

# The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

## The Heritage Gazette Spring 2004



### Second \$100K Appropriation!

*Cong. Frelinghuysen Supports HCC*

Good news: Congressional interest in the restoration of Congressional Cemetery continues to grow. The 2004 Omnibus Appropriation Bill, signed into law in January, included an appropriation for \$100,000 for Congressional Cemetery — the second such appropriation in as many years.

Sponsored by Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R, NJ), a member of the DC Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, the appropriation stipulated that the funding was for the removal of dead trees, development of a master landscape plan, and continued work on the vault restoration program.

As noted in the adjoining articles, tree removal and landscape planning were priority recommendations from the HL&S Report. The Association is deeply grateful to our friends in Congress for keeping this historic place on their agenda. Ω

### Tree Canopy Renewal Program Begins

*Three Big Projects To Restore "Park-like" Setting*

Congressional Cemetery's tree canopy, once heralded for its park-like beauty, begins its resurgence this year with two major projects. The first will be the removal of over 30 dead or dying trees that present potential safety hazards. The second will be the installation of over 50 trees as part of the city's 9/11 Memorial Tree Grove later this year.

Having suffered through several decades of little or no attention, our tree canopy is now a high priority for the Board. The first step in renewing the canopy was to take a thorough survey of the existing configuration of trees and tree types.

This survey was done as part of the Historic Landscape & Structures Report undertaken last year under the auspices of the Architect of the Capitol. Conducted by Bartlett Tree Experts, the survey noted the existence of thirty dangerous trees and recommended their removal as a high priority.

The \$30,000 cost of removing these trees was simply beyond our resources, presenting the board with an unpleasant quandary; thirty thousand would be an enormous share of our budget. Fortunately, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen came to the rescue by including in

*Continued on Page 3.*

### Heritage Day to Honor Masonic Civic Contributions

*Benjamin B. French Lodge & Namesake to be Honored*

Congressional Cemetery is the final resting place for hundreds of individuals whose bond of Masonic fraternal brotherhood is witnessed by the symbols etched into their gravestones. (See Page 5.)

A common trait of this fraternal group is a strong dedication to civic duty and public service. In celebration of their patriotic fervor, the Association will dedicate the 2004 Heritage Day program to Congressional's Freemasons.

This year we are honored to co-host Heritage Day with the Benjamin B. French Lodge, named for an

outstanding public servant whose proud granite monument stands south of the chapel. (See the *French biographical sketch on Page 4.*)

The April 24th event will feature speakers from the lodge addressing Benjamin French's life and work, the meaning of Masonic Brotherhood, the civic activities of the local lodges, and a tour of gravesites highlighting the contributions of other notable Masons.

The Benjamin B. French Lodge # 15, chartered in 1853 and named for French, will plant an Acacia Tree in his honor. Ω



*B. B. French Monument*

### Master Landscape Plan Under Way

*Twenty-Year Grounds Development Plan*

The third leg of the Association's master planning tripod is finally under way. Having completed the Strategic Plan in 2001 and the Historic Landscape & Structures assessment in 2003, we have now begun the Master Landscape Plan.

Funded under the 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, with much gratitude to Cong. Frelinghuysen, the \$60K landscape plan will provide planting guidelines and site development outlines for the next twenty years.

The Board's comprehensive request for proposals was drafted in February and sent to several landscape design firms. Review and selection among the competing bids will take place in March/April. The Board hopes to have a completed Master Landscape Plan by December 2004.

The plan will incorporate the historic nature of the cemetery and its relationship to the Anacostia River, as well as future interment site opportunities. Stay tuned. Ω

**Spring Clean-up April 10th  
Annual Meeting April 17th**

## Letter from the Board *New Year Resolutions*

The first half of any New Year's Resolution List is easy—just take the first half of last year's unfinished list and copy verbatim. Less TV/more literature; fewer sweets/more exercise; less spending/more saving; and so on. However, last year I did accomplish one item from my perennial list: I finally had a will drawn up.

