

HERITAGE GAZETTE

SUMMER 2017

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

BRADEMAS MAUSOLEUM

At Congressional Cemetery, most of our mausoleums were constructed around the turn of the twentieth century and occupy the imaginatively-named “Mausoleum Row” on the southern end of the cemetery. But soon, a new mausoleum will grace the grounds of HCC.

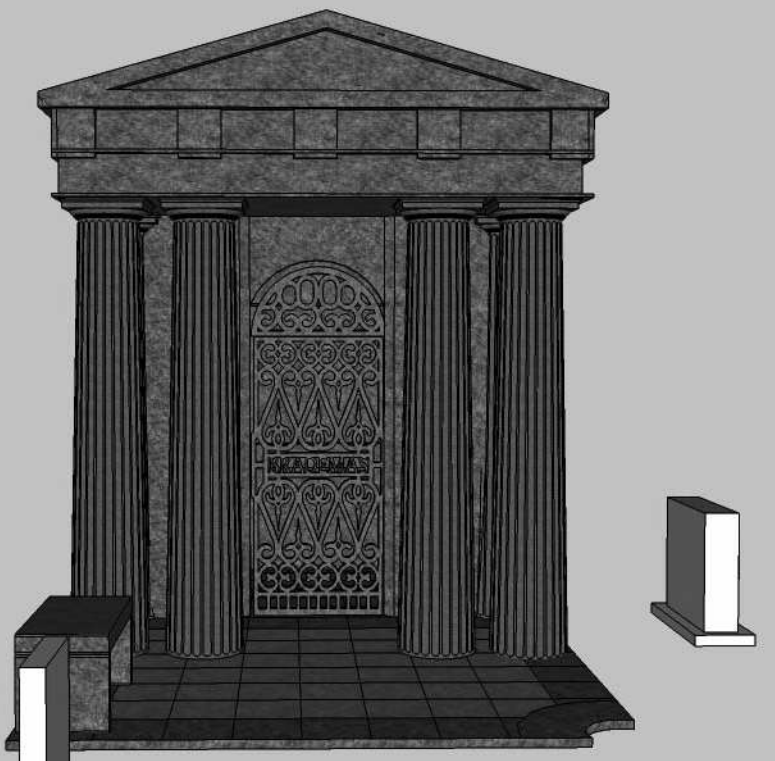
Congressman John Brademas died at the age of 89 on July 11, 2016, and will be memorialized at Congressional Cemetery as part of a spectacular new mausoleum

being constructed by his widow, Mary Ellen Brademas of New York City. Located not far from our first section of Congressional cenotaphs, the large red granite structure was designed by Eastern Memorials artist Anthony DelGallo in a very precise Greek Doric order representing a Greek temple. It will measure 18 feet by 11 feet, and stand 11 feet tall.

Brademas was an American politician and educator originally from Indiana. He served as Majority Whip of the United States House of Representatives for the Democratic Party from 1977 to 1981 at the conclusion of a 22-year career as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. In addition to his major legislative accomplishments, including much Federal legislation pertaining to schools, arts and the humanities, he served as the 13th president of New York University from 1981 to 1992. After becoming president emeritus of NYU, he continued to be active in public life, serving as Chairman of President Bill Clinton’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and of the National Endowment for Democracy.

INSIDE

- 2 From the Chair
- 3 From the President
- 4 Around the Gatehouse
- 6 American Heritage
- 8 Board Profile
- 9 Stone Stories
- 10 Archives & Genealogy



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

We have come a long way since 1997, when Congress included Historic Congressional Cemetery (HCC) on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Over the past 20 years, Congress has approved two endowments, totaling \$2 million, to help defray the cemetery's ongoing maintenance and restoration costs. To reap the benefit of those endowments, HCC had to match them dollar for dollar, and, thanks to generous support from many of you, we have matched nearly three quarters of that \$2 million. The endowment revenue, in addition to funding from the K9 corps, site sales, and donations from supporters all over the country, has given us the opportunity to take on more critically important preservation and restoration projects. This will ensure that Congressional Cemetery, with all its history, beauty, and remarkable stories, will be here for generations to come.



