



# Heritage Gazette

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY • SPRING 2015

## Here's to Man's Best Friend

Over the past few decades, dogs have become an integral piece of Congressional Cemetery's identity and existence. The funds gathered from APHCC's membership dog walking program, the K9 Corps, now represent almost a quarter of the Cemetery's operating income. But the buck doesn't stop there. The constant presence of dogs on the grounds helps combat vandalism, a plague on many cemeteries. Moreover, each K9 Corps member is required to contribute eight volunteer hours a year to the cemetery, assisting with projects such as gardening, event support, and ongoing programs such as the condition assessment project. The dog and people members of Congressional Cemetery make an invaluable contribution to the vitality of our unique Capitol Hill landmark.

Every year, Congressional Cemetery expresses its gratitude to our four-legged benefactors by hosting Day of the Dog, an event to celebrate everything we love about pups. This annual event opens the cemetery for one day only to all dogs, not just K9 Corps members. Those who joined us last year enjoyed sharing the day with many local vendors, over 1,000 people and their dogs, a raffle, adoptions from local rescue groups, craft beers from local brewing companies and a variety of activities, games and demonstrations for dogs and their families.

Day of the Dog transitions in 2015 to a spring event, and we look forward to hosting local pet lovers and their pups on May 2nd. This year, we're also hosting a Day of the Dog 5k, and encouraging runners to race with their pups. So raise a glass to man's best friend, and join us for what promises to be our best event yet!

## With Thanks to Our 2015 Sponsors



## Letter from the Chair



Spring has sprung! Or at least I hope it has wherever you live. While Washington D.C.'s tidal basin is the Belle of the Ball during DC's storied cherry blossom season, I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a more glorious setting to view the cherry blossoms than Historic Congressional Cemetery. Our trees usually peak about a week after the tidal basin's trees and the landscape is breath-taking. Not to mention you can walk amongst our trees without the hordes of traffic and people you'll find across town. HCC is one of DC's best kept secrets for a number of reasons, but our cherry blossoms might be at the top of the list.

Spring also is exciting at HCC as we come out of the beautiful stillness of winter and welcome visitors back for a multitude of events. Our regular Saturday morning tours begin in April (led by a battalion of amazingly talented and knowledgeable volunteer docents), followed by a number of regular and special events like outdoor yoga, the Revolutionary War Living History day, book discussions and lectures, special tours on Uppity Women and the Lincoln Assassination, volunteer activities and many other opportunities to get you into the cemetery. Notably, I hope you will join us on May 2nd for our 3rd Annual Day of the Dog. We moved this event up to the spring this year to take advantage of better weather and it has become not only a significant fundraiser for the cemetery but also a wonderful way in which to engage a larger dog-lover community outside of our own amazing K9 Corps. Even those of us that don't have dogs will enjoy a multitude of festivities throughout the day.

I encourage you to check out HCC's newly redesigned website to keep up with the events and activities we have on deck this year. Our staff continues to design creative, fun, and educational events that appeal to a wide variety of interests. We hope to see you many times this year!

—Kelly Crowe



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 three-year anniversary as President of Historic Congressional Cemetery I am reminded just how much has changed in a short period, all of it for the good. We started with just two part-time staff members, and have grown since to include five full-time and two part-time positions, in addition to our contracted grounds maintenance and mowing performed by the Brickman Company.

As a result, much of our monument repair and raising can be done in-house with our expertise in historic preservation and conservation, and we're even teaching other cemeteries how they can do the same — starting with a popular “Operation Conservation” two day workshop we hosted last fall. Volunteers are assisting us to complete a digitized monument condition assessment for all of our markers so we can address those in most critical need in a prioritized manner. We've also restored two mausoleum row roofs thanks to a generous grant from the National Trust and American Express, adding two green live roofs that have served our expanded honey bee population well.

We have also transformed our map from a large map printed in 1935 to an integrated, fully digitized cemetery mapping software system, which allows us to customize and map the actual configuration of gravesites and

inurnments, trees, and add new and columbarium and bench sites. It also allows visitors to instantly find any gravesite, marked or not and we'll soon unveil a new self-guided walking tour map anyone can access from their smartphone. Information and photographs of each site and monument means that researching and finding a suitable site for sale that used to take hours, now takes only minutes. New burials and inurnments entered into the software are automatically updated on our new website as well, where grieving family members can now leave condolences or upload pictures of their long lost relatives.

