

with Henry Clay and Daniel Webster he set the terms of every important debate of the day. Calhoun was acknowledged by his contemporaries as a legitimate successor to George Washington, John Adams or Thomas Jefferson, but never gained the presidency.

R60/S146

### 13. HENRY CLAY (1777–1852)

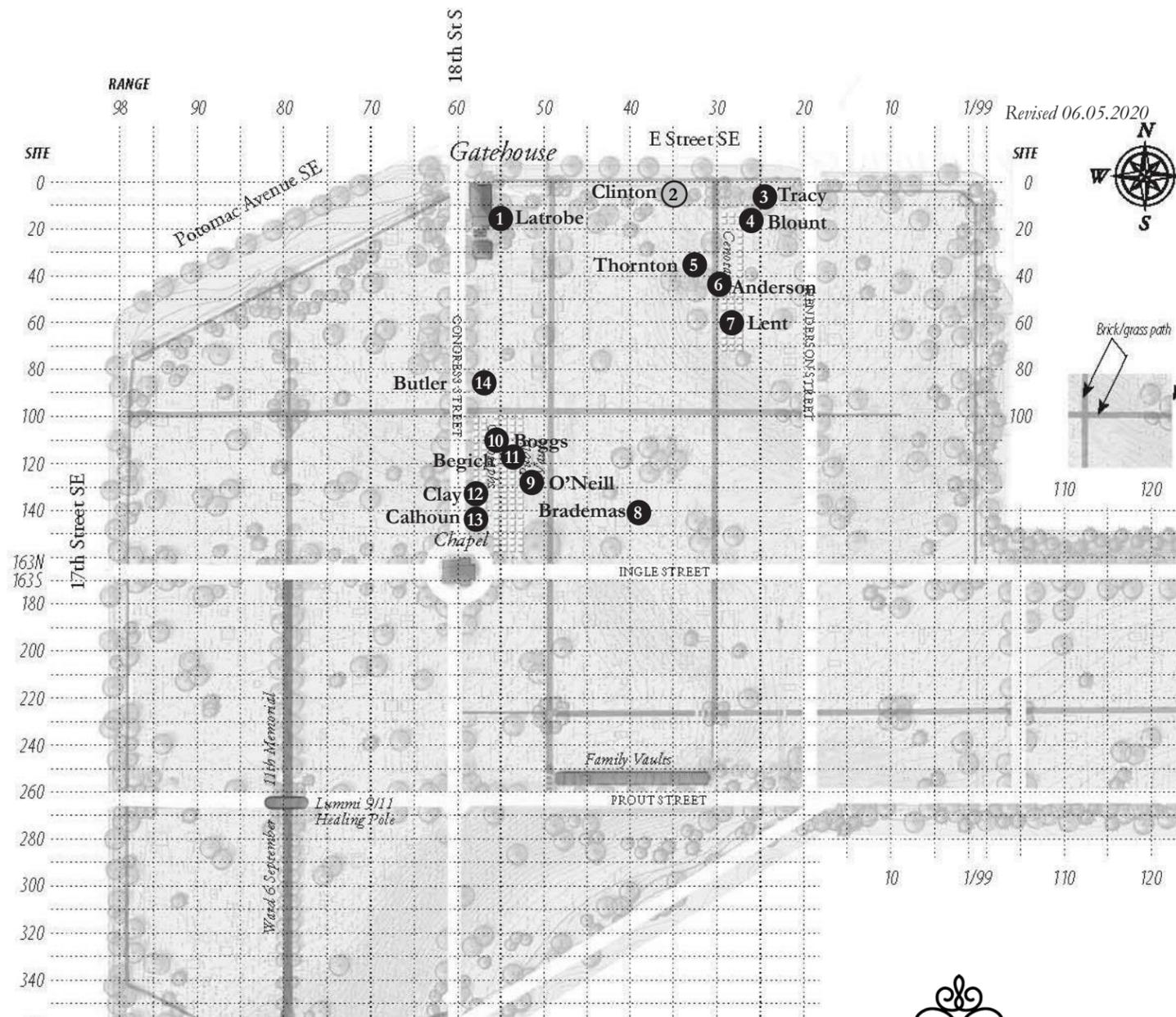
Known as the “Great Compromiser” for his ability to bring others to agreement, he was the founder and leader of the Whig Party and a leading advocate of programs for modernizing the economy, especially tariffs to protect industry, and a national bank; and internal improvements to promote canals, ports and railroads. As a war hawk in Congress demanding the War of 1812, Clay made an immediate impact in his first congressional term, including becoming Speaker of the House. Although the closeness of their cenotaphs would suggest a friendship, Clay and Calhoun disliked each other in life.

