

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

The Heritage Gazette Spring 2005



Bayscape Group to Help Congressional

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Protects Watershed

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay announced receipt of a \$10,000 grant in January from the Spring Creek Foundation to help Congressional Cemetery design and install a series of Bay-friendly plantings. The Alliance seeks to educate the general public in the many simple ways in which small plots of land can be designed to minimize maintenance costs and pollution, and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of the Chesapeake and its rivers, will develop this project through its RestoreCorps Program. RestoreCorps recruits and trains volunteers in Bay-friendly landscaping techniques and materials. The Alliance is often called "the voice of the Bay" for its unbiased

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Master Conservation Plan Under Way

Task Force Developing Guide for Association

Our October *Angels* conservation workshop/volunteer day inspired three professional conservation groups to step forward to craft a master conservation plan for Congressional Cemetery. With several hundred stones in need of preservation or restoration work, the Conservation Task Force has its work cut out for it. The group's first task will be to perform a condition assessment survey of the approximately 14,000 gravestones.

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Tree Canopy Renewal

Planning for a Fall Planting

When our Historic Landscape & Structures Report arrived in May 2003, we were dismayed to read that Congressional Cemetery had more than thirty trees that were either dead or dying, and therefore posed a serious safety issue to our visitors. After several years in which severe storms took their toll on our tree canopy, it was difficult to acquiesce to a planned removal of so many trees.

Now the time has come to re-plant. With our landscape plan due to be complete by April, we anticipate that there will be several distinct tree planting projects on the planning board.

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"Art on Call"

Call Box Art to Grace Entrance

Congressional Cemetery's front gate will soon have a monitor 24/7. The monitor, a life size stainless steel statue of a dog leaning on a call box, will stand across the street in silent observation of its favorite walking ground. *Dog Pointing* is a work of art by local artist and Association member Bobbie West.

The sculpture is part of a city-wide art project sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society and Cultural Tourism DC. The project converts abandoned fire emergency call boxes on DC's city streets into works of art that highlight local history, community, and landscapes. Over 100 call boxes are planned to

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3rd Saturdays Volunteer Program Resumes

Gravestone Re-settings Prove Popular Activity

Alice Gardiner's gravestone is a thin white marble tablet with a softly curved crown and deeply etched engravings. Long forgotten, the stone was settling slowly into the ground promising to quietly vanish from the earth. Until our 3rd Saturday volunteers caught sight of it.

The Gardiner marker was the first one chosen by our 3rd Saturday volunteers for our gravestone re-setting program. When first spotted, the small stone was listing quite a bit and half buried in the dirt. As the volunteers pulled the marker from the ground, the tablet's below-grade inscription revealed her infant daughter's name etched in the stone, remarkably clear and sharp although stained reddish brown by its years below grade.



More intriguing was the base of the tablet, which revealed the tongue end of what appeared to be a tongue and groove fitting. A few minutes work with a spade revealed the foundation about two feet below grade with the matching groove.

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Dogwalker Web Site

[newmediamill] to Build Site

Congressional Cemetery is known for its unorthodox dog walking program. Aside from contributing fully one-third of our operating budget, Capitol Hill dog owners use the grounds to exercise their pets, catch up with friends, and practice Washington's national sport: networking.

Communicating with this sector of our membership to inform them of grounds closings, volunteer projects, and lost keys is a persistent problem that will soon be resolved: web design firm [newmediamill] volunteered to create a new dog-walker web site for the Association.

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Letter from the Board

Fix the Roads!

“Fix the roads!” is the most common plea we hear from members and visitors alike. Our roadways are deplorable: where once we had just bad potholes, now we have no roadway at all. Whole sections have washed away leaving the gravel subsurface exposed. We do hear you and we are working on it.

But first we have to fix our storm water runoff problems. Water run-off has played a major role in the deterioration of Congressional Cemetery’s roadways. The existing roadbed has become something of a sponge, absorbing water and making the subsurface unable to support the asphalt paving above.

Congressional Cemetery has a long history of battling rainwater runoff problems. A brick wall built in January 1825 was washed away five months after it was built. The rebuilt wall was washed away again in 1834. This time, the offending creek, which regularly overflowed its banks, was encased in a brick culvert and channeled underground to the H Street Creek. This culvert is still the basic stormwater management system in use today.

