; I intend to live and write until the last day I can.” During a long illness she was working on her memoirs when she died at age 76. R132/S223

10. WINIFRED MALLON (1880–1954), AUTHOR, was a freelance writer who became a well-known newspaperwoman in DC. For 20 years she was on the Washington staff of *The Chicago Tribune* and spent 20 more years on the Washington bureau staff of *The New York Times*. She contributed articles on national affairs and short fiction to various magazines. Mallon helped organize the Women’s National Press Club. R99/S110

11. MARGARET ANN LAURIE (–1873), AND HER DAUGHTER BELLE YOUNGS (–1882), SPIRITUALISTS These dedicated spiritualists contacted the dead for messages and used “magnetic” powers for healing. Laurie produced physical phenomena such as levitating pianos. Their house, a center of spiritualist séances,

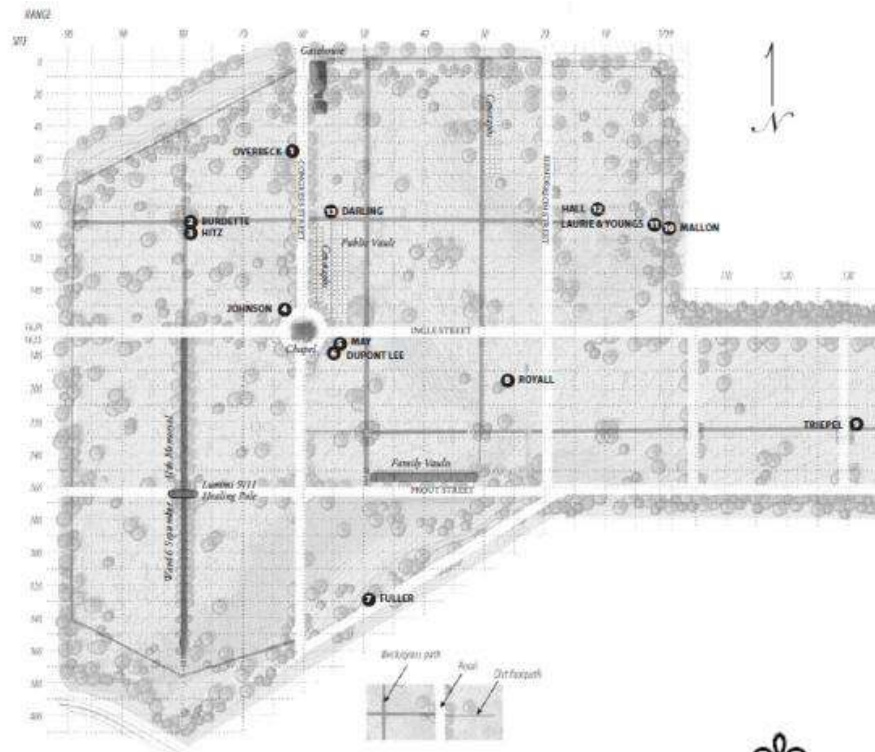
was visited by the Lincolns, and Laurie became a frequent visitor at the White House to conduct séances. The President's aides warned her to keep these spiritual activities secret to protect Lincoln's public image. R2/S103

12. MARY ANN HALL (1815–1886), BROTHEL OWNER A madame and successful businesswoman who owned and operated her own brothel with 18 prostitutes—more than any other brothel in the city. During the Civil War, Washington had 5,000 prostitutes and 450 brothels, all legal. High-class houses like Hall's attracted men of wealth and distinction who sought discretion and elegance. In her first decade of business, her personal property increased by more than 30 percent and the value of her real estate doubled. Transactions began with a shared bottle of champagne. At the time she died she had no debts and was worth today's equivalent of well over \$2 million. R11/S92

13. FLORA ADAMS DARLING (1840-1910), FOUNDER OF THE DAR AND THE U.S. DAUGHTERS OF 1812 Adams was born in 1840 in Lancaster, NH to Harvey and Nancy Dustin Adams. She married General Edward Irving Darling, who was later killed in the Civil War. In 1891 she organized the Daughters of the Confederacy and became its Director General. She was one of the three founders of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and was also Director at the Lamperti School of Music, and Founder and Director of the Edward Irving Darling Musical Society, created in memory of her son, a composer. She authored seven books including *A Wayward*, *Winning Woman*, and *Senator Athens, C.S.A.* R55/S96-97

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.

With thanks to students Barbara McEwan and Sarah Brittenham, Springhill High School for research and writing; and with thanks to archivist Sandy Schmidt, whose dedicated research yielded hundreds of stories of the 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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1807  2007

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Walking Tour

WOMEN OF ARTS & LETTERS

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. Despite the vital roles played by women through the ages, their lesser ranking in the social order meant that few received obituaries upon their deaths. This lack of documentation deprives us of the wealth of stories behind the contributions made by individual women in the 1800s. Some stood out in traditional roles of nursing and entertainment, while others earned a living in a manner less conformed to social mores—from divining the spirits to “entertaining the troops.” In the second half of the 20th century, more women turned to arts and letters to express their visions and talents and earn deserved recognition for their contributions. The women of arts and letters described in this tour exemplify the spirit of women who became some of the best in their fields and helped form the city's heritage and future. 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.