Every lawyer and financial advisor will tell you it's one item every individual should attend to. And conveniently enough, it combines the two things no one can escape: death and taxes! A will not only ensures that my assets go to those I deem worthy, it also forces me to arrange my affairs so as to spare my heirs any undue tax burden.

Dividing my vast horde of gold bullion among my family was easy enough, and since my collection of Renoirs and Degas is rather meager, that too was an easy task.

Another important element in writing my will was the inclusion of Congressional Cemetery as one of my heirs. Congressional Cemetery is not only a place of rich historic and cultural heritage, it is also a beautiful oasis within the city. It's a place that enriches my soul and nourishes my sense of community. It is a place that I care enough about that when I no longer need my financial assets, I am leaving a substantial portion set aside for Congressional.

It's not any complicated formula or legalistic pretzel, just a simple sentence: "I leave to the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery X% of my remaining assets." That's it, one sentence.

While my largess will not build any libraries or endow any professorships, it will make a small but significant addition to the endowment for the permanent care of Congressional Cemetery. It's an easy thing to do and the right thing to do, and I encourage you to join me in remembering Congressional Cemetery in your estate planning.

~ Patrick Crowley

## 2003 Endowment Goal Met! *\$60,000 Matched by Fund*

For the second year in a row the Association met — and surpassed — its goal of adding \$50,000 to the Third Century Endowment Fund. Your generous response to the end-of-year appeal letter brought in over \$19,000 and allowed us to place \$60,000 into the Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Fund was established by Congress in 1999 with a one million dollar appropriation to be held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Disbursements from the fund are calculated based on the earnings off dollars matched by donors. All donations to the Fund are matched by the Congressional appropriation. Congress added another million dollars to the challenge in 2002. To date the Association has deposited \$310,000 into the Fund, gaining us the earnings off of \$620,000.

Disbursements from the fund for calendar year 2004 are expected to be about \$44,300. Disbursements are restricted to contracted maintenance work such as lawn care. The Board looks forward to the day when the disbursements will cover all lawn expenses and we can begin to add tree care to the tasks covered by the Fund.

The Board anticipates this year's Fund donations to reach \$75,000. If we are able to meet that goal, the 2005 lawn care budget should be covered. That would be a great step forward from the days not so long ago when the grass went uncut for lack of funds. Hopefully that "back to nature" look is a thing of the past. Thanks again to our generous membership Ω

### Annual Meeting April 17

*Recap of 2003/Overview of 2004*

The Association's Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, April 17th at 11:00 am in the chapel. All are welcome to attend.

The 28th annual meeting of the Association will be a celebration of good news. 2003 was a very successful year for Congressional Cemetery with progress on several aspects of the Strategic Plan. Chair Linda Harper will host a presentation of accomplishments from the previous year and present our plans for 2004.

Our guest speaker will be Tom Goeller of the Benjamin French Masonic Lodge presenting a biography of the lodge's namesake, a national civic leader. Ω

## Patrick Lally Joins Board

The Association welcomes Patrick Lally to the board. Mr. Lally is Vice President for Public Policy at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and takes Sam Kilpatrick's seat as representative from the Trust. Mr. Kilpatrick will move over to our new finance committee. Mr. Lally looks forward to helping implement the long range restoration plans. Ω

### Board Members

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Patrick Crowley—Vice Chair  
Sandy Schmidt—Treasurer  
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*The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.*

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## Cobblestone Memories

### Old Storm Drainage System Discovered & Uncovered

Like most of eastern seaboard of the United States, the topographical subsoil of Congressional Cemetery is comprised generally of a dense clay and rock mixture known as Piedmont. Turn over any spade full of dirt and you'll find a fist-sized rock. There's lots of them around. But they generally don't line up in neat columns and rows by themselves. That's what caught our attention last fall: a small assembly of fist-sized rocks, half buried by the side of the road, in an orderly progression north and south, east and west.