Those of you visiting HCC in the coming weeks will see many of these preservation projects underway; in particular, several of the vaults are currently being repaired and refreshed. The Havenner vault restoration is nearly complete, with contractor Devlin McDonald repointing the exterior barrel vault roof and pointing the interior with the assistance of HCC intern Gabe Harper. The team, along with new Grounds Conservation Manager Kymberly Mattern, also plastered the roof with a thick lime wash, which will be painted to match our other above-ground vaults. Flaherty Iron Works from Alexandria, Virginia, is fabricating a new door for the vault that is based upon other examples found on the grounds. Devlin and the crew also completely repointed and cleaned the Hyatt vault, located near the Public Vault, and Kymberly will be refreshing other vaults on our grounds this summer with plaster patching, crack sealing, and a fresh coat of specialized paint.

In June, Eastern Memorials sent in a crew and equipment to assist five members of the Air Force, here to volunteer, in resetting and up righting about 30 stones. Kymberly and Gabe are cleaning an average of 10 stones every day! The foundation for the new front gate was poured on August 5th, and the gate should be installed by the end of August, with a new road and landscaping soon to follow.

In addition to these ongoing efforts, HCC staff are compiling a comprehensive list of the short and long-term preservation and restoration projects that need to be undertaken, so you can expect to see more of this important work underway in the months to come!

—Susan Urahn



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

1801 E Street, Southeast
Washington, DC 20003
202-543-0539

www.congressionalcemetery.org
staff@congressionalcemetery.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Urahn, Chairperson
Stephen Gardner, Vice Chairperson
Mark Adelson, Treasurer
Shawn Freeman, Secretary
Ted Bechtol
Stephen F. Brennwald
Carolyn Cheney
David Glaser
David Jones
Rebecca Roberts
Joel Samuels
Rhonda Sincavage
Cara Spaccarelli

STAFF

Paul K. Williams, President
Crystal Pate, Director of Sales and Funerals
Lauren Maloy, Program Director
Kymberly Mattern, Grounds Conservation
Manager
Dayle Dooley, Archivist
Crystina Darden, Front Office Manager
Kelly Carnes, Front Office Manager
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

As the summer heats up, so have all of the recent restoration projects here in the cemetery, all thanks to the tremendous number of donations you have provided to the cemetery. We apply most of these to our endowment for a lasting gift in perpetuity. Matching our second endowment of \$1 million has been a priority of mine, and in the last five years, we have gathered and contributed \$440,000, including those funds pledged in 2017. To date, we only have \$559,000 to match the endowment, and when completed, a new calculation will be entered that will provide us with significantly larger quarterly disbursements – that are restricted to preservation and restoration projects of the monument, vaults, fencing, stones, grounds, and the gatehouse structures. Our current quarterly disbursements are approximately \$63,000.

Because of your donations this year, we have uprighted a record number of fallen stones, over 150 in total this year alone. It is a never-ending process, as



Laser cleaning training.

Mother Nature tends to let gravity take its toll, but know that the ones we do upright finally have a sturdy foundation to ensure their survival for decades to come. Volunteer groups from across the country have assisted in this important task.



In June, a volunteer team of masons that were attending a laser cleaning training at the International Laser Institute in Maryland descended on the cemetery to practice their craft of removing carbon and other dirt from granite. GC Laser Systems have invented a specialized laser that was used to safely and effectively remove decades of dirt within a few hours on the Peake Monument (appropriately, Peake was a mason himself). It focuses only on the dirt, which it simply evaporates as soon as the rounded laser is moved over the surface. We were fortunate to have them here, and the class will return several times each year for additional cleaning, at no cost to the cemetery.

The crew has put together a proactive and prioritized list of preservation projects to take on for the next five years, none of which could have been done without your continued donations. For that, I sincerely thank you. I hope you can visit the cemetery soon to see all of the progress we have made of late.

