

**9. MATHEW BRADY (c. 1822-1896)** is known as “The Father of Photojournalism.” His daguerreotypes, early photographs, vividly recorded personalities and scenes of the Civil War. Brady followed the Union Army into the First Battle of Bull Run. His daguerreotypes captured the likenesses of many famous personalities, including a remarkable 18 presidents -- all from John Quincy Adams to William McKinley, except William Henry Harrison. He notably took several photographs of Abraham Lincoln, including one that served as the basis for his portrait on the five-dollar bill.



Mathew Brady  
Library of Congress

The chemicals used in early photography brought on blindness in Brady, forcing him to rely on staff to take most images. When the federal government did not buy his photographic plates after the war, Brady was deeply in debt, whereupon he moved in with his wife Julia Handy's family in DC. Most biographies state that Mathew Brady was born on May 18, 1822, in Warren County, New York, to Irish immigrant parents, Andrew and Julia Brady. However, multiple census records and his draft card state that Brady was born in Ireland. **R72/S120**

**10. PATRICK FARRELLY (1770-1826)** was Irish born, raised, and educated. He emigrated from the Emerald Isle to the U.S. in 1798. Five years later, after studying law, he was admitted to the bar, in July 1803. Farrelly established a law practice in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Like many lawyers of that era, his set his sights on politics. He became a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, serving in that body in 1811 and 1812. During the War of 1812 he served as a major in the militia.

After a break from elected office, Farrelly turned to national politics. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a member of the Democratic-Republican Party and took office in 1821. He represented Pennsylvania's 15th district for two years, and then was elected to serve another two years by PA-18. He was again re-elected in 1824, now as a Jacksonian. Farrelly was in the middle of serving this third Congressional term when he died on January 12, 1826. He was buried in Meadville, but as was common for members of Congress who died in office, he was commemorated with a Benjamin Latrobe-designed cenotaph in Congressional Cemetery. The Irish immigrant's son, John Wilson Farrelly, served in Congress himself, from 1847 to 1849. **R57/S102 (cenotaph)**



**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.



**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.



**DC's Greatest Undertaking**

ESTABLISHED 1807

*Walking Tour*  
**IRISH 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.

The various narratives that make up American identity today are embodied in the tens of thousands of interments at the cemetery, including the influence of Irish Americans. While Washington is not typically thought of as an Irish city, many Irish laborers worked on restoring the District after the British burned federal buildings in 1814. In the wake of the Great Famine, between 1820 and 1860, some two million Irish left their beloved homeland to seek new opportunities abroad, including in Washington. Immigrants worked the docks along the Potomac River at the port near Georgetown, and between 1828 and 1831 they dug the C&O Canal that still runs through that neighborhood. Through their labor, patriotism, and fortitude, Irish émigrés and their descendents forever changed the cultural landscape of America and its capital.

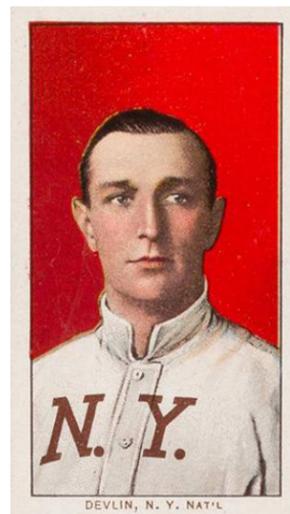
**T**he IRISH AMERICANS TOUR highlights just a few of the over 65,000 people buried in Congressional Cemetery. As you embark on this self-guided tour, we invite you to admire the artistry of the stone carvings, appreciate the beauty of the environment, and examine the diverse historical narratives and 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. JAMES MOORE (1780-1853)** was a native of County Tyrone. Per his obituary in the *Washington Evening Star*, “Being a printer by profession, he was employed in days long gone by in the office of the National Intelligencer [...] For many years past he discharged with scrupulous fidelity the duties of a place of trust in the office of the Treasurer of the United States. For a period of about thirty years he was a ruling elder in the First Presbyterian Church of this city, and at the time of his death was the oldest elder in the church.” **R52/S18**

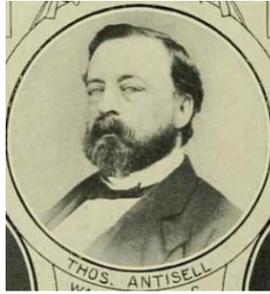
**2. MICHAEL NASH (1805-1883)** came from the city of Limerick. He immigrated to the U.S. around 1818, aged 13 years. Per his death notice in the *Washington Evening Star*, he was “one of the best known citizens of the District.” The paper noted he had ties to the D.C. militia and the old volunteer fire department. “For many years,” it continued, “he was superintendent of the shoemaking establishment connected with the old penitentiary.” He was a charter member and large stockholder of the Firemen’s Insurance company, and also a stockholder in the Great Falls Ice company. **R47/S31**

**3. ART DEVLIN (1879-1948)** was born and raised in Washington. His father, Edward Devlin, was an Irish immigrant who made his living as a harness maker and locksmith. The younger Devlin graduated from Georgetown University in 1900. Four years after he was a team captain on the Georgetown ball club, Devlin we made his professional debut with the New York Giants in 1904 as a third baseman. In 1905, he co-led the league in stolen bases. That same season, manager John McGraw led Devlin and his Giants teammates to victory in the second-ever World Series. After eight years in New York, Devlin played for the Boston Braves in 1912 and 1913 – his last two seasons. His career totals were 1,185 hits, 10 home runs, a .269 batting average, 508 RBIs, and 285 stolen bases. **R45/S120**



