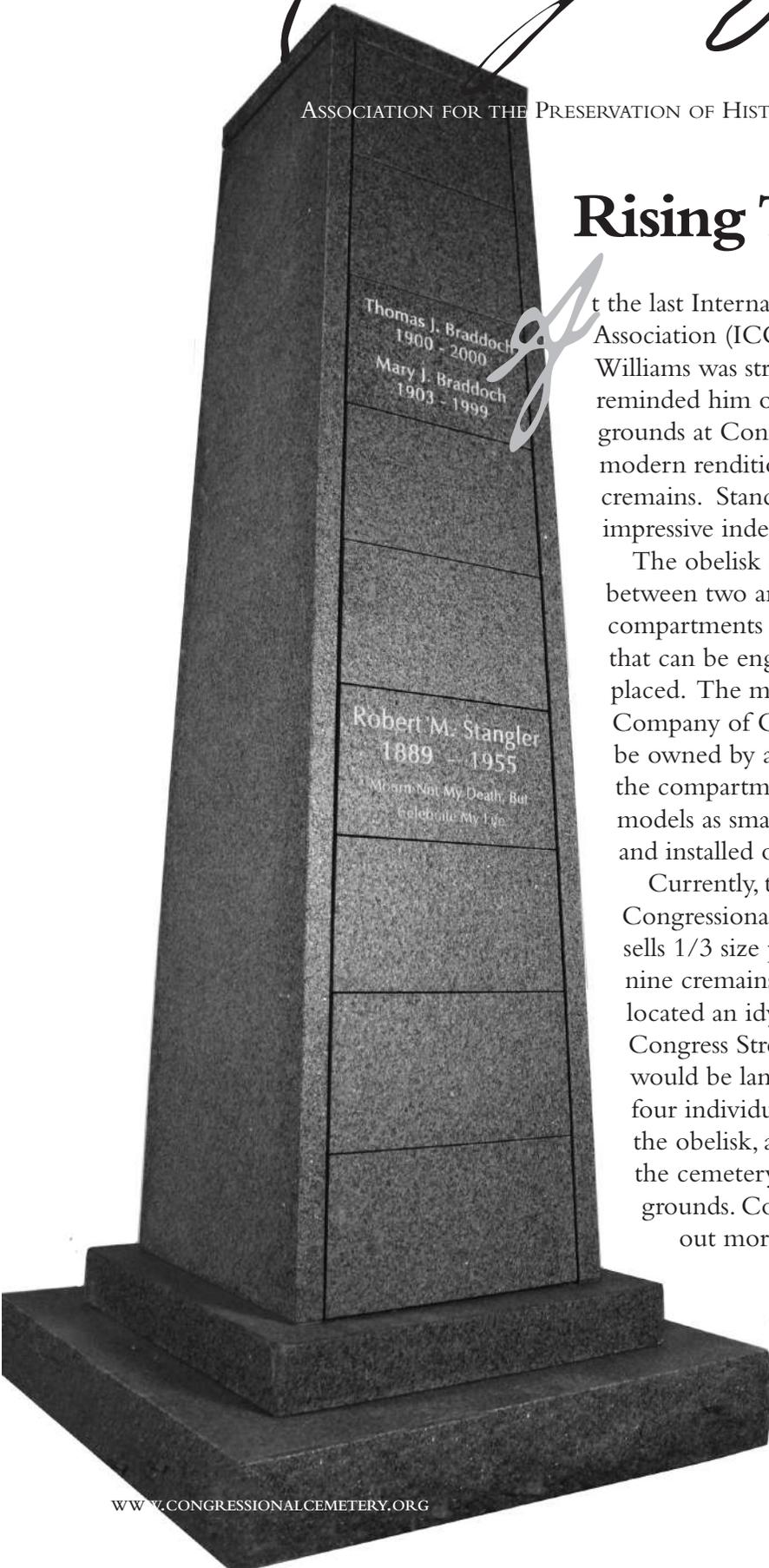


Heritage Gazette

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY • SPRING 2014

Rising Tall



At the last International Cemetery, Cremation & Funeral Association (ICCF) conference, HCC President Paul K. Williams was struck with the aesthetic of a tall granite obelisk. It reminded him of the many historic monuments located on the grounds at Congressional, except this one was different: a modern rendition that is pre-assembled and designed to hold cremains. Standing nearly ten feet tall, the columbarium was impressive indeed.

