

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**

LETTERBOX: With your back to Mary Hall’s monument, walk 44 steps at 87 degrees until you arrive at the long-needed pine. The letterbox is straight in at 4’.

10. K9 CORPS



The K9 Corps at Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private dogwalking program, bringing life, community, and volunteerism to this extraordinary burial ground. The K9 Corps

membership dues provide for maintenance of the grounds and assist with administrative costs. It is the first program of its kind and is currently the only such program in the country. It is organized for the continued support of the ongoing work at Historic Congressional Cemetery through funds raised through donations and each member’s ongoing volunteer work. Visit www.cemeterydogs.org for details and information.

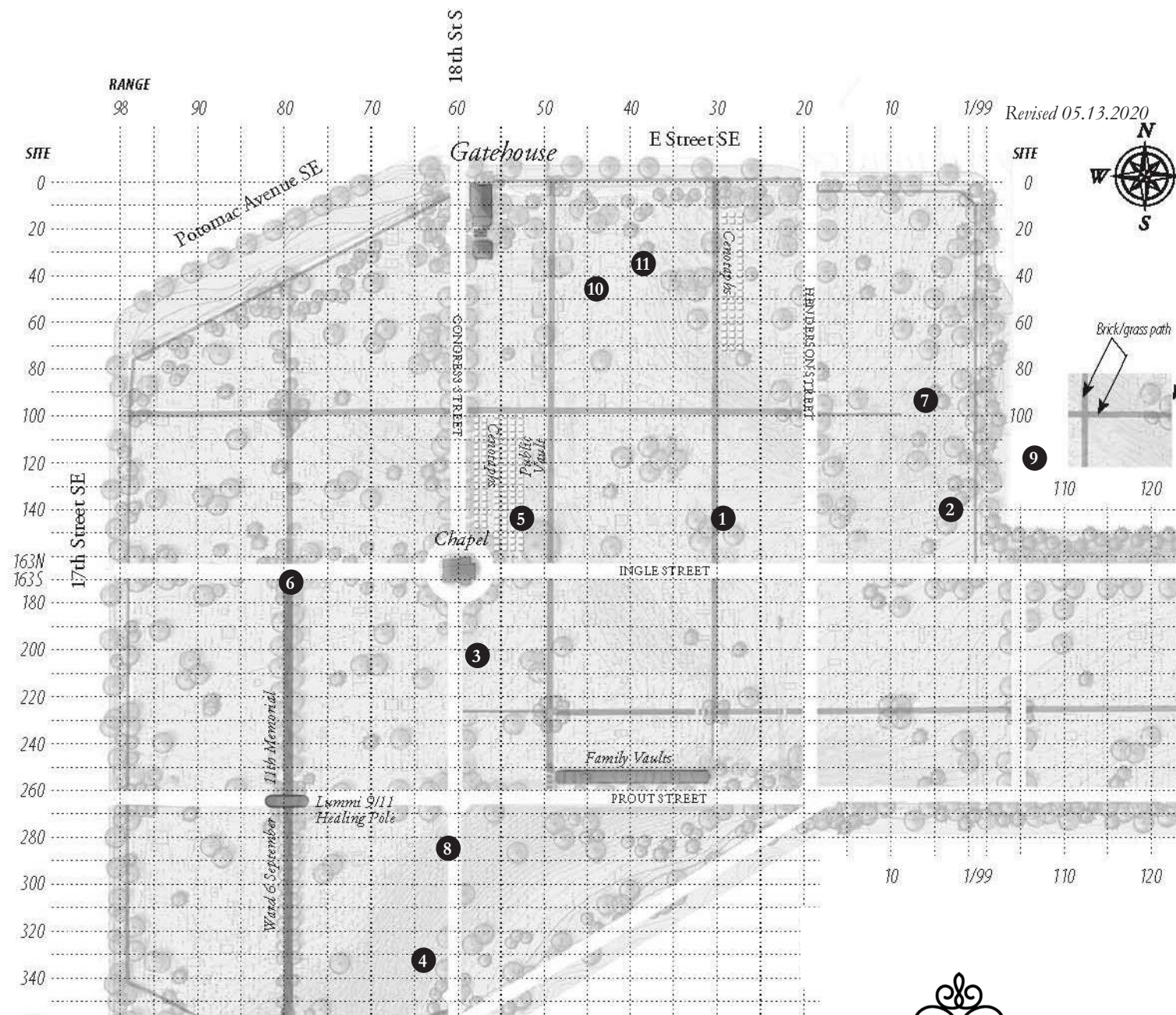
LETTERBOX: Find the bench in the shelter at the entryway. Set off across the grass to Little Clara. Walk 36 more steps in the same direction, and find the letterbox tucked in the middle of the shrub.



