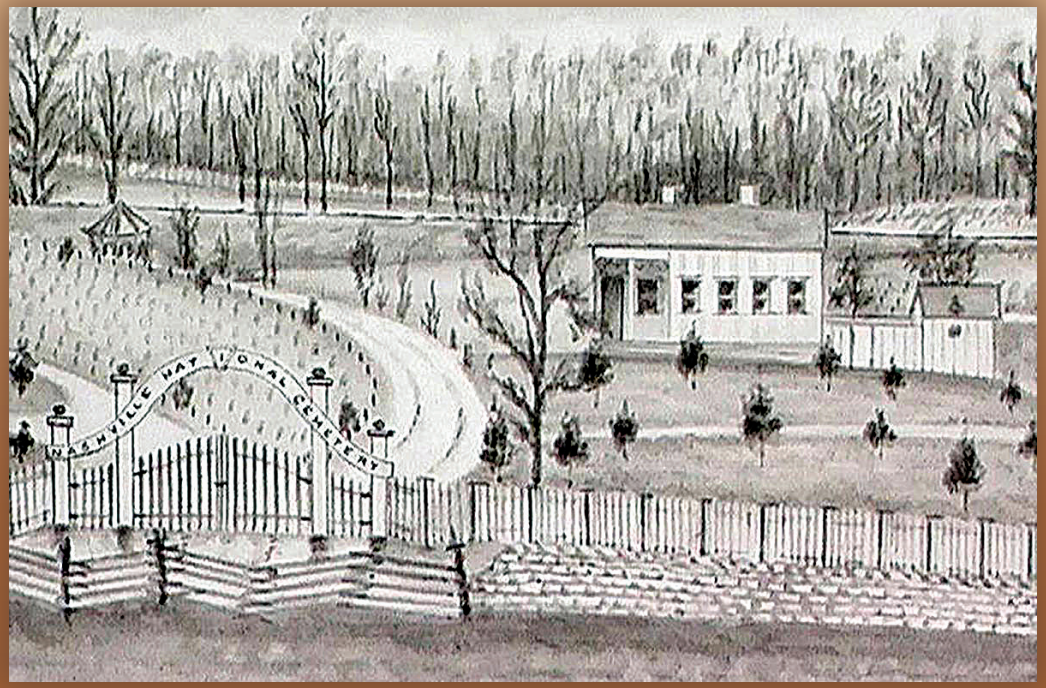


Interpretive Signs in VA Cemeteries

Commemorating the Civil War Sesquicentennial, 2011-2015

VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

History Program

Printed Spring 2016

Cover image: Detail, sketch of Nashville National Cemetery, ca. 1869. *National Archives & Records Administration*.

INTRODUCTION

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and the burial benefits it is responsible for providing to veterans and eligible family members today originated with the Civil War. It was the first instance of any federal government committing to inter the remains of its troops in "national cemeteries." President Abraham Lincoln signed the legislation assuring that Union soldiers who "gave the last full measure of devotion" to the nation would be honored in perpetuity.

To commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial, 2011-2015, the NCA History Program undertook several educational and historic preservation projects. Visitors to VA national cemeteries, and to affiliated soldiers lots established by the U.S. government in private cemeteries, are the beneficiaries of this one: 191 thematic interpretive signs that depict local war-related activity, explain why veterans are buried there, and highlight Medal of Honor recipients and memorials.

This project supports the NCA Veterans Legacy Program, an education outreach program begun in 2014. Placement of signs at Civil War-era national cemeteries, many of which are remote, assure visitors have access to accurate historic information. Agencies are directed to do this per the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110. The signs reinforce VA's responsibility as steward of its oldest properties; most are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Each sign includes VA's web address so visitors may access VA benefit information. The low-maintenance, durable, and low-cost signs measure 36 inches x 24 inches and are composed of a fiberglass-imbedded panel in an aluminum frame. All were installed in 2014-2015:

- 78 national cemeteries received a universal "NCA History" sign (first image).
- 79 national cemetery signs that expand on site-specific significance.
- 18 signs where VA oversees major Confederate interments: 9 in national cemeteries, 9 in Confederate-only sites.
- 15 soldiers or government lots contain site-specific signs.

The signs compiled in this document are arranged alphabetically by cemetery name; see list, next page.

This document is also available on-line through the NCA History Program website: *www.cem.va.gov/history/index.asp*.

CEMETERY NAME AND LOCATION

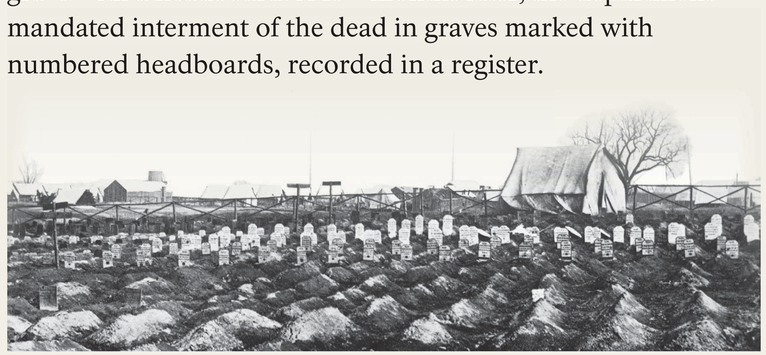
A National Cemetery System 4
Albany Rural S/L [Albany, NY] 5
Alexandria [Alexandria, VA] 6
Alexandria [Pineville, LA] 7
Allegheny S/L [Pittsburgh, PA] 8
Alton [Alton, IL] 9
Annapolis [Annapolis, MD] 10
Ashland S/L [Carlisle, PA] 11
Balls Bluff [Leesburg, VA] 12
Barrancas [Barrancas, FL] 13
Bath [Bath, NY] 14
Baton Rouge [Baton Rouge, LA] 15
Baxter Springs S/L [Baxter Springs, KS] 16
Beaufort [Beaufort, SC] 17
Beverly [Beverly, NJ] 18
Camp Butler [Springfield, IL] 19 20
Camp Chase Confederate [Columbus, OH] 21
Camp Nelson [Nicholasville, KY] 22
Cave Hill [Louisville, KY] 23
Chattanooga [Chattanooga, TN] 24
City Point [Hopewell, VA] 25
Cold Harbor [Mechanicsville, VA] 26
Confederate Mound Oak Woods [Chicago, IL] 27
Confederate Stockade [Sandusky, OH] 28
Congressional [Washington, DC] 29
Corinth [Corinth, MS] 30
Crown Hill [Indianapolis, IN] 31
Crown Hill Confederate [Indianapolis, IN] 32
Culpeper [Culpeper, VA] 33
Cypress Hills [Brooklyn, NY] 34-36
Danville [Danville, VA] 37
Danville [Danville, KY] 38
Danville [Danville, IL] 39
Dayton [Dayton, OH] 40
Fayetteville [Fayetteville, AR] 41
Finn's Point [Salem, NJ] 42-43
Florence [Florence, SC] 44
Forest Hill S/L [Madison, WI] 45
Forest Home S/L [Milwaukee, WI] 46
Fort Gibson [Fort Gibson, OK] 47
Fort Harrison [Fort Harrison, , VA] 48
Fort Leavenworth [Fort Leavenworth, KS] 49
Fort McPherson [Maxwell, NE] 50
Fort Scott [Fort Scott, KS] 51
Fort Smith [Fort Smith, AR] 52 53
Glendale [Richmond, VA] 54
Grafton [Grafton, WV] 55
Green Mount S/L [Montpelier, VT] 56
Hampton [Hampton, VA] 57
Hampton VAMC [Hampton, VA] 58
Hot Springs [Hot Springs, SD] 59
Jefferson Barracks [St. Louis, MO] 60 61
Jefferson City [Jefferson City, MO] 62
Keokuk [Keokuk, IA] 63
Knoxville [Knoxville, TN] 64
Leavenworth [Leavenworth, KS] 65
Lebanon [Lebanon, KY] 66
Lexington [Lexington, KY] 67
Little Rock [Little Rock, AR] 68 69
Los Angeles [Los Angeles, CA] 70
Loudon Park [Baltimore, MD] 71
Marietta [Marietta, GA] 72
Marion [Marion, IN] 73
Memphis [Memphis, TN] 74
Mill Springs [Nancy, KY] 75
Mobile [Mobile, AL] 76
Mound City [Mound City, IL] 77
Mound City S/L [Mound City, KS] 78
Mountain Home [Mountain Home, TN] 79
Mt. Moriah S/L [Philadelphia, PA] 80
Mt. Pleasant S/L [Augusta, ME] 81
Nashville [Madison, TN] 82
Natchez [Natchez, MS] 83
New Albany [New Albany, IN] 84
New Bern [New Bern, NC] 85
North Alton Confederate [Alton, IL] 86
Oakdale S/L [Davenport, IA] 87
Philadelphia [Philadelphia, PA] 88 89
Point Lookout Confederate [St. Mary's County, MD] 90
Port Hudson [Zachary, LA] 91
Prospect Hill S/L [Brattleboro, VT] 92
Prospect Hill S/L [York, PA] 93
Quincy [Quincy, IL] 94
Raleigh [Raleigh, NC] 95
Richmond [Richmond, VA] 96
Rock Island [Rock Island, IL] 97
Rock Island Confederate [Rock Island, IL] 98
Salisbury [Salisbury, NC] 99
San Antonio [San Antonio, TX] 100
San Francisco [San Francisco, CA] 101
Santa Fe [Santa Fe, NM] 102
Seven Pines [Sandston, VA] 103
Springfield [Springfield, MO] 104 105
St. Augustine [St. Augustine, FL] 106
Staunton [Staunton, VA] 107
Togus [Togus, ME] 108
Union Confederate Monument [Kansas City, MO] 109
Wilmington [Wilmington, NC] 110
Winchester [Winchester, VA] 111
Wood [Wood, WI] 112
Woodland S/L [Cleveland, OH] 113
Woodlawn [Elmira, NY] 114 115
Woodlawn Cemetery Confederate Monument [Terre Haute, IN] 116

A NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War between April 1861 and April 1865. As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed commanding officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." It also required the U.S. Army Quartermaster General, the office responsible for administering to the needs of troops in life and in death, to mark each grave with a headboard. A few months later, the department mandated interment of the dead in graves marked with numbered headboards, recorded in a register.

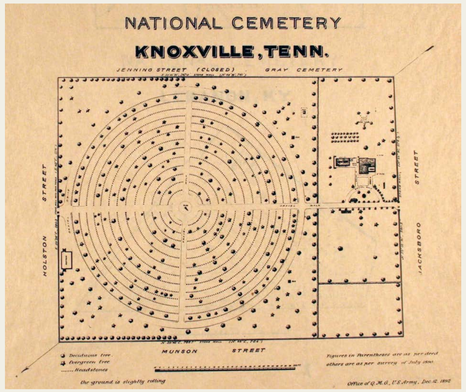


Soldiers' graves near General Hospital, City Point, Va., c. 1863. Library of Congress.

Creating National Cemeteries

The authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. It directed the president to purchase land to be used as "a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country." Fourteen national cemeteries were established by 1862.

When hostilities ended, a grim task began. In October 1865, Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs directed officers to survey lands in the Civil War theater to find Union dead and plan to reinter them in new national cemeteries. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains, about 45 percent were unknown.



Knoxville was established after the siege of the city and Battle of Fort Sanders in 1863. Cemetery plan, 1892, National Archives and Records Administration.

Most cemeteries were less than 10 acres, and layouts varied. In the Act to Establish and to Protect National Cemeteries of February 22, 1867, Congress funded new permanent walls or fences, grave markers, and lodges for cemetery superintendents.

Lodge at City Point, Va., pre-1928. The first floor contained a cemetery office, and living room and kitchen for the superintendent's family; three bedrooms were upstairs.

At first only soldiers and sailors who died during the Civil War were buried in national cemeteries. In 1873, eligibility was expanded to all honorably discharged Union veterans, and Congress appropriated $1 million to mark the graves. Upright marble headstones honor individuals whose names were known; 6-inch-square blocks mark unknowns.

By 1873, military post cemeteries on the Western frontier joined the national cemetery system. The National Cemeteries Act of 1973 transferred 82 Army cemeteries, including 12 of the original 14, to what is now the National Cemetery Administration.

Reflection and Memorialization

The country reflected upon the Civil War's human toll—2 percent of the U.S. population died. Memorials honoring war service were built in national cemeteries. Most were donated by regimental units, state governments and veterans' organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic. Decoration Day, later Memorial Day, was a popular patriotic spring event that started in 1868. Visitors placed flowers on graves and monuments, and gathered around rostrums to hear speeches. Construction of Civil War monuments peaked in the 1890s. By 1920, as the number of aging veterans was dwindling, more than 120 monuments had been placed in the national cemeteries.

National cemetery monuments, left to right: Massachusetts Monument, Winchester, Va., 1907; Maryland Sons Monument, Loudon Park, Baltimore, Md., 1885; and Women's Relief Corps/Grand Army of the Republic Monument to the Unknown Dead, Crown Hill, Indianapolis, Ind., 1889.

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ALBANY RURAL SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

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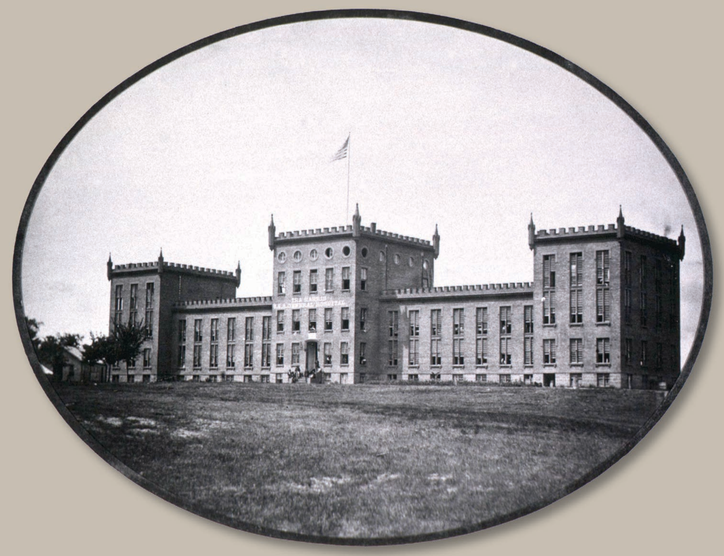
The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

Albany at War

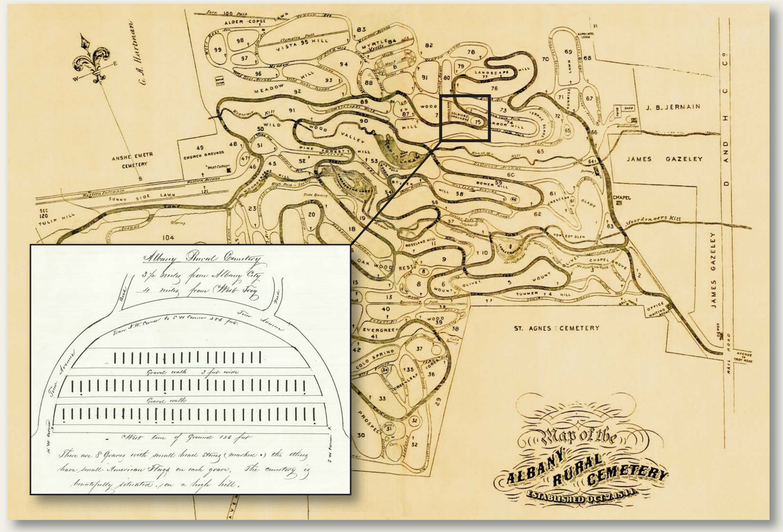
On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The next day, the New York State Assembly appropriated $3 million to raise and provision 30,000 troops to help suppress the southern rebellion. Albany County raised ten Union infantry regiments and one artillery battery to fight the Civil War.

The area transportation network made the city a strategic military crossroads. Thousands of soldiers traveled by rail or river from Albany to New York City. There, they boarded southbound steamships that took them to the battlefront.

In spring 1861, Gen. John F. Rathbone, commander of the New York Militia, converted the Albany Industrial School into a hospital and erected three new buildings on the campus. Originally known as "The Barracks," it later became a U.S. General Hospital named in honor of New York Senator Ira Harris.



Undated photograph of Ira Harris U.S. General Hospital. U.S. National Library of Medicine.



Albany Rural Cemetery plan showing soldiers' lot. Phelps, The Albany Rural Cemetery *(1893). Inset: Plan of the soldiers' lot, 1866. National Archives and Records Administration.*

Soldiers' Lot

Albany Rural Cemetery was an early pastoral burial ground established in 1844. In June 1862, the Albany Cemetery Association donated a small parcel in Lot 7, Section 75, to the U.S. government for the burial of Union dead. By 1868, it contained the remains of 126 soldiers and two sailors. Most had died in city hospitals, others were removed from southern battlefields or hospitals. Today 149 men lie in this lot, the last one buried in 1897.

In the 1870s, a Civil War monument was gradually erected here. On Decoration (Memorial) Day 1872, the Grand Army of the Republic Lew Benedict Post No. 5 dedicated a granite pedestal and bust of President Abraham Lincoln. Four bronze plaques, cast from melted cannon, name the "648 brave souls from the county of Albany who gave their lives that the country might live." By 1875, the monument featured a bas-relief medallion of Lincoln, and a bronze figure of a Union soldier had replaced the bust.

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ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Securing the Capital

On May 24, 1861, Gen. Winfield Scott ordered eleven regiments of Union troops from Washington, D.C., across the Potomac River, where they captured Arlington and Alexandria.

After their defeat in July at Manassas, Virginia, the Union Army began constructing fortifications to protect the capital city. Fort Albany, Battery Rogers, and Fort Ellsworth near Alexandria anchored the southern end of Washington's defenses. The city became an important Union base of operations.