Paving contractors inform us that our roads cannot be repaired or patched; there’s not enough solid asphalt to hold the repairs. More distressing, civil engineers inform us that the subsurface can no longer support the road structure, so no quick repaving would survive long. Civil engineer, Joseph Mensch, of the engineering firm Wiles Mensch Corporation, recommended that the roadbed be dug out and replaced with a more solid foundation.

And that costs money; by one estimate it will be in the range of \$3.4 million.

The landscape plan being developed by EDAW, a world-wide landscape design firm that was awarded the contract for our landscape plan last year, will address water issues in its report this spring. Roadway design will be a big component of the plan. We’re looking for funding sources and putting proposals together this year in the hope that work can begin next year.

~ Patrick Crowley

Conservation Plan

Building A Guide for Restoration

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The Task Force group is made up of Catherine Dewey of the Washington Conservation Guild (WCG); Michele Pagan of the American Institute of Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC); and Guy Munsch of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT).

The Task Force will undertake the development of a comprehensive plan that will include an assessment of current conditions, descriptions and recommendations of accepted conservation technologies and processes, a system of prioritization for recommended work, cost estimates for types of conservation treatments, and suggestions for sources of funding for the recommended work.

Once the basic plan takes shape, the Task Force will begin recruiting volunteers to assist in the condition survey, which will incorporate over 14,000 gravestones. The group hopes to complete a general plan this winter and begin the assessment this spring.

All three groups strive to bring together professionals from a wide spectrum of disciplines to address conservation issues and provide a forum for local professionals to obtain hands-on experience in preservation technologies. Ω

New Lawn Care Provider

Valley Crest Awarded 3-Yr Contract

The Association board selected Valley Crest Landscape Management as the new lawn care maintenance provider for Congressional Cemetery. The three-year contract includes 18 mowings per year along with minor tree pruning and shrub trimming, weed control spraying, leaf removal, and maintenance of the fence along Ingle Street by the DC Jail.

Valley Crest was the primary installation contractor for the Ward Six September 11 Memorial Grove, which was installed last year at Congressional. Valley Crest is also a regular at the Professional Lawn Care Association’s annual *Renewal & Remembrance* volunteer day in June.

Valley Crest has already signed up to help out at our annual Spring Clean-Up volunteer day on April 2nd. Valley Crest is a worldwide landscape management firm. Ω

Two New Board Members

Collin Green & Catherine Dewey

The Board welcomes two new members to the board of directors this year. Collin Green is with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has a background in energy research and environmental non-profit work. Catherine Dewey is with the National Park Service and has a background in professional conservation work. Ω

Board Members

Linda Donovan Harper — Chair
Patrick Crowley — Vice Chair
Frank Devlin — Treasurer
Sandy Schmidt — Secretary
J. Dudley Brown
Frederick Davis
Rev. Judith Davis
Farleigh Earhart
Kenneth Eads
Peter MacPherson
Patrick Lally
Scott Kibler
Collin Green
Catherine Dewey

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Operations Chair
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Building & Grounds Chair
Patrick Crowley

Education & Outreach Chair
Sandy Schmidt

Cemetery Manager
William Fecke

Newsletter Editor
Patrick Crowley

Web Master
Sandy Schmidt

Groundskeeper
Collin Ingraham

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New Dogwalker Web Site

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The web site will include features such information about the dog-walking program, including the dogwalking rules and application form. Under development for the site is a web group list serve for closure notices, news round-ups, photo folders, and a place for community announcements. The dog-walker site should roll out this spring. As of this printing, a name for the web site has not been determined. Funding for the site hosting and regular maintenance will be provided through on-site ads and a services listing.

Stew Harris, the managing partner of [newmediamill] is a member of the Association and a regular

volunteer. Stew was a producer at ABC News.

[newmediamill] started out as a non-profit dedicated to bringing advanced web design tools to other non-profits. The firm reorganized in 2003 to expand these services to other entities. The firm continues to offer pro-bono web site design to a non-profit organization every year. The firm specializes in high quality Internet site development and graphics.

The web site will use a simple architecture that allows Association staff to easily import news items, calendar inserts, and other features without returning to service providers or incurring service costs. Ω

The Knights of Pythias

FCB: Friendship, Charity, Benevolence. You may see these initials on numerous headstones in Congressional Cemetery. They are the by-words for the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal order founded in 1864 by Justus Rathbone. It was the first fraternal order chartered by an act of Congress, at the urging of President Abraham Lincoln. The other two initials, K P, refer to the society itself: the Knights of Pythias.

