

12. BENJAMIN MOORE (-1821)

He was a bookseller who founded the bi-weekly Washington Gazette to earn a living and “amuse and inform” his readers. The cost: \$4 per year. By 1797, he ceased publication, informing his readers he would not continue unless there would be some profit to him.

R25/S39

13. WILLIAM BENNING (1771-1831)

A river pirate who bought 330 acres of land, he built the first bridge spanning the north half of the Anacostia River, collecting tolls to pay for it. Maps dated 1861 show that the Benning’s Bridge and Benning’s Road provided an important eastern route out of the city.

R34/S68

14. GEORGE WATTERSTON (1782-1854)

He was the first full-time Librarian of Congress from 1815-1829. Prior to then, the Clerk of the House was responsible for maintaining the library. When the library was burned in 1814 during the war, the job of librarian became a separate position. Watterston replenished the Library by purchasing the collection of former President Thomas Jefferson and organized it on Jefferson’s classification scheme. After he opposed Andrew Jackson for President, the latter fired him in 1829. Watterston spent the remainder of his life trying to get his job back.



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R32/S201 WATTERSTON-HAMILTON VAULT

15. WILLIAM W. SEATON (1785-1866)

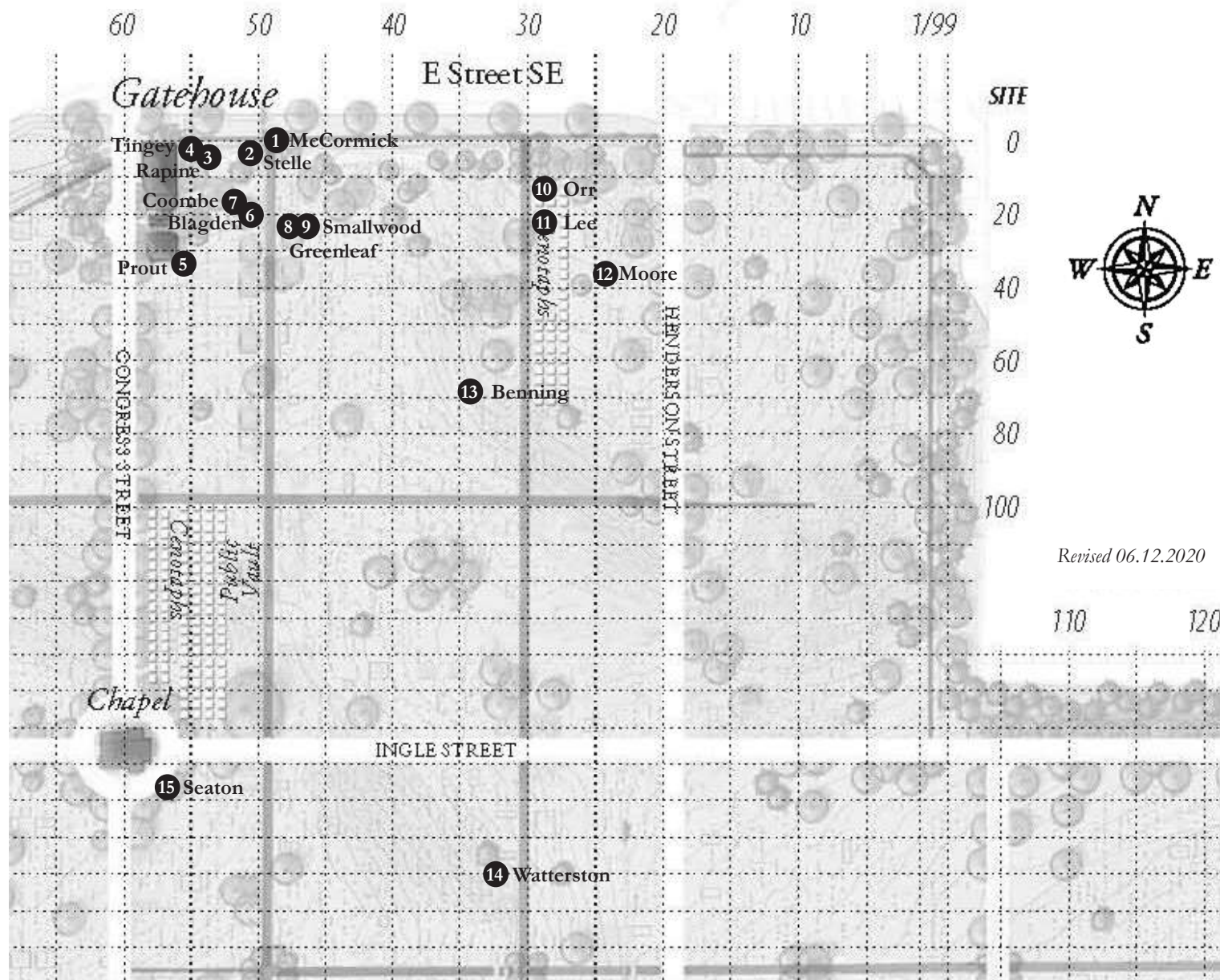
He joined his brother-in-law, Joseph Gales, in 1812 to own and operate the National Intelligencer, considered the leading national newspaper of its day. Respected for its high journalistic standards, it was heavily political with no room for entertainment. Seaton