A little exploratory digging here and there revealed an old cobblestone swale drainage system lining each of our roads at the eastern end of the Cemetery grounds. Buried under decades of leaves and mud, the swales had become lost to living memory and had ceased to do the job they were built for. The swales were designed to direct storm water runoff south to the creek on the south side of the chain link fence.

Exposing the cobblestones would restore the old drainage system and help solve one of our persistent

landscape issues. As we saw during last year's many rain storms, drainage is a problem on our grounds. If we can improve the existing, albeit hidden, storm water run-off system, we may be able to ameliorate the unsightly flooding problems.

Hence, clearing the old swale system became one of the Association's major volunteer programs for the summer of 2004. Aside from its practical applications, this project is an important element of historic preservation. Bringing back the old system reveals engineering methods from a hundred fifty years ago.

Archaeological exploration and discovery is one of the aspects of this historic site that makes volunteer efforts always worthwhile. Unique burial vault structures, cryptic gravestone inscriptions, and now old engineering systems awaken a curiosity about what was, and why it was. History unfolding day by day.

Depending on volunteer availability, the project is expected to run through the spring and summer. If you would like to help in this discovery, please call the Gatehouse Office to join the next dig. Ω

## Tree Canopy Renewal Begins

### Remembrance & Memorial Tree Donations Welcome

*Continued from Page 1.*

the 2004 Omnibus Appropriations bill a small earmark for Congressional Cemetery, specifically directed at Congressional's tree problem, among other things.

The Board immediately sought bids from three major tree care firms and is in the midst of bid review as we go to press. We anticipate the work to begin the first week of March.

In addition, volunteer Nick Sundt again came to the Association's aid with an offer to hold down costs by taking down sixteen trees himself. Nick is a former smoke jumper for the USDA Forest service.

Although some visitors will miss the familiar old stumps and photogenic bare trees, the grounds are much safer having them removed. Moreover, we hope to begin planting over 300 trees in the coming years.

The next phase of the canopy renewal will be the city's 9/11 Memorial Tree Grove project. A tree allee trees will run the length of Tucker Walkway (the pathway behind the Sousa Memorial) from Ingle Street

south to the Barney Circle fence, ending in a bosque (a square planting of trees) below the Grand Staircase. Landscaping designs and details are still in the planning stage and we'll keep you informed as they develop. Ground breaking is scheduled for Arbor Day (April 30th in DC). We hope you can join us for the celebration and tree plantings.

And in a late breaking development, the Benjamin B. French Lodge has offered to install an allee of Black Locust Acacia trees along the street south of the chapel. Again, discussions are ongoing as we head to press.

The tree canopy renewal is an opportunity for planting trees in remembrance of loved ones. Once our landscape plan is completed (see accompanying story), we will have an established set of tree settings and types suitable for memorializing friends and family members.

The canopy renewal program is a five year effort to return Congressional Cemetery to the park-like tree setting it once enjoyed. These three major projects will get us off to a fantastic start. Ω

## Cemetery Manager's Notes

### Dog-Walking at the Cemetery

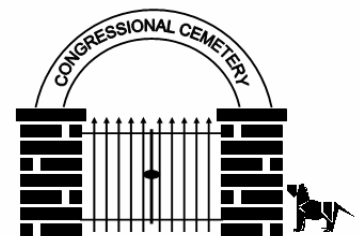
In the year I've been working here, one of the topics I'm most frequently asked about is the dogs and their owners who walk here. I've noticed there are a lot of misperceptions about what we call our K-9 Corps. I can't speak to the history of the group, there are others who can articulate that better from personal experience. Suffice it to say that owners and their dogs have been involved since the Association was formed.

The Association gets most of its volunteers from this group of 250 plus family and individual members; five K-9 Corps members sit on the board of directors. In a cemetery without security, the K-9 Corps provides an almost 20 hour presence a day, a visible deterrent to drug users and vandals. Of course one great benefit comes from the dogwalker donations and fees, which account for nearly a third of the Association's operating budget.

