

9. Pre-Civil War Graves (1825–1860) This is a list of individuals buried outside of the original enclosed area in Square 1115. These graves are unmarked. Not all records indicate if they were free (Gratis) or enslaved, but that information is included when available. Note that all names and descriptions are reproduced as they appear in the original interment files. **R24/S118-140**

- S118 “Mrs. Stone’s Colored Woman,” Gratis, d. 1857
- S124 Emma Lewis, proprietor Jas. G. Long, d. Dec, 1860
- S125 Jenny Walker, Gratis, d. May 21, 1856
- S126 Louisa, d. April 17, 1855
- S126 Susannah Gordon, slave of John Ingle, d. 1855
- S127 Linney Henry Winsor, d. May 25, 1829
- S128 Solomon Dines, Age 5, d. Dec. 29, 1829
- S129 Daughter of Henson Dines, d. May 25, 1830
- S130 Letty McPherson, d. Sept. 20, 1833
- S131 Farno (or Famo) Clark, d. July 17, 1839
- S131 Child of William Bush, d. Jan. 1843
- S132 Mary Inch and child, d. Feb. 4, 1846
- S133 Child, site proprietor Ann Berry, d. July, 1849
- S134 “Child, Slave”, Gratis, d. Sept. 29, 1849
- S135 Vina, d. May 31, 1850
- S135 Child of J.P. Chase, d. Dec. 25, 1851
- S136 James Albert McCleary, d. July 21, 1851
- S136 Child, d. July 1853
- S137 Kitty Kau, former slave of Mary Ingle, d. 1851
- S137 Lucy Kau, d. Aug. 3, 1855
- S138 Aunt Jenny, gratis, d. Sept. 11, 1852
- S140 “Colored Boy,” d. Dec. 10, 1859

10. Rosa Marks (d. May 28, 1866) is interred in the vault of John Gadsby, a renowned English tavern keeper in Alexandria, Baltimore, and Washington. Marks lived and worked in the Gadsby family home as an enslaved and free person. **GADSBY VAULT, Section 1 Vaults/S3**

11. DANIEL R. SMITH (1932–2022) serves as a stark reminder of the long-reaching influence of chattel slavery. He grew up listening to his father Abram’s harrowing accounts as a survivor of slavery. Smith was an Army medic during the Korean War, participated in Civil Rights marches in Washington, D.C. and Selma, Alabama, and operated the Area Health Education Centers program with the mission to “improve health care in underserved communities across the country.” He retired in 1994 and began volunteering at the National Cathedral, where he served as head usher. His memoir, *Son of a Slave: A Black Man’s Journey in White America*, was published a week and a half after his death in October 2022. He was one of the last surviving children of an enslaved American, if not the last. **R80.5/S80**



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 to help the Cemetery in its third century of service to the Nation’s Capital.



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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.



DC's Greatest Undertaking
 ESTABLISHED 1807

Walking Tour
AFRICAN AMERICANS

History comes to life in Congressional Cemetery. The creak and clang of the wrought iron gate signals your arrival at a one-of-a-kind window into the past.

At the time of Congressional Cemetery’s founding in 1807, the by-laws adopted by the original owners, Christ Church vestry, stated that “no person of color shall be permitted to be buried within that part of the burial ground which is now enclosed.” Yet there were at least 23 African American people buried at Congressional before the Civil War, and two African American women were buried in the Cemetery during the Civil War. Most of these burials were in Range 24, sites 113-140, which were outside of the perimeter of the enclosed burial ground, marked on the map with a black rectangle. African American internments did not meaningfully increase until the 21st century. Their stories of endurance in the face of prejudice, slavery, and discrimination texture the history of the American experience.

The AFRICAN AMERICANS TOUR highlights just a few of the over 65,000 people buried in Congressional Cemetery. As you embark on this self-guided tour, we invite you to admire the artistry of the stone carvings, appreciate the beauty of the environment, and examine the diverse historical narratives and legacies of those interred here.

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. Alain Locke (1885–1954) was the first African American to be awarded a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University - there would not be another for more than 50 years.