Library of Congress LC-BH824- 5318

was also influential as a mayor of Washington. In 1845, he reorganized the school system. He abolished all fees and provided funding from property taxes. He established a goal of education for all (white) children in the city. Two-room schoolhouses were built in each of the four newly formed school districts of the city. The schools began in 1845 with 500 students and four teachers; by 1860, there were 4,500 students and 54 teachers.

R57/S165



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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

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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.



ESTABLISHED 1807

Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

Walking Tour BUILDING THE FEDERAL CITY

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.

George Washington selected the confluence of the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch as the site for the new District of Columbia, despite the fact that there was no city here at the time. Situated between the “thriving” ports of Georgetown, Maryland, and Alexandria, VA, the new capital would start with a clean slate, laid out by Washington’s friend Pierre L’Enfant. Farmland was obtained, streets planned, and land speculators moved in by the 1790s. The arrival of Congress, and the executive and judicial branches brought the need for a Capitol Building and a President’s house as well as the supporting structures of government offices, hotels, residences, businesses, and public facilities. Washington, DC as a “planned community” needed architects, builders, tradesmen, and material suppliers. And they, in turn, eventually needed final places to rest. As the pre-eminent burial ground of its day, the Cemetery’s roster of interments reflects the founding fathers of the nation’s capital city.

This BUILDING DC 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. ANDREW McCORMICK (1761–1841)

A native of Ireland, he emigrated to America in 1795. He was among the first to open a classical school and the very first to establish an Episcopal church in Washington. Thomas Jefferson attended services at McCormick’s chapel. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Free School, which was established by the Corporation of Washington. McCormick was a classical scholar, had great simplicity of heart, and was kind, unoffending, and gentle.

R49/S2



“Plan of the City of Washington/ in the Territory of Columbia/ ceded by the States of Virginia and Maryland to the United States of America/ and by them established as the Seat of their Government, after the Year 1800. Published by T-Reid L-Wayland and C-Smith 1795”

2. PONTIUS STELLE (1763–1826)

He opened a hotel on the site now occupied by the Supreme Court. Stelle catered mostly to congressmen. Due to housing shortages his rates were high, as much as \$23 a week: \$15 for room and board, \$5 for a servant and \$3 for wood and candles. No expenses were spared at this hotel known for its extravagance. Social gatherings and entertainments were featured activities

R51/S5

3. DANIEL RAPINE (1768–1826)

He was a printer and bookseller when President Madison appointed him as the first mayor of the city. In 1812, the City Council elected him as Mayor. He was also appointed by Madison to Justice of the Peace for Washington County. He established lotteries to raise money to build two schools and provide for wells, pumps and pipes to convey water and erect hydrants. He also served as Postmaster of the House of Representatives in the 1820s until his death.

R54/S6

4. THOMAS TINGEY (1750–1829)

The first commandant of the Washington Navy Yard, he served in that capacity for 28 of his 49 years in the Navy. An indefatigable worker and meticulously exacting administrator, he was highly respected and known to be a genial social lion.

Library of Congress, LOC 6a36327u



The mall area of Washington DC and surrounding buildings, ca. 1879. Far left shows the Washington Monument under construction with the Agriculture Department at left. Second and third panels show the Constitution Avenue (then B Street) side of the mall. Fourth panel shows the Baltimore and Potomac railroad station and tracks, and the far right shows the U.S. Capitol and Independence Avenue area of the Hill by Francis Hacker.