The obelisk has a total of 20 companion niches, each holding between two and three urns or cremated remains. Ten compartments are located on each side, with individual panels that can be engraved with names and dates when the ashes are placed. The monument is manufactured by the Eickhof Company of Crookston, Minnesota. The ten-foot model can be owned by a cemetery and placed on common ground and the compartments sold to individual families as needed; other models as small as four niches can be purchased by families and installed on a purchased plot.

Currently, the only option for cremated remains at Congressional is burial, unless you own a family vault. HCC sells 1/3 size plots for this purpose, or families can bury up to nine cremains atop a traditional casket burial. HCC staff have located an idyllic space for a potential obelisk at the end of Congress Street, south of the chapel. The surrounding area would be landscaped with bench spaces incorporated. So far, four individuals have expressed interest in purchasing space in the obelisk, and as soon as several others also express interest, the cemetery will welcome the newest obelisk addition to its grounds. Contact staff@congressionalcemetery.org to find out more details.

Letter from the Chair



It has been a very long winter in Washington, D.C., but we are finally starting to see the signs of spring emerge. The crocuses are blooming despite the recent snow, and the first buds of the cherry blossoms have been spotted on the grounds. All are eagerly anticipating the warmer temperatures and the return of color. Here at the cemetery, spring brings even more changes than usual as we transition to a new board chair and board executive committee.

Beginning April 1st, Congressional Cemetery will welcome a new Board Chairperson as Kelly Crowe takes the helm. Kelly has been on the board since 2011, has been on the Executive Committee for the last year as Secretary, and has been very involved with Remembrance Day and other HCC events. I am confident that she will continue to leverage the foundation built over the last few years. Also cycling onto the Executive Committee is Chris Kennedy (Director, Strategic Communications, U.S. Travel Association) as Vice Chairperson, and new board member Sue Urahn (Executive Vice President, The Pew Charitable Trusts) who will replace Kelly as Secretary. Sid Neely will continue his service on the Board as the Treasurer.

The new year also brings the development and implementation of our four new committees, Development, Communications, Buildings and Grounds, and Preservation. During the Annual Membership Meetings for the K9 Corps, many K9 Corps members eagerly signed up for these committees. The future engagement of our community on these committees will incorporate diverse viewpoints and backgrounds, informing and improving both the cemetery's imminent and anticipated needs.

This newsletter marks the end of my six year board tenure, first as Treasurer, and the last three as Board Chair. I've been humbled to serve, been pleased to see our progress, and have been blessed to be part of this special Capitol Hill institution. Thank you for your support and patience.

—JOHN GILLESPIE



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

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The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are deductible to the extent permitted by federal tax laws. 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 U.S. Congress and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

From the President

As I approach my two year anniversary here at Congressional, I'm pleased with the number of new events, activities, and tours that have been established and will continue into the future, with even more creative functions devised by the staff to come. I'm transitioning into more of a fundraising role, focusing on grants and the Sousa Gate capitol campaign. To plan and prepare for these activities and operational needs, we've recently established four new Board sub-committees: Communications, Development, Historic Preservation, and Buildings and Grounds.

I'm pleased to have received

notice of a \$6,500 matching grant from the National Park Service that will be used to finally mark the graves of four individuals that have been officially recognized as part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. They include the gravesites of William Boyd, John Dean, Hannibal Hamlin, and David A. Hall, who were featured in the Fall 2013 newsletter.

The grant will provide funding for four interpretive granite and bronze footstone markers. The detailed research by historian Sandra Schmidt that led to our acceptance will be summa-

rized on the footstones to reveal their story in a short paragraph. In addition, the sites will be incorporated into a future African-American walking tour, virtual web tour, and smart phone app tour. The grant will also pay for a bronze plaque at the cemetery entrance noting our inclusion in the Underground Railroad program.