Battery Rogers, Alexandria harbor, was one of ninety-three detached batteries that made up the defenses of Washington, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

Mansion House Hospital, at the intersection of North Fairfax and Cameron streets, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

Military Hospitals

The influx of troops to Alexandria prompted the need for military hospitals. Thousands of sick and wounded Union soldiers were treated in area hospitals throughout the Civil War. The army opened Mansion House Hospital, Old General Hospital, Sickel General Hospital, and Slough Barracks General Hospital. It also established a large convalescent camp in Alexandria for soldiers who were discharged from the hospital but were still recovering.

Beginning in March 1863, the federal government began actively recruiting black men for the Union Army. A few months later, the War Department created the Bureau of United States Colored Troops (USCT). USCT regiments fought in battles and engagements from Virginia to Texas. L'Overture General Hospital, designed by the Quartermaster Department, opened in Alexandria in February 1864 for the treatment of black soldiers and civilians.

The First National Cemeteries

Despite the numerous medical facilities in Alexandria, many soldiers died. The federal government acquired 4 acres adjoining the city cemeteries in 1862 to bury the dead. Initially it was known as Soldiers Cemetery. In 1871, the Quartermaster Department built a Second Empire-style lodge of Seneca sandstone at the entrance. A matching stone wall enclosed the cemetery. Today, Alexandria National Cemetery is the final resting place of about 4,000 individuals, including 280 USCT soldiers.

A simple boulder monument with a bronze plaque, erected in 1922, honors four civilian employees of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps. The men drowned attempting to cross the Potomac River on April 24, 1865, while pursuing John Wilkes Booth, President Abraham Lincoln's assassin. Their graves are located near the monument.

Entrance to Alexandria National Cemetery, 1869. National Archives and Records Administration.

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ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Alexandria

Alexandria, Louisiana, served briefly as the headquarters of the Confederate Department of the Trans-Mississippi, a vast area encompassing states and territories west of the Mississippi River.

In spring 1863, the Confederates moved this base north to Shreveport, just before a U.S. Army-Navy operation captured Alexandria on May 7. Union forces abandoned the city by summer.

In spring 1864, Alexandria became the target of Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks' Red River Campaign. In March, a combined land and sea operation captured Fort DeRussy, downriver from the city, and the Union reoccupied the city.

Banks marched west where he was defeated by Confederate troops under Gen. Richard Taylor. He then retreated to Alexandria on April 9, where low river levels trapped the naval fleet. Troops constructed a dam to raise the water level and the gunboats escaped. The Union Army withdrew from Alexandria on May 13, burning part of the city as they departed.

Union gunboats float over the dam at Alexandria. Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (*1894*).

Superintendent's lodge, 1895. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

In 1867, the federal government established Alexandria National Cemetery on 8.24 acres seized from a private citizen. By 1874, there were 1,283 interments here. All but twelve graves contained the remains of Union soldiers or sailors. The majority were buried as unknowns.

By 1880, a brick wall surrounded the cemetery. A brick Second Empire-style lodge housed the superintendent and his family. Large artillery pieces flanked the cemetery entrance. Trees planted along the road created a shady avenue from the main gate to the flagstaff at the center of the cemetery. In 1931, the old lodge was razed and the current one was constructed.

Moving the Brownsville Dead

In July 1906, the all-black 25th U.S. Infantry arrived at Fort Brown near Brownsville, Texas, for duty. These soldiers experienced discrimination and physical abuse in the town. On August 13, 1906, unknown persons killed a bartender and wounded a police officer. The soldiers were accused but denied any involvement. The army summarily discharged "without honor" all 167 enlisted men. As a result of the incident, the War Department decided to close the fort and remove the remains from Brownsville National Cemetery. The former post cemetery, established during the Mexican-American War, had been designated a national cemetery in 1867.

Workers remove remains from Brownsville National Cemetery, Texas, c. 1909. Brownsville Historical Society.

In 1909, a contractor, using local labor, exhumed more than 3,000 dead from this cemetery. Five freight-train cars transported the remains to Alexandria. The identified remains were interred along the northwest wall, and the area designated Section B. Unknown remains were placed in a mass grave on the southeast side of the flagpole circle. The federal government erected a group monument on this grave.

ALLEGHENY SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

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The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

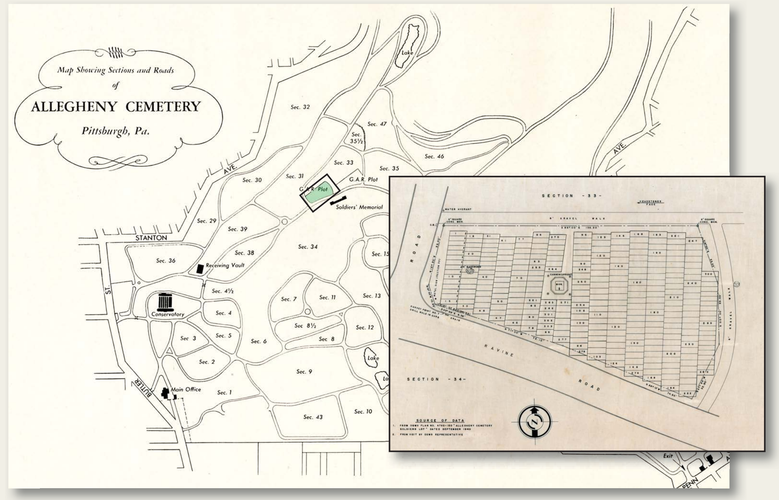
Pittsburgh at War

When President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for volunteers on April 12, 1861, to suppress the southern rebellion, the quota for Pittsburgh was 3,277 men. More than 11,000 came forward. Forty companies raised from Allegheny County remained at Camp Wilkins, which was established on the city's fairgrounds. In August 1861, the U.S. Army took charge of the camp and mustered the men into Union service.

The area's river network transported thousands of men and tons of supplies to the battlefront. City foundries produced in excess of 1,100 cannon—nearly 15 percent of all artillery made for the U.S. Army during the Civil War.

Pittsburgh rallied for the war effort. In fall 1861, citizens formed a subsistence committee. Members served more than 400,000 meals to soldiers who passed through the city. Mercy Hospital, established in 1847 by the Sisters of Mercy, a Roman Catholic order of nuns, filled with sick and wounded soldiers. Overcrowding at Mercy led the federal government to establish a military hospital in 1862 at West Pennsylvania Hospital.

Allegheny Arsenal, in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood, manufactured cartridges and other ammunition for the Union. An explosion on September 12, 1862—the same day as the Battle of Antietam, Maryland—killed 78 workers, most young women. Many were buried together at Allegheny Cemetery. Archives Service Center, University of Pittsburgh.



Allegheny Cemetery plan, 1947, with soldiers' lot shaded green. The 103rd anniversary commemorative booklet. Inset: Soldiers' lot plan, 1956. National Cemetery Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

Allegheny Cemetery, incorporated in 1844, is an early rural-style burial ground. In 1862, the Allegheny Cemetery Association set aside a lot in Section 33 for the free burial of U.S. soldiers who died during the Civil War. Some 236 Union soldiers and several Confederate prisoners were eventually interred here. In 1875, the federal government obtained a deed for the land.

The next year, the Allegheny County Ladies Memorial Association erected a monument in the lot. Pittsburgh artist Fred Mayer designed the 16-foot-tall sandstone sculpture composed of an allegorical figure of "Grief" atop a pedestal. Bas-relief carvings of soldiers and sailors alternate with bronze plaques on the pedestal. Four carved mortars—small, blunt artillery—anchor the base.

The graves in this lot feature standard government-issued marble headstones. Union dead are marked by a rounded-top design approved in 1873, and Confederate dead by pointed-top headstones, first used in 1901.

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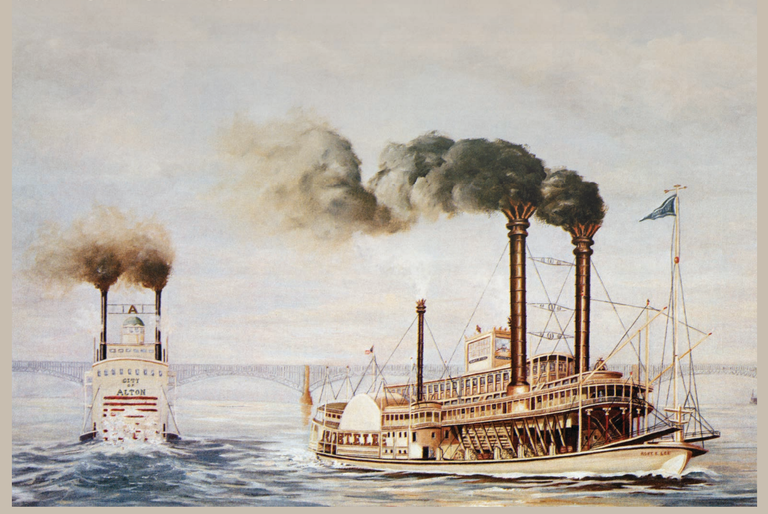
ALTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Alton

In spring 1861, pro-Confederate militia in St. Louis, Missouri, threatened to capture the U.S. arsenal there. Union forces in Illinois commandeered the steamboat *City of Alton*, sailed south, and at midnight on April 25, tied up at the St. Louis wharf. Under the command of Capt. James B. Stokes, 700 volunteer soldiers loaded 21,000 small arms, artillery, gunpowder, and ammunition aboard, then steamed back to Alton. From there, the supplies went by rail to Springfield, Illinois. Later, these would be distributed to Union regiments.

Over the course of the Civil War, some 4,450 Madison County residents formed twenty companies in thirteen Illinois regiments. The Union Army maintained a garrison and hospital in Alton. Women volunteered as nurses and in 1863 formed the Ladies' Loyal League of Alton. Members knitted socks and organized a fair that raised money to send food and other necessities to soldiers. Alton Military Prison, a converted state penitentiary, housed Confederate prisoners of war from 1862 into 1865.



Twentieth-century lithograph of steamboats City of Alton *(left) and* Robert E. Lee *(right), by Carole Krite. Courtesy Missouri History Museum, St. Louis.*

Early twentieth-century view of soldiers' lot. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

A soldiers' lot in Alton City Cemetery served as the first burial ground for Union soldiers who died in the military hospital and aboard riverboats. By 1866 there were 163 graves here, twelve unknown. Because the lot was located within the city cemetery, a superintendent was not needed. The government paid the city $30 per year to maintain its graves. They were marked with permanent marble headstones in the late 1870s.

After lengthy negotiation, the U.S. Army took title to the 0.48-acre parcel in 1940. In exchange, it agreed to build a rostrum. An Art Deco-style entrance with speaker's stand was completed in 1941 using Works Projects Administration funds in excess of $20,000. During this time, forty-nine Union soldiers interred elsewhere in the city cemetery were moved here. In 1948, the lot was designated a national cemetery.

Grand Army of the Republic Monument

In 1890, Alton Post No. 441 of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a Union veterans' organization, erected a monument overlooking the soldiers' lot. The monument consisted of an artillery tube atop a rough-faced granite base.

One side was inscribed "The Union Dead," the other *"Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori"* (It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country).

Early twentieth-century view of GAR monument and wooden flagpole, neither of which survive. National Archives and Records Administration.

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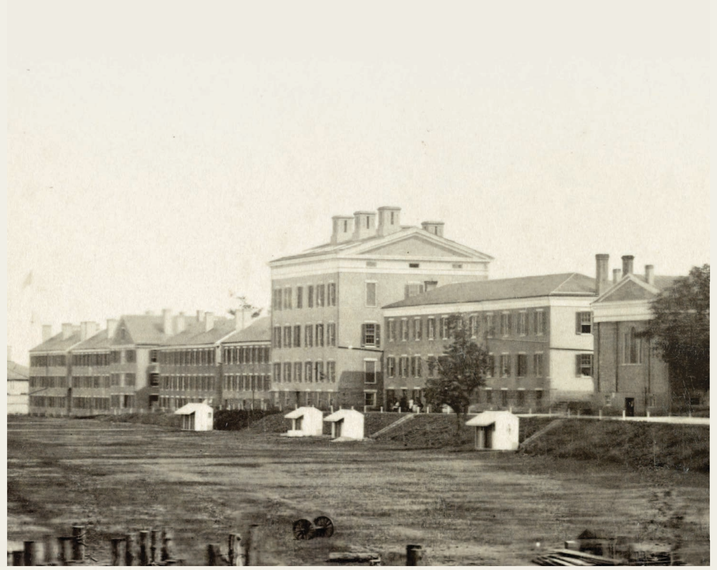
ANNAPOLIS NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Annapolis

In April 1861, Gen. Benjamin Butler and his Massachusetts troops entered the Maryland capital to ensure the state remained in the Union. The U.S. Army then formed the Department of Annapolis, headed by Butler, to secure communication between the North and Washington, D.C. By summer, the U.S. Naval Academy was converted into a hospital. As Civil War fighting along the eastern seaboard intensified, St. John's College became a second hospital.

Annapolis also served as a parole camp. Union and Confederate forces exchanged prisoners on a one-for-one basis. Some were confined, others paroled and released. Paroled soldiers swore an oath to not take up arms until they were formally exchanged. Union authorities wanted their men available as soon as they were exchanged, so the U.S. Army housed the parolees in camps instead of allowing them to go home. At one time, Camp Parole near Annapolis housed 25,000 Union soldiers awaiting exchange.



U.S. Naval Academy buildings used as a U.S. General Hospital during the war, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

Camp Parole near Annapolis, 1865. Library of Congress.

National Cemetery

In 1862, the government leased 4 acres from Judge Nicholas Brewer. This land became Annapolis National Cemetery. Men who died at Camp Parole or the city's military hospitals occupy most of the graves. An 1868 army inspection listed 2,661 burials, including seven civilians, three female nurses, one Russian sailor, and one child. By the 1874 inspection, the list had been revised to 2,482 burials, including 211 unknowns and fourteen citizens. In the 1910s, a federal commission identified a few Confederate prisoner-of-war dead buried in the cemetery, and their graves were marked with distinctive pointed-top headstones.

The irregular-shaped cemetery occupies rolling land enclosed by a stone wall. Originally burial sections were separated by grass paths, and a central drive extended from the main gate, around the flagstaff mound, to the opposite wall. The original 1871 lodge was razed and replaced in 1940 with a Colonial Revival-style building. The old gates, too narrow for modern automobile access, were replaced at the same time.

Postcard view of Annapolis National Cemetery, c. 1912, showing entrance, lodge, and tool house. National Cemetery Administration.

ASHLAND SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

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The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

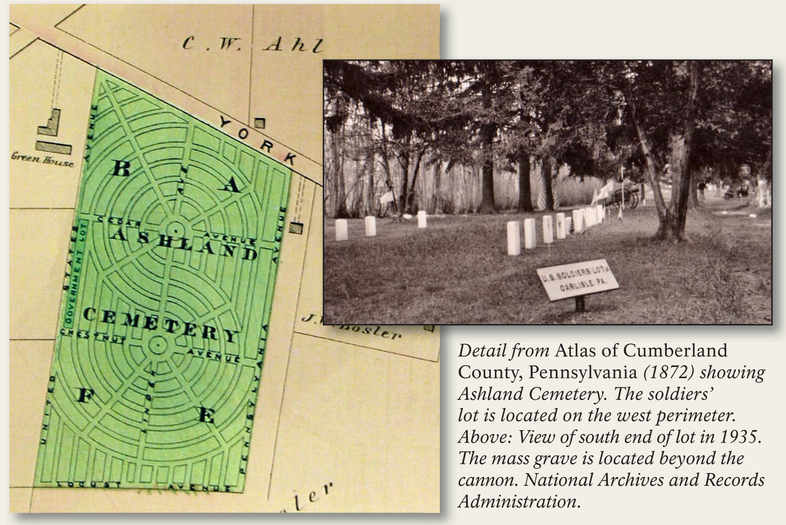
Carlisle at War

After Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, in April 1861, the men of Carlisle responded to the national call to put down the southern rebellion. Four companies of Pennsylvania infantry and five cavalry companies were organized here. Carlisle Army Barracks, just outside of town, included a Quartermaster and Ordnance Depot, and U.S. Cavalry training facility.

The Civil War reached Carlisle in June 1863. Confederate cavalry briefly occupied the town, taking from its citizenry supplies for both men and horses. Soon after, Confederate infantry arrived at the deserted U.S. Army barracks. Within a few days the rested and fed Confederates departed.

On July 1, Union forces set up artillery in Carlisle. When Confederate forces arrived and demanded their surrender, they declined. The Confederates burned Carlisle Barracks that night and departed. After the Battle of Gettysburg, 50 miles to the south, buildings at Dickenson College and many others in town served as temporary hospitals.

Confederate forces attack Carlisle. Harper's Weekly Magazine *(July 25, 1863).*



Detail from Atlas of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania *(1872) showing Ashland Cemetery. The soldiers' lot is located on the west perimeter. Above: View of south end of lot in 1935. The mass grave is located beyond the cannon. National Archives and Records Administration.*

Military Burials

Ashland Cemetery was established in 1865 on 12 acres. The soldiers' lot was acquired by the federal government in March 1866. An 1870 army inspection reported thirty-eight graves in the rectangular 0.2-acre lot. In May 1871, burials from Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery were moved here. More than 300 sets of remains were recovered, far more than expected.

In the 1930s, the army tried to determine the number of unknown dead buried in the north end of the lot in order to erect a monument on the mass grave. Eventually, a standard government headstone, inscribed "500 Unknown U.S. Soldiers," was installed. Later research identified thirty-five of the dead. A granite monument with a bronze plaque inscribed with these names replaced the headstone in 1960.

Today, the soldiers' lot contains twenty-three individual graves. Civil War Medal of Honor recipient Pvt. Jacob Cart, 7th Pennsylvania Reserve Infantry, is memorialized here. He captured a Confederate regimental flag at Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 13, 1862 (Section 22, Row D, Site 24).

