

HERITAGE GAZETTE

SUMMER 2021

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

LAST CALL: PROHIBITION LANTERN TOURS

In May, we hosted a new event called Last Call, that despite COVID-19, proved to be incredibly successful and popular. The event focused on Prohibition era in the cemetery with volunteer actors (a la Soul Strolls) placed throughout the cemetery to share the stories of bootleggers and members of the Temperance movement. Even the tour guides were from the 1920s with period costumes, characters, and back stories. Due to COVID protocols, there was a bar at the main entrance, although milling around was discouraged, as well as an exciting speakeasy halfway through the tour that was “raided” by police after visitors purchased their “prescriptions,” encouraging people to continue on their tours. The peo-

ple represented varied significantly from local leaders of the Temperance movement to speakeasy owners and bootleg alcohol producers, and even to a gentleman who declared that none of his descendants could be buried in his family plot if they drank. The event ended with J. Edgar Hoover and his involvement or lack thereof in the control of alcohol consumption in the area. Last Call was extremely popular among both visitors and the volunteers involved and we hope to not only continue hosting this event annually, but also host a second Last Call later this year.

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Randolph's “AID” Station served as a secret outdoor speakeasy

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

For more than a year, I have been waiting to write the following words: Congressional Cemetery is fully open once again to family, visitors, and the K9 Corps alike! Even though the cemetery has been open to all visitors for more than a month, this newsletter provides the first opportunity for me to share the excitement we all feel in being able to safely reopen to our myriad communities.



Over the past 15 months, so many of the things that we took for granted as a regular part of our everyday lives were altered overnight. For a brief time, Congressional Cemetery remained an oasis for many of you. Then, as infection rates spiked and the DC Government issued regulations that we followed, the Board made the difficult decision to close our gates, even to our K9 Corps members. In recent months, we were able to progressively reopen in alignment with health mandates and best practices.

There is so much to say about the impact of the pandemic on all of us. One positive take-away from this experience has been the lessons we at HCC have learned about the role of the Cemetery in our community. Community engagement mattered more than ever in 2020 and it was also more challenging than ever before. Despite these challenges and recognizing the messages we received about our role in the community, our staff worked tirelessly to find opportunities to gather and celebrate our community virtually and in other non-traditional ways, even reaching audiences worldwide. As we return to in-person engagements, we will remain buoyed by the recognition of the role we play and will apply some of the lessons we learned about how to engage virtually as we continue to expand our programming.

We have come to realize that many people count on Congressional Cemetery as a vital community fixture. We have also learned that not everyone uses the cemetery in the same way. Some come as an escape from hectic day-to-day life. Some come with their pets as a spot to romp and enjoy friends of the 2- and 4-legged varieties. Others seek us out as a place of historical significance. Still others come looking for connections – to the past and the present.

This place has a deep historical connection and brings residents closer to an understanding of the past. No matter what brings people to our cemetery, they have one thing in common. This place matters to them. Through that commonality, we can all learn to understand each other just a little bit better and build a more vibrant and diverse community. Cemeteries – and especially this one – hold great significance to communities, and the past year-plus has reminded all of us on the Board and the staff of HCC just how true that is.

So, once again, welcome back home! We are so glad to have you here and we are so glad to be here, serving you.

Warmly,

—Joel H. Samuels
Board Chair



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

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nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All
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Congressional Cemetery is provided in part
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Endowment, which was created with
matching funds provided by the U.S.
Congress and administered by the
National Trust for Historic Preservation.

SAYING GOODBYE

It's never easy. It's bittersweet. After nine years at the helm of HCC, I've accepted a position as the Superintendent of Oak Hill Cemetery and COO of the Oak Hill Historic Preservation Foundation. Its 22 acres of rolling hills and bucolic grounds were first donated by Riggs Bank owner William W. Corcoran in 1849. Located at 30th and R Street between Georgetown and Rock Creek Park, it remains an active cemetery with a historic chapel designed by noted architect James Renwick Jr. that was constructed in 1849.