11. ECO GOATS

Please donate to this year’s Congressional Cemetery Goat Fund to help finance another visit from the goats. They come to eat the many invasive plant species that put the Cemetery’s trees and gravestones at risk. They will even eat poison ivy! Use of the goats also keeps pesticides from entering the Anacostia Watershed, near to the Cemetery.

LETTERBOX: Just past the reception area within the Congressional Cemetery office, on your way to the gift shop, pause in the hallway and spot the EcoGoats mascot. Tucked in the credenza drawer beneath him, find the letterbox.



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.

Join us!

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.



Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

1801 E Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
202-543-0539 | Fax 202-543-5966
EMAIL: staff@congressionalcemetery.org
www.congressionalcemetery.org

Funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided in part by the Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The property is owned by Christ Church Washington Parish.



ESTABLISHED 1807

Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery *Walking Tour* **LETTERBOXING**

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.

Letterboxing combines artistic ability with “treasure-hunts” in parks, forests, cemeteries, and cities around the world. Participants seek out hidden letterboxes by cracking codes and following clues. The found prize is an image from a miniature piece of art known as a rubber stamp—usually a unique, hand-carved creation. Letterboxers stamp their discoveries in a personal journal, and then use their own rubber stamp, called a **signature stamp**, to stamp into the letterbox’s logbook. The clues for these letterboxes are not laid out on a consecutive trail, but instead are written to facilitate exploration of this historic cemetery. **At no time is it necessary to reach under gravestones or within mausoleum gates; all letterboxes are placed nearby, not on or in, gravesites.** When retrieving the letterboxes, please note that they are suspended within trees and shrubs; please remove the black pouch from each ‘cage’ to discover the letterbox’s contents. **Leave the cage hanging as placed. Please replace the pouch within the cage for the next seeker.**

This LETTERBOXING 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.

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

1. DOLLEY MADISON (1769–1849)

Dolley Payne was one of eight children in a family of Quakers. At age 22 she married John Todd, Jr., a Quaker lawyer. When Yellow Fever spread through Washington, her husband stayed behind to take care of his parents, contracting the disease and died within hours of reuniting with Dolley and their sons. She also contracted the fever but recovered. Less than a year after her first husband's death, she met and married James Madison, a non-Quaker, for which she was expelled from the Society of Friends. In 1801, Madison became Secretary of State, and Dolley was appointed National Hostess by the widowed Thomas Jefferson. Two terms later Madison became President, and Dolley, First Lady. During the War of 1812 when the British burned Washington, DC, Dolley saved many national treasures, including a portrait of George Washington, many valuable papers, and silver. After Madison died in 1836, Dolley spent the next four years shuffling between Montpelier and Washington, trying to overcome the debts mounted by her son. She sold Madison's presidential papers to the federal government to pay off her son's debt. Dolley Payne Todd Madison died July 12, 1849 in Washington, DC. This remarkable woman personally knew all of the first 12 Presidents. She is the only woman whose portrait hangs in the President's Gallery in the National Gallery of Art. Her body was interred in the Public Vault for five years until she could be moved to Montpelier, her final resting place.



R52/S120 PUBLIC VAULT (REMOVED)

LETTERBOX: Stand facing the entry to the Public Vault. Walk 60 steps to the pine at 55 degrees. Reach in to the boughs, just above head height.

2. J. EDGAR HOOVER (1895–1972)

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 be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation 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.



J. Edgar Hoover (1924)
George Grantham Rainn Collection

R20/S117

LETTERBOX: From Hoover's family plot, walk downhill on the paving stone lane. Turn left at the first intersection and walk to the bench on the left. Instead of the closest pine, follow the row of graves up from John Berry to the thicker pine. Reach in at about 5'6"

3. JOHN PHILIP SOUSA (1854–1932)



J.P. Sousa (1900)
Library of Congress

Born in 1854 near the Washington Marine Barracks, 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. Sousa composed the official song of the Marine Corps, *Semper Fidelis*, at the request of President Chester A. Arthur. His many marching band pieces earned him the title of "March King".