R60/S149

### 14. ANDREW PICKENS BUTLER (1796–1857)

As the nation drifted toward war between the states, tensions rose even in the staid Senate Chamber of the U.S. Congress. When Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts disparaged Senator Andrew Butler of South Carolina (who was not present) during a floor speech, Representative Preston Brooks of South Carolina, Butler’s cousin, took umbrage and returned to the Senate two days later and beat Sumner severely with a cane—the first blows of the Civil War.

R60/S84



**A WORD OF CAUTION:** The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable. Please be careful near grave markers and watch where you step: depressions and sink holes lie hidden in grass, and footstones and corner markers can trip the unwary.

*Join us!*

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1976 and dedicated to the restoration, interpretation, and management of Congressional Cemetery. It is predominantly a volunteer-based organization relying on over 400 neighbors, history buffs, conservators, dogwalkers, and armed forces personnel each year to help restore and maintain this national treasure. In 1979, the Association succeeded in having Congressional Cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Please join the Association or make a donation and help in the third century of service to the Nation’s Capital.



**Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery**

1801 E Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-543-0539 | Fax 202-543-5966  
EMAIL: [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org)  
[www.congressionalcemetery.org](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org)

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 Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The property is owned by Christ Church Washington Parish.



ESTABLISHED 1807

## Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery *Walking Tour* CENOTAPHS

History comes to life in Congressional Cemetery. The creak and clang of the wrought iron gate signals your arrival into the early decades of our national heritage.

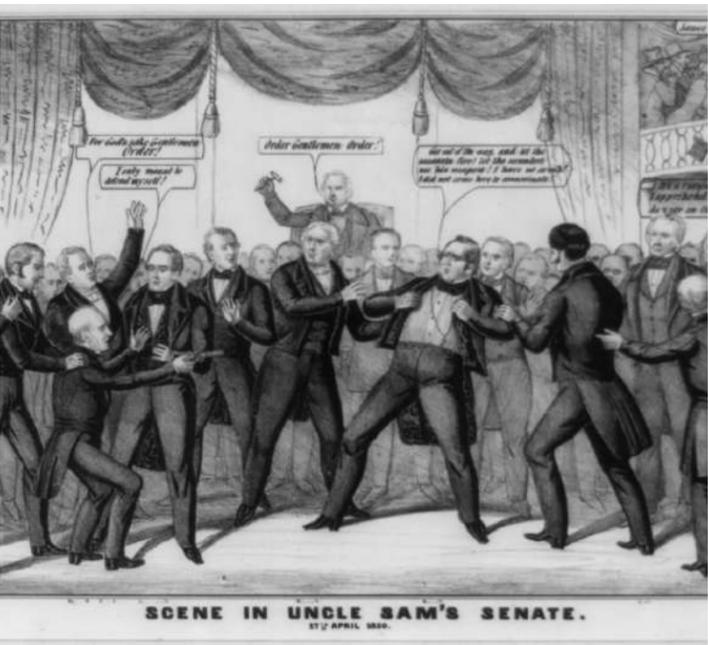
Congressional Cemetery is home to 171 cenotaphs, which honor members of Congress who died in office during the first several decades of the nation’s history. Designed by architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who was then working on the new south wing of the Capitol, these identical Aquia Creek sandstone cenotaphs reflected the classical inspiration that was shaping the city plan and its new Capitol building.



Library of Congress IABS DC-424

*Cenotaphs, photographed in 1976 by the Historical American Buildings Survey.*

This CENOTAPH TOUR highlights just a few of the hundreds of fascinating people buried in Congressional Cemetery. As you walk the trail of this self-guided letterboxing tour, note the artistry and craftsmanship of the memorial stone carvings and try to decipher the cultural language of the iconography.