And we haven't just been mapping above ground, but underground as well, with our Ground Penetrating Radar project progressing nicely. It verifies any and all past burial locations while also mapping our underground infrastructure. Across the cemetery, you might notice about 25 family plot areas that have been adopted and planted by our volunteers and staff, adding both beauty to the grounds and pollen for our bees. And late last year, we also added a new obelisk-shaped columbarium to the grounds that is already about 50% sold out!

We've also been successfully raising funds to match our endowment while running a capital campaign to restore our



An adopted plot within the cemetery.

original, 1856 main gate and make entrance enhancements that include a new side porch with bell cupola, landscaping, and remote opening. We're about 30% towards our goal, and your continued contributions will soon make the project a reality.

But perhaps most important in today's non-profit world, we've gone from being in the red for some time to being in the black and right on budget. Site sales hit an all-time record in 2014 at nearly \$325,000 now that our popular events, activities, and press coverage have let people know who we are, where we are, and that we are an active cemetery still selling plots, most of which are in very desirable historic sections of the grounds.

It has only been possible, however, with the help and dedication of an outstanding staff, Board, volunteers, K9 members, and members of the community, and for that, I extend a large and heartfelt thank you.

—Paul K. Williams, President



# Around the Gatehouse



Imagine this picture in pink.

## A STUDY IN PINK

Spring in Washington, D.C. is almost synonymous with the famed cherry blossoms on the National Mall. Visitors come in droves from all over to view the fluffy pink wonders along the Tidal Basin. However, Congressional Cemetery's cherry blossoms, which bloom a week later than the National Mall's, are nothing to sniff at. And then there's the added bonus of the relative solitude you will experience wandering our grounds in April. If only we could print in color to show you...but you'll just have to take our word for it and come out and see for yourself!

## NEW T-SHIRTS!

If you've ever visited the Congressional Cemetery gift shop, you may have noticed that we have quite a few t-shirts for sale.



We have t-shirts for Dead Man's Run, Day of the Dog, the K9 Corps...and yet, nothing for Congressional Cemetery. We remedied the situation, and now offer City of Silence t-shirts in coral and blue (pictured here). Interested in owning your very own? T-shirts are \$10 (+\$3 shipping), and can be ordered by calling the Gatehouse (202-543-

0539) or emailing [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org) with your order.

## PAINT THE FENCE DAY

The front fence of the cemetery, nearly five hundred feet long, is in need of a new coat of paint. Come out and join us for a day of painting on Saturday, May 16, all tools and materials will be provided. We will meet beside the gatehouse at 11am, and finish working by 3pm. We have had a large number of people sign up already, but we need more of you to be able to complete this project! To sign up email Daniel Holcombe at [dholcombe@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:dholcombe@congressionalcemetery.org).

## A CASUALTY OF WINTER

This winter proved to be too harsh for our greenhouse. Built only two years ago, the greenhouse proved very useful during its life, but the weight of the snowfall and the pressure of the winds caused it to collapse. Although it is not able to be



The sad remains of the greenhouse.

repaired, we have already created plans for its eventual replacement. Donations towards the construction of our new gatehouse are of course welcomed and greatly appreciated!



Installation of green roof in September 2014.

### MAUSOLEUM ROOFS

Although our greenhouse met its demise, the green roof on top of the mausoleums happily survived the winter. The carpet of greenery changes colors with the seasons, and the budding flowers help nurture and sustain the Congressional Cemetery bees. Make sure to stop by the mausoleums on your cemetery walks this spring to check out this colorful addition to the grounds.

### ANNUAL MEETING AND REV WAR DAY

Want to hear about the state of our non-profit? Join us for our Annual Meeting on April 18th at 11 am in the Chapel. As an added incentive, HCC hosts a



free Revolutionary War living history day for the third year, which will be held between 11 am to 3 pm and coincides with the meeting. The College Company of William and Mary will return, and the schedule for the day includes firing demonstrations, tours, music and ongoing living history presentations. In years past, this event has coincided with the peak of our cherry blossoms at the cemetery, so here's hoping that we have the same luck this year (never you worry, we're knocking on wood).

### DEPLOYING THE DOZEN DECENT DOCENTS

The beginning of April and what we hope will be the start of spring also commences the tour



season for Congressional Cemetery. Free introductory tours of the cemetery are offered every Saturday at 11 am, April through October. In addition, there are a number of special tours offered throughout the spring to augment the general tours. Remember to check [www.congressional-cemetery.org](http://www.congressional-cemetery.org) often for an updated schedule of events.