R77/S163 SOUTH

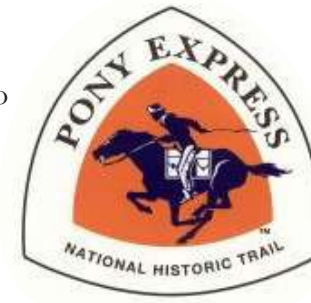
LETTERBOX: Walk to the bench at the head of the Sousa gravesite and reach behind the left side of the marble engraving:

SOUSA
- LEADER -
UNITED STATES MARINE BAND
1880 - 1892

4. WILLIAM S. ANDERSON (1835–1904)

He came to Washington as a young man and enlisted in the First District Regiment at the outbreak of the Civil War and served throughout. In 1865, he became

a commission merchant, which brought him business success. Anderson was one of the first to ride the "Pony Express" from St. Louis to California, and his memory was stocked with tales of exciting adventures on the plains during 1860-1861.



R83/S303

LETTERBOX: Take 42 steps down the red stone pathway from the gravesite. At the corner of the Smith plot, the letterbox is in the arborvitae at about a 5' height.

5. MATHEW BRADY (1822–1896)

Considered to be 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 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

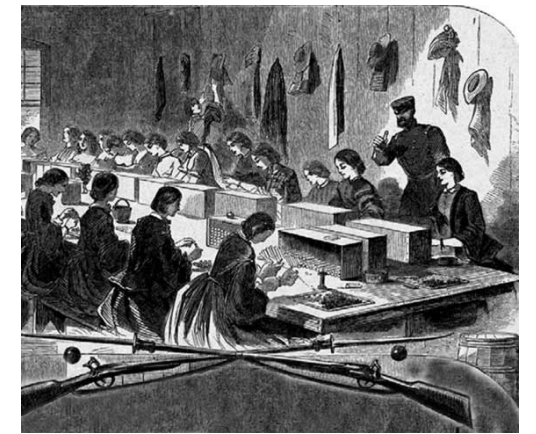
in debt whereupon he moved in with his wife's family in DC. **R72/S120**

LETTERBOX: Facing Mathew B. Brady's headstone - the one with the correct year of death - turn right and walk until you reach a walkway. Proceed right on it for 19 steps and then find the letterbox suspended within the azalea low and close to the gravestone.

6. ARSENAL MONUMENT

This sculpture memorializes the 21 women killed in an explosion at the Washington Arsenal on 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



LETTERBOX: Stand at the base of the memorial; you will be facing Grief. Turn about and walk to the paving stone road, and turn left. How many women with first names beginning with 'S' died? Pass that many dog watering spots. How many women with first names beginning with 'B' died? Walk past that many trees on the right. Just before the next tree, at the Golden stone, turn right and walk to the large twin arborvitae. From the Herbert stone betwixt the two, reach in on the right at about 5' high.

7. CHARLES FORBES (1835–1895)

As President Abraham Lincoln's personal assistant, he accompanied the Lincolns to Ford's Theatre on the night of April 14, 1865, and was seated just outside the box when the President was shot. **R25/S70**

LETTERBOX: Stand facing his headstone, close enough to touch it. In the large arborvitae immediately to your right, reach in for the letterbox. It is about 5' up, and slightly left through the gap in the branches.

8. 9/11 MEMORIAL GROVE

This is the first of the Washington DC ward-based memorial groves to be created. Linda Harper, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the APHCC said that the purpose of the project is threefold. First, "we felt like as a cemetery, we are a logical place to continue to memorialize, especially with trees fitting into the memorial tradition of the cenotaph (or empty tomb)." Second, the Association is in the midst of trying to create renewed awareness of the Cemetery, to bring more people onto the site, continuing "the long tradition of the Cemetery as a gathering space," she said. Finally, the cemetery is in need of a landscape plan and has a desire to re-tree the cemetery. **R80/S260**

LETTERBOX: Walk all the way down to the bottom of the Allee, continuing down the twenty steps. The letterbox is hanging in the arborvitae there at about 5'

9. MARY ANN HALL (1814–1886)

Listed on Cemetery records as "business woman"