—Paul K. Williams, President

Information for your estate planning, bequest, stock gift, endowment match, or donation:

Legal Name: The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

Legal Address: 1801 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

Telephone: 202-539-0543

Tax ID Number: 52-1071828

Please contact us for wire instruction or banking information

AROUND THE GATEHOUSE

HCC'S NEW GROUNDS CONSERVATION MANAGER: KYMBERLY MATTERN



Kymberly Mattern, the new Grounds Conservation Manager, is ecstatic to join the staff at Congressional Cemetery. Kymberly's interest in history ultimately brought her to HCC. Kymberly received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Juniata Col-

lege and recently graduated with a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from College of Charleston and Clemson University. During the summer of 2016, Kymberly interned with United Building Envelope Restoration (UBER), where she spent most of her internship assisting with the restoration of Lorton Reformatory, a prison constructed in 1910 for Washington, DC. Other projects Kymberly has worked on include: a property history and masonry/ stucco analysis of the Fireproof Building in Charleston, SC, which was designed by Robert Mills (who is interred at

HCC); a historic structures report of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pendleton, SC; a paint analysis and door and hardware survey at 14 Legare Street in Charleston, SC; and developing a methodology to identify, document, and archive artifacts found in a rats' nest. Kymberly's Master's thesis research, titled "Outing the National Register: Including LGBTQ Sites on the National Register of Historic Places," was utilized to advocate for the inclusion of more LGBTQ sites on the National Register of Historic Places: at the time that the research was conducted, there were only 10 LGBTQ sites recognized on the National Register or designated as National Historic Landmarks. Consequently, Kymberly hopes to have HCC's National Historic Landmark nomination updated to reflect the presence of many LGBTQ people interned and commemorated at HCC. Kymberly is looking forward to expanding her knowledge of American history through studying HCC's history and people, along with learning more about cemetery conservation methods.

SUMMER INTERNS

Gabe Harper: Preservation Intern



Gabe Harper, a rising senior at the University of Georgia majoring in landscape architecture/historic preservation and Athens, GA native, is more than thrilled to be HCC's Preservation Intern this summer!! History has always been his bread and butter, so to be able to participate in the ongoing and vital preservation of the grounds at HCC has been a dream come true for him.

Gabe is excited to not only share his knowledge of landscape design and historic preservation with the cemetery, but also to pick up a thing or two working with Kymberly, the new Grounds Conservation Manager, and Devlin, mason and conservator extraordinaire currently working on the restoration of the Havenner Vault among other projects at the cemetery. Gabe sees the cemetery as teeming with life, a garden of preservation possibilities to be further cultivated and enjoyed both this summer and for years to come!

Katelyn Belz: Programming, Writing, and Research Intern



Katelyn Belz is our Programming, Writing, and Research intern for the summer. Originally from Port St. Lucie, Florida, Katelyn is a rising senior at the George Washington University here in Washington, DC. She's been studying American history, with a special focus on anything Pre-WWI. Katelyn was drawn to the cemetery because of its special historicity within the DC community and the opportunity to uncover residents' stories. In her free time, she can be found tutoring economics, attempting to teach herself languages, and falling down rabbit holes reading about historical figures. She will be assisting primarily with writing tasks, such as maintenance of the blog, and research duties.

THE DEAD TELL THE BEST STORIES: AN APP REVIEW

BY KATELYN BELZ

If you love our themed Cemetery tours, then you'll certainly love the exclusive audio tour Liz Ruskin has assembled for us on the free mobile app, *izi.travel*. Entitled "The Dead Tell the Best Stories," Liz's tour is a smartly-curated trip through a significant swath of the cemetery, from the front gates all the way to the Gay Corner. The tour covers a diverse range of figures and events memorialized here from J. Edgar Hoover to the Arsenal Fire, as well as gravestones and stories of less famous, yet nonetheless riveting figures. In addition to Liz, the tour features multiple knowledgeable guest narrators. These guests often contribute rather humorous takes on the Cemetery's residents and their situations, including a comical discussion of the mechanics of grave-robbing and an off-kilter impersonation of Dr. William Thornton.

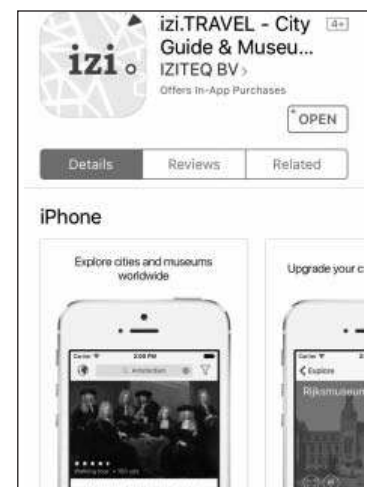
That very impersonation inspired me to communicate just how deft this tour is in its use of various media: the tour includes a variety of audio media that brings historical figures to life. The Thornton section of the tour, for example, makes extensive use of a recording from the Cemetery's own 2015 Soul Strolls, in which the interpreter invites you to imagine you're actually listening to the doctor's mad plan to reanimate George Washington's dead body. Moreover, the tour is filled with newspaper clips read-aloud, which especially breathes life into the Arsenal Fire narrative. Interviews and letters also contribute to the interactive nature of the tour; these often directly convey the very real, human emotions of our Cemetery residents. From Leonard Matlovich's interviews, in which the pain he feels from choosing between ostracism and hiding his sexuality is palpable, to J. Edgar Hoover's paranoid fundraiser speech conveying his bleak outlook on America's future, emotions run high throughout the tour. I strongly suggest checking the tour out if only for this reason: hearing these stories told primarily