His arrival in Washington started the naval circle that afterwards became so prominent in the city’s social life. Up to the time of his death, no ball, banquet or reception was complete without him. Along with his love of society, a strong sense of civic responsibility led him to an active life in community service. As early as 1805 he was a school trustee, then amongst other interests, he headed the vestry of Christ Church for a long time and was an incorporator of Christ Church Burying Ground—now the Congressional Cemetery.

R57/S1

5. WILLIAM PROUT (1753–1823)

He bought a 500-acre plantation that included much of what would become Capitol Hill and southeast Washington. In order to meet the needs of the new federal city, he met with President Washington to negotiate selling land to the government. He was one of 19 original landowners who signed a March 31, 1791 agreement to convey land for government usages. He also donated land to establish the Navy Yard and Christ Church. He was part of the vestry of Christ Church and was a founder of Congressional Cemetery.

R56/S33

6. GEORGE BLAGDEN (–1826)

A native of Attercliffe, Yorkshire, in England, Blagden was one of the first settlers in Washington, having been present since its foundation stone was laid. For many years up until his death, he was Superintendent of the Masons building the Capitol, an Alderman of the City, and a Director of the Bank of Washington. Blagden was superintendent of stonework and quarrying. A skilled mechanic with Old World training, he held the confidence and respect of all officials and associates, and his advice was sought on many occasions. During his tenure in Washington, he managed to accumulate a fortune. He, too, was a founder of this Cemetery.

R50/S25



Detail from a Rand McNally Atlas, 1893

7. GRIFFITH COOMBE (1765–1845)

A successful businessman and one of the best-known men in the early days of Washington’s history, Coombe was intimately connected—socially and otherwise—with the prominent and wealthy men of Capitol Hill and other parts of the city. Coombe’s residence at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Third Street Southeast, was one of the first houses in Washington. It was built before the seat of government was moved from Philadelphia, and was for many years an abode of wealth, elegance, and culture, a place where the Presidents often dined. Coombe was on the vestry of Christ Church and was a also founder of Congressional Cemetery.

R51/S20 COOMBE VAULT

8. JAMES GREENLEAF (1765–1843)

He was one of Washington’s first land speculators. Greenleaf married a Dutch baroness and soon made a fortune of more than one million dollars (an enormous sum in that era). He expected to repeat this feat by investing in property in the new city. In 1793, at the age of 28, he travelled to Washington to witness the ceremonial cornerstone laying of the U.S. Capitol. As a land speculator he was not the only one to be involved in unscrupulous dealing. He eventually owned 6,000 lots and promised to build at least ten houses per year. Some of them became the most famous in the city.

R49/S23



Library of Congress pin2104

The Capitol dome under construction is the backdrop to the inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1861.

9. SAMUEL SMALLWOOD (1772–1824)

Born to a family that had settled in Maryland in the early 1600s, he was the fifth and seventh mayor of the District of Columbia. Earning \$15 a month, his first position in Washington was as overseer of slaves at the Capitol construction site. At his death, he was a leading dealer in lumber and building supplies and owned one of the main wharves of the City. Smallwood entered public life in 1804, elected as Alderman to the City Council. In 1820, he was the first mayor to be elected by popular vote. He was again elected in 1824 but died soon after taking office. Smallwood was one of the founders of Congressional Cemetery, and signed the article incorporating it on April 4, 1807.

R49/S26

10. BENJAMIN GRAYSON ORR (1753–1822)

He owned a store selling groceries and liquor in Georgetown, which was at the time a separate entity from Washington. Orr moved into the city of Washington in 1812 and was elected an alderman but resigned a year later to become a supplier to U.S. Army brigades in Ohio and Michigan. While he was Mayor of Washington (the fourth) he devoted his time to public improvements such as grading streets, establishing the city’s first volunteer fire companies, and appropriations of \$1,000 for buying four bells and other apparatus. He also authorized a lottery to raise funds to build a city hall and penitentiary. He was known as humane, kind and hospitable, and was well-respected.

R28/S15

11. RICHARD BLAND LEE (1761–1827)

The location of the new capital city was the subject of considerable disagreement in the first Congress. Lee’s vote was one of two that decided its current site. Richard Bland Lee, a member of the famous Lee family and an uncle to General Robert E. Lee, held a variety of governmental offices including being a member of the State House of Delegates and Virginia’s first congressman. He was appointed by President Madison in 1816 as Commissioner to adjudicate claims arising out of the destruction of property during the War of 1812. In 1819, he was appointed by President Monroe as judge of the Orphans Court of the District of Columbia, a post he served in until his death.

R28/S24



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