I'm sure you will join me in looking forward to all of our upcoming 2014 events and tours to both celebrate and publicize the fascinating history contained at Congressional Cemetery.

— PAUL K. WILLIAMS



Around the Gatehouse

MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2014

HCC will experience several major construction projects in 2014, beginning with the completion of the roadway between the totem poles and the 17th Street gate. The old asphalt will be removed and replaced with pavers that match the current roads in the cemetery. The east end garage will have its roof replaced at long last, adding a small section to house our new gantry. And, thanks to our grant of \$50,000 from American Express and National Trust for Historic Preservation Partners In Preservation, you'll soon see work being done to replace the roofs along our mausoleum row. Fill will be removed, the barrel vault roofs repaired and sealed, and the surface area replaced with a Lite green roof manufactured by Live Roof.

HAVE A SEAT

HCC recently received one of its wish list items from Dovel Technologies, founded by Elma and Dov Levy, who contacted Board member Kelly Crowe. They donated twelve leather board

chairs and four side chairs to replace the decades-old – and very worn – chairs that the staff and committees use for meetings, events, and check-ins. The donation was a much needed improvement for HCC!

K9 CORPS RENEWALS

It happens every year, and it makes January and February two of the cemetery's busiest months. The K9 Corps recently completed the annual renewal process. After hosting 15 orientation meetings, welcoming over 500 members and answering countless questions, we're exhausted, but happy to welcome both returning and new members to the 2014 K9 Corps.

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM GRANT

In March the National Park Service awarded Congressional Cemetery a \$6,500 matching Underground Railroad Network to Freedom grant. The funding from this grant will be used to place four footstone markers at the graves of William Boyd, John

Dean, David Hall, and Hannibal Hamlin, providing further interpretation about their role in the Underground Railroad. Congressional Cemetery would like to extend a special thank you to histori-

an Sandy Schmidt, whose dedicated and thorough research contributed to the inclusion of Congressional Cemetery on the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.



AMAZON SMILE

Have you heard of Amazon Smile? It's Amazon.com's new program that allows you to donate a portion of your Amazon purchase to your favorite organization. Simply shop through smile.amazon.com from your web browser and search for Congressional Cemetery as the selected recipient of funds. For those of you who shop through Amazon's site anyway, it's a simple way to give to Congressional Cemetery.

FREE TOURS START

APRIL 5TH

We are more than ready for the start of spring! Spring also means the beginning of the tour season at Congressional Cemetery, so please join us for free, docent-led tours every Saturday beginning April 5th. In addition, Steve Hammond will continue to lead Civil War tours on the third Saturday of every month. Please refer to Congressional Cemetery's website for further details and exceptions.





ROMANCE AND TRAGEDY

It's been a long and snowy winter in Washington, so it came as little surprise that our Valentine's Day tour "Romance and Tragedy" was postponed due to the weather. Happily, the rescheduled event on February 27th was a success. Visitors listened to the romantic and sad tales of residents in the cemetery, including the story of Walt Whitman and Peter Doyle, the creepy Count Adam Gurowski, and a grisly attempted murder suicide. Afterwards, guests mingled in the Chapel and enjoyed sweet and sour cocktails.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

A brand new bulletin board now graces the east end of the cemetery thanks to a recent Eagle Scout project. The bulletin board



is primarily used by dog walkers to post notices and it had started to look a bit worse for the wear. Thankfully, the new bulletin board is a great improvement – and it's pretty, too. Many thanks to Scott Bouboulis for choosing Congressional Cemetery for his project!

NSO IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Each year the National Symphony Orchestra sponsors the In Your Neighborhood program which focuses on a different neighborhood in Washington, D.C. This year, the NSO chose Capitol Hill and H Street as the host area for more than 30 free performances. Congressional Cemetery was lucky enough to host a concert, and on January 12 Natasha Bogachek, Zino Bogachek, and Eric deWaardt charmed the audience with a special string performance that packed the Chapel.