through sources like these doesn't just communicate cut-and-dry facts, but also deeply humanizes the dead.

If my brief description has intrigued you, please download the *izi.travel* app and give our tour a listen! The app is available on all standard smartphone app stores, and the tour can also easily be found on your browser if you

visit the *izi.travel* website. If you open the app on-site at the cemetery, the tour should be clearly visible on the app's home page. I also must mention that this tour, while extremely comprehensive, has not reached its final form: Liz has intended for this app to be a work-in-progress, and there is much more yet to come. She also wants this to be a collaborative effort, so if you have any Cemetery stories that you wish to share, please let us know! Liz hopes that one day, visitors will be able to roam around the cemetery and bump into a story zone everywhere that they go, and we would love your creative contributions to this effort.

As a final note, I would be remiss not to additionally take note of our own app, Historic Congressional Cemetery, which is also available for free. This app serves as a GPS-driven wayfinder, allowing you to navigate easily to the grave sites you wish to visit; our walking tours will finally be uploaded into the app for your convenience as soon as possible, as promised in past newsletters. Please give HCC a download as well, and allow it to be your trusted guide here at the Cemetery. 🐘



What the app looks like in the Apple app store.

ADAM GUROWSKI: A POLISH ECCENTRIC AND LINCOLN'S INTELLECTUAL FOE

BY KATELYN BELZ

When President Abraham Lincoln told his bodyguard about whom he feared potentially assassinating him the most, it wasn't the disgruntled, Confederate-sympathizing actor John Wilkes Booth. Rather, it was a somewhat bizarre Polish man who had renounced his old citizenship, became a spokesman for tsarism in Russia, and ultimately moved to the United States and became an aggressive champion of the Radical Republican cause. This man was none other than Count Adam Gurowski, who calls Historic Congressional Cemetery his permanent home.

Gurowski was well-known in Washington for his bizarre behavior and strong convictions. According to LeRoy H. Fischer, he once held a DC firefighting brigade at gunpoint to get the firefighters to do their job faster; moreover, he challenged a Harvard professor to a duel early in his American career over the seemingly small issue of a Hungarian history factoid. While many people who knew him well, such as Walt Whitman, considered him to be all bark and no bite, Lincoln was nevertheless discomfited by his eccentric airs. Beyond his personality, Gurowski's frequent letters to Lincoln, in which he appoints himself as an advisor and rails about the administration's missteps, and his vehement criticism of the administration in his infamous *Diary* publications certainly did not help his case. While Gurowski was ultimately more of an embarrassment to the administration than a threat, his behavior has led some to christen him "Lincoln's Gadfly."

Born in Poland to a noble family in 1805, he displayed a proclivity for political provocation early on in his life; a Russian duke had him expelled from his secondary school for displays of Polish nationalism. Despite this blip on his educational timeline, he went

on to become a student of Hegel in Germany. Soon after, he returned to Poland and became involved in an uprising against Russian influence in the 1830s. While his importance within this movement has been a matter of debate among scholars, it was enough for the tsar to sentence him to death and confiscate his land. This began a chain reaction of ideological transformations, though whether they were for protection from punishment or out of genuine conviction is difficult to prove. Gurowski abruptly declared that he was no longer Polish, publishing a pro-Russia tract that won him favor in Nicholas I's court. Now pardoned, he served as an advisor to the tsar on the Russification of Poland before yet again becoming disgruntled and leaving for Prussia. Ultimately, his dissatisfaction on the continent led him to the final leg in his migratory journey in 1849, to the United States.