The Knights of Pythias draw their name from a legendary figure from 5th Century Greek mythology. Pythias was a philosophy student of Pythagorus. His friend and fellow student Damon questioned the legitimacy of the rule of the tyrant Dionysius. Dionysius took umbrage against Damon and ordered his execution.

Being a civilized society, Damon wished to say farewell to family and friends, so his buddy Pythias offered himself as hostage while Damon made his rounds. At the appointed hour of execution, Damon was no where to be seen

and Pythias offered himself in Damon's stead. Luckily for Pythias, Damon did show up before it was too late to save Pythias' life. This remarkable show of trust and loyalty so impressed Dionysius, that he spared both their lives and, in deed, sought their friendship for himself.



The knights are dedicated to the goal of universal peace through the understanding among men of good will. The order was founded in the belief that such an orientation was needed to heal the wounds of the Civil War.

The Knights symbol can be seen in many variations but generally has a heraldic shield with a suit of armor. The Knights of Pythias reached its peak membership in 1923 with over 900,000 members, but now numbers about 40,000. Ω

This is the eighth in a series of articles discussing the history and symbolic meaning of the forms and decoration of grave markers and other memorials.

Cemetery Manager's Notes

Help Wanted

It's been almost two years since I signed on here at Congressional Cemetery. With a lot of assistance from the board and groups of volunteers we've made quite a bit of progress. As the annual meeting approaches, our Association looks back on a very successful year in 2004. Those of you who read this newsletter don't need a listing of those accomplishments, so I'll save time by not listing them.

Often I've found it's hard to see past what remains to be done and reflect on that progress. Over the many years of this cemetery's history, and the Association's part of it as well, this place has had it's ups and downs. The cemetery is now on an up swing and has a chance to really become someplace special. What can we do to maintain the progress?

Certainly funding is one thing we can do and we count on everyone to continue to support the Association. With our endowment steadily increasing, the K-9 corps growing, plots selling, and other positive financial signs, it seems like the organization is ready to really get to work. The question now is who's going to do the work?

The Association has only two part time contractors to manage the cemetery, the groundskeeper and me. The board continues to be very active—taking on the management of many tasks both short and long term. Volunteer groups have been very generous with their time and have been counted on for many projects. What the association is lacking in are volunteers to help with the multitude of tasks that are created as we continue to progress.

Volunteers can currently assist us in a number of ways, either with the Third Saturday workdays, the Annual Cleanup, or by volunteering at an event. Over the course of this year there will be a number of opportunities for those interested in volunteering. By the end of the year we hope to have a docent program in place and a better way to communicate our volunteer needs. Please consider if you have the time to give the association a hand and help us reach our goals.

Reserve Your Place in History

Interment Sites are again available in Historic Congressional Cemetery
Call for details—202-543-0539



Congressional Cemetery's American Heritage

What the Friendship of John Hitz Meant to Me -- Helen Keller

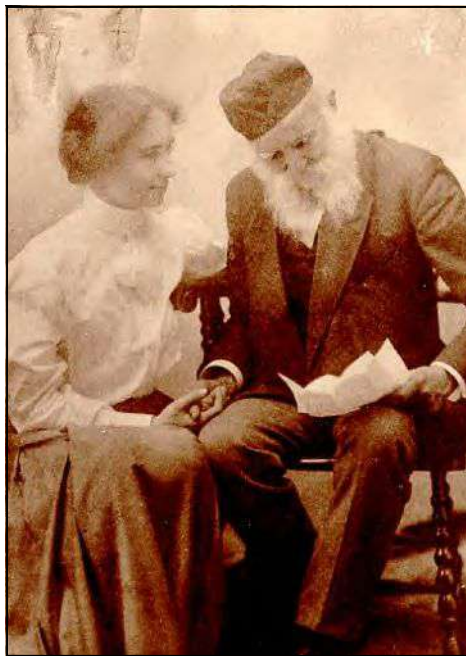
Only those who knew Mr. Hitz can realize what his friendship meant to me. Nothing that I can write will recall one who was so noble and beloved. I shall not attempt to outline the facts of his life, but will try to impart to others the sense that a wise, good man has lived among us. With a benediction, that no one more loving man Mr. Hitz has come into this world and gone out of it.