NSO members Natasha Bogachek, Zino Bogachek, and Eric deWaardt

ANNUAL MEETING AND LIVING HISTORY DAY

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 19th as we host our second annual Revolutionary War living history day. The event

is scheduled to coincide with our Annual Meeting, which begins at 11 am in the Chapel. Join us to hear about what Congressional Cemetery has been up to for the past year, and stay for firing demonstrations, medicine and surgery displays, tours, music and more.

The Man Who Could Bend a Dime with His Fingers

BY PAUL K. WILLIAMS

Sadly buried in an unmarked grave at R80/S385 at Congressional Cemetery is Russian-born actor, writer, and director Nicholas Alexander Dunaev, who appeared in no less than thirty-four Hollywood films in the 1910s and 1920s. Long since forgotten, perhaps his most eccentric trait was his unusual ability to bend a dime in half, using only his fingertips. He was obviously a hit at many a Hollywood party in the roaring twenties.

And speaking of parties, Dunaev made news one night in 1924 when he joined Charlie Chaplin and other actors for dinner at the exclusive Café Petroushka in Hollywood. Oil magnate Julian Pete reportedly bumped – on purpose – Chaplin’s controversial date, actress Mary Miles Minter. An accomplished actress, she was blacklisted two years prior when she had been implicated in the mysterious death of director William Desmond Taylor. A fight ensued, Chaplin received a punch to the eye, but our Dunaev came to the rescue during a free-for-all. He punched Julian Pete twice, and was quoted as saying “If Julian had been a dime, I’d have bent him in two.”

Dunaev was born on May 26,

1884 in Moscow, Russia as Nicholas Dunay. He was the son of a Czarist nobleman, former Lord Mayor of Moscow, and a graduate of the University of Moscow Law School. Active in the Russian revolution in 1917, he was an associate of Alexander Kerensky, head of the provisional government which was toppled by the Bolshevik revolution. He was arrested and sent to Siberia in exile, from where he escaped. He made his way to France, where he married novelist Edith Donnerburg; she died just two years later. He once penned, “The act of killing the spirit in a man, of obliterating all sense of honor, faith, and a desire for better things, is as surely homicide as though the man’s soul were taken from his body.”

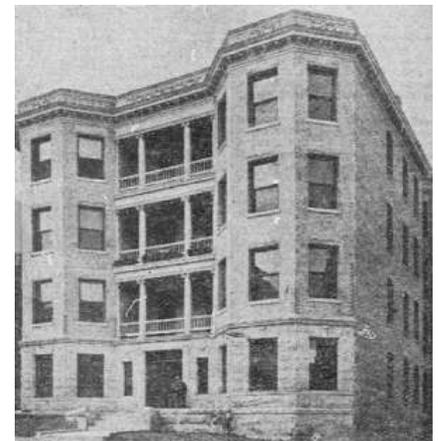
Dunaev came to the United States in 1919 to work as a writer, actor, and director at the Vitagraph Corporation, one of the first motion film companies. To his new American friends, he was known as “Kolya,” short for the way his Russian accent pronounced ‘Nicholas.’ With the advent of “talkies,” Dunaev moved to Hollywood to work for the World



Film Corporation where he earned another nickname, “the strongman from Moscow.” With Otis Skinner, he starred in the original “Kismet.” He also wrote and starred in the play “The Spider,” which played on Broadway in the 1920s.

He married a Ziegfeld Follies dancer named Ina Byron, a relationship that ended in divorce after just two years. He apparently garnered 100,000 votes for Roosevelt, earning a special commendation from the President. Having moved to Washington, D.C. in 1937, he eventually wrote the President in 1947 asking for a job, but was denied due to his Civil Service status. He was broke and destitute, renting the modest apartment C at 1417 Belmont Street, NW (since razed). He authored a novel entitled “Seven Doors to Sin” that was published by Vantage Press in 1954. He eventually moved in with a couple at 931 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, when he fell ill and died in 1963.

Dunaev once wrote, “There can never be a happy ending to a poet’s life, for the ending is its essential tragedy.”



Dunaev’s apartment on Belmont

Travelling from Afar

Every year during the month of February Congressional Cemetery opens the K9 Corps waitlist and invites new members to join the dog walking program.