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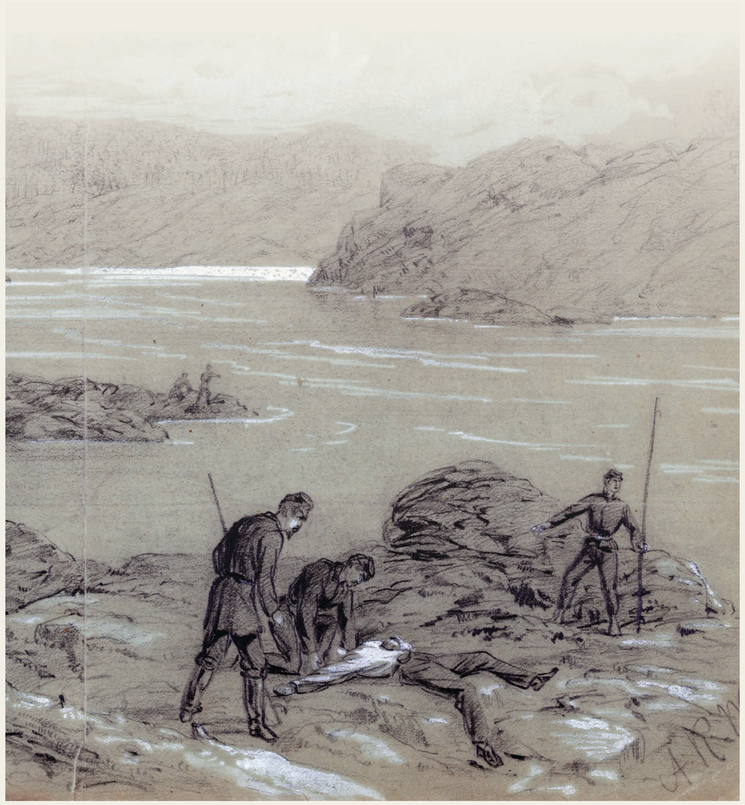
BALL'S BLUFF NATIONAL CEMETERY

Battle of Ball's Bluff

On October 20, 1861, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, ordered Brig. Gen. Charles P. Stone to scout Confederate forces on the Virginia side of the Potomac River near Leesburg.

Early on the morning of October 21, Union forces crossed the river to attack what was reported to be an unguarded Confederate camp. Instead, they came upon Southern troops under the command of Confederate Col. Nathan "Shanks" Evans and fighting ensued.

Robert Knox Sneden's map of the Battle of Ball's Bluff, 1861. Union forces are shown in purple, Confederate in red. Virginia Historical Society.



Union soldiers recover comrades' bodies from the Potomac River, c. 1861. Library of Congress.

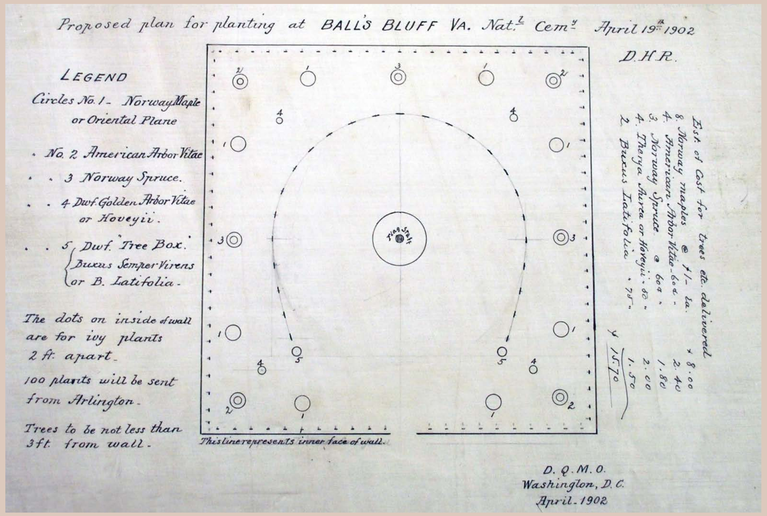
Senator Baker's Command

Stone ordered Col. Edward Baker, a U.S. senator, to Ball's Bluff to take charge of Union forces. Baker attempted to reinforce the troops but was delayed crossing the Potomac River. Only four small boats were available to transport soldiers. This extra time allowed Evans to call in additional Confederate forces from Leesburg. By late afternoon Baker was dead. Panicked Union soldiers retreated. Many drowned as they tried to swim across the river. The Union dead were buried on the battlefield in shallow, hastily dug graves.

Creating a National Cemetery

In April 1862, a surgeon with the Pennsylvania Volunteers was sent to Ball's Bluff to identify their dead. He reported graves in poor condition scattered on the bluff, and that it was impossible to "determine the State to which the bodies had belonged." In 1865, Lt. Col. James M. Moore, U.S. Army, recommended the "remains be disinterred, and removed to a suitable site on the bluff; and their graves be marked Unknown United States Soldiers, killed October 21st, 1861."

By 1871, the remains of fifty-four soldiers had been interred in twenty-five graves arranged in a semi-circle around a central path. A red sandstone wall was built to enclose the cemetery. Attempts to have the remains moved to Arlington National Cemetery, the last in 1882, were ultimately rejected. Pvt. James Allen, Co. H, 15th Massachusetts Infantry, is the only known burial in the second-smallest national cemetery. The battlefield and cemetery were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1984.



Cemetery landscape plan, 1902. National Archives and Records Administration.

BARRANCAS NATIONAL CEMETERY

Early U.S. Military Presence

In 1825, President John Quincy Adams ordered the creation of a naval station at Pensacola, Florida Territory. The Pensacola Navy Yard opened the following year.

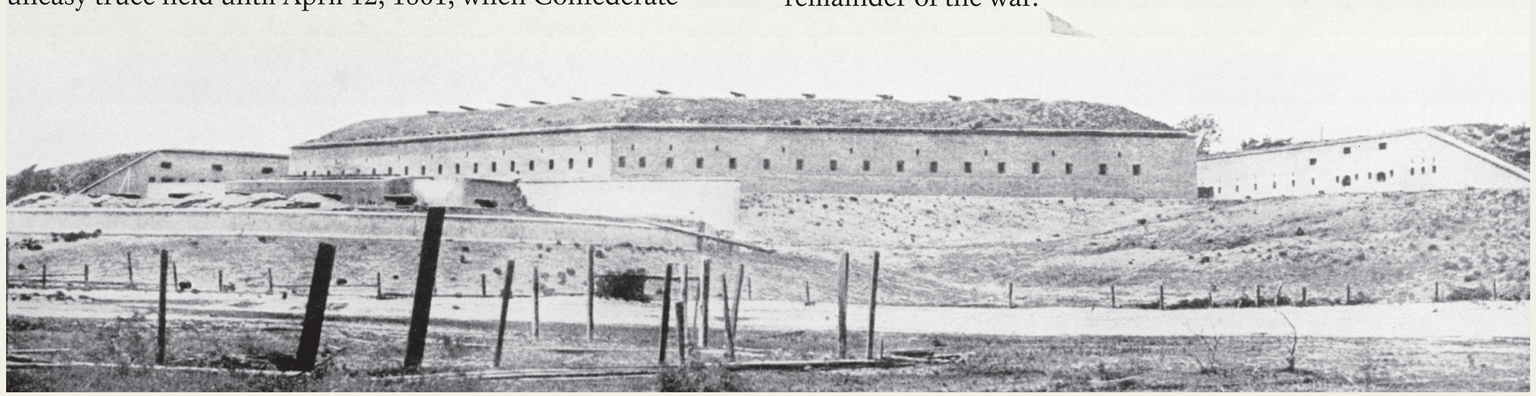
The first U.S. Naval Hospital was built here to treat victims of malaria, yellow fever, and other tropical diseases common to the Gulf Coast. A cemetery was established soon after.

The War Department improved the naval defenses in 1839 by building Fort Barrancas near the small hospital cemetery.

Confederates encamped near Pensacola Navy Yard, spring 1861. Library of Congress.

Civil War Pensacola

As Southern states were voting to secede from the Union, the small federal garrison at Pensacola abandoned mainland forts. Troops fled to Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island in the Gulf of Mexico. In February 1861, Confederate troops commanded by Gen. Braxton Bragg occupied the abandoned U.S. forts, including Fort Barrancas and the Pensacola Navy Yard. An uneasy truce held until April 12, 1861, when Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, and the Civil War began. Confederate forces attacked Fort Pickens on October 9, 1861. They captured an outlying Union camp but not the fort. Union batteries shelled the ships ferrying Confederate soldiers back to Pensacola. In early 1862, Confederate forces retreated to Mobile, Alabama. The U.S. Navy then held Pensacola for the remainder of the war.



Fort Barrancas, June 1861. Library of Congress.

National Cemetery

In 1868, the Quartermaster Department advised that the hospital cemetery be expanded to create Barrancas National Cemetery. Troops who died in Florida during the Civil War were reinterred in the 7-acre cemetery—soldiers on the west side and sailors on the east. Remains from coastal Escambia, Jackson, and Washington counties were later buried here. Seventy-two Confederate soldiers who died during the South's brief occupation of Pensacola are also interred here.

National cemetery entrance and brick wall are visible beyond the original wood gates, 1904. National Archives and Records Administration.

The cemetery superintendent lived at Fort Barrancas until the U.S. Army constructed a lodge on the grounds in 1868. An 8-foot-tall brick wall was erected around the cemetery the next year. The cemetery continued to change in the twentieth century. A replacement lodge was built in 1904 and razed in 1996.

In 1950, the U.S. Navy transferred 20-plus acres to the army to expand the cemetery. It contained Warrington Cemetery, a burial ground the navy created in 1935 when it consolidated several civilian cemeteries scattered through the navy yard. No burials have occurred in the civilian cemetery since.

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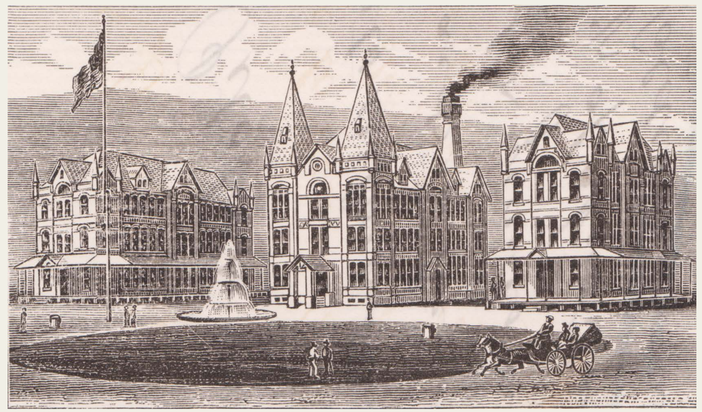
BATH NATIONAL CEMETERY

Soldiers' and Sailors' Home

In 1872, the New York legislature passed an unfunded bill to create the New York Soldiers' and Sailors' Home. The Grand Army of the Republic, a Union Army veterans group, raised money to construct the first three buildings. The State Home served its first meal on Christmas Day 1878.

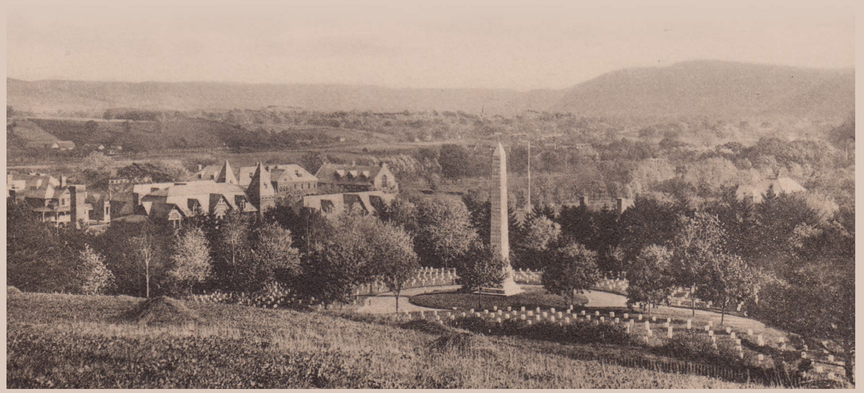
The campus grew to contain more than 100 structures on almost 400 acres. In 1906, the population reached 2,187. By 1928, the death rate of aging Civil War veterans reduced the resident population to 192.



The New York State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, from the Home's letterhead, 1881. National Archives and Records Administration.

In 1929, the federal government assumed responsibility for the facility and it became the Bath Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. It was the last of eleven National Homes designated since 1865.

The National Homes were merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930.



Postcard view of the 1894 monument and cemetery, 1911. National Cemetery Administration.

National Cemetery

The first burial was Pvt. William C. Terrell in 1879. By 1912, an estimated 4,225 Civil War veterans lay in the cemetery, including former members of U.S. Colored Troops. Among those interred here is Pvt. Robert Knox Sneden, who chronicled the Civil War in colorful drawings and maps.

Sneden served in the Army of the Potomac as a topographical engineer. In November 1863 he was captured and spent thirteen months in Confederate prisons, including Andersonville, Georgia. After his December 1864 release, the army discharged him. Sneden returned to New York City and compiled a memoir and scrapbook of images documenting his military service. He entered the State Home in 1904, and died there in 1918 (Section J, Row 11, Grave 14).

Rebel Battery in the Potomac River, 1862, by Pvt. Robert Knox Sneden. Virginia Historical Society.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Five Civil War recipients of the Medal of Honor are buried in the cemetery. First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal.

Pvt. George Grueb, 158th New York Infantry, was commended for gallantry at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, Virginia, September 29, 1864 (Section A, Row 2, Grave 3).

Sgt. John Kiggins, 149th New York Infantry, saved men from friendly fire at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, November 24, 1863 (Section H, Row 32, Grave 9).

Pvt. George Ladd, 22nd New York Cavalry, captured a Confederate color guard, flag, and horse at Waynesboro, Virginia, March 2, 1865 (Section C, Row 6, Grave 6).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

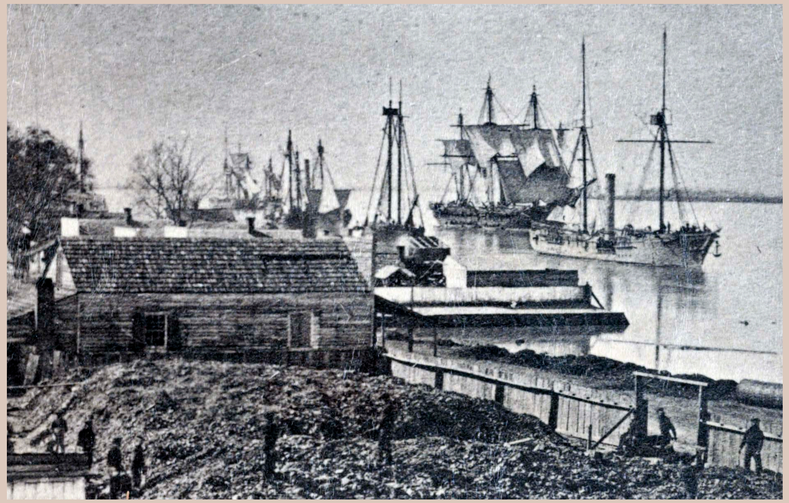
Sgt. Charles E. Morse, 62nd New York Infantry, seized the colors from a wounded sergeant and, though soon injured, carried them during the Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, May 5, 1864 (Section J, Row 4, Grave 24).

Seaman James Roberts, U.S.S. *Agawam*, was among the crew of a powder boat detonated near Fort Fisher, North Carolina, December 23, 1864 (Section I, Row 26, Grave 2).

BATON ROUGE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Baton Rouge

Control of the Mississippi River and New Orleans was vital to the Union war effort. In April 1862, Union gunboats steamed up the river. The vessels evaded the guns of Confederate-held forts located below New Orleans, and the city surrendered without a fight on April 28.



Union vessels anchored at Baton Rouge, March 1863. Library of Congress.

Knowing that Baton Rouge would fall next, Louisiana Gov. Thomas O. Moore ordered that all cotton stored in the city be moved or burned. Residents of the capital city fled as barges of blazing cotton were set adrift on the river. The Union Army captured Baton Rouge on May 7, 1862.

That August, the ironclad gunboat C.S.S. *Arkansas* and infantry commanded by Confederate Gen. John C. Breckinridge attempted to retake the city. On August 5, the Confederates successfully pushed Union troops to the city's outskirts. When fighting resumed the next day, the Union held the line and the Confederates retreated. Baton Rouge remained in federal control for the rest of the war.

Postcard view of cemetery, after 1910. National Cemetery Administration.

National Cemetery

Union soldiers killed in the Battle of Baton Rouge were the first burials here. Soldiers and sailors who died in city hospitals followed. The property was designated Baton Rouge National Cemetery in 1867.

The federal government enlarged the cemetery by purchasing an additional 8 acres. The U.S. Army removed the remains of soldiers buried in Plaquemine and Iberville parishes and Camden, Arkansas, and reinterred them here.

Improvements in the 1870s included a Second Empire-style brick superintendent's lodge, flagstaff, and gun monuments flanking the entry road. The lodge was replaced in 1931.

Section 3 contains several private, pre-Civil War burials from the old Baton Rouge Army Post Cemetery. In 1882, remains from that cemetery were exhumed and reinterred here.

Massachusetts Monument

Massachusetts funded a monument to honor its Civil War troops—thirteen infantry regiments and seven artillery batteries—who served in the U.S. Army Department of the Gulf. The 40-foot-tall granite obelisk was built by J. N. White and Sons of Quincy, Massachusetts, at a cost of $5,000.