Library of Congress LC-USZ62-4835

*Titled “Scene in Uncle Sam’s Senate: 17th April 1850,” this tongue-in-cheek dramatization shows the moment when Senator Henry S. Foote of Mississippi (third from left, crouching) drew a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, who opens his coat and cries, “...let the assassin fire! let the scoundrel use his weapon! I have no arms!...” Second from left, Andrew Pickens Butler attempts to restrain Foote, while visitors in the gallery (upper right) flee in panic.*

They were a marked departure from the typical shape and size of early American gravestones, which were generally colonial-type tablets. Latrobe's influences were clearly classical and European. Although the term cenotaph refers to any empty tomb, at Congressional Cemetery the term is used for these Latrobe-inspired monuments—which sometimes marked an actual burial and sometimes not; only 80 congressmen and senators are interred at Congressional. Historic photos show that the cenotaphs were painted white at some point.

Despite Latrobe's best intentions, public opinion of the cenotaphs tended to be less than favorable even in the earliest years of the burying ground. The use of the cenotaphs was discontinued in 1876 when Senator Hoar of Massachusetts argued that this tradition should be abandoned, saying that "the thought of being buried beneath one of those atrocities brought new terror to death." By that time, congressmen were typically transported home for burial and a national cemetery system had been established following the Civil War. Until the Civil War, however, this was the nation's sole place of burial for the federal government, and in effect, the first national cemetery.



*View of Cenotaphs in context, a view that emphasizes the stark geometry of Latrobe's design.*

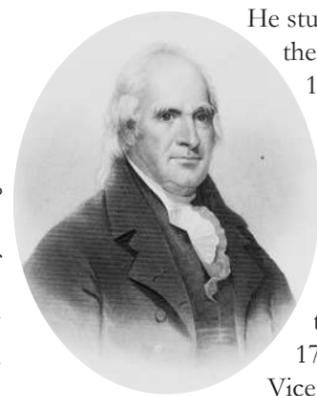
*The following are numbered to correspond with the map on the back. Please also refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers to help locate each grave site.*

**1. LOUISA LATROBE (1808)**

The infant daughter of the architect of the Capitol, Benjamin Latrobe, she was one of the first interments at Congressional. Sadly, she would not be the only child to be buried in the cemetery.

**R56/S12**

**2. GEORGE CLINTON (1739–1812)**



Ezra Ames, Artist, Library of Congress LC-USZ62-110647

He studied law and was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776 when General Washington ordered him to take the field as Brigadier General of Militia, which prevented Clinton from signing the Declaration of Independence. He was the first Governor of the State of New York from 1777–1795. He was elected Vice President under both Thomas Jefferson and under James Madison. He made an unsuccessful bid for the Presidency in 1808.

**R30/S5 REMOVED**

**3. URIAH TRACY (1755–1807)**

From Connecticut, he was the fourth interment and the first congressman to be buried in the cemetery, just four months after it opened. His body was transferred from Rock Creek Cemetery. He served first in his state legislature from 1788–1793, then in the Senate from 1796 until his death in 1807. In addition to a short period of military clerical service, he was a Major General of militia in a company that marched from sundry places for the relief of Boston in 1775.



Artist Ralph Earl, c. 1790 Object ID 1911-21-U

**R24/S1**

**4. THOMAS BLOUNT (1749–1812)**

Entering the Revolutionary Army at age 16, he rose to Major General. Later, he had a long congressional career as a North Carolina Representative. He was interred with military honors. His funeral procession was long and distinguished, starting with a detachment from the Marine Corps followed by the Vice President, members of Congress, heads of departments and other offices, and members of the public.