Although the renewal and waitlist process can be a chaotic time for the cemetery, it also brings its own rewards. The cemetery staff and renewing dog walkers are introduced to new people, new pups, and new stories, which led us to the story of how Kevin Souza found his dog Wahala.

Kevin, a new dog walker, resides in Washington, D.C. with Wahala, although the origins of their story begin much further abroad. After college Kevin decided to join the Peace Corps, serving a total of two years in Niger and extending for another year and a half in Togo. Before he joined the Peace Corps, Kevin had never owned a dog, but by the time he left Togo he had Wahala.

The perception of dogs varies between the countries of Niger and Togo. According to Kevin, while dogs are treated as “loyal guardians” in Niger, in Togo, dogs are not treated as pets. A fellow volunteer of Kevin’s lived adjacent to a compound occupied by a Togolese family, and at the edge of this property lived a stray dog in a storage hut. In return for keeping the area clear of pests, the dog received food scraps from the family. Every year

the stray dog had a litter and the family would sell the puppies. The dog happened to have a litter of puppies while Kevin and his friend were in Togo, and they set about trying to entice the puppies out from the storage hut.

Kevin bought fried peanut resin called kuli-kuli and pounded the resin into a powder. With the bait in hand, they tried to lure the puppies out by placing piles of the powder around the storage hut. Out of all the puppies, only one was brave enough to venture out from the shelter, even letting Kevin pet him while he was eating. When the family decided to sell the litter, Kevin bought the brave puppy. He named the puppy Wahala, which means “troublesome work” in Hausa, a local language in Niger. In Kevin’s words, “Wahala is a very smart and independent dog but he is also a troublemaker. He learned to scale my chain link fence around my garden and proceed to dig up everything I planted.” Wahala’s nickname is Wawa, which is a Hausa word for someone who is “not quite right.” Kevin notes that both names suit his dog well.

Wahala followed Kevin everywhere he went, and slept at the foot of his bed at night. When Kevin left for more than a few days, Wahala would stop eating. It became clear to Kevin that he



could not leave this dog behind in Africa, so when the time came to leave Togo, Wahala came with his owner. The trip wasn’t easy. Kevin lived over six hours away from the nearest international airport. Because Wahala is prone to motion sickness, Kevin purchased the whole backseat of the bus to avoid problems. He decided on a direct flight from Africa to the United States to ease the stress on Wahala, but this involved crossing the border into Ghana to reach the Accra airport. Kevin noted the varying attitudes towards Wahala on his trip: “The Togolese customs agents harassed me in hopes of getting a bribe. The Ghanaian immigration agents were kind and greatly amused by my desire to bring an African dog back to the U.S. The United agents were helpful and sympathetic to my poor dog that had a bad week.” In the end, Kevin and Wahala made it back safely to the States. Thanks to an owner who refused to leave him behind, Wahala now resides in D.C. with Kevin, and the two are welcome and well-travelled additions to Congressional Cemetery’s K9 Corps. ~

April Showers Bring May Flowers

BY MARGARET PUGLISI

Spring is upon us, and with spring the flourish of blossoms erupts throughout the district. Everywhere you look there will be daffodils, crocuses, and cherry blossoms. Congressional Cemetery, with paths plentiful in Kwanzan cherry trees, is one of the most beautiful places to venture during this season. While this is a time for rebirth and budding, there are many spring flowers in the cemetery that are in bloom all year round. The flowers I am referring to happen to be carved in stone. Nestled throughout our cemetery, these flowers battle the bone-chilling snow and overwhelming heat characteristic to D.C., all while maintaining their splendor and grace throughout the entire year. Each blossom carries with it symbolic meaning associated with the loved one celebrated on the memorial.

