

# HERITAGE GAZETTE

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

## CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY'S "ARLINGTON"

BY DANIEL HOLCOMBE

**F**ar in the Eastern End of the cemetery, there is a group of more than a hundred military graves that are unique here at Congressional. Spread across the cemetery are veterans of every American war, but none grouped together like these men. This is the only section of the cemetery purchased by the government for the purpose of the burial of members of our military.

Our military section is not a cohesive group of men, except that they all served in either the Marine Corps or the Navy, and passed within forty years of each other. Some were too young to have families of

their own to be buried with; some were immigrants from around the world, who came to this country and enlisted, leaving family cemeteries behind.

The Naval Hospital on Pennsylvania Avenue, now the Hill Center, was built to be a state-of-the-art hospital after President Lincoln saw that our nation's veterans were not receiving the quality of healthcare that they deserved. A beautiful building, it received great praise at the time of its construction for taking into account things like ventilation and natural light. Unfortunately many of the treatments were of the era, and probably caused as much damage as the illnesses themselves.

The first man buried in our military section was Edward J. Dougherty. He was a Private in the Marine Corps that was admitted to the Naval Hospital when he complained of having no energy. The doctors believed he was suffering from an inflamed intestinal tract, and treated him with multiple courses of port wine, but after initial improvement his health rapidly declined. He was

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Happy Spring to all of our readers and supporters! I imagine wherever you are across the country reading this you have seen or are beginning to see the signs of Spring. Certainly, for those of us lucky enough to live nearby, the cemetery emerges from a winter stillness to be one of the more beautiful places to visit in DC in March and April.

The Association's by-laws direct us to make any necessary changes to the board of directors at the March meeting of each year. So, it also ends up being when we sadly have to say goodbye to directors that have reached term limits or need to cycle off for other reasons. It is always bitter-sweet and this year was no different. I would like to recognize Amy Ballard, Chris Kennedy and Sid Neely for their service to, support of, and love for HCC. They all provided great counsel to the board and the staff and each contributed beyond what is generally expected of a board member. Amy, Chris and Sid — thank you and we look forward to continuing to see you around HCC!

When considering how to fill these positions (and they are big shoes to fill!), the board decided to expand the number of directors by two, to 15 people (our by-laws allow up to 17 members). Last November, when the board met for a strategic off-site session, we identified the characteristics or professions that we thought were important to have represented on the Board. Some of those included financial management, fund-raising, legal, community activism, etc. I'm happy to say that our nominating committee (Sharon Bosworth and Rebecca Roberts) put forth a wonderful slate of professionals with those skills, which was approved unanimously at the March meeting. So, let me be the first to welcome the following new board members to the Association: Mark Adelson (as Treasurer), Shawn Freeman (as a representative of Christ Church), David Glaser, David Jones, and Joel Samuels. In addition to having impressive professional credentials, these new members also come as dog-walkers, neighbors, site owners, donors, and/or volunteers. Finally, the Executive Committee had a few changes as well, with Sue Urahn moving up to Vice Chair, Steve Gardner joining as Secretary and new member Mark Adelson replacing Sid as Treasurer. The Executive Committee meets 18 times each year (12 EC meetings and 6 Board meetings) so this is no small commitment and I want to thank this new team in advance for their generosity.

Lastly, with the recent renewal period complete, I want to recognize the entire K9 community. Although HCC is first and foremost an active and historic burial ground, it would not be what it is today without the presence and support of the dog walkers and their furry, four-legged friends. Welcome to those of you that may have been on the waiting list for several years and thank you to all of you for keeping HCC vibrant, safe, clean, and relevant. You are such an amazing constituency and the Board is grateful for your contributions — both of your presence and your financial support.