Gurowski had incorrectly surmised that his previous experience teaching at Universities in Europe would make him a candidate for a professorship at Harvard. Gurowski soon found himself writing for the *New York Tribune*, owned by the eccentric future presidential candidate Horace Greeley. From his post at the *Tribune*, Gurowski furiously attacked politicians such as Daniel Webster for holding conservative or moderate positions on slavery. In the meantime, he continued publishing pamphlets and tracts promoting pro-Russia sentiment during the Crimean War. Moreover, one of Gurowski's most infamous acts at the *Tribune* was his censoring anti-Russian content out of pieces by Marx and Engels; Marx himself referred to Gurowski as an agent of the tsar on more than one occasion. Gurowski's continual support for the Russian state, despite his intellectual and personal falling out with Nicholas I's regime, has led some scholars to conclude that his

adoption of Pan-Slavism was always more out of conviction than self-preservation.


Before too long, Gurowski found work in DC under William Seward in the State Department, scanning European newspapers for articles of interest to the Lincoln administration. Ultimately, when he published the first installment of his *Diary*, a series of tracts in which he served up biting criticism of the administration, Seward fired him and very publicly sued him for libel. While the libel case was ultimately dismissed, it further fueled Gurowski's disgruntlement, leading to the publication of two more venomous *Diary* installments. As Gurowski's political views continued to shift in a more liberal direction, his views on slavery became even more negative. Intellectually, Gurowski viewed America as the instigator of a new epoch in world history. He believed America would upend the trend of various uniform ethno-states replacing each other as world leaders with a new, multi-ethnic and multi-religious civilization, built on free enterprise and liberty — an impossible task to fulfill if an entire race was still oppressed.

Gurowski began arguing openly with politicians about slavery more and more, as well as publishing his opinions. In his book *America and Europe*, an entire chapter was devoted to the evils of slavery, and his 1860 book, *Slavery in History*, posited that domestic slavery always led to the demise of the civilizations it infected. His abolitionist convictions led him to attempt to jump into action right away at the beginning of the Civil War: he was one of the first men to join an emergency battalion stitched together to defend DC against a potential Confederate attack, and he tried to convince Secretary of War Stanton to arm blacks before the administration seriously considered doing so.

While his agitation in 1861 led General in Chief Winfield Scott and Seward to chide him, his anti-slavery activism would only increase throughout the course of the war; this led him to his most famous project, his advisory letters addressed directly to President Lincoln himself. These letters largely fell in line with the policy goals of Radical Republicans in Congress, who objected to Lincoln's moderate approach to

abolition, hesitancy about Confederate property confiscation, conservative generalship under the likes of McClellan and Halleck, and approach to Reconstruction. He continually trashed Secretary of State Seward, his former boss who sued him, even sending a letter on this topic to Lincoln's wife. In one letter, he went as far as to claim that "Mr. Seward is held in utter contempt by...European diplomacy," going on to characterize the official as what we would now call a "flip-flopper." He claimed in another letter that General McClellan, distrusted by Radicals for his cautiousness on the battlefield, was a "half ass traitor" whose generalship was contributing to the ruin of America. He continually attempted to persuade Lincoln to take to the field in command of his troops and create a European-style staff of military advisors that he, of course, wanted to be a member of.

While it is unclear whether or not any of these letters actually made their way to the President's desk, and Gurowski was certainly not unique in sending frequent unsolicited advice to the administration, his letters truly stand out because of their eccentric tone and the unique background of the man who wrote them. Lincoln would have had no reason to desire to read Gurowski's letters, especially as Gurowski became more venomous in his public attacks on the President. For example, after the Battle of Fredericksburg, Gurowski said of Lincoln that "you cannot fill his small but empty skull with brains; and when in the animal and human body the brains are wanting, or soft or diseased the whole boy suffers or is paralyzed, so with the nation." Despite Gurowski's inability to actually affect war policy, his letters certainly enliven the memory of this bizarre figure in Washington history, whose funeral here in 1866 was said by Whitman to feature the presence of all prominent Radical figures in DC. He is buried in the family plot of Washington socialite Fannie Eames, who always welcomed Gurowski into her parlor for discussion with other Radical guests such as Charles Sumner and Julia Ward Howe and is said to have cared for him in his dying days.

For detailed bibliography, please see post on congressionalcemetery.wordpress.com. 