My husband Greg and our two cats will take up residence in the 1860s gatehouse when the position begins this fall. I'll be replacing friend and colleague David Jackson who is retiring. The delayed start will ensure a smooth transition here at HCC for my replacement while I learn aspects of how things are done at Oak Hill.

I'm proud of my accomplishments here at HCC, and it will be very difficult to leave what has grown to 11 staff members over the years. We consider ourselves a family, young and old. We've almost tripled our income to \$1.4 million in yearly revenue and that allowed us to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on the restoration of the main gate, family vaults, the gatehouse and chapel and thousands of headstones. My creative staff invented new programming, events and



Paul K. Williams, President

tours, and most of all, stayed employed and productive during Covid.

Best of all, it has been great to get to know so many board members, staff, dog walkers and visitors over the years. It's been rewarding witnessing employees grow and thrive. It was a job that was different every day – one gets some very strange phone calls in a history cemetery. It allowed me to travel to other cemeteries and conferences and continue to learn.

I'll be back one day at my "last forwarding address" in Range 25, plot 165N.

—Paul K. Williams, President

Information for your estate planning, bequest, stock gift, endowment match, or donation:

Legal Name: The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

Legal Address: 1801 E Street, SE,
Washington, DC 20003

Telephone: 202-539-0543

Tax ID Number: 52-1071828

Please contact us for wire instruction or banking information

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBER!



Sam Cornale

Sam Cornale is the Executive Director at the Democratic National Committee, serving as one of the top political, communications and campaign strategists in the Democratic Party with more than a decade of experience on campaigns and

across the Federal government. Until early 2021, Cornale served as the Deputy Executive Director at the Democratic National Committee, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the DNC's communications, opinion research, fundraising, and data and technology work. Prior to serving the DNC, Cornale managed DNC Chair Tom Perez's successful campaign to lead the Democratic Party, an effort that raised a seven figure sum in just six weeks and resulted in a come-from-behind victory. Cornale is a veteran of the Obama Administration, having served multiple cabinet secretaries as a speechwriter and as the Deputy Chief of Staff to then-Labor Secretary Tom Perez. Cornale is also a veteran of the 2008 and 2012 Obama campaigns with experience in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and the 2016 campaign of Secretary Hillary Clinton in North Carolina.

Cornale earned his degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While at the University of Wisconsin, Cornale spent time working for State Senator Mark Miller (D-Madison). He is a native of Madison, Wisconsin, and an obsessive follower of the Wisconsin Badgers and Green Bay Packers. Cornale serves as a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin, teaching a political science course on the evolution of media and its impact on presidential campaigns and governance. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his three-year-old Ridgeback, June, and is a proud board member of the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

HCC DOCENT CORPS

In March, Congressional Cemetery conducted a training and welcomed four new docents to our "Dozen Decent Docents." Started many years ago, the docent corps has grown far beyond a dozen people, but the name remains in honor of those brave few that started the program from scratch.

If you are interested in becoming a docent at Congressional Cemetery, visit our website's Volunteer Page and complete the interest form. We would love to hear from you!



Consider joining the "Dozen Decent Docents"



Do you have a green thumb and nowhere to use it? Would you like to put your quarantine gardening skills to the test? Interested in joining the HCC Adopt-A-Plot program?

Contact Emily Black at eblack.dc@gmail.com
For details about the program.