ROSE:

- “Fragility of life to death”
- “Longevity”
- Venus — “goddess of love,” Red = “martyrdom”
- White = “innocence”



IRIS:

- “A message”
- “Sorrow”
- Iris — “messenger of the gods” offers guidance to heaven



DAISY:

- “innocence”
- “love” – “can grow almost anywhere”
- “hope”



LILY:

- “purity”
- “chastity”
- “attaining heavenly/spiritual qualities”
- “maternal love”



POPPY:

- “consolation”
- “sleep and death” due to the flower’s association with opium
- Mythology of Hypnos– “god of sleep” and Morpheus — “god of dreams”



LILY OF THE VALLEY:

- “innocence”
- “purity”
- “sweetness”
- “chastity”



THISTLE:

- “earthly sorrows”
- Scottish tale of the thistle providing protection when the plants injured barefoot Norse invaders



BUDS:

- “youth”
- “Fragility”



In celebration of our liberation from the incessant snow of winter 2014, we are having a scavenger hunt through the cemetery. Everyone who records the location of six out of the eight varieties illustrated in this article will receive a free t-shirt. Stop by the office with your results to receive your prize.

Information about flower symbolism found in Douglas Keister’s *Stories in Stone* and *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*:

<http://www.almanac.com/content/meaning-flowers>.

Information about flower mythology found on *Encyclopedia of Myths*: <http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Fi-Go/Flowers-in-Mythology.html>.

OPERATION CONSERVATION

SEPTEMBER 20 – 21, 2014 • HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

Save the Date!



On Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21, 2014, The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, partnering with the D.C. Metro Chapter of the Association for Gravestone Studies, will be hosting Operation Conservation, a workshop to provide educational outreach for those in our area who are interested in cemetery conservation.

The workshop will include presentations from the area's leading preservation organizations:

DC Historic Preservation Office
DC Preservation League
DMC Restoration
Oak Hill Cemetery
Robert Silman Associates
Topographix
WebCemeteries.com
Wellman Conservation, LLC
Worcester Eisenbrandt, Inc

The format of the program will integrate a variety of informative lectures with hands-on experience through technique demonstration. Presentation topics will range from conservation of funerary objects and structures to preservation planning and engineering. Cemetery preservation planning presentations will address interpretive and interactive technology options, endangered cemeteries, and discovering unexpected burials. Hands-on demonstrations will consist of repointing, ground-penetrating radar, and common cemetery conservation techniques.

Registration will begin in May. If you would like more information, please email mpuglisi@congressionalcemetery.org.

HCC Receives Green Burial Certification

Historic Congressional Cemetery (HCC) was certified as a green Hybrid Cemetery Provider by the Green Burial Council on March 18, 2014, the only cemetery within a 100-mile radius of Washington, D.C. to achieve the distinction. The certification stipulates that we follow strict standards for truly green burial options, in addition to our more traditional casket burials.



“Green burial options are increasingly popular with pre-planning baby boomers and other socially and environmentally conscious individuals,” says Paul K. Williams, President of HCC, “and with the designation, we are proud to be the only cemetery in the Washington DC metropolitan region to qualify to date.” Green burials have been taking place at HCC for several years, but are now an option anywhere within the cemetery’s 35 acres. Approximately 2,000 full body sites still remain for sale.

At Congressional, a certified green burial does not allow for embalming or use of any concrete vault (partial, inverted or otherwise), lid, concrete box, slab or partial liner. In addition, burial must take place in an eco-friendly container such as a wicker casket or plain wooden box without hardware. Some individuals wish to be buried only clothed in a shroud, which the cemetery also allows as part of its new designation.

As part of the certification process, Congressional also altered its rules and regulations to include family participation in the burial and ritual process itself, including assisting in preparing the grave with flowers, lowering the body, filling of the grave, and assisting in the decorating of the grave after it has been filled.

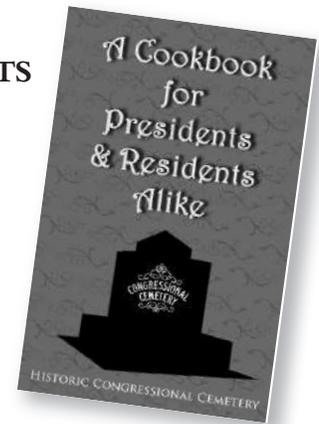
For more information visit the site sales tab on our website or visit www.greenburialcouncil.org.