### LAMP POST SPONSORSHIP

You may have seen a new feature recently on the cemetery grounds: a Victorian-style, solar-powered lamppost. Congressional Cemetery has reserved several more of these lampposts, which integrate well with the landscape and style of the rest of the cemetery, but we need your help to install them.

Congressional Cemetery has 10 more lampposts reserved for sponsorship. A sponsorship of one lamppost costs \$500 and includes a plaque inscribed with the sponsor's name, a memorial, or other engraving of the sponsor's choosing. If you would like to help by sponsoring a lamppost, please contact us! Email [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org) or call the front office: 202-543-0539.



## Mayors of the City of Washington

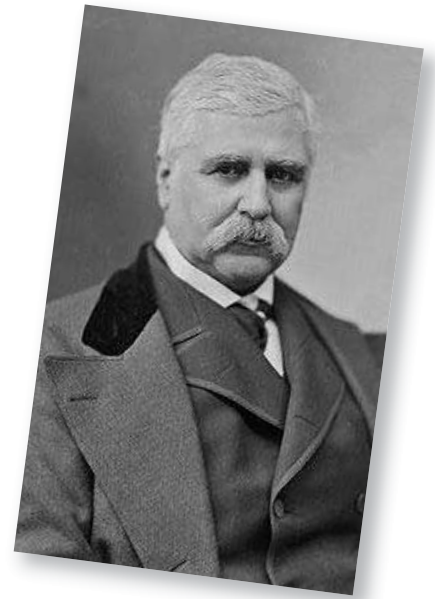
BY PAUL K. WILLIAMS

In the late fall of 2014, Historic Congressional Cemetery was honored to be chosen as the final resting place of Marion Shepilov Barry, Jr. (1936–2014), who served two terms as mayor of Washington, DC. He is considered the capital city's second mayor from 1979 to 1991 and its fourth, from 1995–1999 (like all politics in Washington, D.C., it's not that easily defined).

Throughout the evolution and growth of the city, many don't realize that the City of Washington had dozens of mayors in its early history from the time it was granted a formal government in 1802. Congressional Cemetery happens to be the final resting

place of a total of eleven former mayors, including Barry.

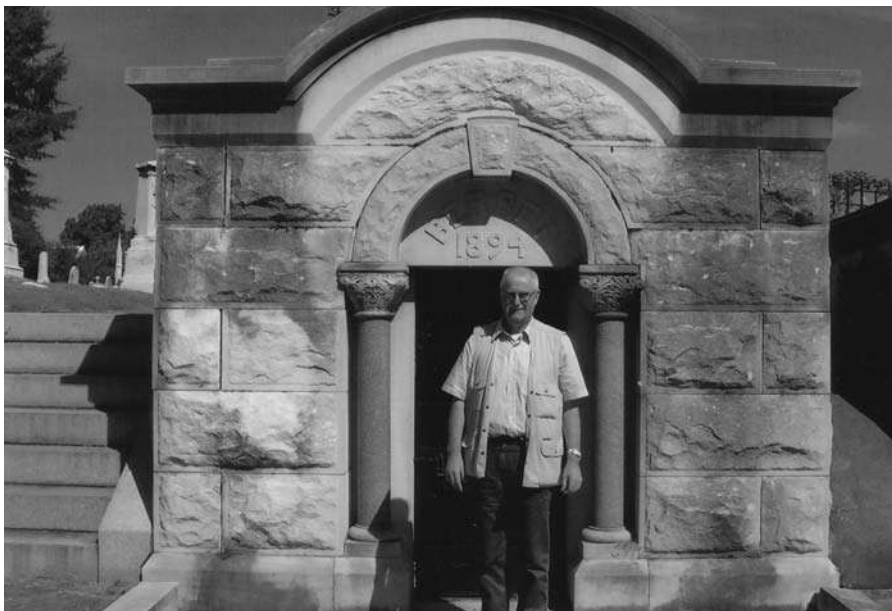
The early Mayor of Washington had authority over city services, appointments, and local tax assessments; however, the duties of the mayor mostly consisted of requesting appropriations from Congress to finance the city. From 1802 to 1812, the mayor was appointed by the President of the United States; between 1812 and 1820, the city's mayors were selected by a city council. From 1820 to 1871, the mayor was popularly elected. Congress formed a territorial government headed by a governor appointed by the President. Due to alleged mismanagement and corruption,



James G. Berrett

including allegations of contractors bribing members of the District legislature to receive contracts, the territorial government was discontinued in 1874.