Certainly there are a few complaints about owners not picking up after their animals, or dogs involved in scuffles or unruly behavior. K-9 Corps members are expected to clean up after their dogs and to help us with keeping the grounds clean when they can. The K-9 Corps also has a dispute resolution group to help mediate between owners when problems arise.

This cemetery is a valuable resource for many varied interests: genealogists, tourists, historians, nature lovers, as well as dogwalkers and site owners. Each has its own requirements and those concerns must figure into all future plans. As we proceed, the Association will continue to solicit suggestions and work to balance the needs of the cemetery's different interest groups. For the foreseeable future the K-9 Corps will continue to play a vital role here at Congressional.

~ Bill Fecke



## **Benjamin B. French**

At the Benjamin Brown French burial plot in Congressional Cemetery lie the remains of a prominent federal officeholder who served the United States from 1834 until his death in 1870. He was personally acquainted with many presidents, from John Quincy Adams to Ulysses S. Grant. An astute observer, he left a diary of some 3,700 pages, now preserved in the Library of Congress. He felt especially close to Abraham Lincoln and was present at Lincoln's Gettysburg address and at his deathbed. When French died, the New York Times reported his demise on its front page for August 14, 1870. Many dignitaries and most Masons in the District joined his funeral procession as it passed lines of spectators from his home at 37 East Capital Street to his graveside at Congressional.

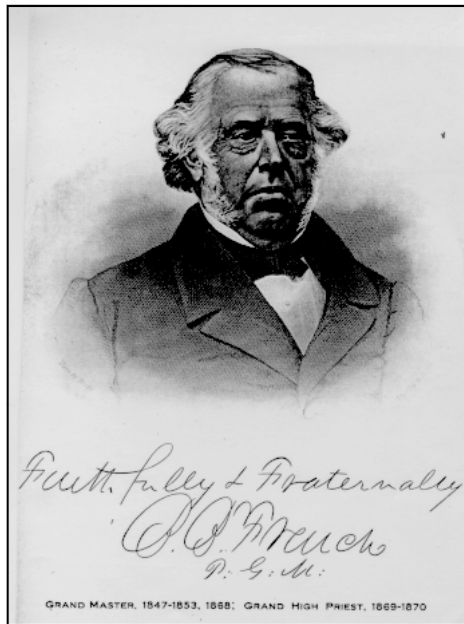
Benjamin Brown French was born on September 4, 1800, in Chester, New Hampshire, to a prominent family whose ancestors had arrived in America in 1636. A rebel as a youth, Benjamin ran away from home at 19 to join the U.S. Army. He served only four months before his family discovered him at Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, secured a substitute for him, and had him discharged. Back home, the young man studied law, married Elizabeth Richardson, daughter of the chief justice of New Hampshire, and became a part of the establishment.

In 1827 he joined the militia, quickly becoming a major, a title he loved ever after. He practiced law for several years in Newport, New Hampshire, and also edited the New Hampshire Spectator, a Democratic newspaper. In 1831, French was elected to the first of three terms in the New Hampshire legislature, where he befriended fellow legislator Franklin Pierce, later President of the United States.

During the presidency of Andrew Jackson, French was appointed assistant clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives in December 1833, and moved his family to Washington, D.C. In 1845 he

became Clerk of the House. At that time he associated with Samuel F.B. Morse and assisted in the passage of a bill enabling Morse to demonstrate the practicality of the magnetic telegraph. French, W.W. Corcoran, and others formed with Morse the Magnetic Telegraph Company with French as its first president.

When Franklin Pierce became president, he appointed French as Commissioner of Public Buildings in 1853, a post he was forced to resign two years later when the President learned of French's anti-slavery sentiments. French was practicing law in the District when



his wife died in 1860. Mary Ellen Brady joined the household to help out and romance bloomed. The two were married in 1862.