Alain Locke

Locke has been credited as a leading scholar of the Harlem Renaissance, authoring the influential book *The New Negro: An Interpretation*. In a 1949 note, he reflected on the irony of being born in the U. S. with three minority identities; gay, Black, and short: “had I been born in ancient Greece, I would have escaped the first [his sexual identity]; in Europe, I would have been spared the second [U.S. racial segregation policies and discrimination]; in Japan I would have been above rather than below average [height].” It took sixty years after his death for Locke to receive a permanent resting place. Initially, Locke’s friend, Arthur Barry Fauset, possessed his ashes, along with his important papers and writings. Fauset gave the ashes to his niece, who then gave them to Howard University’s Moorland Springarn Research Center, where the ashes were stored in a brown paper bag until final burial. **R62/S90**

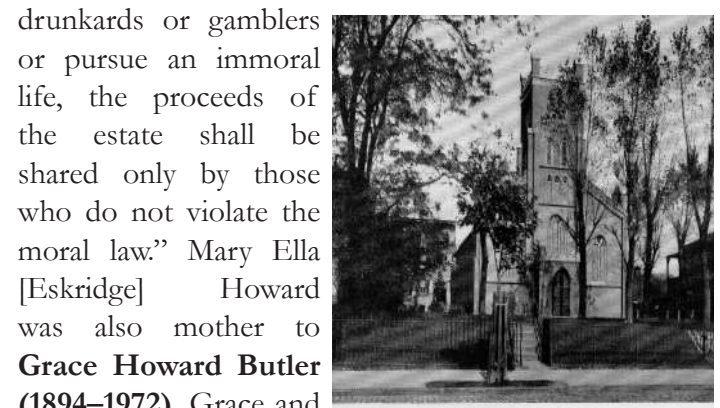
2. Betsy Jane Fairfax (1856–1942) was born enslaved to the Swingle family, and eventually won her freedom. Like many freed enslaved people, Fairfax was employed by her enslavers for the remainder of her life. Fairfax received an award from the District Federation of Women’s Clubs, commemorating her “service to three generations of the Swingle family,” according to her obituary. **R86/S315**

3. Lucy “Mammy” Gray (d. November 5, 1914), was a formerly enslaved person who is memorialized on her grave as being a “faithful servant of [the Thompson] family for 48 years.” Gray died at the age of 65, and she is interred in the Thompson family vault. It was not common for families to include employees, let alone employees of color, in their family plot, and may speak to the family having respect and high regard for her. **THOMPSON VAULT, Section 2 Vaults/S3**

4. Three generations of the **Howard Family** are buried here. **Theophilus Howard (c. 1818–1891)** married **Diana Ball (c. 1812–1885)**, a woman formerly enslaved by Archibald Henderson, Commandant of the Marine Corps, at Christ Church in 1846. Theophilus worked as a sexton for Christ Church from 1858 to 1869, during which time he was drafted by the Union Army (1864) and detailed to the Navy Yard. Theophilus Howard owned property at 638 Independence Ave SE and worked as a white washer, oysterman, and peddler.

Theophilus and Diana had two children: **Alice Howard Lee (1849–1868)** and **Theophilus Howard Jr. (1853–1883)**. Theophilus Jr. attended Howard University and worked as a teacher. He married **Mary Ella Eskridge (1860–1937)**, a house servant, and they had four children: **Eugene Howard (1877–1905)**, a porter; **Alice Howard (1879–1905)**, a house servant; **Losceola Howard (1881–1931)**, a hairdresser; and **Hermon Howard (1884–1946)**, a desk helper at the Government Printing Office.

When T. Howard, Sr. died he left his estate to his four grandchildren, with the proviso that “if any become drunkards or gamblers or pursue an immoral life, the proceeds of the estate shall be shared only by those who do not violate the moral law.” Mary Ella [Eskridge] Howard was also mother to



Christ Church, 1913

Grace Howard Butler (1894–1972). Grace and her husband, **James Butler (1894–1970)**, are also interred in the family plot. Christ Church, the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, and individual donors provided funding for the installation of the Howard family headstone. **R22/S251-255**