From 1874 to 1967, the District was administered by a three-member Board of Commissioners with both legislative and executive authority, all appointed by the President. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson presented to Congress a plan to reorganize the District's government. The three-commissioner system was replaced by a government headed by a single mayor-commissioner, an assistant mayor-commissioner, and a nine-member city council, all appointed by the President. Walter E. Washington was appointed the first mayor-commissioner, and Thomas W. Fletcher was appointed the first assistant mayor-commissioner. Since 1975, the District has been



Wolfgang Berrett in front of his ancestor's mausoleum.

administered by a popularly elected mayor and city council, with Walter Washington being elected in 1975.


In the summer of 2014, a German citizen named Wolfgang Berret visited the cemetery looking for the gravesite of his great grandfather, James G. Berret (1815-1901) who just happened to have served as the 18th Mayor of the City of Washington. The young Berret was thrilled when HCC staff showed him the impressive final resting place: the Berret mausoleum, the first impressive structure along our mausoleum row. Wolfgang Barret is pictured here in front of the granite structure.

James Gabriel Berret was an American politician who served as a Maryland state legislator from 1837 to 1839 and as Mayor of the City of Washington from 1858 to 1861, when he was forced to resign from office after

being jailed by the Lincoln administration for sedition. Berret was born in Maryland on February 12, 1815. When he left the Maryland legislature he was appointed to an office in the US Treasury by President Martin VanBuren. He served in the Treasury until 1853, when President Franklin Pierce appointed him Postmaster of the District of Columbia. He served on the inaugural committee for Presidents James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the Republicans in the US Congress pushed through legislation that required all public officers in Union territory to take oaths of allegiance to the United States. When Berret refused, insisting that his oath as mayor of the nation's capital should suffice, Secretary of State William H. Seward had him arrested, jailed in the Old Capi-

tol Prison, then sent to Fort Lafayette, New York. Three weeks later, when no evidence of collaboration with the enemy surfaced, Seward had Berret released and returned to Washington - on the condition that he immediately resign as mayor. Berret telegraphed his resignation to the Washington City Council, who had already elected Richard Wallach to replace him.

Berret eventually became friends with Lincoln, although he declined when the President offered to appoint him commissioner of the emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia. However, he accepted Ulysses S. Grant's nomination to the board of police commissioners in 1872. He later served on the inaugural committee for President Grover Cleveland. Berret died April 14, 1901. His last residence in Washington was at 1535 I Street N.W. 

**MAYORS INTERRED AT CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY INCLUDE:**

<b>TERM</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DEATH DATE</b>
1812-1813	Daniel Rapine	May 11, 1819
1817-1819	Benjamin Grayson Orr	April 10, 1822
1819-1822, 1824	Samuel N. Smallwood	September 29, 1824
1824-1827	Roger Chew Weightman	February 2, 1876
1827-1830	Joseph Gales	July 21, 1860
1840-1850	William W. Seaton	June 16, 1866
1852-1854	John Walker Maury	February 4, 1855
1854-1856	John Thomas Towers	August 11, 1857
1858-1861	James G. Berret	April 14, 1901
1868-1870	Sayles Bowen	December 16, 1896
1979-1991, 1995-1999	Marion S. Barry	November 23, 2014

## The Best of Day of the Dog

Aren't convinced that Day of the Dog is an event that you want to attend? We've included a few of our best shots from the 2014 event to lure you in.



## Westward Bound



John, Amy, and Lou Lou Knebel at the Nationals Stadium

Amy Knebel and her faithful dog Lou Lou walk through Congressional Cemetery's gates nearly every day. Over the past few years, we've become used to the sight of the two of them on their daily walks through good weather and bad. On their stops inside the Gatehouse, we've also discovered that Lou Lou has a penchant for Milk Bones, even though Amy carries much nicer, organic dog treats with her on their daily travels. We think Lou Lou's tastes are quite refined.

Not only is Lou Lou the sweetest of dogs, but Amy is the best of volunteers. When the Knebels joined the K9 Corps, Amy threw herself into helping with Congressional Cemetery events, including HCC's very first Day of the Dog in September 2013. Quite simply put, this event wouldn't have been nearly as successful without the tireless efforts of Amy, who contacted vendors, organized spreadsheets, and offered timely advice throughout the hectic planning process.