With Abraham Lincoln's presidency, French again served as Commissioner of Public Buildings. In that role he presided as major domo at White House receptions and as administrator of White House expenses. Mrs. Lincoln was famously extravagant in furnishing the executive mansion, running up a public debt of \$20,000. When the President angrily refused to approve payments for such "flub dubs," Mrs. Lincoln pleaded with French to intercede. Indeed, he

found a way to cover the costs.

French's love of politics makes his journal a storehouse of political observation. Martin Van Buren was "cold as an icicle." Millard Fillmore was ridiculed because of his zealous anti-Masonry. Andrew Johnson as "naïve," and Ulysses S. Grant unwilling to take advice. Only Jackson and Lincoln came away unscathed.

A highlight of French's association with Lincoln was the "Gettysburg ceremonies" in November 1863. The evening before the President's address, French was deeply touched by a crowd singing "We are coming Father Abraham, three hundred thousand and more." The next day he commented that were Adams still alive he would "swell with the patriotism that followed his own great efforts to bring about that emancipation of the Negro race, which is so rapidly approaching."

Later, learning of Lincoln's assassination and fearing a conspiracy, French rushed to the Capitol and ordered it closed. He then visited the dying president, and "stood at his bedside for a short time. He was breathing very heavily, & I was told, what I could myself see, that there was no hope for him."

Benjamin B. French was an active Mason, holding many positions and receiving many honors. He served as Grand Master of D. C. Masons for eight years, and revived the York Rite and founded the Scottish Rite in the District. In accordance with Masonic practice, he conducted the ceremony at the laying of the cornerstones at the Smithsonian Institution in 1847, the Washington Monument in 1848, and the extension of the Capitol in 1851.

Benjamin Brown French is buried in Congressional Cemetery, between his first wife Elizabeth and his second wife Mary Ellen, along with his son and other relatives in Range 63/Site 228. Ω

*Contributed by Alice Hall*

## Canine Corner

*Sarah McPhie—Graphically*

One of the benefits of having a graphic artist as a volunteer is that when you ask for something kind of intriguing, maybe a little edgy, suggestive of history, and respectful of those interred here, the answer comes back, “sure, let me work on it.”

Sarah McPhie is one such volunteer here at Congressional. She developed our new Support Congressional Cemetery brochure last year. Sarah captured just the right ambiance in a photo of a line of cenotaphs with a bluish, “last century” feel.

Sarah and her husband Iain have been walking their dog Maggie at Congressional for three years. Maggie is a founding member of the Anacostia Retriever breed (and so far the only member...). She joined the McPhie family after a short stay at the DC animal shelter on New York Avnue.



*Maggie & Sarah learn to share*

A graphic designer by trade, Sarah volunteered to design the Support brochures last year and is currently working on another brochure about the many famous people here at Congressional. Sarah and Iain also pitch in for the periodic “poop patrols” and the spring clean-up and fall yard sale.

Sarah is an owner of the women-owned design firm Cutting Edge Design. Cutting Edge has been designing identity packaging, logos, annual reports, brochures, and reports for non-profits and small businesses in DC since 1987. Iain practices antitrust and trade law at the law firm of Squire, anders, & Dempsey LLP. Maggie practice rolling in mud puddles and scaring squires. Ω

## A New Burial Ground for A New City

*L'Enfant's Plan did not include Burying Grounds*

The famous French architect Pierre L'Enfant, who laid out the plan for the new Federal City back in 1792, had a strong belief that burial grounds should not be permitted within city limits. The American experience to date found city burial grounds to be overcrowded, hazards to health, and poorly maintained, so his plan specifically intended that there would be no burial grounds within the new city.

But L'Enfant didn't have a seat on the city council, which overruled him and approved two inner-city cemeteries: one in northeast and one in northwest, albeit at the far edges of the then urban sprawl (13th & H, NE.). Within a few years, the site in northeast was found to be “low and watery and very unfit for a place of interment.”