John Hitz was born September 14, 1828, in Davos, Switzerland. He was a man of wide experience, and he told me many stories about his varied, adventurous youth. In 1849 he went out to California. He saw the west as it was then primeval, full of savage beauty. He saw the endless train of emigrants making their over the prairies to the distant wilds. He observed all manner of men who invaded the vast solitudes. He witnessed the magic with which gold built up cities and spread nations along the Pacific coast. He had occasion often to share in the hard life the brave fight of those who journeyed thither.

When Mr. Hitz returned east he engaged in the manufacture and sale of pianos, and taught music in various schools. I have been told that before his hearing was impaired he played the piano with masterly skill. He was deeply interested in educational matters. He was a skillful wood worker, true to the Swiss tradition that every one must learn a trade. He traveled extensively in foreign lands and came into contact with many eminent men. He was in Washington during the civil war, and knew Lincoln, Grant and Sherman. On his father's death in 1864, Mr. Hitz succeeded him as consul general from Switzerland, and held that office until 1881.

Mr. Hitz's varied activity. He was a man of tireless energy, interested in the promotion of every human happiness. He was one of the incorporators of the American Red Cross Society, an early and active member of the American Forestry Association. He told me of the many kinds of grass, grain and trees that he sent to Switzerland to be cultivated.

I met Mr. Hitz first in 1892, and ever since he has been like a father



Helen Keller & John Hitz

to me. In May, 1893, the work on the Volta bureau with which his name is associated, was begun. Most of those who knew Mr. Hitz as superintendent of the Volta bureau remember him as a solitary man. But in his solitude his great soul went out to others loving and loved again. He could truly say to me, "I am alone, but not lonely." To the last day of his earthly life he bestowed the greatest care and affection on his work, for which he was qualified by his sound views on education, his wise sympathies and his acquaintance with distinguished men the world over.

In addition to his labors for the

deaf, Mr. Hitz has greatly interested in the blind. At the age of seventy, Mr. Hitz learned Braille, so that I could read his letters myself. Every morning he worked an hour before breakfast transcribing whatever he thought I should enjoy reading. Thus he copied for me books and articles on a large variety of subjects -- poetical, philosophical, religious, social, also books for happy leisure hours. He also ordered many valuable books for me in French and German.

Mr. Hitz followed me through college with close sympathy and insight. We discussed freely literature and history, and he sought to give me new aspects of great historical events. We discussed philosophy in which he was widely read, and he urged me to cultivate it long before I thought of a course in Radcliff. To my merry moods, too, Mr. Hitz was responsive. He loved all that brings delight -- the hills, the streams, the sunny spots of green.

He visited my teacher and me every summer, and we spent much time out of doors. I liked best to ramble with him through the woods because he could hear me best in their happy silence. He described the trees and flowers.

To the last he retained a vitality that made him young with the young. His spirit was so gracious and happy it radiated grace and happiness to others. His faith in human goodness never wavered. He breathed the fragrance of the fields of the pines and of the flowers as he had done sixty years before. He rejoiced amid the birds, the rocks and the hills with the unalloyed joy of childhood. Ω

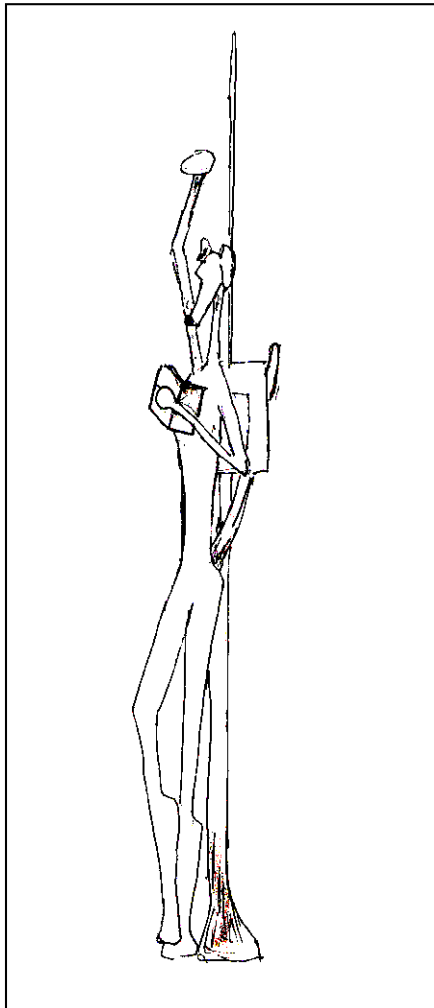
[John Hitz died on March 31, 1908 on his way to meet Helen Keller at Union Station. Mr. Hitz is buried at Congressional Cemetery, Range 80/Site 108.]