We received the news a few weeks ago that Amy and her husband John are moving to sunny Los Angeles, as John found an amazing job with the Dodgers.

Although we are happy that they have this opportunity, the move is certainly bittersweet for the staff at Congressional Cemetery. Yappy Hours, which the Knebel family took very seriously, will never be the same!

We'll miss the Knebel family dearly, but wish them all the best on their future endeavors. We promise to send a Milk Bone care package as soon as you're settled.



## Springtime of Life

BY MARGARET PUGLISI

Beyond the cenotaphs. Past the chapel. Nestled in the valley with the mausoleums keeping watch. This is where the infants and small children rest for eternity.

The concealed valley of Congressional Cemetery, commonly referred to as Baby Land, was primarily used from 1909 through 1920. The surge of child interments in 1918 reflects the spread of Spanish Influenza which became such an epidemic in DC that public spaces, even stores, were closed to reduce the spread of the illness. It is recorded that the outbreak of Spanish Influenza in 1918 caused more American deaths than World War I. (Crosby, Alfred W., *America's Forgotten Pandemic: The Influenza of 1918*, 1989.) The most common cause of death for those interred in Baby Land is pneu-

monia, closely followed by still-born, premature birth, and cholera infantum. Other distinctive causes of death for these little ones include “imperfect development,” “pro-lapsed cord,” “malnutrition,” and “fall from chair.”

The Victorian Era was a time of heightened sentimentality and aspects of everyday life, including death, were idealized. Our society went from abhorring death to romanticizing eternal rest. Along with this change in philosophy came a change in the memorialization of our dearly departed.



No longer were gravestones littered with images of demise — skulls and cross bones — but thoughtfully arranged with iconography that depicted a loved one as merely sleeping.

This, too, shines through with children’s graves. The death of a



Lamb:  
“innocence,” “The Lord is my shepherd.”



Lily of the Valley:  
“innocence,” “one of the first to bloom”



Rose Buds:  
“fragile beginnings of life”



Cherubs:  
“gatekeepers,” “guardians”



Vacant chair, crib, or shoes:  
“emptiness of loss”



Broken column  
or tree stump:  
“a life cut  
short”



Angel:  
“a guardian in  
the journey  
from earth to  
heaven,”  
“messenger”

child is an inconceivable loss, even in the early 20th century when premature death was commonplace. Mourning parents chose to mark the final resting place of their little ones with very expressive and meaningful symbols to reflect their despair.

Statues of angels, cherubs, empty chairs and shoes, sleeping babies, tree stumps, and lambs are prevalent on the memorials to children. You will also find daisies, rose buds, and lily of the valley carved into the stone. Engraved with symbols of innocence, guardian angels, and untimely passing, the loss that these parents endured is still palpable and resonant to passersby of the miniature memorials. 🍷

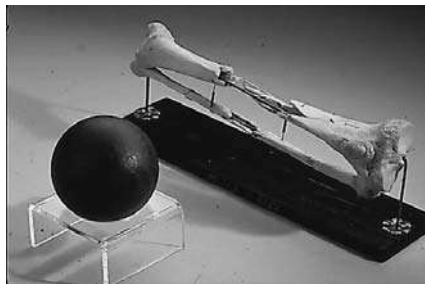
*Information about symbols found in Douglas Keister's Stories in Stone.*

## Archives

# To Limbs Loved and Lost

BY LAUREN MALOY

ivil War buffs and fans of historical trivia know the story well. On July 2, 1863 during the Battle of Gettysburg, Union General Daniel Sickles was hit in the leg by a cannonball. The severity of the injury necessitated amputation, a common life-saving tactic employed by 19th-century surgeons. The general survived the operation and insisted on returning to Washington D.C. shortly after the battle. In a curious turn of events, Sickles decided to donate his severed leg to the newly-created Army Medical Museum, now the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland. According to lore, Sickles visited his leg yearly on the anniversary of the amputation, and reputedly favored bringing attractive young ladies to accompany him on his annual pilgrimage.

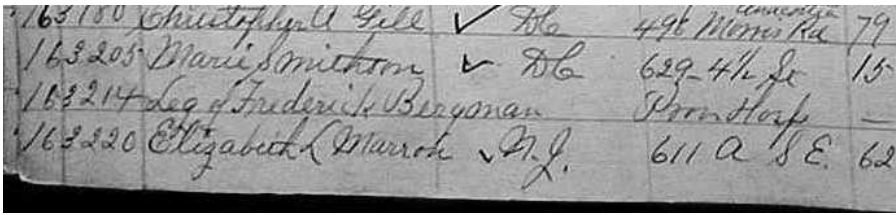


General Sickles' leg.