On November 15, 1909, Massachusetts Gov. Ebenezer Draper, with fifty-nine officials and Union veterans, travelled to Baton Rouge to dedicate the monument. Louisiana Gov. Jared Y. Sanders and Baton Rouge Mayor Robert L. Pruyn participated in a ceremony that included music, speeches, a military salute, and the playing of "Taps."

Dedication of the Massachusetts Monument, 1909. John Teunisson Photograph Collection, Louisiana State Museum.

BAXTER SPRINGS SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

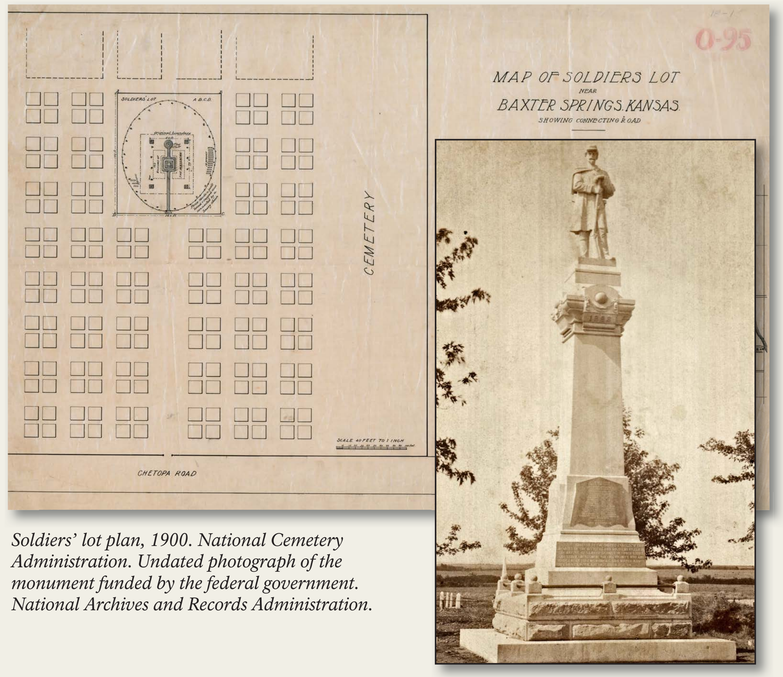
The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

Battle of Baxter Springs

On October 6, 1863, Confederate guerrilla William Clarke Quantrill planned a two-pronged attack on Fort Blair, a Union garrison near Baxter Springs, Kansas. One group of about 450 Confederates attacked from the east. The assault surprised the small Union post. Many soldiers were outside the fort at the time, but Lt. James B. Pond was able to rally his men and defend the fort.

A second group, led by Quantrill, got lost on the way to the fort. However, they encountered a detachment of Union soldiers escorting Gen. James G. Blunt, the U.S. district commander. The latter saw Quantrill's men but, because most wore captured Union uniforms, their allegiance was unclear. The guerrillas charged and, after a brief exchange of gunfire, broke the Union line. Blunt lost more than eighty men, many executed after they had surrendered. Nearly 100 Union soldiers were killed in action that day.

Seven weeks before they attacked Fort Blair, William Clarke Quantrill and his men raided Lawrence, Kansas. They killed 150 civilians and burned the town. Harper's Weekly Magazine *(September 5, 1863).*



Soldiers' lot plan, 1900. National Cemetery Administration. Undated photograph of the monument funded by the federal government. National Archives and Records Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

The Union dead were buried in Baxter Springs' city cemetery. The U.S. government had planned to remove these remains to the new national cemetery in Springfield, Missouri. However, residents petitioned to retain and care for the graves. Between 1869 and 1887, the City of Baxter Springs incrementally donated the 0.7-acre soldiers' lot to the United States. In 1873, the mayor requested artillery pieces to be installed here as ornamental features. The U.S. Army Ordnance Department supplied the four 32-pounder cannon tubes that still flank the central monument.

The 27-foot-tall granite monument honoring the soldiers killed in the 1863 Battle of Baxter Springs was dedicated on Decoration (Memorial) Day 1886. Congress allotted $4,000 to build it. The figure of a Union soldier at parade rest stands on a pedestal inscribed with 163 names of soldiers and civilians buried here.

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BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Beaufort

Soon after the Civil War began in April 1861, Confederate troops fortified the city of Beaufort. Fort Walker on Hilton Head Island and Fort Beauregard on St. Phillips Island protected the approach to Port Royal Bay.

On the morning of November 7, 1861, a Union fleet of seventeen gunboats pounded the forts with artillery fire. By late afternoon, the Confederates had abandoned both islands.

Union Hospital No. 7 at Beaufort, c. 1865. Library of Congress.

The Union Navy gained control of one of the best harbors on the Atlantic coast. Its blockading fleet could resupply and repair in protected waters. Beaufort, upriver from the islands, was transformed into a naval station, hospital center, and Union Army headquarters.

Cemetery entrance, 1904, showing the first permanent superintendent lodge, 1881 (right), which replaced the temporary wood lodge, c. 1867 (left). The older building was built across the street from the cemetery (foreground), and later moved inside the cemetery to be used as an outbuilding. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Beaufort National Cemetery was established in 1863. The U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office laid out the 22 acres in sections that radiate outward from a central plaza to form a half circle. Of the 9,226 interments here in 1874, about half were known. Many of the unknown dead were Union prisoners of war originally buried at Camp Lawton in Georgia.

New construction in the 1870s included a Second Empire-style lodge for the superintendent and a brick wall to enclose the cemetery. The existing Dutch Colonial Revival-style lodge was built in 1934. Although it has grown in size, the cemetery retains many of its original design features.

There are two Civil War monuments. The Union Soldiers Monument, a 20-foot-tall granite obelisk, was erected through the efforts of Mrs. Eliza McGuffin Potter in 1870. The second, a marble tablet on a raised brick base, lists the names of 175 soldiers who Mrs. Potter attended as a nurse in Beaufort hospitals.

U.S. Colored Troops

Beginning in March 1863, the federal government began recruiting black men for the Union Army. A few months later, the War Department created the Bureau of United States Colored Troops (USCT). USCT regiments fought in battles and engagements from Virginia to Texas. There are more than 1,700 USCT soldiers buried here.

In the late 1980s, the remains of nineteen soldiers, determined by archaeologists to be members of the all-black 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, were discovered on Folly Island near Charleston. In 1989, the remains were reinterred with full military honors between Section 56 and the back wall of the cemetery.

USCT reenactor pauses at coffins that contain the remains of black soldiers discovered on Folly Island, South Carolina, prior to reburial on Memorial Day 1989. National Cemetery Administration.

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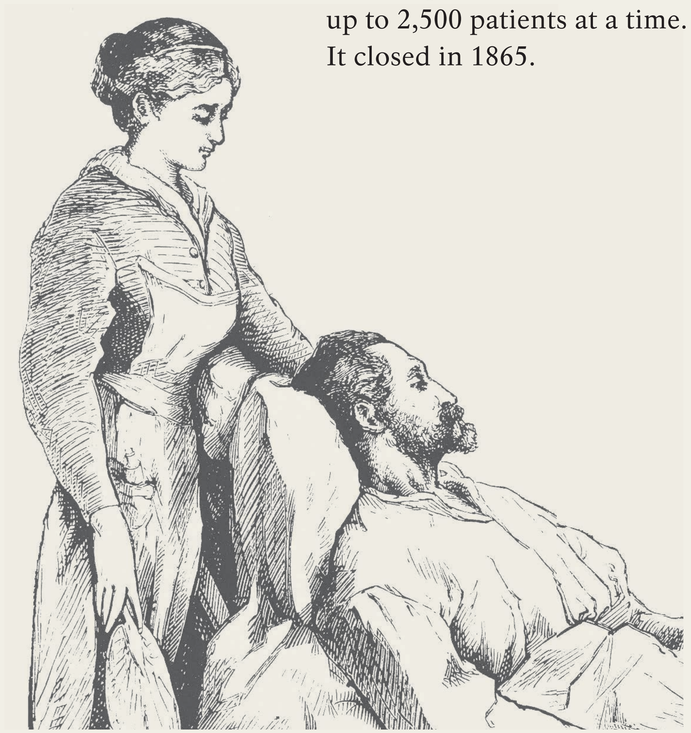
BEVERLY NATIONAL CEMETERY

Beverly Hospital

Two years into the Civil War, Philadelphia hospitals were filled with sick and wounded soldiers. To relieve the overcrowding, in 1864 the federal government established a military hospital in nearby Beverly. The New Jersey facility served soldiers requiring hospital care, and those recovering but not yet fit for active duty.

The ailing arrived from Philadelphia aboard the steamer *John A. Warner.* According to local lore, the citizens of Beverly met the boat at the wharf and helped transport soldiers to the hospital. Church bells tolled in welcome, and women served food and coffee.

The hospital accommodated up to 2,500 patients at a time. It closed in 1865.



Nurse and wounded Union soldier. Hospital Sketches and Camp and Fireside Stories *(1869).*

An 1898 view of the superintendent's lodge, erected 1879, and in front of it, the New Jersey Soldiers' Monument on a mound. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

In August 1864, a private citizen donated to the federal government land that became Beverly National Cemetery. Pvt. William Haskell, Company K, 24th Massachusetts Infantry, was the first burial on August 29, 1864. By the end of the war 147 soldiers lay here, seven unknown.

One Civil War recipient of the Medal of Honor is buried in the cemetery: First Sgt. Bernard A. Strausbaugh (Strasbaugh), 3rd Maryland Infantry. First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal.

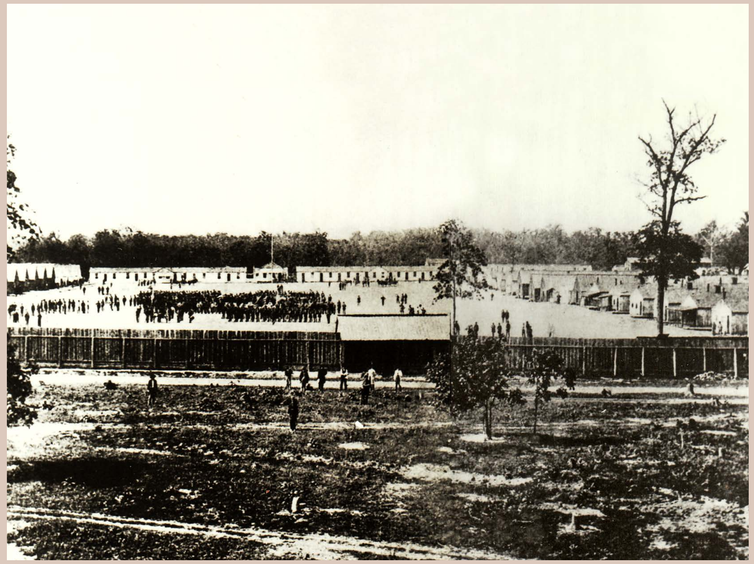
On June 17, 1864, Strausbaugh was injured recapturing the 2nd Pennsylvania Provisional Artillery colors at Petersburg, Virginia. He died in a Beverly hospital on November 5, 1864 (Section 1, Grave 102).

Soldiers' Monument

On June 25, 1875, a roaring artillery salute ended a ceremony to dedicate an imposing marble monument at the cemetery. National Guard units, local dignitaries, and the New Jersey governor participated. The state appropriated $10,000 to build the monument. Nearly 60 feet tall, topped with a standing soldier, it was inscribed: "Erected by the State of New Jersey in Memory of her Patriot Dead." The monument remained in place for more than seventy years. It was taken down in the 1950s after it became unstable. The figure and part of the base now stand in front of the American Legion Post 115 building a few blocks north of the cemetery.

Above, New Jersey Soldiers' Monument, c. 1898. National Archives and Records Administration. Right, the monument as it appeared in 2014. Courtesy of Bill Brookover.

CAMP BUTLER NATIONAL CEMETERY



Camp Butler in 1862. National Archives and Records Administration.

Union Training Camp

The State of Illinois established Camp Butler in August 1861 in response to President Abraham Lincoln's second call for volunteers to suppress the rebellion. Named for William Butler, the state treasurer, its location on Clear Lake was unfortunate. By October measles and typhoid swept the camp. Men who died were buried near the infantry encampment.

In December 1861, the military relocated to higher ground six miles southwest of Springfield. The new locale was served by reliable road and rail connections. Union troops departed Camp Butler in early February 1862. Until fall 1863, the facility served as a prison camp for Confederates.

After the last prisoners left, Camp Butler resumed its role as a Union training camp. Over the course of the Civil War, more than 200,000 Union soldiers passed through it. The camp formally closed on June 19, 1866.

National Cemetery

The original 6.5-acre cemetery was created in 1862. More than 700 Union soldiers who died in Camp Butler Hospital were buried here, along with a similar number of Confederate prisoners. Unlike most national cemeteries established after the Civil War, the first interments were not arranged in regular rows. Rather, graves were "dug as most convenient."

For nearly a decade, a picket fence separated Union graves in the "cemetery proper" from Confederate graves. By the 1870s, a brick wall enclosed the entire property. All graves were marked temporarily with wooden headboards. Permanent headstones for Union graves were installed after 1873 and for Confederate graves in 1908.

The graves of unknown soldiers originally featured small, square marble markers. In 1938, the army replaced these with upright headstones to create a uniform appearance.

Pre-1908 view of cemetery showing the original superintendent's lodge, flagpole mound, and unknown graves with square markers. National Archives and Records Administration.

Ceremonial area with flagpole and cannon monuments, 1933. The original octagonal rostrum, left, was replaced in 1939. National Archives and Records Administration.

Superintendents

An 1867 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage each national cemetery. To qualify for the position, an individual must have been an army enlisted man disabled in service. A later change to the law allowed any honorably mustered-out or discharged commissioned officer or enlisted man to serve.

James McCaulley, who lost an arm while serving in the 25th Indiana Infantry, was the first superintendent here. He saw the first permanent lodge constructed and flagstaff installed. Stone gateposts flanking the entrance supported an iron archway that read "National Cemetery."

From 1906 to 1930, Spanish-American War veteran George W. Ford, an African American, served as superintendent. He oversaw construction of the current lodge. Ford died in 1939 and is buried in Section 3, Grave 869.

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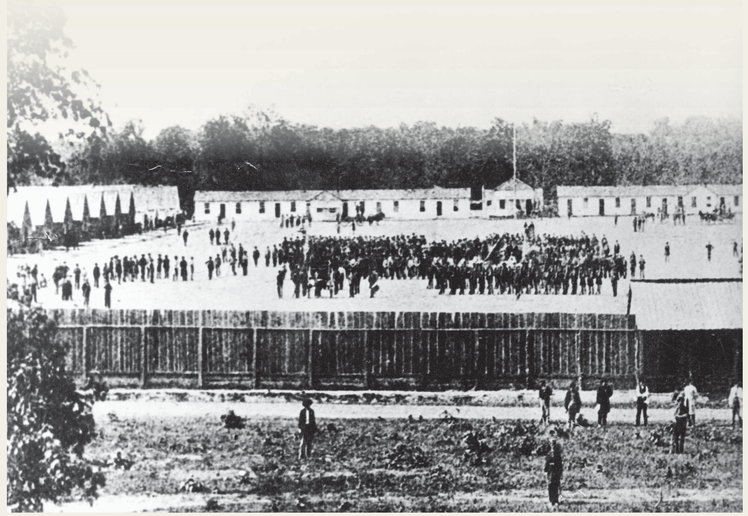
CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Camp Butler Prison Camp

On February 16, 1862, Fort Donelson, a Confederate stronghold on the Cumberland River west of Clarksville, Tennessee, surrendered. Faced with 15,000 prisoners, the U.S. Army converted several training camps, including Camp Butler, into military prisons; it received 2,000 prisoners.

An additional 1,000 prisoners arrived in April 1862, after the capture of Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River, near New Madrid, Missouri. Beginning in September, prisoners were sent south for exchange for Union prisoners; the camp was empty by October. In early 1863, an estimated 1,665 Confederate soldiers captured in Arkansas and Tennessee, arrived at Camp Butler.

Barracks were often full, forcing prisoners to live in tents. Illness reached epidemic proportions—pneumonia was a constant problem. When the last Confederate prisoners departed on May 19, 1863, more than 800 of their comrades had been buried in the prison cemetery, victims of inadequate facilities, poor sanitation, and disease.



Camp Butler, c. 1862. National Archives and Records Administration.

The Confederate section in 1939. National Archives and Records Administration.

Prison Dead

Prisoners who died at Camp Butler were interred in an old cornfield northeast of the camp, near the graves of Union soldiers.

Like Union dead, prisoners were buried in individual coffins and placed in graves marked with headboards or stakes. All Confederate prisoners buried at Camp Butler are in their original graves.

The post burial ground at Camp Butler became a national cemetery in 1862. An 1868 U.S. Army inspection report explained the layout: “The burials were made from the hospitals at Camp Butler as the deaths occurred, and do not seem to have been made according to any regular plan or order; but the graves were dug as most convenient.”

In 1908, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead erected the pointed-top marble headstones that still mark the graves.