—Kelly Crowe



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kelly R. Crowe, Chairperson  
Susan Urahn, Vice Chairperson  
Mark Adelson, Treasurer  
Stephen Gardner, Secretary  
Ted Bechtol  
Sharon Bosworth  
Stephen F. Brennwald  
Shawn Freeman  
David Glaser  
David Jones  
Edward S. Miller  
Rebecca Roberts  
Joel Samuels  
Rhonda Sincavage  
Beverly Ward

### STAFF

Paul K. Williams, President  
Margaret Puglisi, Vice President  
Lauren Maloy, Program Director  
Daniel Holcombe, Grounds  
Conservation Manager  
Crystal Pate, Office Manager  
Dayle Dooley, Archivist  
Andrea O'Hara, Finance  
Randolph King, Groundskeeper

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

I am delighted to report that through your efforts and donations, Historic Congressional Cemetery had another financially successful year in 2015, raising \$976,000 for all aspects of cemetery operation. We ended the year with more than expected revenue and a net income of nearly \$80,000. With your help, we were also able to contribute \$42,000 toward our second endowment match, and have formed an ad hoc Committee that has made great progress in raising the remaining \$793,000 for the endowment that will ensure the continued restoration and preservation of the historic grounds in perpetuity.

We witnessed the installation and landscaping of our first obelisk-shaped columbarium south of the chapel, which vastly improved the aesthetic of the area. It also proved to be a very popular alternative to inurnments in the ground, and we have sold a total of eighteen of the twenty niches! Not to worry, however, as we have ordered a second obelisk columbarium to be located along Ingle Street on the east of the Chapel. In all, we had a total of 35 funerals last year.



I've also been able to verify larger numbers of visitors to the cemetery as we printed a record number of introductory tours in 2015, released a free smartphone App that directs relatives to any particular gravesite in the cemetery, and had sold-out attendance at our Soul Strolls and other events. People seem to have discovered where we are, and who we are.

Daniel Holcombe had a Boy Scout Eagle project gather, restore, and paint all of the 25 antique wrought iron benches located throughout the cemetery last fall, and another Eagle project strip, paint and support a Victorian-era decorative fence surrounding a large family plot. And while we are talking paint, we had a fun “paint the fence” day with dozens of volunteers helping us painting the very tall, c. 1856 wrought iron fence that lines our main entrance. It's long, too, at 1,600 feet. We were also able to raise more than 100 headstones atop properly installed foundations.



Looking forward to 2016, the cemetery plans to restore the roof and façade of our own c. 1896 Wilson/Barton mausoleum along mausoleum row. It has been left vacant since 1986 when the family remains were removed elsewhere, and we plan on restoring and

sealing the brick barrel vault-shaped roof and adding a green roof to join two others installed on the row, to the delight of our honey bees. The façade will be restored and cleaned, and the interior prepared for future use, likely for inurnment niches.

If you visit in the upcoming year, you will also notice a fresh coat of paint on the gatehouse, and a new handicapped second public bathroom at the rear of the garage.

As I approach my four year anniversary, it has been a pleasure serving you all, and the needs of your family and friends. Thank you for your support, and don't hesitate to make a suggestion or contact us with any concerns.

— Paul K. Williams, President

## AROUND THE GATEHOUSE

### NEW EVENT SCHEDULE

Want to know what events are coming up on Congressional Cemetery's schedule? You don't have to wait for the newsletter to find out! Our 2016 calendar of events is available for download on our website, [www.congressionalcemetery.org](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org). Print it off, stick it on the fridge, and mark your calendars! Be sure to check our website and social media often as some dates may change and some events may be added throughout the year.

### K9 CORPS RENEWALS



Another year down! The 2016 K9 Corps renewals have officially completed. We invited over 100 accounts off of the waitlist, bringing the total count of dogs to around 770. This year, we hosted orientations in a new location to accommodate more members.

The Naval Lodge at 330 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE was kind enough to donate their space for our multiple sessions. Over 600 dog walkers have now officially renewed their membership in the K9 Corps: whew!

### ANNUAL MEETING: APRIL 16

Save the date for our annual meeting! Come to the Chapel on April 16th at 9 am to hear the state of affairs and how our nonprofit is doing. Hint: we're doing great. We hope you can make it and glimpse the cemetery in spring, which is a worthy trip in and of itself!



### DAY OF THE DOG: MAY 7

Here we go again! Our popular Day of the Dog event is back for its fourth year. This year, we're adding even more vendors and activities, and can promise plenty of cute adoptable pups, tasty food, craft beer, music, and a 5k race to boot. Entrance to the festival is free and you can sign up for the 5k through our website. Bring the whole family — especially your four-legged friends!

### CHAPEL RENTALS

As you've probably realized from reading our newsletter, we have a variety of events in the Chapel throughout the year. We utilize it for weddings, cocktail parties, chamber music concerts, book clubs, and of course, memorial services. The



Chapel is also available for rental for private events, and you can find more information and rates on [www.congressionalcemetery.org/burials-and-services.asp](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org/burials-and-services.asp), or by contacting [cpate@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:cpate@congressionalcemetery.org).