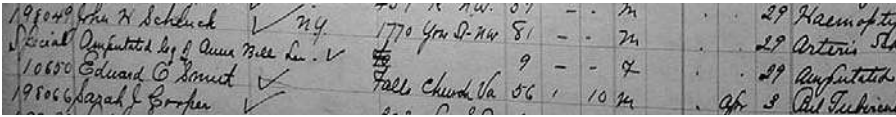
This curious anecdote from the annals of the history highlights an oft-ignored question: what happened (or happens) to amputated limbs? We often think of amputations, as in Sickles' case, occurring in times of war, but any number of incidents and medical situations can lead to amputation. As Congressional Cemetery records show, it was fairly common in the 19th and early 20th centuries to bury severed limbs in cemetery plots. Faithful readers of the newsletter have likely noticed that interesting discoveries in the archives tend to occur in the search for something else entirely. In this case, a perusal of the records brought up the following entry: “Bergman, Frederick (Leg of).” And so the researcher goes down the rabbit hole.

The accident and resulting amputation that Mr. Bergman suffered ultimately cost him his life. However, while he lingered in the months after his accident, his leg was interred at Congressional Cemetery in the family plot, resulting in the “leg of” entry. Further inspection of the records revealed that Mr. Bergman died of his injuries, but





Frederick Bergman entry in daily interment log.



Entry for Anna Bell Lee.



The humble stone of J.A. Craig


as far as the records show, his body was not interred with his amputated leg. While his leg lies in Range 4, Site 248, the rest of his mortal remains are buried in Range 153, Site 228. Perhaps we'll never know why poor Mr. Bergman was not reunited with his lost limb, but one can surmise that at the time of his death, there simply wasn't any more room for a full interment in the family plot, which forced his family members to purchase an additional space.

In some instances, the owner of the buried body part was never interred alongside their amputated limb. The entry for Miss Anna Bell Lee reads "amputated leg only." The records state that Anna was only nine years old when she lost her leg. Luckily, she survived the trauma and one can only hope that she went on to live a long and happy life. Wherever and however she lived, the rest of her remains are not at Congressional Cemetery.

As far as the records show, it was far more common for the individual to eventually be reunited with their lost limb. J.A. Craig is one such individual who we can track through two newspaper articles. In the first, the 1904 Evening Star account describes the incident which cost Craig his legs: "He was employed on the P., W. and B. railroad as a brakeman and while cars were being shifted last night he fell and the wheels of one of the heavy vehicles passed over his legs. Both legs were so frightfully crushed that they had

to be amputated after he reached Providence Hospital." The article notes that his amputated legs were subsequently buried in 1904. Flash forward to over forty years later to a 1945 obituary, which details Craig's final accident at the age of 63: "Police said Mr. Craig, who had artificial legs, got out of his wheel chair and lost his balance." Craig unfortunately perished from these injuries and was interred at the cemetery alongside his legs.

So why do these records matter? Some might say it is cemetery trivia, albeit interesting trivia, but the interment of amputated limbs speaks to a larger historic tradition. For many of us, it can seem strange to bury a body part without the body, as in present-day it is typical for hospitals to dispose of amputated body parts accordingly. But the prevalence of this practice in the past reveals that these body parts were still viewed as an integral piece of the still-living human being, at least by some. Certain modern religious sects, including Orthodox Jews, still firmly believe that all body parts must be interred with the body, continuing this tradition.

The Sickles anecdote, then, makes a certain sort of sense. It is often recounted as an example of his eccentricities, but as we have seen in the Congressional Cemetery records and in some modern instances, it was and is not unusual to think of amputated limbs as an important extension of the person, even when these limbs are no longer a literal part of the whole. 





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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.*

## Calendar of Events

- April 4** 2015 Tour Season Begins
- April 11** Remembering the Lincoln Assassination Tours
- April 18** Annual Meeting and Revolutionary War Living History Day
- May 2** Day of the Dog 5k and Festival
- May 3** Notes from the Crypt Concert
- May 13** Tombs and Tomes Book Club
- May 15** Cinematery Movie Night



18<sup>th</sup> and E Streets, SE.

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