Toward Reconciliation

On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

> *The Union is once more the common altar of our love and loyalty, our devotion and sacrifice . . . Every soldier’s grave made during our unfortunate Civil War is a tribute to American valor . . . in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.*

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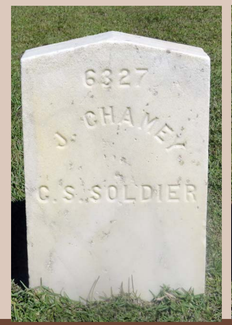

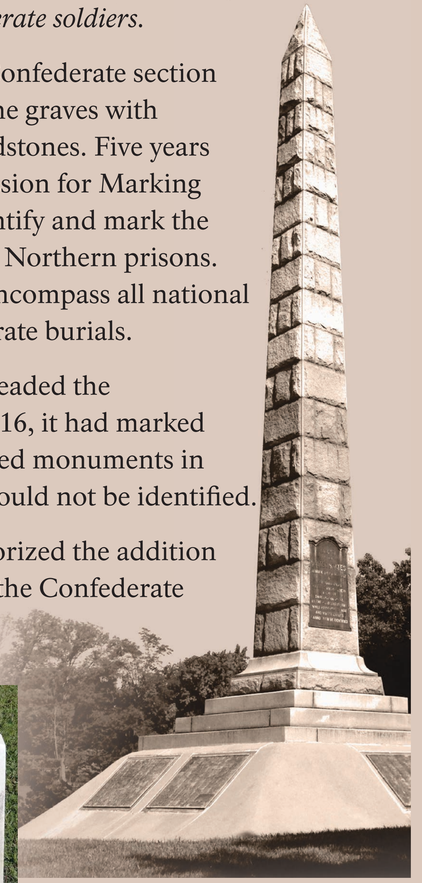

North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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CAMP CHASE CONFEDERATE CEMETERY

Camp Chase, c. 1864. Ohio Historical Society.

Camp Chase Prison

When President Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers to suppress the Southern rebellion in April 1861, thousands of men rushed to Camp Jackson in Columbus, Ohio. Authorities established Camp Chase after volunteers overwhelmed Camp Jackson, which had been hastily set up in a city park. Camp Chase remained a Union training camp throughout the war but assumed another function in June 1861, when the first prisoner arrived. By November, Camp Chase held nearly 300 prisoners, many of them Northern civilians charged with aiding the Confederacy.

On February 16, 1862, Fort Donelson, a Confederate stronghold on the Cumberland River west of Clarksville, Tennessee, surrendered. Faced with housing 15,000 prisoners, the federal government turned several training camps, including Camp Chase, into prison camps. When prisoner exchanges ceased in summer 1863, the Camp Chase population exploded to more than 2,000 men. Camp Chase operated for the duration of the war, but by July 1865 all remaining prisoners had been released.

The Prison Cemetery

By the time Camp Chase closed in 1865, more than 2,000 Confederate soldiers were buried here in graves marked with wooden headboards. After the war, family and friends removed 126 bodies. Later, the remains of ninety-nine Confederates buried in Columbus City Cemetery and at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati, were reinterred here. In 1879, the U.S. government bought the property.

Privately funded improvements and annual memorial observances began in 1893 under the direction of William Knauss, a former Union soldier. Knauss hired Henry Briggs, a local farmer, to maintain the cemetery. He also installed the memorial boulder.

Knauss formed the Camp Chase Memorial Association to solicit funds to decorate the Confederate graves and erect a formal monument. The existing granite arch topped by a zinc soldier was erected in 1902.

The monument, c. 1940. Urns on either side of the soldier were replaced later. National Archives and Records Administration.

In 1908, after determining that individual graves could be identified, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead installed headstones. The Commission also erected metal fencing atop the stone wall and the decorative entrance gate to better secure the cemetery.

Toward Reconciliation

On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

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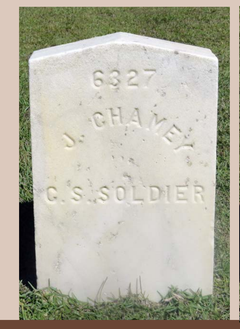

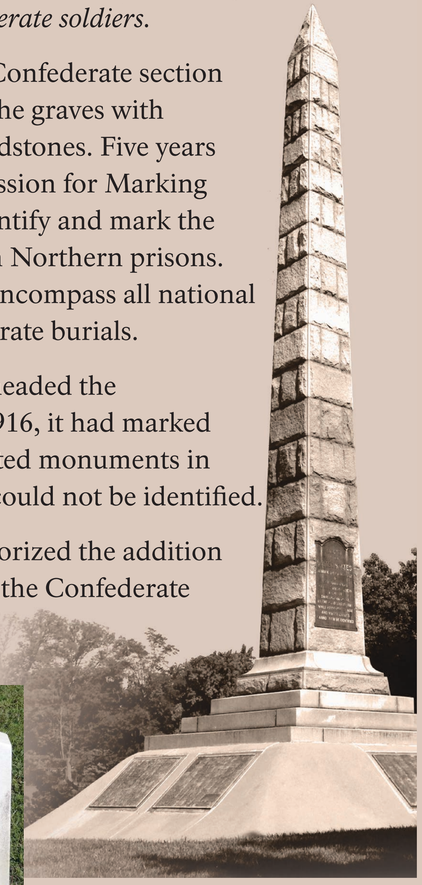

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CAMP NELSON NATIONAL CEMETERY

U.S. Colored Troops barracks at Camp Nelson, c. 1865. National Archives and Records Administration.

Camp Nelson

Gen. Ambrose Burnside, commander of the U.S. Army Department of the Ohio, established Camp Nelson in June 1863. It occupied a ridge above the Kentucky River about 20 miles south of Lexington. The Union depot provisioned the army's invasion of East Tennessee, then the Western Theater. Camp Nelson provided mules, horses, and other quartermaster and commissary supplies. Nelson General Hospital and a Soldiers' Home administered by the U.S. Sanitary Commission were established here.

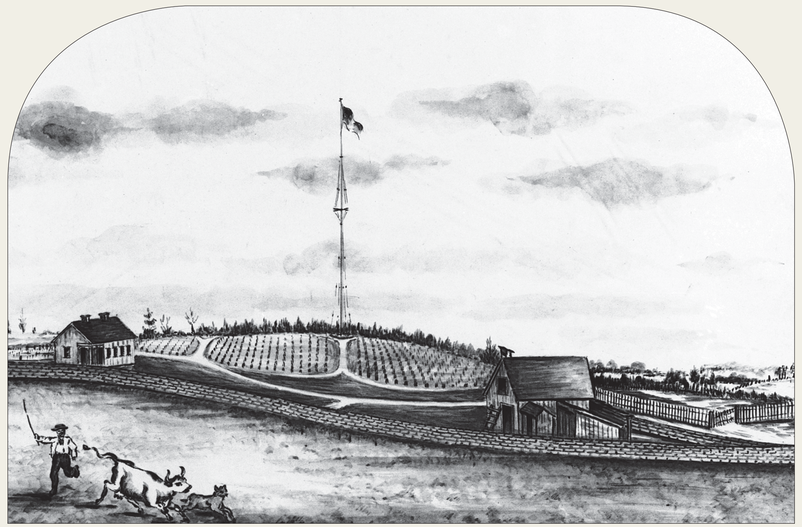
Camp Nelson became an important recruiting and training camp for U.S. Colored Troops (USCT). Many enslaved men who came to enlist brought their families. The army responded by building a large refugee camp to shelter them. More than 10,000 USCT passed through Camp Nelson, the third-largest USCT recruiting center established during the Civil War.

"Harvest of Death"

Early in 1866, Capt. E. B. Whitman began gathering information in preparation for the reinterment of Union soldiers buried in the Military Division of Tennessee. This huge district included Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Captain Whitman, later lieutenant colonel, placed newspaper notices seeking locations of Union graves. Citizens, chaplains, soldiers, and officers replied. Whitman made three major expeditions across the region, stopping at hundreds of battlefields and engagement sites. Because of his work, thousands of Union dead were moved to twelve new national cemeteries.

In May 1869, Whitman submitted a detailed summary of this difficult project to the quartermaster general. The report contained sketches and site plans of each cemetery, and data on interments and service affiliations.



Camp Nelson National Cemetery, from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman's final report, c. 1869. Whitman used the phrase "Harvest of Death" in his exhaustive report to describe the work of collecting the dead. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Prior to 1869, ten federally established or public cemeteries in Kentucky contained the remains of Union soldiers. The work of reinterring the dead was almost complete when the army changed its plan and reduced the number of cemeteries in the state to six.

Cemetery gate, 1904. The cast-iron plaques contain information about the establishment of the national cemeteries (left) and the rules of behavior for visitors (right). National Archives and Records Administration.

Camp Nelson National Cemetery, the largest, had been established to bury soldiers who died in camp. In 1867, the U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office moved remains here from Covington, Frankfort, London, Perryville, and Richmond, Kentucky. As a result, the cemetery more than doubled to 6.5 acres.

Two years later, it contained 3,638 Union graves, including 867 USCT. Fewer than one-third of the dead were unknown. By 1874, the government had purchased another 3 acres and built a Second Empire-style lodge for the superintendent and his family.

By law, the secretary of war appointed a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the cemetery. Ewald Schneider, who served in the 5th U.S. Artillery, was the first superintendent here. He lost a leg at the Battle of Chickamauga (Georgia) on September 19, 1863.

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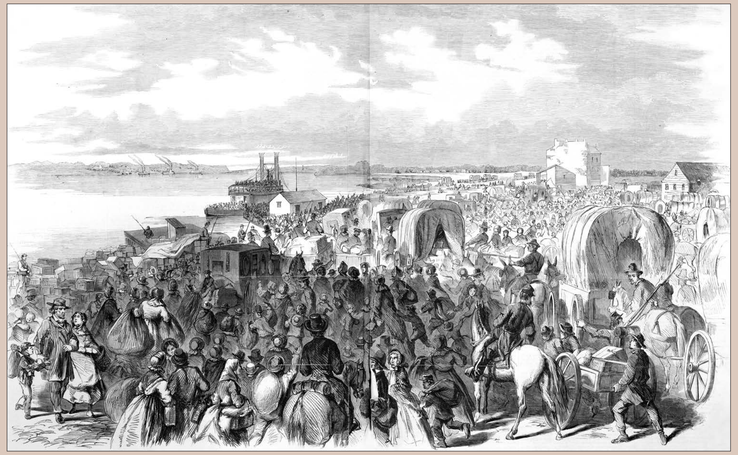
CAVE HILL NATIONAL CEMETERY



In September 1862, Union Maj. Gen. William "Bull" Nelson ordered women and children out of Louisville. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (*October 18, 1862).*

Civil War Louisville

When the Civil War began, Louisville was the largest city in Kentucky and the twelfth largest in the nation. Because its commercial and industrial economy was not dependent on slave labor, less than 10 percent of the city's population was enslaved. A major transportation hub, Louisville railroads connected it to other Kentucky cities, as well as Cincinnati, Ohio, to the east and Nashville, Tennessee, to the south. The Ohio River provided another transportation route. More than 100,000 Union soldiers passed through the city either by railroad or river.

By 1862, Louisville was vital to the Union war effort. The Louisville & Nashville (L&N) Railroad carried supplies from northern states to Union troops in Tennessee and beyond. After the October 1862 Battle of Perryville, several hundred Confederate prisoners were confined in the city. Wounded Union soldiers were treated in Louisville's nineteen military hospitals. Many soldiers who died of wounds or sickness were buried here.

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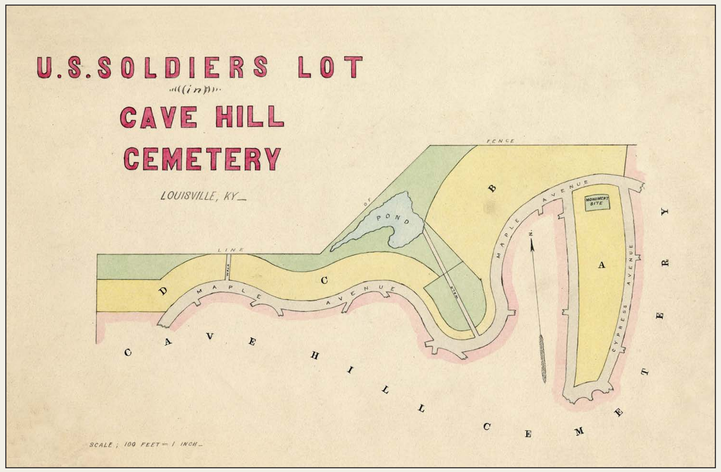

Drawing of Soldiers' Lot, later designated a national cemetery, at Cave Hill Cemetery, c. 1866. National Archives and Records Administration.

Superintendent's lodge, 1882. The Second Empire-style building, constructed in 1877 outside the cemetery wall, was sold in 1938. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Prior to 1869, ten federally established or public cemeteries in Kentucky contained the remains of Union soldiers. The work of reinterring the dead was almost complete when the army changed its plan and reduced the number of cemeteries in the state to six.

The private Cave Hill Cemetery, established 1848, had donated a half acre to the government for the burial of Union dead in 1861. Federal acquisitions between 1863 and 1868 brought the size of the lot to 2.9 acres. By 1869, the national cemetery contained 3,910 interments. Only 563 were unknown. The remains came from several Kentucky locales including Henderson, Owensboro, and battlefields and sites along the L&N Railroad between here and Woodsonville, Hart County.

One of the nation's oldest Civil War monuments, honoring soldiers of the 32nd Indiana Infantry, was moved here in 1867. The Union Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association dedicated a memorial to the unknown dead buried in the national cemetery on July 25, 1914.

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CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Battle of Chattanooga, L. Prang & Co., 1880. Library of Congress.

Civil War Chattanooga

Following a defeat at Chickamauga, Georgia, in September 1863, the Union Army retreated to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Confederate forces laid siege to the city, and for a month both sides tried to gain the advantage. Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant secured a supply line into the city and in mid-November devised a plan to break the Confederate line on nearby Missionary Ridge.

In a series of engagements that began November 23, 1863, Grant's troops were victorious. Two days later they attacked Missionary Ridge. The assault succeeded once Union troops were able to scale the ridge and pierce the Confederate line. The Confederates retreated down the east side of the ridge, ending the battle on November 25.

National Cemetery

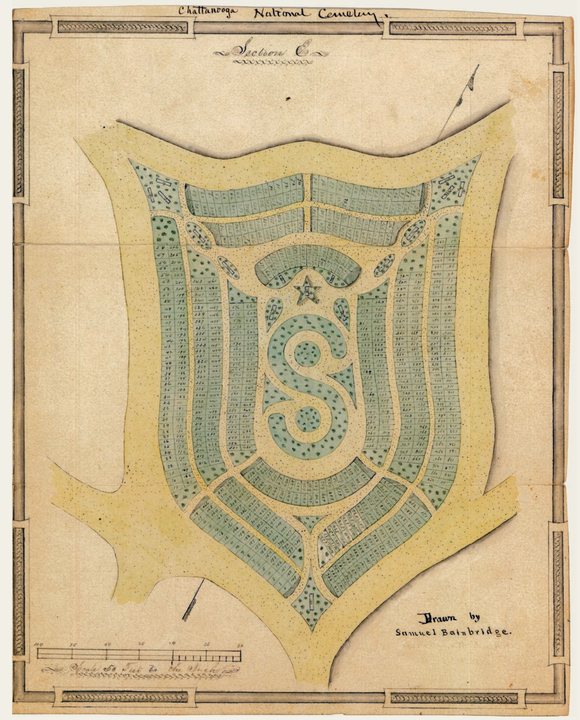
Gen. George H. Thomas established a cemetery here on December 25, 1863, "to provide a proper resting place for the remains of the brave men who fell upon the fields" of Chattanooga.

The grounds, some 120 acres southwest of the city, were huge in comparison to other early military cemeteries. A stone wall enclosed 75 acres, where four miles of roadway meandered through eighteen picturesque burial sections. A central hill was reserved for the flagstaff and cannon monuments. The natural terrain influenced the landscape design, resulting in irregular-shaped sections that still define the cemetery.

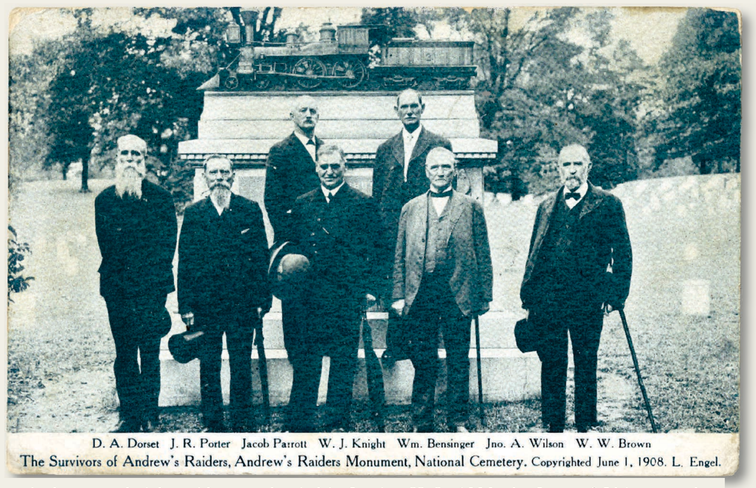
In 1867, this was designated Chattanooga National Cemetery. The 1874 army inspection reported 12,928 interments here, 4,860 unknown.

There are two Civil War monuments. Members of the 4th Army Corps erected a granite obelisk (between Sections C and F) in 1868 to honor fallen comrades.

In 1880, a 32-foot-tall Neoclassical archway was erected at the original cemetery entrance. It is one of five monumental arches the army built in southern national cemeteries.



Watercolor depiction of Section E, c. 1870s. National Archives and Records Administration.



Andrews and eight raiders are buried in Section H. In 1890, the State of Ohio erected a monument here that features a bronze replica of the General *locomotive. This postcard shows surviving raiders at the monument in 1908. National Cemetery Administration.*

Andrews Raid

On April 12, 1862, Kentucky civilian James J. Andrews led a daring raid. Andrews, another civilian, and twenty Union soldiers from the 2nd, 21st, and 33rd Ohio infantries made their way to Big Shanty (Kennesaw), Georgia, and stole the locomotive *General*. As the raiders steamed north toward Chattanooga, they burned railroad bridges, cut telegraph lines, and tore up track.

Relentless pursuit, bad weather, and poor luck ended their mission. Confederate forces eventually captured all the men. After being tried, Andrews and seven others were hanged as spies. Some raiders escaped. Others were exchanged for Confederate prisoners. Nineteen soldiers received the Medal of Honor. Andrews and the other civilian were not eligible for the commendation.