DAVID W. JONES

BY LAUREN MALOY



It's not often someone calls a cemetery one of the "happiest places" they have ever visited, but that is exactly what David Jones says of Historic Congressional Cemetery.

What makes HCC so special for Jones?

He says it's "the amazing history, combined with the fun dog-walking program which helps preserve that history" and adds that Congressional Cemetery has "the most innovative programming I've ever seen for a small non-profit."

David Jones stumbled upon Congressional Cemetery almost by accident in 1997, thanks to the site's placement on the 1997 National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places List.

"I lived 10 blocks from this gem and didn't even know it was here," he says.

After adopting his dog Lucy in 2009, he applied for membership in the K9 Corps Dog Walking Program at the urging of friends who were K9 members. With only a slight tone of exasperation, Jones notes that he was on the waitlist for almost two years before finally being admitted into the K9 Corps in 2011.


His dog turned out to love HCC as much her owner does, so, since joining K9, David's visits to and involvement in the Cemetery has grown.

His favorite volunteer effort, Adopt-a-Plot, created an unexpected connection. The program includes gardening and helping restore the cemetery grounds to

their Victorian appearance. Although he had never gardened before (see the picture to see if you can believe that!), in 2014, Jones decided to adopt the Schoepf family plot. Unbeknownst to Jones, HCC President Paul Williams researched and found descendants of the Schoepf family, and he sent them photos to show how the plot was transformed. Two descendants of Schoepf relayed to Paul how much the HCC's efforts meant to them. Paul connected them to David, who now annually sends photos of the plot to the family.

Congressional Cemetery awarded Jones the John Philip Sousa Distinguished Service Award in 2014, which is sponsored by Hiram Takoma Lodge 10. In addition to donating time, by the end of 2017, Jones will also have donated over \$32,500 in personal funds to the Cemetery's endowment, the general fund, and has sponsored the purchase of items such as metal trash cans, trees, and gardening supplies.

Outside of Congressional Cemetery, Jones has built a busy career as a partner and shareholder at Capitol Counsel LLC, a federal and state lobbying and government affairs firm based in DC. David has lived in the Capitol Hill/Navy Yard area for over two decades and was born and raised Chatham, New Jersey.

Asked what his goals are for the cemetery for the remainder of his Board tenure, Jones states that he simply wants to "do everything I can to help Congressional Cemetery thrive" and "encourage as many people as possible to visit and explore the amazing history we have here." 



**The Schoepf plot,
before and after.**


READING HEADSTONES

BY KYMBERLY MATTERN

Walking through the cemetery, you will very likely come across a gravestone that is illegible. You might just be *dying* to know what the stone says, but, no matter which way you look at the stone, you can't quite make out the text. Do not fear — helpful tips are here!

There are several “do-no-harm” methods that can be used to decipher the text on gravestones. The first option is to run your finger over the text on the stone to see if you can find the borders, curves, and edges of each of the letters. If that doesn't work, you can try using a mirror to adjust the amount of light that shines on the gravestone. If you happen to have a flashlight on you, you can also shine a flashlight perpendicular to the stone to better illuminate the letters. This method works better on cloudy days and at dusk. Another

option is to look at the stone during a different time of day when the sun is shining in a different direction, since the sun's position in the sky directly influences the size and shape of shadows. You can also take a picture of a stone and use a photo program, such as Photoshop, to adjust the colors and contrast of the photograph. If you opt to put your picture on social media, remember to tag us (@CongCemetery)! Lastly, creating impressions of the stone can help you decipher the text. This can be done by gently pressing aluminum foil into a stable stone to make an impression. In the winter, snow can also be rubbed on the stone and then carefully brushed off, allowing snow to collect in the inscription.

However, there are also products that people use that can ultimately damage and destroy the stones, which should NOT be used. These products include: chalk, paint, shaving cream, soap, bleach, ink markers, detergents, peroxide, ammonia, baking soda, and baking powder. These products can attract bio growth, break down the molecular integrity of the stone, cause efflorescence, stain the stone, and trap moisture. 



An example of text that is difficult to decipher.

“Don't Read Stones With.” Cemetery Conservators for United Standards. March 19, 2017. Accessed June 28, 2017. <http://cemeteryconservatorsunitedstandards.org/harmful-methods/dont-read-stones-with/>.