FAREWELL TO ALICE NORRIS

From her obituary:

Alice Lund Norris 1933 - 2020



Alice Norris served as a Board Member at Congressional Cemetery from 2006-2010

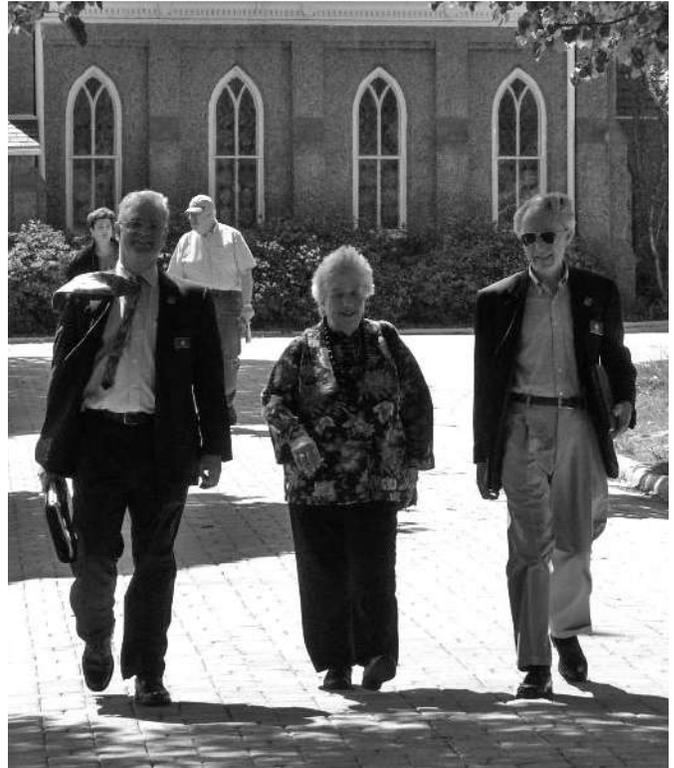
Alice Lund Norris passed away at home on October 29, 2020. She was born on May 21, 1933. Alice was born in Madison, Wisconsin, attended North High School, Swarthmore College and received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin. She was a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority. She received a Master's degree

in Mid-East Studies from Georgetown University and as part of her studies lived in Beirut, Lebanon. Alice was a long-time resident of Capitol Hill and was active in many of the community organizations. She was an active member of Christ Church and was a Board member of Congressional Cemetery and a member of Capitol Hill Village.

Alice was an intrepid traveler and there were not many countries she did not experience. An avid reader, she was a member of multiple book clubs, and enjoyed theatre and Symphony. Alice had a long time career in the Federal Government and retired from Air Force Intelligence.



Emily Crandall & Alice Norris attending the John Philip Sousa in 2008



Alice Norris, Sid Neely, Patrick Crowley at HCC in June 2010

Around the Gatehouse continued on Page 11

SWALE TIME IN THE OLD CEMETERY TONIGHT

BY DEVON MURTHA

What is the earliest stone in Congressional Cemetery? A moss-covered tombstone? A cenotaph? No! The answer more likely lies in the Cemetery's oft overlooked irrigation history.

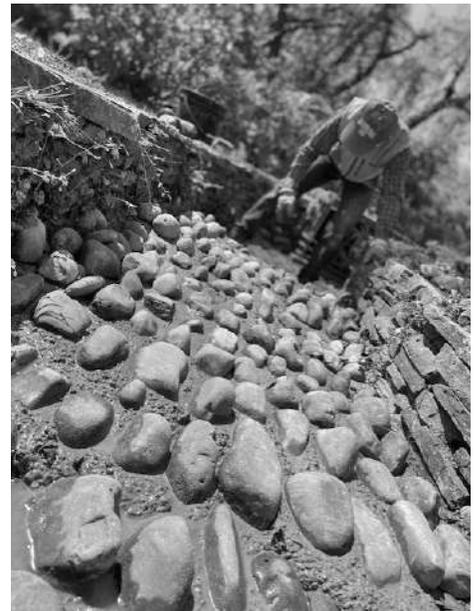
Although Washington D.C.'s Board of Public Works did not erect a large-scale drainage system in earnest in the 1870s, the first sewers were constructed in Washington D.C. in 1810. Prior to this, excess stormwater was controlled by a network of swales and ad hoc irrigation methods, often built alongside Washington's early roads. Throughout the city, many of these swales have been dug up and replaced by more modern irrigation systems, but a few of these historic resources are preserved in the landscape of Congressional Cemetery today.