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CITY POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY

“The busiest place in Dixie”

City Point, Virginia, played a significant role in the final year of the Civil War. General-in-Chief of the Union Army Ulysses S. Grant established his headquarters here on June 15, 1864. Union ships sailed supplies up the James River to this hamlet north of Petersburg.

The massive supply depot included more than 280 buildings that housed facilities and services essential to keeping the Union Army combat ready. Deliveries flowed in to support the 100,000 men and 65,000 animals Grant employed in the siege of Petersburg. The Quartermaster Corps built eight wharves, which covered 8 acres and included 100,000 square feet of warehouse space. The magnitude of river traffic at City Point made it, briefly, one of the busiest ports in the world.

The Union Army also established hospital facilities at City Point in 1864. At first the wounded were housed in 1,200 tents. Later the army constructed ninety frame buildings capable of holding 5,400 men. The hospital complex included a water tower, ice house, dining hall and kitchens. By 1865, the complex had treated 29,000 patients.

Thousands of men, many former slaves, unload supplies on the wharf at City Point, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

National Cemetery

During the Civil War, Union and Confederate armies fought numerous battles for control of Richmond. Thousands of Union soldiers perished. They are now buried in City Point National Cemetery and six other national cemeteries established in the Richmond-Petersburg area in 1866. Most of the 6,909 burials were moved here from hospital cemeteries, including the old City Point burial ground, Point of Rocks Cemetery in Chesterfield County, and Harrison’s Landing in Charles City County.

Rear of the original lodge at City Point sometime before it was razed in 1928. National Archives and Records Administration.

Unlike most Richmond-area national cemeteries where greater numbers of unknown dead are interred, only 1,400 unknowns are here. More than 1,100 Confederate soldiers, who died in nearby hospitals after the Union occupation, lie here, most in Section C.

In the 1950s, several more Civil War soldiers were laid to rest in the cemetery. Work undertaken in a vacant lot in Hopewell, Virginia, in 1955, uncovered the graves of seventeen Union and Confederate soldiers. Four years later, construction crews working on Interstate 95 unearthed the remains of two Union soldiers.

Army of the James

Beginning in March 1863, the federal government began actively recruiting black men for the U.S. Army. In May of the following year, the War Department created the Bureau of United States Colored Troops (USCT). These regiments fought in battles and engagements from Virginia to Texas. Originally, USCT regiments were assigned to both the X and XVIII Corps of the Army of the James, but were consolidated into the XXV Corps in December 1864. More than 1,300 USCT soldiers, both known and unknown, were buried here.

In 1865, a 20-foot-tall marble obelisk was erected at the cemetery under the direction of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler and others. It honors the dead who served in the Army of the James. The badges of the XVIII Corps (trefoil cross), X Corps (four-bastioned fort), and XXIV Corps (heart) decorate the monument.

Members of the 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, c. 1865. The regiment was part of the Army of the James under Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler. Library of Congress.

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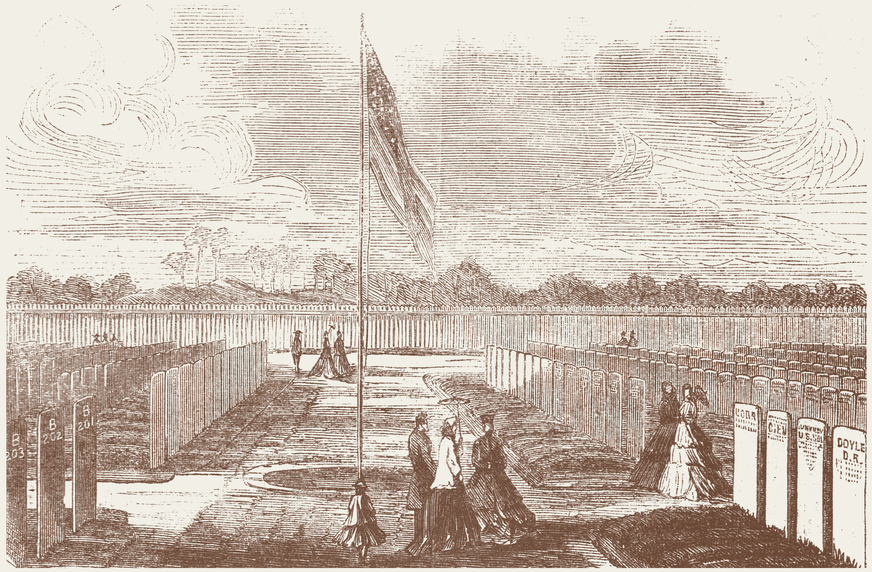
COLD HARBOR NATIONAL CEMETERY

“Grant’s slaughter pen”

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee’s army stood between Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Richmond, the Confederate capital. Grant ordered his cavalry to take and hold the vital crossroads known as Cold Harbor. On May 31, 1864, they succeeded, and that night both sides built fortifications. The next day, six Union divisions attacked. One New York soldier called it hell “turned up sideways.” The Union lost 2,200 men, took 750 prisoners, and gained nothing.

A Union battery at the Battle of Cold Harbor, June 1864, Library of Congress.

Grant planned another assault for the next morning, but everything went wrong. Union soldiers, maneuvering in the dark, did not reach their positions until dawn, and he postponed the attack one day to June 3. The delay allowed Lee to strengthen the Confederate line. Before sunrise, 50,000 Union infantry charged. An hour later 7,000 Union soldiers lay dead or wounded. Grant later wrote, “I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever made.” The Union offensive on Richmond ended at Cold Harbor and Grant moved on to Petersburg, Virginia.



Depiction of the cemetery with headboards. Harper’s Weekly, *October 1866.*

National Cemetery

During the Civil War, thousands of Union soldiers perished in battles fought for control of Richmond. They are now buried in Cold Harbor National Cemetery and six other national cemeteries established in the Richmond-Petersburg area in 1866. Here lie soldiers who died at the battles of Mechanicsville, Savage Station, and many other nearby sites.

The 1.4-acre cemetery is divided into quadrants with a flagstaff mound at the center. It was enclosed by a brick wall in 1871. A Second Empire-style lodge built in the 1870s stands at the entrance. The remains of 889 unknown Union soldiers are interred in two trenches along the north wall.

Medal of Honor recipient Augustus Barry, a sergeant-major with the 16th U.S. Infantry, was wounded in 1864 at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. Berry’s commendation was for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.” In 1867, he was appointed the cemetery superintendent; four years later he was buried in Section A, Grave 309.

Monuments

The first monument, a white marble sarcophagus, was erected in 1877 to mark trench burials containing the unknown dead. The citizens of New York and Pennsylvania erected monuments in 1909. The first is inscribed with the names of 219 men of the 8th New York Heavy Artillery who died fighting at Cold Harbor. The second, a 30-foot-tall granite shaft topped by a standing soldier, honors the sacrifice made nearby by Pennsylvania troops.

Dedication of the Pennsylvania Monument, attended by surviving veterans and others, 1909. National Cemetery Administration.

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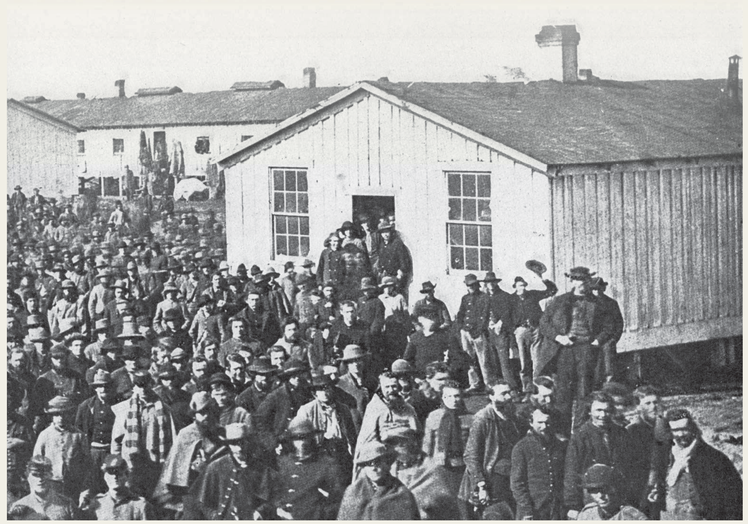
CONFEDERATE MOUND

Camp Douglas Prison

Camp Douglas was established as a Union training camp on the south side of Chicago. When Fort Donelson, a Confederate stronghold on the Cumberland River west of Clarksville, Tennessee, surrendered in February 1862, the federal government hastily converted Camp Douglas and other training camps into military prisons. More than 26,000 Confederate prisoners passed through Camp Douglas; more than 4,000 died there.

Men who died at Camp Douglas were buried at City Cemetery, now Lincoln Park, and at a smallpox cemetery. In late 1865, when local ordinances forced the U.S. Army to move the remains of an estimated 5,000 Confederate prisoners buried in the city, the federal government purchased this 5-acre lot in Oak Woods Cemetery. The remains of 655 Confederates and at least twelve Union guards from the smallpox cemetery were reinterred in Oak Woods. Two years later, the army moved an additional 3,384 bodies here from the City Cemetery. This lot became known as Confederate Mound.



Camp Douglas, c. 1864. Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War.

The unveiling of the monument in 1895. Library of Congress.

The 1895 Monument

In 1887, the War Department approved an Ex-Confederate Association of Chicago proposal to place a memorial at Confederate Mound. John C. Underwood, a former Confederate officer, designed the memorial and raised funds to erect it. The army supplied four artillery pieces and enough projectiles to create six pyramidal stacks around the monument. The May 30 dedication in 1895 was a lavish spectacle witnessed by an estimated 100,000 people.

In 1911, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead hired Van Amringe Granite Company of Boston, Massachusetts, to raise the nearly 40 foot monument and place it on a new base surrounded by a low mound. The mound features sixteen bronze plaques containing the names of 4,275 Confederate soldiers that the Commission was able to document as having perished at Camp Douglas.

Toward Reconciliation

On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

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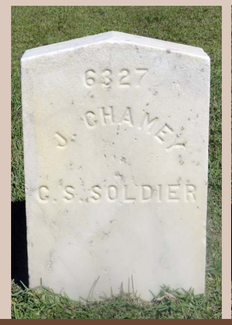

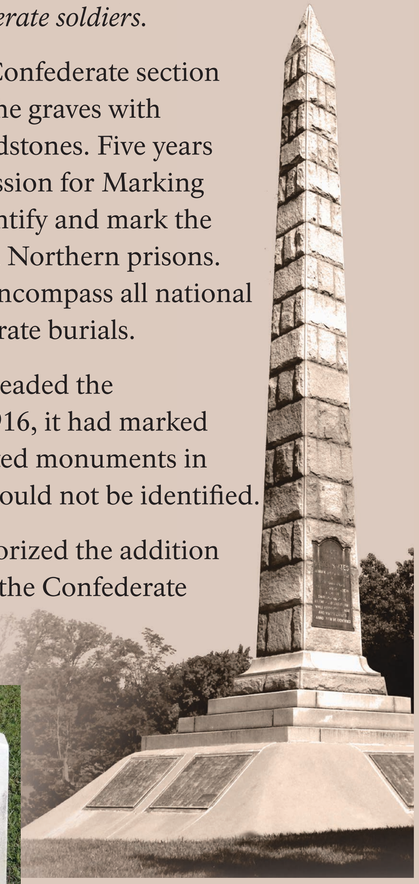

North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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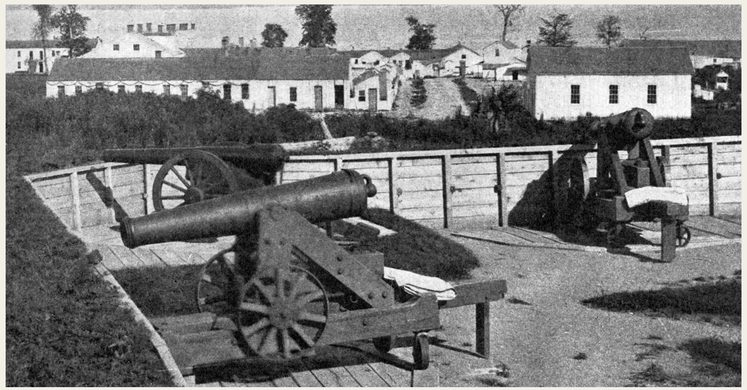
CONFEDERATE STOCKADE CEMETERY

Confederate Prison

On November 15, 1861, the War Department leased one half of Johnson's Island, in Sandusky Bay, Ohio, and began constructing a 15-acre prison camp on the southeast shore. When complete, the prison complex included a 14-foot-tall board stockade that enclosed thirteen barracks, one of which served as a hospital. Each barracks had two external kitchens. Forty structures outside the complex housed prison staff. A redoubt with artillery looked down on the prison to guard against insurrection.



The redoubt at Johnson's Island, c. 1863. Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War.

In June 1862, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton ordered that all Confederate officers held at Camp Chase prison in Columbus, Ohio, be moved to Johnson's Island. It became the official prison for Confederate officers; however, non-officers were held there, and officers were interned elsewhere.

Over the course of the war, about 12,000 prisoners were confined on Johnson's Island. Compared to other Civil War prison facilities, a remarkably low number—239—died, despite the harsh climate and remote location. The first recorded death was David T. J. Wood on May 6, 1862; William Michael, who died in June 1865, the month the prison closed, was the last.

Confederate Stockade Cemetery, c. 1901. Sandusky Library Archives Research Center.

The Cemetery

Prisoners who died at Johnson's Island were buried in a cemetery about a half mile from the prison. The soft, loamy island soil made digging easy, but 4-5 feet below ground was solid bedrock, which prevented burials at customary levels of 6 feet. Each grave was marked with a wooden headboard.

After the war, friends or relatives removed more than twenty bodies. Marble headstones—206 total—were erected in 1890 through the efforts of a group of Georgia journalists who visited the cemetery and reported in state newspapers the lack of permanent markers. Many of these headstones remain in place today.

The cemetery after the headstones were placed, pre-1910. Sandusky Library Archives Research Center.

Mary Patton Hudson

In 1905, the Robert Patton Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), bought the cemetery and adjacent lot from private owners. This purchase linked the cemetery and Mary Patton Hudson, the chapter's leader, for more than twenty years. Mrs. Hudson, known for her determination, worked diligently on behalf of the cemetery. After the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead was authorized in 1906, Mrs. Hudson immediately began lobbying for cemetery improvements including a new fence. Commissioner William Elliott declined to pay to enclose a cemetery the federal government did not own. Mrs. Hudson refused to relinquish the property.

To honor the soldiers buried on Johnson's Island, Mrs. Hudson raised the money to erect a large monument in 1910—a bronze statue of a Confederate soldier sculpted by Moses Ezekiel. Her crusade to improve and beautify the cemetery continued until her death in 1920. In 1931, the UDC donated the cemetery to the U.S. government.

Unveiling "The Lookout" statue in 1910. Sandusky Library Archives Research Center.

Mary Patton Hudson, c. 1905. Mrs. Hudson sent this photograph to Commissioner Elliott, "So he would know who he was talking to." National Archives and Records Administration.

CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY GOVERNMENT LOTS

Civil War Washington City

Over the course of the Civil War, the nation's capital was transformed. The dignified government city Pierre Charles L'Enfant laid out in 1791 was hardened into a sprawling military center. Encircled by strong defenses, the District of Columbia was among the most-heavily fortified cities in the world from 1861-1865.

As fighting continued and Union casualties rose, the U.S. Army created a medical center to care for injured soldiers flooding the city. A lone hospital served the city in April 1861. Five years later, there were 100 or more. The two largest hospitals—Freedman and Lincoln—each housed in excess of 2,000 patients. Armory Square, Carver, Emory, and Mount Pleasant hospitals each contained 1,000 or more beds.

Washington City's population skyrocketed when 30,000 fugitive slaves arrived in search of freedom and opportunity. When the Compensated Emancipation Act became law on April 16, 1862, it became the first emancipated city in America. Thousands of freedmen enlisted here and served in the U.S. Colored Troops.

A ward in Armory Square Hospital, Washington, D.C., c. 1863. Library of Congress.

Watercolor of Congressional Cemetery by Benjamin Latrobe, c. 1812. Considered America's first architect, Latrobe is credited with the cenotaph design seen here. Originally painted white, the geometrical memorial markers were constructed from Aquia sandstone. Library of Congress.

The Burial Ground

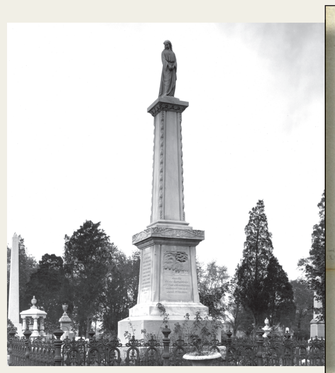
Congressional Cemetery was established as Washington Parish Burial Ground in 1807. It started on 4.5 acres in the southeast quadrant of the city bounded by E, G, 18th, and 19th streets. In 1816, the landowner, Christ Church, identified 100 gravesites in which to bury U.S. Congress members who died in the city. Eligibility later extended to other government officials.

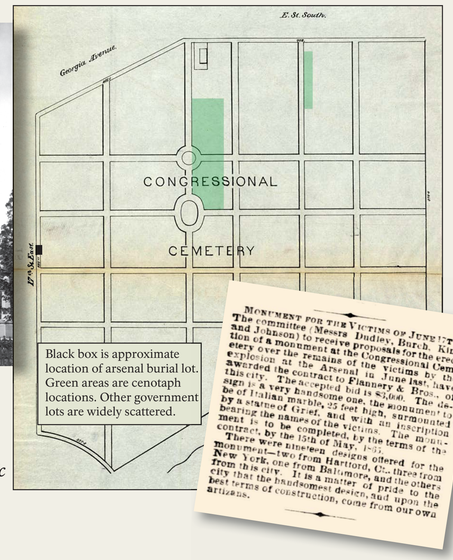
About 1820, it became the practice here to memorialize notables with a "cenotaph." A headstone marks a grave; a cenotaph usually does not. Of the 169 cenotaphs here, about fifty mark a burial. By 1876, Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia surpassed Congressional Cemetery as the preferred destination for deceased national leaders.