Art on Call

Continued from Page 1.

become works of art. The six foot tall structures were built in the 1890s before home phone service had become common. But by the 1970's they were no longer used.

Bobbie West's award winning sculptures are known for their sleek elongated forms that imbue the subject, generally a dog or horse, with a sophisticated urbane aura. Bobbie donated another sculpture last fall to support the installation of the 9/11 Memorial



Grove.

Although her work usually sells in the thousands, *Dog Pointing* will be donated to the "Art on Call" project. Materials however will cost several hundred dollars. Donations to help the Art on Call project are still needed; interested sponsors may help support the project by donating through the Capitol Hill Restoration Society at their web site: www.chrs.org. Bobbie anticipates installing *Dog Pointing*

Landscape Planning

Part II — the 1900s

Although the 20th Century opened auspiciously for Congressional with the building of the state of the art mortuary chapel in 1903 at the cemetery's highpoint at 18th & G Streets, much of the ensuing 100 years would be times of declining resources and a shift away from the public eye.

East End Development

Nevertheless, the cemetery continued to grow and utilize the land to the east end. Much of the land in the east end had at one time lay under water in the Anacostia River. As the river shifted and the land dried out, it became more feasible to establish burial plots in that area. Land filling and re-grading were authorized by Congress in 1850. In 1907 the U. S. Navy relocated numerous scattered veteran sites throughout the cemetery into one uniform section between 21st and 22nd Streets.

1907 also saw the installation of a range and site marker system, as required by the DC Health Department. These are presumably the marble range and site stones we see throughout the cemetery today.

While site markers were going in, family plot fencings and copings were going out. In the 1800s family plots were permitted to be adorned with iron fencing and granite curbs. Toward the end of the 19th and into the 20th Century the Cemetery began discouraging such demarcations because of the maintenance obstacles they created. In 1952 the superintendent was instructed to remove all post and rods from lots in which no burial had taken place since 1922.

Landscape Planning

Congressional's park-like setting was described in a 1913 brochure published by the Vestry. "The grounds are adorned by several hundred fine old trees, unsurpassed by any in the city parks. Well kept brick and gravel walks, and carefully constructed roadways give easy access to ranges in all portions of the grounds. The sod, for the beauty of which this cemetery has long been noted, is given particular care at all times, and is the object of expert attention of a large corps of experienced and efficient gardeners and landscape artists."

In 1917 the well known landscape architect George Burnap was hired to make drawings for the improvement of Congressional Cemetery, although it is unclear whether his work was completed or implemented. Another landscape plan was discussed in 1937, and again it is not clear whether anything came of those discussions.

Despite the references to hundreds of trees, photographs from 1913 and 1921 do not suggest a thick canopy of trees across the grounds. Yet in 1929, the Vestry ordered the removal of trees in order to have more lots for sale and "to beautify the cemetery." And again in 1932, all the trees from the front gate to the chapel were removed.

Infrastructure

Several infrastructure improvements were made in the 1920s and 30s. The old superintendent's house was replaced in 1923 with a new gatekeeper's house made in the Arts & Crafts style. In 1932 a new water system was installed. And in 1933 the superintendent was authorized to take up some of the walkways and replace them with sod. Regular maintenance and repairs to the gatehouse, paving of the roads, and care of the grounds continued through the mid-1900s by the cemetery staff of nine.

Landmark Status

In 1969, the Department of the Interior listed Congressional Cemetery in the National Register of Historic Places as a place "which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia."

Despite the listing, finances of the Cemetery continued to decline and standard maintenance began to suffer. The firing all employees in 1975 set the stage for the drastic conditions that prevailed for much of the end of the 20th Century. The cemetery began a resurgence in 2000 through the help of its many supporters. Ω

This is the seventh in a series of articles about the history of Congressional Cemetery excerpted from research compiled by Cathleen Breikreutz for the 2002 Historic Landscapes & Structures Report.