Out of the “great inconvenience” suffered by citizens traveling to farther out burial grounds, a committee of private citizens formed to find a suitable location and establish a new burial ground in closer proximity. These citizens, mostly members of Christ Church—the only church on Capitol Hill in those days—formed as association and purchased square 1115 between E and G Streets and 18th and 19th Streets, in the Southeast quadrant of the city on April 15, 1807 (four days after the burial of William Swinton, a stone carver employed in the building of the new Capitol Building).

Although founded independently of the church, it was always intended to be transferred to the vestry once the debts were paid off. It is thought that the transfer was made to convey to the public that a viable and responsible organization would see to the care and maintenance of the new cemetery over the long run. The transfer took place in March 1812. For a short time it was referred to as Christ Church Burial Ground but soon came to be known as Washington Parish Burial Ground.

While ostensibly a church-affiliated cemetery, it was not intended to be for the sole use of Episcopal Church members. The only restriction was that “heathens” (non-Christians) were not allowed to be buried within. Unlike most church burial yards of its day, this new graveyard would not be adjacent to the church nor would it be limited to parishioners. It was meant for the entire community of the new city.

The initial 4½ acres were purchased for \$200, with a stipulation in the deed that ¼ of the space be set aside for those without the means to afford proper burial. It also stipulated that cost of a burial site should be “in no case nor at any time hereafter” more than \$2.00. Times do change... Ω

*This is the second in a series of articles about the history of Congressional Cemetery excerpted from a study written by Cathleen Breikreutz of Waterford Virginia.*

## Iconography: Masonic Square & Compasses

Of all the symbols that can be found carved in stone within our walls, the square & compasses are probably the most abundant. These ancient symbols of Masonic order can be found among the oldest and newest of gravestones. The symbol reminds us of importance of standards in our lives which are known to be true and correct—standards to guide us throughout our lives.

The square & compasses are the basic tools of masonry, enabling the mason to rely on his other tools. He does this by simple geometry. Using the compasses, the mason draws a circle and then a line running through the center. From any point on the circumference of the circle, a line drawn to each point where the center line crosses the circle will form a perfect square at

the point. The tested square can then be safely used to build a solid structure.

The square & compasses are often found with the letter G in the center. The G stands, loosely, for the notion that the existence of God can be inferred from the order in the Universe, as symbolized by the precision of Geometry.



Congressional Cemetery has hundreds of gravestones embossed with the square & compasses, and possibly over 1,000 Masons interred here. Many of Washington's earliest lodge leaders are among those interred at Congressional, including the honored Benjamin B. French. Ω

This is the third in a series of articles discussing the history and symbolic meaning of the forms and decoration of grave markers and other memorials.

## Outstanding Volunteer: John Kreinheder

On any weekend when the skies are clear you're likely to find one of our truly outstanding volunteers off in the far corners of the cemetery, pad in hand, diligently scribbling down names, dates, poems, and final tributes.

John Kreinheder, a life-long resident of Capitol Hill, has an abiding interest in archives and archaeology, and when he saw that many of our old marble tombstones were wearing away, he took it upon himself to capture these inscriptions before they disappeared.

With over 18,000 tombstones and footstones, John has quite a task ahead of him. Undaunted, John proceeds me-



thodically up and down the ranges, making sure to copy down all four sides of each stone. So far he has collected inscriptions for over 5,600 individuals.

Discovering connections among long-time Washington families is one aspect of John's work that he finds fascinating. He also treasures finding the charming, touching, and oddball inscriptions known only to those who carefully explore the grounds, like the testimonial to Catherine Sanford (R26/S1) at the right.