U.S. government property within Congressional Cemetery is made up of many separate lots—806 sites contain 469 burials. These are marked with government-issued headstones, cenotaphs, or other private memorial objects.

Civil War Burials

In 1868, the U.S. Army reported seventy-nine Union soldiers interred in Congressional Cemetery. The men likely died at military facilities nearby. Most Union soldiers who died in the Washington area were buried in the national cemetery established in August 1861 at the Soldiers' Home (now Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C.), and after 1863 at Arlington National Cemetery.





Above: Arsenal Monument, c. 1913. Right: Plate 18, Faehtz and Pratt, Real Estate Directory of the City of Washington *(1874). Washingtoniana Division and Map Collection, D.C. Public Library. Inset: Contract notice from* The (Washington) Evening Star, *November 26, 1864. Library of Congress.*

A government lot in Congressional became the final resting place of young women killed in the June 17, 1864, Washington Arsenal explosion. Their funeral, attended by President Abraham Lincoln and hundreds of mourners, took place two days later. Fifteen victims were buried in Range 97-98, Sites 142-146; two others were interred in family plots in the cemetery. A year after the tragedy, the 26-foot-tall, white marble Arsenal Monument was erected to honor the women. Funded by private donations and designed by Lot Flannery, it is inscribed with the names of the twenty-one victims below the allegorical female figure of "Grief."

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CORINTH NATIONAL CEMETERY

Union soldiers and supplies at the Corinth railroad depot, c. 1862. Library of Congress.

Civil War Corinth

Corinth was founded in the 1850s at the crossing of the Memphis and Charleston, and the Mobile and Ohio railroads. During the Civil War, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of this important railroad center.

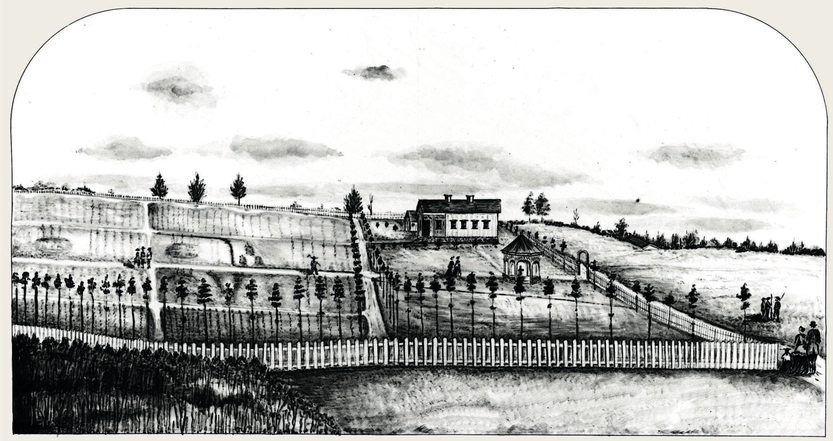
After Nashville, Tennessee, fell to the Union in early 1862, Confederate forces withdrew south to the town. After their defeat at Shiloh in April, Confederate troops again retreated to Corinth where they came under siege. Eventually Union forces captured the town and spent months fortifying it.

In October 1862, Confederate Gen. Earl Van Dorn tried to retake Corinth. His troops pushed Union forces from the outer fortification into the town center but they were ultimately repelled by artillery and small arms fire. The Union Army left Corinth in January 1864, leaving behind burned buildings and damaged rail lines.

"Harvest of Death"

Early in 1866, Capt. E. B. Whitman began gathering information in preparation for the reinterment of Union soldiers buried in the Military Division of Tennessee. This huge district included Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Captain Whitman, later lieutenant colonel, placed newspaper notices seeking information on the locations of Union graves. Citizens, chaplains, soldiers, and officers replied.



Corinth National Cemetery, from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman's final report, c. 1869. Whitman used the phrase "Harvest of Death" in his exhaustive report to describe the work of collecting the dead. National Archives and Records Administration.

Whitman made three major expeditions across the region, stopping at hundreds of battlefields and engagement sites. Because of his work, thousands of Union dead were moved to twelve new national cemeteries.

In May 1869, Whitman submitted a detailed summary of this difficult project to the quartermaster general. The report contained sketches and site plans of each cemetery, and data on interments and service affiliations.

National Cemetery

In 1866, the U.S. government purchased 20 acres, less than a mile southeast of the city, on which to establish Corinth National Cemetery. Remains from northern Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee were reinterred here by state affiliation. Whitman's 1869 cemetery plan indicates that soldiers from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin were buried in Sections A-D. Unknown soldiers were buried on the east and west perimeters. Dead from the Battle of Brice's Crossroads, some 50 miles to the south, were interred by the cemetery entrance.

An 1867 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage each national cemetery. Corinth's first superintendent was Joseph Berrigan, formerly a private with the 43rd New York Infantry.

In the 1870s, the U.S. Army placed marble headstones on the graves, and erected a brick lodge for the superintendent. The lodge was replaced in 1934.

Groundskeeping among unknown grave markers at Corinth, 1892. National Archives and Records Administration.

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CROWN HILL NATIONAL CEMETERY

City Hospital in Indianapolis, also known as the Military Hospital, treated Union soldiers during the Civil War, 1908. W. H. Bass Photo Company Collection, Indiana Historical Society.

Civil War Indianapolis

Indiana Governor Oliver Morton responded quickly to President Abraham Lincoln's 1861 call for 75,000 volunteers to help suppress the southern rebellion. Thousands of Hoosiers assembled in Indianapolis. Camp Morton, named for the governor, was established at the old fairgrounds. Indiana troops served in every theater of action. As the war progressed, Camp Morton became a prisoner-of-war camp, housing thousands of Confederates. City Hospital treated both Confederate prisoners and Union soldiers.

Citizens of Indianapolis celebrated when the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, fell on April 3, 1865, and when Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9. Despair replaced joy when Lincoln was assassinated six days later. The president's body lay in state for eighteen hours at the Indianapolis capitol building on April 30.

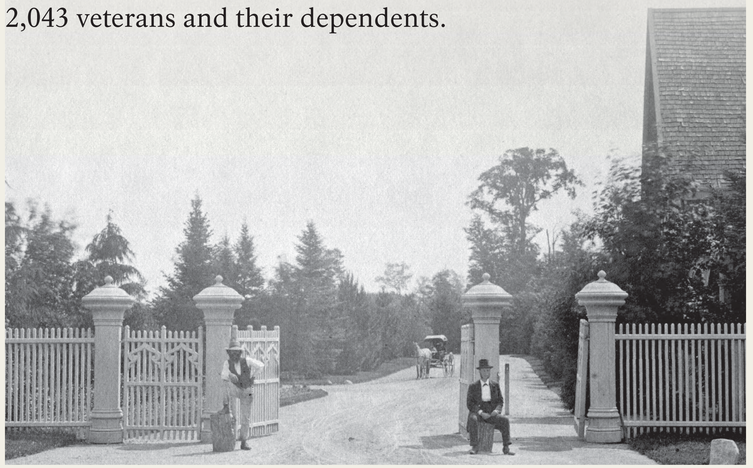
National Cemetery

More than 700 Union soldiers who died in city hospitals were originally buried in Greenlawn Cemetery. In November 1866, the federal government hired local undertaker William Weaver to supervise removal of the dead. Weaver's men relocated the remains of 712 soldiers from Greenlawn to this cemetery. All but thirty-six were identified.

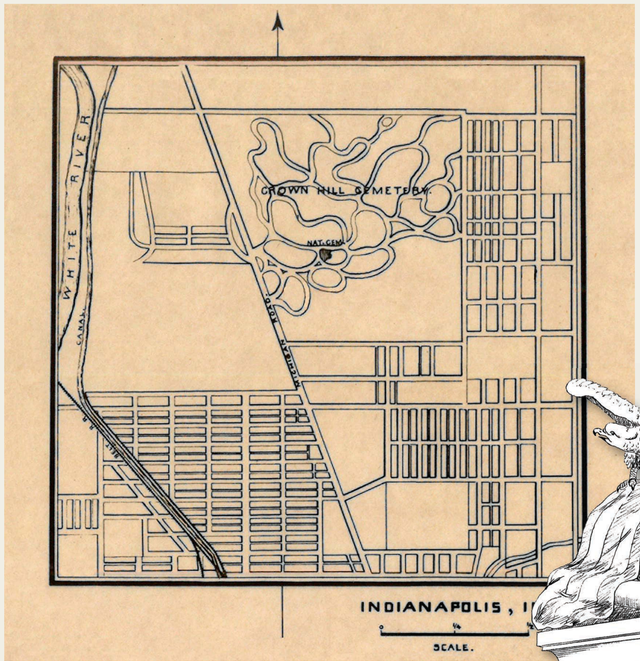
The new national cemetery occupied 1.4 acres (now Section 10) within Crown Hill Cemetery. The government paid $5,000 for the lot. On May 30, 1868, the first Decoration (Memorial) Day observance at Crown Hill National Cemetery was held. Some 1,000 people participated in a program that featured speeches, music, and decorating graves.

The U.S. Army installed two gun monuments and a flagstaff in the early 1870s, and plaques featuring stanzas from the poem "Bivouac of the Dead" in the 1880s.

In 2011, land adjacent to the national cemetery that contains many Civil War dead (Section 9), was donated to the federal government. Combined, these 2.5 acres hold the graves of 2,043 veterans and their dependents.



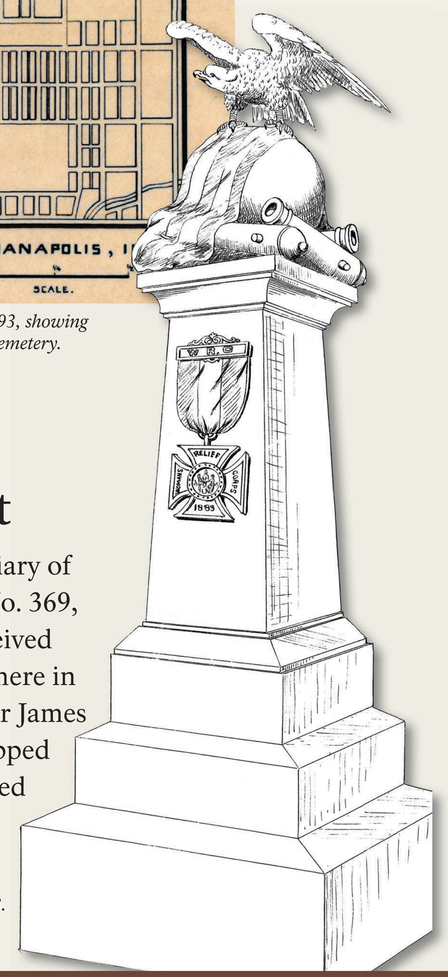
Crown Hill Cemetery west entrance in 1901, D. R. Clark, photographer. Courtesy of Crown Hill Cemetery.



Detail of Crown Hill National Cemetery layout, 1893, showing location of the federal cemetery within the private cemetery. National Archives and Records Administration.

Woman's Relief Corps Monument

The Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary of the Maj. Robert Anderson Post No. 369, Grand Army of the Republic, received permission to erect a monument here in November 1888. Local stonecutter James F. Needler produced the eagle-topped limestone pedestal. It was dedicated on Memorial Day 1889.



Drawing of Woman's Relief Corps Monument, 1888. National Archives and Records Administration.

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CROWN HILL CONFEDERATE CEMETERY

Confederate prisoners at Camp Morton, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

Camp Morton

Camp Morton, a training camp, was established on the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis after President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the Southern rebellion. Thousands of Indiana volunteers trained at the camp in 1861 before leaving for active duty.

On February 16, 1862, Fort Donelson, a Confederate stronghold on the Cumberland River west of Clarksville, Tennessee, surrendered. Suddenly, the Union army had 15,000 Confederate prisoners and no place to house them. Indiana Governor Oliver Morton offered to take 3,000 prisoners at Camp Morton; from this time, it functioned as a prison.

In preparation for the prisoners' arrival, soldiers constructed a tall fence around barracks buildings, built stout gates, and dug latrines. When the Confederates arrived without winter clothing or blankets, the women of Indianapolis donated both.

A prisoner exchange emptied the camp in summer 1862, but it was repopulated in January 1863. The population fluctuated until the camp closed in June 1865. But more than 1,600 Confederates remained in Indianapolis's Greenlawn Cemetery.

Greenlawn Cemetery

The State of Indiana purchased five lots in Greenlawn Cemetery in 1862 for prisoner burials. A local undertaker charged $3.50 for each wooden coffin. Prisoners dug burial trenches and placed the coffins side-by-side. Numbered headboards marked graves. After the war, some remains were removed by friends or relatives. In 1870, some unclaimed remains were moved to a different cemetery lot owned by the federal government.

In 1906, when the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead visited Greenlawn Cemetery, it discovered some burials had been moved and the land converted into a city park. As individual graves could not be identified, a single monument was authorized for the site. Van Amringe Granite Company of Boston, Massachusetts, completed the impressive monument in 1909. Bronze plaques listed the names of 1,616 Confederate dead.

Monument at Greenlawn Cemetery, 1910. National Archives and Records Administration.

The area around the government lot continued to develop. The United Daughters of the Confederacy and Southern Club of Indianapolis petitioned the federal government to move the Confederate monument to Garfield Park. The monument moved in 1928, but the graves remained. In 1931, the Confederate remains were disinterred and moved to Crown Hill Cemetery. Here they were marked by a modest monument. Ten bronze name plaques, and a bronze inscription plaque affixed to the monument, were installed in 1993.

Toward Reconciliation

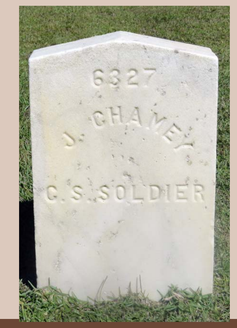
On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

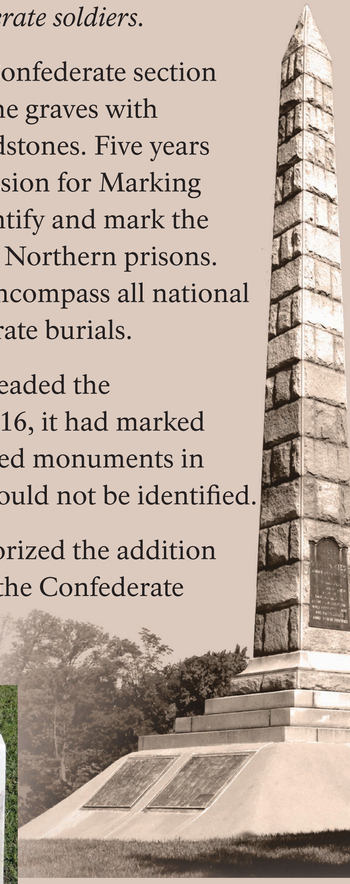
> *The Union is once more the common altar of our love and loyalty, our devotion and sacrifice . . . Every soldier's grave made during our unfortunate Civil War is a tribute to American valor . . . in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.*

The War Department created the Confederate section at Arlington in 1901, and marked the graves with distinctive pointed-top marble headstones. Five years later, Congress created the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead to identify and mark the graves of Confederates who died in Northern prisons. Its mission was later expanded to encompass all national cemeteries that contained Confederate burials.

Four former Confederate officers headed the Commission over its lifetime. By 1916, it had marked in excess of 25,500 graves and erected monuments in locations where individual graves could not be identified.

In 1930, the War Department authorized the addition of the Southern Cross of Honor to the Confederate headstone.





North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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CULPEPER NATIONAL CEMETERY

Seat of War

Railroads connecting Washington, D.C., and Richmond crossed Culpeper County, Virginia, so this area witnessed major Civil War battles. Both Union and Confederate armies occupied this area throughout the war. In 1861, the Confederates established a supply depot and training base here. In August 1862, Union Gen. John Pope marched the Army of Virginia into Culpeper County and engaged Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson at the Battle of Cedar Mountain, but failed to secure a Union victory.

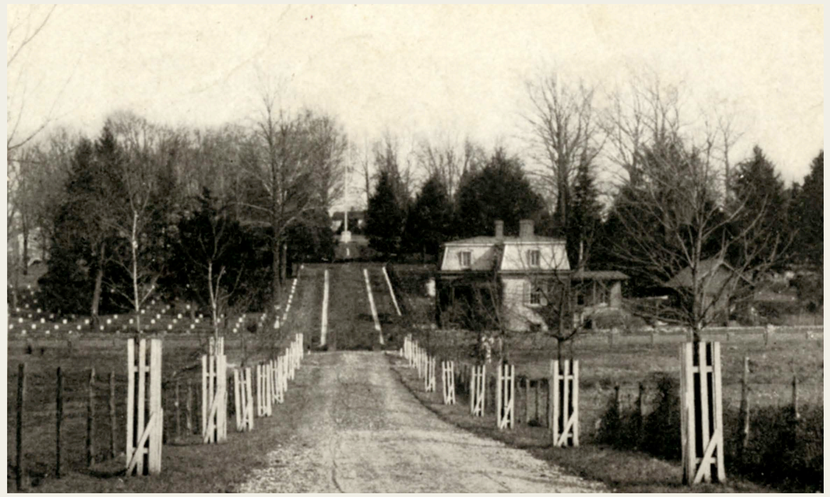
In fall 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee wintered in Culpeper County. Brandy Station, the largest Civil War cavalry battle, was fought here in June 1863. Neither side claimed victory. After General Lee’s defeat at Gettysburg the next month, Confederate troops returned to Culpeper to regroup.