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Order Form

A COOKBOOK FOR PRESIDENTS AND RESIDENTS ALIKE



Return this form with payment to
Congressional Cemetery
1801 E Street SE
Washington DC 20003

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

_____ Number of books at \$20.00 each

Plus \$3 shipping and handling = _____ Total

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosing a check made out to APHCC

Credit Card MasterCard VISA

Card Number _____

Name on Card _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Honored Ranks

hunt through the Congressional Cemetery shared network drive can elicit a number of finds, the best of which can often be located in the folder entitled “lists.” This simple title belies the complicated nature of the file, as looking through the “lists” folder can be likened to perusing the shelves of a used bookstore. You can’t go in search of something particular, but there are treasures to be found amidst the stacks. All lists refer to individuals interred in the cemetery and bear eclectic titles: Authors, Governors, Grave robbers, Assassinations, Firemen, Masons, and Steamboat men. Some extend for pages, while others are quite short. Perhaps the shortest list is “Medal of Honor at HCC.” Two individuals interred in Congressional Cemetery are recipients of the Medal of Honor

It makes sense that this is list is so small. According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, “the Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States.” The Medal of Honor tradition began during the Civil War when Senator James W. Grimes introduced legislation to distribute medals of honor to the Navy. Legislation for the Army medal of honor followed shortly thereafter. Almost half of all the



Grave of John G. Merritt

medals of honor throughout American history were awarded during the Civil War.

Captain John G. Merritt (Range 72/Site 359) was one of the first recipients of the Medal of Honor. He received this commendation for his actions during the first Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. Merritt “was wounded while capturing flag in advance of his regiment,” the 1st Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers.

Congressional Cemetery’s other Medal of Honor interment is Benjamin F. McAlwee



Grave of Benjamin F. McAlwee

(Range 7/Site 96), who earned his Medal of Honor because of his heroic actions at Petersburg on July 20, 1864. McAlwee “picked up a shell with a burning fuse and threw it over the parapet into the ditch, where it exploded; by this act he probably saved the lives of comrades at great peril of his own.” Throughout the Civil War, McAlwee participated in 27 engagements and was awarded a furlough of 25 days by General Meade for bravery. After the war, McAlwee worked as a watchman at the Treasury Department until the end of his life.

We know very little about these two heroes outside of their Medal of Honor status. Without our “lists” folder, perhaps we wouldn’t know about them at all, so the staff at Congressional Cemetery extend a hearty thank you to Jim Oliver for compiling this information. The presence of two Civil War Medal of Honor recipients within the cemetery’s walls is an honor indeed.

Information about Medal of Honor and recipients: US Army Center of Military Research: <http://www.history.army.mil/index.html>; Congressional Medal of Honor Society: <http://www.cmohs.org/medal-history.php>. Additional details about Merritt and McAlwee found at www.congressionalcemetery.org.

Yes!

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

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other _____

Special donation for the Sousa Gate Project:

Anonymous Yes No

2013 Membership: \$125 Individual \$250 Family

Check enclosed, made payable to Congressional Cemetery

Please charge my credit card Visa Mastercard

Card # _____

Cardmember Name _____ Exp _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Thank you!

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Calendar of Events

- April 5** Weekly docent-led tours resume
- April 13** Back to Life Art Show
- April 19** Annual Meeting and Revolutionary War Living History Event
- May 10** Maibockfest: Book Party and Beer Tasting for Garrett Peck's Capital Beer
- May 17** Food Truck Festival
- June 6** Pride 5k
- June 21** Arsenal Memorial
- August 24** Flee the British 5k
- August 30** Day of the Dog




18th and E Streets, SE.

**IT'S BEST TO KEEP AT LEAST SIX
PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WHO WILL
ALWAYS HELP YOU MOVE.**



You don't have to be rich and famous to be buried in Congressional Cemetery. You just have to be dead.

Green Burial Options

Visit CongressionalCemetery.org for details
(202) 543-0539

Reserve your place in American History
Congressional Cemetery is a non-denominational burial ground open to the whole community. Introducing burial niches next year. Traditional grave sites are available in a number of price ranges. Call today. 202-543-0539