Battling erosion, John often struggles to make out faded

lettering. It's not uncommon to see John lying on the ground with reflectors to direct sunlight into the shadows of an engraving. John's work is an enormous contribution to the archives of the Cemetery. His assiduous attention to detail and long hours are much appreciated. Hats off to John Kreinheder! Ω

### SACRED

to the Memory of  
Mrs CATHERINE SANFORD  
who departed this life on the  
7th of March 1808  
Aged 66 Years

[Sh]e's gone who lives alas! That must not go  
Wh[at's] worth or dignity or beauty frail?  
What's fame, or power, blooming health below,  
When Heaven commands? Ah. What will these avail  
Naught [sav]e Religion! May who reads attend  
Live as [s]he lived Then to that happy shore  
When death arrests thy soul its flight may bend  
Where pain, disease, and cares are felt no more

## Building & Grounds Committee Report

### 2004 Projects Cover Wide Range of Activities

To the casual observer, Congressional Cemetery may appear to be puttering its way toward restoration at a frustrating snail's pace. However, behind the scenes, we're quite busy juggling numerous projects among a very few hands. For example, the Building & Grounds Committee has the following projects in the works:

- Repair of the 19th Street Gate,
- Repair of the northeast corner brick wall,
- Removal of 10 trees by volunteer Nick Sundt,
- Negotiating a contract to remove 20 more trees professionally,
- Developing a master landscape plan 'request for proposals,'
- Searching for funds to repair the archives vault,
- Planning our piece of the city's 9/11 Memorial Grove,
- Completion of the 2003 Restoration Summer projects,
- Preparing for the April 24th Masonic Heritage Day,
- Repainting the Gatehouse Office,
- Clearing & cleaning the Gatehouse garage,
- Preparing for a May preservation conference at Congressional,
- Rebuilding/replacing the Chapel pews,
- Developing a schedule of 2004 volunteer activities,
- Clearing the H Street drainage ditch,
- Uncovering the cobblestone swales,
- Working with the Smithsonian on the Coombe Vault remains,
- Exploring the G Street and H Street rights-of-ways,
- Restoration of last year's interment sites.

It's a somewhat daunting schedule, some of which requires professional help but lots of it can be done with volunteers. So be on the lookout for our calls for help: you are a critical part of the restoration effort. Ω

## Boundary Survey Update

### Title Search is Next Step

In our last issue we noted the confusion regarding the exactness of our eastern boundaries. Old maps presented conflicting pictures, some suggesting that the rights-of-way are within our property lines, others suggest they are not. A surveyor reported that the Surveyor's Office plats may not be the final word and that a title search would be required. That effort is under way.

Our research to date, however, suggests that the rights-of-way for G and H streets between 20th and 23rd Streets belong to the city, although the city has not cared for these streets for well over 100 years. The rights-of-way for all other streets within our walls belong to the cemetery.

In light of the fact that these streets offer access to nothing other than gravesites and have no through-street potential, the Board intends to ask the City Council to close these streets and dedicate them to Congressional Cemetery.

No neighbors exist to be adversely impacted and the dedication would provide Congressional with opportunities for future site sales with which to build our endowment fund. Ω

## Reserve Your Place in History

Interment Sites  
are again available in  
Historic Congressional Cemetery  
Call the Gatehouse for details—202-543-0539



## Congressional Quiz

### *A Man About Town*

Benjamin B. French was a man dedicated to public service and civic leadership. He served in a number of offices in both Congressional and Executive branches with distinction. Which of the following contributions can not be attributed to Benjamin B. French?

- French founded the Scottish Rite Order of the Masons in the District.
- French was forced out of the Pierce Administration for opposing the president's stand on slavery.
- French ran away from home at 15 to join the U. S. Army where he served for many years at the rank of major.
- French served as administrator of the Lincoln White House where he helped Mrs. Lincoln manage a large redecorating cost overrun.

*Answer in Essay on Page 4.*

## Preserving America's Heritage

*I want to help preserve Historic Congressional Cemetery.*

\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ Other

*Donations of \$250 or more are deposited in our Third Century Endowment Fund which is matched by our Congressional Appropriation and managed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.*

\_\_\_ My check is enclosed (made payable to Congressional Cemetery).