“Reading Stones.” Cemetery Conservators for United Standards. February 07, 2017. Accessed June 28, 2017. <http://cemeteryconservatorsunitedstandards.org/standards/reading-stones/>.

NOT WRITTEN IN STONE OR BONE

BY LAUREN MALOY

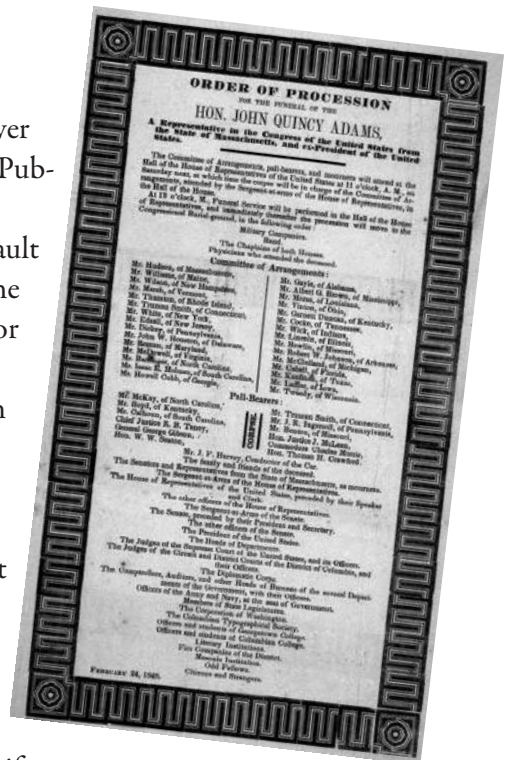
The staff here often refer to cemeteries as outdoor museums. Our “collection” on the grounds consists of over 14,000 headstones, each one in need of proper care and conservation, and each one has a written story to tell. Some stories are more detailed than others, but every headstone is a historical record that memorializes the interred individuals.

But what about the people who left their mark on Congressional Cemetery who are not memorialized in stone? The archives are full of people — both alive and dead — whose transient visits to the Cemetery are impossible to detect on the landscape. But, such is the power of place, and the importance of historical archives. It is more difficult to detect the unseen stories here because there are so many visible, tangible markers for past people and events. But by looking closely at the interment records, newspaper articles, and letters, it’s possible to peel back another layer of the past and discover a new dimension of Congressional Cemetery.

As any historic interpreter worth their salt will tell you, though, empty spaces can still speak volumes about the past. We use our Public Vault quite often here for tours, cocktail parties, and lectures. Although the musty interior lends a definitively creepy vibe to our events, it’s still difficult to envision the hundreds of human remains that utilized the vault as a hotel room before heading to their permanent destinations, often to a grave in HCC. As is oft-recited on our tours, three presidents spent time in our Public Vault: Zachary Taylor, John Quincy Adams, and William Henry Harrison — who actually spent more time in the Public Vault than in the office of the President (yes, that’s one of our very favorite nerdy jokes here). But someone we really feel we can stake a claim to? Dolley Madison, former First Lady and widow of President James Madison.

She spent over two years in the Public Vault before heading to the vault across the way, the Causten Vault, for nearly six years. Looking through HCC records, staff also discovered that Dolley had another First Lady join her in the Causten Vault for a few months — Lousia Adams, wife of John Quincy Adams.

The Public Vault records boast an impressive roster of names that often seem lifted from a U.S. History textbook, and it makes sense that a certain degree of pomp and circumstance accompanied them on their journey to the receiving vault. Congressional Cemetery was the final destination for numerous grand funeral processions in antebellum Washington, DC. The cenotaphs that dot the landscape mark and memorialize only a fraction of the Congressmen, Presidents, and other influential individuals who were a part of the funeral processions that ended here. Abraham Lincoln was a part of many funeral processions when he was both a Representative and President. Most notably, Lincoln was noted as the “Chief Mourner” for the women who perished in the Washington Arsenal explosion in 1864. But the list of pallbearers for national funerals is also impressive: the likes of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Cal-



Order of Procession for John Quincy Adams.