Drainage swales run parallel to many of the roads in



Historic image of Washington, DC at 7th and D Streets, the irrigation system is located in the left foreground

Washington D. C.'s original street layout. As Congressional Cemetery largely adopted and extended the City's layout, both Henderson and Pickney streets boast these cobblestones swales. The swales were constructed with tightly



Working on the restoration of the swales

packed river rocks designed to redirect stormwater but have been largely overgrown with vegetation. As part of an ongoing conservation effort, a team of cemetery staff, Eagle Scouts, and hardworking volunteers have successfully excavated two of the swales from underneath the grass overgrowth. The team is working to reconstruct the swales with the original historic river rock, with the aim of making them functional once again. Two additional swales will be left in their existing condition as an invaluable historic resource.

If you are interested in helping with our conservation goal, please reach out to Margaret at mcanilang@congressionalcemetery.org

JAMES GALT (R68/S218)

BY CHARLES WALTON

“Fort Sumter has been fired upon,” shouted the customer entering Galt’s Jewelry store on April 13, 1861.

Jonathan Dillon, a watchmaker employed by the store, was working on Abraham Lincoln’s fine English movement pocket watch in an 18K gold case, purchased in Springfield, IL in 1858. On the spur of the moment, he removed the dial and inscribed the following on the movement:

“Jonathan Dillon April 13-1861

Fort Sumter was attacked by the rebels on the above date.

Thank God we have a government.”

James Galt was born in Carroll County, MD on July 13, 1779. He was indentured to learn watchmaking and silversmithing, and in 1802 he opened a jewelry store in Alexandria, VA. He said that he would keep a few good watches and other materials for sale at reasonable prices. Some 25 years later, the store moved to Washington DC, eventually occupying a location at 1107 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, across from the Treasury Building. The store remained in business for 199 years, closing in 2001. As the nation’s capital prospered, so did Galt’s business. The store reflected its post patronage, with sparkling chandeliers and oriental carpets. Its mainstays were fine jewelry and items made of sterling silver.

Among its illustrious customers were Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses Grant, and many of our Presidents of the 19th and 20th centuries. In Mathew Brady’s Civil War portrait of Mrs. Lincoln, she is wearing Galt and Bro.’s diamond and



The Galt Family Monument

pearl necklace and bracelet set, which she had purchased for \$1,100.00. After Lincoln was assassinated, his accounts with Galt’s were not settled; the company forgave most of the debt, although it did call back some of Mrs. Lincoln’s jewelry.

When Galt died on February 7, 1847, in Washington, DC at the age of 67, the business was inherited by one of his eight children, son Matthew W. Galt (1821-1898). Upon his death, his sons Walter A. Galt (1857-1902) and Norman Galt (1864-1908) inherited the company and renamed it Galt & Bro.

In 1900, Walter gave up his ownership, and Norman maintained the business until his death in 1908

(continued next page)



Abraham Lincoln's Pocket watch, serviced at Galt Jewelry Store

following a short illness. The company was inherited by his widow, Edith White Bolling Galt (1872-1961) who took over the management of the store until 1934. She married a second time on December 18, 1915, to President Woodrow Wilson, becoming First Lady until 1921. Incidentally, President Wilson is the only President buried in the District of Columbia. His tomb is in the Wilson Bay in the National Cathedral. His wife

rests by his side in a grave in the floor of the bay.

Now, back to the Lincoln Watch. The watch Lincoln bought at Chatterton's Jewelers of Springfield, Illinois was the first he ever owned, and he always wore it. He never knew of the Dillon inscription. Jonathan Dillon told the New York Times about it 45 years after he had made it, but it was not until his great-great grandson, Doug Stiles, approached the Smithsonian Museum of American History which had come into possession of the watch and requested that it be opened. On March 8, 2009, the watch was opened, the inscription was found to be there (although with not quite the same wording as family lore had it), and Stiles was giving the honor of reading it out loud.