## CULTURE CANNOT WAIT!

BY MARGARET PUGLISI

The Smithsonian Institution and the International Centre for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments (ICCRUM) host an annual course titled First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis, in which attendees acquire skills to safeguard objects of cultural importance in times of catastrophe, both natural and man-made. It is common to see first aid crews on the scene helping injured people, but if a bomb goes off at a historic site, who makes sure that objects such as the Elgin Marbles or a mosaic in a 5th century shrine are secured? This is the first year that the course will be offered in the United States, and guess which cemetery gets to be a part of the action! Congressional Cemetery will be the site of an earthquake simulation in June, during which the attendees will assess the damage of the earthquake, prioritize their findings, and seek to stabilize the most at-risk objects affected by this staged disaster. This type of disaster simulation will help the attendees to be prepared for events such as the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti and the 2015 earthquake that wreaked havoc in Nepal. But, have no fear! There will be no shaking of precious monuments for this simulation as Congressional Cemetery has plenty of earthquake-like damage to satisfy this course.

## NEW PEACE POLE DEDICATION

BY PAUL WILLIAMS

A new peace pole was dedicated on September 20, 2015 at the cemetery to mark the International Day of Peace. The Peace Pole has inscribed “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in eight languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, German and Choctaw. It joins over 200,000 Peace Poles located in over 180 countries around the globe. They can be found in

town squares, schools, parks, and even in some extraordinary places like the Pyramids of El Giza in Egypt, Angkor Wat in Cambodia, and the magnetic North Pole in Canada.

The Peace Pole Project is the official Project of The World Peace Prayer Society. It was started in 1955 in Japan by Masahisa Goi, who decided to dedicate his life to spreading the message, “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in response to the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Peace Poles are handcrafted monuments erected the world over as international symbols of



Peace. Their purpose is to spread the message in the many languages of the world. The pole at Congressional Cemetery is the first time the language was translated into Choctaw, representing tribe members interred here, and was manufactured in northern Michigan.

The ceremony was led by Tom ‘Gator’ Swann, President of Veterans For Peace, an international not-for-profit organization that seeks to abolish war. Remarks were made by Mike Marceau, head of the DC chapter of Veterans for Peace, and music was provided by Richard Finn. The pole was funded by the Jon Castro Chapter of the Veterans for Peace based in Palm Springs, California.

# ENLIGHTENING READERS: UNUSUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

BY PAUL K. WILLIAMS

Searching the cause of death in our cemetery records can cause one to get lost for hours — who knew there were so many different ways to suffer the ultimate demise throughout time? We have everything from a tiger bite (really), train crashes, spills, explosions, infections, fires, and a falling piano (yes, really). But there are two individuals that caught my eye — death by lightning. And it is something I know a little about, having been struck by lightning myself in 1980 or so, and again — that’s right twice — in June of 2001. Thankfully, I survived to tell the tale.

Our first lightning victim was a man by the name of Henry F. Bauman, who was struck and killed on September 2, 1921, at 5 p.m. while he was working as a civilian employee in the poultry yard on the grounds of the Soldier’s Home, where he also resided. He was age 59, having been born in 1862, and was one of three people killed in the city that day in violent storms. Following a very brief funeral in the chapel there, and a brief notice in the local newspaper, he was laid to rest in R142/S195 on September 5th, in a grave which remains unmarked to this day.

Our other victim of a lightning strike was 33 year-old, one-legged Richard B. Smith. The incident took place at the Tidal basin bathing beach on the morning of July 13, 1903, during a violent storm that injured dozens of others, while also killing four delivery wagon horses that day.

The *Evening Star* newspaper reported the incident that day as follows:

“Death and destruction followed in the wake of yesterday’s storm, shortly after noon. At times it appeared that even the houses were shaken, and the thousands of persons who were on the streets,

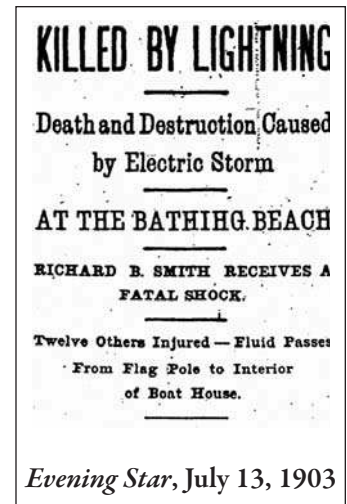
returning from the morning services in the churches, were forced to seek shelter in any convenient place. Some went under awnings and were drenched, while many of those who sought shelter in street cars were no better off. Lightning struck a number of places and did considerable damage.