3rd Saturdays Program to Resume

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Such discoveries not rare events for our 3rd Saturday volunteers. Every stone re-setting day has been a day of discovery as well a day of restoration.

The 3rd Saturday program grew out of suggestions from several dog-walkers for a known day for stopping by to help spruce things up. Sporadic dates for specific projects often conflicted with members' other commitments, travel plans, or daily chores. Many who wished to participate simple couldn't make it. A recurring date, they pleaded, would allow them to plan ahead or come by for the next volunteer day.

The program was quite successful last year, growing from a small start in mid-summer to a somewhat regular crew of about nine volunteers. The program resumes this March and runs though September.

Re-setting gravestones has proven to be the most popular volunteer activity. More often than not, each



gravestone re-setting turns into a minor archaeology dig. Sunken footstones or headstones are regularly found to belong to a stone base sunken well below grade. Our volunteer crews, under the direction of Groundskeeper Collin Ingraham, unearth the base, rebuild a foundation for the base, and reset the tablet into the base.

Each stone re-setting takes about an hour and leaves the volunteer crew with a much deserved sense of accomplishment. The only drawback to the projects is that a re-set stone looks as it ought to; passersby will not notice the work gone into restoring the site. But the cleaner, more orderly appearance reflects the fact that the Association and its volunteers are, in fact, preserving and restoring the grounds.

If you would like to volunteer for one of our 3rd Saturdays, please call the gatehouse office (202-543-0539). We start at 9:00 AM sharp and call it a day at Noon. Ω

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Hands-on Volunteer Rehabilitation

Continued from Page 1.

information and assistance in issues related to Bay ecology.

Congressional Cemetery sits on the west bank of the Anacostia River a few miles upstream of the point where it meets the Potomac River, which eventually leads to the Chesapeake Bay. Rainwater runoff along the length of the Anacostia has long been a known source of pollutants that wreak havoc with the Chesapeake Bay ecology.

The Alliance plans to install a series of small gardens across Congressional's grounds that will beautify the cemetery, cut down on maintenance costs, and reduce pollutants headed toward the Bay.

Through the RestoreCorps program, the Alliance will host three "action days" at which small gardens will be installed. The first action day will be this spring, the other two will be this fall.

The first project may be a rainwater garden along the west side of the gatehouse. Rainwater gardens capture storm water runoff from the roof top and channel it into the garden rather than into the streets or sewers.

Later projects may include in-

stallation of small gardens at points where pathways intersect on the grounds. Alliance representatives Lou Etgen and Jamie Alberti hope to create an on-going series of projects at Congressional for several years to come. Providing project funding and staffing is one of the Alliance's strong points.

Participation by local volunteer groups is a key component of the project as well. Spreading the word on how both big and small actions affect the Bay ecology is a major component of all the Alliance's projects. The Alliance and the Association also intend to use this watershed project as an example of environmentally conscious landscaping for other waterfront entities.

Alliance projects are known for instilling civic pride and celebration as well as for the food and prizes for participants. Alliance Project manager Jamie Alberti will begin working with Association staff and board members to set an agenda, recruit volunteers, and design the bayscape gardens. Details and updates will be provided as the project develops; watch for details on our web site. Ω

Tree Canopy Renewal

Planning for Fall Plantings

Continued from Page 1.

The Ward Six September 11 Memorial Grove, which was installed in October will be in full bloom this spring and represents a great first step in our restoration of the tree canopy at Congressional.

Another allee is on the drawing board for the block south of the chapel. The Benjamin B. French Lodge will donate 15 trees to line the street in honor of French.

A number of smaller projects will be available for participation as well, once the master landscape plan is complete. The plan calls for plantings at most of the nodes where roadways and pathways intersect, offering opportunities for memorial trees and shrubs.

The Building & Grounds Committee will develop a series of project sites and specific species guidelines this summer with the aim of commencing plantings in the fall. The plantings may be incorporated into the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay RestoreCorps projects. Participation in the tree canopy restoration is welcome and needed. Financial assistance as well as hands-on help can be volunteered by calling the gatehouse office, 202-543-0539. Ω

Congressional Quiz

A Faith in Human Goodness

Some people have a zeal for work and are tireless in their avocations. John Hitz was one of these, which of the following statements about Hitz are true?

