14. MATHEW BRADY
(1822–1896) is known as the father of photojournalism. His daguerreotypes vividly recorded personalities and scenes of the Civil War. Brady followed the Union Army into the Battle of Bull. The engraving of Abraham Lincoln on the five dollar bill is made from his photographic portrait. The chemicals used in early photography brought on blindness in Brady forcing him to rely on staff to take most images. When the federal government did not buy his photographic plates after the war, Brady was 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 burials. 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 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, 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.

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.

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.

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This INTRODUCTORY TOUR highlights just a few of the hundreds of fascinating people buried in Congressional Cemetery. 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.
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 (c.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 diphtheria 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 the back.” Please also refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers to help locate each grave site.

6. J. EDGAR HOOVER (1895–1972) served as the first director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Born and raised in DC, he earned his law degree at George Washington University night school. He also served as ambassador to France. R29/S9

7. TAZA (Tahzay) (1842–1876) son of Apache Chief Cochise, was brought to Washington in 1876 along with 22 others of his tribe in exchange for travel and expense money. To pay their way, they danced and were exhibited as side shows. Taza was fatally stricken with pneumonia. 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. The 1954 film Taza, Son of Cochise stars Rock Hudson as Taza. This marker was placed in 1971 by the American Indian Society of Washington; the sculpture is based on an 1868 photograph of Naiche, mistakenly believed to be Taza. R2/S125

8. MARION BARRY (1936–2013) was elected as the mayor of Washington, D.C. four times in: 1978, 1982, 1986, and 1994. Barry also served in various positions on the D.C. Council for fifteen years. Before he moved to Washington, D.C. in 1965, Barry presided over the Lemoyne College chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was the first national chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). R20/S91

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 Washington to fight for her husband’s veteran’s pension. She is reputed to have acquired an interview with the President while the President bathed in the Potomac River. She was a leading newspaper reporter who was denied access to the White House. Her unflinching aggressive reporting earned her many enemies in Washington 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 the next day using borrowed metal type. R55/S168

10. 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. 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 themall endowed her diploma until President Ulysses S. Grant signed her diploma. Barred from arguing before the Supreme Court based on “custom,” she successfully drew up legislation to allow women to practice in that court. She practiced law for 43 years, passing away three years before women were allowed to vote. RB7/S296

11. JOHN PHILIP SOUSA (1854–1932) was born in SE Washington DC where his father, a musician in the Marine Band. He enrolled in a private conservatory of music where he studied piano and other instruments. At the age of 13, he tried to join a travelling circus band, but his father enlisted him in the Marine Band. Sousa rose to become leader of the band for 15 years. Later, 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 Chester A. Arthur. He produced numerous comic operas, novels, walzes, songs and symphonic poems. His many marching band pieces earned him the title “March King”. R77/S163 SOUTH

12. ARSENAL MONUMENT memorializes the 22 women killed on June 17, 1864 at the Washington Arsenal when ceramic shells left in the sun to dry, ignited, causing the exposed gunpowder the women were using to fill cartridge to explode. The cortege to the cemetery was led by President Lincoln, a band,