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 an unmarked grave. His sister Elizabeth was buried in the same plot in 1903. R66/S44

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 (R96/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, a door keeper, an usher, two members of the audience

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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.
1. ANDREW PICKENS BUTLER (1769–1857)
As a Senator from South Carolina, he was co-author of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which undermined the Missouri Compromise of 1820 allowing slavery in a region where it had previously been prohibited. It is said the first blows of the Civil War were struck defending his honor: in 1856, Sen. Charles Sumner (MA) desecrated Butler in the Senate. Two days later in Senate chambers, Congressman Jim Ryan of Maryland denounced Butler. On the day of his death, Sen. Sumner was shot and killed by a Virginia militiaman wearing a blue uniform that 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**

2. MATTHEW BRADY (1822–1896)
Known as the definitive and prolific Civil War photographer, many of his photographs appear in this brochure. Historians credit his 1860 photograph of Abraham Lincoln prior to his Cooper Union (NY) speech with facilitating Lincoln's election. Brady's 1862 exhibit, "The Dead on Antietam" was the first time citizens saw battlefield carnage. A pauper at death, Brady's burial with his wife's family was never claimed by the government. Brady Handy Collection LOC LC-B813-1554

3. WASHINGTON ARSENAL MONUMENT
On June 17, 1864, sparks from a small explosion blew into the Washington Arsenal on the grounds of what is now the Navy Yard. The ensuing explosion and fire killed 22 women, 16 are buried here (8 of the bodies were never identified), with two others in family plots nearby. The funeral procession, the largest at that time in the city's history, was led by Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. The statue atop the monument is by Lorado Taft, who sculpted Lincoln's statue at Judiciary Square. R98/S145

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 damned 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 Marye's Heights. His troops supported Joseph Hooker'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 of 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 1855. He had married a woman from Virginia and ran a business in Fredericksburg. When the war broke out, he joined the Confederate States (CS) 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 Massachusetts, which captured four notorious blockade runners and destroyed or ran three others aground. He is credited with serving the longest time at sea as an officer in the Navy's history—27 years and 10 months, in 42 years of service. R51/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 swore 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 predecessor of the Internal Revenue Service, but was dismissed for lobbying Congress to repeal the federal income tax. R42/S245

11. OCTAVIUS HENDERSON (1839–1897)
The 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 that 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 disorderly house. The three-day closely-followed trial ended with her guilty of the first charge and innocent of the second. R11/S92

14. JOSEPH 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 DC. The remains of Fort Totten, named in his honor, are still visible in northeast DC. 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 statehood, he returned to Fort Monroe. Forrest claimed Confederate, 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