16. DAVID HEROLD (1842–1865)
A Lincoln assassination conspirator, he followed Lewis Powell (a.k.a. Payne) on that fateful night to kill Secretary of State William Seward. He waited outside and fled after Powell’s failed stabbing attempt. Herold met up with John Wilkes Booth in Maryland, then traveled to Mary Surratt’s house and on to Dr. Samuel Mudd’s. Twelve days later they were cornered and Booth was shot. Herold was convicted and hanged on July 7, 1865 with co-conspirators Surratt, Powell and Atzerodt. He was buried on the grounds of what is now Fort McNair, but in 1869 his family petitioned to have his body interred here in a unmarked grave. His sister Elizabeth was buried in the same plot in 1903.

OTHER LINKS TO LINCOLN’S ASSASSINATION
Some accounts indicate Lewis Powell hid in a Cemetery the night of the assassination before escaping across the river in the morning.

Buried in Congressional Cemetery are:
- Emerick Hansell (R86/S152D4), the State Department courier wounded by Powell during the attempt on Seward
- James Pumphrey (R47/S205), who rented Booth a horse
- John Shelton (R06/S82), a policeman who helped carry Lincoln to the Peterson house
- Peter Taltavull (R12/S141), owner of the Star Saloon where Booth grabbed a pre-theatre drink
- Two of the 16 doctors who tended to Lincoln
- Seven men who were at Ford’s Theater that night: a musician and a member of the box office staff
- Three men involved in Lincoln’s embalming and burial service to the Nation’s Capital.

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1976 and 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, dogwalkers, and armed forces personnel each year to help restore and maintain this national treasure. In 1979, the Association succeeded in having Congressional Cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Please join the Association or make a donation and help in the third century of service to the Nation’s Capital.

This CIVIL WAR TOUR highlights just a few of the hundreds of fascinating people buried in Congressional Cemetery. As you walk the trail of this self-guided letterboxing tour, note the artistry and craftsmanship of the memorial stone carvings and try to decipher the cultural language of the iconography.
4. CONFEDERATE HEADSTONES

These can be distinguished from the other government-issue markers by their pointed rather than rounded profile. Legend says this choice was so that “no damn Yankee will sit on it.” Historians believe that these wartime burials were Confederate soldiers who succumbed in nearby hospitals. R95/S211

5. ANDREW HUMPHREYS (1830–1883)

The son and grandson of prominent shipbuilders, he chose to attend West Point. After the Seminole War, he joined the Corps of Topographical Engineers and worked on surveys of the Delaware and Mississippi Rivers. In 1861 he served as a major with McClellan. He led a division of V Corps at Antietam, and at Fredericksburg he led his division the farthest up Mary's Heights. His troops supported Meade's Gettysburg advance. Five days after Gettysburg, Meade appointed him Chief of Staff. Four months later he took command of the II Corps and distinguished himself at the 1865 Battle of Sayler's Creek. He became Chief, Corps of Engineers in 1866 until his retirement in 1879. R63/S184

6. JOSEPH (JOSHUA) HUMPHREYS (1813–1873)

Andrew's younger brother [see above], he served in the U.S. Navy until 1853. He had married a woman from Virginia and ran a business in Fredericksburg. When the war broke out, he joined the Confederate States (C.S.) Navy. It is believed that his marriage and business ties led him to join the Confederate cause. Any animosity was apparently forgiven since he was brought from Fredericksburg to be in this family plot. R64/S177

7. BENJAMIN B. FRENCH (1800–1870)

He served as Commissioner of Public Buildings under Franklin Pierce and Lincoln. He was asked to hide Mrs. Lincoln's expensive White House redecorating bills in his budget. The Statue of Freedom, placed atop the Capitol dome in his tenure, has two names engraved on it: French and Lincoln. The nearby Masonic Lodge (No. 15) on Wisconsin Avenue bears his name. R63/S228