The most serious damage done was at the bathing beach, where one life was sacrificed and a dozen persons were injured. The man who was killed was Richard B. Smith, a one-legged man, who was employed as a machinist in the navy yard. His home was at 613 South Carolina Avenue.”

Just before the strike, Smith had helped a young boy out of the water and told him “there was no use trying to dodge the lightning...it would do no good to run, as one place was no safer than another.” Bathers who had reached the boathouse watched in horror as Smith was struck dead, and several others knocked unconscious. The tall flagpole on the boathouse had been struck, with the charge transferred to those inside, even starting a few people’s clothes on fire.

Smith’s death certificate, the *Star* reported, showed that he had “two distinct marks on his body showing the lines traversed by the lightning.” He was buried in R116/S185b, in another unmarked burial.

As summer approaches, remember that lightning can travel up to 14 miles horizontally before it reaches the ground, and it’s never a good idea to take shelter under a large tree. Smith was right: there is no safe place outside during a violent thunderstorm. ~

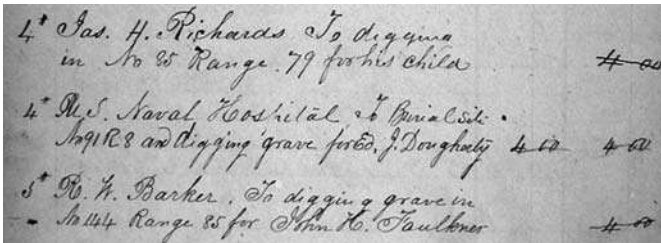


## CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY'S "ARLINGTON"

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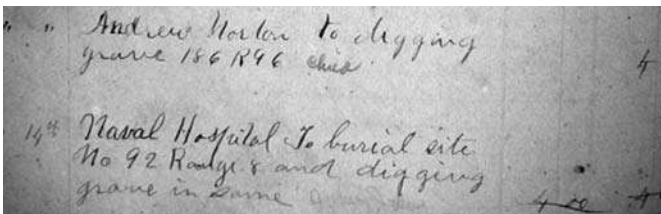
changed from port wine to arrowroot mixed with brandy, as well as placing soda bicarbonate on the back of his tongue every hour, and had a hot poultice placed on his belly.

After beginning this second phase of his treatment, Dougherty began vomiting, and was given morphine in sherry wine and flaxseed tea, as well as turpentine diluted into sugared ice water. On his third day in the hospital Edward Dougherty passed on June 3rd, 1868, to be buried here in Congressional the following day.



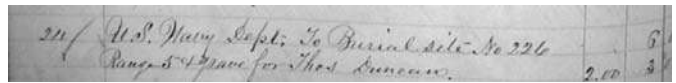
**Our daily interment log showing Dougherty being buried for four dollars on June 4th, 1868.**

Three months later, our military section received its second interment. Private John James of the Marine Corps, at age 51, swallowed "two fluid ounces of dichloride of mercury with an intent to self-destruct." Doctors at the Naval Hospital gave the patient egg whites as an antidote, but his stomach did not improve. Next they had James drink wine and beef tea, but he became delirious and "emitted a cadaverous odor." James would pass after four days in the hospital, on July 13, 1868, his burial at Congressional was the following day.



**Daily interment log for John James, buried for four dollars, on July 14th, 1868.**

Thomas Duncan was buried in our military section in 1882. He passed, however, while working at the



**Daily interment log entry for Thomas Duncan, being buried on January 24th, 1882, this time for five dollars, and the plot purchased for six.**

Naval Yard as a civilian carpenter and caulker who was working in the rigging of the U.S. Training Ship Portsmouth. On January 23rd, 1882, he fell overboard while working into the presumably freezing waters of the Anacostia River. Francis Moore, age 26, a Boatswain's Mate, jumped overboard following Duncan, in an attempt to save his life. Duncan could not be saved however, and passed that day; Moore survived, and was granted a Medal of Honor. The citation reads:

### FRANCIS MOORE.

Boatswain's mate, for jumping overboard from the U. S. training ship *Portsmouth*, at the Washington Navy Yard, January 23, 1882, and endeavoring to rescue Thomas Duncan, carpenter and calker, who had fallen overboard. (G. O. 326, Oct. 18, 1884.)