5. Junos Fautleroy (d. March 9, 1855) and **Lettie Nelson Wheeler (c. 1778–Feb. 9, 1863)** are listed as a “Colored Woman of Dr. George Humphries,” implying probable enslavement. These graves are unmarked. The 1860 Census lists Humphreys as a dentist. He bought Range 43, Sites 177 to 181. He and his family are buried in sites 178 to 181. **R43/S177**

6. Marion Barry (1936–2014) was one of the most influential and controversial figures in D.C. politics, winning a record four terms as mayor, receiving the nickname “Mayor for Life.” He was an early advocate of home rule, a civil rights leader, and a self-proclaimed advocate for the poor and dispossessed. He first arrived in D.C. in 1965 as a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee organizer where he organized and advocated for civil rights. Ten years later he was elected mayor. During his tenure he integrated the government bureaucracy, created new social welfare programs, and secured the District more independence from Congress. However, his mayoral tenure was marred by accusations of corruption and drug use. In 1990, he was convicted of misdemeanor cocaine use and was sentenced to six months in prison. After being released, he staged one of the most remarkable political comebacks in local history. In 1992, he defeated the incumbent for the Ward 8 council seat, and in 1994 he won a fourth term as mayor. Rumors of corruption and cocaine use continued, prompting Congress to strip him of control of D.C.’s finances. Ultimately, he did not seek a fifth term, but he continued as a beloved councilman for Ward 8, where he lived in the same public housing as many of the ward’s residents. **R20/S191**



Marion Barry

7. Tyrone Gayle (1987–2018) began his career working as a driver and body man for U.S. Senator Tim Kaine. Reflecting on this position, Gayle revealed that he “drove Kaine, kept him on schedule, briefed him on who he was meeting, and kept up his morale.” Gayle also worked briefly for the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee and joined the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee as a spokesperson in the 2014 midterm elections. During the 2016 Presidential campaign, Gayle served as a spokesperson for Hillary Clinton. When Clinton was selecting a running mate for vice president, Gayle vouched for Kaine, whom she ultimately selected as her running mate. At the time of his death from colon cancer, Gayle was working as the Washington press secretary for then-Senator Kamala Harris. **R12/S167**



Tyrone Gayle

8. Lucy Bell (d. June 8, 1862) was born enslaved near the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. By 1850, Lucy Bell had claimed her freedom. She was the mother to at least five children, including Daniel Bell, who paid \$100 for his wife, eight children and two grandchildren to escape on the ship the S.S. *Pearl* on April 15, 1848. In what would



The Pearl

be known as the *Pearl* incident, seventy-seven enslaved people attempted to escape Washington, D.C. by sailing away on a schooner, but were apprehended days later before they were able to leave the Chesapeake Bay. This was the largest recorded nonviolent escape attempt by enslaved people in United States history. Although Lucy Bell did not live to see the emancipation proclamation, she was able to celebrate the first Emancipation Day on April 16th, 1862, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved D.C. residents. **R24/S113**

Ann Bell (d. May 3, 1873) was Lucy Bell’s daughter. Ann Bell was most likely the first in her family to arrive in Washington, D.C. It is believed that she arrived in 1813 with the permission of her previous enslaver Gabriel Greenfield. Ann Bell conducted herself as a free person after she moved to D.C. until 1836, when the Greenfield family claimed that Ann was still enslaved. On December 24, 1836, Ann Bell filed a freedom suit in D.C.’s circuit court. The summons went unanswered because the defendant, Gerard Truman Greenfield, primarily resided in Tennessee, not Washington. Ann Bell’s case focused on her freedom and whether she was freed by the 1815 will of Gabriel. P. T. Greenfield. In 1840, Ann Bell’s petition for freedom went to trial. The jury gave Ann Bell a verdict in support of her freedom because she purchased real property, built a house, and hired a servant from the Greenfield Family. On April 15, 1840, Ann Bell was granted her freedom,



making her the only member of the Bell family to successfully win her court case. Ann Bell lived with her great-niece, Caroline (Daniel Bell’s daughter), in 1870. Ann Bell died on May 3, 1873. She is buried in the same plot as her mother. In total, the Bell family brought seven cases to the D.C. courts to ensure the freedom of their family members. Although the Bells fought hard to keep their family together and free, the slave trade and war separated them. **R24/S113**