- Mr. Hitz trained himself to be a woodworker, following an age-old Swiss tradition that everyone should learn a practical skill.
- Mr. Hitz went blind at the age of seventy but quickly taught himself Braille.
- Mr. Hitz disliked long stretches out of doors, preferring to work in his laboratory.
- Mr. Hitz emigrated from Switzerland and inherited the job of Swiss Council, a diplomatic post.
- Mr. Hitz dedicated many years to the study and care of the deaf and dumb at the Volta Bureau.

Answer in Essay on Page 4.

America's First National Cemetery

I want to help preserve Historic Congressional Cemetery.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other

Donations of \$250 or more are deposited in our Third Century Endowment Fund which is matched by our Congressional Appropriation and managed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

My check is enclosed (made payable to Congressional Cemetery).

Please bill my credit card. Visa MasterCard

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Does your employer make matching contributions?

Would you like the matching gift form?

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Around the Yard

Another Web Milestone

20,000 Obits On Line

Congressional Cemetery is the final resting place for 60,000 people and we now have obituaries and/or death notices for 20,000 of them. Sandy Schmidt's archival research continues to add to the already enormous web site data bases. The collection of obits and notices covers over 100 years of DC history. If you have an obit or family photo, please send it in and help build our archives. Ω

Gatehouse Painting

Pages Paint Boardroom

Last year's modest makeover of the gatehouse front office into a parlor and research space inspired Association staff Bill Fecke and Collin Ingraham to tackle the board room this year. With the assistance of the Congressional Pages, all women by the way, the gatehouse has a fresh coat of paint in the boardroom and the back office. Next year we may tackle the upstairs offices. Ω

Whitman/Doyle Tour

Poetry Reading at Graveside

The Friends of Walt Whitman Society is sponsoring a Walt Whitman Festival on May 7th to celebrate the famous American poet. Some of Whitman's poetry recalls his nursing efforts in Washington during the Civil War. His companion, Peter Doyle, is buried at Congressional. The Festival will include readings of Doyle's poetry at his graveside. Ω

WalkingTown DC

Neighborhood Tourism Program

Cultural Tourism DC, an association of historic and cultural sites is hosting a city-wide walking tour to bring tourists into DC neighborhoods. *WalkingTown DC : Stroll the City* emphasizes the ease of touring DC on foot. A tour of Congressional Cemetery is one of several tours scheduled for April 16th & 17th. For more information, see: www.culturaltourismdc.org. Ω

Annual Meeting April 16

Guest Speaker Anthony Pitch

The Association's annual meeting will take place on Saturday, April 16 at 11:00 at the chapel. Our guest speaker this year will be noted historian Anthony Pitch. His remarks will center on the death of Abraham Lincoln and the large number of individuals buried at Congressional who knew Lincoln and were in some way associated with his last day on earth. Ω

IT Grants Awarded

Technology Upgrades Coming

Congressional Cemetery was awarded a grant in January to upgrade the IT capabilities of the Association. A MARPAT grant of \$10,000 will be used to install a network computer system for the gatehouse, allowing multiple researchers to peruse the Association data base. The MARPAT Foundation provides funding for historic preservation groups. Ω

The Association for the Preservation of
Historic Congressional Cemetery
1801 E Street, Southeast
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*Congressional Cemetery is listed on the
National Register of Historic Places*

The Heritage Gazette Spring 2005

Spring Calendar

March

Sat. Mar. 19—3rd Saturday volunteer program:
9:00 AM to Noon, all invited

April

Sat. Apr. 2—Spring Clean-up
9:00 AM to Noon, all invited

Sat. Apr. 16—Annual Meeting
11:00 AM to Noon at Chapel

Sat. Apr. 16—3rd Saturday volunteer program:
9:00 AM to Noon, all invited

Sat. Apr. 16 & 17—WalkingTownDC
tours sponsored by CulturalTourismDC
1:00, 2:00 & 3:00, Free

Thu. Apr. 21—Ward Six September 11 Memorial
Grove Dedication, Noon, all invited

May

Sat. May 7—Walt Whitman/Peter Doyle
& the Civil War, 10:30 AM at Chapel
(Rain Date May 8, 10:30 AM) Free

Sat. May 21—3rd Saturday volunteer program:
9:00 AM to Noon, all invited



William Prout