James Galt originally was buried in R46/110 of Congressional Cemetery, but on July 18, 1862, he was removed to R68/218. Four of his sons rest in the Galt plot. The sister of Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, Gertrude Bolling Galt (1863-1961) who married another one of James Galt's grandson's, Alexander Hunter Galt (1850-1961) also is buried in Congressional, R63/143 with her husband and their only child, a son.

CONSIDER DONATING STOCK

Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to HCC. Compared with donating cash or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction. It is simple and easy using our brokerage account at National Capital Bank. When you donate stock to HCC, you will generally take a tax deduction for the full fair market value.

WELCOME TO OUR DIGITAL ARCHIVE INTERN

Rosie Grant is the summer 2021 Digital Archives Intern at Congressional Cemetery. She is currently getting her Masters in Library and Information Science with a focus on digital curation and archives at the University of Maryland while working for UMD's College of Arts and



Rosie Grant

Humanities. She is the former digital manager of the National Building Museum and a DC area native. Her parents give ghost and cemetery tours in Old Town, Alexandria, so she feels right at home in Congressional Cemetery. Throughout the summer Rosie will be working on Congressional's Google Arts & Culture exhibitions, exploring the stories of its illustrious residents. Outside of work and school, she loves exploring locations on Atlas Obscura and performing in the DC improv comedy community.

WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL EVENTS INTERN

Taylor Curry is our Events and Programs intern this summer. She is a native North Carolinian who moved to DC to get her Master's in Art History from American University. She is an avid history and art buff who is loving spending time in the cemetery...especially when there are dogs. Taylor is a big reader



Taylor Curry

and is most excited about our book club, Tombs and Tomes, and having the chance to meet all of you at our events. Taylor loves to stay busy and working with us is just one of her many commitments in the art and non-profit world of DC. Sadly, she doesn't have a dog to walk, but she is trying to train her cat to walk on a leash instead. See her at our next event and ask her if she has read anything good lately.

JOIN THE C.O.R.P.S.E CORPS

C.O.R.P.S.E Corps is the name of our newest project—a troupe for historical theater!

C.O.R.P.S.E stands for Company Of Residents Peacefully or Suspiciously Expired – as we will be portraying residents in our Cemetery and telling their stories, whether they be tragic, comical, inspiring or nefarious (although what the initials stand for might change based on the event).

Whether you are an experienced actor, always have had a great time doing skits, or just enjoy telling people about history—doing historical theater is for you!

Are you interested in volunteering to act in our historical theater programs? Complete our online application and let us know about you! Find the application at: <https://bit.ly/CORPSECorps>



THE CONNECTION PROJECT CORNER

ANDREW J. BROWN, JR.
DUNKIRK, MD

“The Apple Doesn’t Fall Far From The Tree”

My Great Great Grandfather is buried here. He is the first Andrew Jackson Brown, Sr. Many of his family are with him. I grew up in D.C. and knew Congressional well. I was born in Gallingers Hospital which is now D.C. General. Better yet, my father worked there for over 30 years, and we did not know Grand-Dad was there. As a child, I played ball next to him and had no idea he was there. His site is just down the drive from the Chapel. After years of searching for Andrew Jackson Brown, we found him and his story.

There are 8 Andrew Jackson Browns in our tree since he started our line. He lived in and out of D.C., but had a small farm in Surrattsville, MD. He served in the Union Army that protected the city during the Civil War. He and Grand-Mom Brown had 10 children who lived in the District as adults for most of their lives.

When he lost his farm to

taxes, he returned to live on 4th Street, SE and worked as a laborer at Congressional Cemetery. He passed in 1904 at the age of 72. He did not read or write and his pay sheets at Congressional were signed by his boss. This is recorded on the pay ledger at the Cemetery. Now Andrew Jackson Brown Jr. has repur-

chased the family site and will be buried there too. 5 generations together. The apple doesn’t fall too far from the tree.