Arthur “Art” Devlin baseball card, circa 1909-1911

**4. DR. THOMAS ANTISELL (1817-1893)** was born in Dublin. Trained in medicine, he also worked in the geology field. In the 1840s, he wrote publications on Irish soil and sanitation in Dublin. At this time he was also involved in the Young Ireland movement and a member of the Irish Confederation, in support of independence. In June 1848 he co-founded a revolutionary newspaper, the *Irish Tribune*. The government closed down the *Tribune* after five issues on grounds of sedition. Soon after, in November 1848, Antisell immigrated to the U.S. For his first six years in the country, he operated a medical office and chemistry laboratory in New York. In late 1854 he pivoted back to geology, joining the Pacific Railroad Surveys. During the Civil War he was a surgeon in the Union Army’s medical corps, with the rank of Major of Volunteers. He also directed the Harewood General Hospital, which was located in northwest Washington, DC. **R22/S124**



Dr. Thomas Antisell in *History of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, 1817-1909*.

**5. THOMAS KELLY (1923-2010)** was born in August 1923 in the front bedroom of 404 B Street NE (now 404 Constitution Avenue NE). He lived all but eleven years of his life on that same block of Constitution Ave. His parents, Michael and Anne, emigrated separately from County Roscommon, Ireland, in 1906 and 1908, respectively. They were born eleven miles apart in Ireland, but met in Washington.

Kelly had his first newspaper job as a copyboy at the *Washington Post*. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and served on the Navy’s last sail-powered warship, the triple-masted USS *Guinevere*, which escorted supply convoys across the Atlantic. After the war, he earned a journalism degree at Penn State University in 1947. Tom Kelly worked for the *Washington Daily News* during the 1950s and 60s, covering the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations and Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy’s hearings into alleged Communist subversion in the government.

In his *Post* obituary, Kelly was described as a “diminutive Irishman who reminded friends of a mischievous Leprechaun[.]” It noted that he “wrote annual Christmas plays in which he cast scads of neighborhood children.” The plays were “children’s stories with dialogue that doubled as political commentary[.]” **R29/S204**

**6. DR. MARIE MULLANEY CASSIDY (1936-2001)** was born in Dublin. In 1963 she joined the staff of the George Washington University Medical Center as a biological scientist and a visiting assistant professor of physiology. In January 1968, Dr. Cassidy was among six scientists honored at the Washington Academy of Sciences’ 70th Annual Dinner Meeting at the Cosmos Club. Cassidy and her colleague, Dr. Charles S. Tidball, jointly received an award “for basic contributions on mechanisms of transport across biological membranes.” She also was part of the Department of Physiology at University College Dublin and a member of the American Physiological Society. **R49.5/S269 (cenotaph)**

**7. ALEXANDER RUTHERFORD (1814-1872)** was a stonemason who emigrated from Ireland in 1832 and went on to found the Pioneer Steam Marble Company. Because of his expertise in marble, Rutherford was hired as inspector of marble during the erection of the new House and Senate wings of the U.S. Capitol in the 1850s. During the Civil War he served as a captain in the Union Army. Rutherford carved many stones in Congressional Cemetery. **R80/S137**

**8. ARSENAL MONUMENT (1865)** On June 17, 1864, an accident with fireworks caused a gunpowder cartridge building in the Washington Arsenal complex to explode. 21 women were killed, many of whom were young, Irish immigrants working as the sole providers for their families. Kate Brosnahan, Emily Collins and Pinkey Scott all left behind young children. Some of the women were burned beyond recognition and only identified by clothing, shoes, or other personal items. Several were never identified. In addition to the deaths, many other female employees of the Arsenal were severely injured.

On Sunday, June 19th, the funeral cortege that proceeded from the Washington Arsenal to the cemetery was led by President Abraham Lincoln, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, a band, 90 pallbearers, and 2,000 mourners. Children of the Wesley Chapel Sunday School assembled along the procession route to sing a traditional funeral shape note hymn.

*Sister, thou wast mild and lovely  
Gentle as the summer breeze  
Pleasant as the air of ev’ning  
As it floats among the trees.*

*Peaceful be thy silent slumber,  
Peaceful in the grave so low;  
Thou no more wilt join our number,  
Thou no more our song shall know.*

*Yet again we hope to meet thee,  
When the day of life is fled;  
Then in heav’n with joy to greet thee,  
Where no farewell tears are shed.*

Fifteen victims were buried in a mass grave at Congressional Cemetery: Melissa Adams, Emma Baird, Lizzie Brahler, Bettie Branagan, Kate Brosnahan, Mary Burroughs, Emily Collins, Susan Harris, Eliza Lacey, Louisa Lloyd, Julia McEwen, Ellen Roche, Pinkey Scott, Emma Tippet, and Margaret Yonson. **R97-98/S142-146**

Two more victims, **Sallie McElfresh (R83/S93)** and **Annie Bache (R92/S180)**, were buried in family plots elsewhere at Congressional. The remaining four -- Bridget Dunn, Johanna Connor, Catherine Horan, and Rebecca Hull -- were buried at the nearby catholic cemetery, Mount Olivet.

Flannery Brothers, a stonecutting company run by Irish-born immigrants on Massachusetts Avenue, was chosen to create a monument to the victims here at Congressional Cemetery. Funded by public contributions, the monument was dedicated atop the mass gravesite on June 17, 1865 -- the first anniversary of the tragedy. The 25-foot monument is topped with a statue of a young woman, representing grief. The winged hourglasses, a common nineteenth-century funerary symbols, remind us that “Life is fleeting, death is inevitable, use every single moment wisely!”



Flannery Brothers’ Washington City Directory Advertisement. Courtesy of the DC Public Library, Washingtonia Division.