\_\_\_ Please bill my credit card. \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Does your employer make matching contributions?

Would you like the matching gift form? \_\_\_\_\_

*The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.*

## Short Shriffs

### Cars Strike Wall & Gate

#### 145 Year Old Structures Damaged

In separate incidents last winter, a car struck the 19th Street Gate and another struck the brick wall at our northeast corner. The 500 pound gate was taken to Flaherty Iron Works for restoration. The 30 foot fallen section of brick wall will be repaired this spring by Standard Restoration. While the brick wall was covered by the driver's insurance, the gate repair was an unexpected drain on our budget. The wrought iron gate dates to 1858. Ω

### Office Facelift

#### New Flooring, Window Treatment

The gatehouse office will be given a minor, although much-needed, facelift next month. Worn floor tiles will be covered with a new linoleum sheet and the window trim and walls a fresh coat of paint; broken blinds will be replaced with curtains; new ceiling lights will be installed too. Much of the archival and business records are to be moved to another room so the front office can be dedicated to visitors and guests. Ω

### Team Visits Smithsonian

#### Tour of Anthropology Lab

Several volunteers joined the Smithsonian's Dr. Douglas Owsley at the Natural History Museum in November for a preliminary report about the findings in regard to the Coombe Vault. World class osteologists and archeologists discussed the importance of the Congressional Cemetery research for the Smithsonian's overall anthropology program. Dr. Owsley hopes to return to Congressional next summer. Ω

### Water, Water Everywhere!

#### Rains Flood Grounds

The year 2002 was one of the driest on record. That was followed by one of the wettest years on record, leaving season-long puddles and running springs. 2004 is off to another wet start with February snows and rains leaving block-long puddles along our south perimeter. If we can get funding for road repairs, we hope these problems will just drain away. Ω

### Seeking Old Newsletters

#### Missing Issues Needed for Web

Our Association newsletters are a reflection of the ebbs and flows of Congressional Cemetery's fortunes. We've placed several years of newsletters on our web site (see the on-line collections link) but we are missing several issues. If your attic holds issues from the following years, we'd be most grateful if you could send us a copy: 1990, 1991, 1993, and 1998. Ω

### Shoes, Don't Fail Me Now!

#### 80-Year-Old Horseshoe Found

Volunteer forester Nick Sundt dulled out three chain saw blades last month trying to cut through just one log from a fallen oak tree on the grounds. After two days Nick found the source of his troubles: a horseshoe embedded deep within the tree. Nick guesses that the shoe was placed on a branch over 80 years ago and became embedded as the tree matured. Ω

The Association for the Preservation of  
Historic Congressional Cemetery  
1801 E Street, Southeast  
Washington, DC 20003

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Suburban, MD  
Permit No. 6511



*Congressional Cemetery is listed on the  
National Register of Historic Places*

## The Heritage Gazette Spring 2004

### The Heritage Calendar

#### March

Sat. March 20th—3rd Saturday Volunteer Day  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

#### April

Sat. April 10th—Spring Clean-up  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm,  
Bring gloves & high spirits!

Sat. April 17th—Annual Meeting  
11:00 am in the chapel, All are welcome  
Guest speaker: Tom Goeller,  
Benjamin B. French Masonic Lodge

Sat. April 17th—3rd Saturday Volunteer Day  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Sat. April 24th—Heritage Day  
Benjamin French Masonic Lodge Celebration  
12:00 pm to 1:30 south of Chapel, Masonic  
tours from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Fri. April 30th—Arbor Day  
Ground breaking for 9/11 Memorial Grove  
Call Gatehouse for exact time of event

#### May

Sat. May 15th—3rd Saturday Volunteer Day  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Mon. May 31st—Memorial Day  
Flag placements at veterans' gravesites



*Brick wall damaged by motorist*