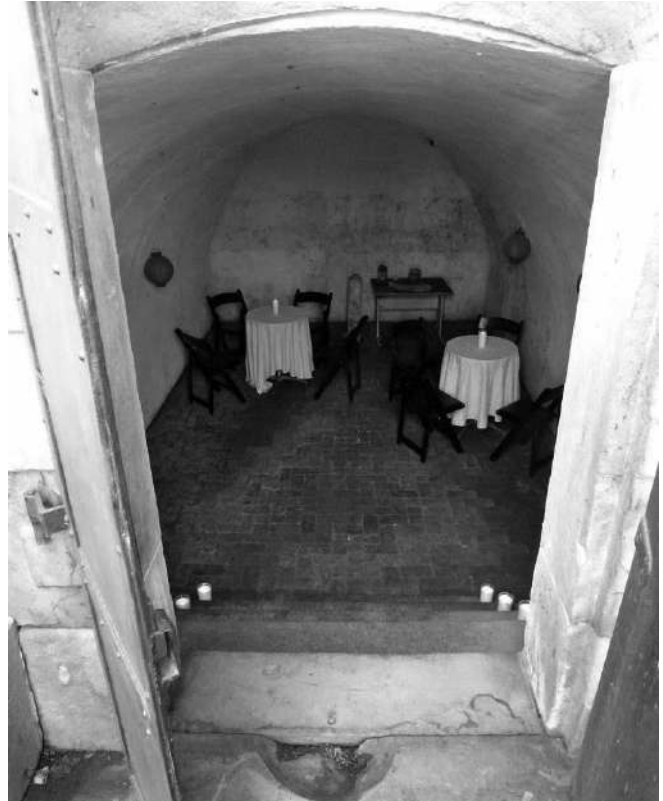
houn show up on the list. Moreover, a few of the participants in the funeral processions would end up later being buried in the Cemetery, including Joseph Gales, owner of the *National Intelligencer*, a publication which recorded the details of many of these funeral processions.

So what, you might say? Important dead people stayed at the cemetery for a bit, and more important people accompanied them on their journey. It might seem to be a natural fit and progression for a national cemetery to host impressive historical figures such as Lincoln and Dolley during funerals and in preparation for burials. But every once in a while something pops up in the records about Congressional Cemetery that has nothing to do with death. One of the more salacious historical happenstances is the affair between Philip Barton Key and Teresa Sickles, which tragically ended with Teresa's husband, Dan Sickles, murdering Key. Key, whose father penned "The Star Spangled Banner," was a notorious womanizer, but was a widower when he managed to woo Teresa Sickles. They conducted their affair all over the city of Washington, including Teresa's home. But most notably, for this article anyways, they also frequented burial grounds for their illicit liaisons, including the cemetery on the east side of the city - Congressional Cemetery. Court records detailed the testimony of Teresa Sickles' coachmen, who noted that "they would walk down the grounds out of my sight, and be away an hour or an hour and a half." Take from that what you will, of course.

These might all seem to be disparate and unrelated anecdotes, and perhaps they are. Congressional Ceme-



Murder of Philip Barton Key.



The Public Vault during a cocktail party.

tery's history is overwhelming enough when you just take into account the thousands of interments here, much less any tangential history that happened to brush by during the Cemetery's 210-year stretch. But there's something to be said for attempting to understand and reconcile the history that is not inscribed on the monuments. This hallowed ground has been trodden by presidents and generals, scoundrels and statesmen, and these are only a few of the stories that pepper the landscape of our records and imaginations. The significance of Congressional Cemetery is much more than what is clearly visible. It has been touched by thousands of people, and will continue to be experienced and influenced for years to come. Within the course of a single year this Cemetery witnesses a multitude of events: daily dog walks, marriage proposals, runs, and of course, funerals. Through our records we get a glimpse of the past events that have shaped Congressional Cemetery, and they influence the way in which we view the present. We're each a part of Congressional Cemetery's story. 🍷

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

Special donation for the Endowment:

Anonymous Yes No

Check enclosed, made payable to Congressional Cemetery

Please charge my credit card Visa Mastercard

Card # _____

Cardmember Name _____ Exp _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone/s _____

Email _____

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.



Association for the Preservation of
Historic Congressional Cemetery

1801 E Street, Southeast
Washington, DC 20003
www.congressionalcemetery.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUBURBAN, MD
PERMIT NO. 3878

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 12 Tombs and Tomes Book Club

September 17 Notes from the Crypt

September 22 Cinematery

October 7 Dead Man's Run

October 20, 21, 27, 28 Soul Strolls



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