The last burial to take place was that of Samuel Eopolucci. Samuel was a Musician First Class in the Marine Corps, who passed at the Naval Hospital on March 4th, 1905. His mother and father, Elizabeth and Antonio, are buried in another section of the cemetery; his father was also a musician in the Marine Corps. Samuel left behind his wife and children; his widow was granted a pension of eight dollars a month after her husband's passing, plus two more dollars for each child under the age of sixteen.

From musicians and carpenters to sailors and infantry, these men represent the breadth of our military. Though the section was largely forgotten in the East End, just two years ago we added a flag pole to recognize the service of these men. It unfortunately was broken in a wind storm this winter, and we are currently asking for donations to have a new pole placed, so that the flag can again fly above their graves. ~

## MARK THAT!

BY MARGARET PUGLISI

**D**id you know that Congressional Cemetery has over 68,000 burials? Another interesting fact: Congressional Cemetery has approximately 14,000 headstones.

“How could that be,” you say? While many interments are recorded together on a common memorial, such as a family monument, far more burials were never even marked. It’s possible that this is due to lack of nearby family at the time of death or lack of financial means. Despite the absence of a tangible memorial, Congressional Cemetery has a record of all of these unmarked burials and their locations.

It is not uncommon for descendants who are searching for the graves of their ancestors to visit Congressional Cemetery and leave disappointed that a headstone does not stand in tribute.

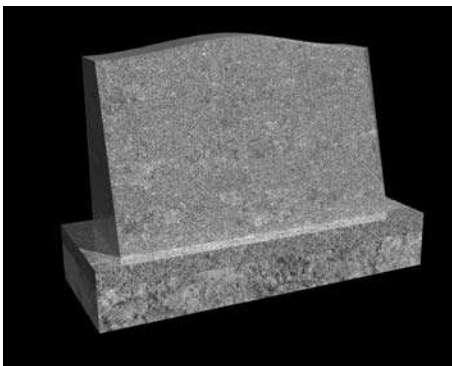
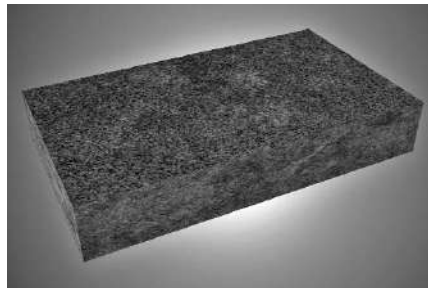
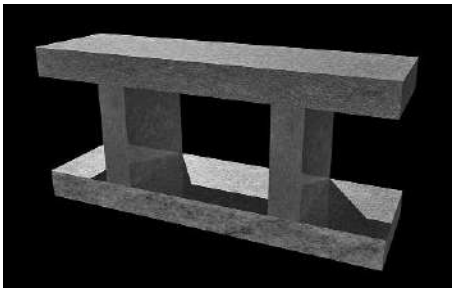
Luckily, that family member’s grave does not have to remain vacant for eternity. Gravestones provide a fami-

ly with a tangible remembrance of their departed loved one, and when personalized, can become a source of comfort and memory for the grieving during their visit.

Congressional Cemetery has recently launched a program to provide marker options for families interested in memorializing a life. In addition to a quality memorial with damage insurance, each purchase contributes to our Endowment Fund which provides funding to maintain and preserve the site in perpetuity.

With so many options, you are sure to find a memorial that pays appropriate tribute to your ancestor or recently departed loved one. From flat markers and benches to upright and specialty monuments, Congressional Cemetery coordinates the design, order, and installation of a memorial for you.

Please contact Historic Congressional Cemetery for more information. 