**R25/S8**

**5. WILLIAM THORNTON (1757–1826)**

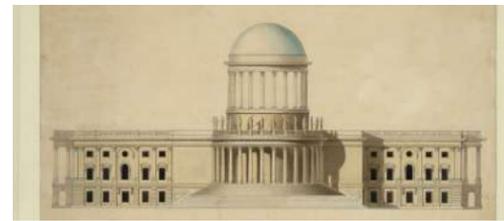
From an early age William Thornton displayed interest and discernible talent in "the arts of design." Although heir to sugar plantations, young Thornton was apprenticed for a term of four years to a practical physician and apothecary. In 1786, he came to America where he attempted to lead free black Americans to Sierra Leone. In 1792 Thornton learned about the design competitions for the U.S. Capitol and the President's House, both to be erected



Artist: George B. Matthews, 1930 www.aoc.gov

in the new federal city on the banks of the Potomac. He won the competition and a prize of \$500 and a city lot. This is the only cenotaph for a non-member of Congress.

**R33/S39**



Library of Congress LC-DIG-ppmsca-19858

**6. JOSEPH INSLEE ANDERSON (1757–1837)**

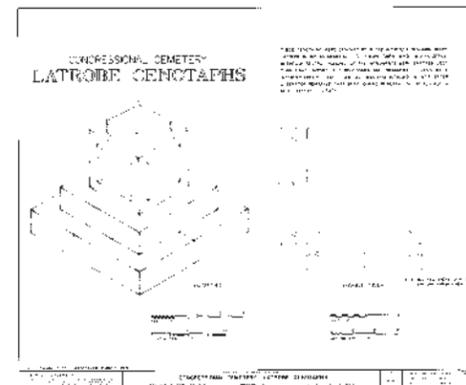
He served in the Revolutionary Army, fighting in several battles under General Washington and ended with the brevet rank of Major. He then practiced law and was appointed by Washington as a judge in the Southwestern Territory, which later became Tennessee. In 1797, he became a Senator and served for 18 years. In 1815 he was appointed Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury.

**R31/S44**

**7. JAMES LENT (1782–1833)**

From New York, he was the first person to have a true cenotaph in the cemetery. After a cenotaph monument had been ordered for him, his family decided to bury him in the family burial ground in New York. Congress then decided to place the monument as a memorial anyway in 1839, thus establishing the tradition of cenotaphs for Congressmen who died in office, even if they are not interred here.

**R29/S68**



Library of Congress DC Drawings from Survey HABS DC-424

**8. STEPHEN JOHN BRADEMAS, JR. (1927–2016)**

Originally from Indiana, he served as Majority Whip of the House of Representatives for the Democratic Party from 1977 to 1981 at the conclusion of a twenty-year career in the House. Later, he served as president of New York University, on the board of the NYSE and the Rockefeller Foundation and was a member of and subsequently the chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He is the most recent Congressman to be buried here.

**R36/S128**



Library of Congress LC-DIG-ppmsca-08464

*Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill (right) with President Gerald Ford on February 6, 1975.*

**9. THOMAS P. "TIP" O'NEILL (1912–1994)**

A longtime leader in the Democratic Party, he was both Majority Whip and Majority Leader in the House of Representatives. He served as a Massachusetts Representative from 1952–1986, and Speaker from 1977–1986. He was known for his political acumen and commitment to the rationale of government assistance to the needy. He is the last Congressman to have a cenotaph of non-standard design placed in the Cemetery.

**R51/S125**

**10. HALE BOGGS (1914–1972)**

A lawyer and senator from Louisiana, he served as a Democrat in Congress until he left to enlist in the U.S. Naval Reserve where he served until the end of World War II. He later served on the Warren Commission to report on the death of John F. Kennedy. While he was House Majority Leader, he died in a plane crash over Alaska where he had been campaigning in 1972. The bodies of the several people on board, including Nicholas Begich (see below) never were found.

**R53/S123**

**11. NICHOLAS BEGICH (1932–1972)**

An Alaskan, he served in his state senate for eight years. In 1970, he was elected to the at-large seat for the state. He was on the same plane as Hale Boggs. During the period after the crash when the search for bodies continued, Begich was elected to a second term. Boggs and Begich share the same cenotaph.

**R53/S123**

**12. JOHN C. CALHOUN (1782–1850)**



Library of Congress LC-USZ62-76296

He held several government positions: Vice President (twice—with John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson); Senator from South Carolina; member, state house of representatives; Secretary of War for James Monroe; and Secretary of State in the Cabinet of John Tyler. He was hailed as one of the giants of 19th century American politics. Along