8. JOHN JAY ALMY (1815–1895)

After serving in the Mexican War, he was promoted to Commodore at the start of the Civil War. He commanded the USS Connecticut, which captured four notorious blockade runners and destroyed or ran three others aground. He is credited with serving the longest length of time as sea officer in an Army commander’s service. He retired his Navy commission in 1865. He resigned his Navy commission in 1872 and then moved to New York. Retired Rear Admiral, he died in 1895. R65/S229

9. JAMES BERRET (1815–1901)

He was elected mayor of Washington in 1861 by a mere 24 votes. That year Congress passed a law requiring all public officials to swear a loyalty oath. He refused, insisting that his mayoral oath swear his loyalty. He was arrested in August 1861 and imprisoned in New York. After no evidence of enemy complicity was found, he was released a month later, returned to Washington, and then he resigned as mayor. R49/S260

10. ALFRED PLEASONTON (1824–1897)

He is buried next to his father, Stephen, who saved the Declaration of Independence and Constitution from the British in 1814. A cavalry officer who saw battle at Antietam and Chancellorsville, he was appointed temporary commander of the Cavalry Corps just prior to Gettysburg. He fought at the Missouri “front,” and after the war reverted from brevet Brigadier General rank to Major. He resigned his commission in 1868 and later worked for the President of the Internal Revenue Service, but was dismissed for lobbying Congress to repeal the federal income tax. R42/S245

11. OCTAVIUS HENDERSON (1839–1897)

Son of Archibald Henderson, fifth Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, he led the 1st Virginia Regulars (the Irish Battalion). When severely wounded at the Second Battle of Manassas, his Virginia Military Institute class ring was shot from his hand. The ring was found and returned to him 32 years later. He returned to VMI to teach infantry tactics. R54/S245

12. EDWARD BAKER (1811–1861)

A lawyer from Springfield, Illinois, he was such a close friend of the President that Lincoln named his second son after him. Baker was elected as Senator from Oregon in 1859. After the war broke out, he organized the California Brigade and served as its colonel. On October 21, 1861, while leading a brigade at the Battle of Ball's Bluff near Leesburg, he was killed, possibly by a Virginia militiaman wearing a blue uniform who penetrated Union lines. He was the only sitting senator killed in the war. His body was held in the Public Vault before his final burial in San Francisco National Cemetery. PUBLIC VAULT

13. MARY ANN HALL (1814–1886)

Listed on Cemetery records as “business woman” or “entrepreneur,” she was the proprietor of a brothel where the National Museum of the American Indian now stands. In the 1862 Federal Provost Marshall’s catalog of such institutions (which were not banned in Washington, D.C. until 1914), hers is rated as the top of its kind. It was regularly frequented by men from all military branches. In 1864 she was charged with operating a bawdy house, and maintaining a disreputable house. The three-day closely-followed trial ended with her guilty of the first charge and innocent of the second. R11/S92

14. JOSPEH GILBERT TOTTEN (1788–1864)

He served in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. During the Civil War, he commanded the Corps of Engineers, and reviewed the defensive ring of forts around D.C. The remains of Fort Totten, named in his honor, are still visible in northeast D.C. When the Corps of Engineers and the Topographical Engineers were merged under his command, he rose to Brigadier General and was brevetted to Major General the day before he died of pneumonia. R44/S36

15. FRENCH FORREST (1796–1866)

As a Maryland native, he served in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. He commanded the Washington Navy Yard from 1855–1856. In April 1861 he resigned his Navy commission and, days later when Virginia claimed Confederacy, joined the Virginia State Navy and the C.S. Navy. As the third highest ranking officer in the Navy, he commanded the Norfolk Navy Yard and refit the USS Merrimack into the ironclad CSS Virginia. He watched the Battle of Hampton Roads from a tug in the harbor in March 1862. When Norfolk fell two months later, he transferred to Richmond and was off the rolls of the Confederate Navy by mid-1864. R45/S42