**This is just a small selection of the styles available through our memorial program.**



## BOARD PROFILE

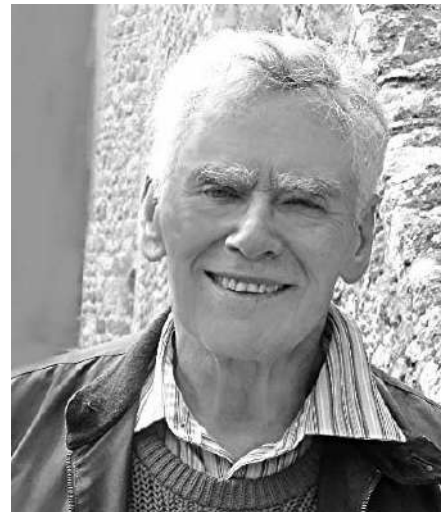
Ed Miller is an enthusiast of American history and a dedicated supporter of the Historic Congressional Cemetery. His two passions merged one day in 2006 when his wife arrived on a group tour. He and Joyce were no longer young—"I was born in the Hoover Administration; do the math", he says. They had yet to choose a final resting place. She was skeptical of the somewhat ramshackle grounds while Ed, as he cheerfully researched legendary congressmen in cenotaph row, foresaw a restored garden spot. They soon purchased two grave sites along a path one hundred feet west of the chapel beneath a spreading cherry tree.

The Millers donated funds and enjoyed reenactments and celebrations at the cemetery. Sadly, Joyce passed away in 2009. An overflow crowd of admirers attended her ceremony in the chapel. She was laid to rest under the tree. Ed and his adult children commissioned a bench of white marble inscribed to her memory where weary visitors now rest a while.

Bylaws of the Association for Governance of the HCC stipulate that three members of its board of directors must be site owners. In 2011 Ed was elected to the board, and later reelected to a second term, in view of his financial skills and his experience as a trustee of charities. His lifetime career had culminated as chief financial officer of a Fortune-500 international mining corporation in New York and Greenwich, CT. In 1996 the Millers retired to Washington DC ("to be near my money," he says) to live at The Watergate. He wrote two first-class histories of American strategy leading up to the war against Japan, published by the U.S. Naval Institute. Meanwhile the Miller American History Fund continues to enrich the collections of the Library of Congress.

On the board Ed has championed innovation and financial security. Donations by him and his associates funded a high tech survey of the entire grounds and its

sixty-thousand graves by satellite mapping and underground penetrating radar. The survey has been a boon to site sales and to correcting two centuries of



"where are the bodies" mapping errors. During a period of financial stress Ed urged the shoring up of revenues from site sales, public events, and dog walkers. Most recently he urged achievement of security through enhancing the cemetery's endowment. Back in the 1990s the grounds had deteriorated so badly that the U.S. Congress posted a challenge grant of one million dollars for an endowment. Cemetery leaders solicited donors to contribute a matching amount. Both halves were invested in a fund managed by the National Trust for Historic Places. Congress has extended another million dollar challenge but donors have matched only twenty percent so far. Ed has joined with other directors to promote securing of the second \$2 million as the highest priority goal. Earnings of the enlarged endowment will ensure maintenance of the beautiful grounds in perpetuity.

Edward S. Miller will leave the board in 2017 due to 6-year term limits. He looks back with pride on the restorations, the enthusiastic new staff, and the fiscal strength of this historic gem. He is sure to be present every November 6 when the Marine Corps Band, "The President's Own", parades in to perform the booming marches of John Philip Sousa at his tomb adjacent to Joyce's. His plan is to persuade the marines to serenade her, and eventually himself, with a lyrical Sousa ballad. ~

# DECIPHERING DEATH

BY LAUREN MALOY

WE ALL LABOUR AGAINST OUR OWN CURE, FOR DEATH IS THE CURE OF ALL DISEASES.

—Sir Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici*

Perusing Congressional Cemetery’s daily interment logs can be hard on the eyes. The looping script and faded ink require a great deal of squinting and frankly, expertise. HCC’s archivist and genealogist, Dayle Dooley, routinely utilizes the interment logs for research into family histories and thus, she is more familiar than the rest of the staff with decoding the entries. But even Dayle needs another set of eyes with some of the entries. I’ve been called over to puzzle over proper names quite a few times — “is that a P? Or an F? None of the above?” But unless you’re well versed in medical history, at

times the cause of death can be the most perplexing aspect of entries.