My first memory of Congressional Cemetery was as a 10-year-old boy, walking by to go play ball. But on my first visit to Congressional, I wanted to find my GrandDad’s grave. That was when the Cemetery was in disrepair so I brought 30 of my Calvert High students back in 1992 or so and we spent that Saturday cleaning and mowing grass. Over the years I’ve brought Andrew Jackson Brown III, my wife and a first cousin. I’ve been to programs there and try to get by often because I live close. Roots are deep.



WHAT IS THE CONNECTION PROJECT?

Share your story (or stories) with us. You can visit <https://congressionalcemetery.org/connectionproject/> to share YOUR Congressional Cemetery Connections. Fill out a simple online form, download a document to work on at your own pace, or print it out and deliver it to the gatehouse. We want to make this as easy as possible to share your connections with us. You can share as many or as few stories as you like.

PIPPIN AND THE TURTLE



You never know what you might find here at Congressional Cemetery!

Rachael and Brad Dross managed to capture this sweet picture of Pippin sharing a moment with a resident turtle along the path. Pippin loves being at Congressional Cemetery and has described being back at the Cemetery as a real “game changer.”

GET THE WORD OUT! CHANGES FOR THE NEW HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY APP

Historic Congressional Cemetery’s app is changing with the times. We are getting the word out to our families and visitors – our mobile app is now installed directly from our website onto devices to replace the older version of the app. The app can easily be downloaded from this page on our site:

<https://congressionalcemetery.org/records-search/>

Our new app is a progressive web app which can be downloaded directly from the cemetery’s website and onto a mobile device. The code base supporting those old Apple and Android apps is officially retired which will throw an error when users try to access the old version of the app.

CALLING ALL FORMER APHCC BOARD MEMBERS

We are making an effort to better stay in touch with our former APHCC Board members. We have done our best to track down the addresses and contact information for former board members, going all the way back to 1976! A lot has changed since then, people have left the area or moved on, and we do not always get new contact information. If you or someone you know has participated on the Board and did NOT receive an invitation to the HCC Board Reunion for March, please contact the office to give us your updated contact information.

(AMAZON) SMILE!

Did you know that your shopping on Amazon can benefit Congressional Cemetery?!

Just go to AmazonSmile for any Amazon purchases and choose:

*Association for the Preservation of Historic
Congressional Cemetery*

as the recipient! A portion of your purchase will go directly to support the Cemetery.

Yes!

I want to help preserve and restore Congressional Cemetery with a tax deductible donation.

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My employer makes matching contributions. Please send me the matching gift form.

Thank you!

Please mail with your donation to the return address on the mailing panel or use the envelope inside this newsletter.



Association for the Preservation of
Historic Congressional Cemetery

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Check the Event page on the website for details!

2021 Docent Tours

“Only at Congressional” Intro Tour, Saturdays, 11am, \$5

Sunday Strolls Guided Tour, Sundays, 1pm, \$5

Through October

Tours have limited capacity and advance tickets are required.

Reserve your ticket at:

<https://congressionalcemetery.ticketleap.com>

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| July 13 | Tombs & Tomes Book Club |
| Aug. 6 | Cinematery: Dinner & a Movie —
<i>The Mummy</i> |
| Sept. 3 | Cinematery: Dinner & a Movie —
<i>Wolfman</i> |
| Sept. 14 | Tombs & Tomes Book Club |
| Oct. 15 & 16 | Soul Strolls: Twilight Tours |
| Oct. 22 & 23 | Soul Strolls: Candlelit Tours |
| Oct. 29 | Skeleton Crew 5K |
| Nov. 6 | John Philip Sousa’s Birthday Celebration |
| Nov. 9 | Tombs & Tomes Book Club |

CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

THE PLACE FOR LIVE, YOUNG GOATS.

(Weird Al 2009-)

AND THE PLACE FOR DEAD, OLD GOATS.

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