What does it mean if someone dies of Marasmus? Or Coup de Soleil? Luckily, the modern age has given us Google, and there are some handy glossaries online that decode archaic names for diseases. Marasmus is the “progressive wasting away of the body, like malnutrition,” coup de soleil was sunstroke. Apoplexy = stroke, Bright’s disease = kidney disease, and phthisis also translated to “chronic wasting away.”\* And so on, and so on.

All of these maladies have been noted in our daily

| RECORD OF INTERMENTS |       |     |                  |                |                |       |        |      |     | RECORD OF INTERMENTS |               |       |     |                   |                   |                    |     |           |           |                |                    |         |
|----------------------|-------|-----|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|--------|------|-----|----------------------|---------------|-------|-----|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| YEAR                 | MONTH | DAY | NAME             | PLACE OF BIRTH | LATE RESIDENCE | AGE   |        |      | SEX | SOCIAL STATE         | DATE OF DEATH |       |     | CAUSE OF DEATH    | DATE OF INTERMENT | PLACE OF INTERMENT |     | LOT       | LOCATION  | GRAVE FEE      | NAME OF UNDERTAKER | REMARKS |
|                      |       |     |                  |                |                | YEARS | MONTHS | DAYS |     |                      | YEAR          | MONTH | DAY |                   |                   | SECTION            | LOT |           |           |                |                    |         |
| 246832               | Jan   | 11  | John L. Gould    | Ohio           | 641 J. Ave     | 64    | -      | -    | M   |                      | 1918          | Oct   | 12  | Influenza         | 1918              | Oct                | 13  | Orange St | 1000      | John R. Nelson |                    |         |
| 246832               | Jan   | 11  | John L. Gould    | Ohio           | 641 J. Ave     | 64    | -      | -    | M   |                      | 1918          | Oct   | 12  | Influenza         | 1918              | Oct                | 13  | Orange St | 1000      | John R. Nelson |                    |         |
| 246833               | Jan   | 20  | Marie Sherman    | "              | 332 S. 2 E     | 20    | -      | -    | F   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 14  | 134/180   | 1000      | John R. Nelson |                    |         |
| 246874               | Jan   | 19  | John C. Beach    | "              | 646 E. 2 E     | 19    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 13  | 160/187   | 1000      | John R. Nelson |                    |         |
| 246992               | Jan   | 28  | John H. Bridges  | "              | Grand Ave      | 28    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 14  | 48/320    | 1000      | O. H. Wink     |                    |         |
| 246936               | Jan   | 32  | John S. Byham    | "              |                | 32    | -      | -    | M   |                      | 1918          | Jan   | 16  | Cerebral          | "                 | "                  | 10  | 118/201   |           |                |                    |         |
| 246786               | Jan   | 33  | Josephine Brown  | Ohio           | 1301 Bidwell   | 33    | -      | -    | F   |                      | 1918          | Oct   | 12  | Pneumonia         | "                 | "                  | 118 | 201       |           |                |                    |         |
| 246788               | Jan   | 33  | William W. Lewis | Mo. Union      | 317 E. 2 E     | 33    | -      | -    | M   |                      | 1918          | Oct   | 12  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 121 | 252       | 1000      | P. A. Tullman  |                    |         |
| 247004               | Jan   | 32  | John K. Bondick  | Ind            | 1424 D. 2 E    | 32    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Pneumonia         | "                 | "                  | 13  | 738/217   | 1000      | H. B. Jones    |                    |         |
| 247042               | Jan   | 30  | William V. Smith | Dis. Cent.     | 1879 Union     | 30    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 13  | Apoplexy          | "                 | "                  | 13  | 84/256    | 1000      | John S. Murray |                    |         |
| 247030               | Jan   | 31  | John C. Hartman  | "              | 24 K. 2 E      | 31    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Scruppe           | "                 | "                  | 15  | 140/170   | 1000      | John R. Nelson |                    |         |
| 247069               | Jan   | 26  | William C. Smith | "              | 109 W. 2 E     | 26    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Colic             | "                 | "                  | 13  | 70/171    | 1000      | H. M. Probst   |                    |         |
| 247074               | Jan   | 9   | Amie Galatiano   | Virginia       | 336 2d St      | 9     | -      | -    | F   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 15  | 416/380   | No charge | Geo. P. Probst |                    |         |
| 247075               | Jan   | 23  | John S. Robinson | Dis. Cent.     | 2302 Walnut    | 23    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 15  | 106/209   | 1000      | Wm. H. Scott   |                    |         |
| 247088               | Jan   | 18  | Charles Dean     | Illinois       | Rowl. Ave      | 18    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 13  | Scruppe           | "                 | "                  | 13  | 121/250   | 1000      | O. H. Wink     |                    |         |
| 247088               | Jan   | 3   | John L. Davis    | "              |                | 3     | -      | -    | M   |                      | 1918          | Jan   | 3   | Cerebral          | "                 | "                  | 10  | 117       | 203       | 0.00           | Wm. H. Scott       |         |
| 247088               | Jan   | 11  | John S. Brown    | Illinois       | West D. 2 E    | 11    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 11  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 11  | 117       | 203       |                |                    |         |
| 247070               | Jan   | 7   | John S. Brown    | Illinois       | 617 E. 2 E     | 7     | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 11  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 11  | 48        | 321       | 1000           | Samuel Jones       |         |
| 247194               | Jan   | 29  | John S. Brown    | Illinois       | 2560 D. 2 E    | 29    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 11  | Scruppe           | "                 | "                  | 16  | 120       | 201       | 400            | Samuel Jones       |         |
| 247134               | Jan   | 29  | John S. Brown    | Illinois       | 1816 D. 2 E    | 29    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 12  | Influenza         | "                 | "                  | 16  | 120       | 201       | 1000           | Wm. H. Scott       |         |
| 247003               | Jan   | 30  | John S. Brown    | Illinois       | 308 E. 11 E    | 30    | -      | -    | M   |                      | "             | "     | 14  | Spanish Influenza | "                 | "                  | 16  | 111       | 249       | 500            | Samuel Jones       | 240     |

internment logs, some with more frequency than others. It seems quite common to have suffered from exhaustion or wasting away, less so to die of sunstroke. At a glance, diseases rather than accidents “win” the day, proving the oft-told point that Washington, DC wasn’t the healthiest of environments. Yellow fever, cholera, and diphtheria were prevalent in the muggy climate and rustic conditions of nineteenth-century DC.

A particularly devastating disease for DC residents was the Spanish Influenza. The disease struck during the last throes of World War I and gripped the world, but it’s difficult to paint a picture of exactly how the crisis affected DC without looking at cemeteries’ interment records. And the Congressional Cemetery records are sobering. Autumn 1918 was the height of the epidemic in the United States. If you flip to October 1918 in the daily interment logs, you see proof of the calamity in the inscriptions. On one page in mid-October (pictured here), over 75% of the recorded deaths were due to the Spanish Flu.

Knowing a little about how these deaths were recorded aids an understanding of the crisis. Victims of the Spanish Flu were denoted in different ways, and you can see examples of many on this page. Spanish Influenza, Influenza, and La Grippe were commonly

used to describe the epidemic. Pneumonia victims were also strewn amongst the pages. Pneumonia was a bacterial infection that commonly followed the flu, and the National Institute of Health reported that most deaths during the 1918 pandemic resulted from the bacterial infection, rather than the virus itself.

It may seem that inspecting recorded deaths might be a depressing task, and at times it can be. Sometimes century-old deaths can seem just as tragic and real as recent interments. But beyond mere curiosity, why does it matter to know and decrypt the cause of death? Examining the internment logs allows us to see patterns, tell stories, and perceive the bigger picture of how “residents” lived and died. It can be tricky to decipher archaic names and handwriting, but inevitably it allows us to use death to broaden our knowledge of the thousands of people buried here. ∞

#### SOURCES:

Research of Sandy Schmidt, [www.bytesofhistory.org](http://www.bytesofhistory.org)  
National Institutes of Health, “Bacterial Pneumonia Caused Most Deaths in 1918 Influenza Pandemic,” August 2008.

\*Old Diseases and Their Modern Definitions,  
<http://www.disease.pricklytree.co.uk/>



## TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS!

We thought it was time for the *Heritage Gazette* to get a style update, but what do you think? We’d love to hear your thoughts. Email [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org) with any feedback or let us know via our social media channels, Facebook and Twitter.



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| April 16 | Annual Meeting      |
| May 7    | Day of the Dog      |
| May 14   | Civil War Tour      |
| May 14   | Outdoor Yoga Mortis |
| June 10  | Pride 5k            |
| June 17  | Cinematery          |

  
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