As a result of the second Battle of Rappahannock Station in November 1863, the Union Army of the Potomac pushed General Lee out of the county and wintered here. The following spring, Ulysses S. Grant, the new Union general-in-chief, launched his Overland Campaign from Culpeper, moving the war southward to Petersburg and Richmond.

Culpeper, summer 1862. Library of Congress.

National Cemetery

In 1867, the federal government bought 6 acres from Edward B. Hill, the brother of Confederate Gen. A. P. Hill, to create Culpeper National Cemetery. Here lie the Union soldiers who died at the battles of Cedar Mountain, Brandy Station, Trevilian Station; in the Gordonville Confederate hospital; and many other sites in Culpeper, Page, and Rappahannock counties.



This 1906 view shows the lodge, flagstaff and enclosure wall. National Cemetery Administration.

The original cemetery featured four burial sections laid out in a square. A flagstaff mound at the end of the main drive marked the center. In the 1870s, permanent marble headstones replaced temporary headboards on the 1,355 Civil War graves. Construction of a brick enclosure wall and a Second Empire-style lodge at the entrance followed. The cemetery has grown to more than 29 acres.

An 1872 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a superintendent for each national cemetery from among “meritorious and trustworthy soldiers, either commissioned officers or enlisted men of the Volunteer or Regular Army.” To qualify, an individual must have been honorably mustered out or discharged from the service of the United States.

Monuments

The cemetery contains five monuments erected between 1893 and 1910 by veterans’ organizations. The oldest honors the service of the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry at the nearby Battle of Cedar Mountain. The last and largest, funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, commemorates the Civil War service of all Pennsylvanians. Other monuments honor the 10th Maine Infantry Regiment, 28th New York Infantry Regiment, and the 7th Ohio Infantry Regiment; all fought at Cedar Mountain.

The Pennsylvania Monument just before it was unveiled on October 17, 1912. National Archives and Records Administration.

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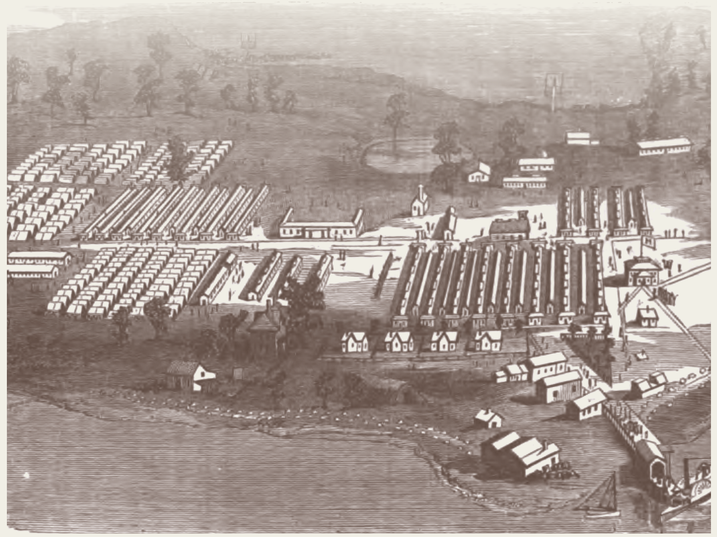
CYPRESS HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY

New York City Hospitals

During the Civil War, several New York City-area general hospitals treated sick and wounded Union troops. Among them were Fort Columbus, Ladies' Home, Officers' on Bedloe Island, St. Joseph's, and Transit. One of the largest was Grant General Hospital at Fort Totten on Willet's Point. The U.S. Army converted the fort into a hospital that could accommodate nearly 1,300 patients.

DeCamp General Hospital on David's Island was an extensive facility with twenty buildings that held 1,700 beds. In the summer months patients were often moved outside to sleep in tents that afforded access to fresh air and sunshine, which doctors believed essential to healing. The July 1863 Battle of Gettysburg and later fighting resulted in thousands of patients being sent to New York hospitals.

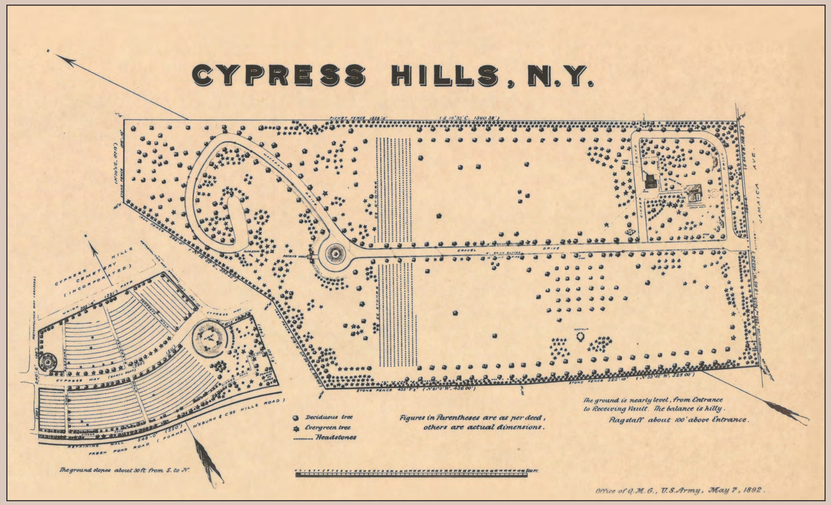


DeCamp General Hospital, c. 1864. Regulations of DeCamp General Hospital.

National Cemetery

Established in 1862, Cypress Hills National Cemetery was originally confined to the small Union Grounds lot within the private Cypress Hills Cemetery. Some 3,400 Union soldiers and 356 Confederate prisoners who died in New York City hospitals were buried there.

By the 1880s, Union Grounds was nearly full. In 1884, the War Department purchased this tract of more than 15 acres, a mile to the south on Jamaica Avenue. It is the largest of three separate tracts that make up the national cemetery today.



Cemetery plan, showing Union Grounds (lower left) and the larger Jamaica Avenue property, 1892. National Archives and Record Administration.

Soon after acquiring this land, the army installed a two-story brick lodge, access road, decorative iron gates and flagstaff. Union soldiers originally buried at Fort Hamilton, Governor's Island, and Fort Wadsworth in New York City, and Mount Hope Cemetery in Otisville, New York, were reinterred here. This move raised the number of Union dead in the national cemetery to 5,222; of these, 373 were unknown.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Five Civil War recipients of the Medal of Honor are buried in the cemetery. First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal.

John Cooper, coxswain on the U.S.S. *Brooklyn*, for bravery during the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864. He received a second commendation on April 26, 1865, for risking his life to save another when a powder magazine exploded (Section 2, Grave 5022).

Civil War Navy Medal of Honor. Naval History and Heritage Command.

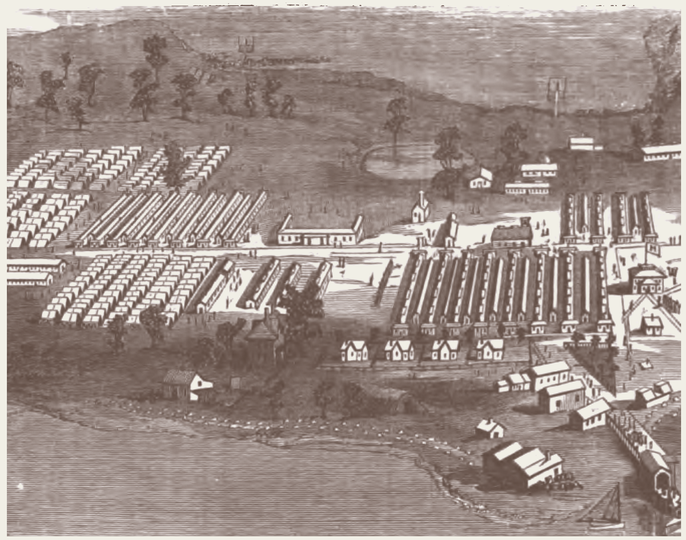
Edward (Edwin) S. Martin, quartermaster on the U.S.S. *Galena*, for bravery during the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864 (Section 2, Grave 5966).

Sgt. Valentine Rossbach (Rossback), 34th New York Battery, for bravery at the Battle of Spotsylvania, May 12, 1864 (Section 2, Grave 5427).

Pvt. John Schiller, 158th New York Infantry, for bravery at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, Virginia, September 29-30, 1864 (Section 5, Grave 3).

Pvt. James Webb, 5th New York Infantry, for courage under fire at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Virginia, August 28-30, 1862 (Section 2, Grave 7401).

CYPRESS HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY



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National Cemetery

Cypress Hills National Cemetery was established in 1862 with this lot of almost 3 acres. Known as Union Grounds, it is one of three separate tracts that make up the federal cemetery today. A brick superintendent's lodge occupied the southeast corner of Union Grounds in 1871. Here lie nearly 3,400 Union soldiers and 356 Confederate prisoners who died in New York City hospitals during the Civil War.

Union Grounds ran out of burial space in the 1880s. In 1884, the War Department expanded the national cemetery by purchasing more than 15 acres to the south. Soon after, the army developed the new property with a two-story lodge, access road, and flagstaff. It razed the Union Grounds lodge.

Union soldiers originally buried at Fort Hamilton, Governor's Island, and Fort Wadsworth in New York City, and Mount Hope Cemetery in Otisville, New York, were reinterred in the new Jamaica Avenue tract. This move raised the number of Union dead in the national cemetery to 5,222; of these, 373 were unknown.

Union Grounds, c. 1880, with lodge in background at right. National Records and Archives Administration.

Col. Benjamin Ringold

Born in Germany, Col. Benjamin Ringold lived in the United States for many years before the Civil War. He was commissioned on January 4, 1862, as captain and commander of Company A, 103rd New York Volunteers.

Ringold quickly rose to the rank of colonel before being killed in May 1863 near Suffolk, Virginia. His body lay in state at city hall before burial in Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery.

Colonel Ringold's remains were moved to Union Grounds in April 1883 (Grave 3846). A month later, the Veterans Association of the 103rd Regiment dedicated a 20-foot-tall granite obelisk to him on the crest of the hill overlooking the national cemetery.

The ceremony was attended by Civil War veterans including former members of the regiment, several Grand Army of the Republic posts, and Brooklyn residents.

Col. Benjamin Ringold, c. 1862. MOLLUS-Massachusetts Commandery Collection, U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center.

CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

New York City in the Civil War

New York City saw no Civil War battles but many Union soldiers passed through it. Before the war ended, the city housed thousands of Confederate soldiers in its prisons and hospitals. Many soldiers, from both sides, died and are buried here.

Prison facilities including the Toombs, Bedloe's (Liberty) Island, Hart's Island, Fort Lafayette, Governors Island, Fort Schuyler, Riker's Island, Fort Columbus, and Castle Williams all held Confederate soldiers. De Camp General Hospital on David's Island, though not a prison, treated thousands of Confederates wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. The Hart's Island facility was the last established and the largest of New York City's prisons. At no time during its short operation, April to July 1865, did it hold fewer than 3,000 prisoners.

The Toombs Prison complex occupied an entire city block in lower Manhattan, c. 1896. Library of Congress.

The Confederate Dead

Within the private cemetery of the same name, Cypress Hills National Cemetery was established in 1862 for Union soldiers who died in New York City-area hospitals. It was among the first national cemeteries Congress created. As the number of Confederate prisoners of war increased, so did the casualties. The federal cemetery had sufficient burial space, so the U.S. Army began interring Confederate dead here, too.

Memorial Day, 1899. Brooklyn Museum Archives, Lantern Slide Collection.

Unlike many other national cemeteries where Confederates are buried in separate sections, here they are intermingled among the Union dead. Union or Confederate, soldiers were interred in the order the cemetery caretaker received them. Many Confederates were buried here at the time of their death. Some remains were reinterred here from Hart's Island and David's Island; others came from Rhode Island cemeteries.

In 1908, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead discovered that Confederate graves at Cypress Hills National Cemetery were marked with "substantial headstones." It was determined that by "adding the requisite inscriptions they were deemed satisfactory markers." These headstones were replaced with the standard Confederate-style headstones in 1934.

Toward Reconciliation

On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

> *The Union is once more the common altar of our love and loyalty, our devotion and sacrifice . . . Every soldier's grave made during our unfortunate Civil War is a tribute to American valor . . . in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.*

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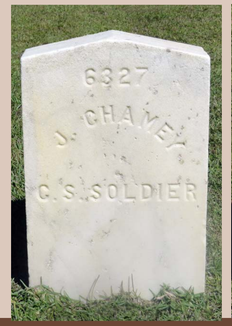

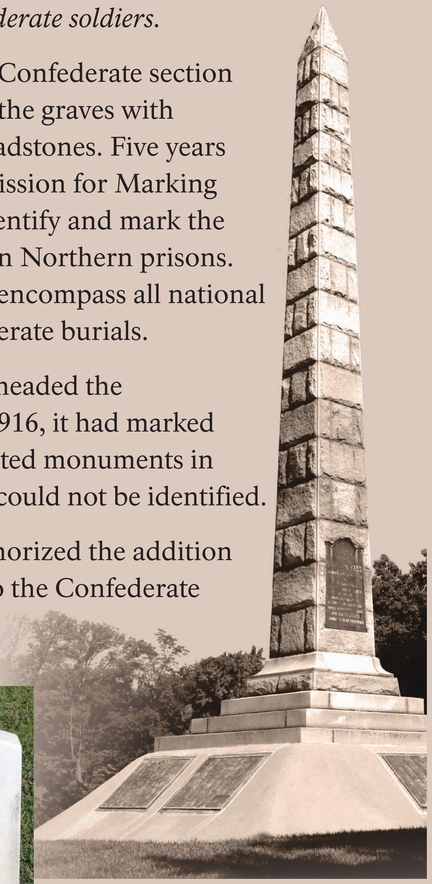

North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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DANVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Confederate Military Prison at Danville, Virginia, c. 1865. Library of Congress.

Danville Military Prison

Civil War prisoner-of-war facilities in Richmond, the Confederate capital, were overflowing by mid-1863. To alleviate the situation, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee ordered a new prison established in Danville.

In November, 4,000 Union prisoners arrived at the facility—six brick warehouses in the city's business district. Prisoners were forbidden to look out windows, or use the first floor or the grounds, and could use the latrine only in groups of six. A small pox epidemic in winter 1863-64 killed many prisoners.

A Confederate inspector reported in January 1865:

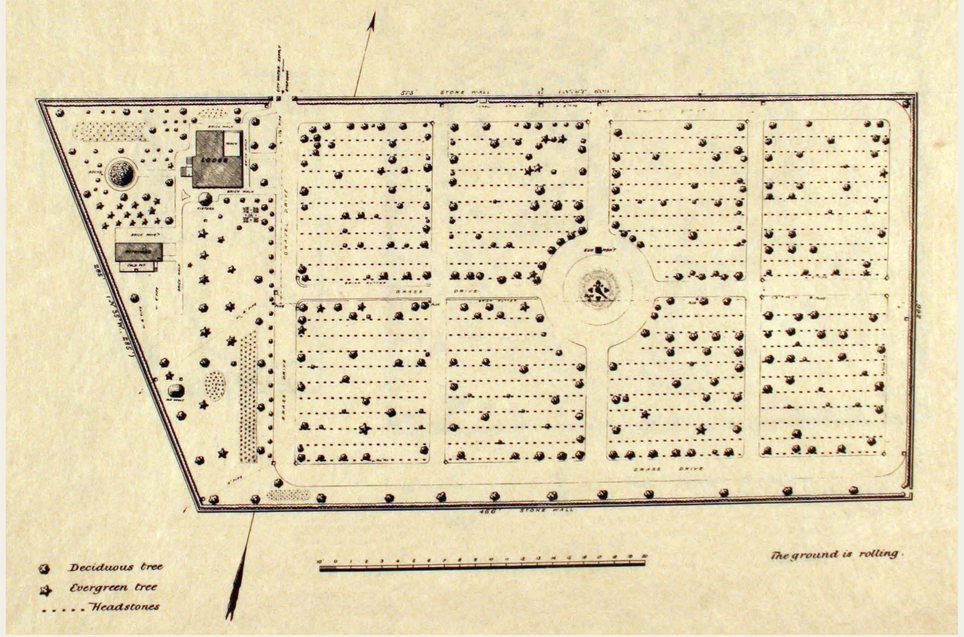
> *The prisons at this post are in a very bad condition, dirty, filled with vermin, little or no ventilation. . .The mortality at the prison, about five per day, is caused, no doubt, by the insufficiency of food (the ration entire being only a pound and a half of corn bread a day). . . This state of things is truly horrible, and demands the immediate attention of higher authorities.*

National Cemetery

Danville National Cemetery was established in 1866 on 3.5 acres adjacent to Greenhill Cemetery. Almost all burials were Union prisoners who died in the Danville military prison. According to an 1868 army inspection report, the cemetery contained 1,312 interments—only 147 were unknown.

In 1873, the cemetery land was formally deeded to the United States by the City of Danville and resident Thomas D. Stokes. The following year, the federal government built a stone superintendent's lodge and enclosed the cemetery with a stone wall. A central flagstaff and gun monument were installed before 1892. The existing Dutch Colonial Revival-style lodge was built in 1928 to replace the original.

Cemetery tool house and well house, prior to 1934. National Archives and Records Administration.



Cemetery plan, 1892. National Archives and Records Administration.

Cemetery Superintendent

By law, the secretary of war appointed a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the cemetery. To qualify for the position, the individual had to have been an enlisted man disabled in service. These restrictions were loosened in 1872 to allow any man honorably discharged from U.S. service to serve as a cemetery superintendent.

This employment was one way the federal government assisted injured veterans who faced an uncertain future after the Civil War. Many lived with their families in the lodges. Francis O'Donohoe, formerly a sergeant in the 5th New York Infantry, was appointed the first superintendent here.

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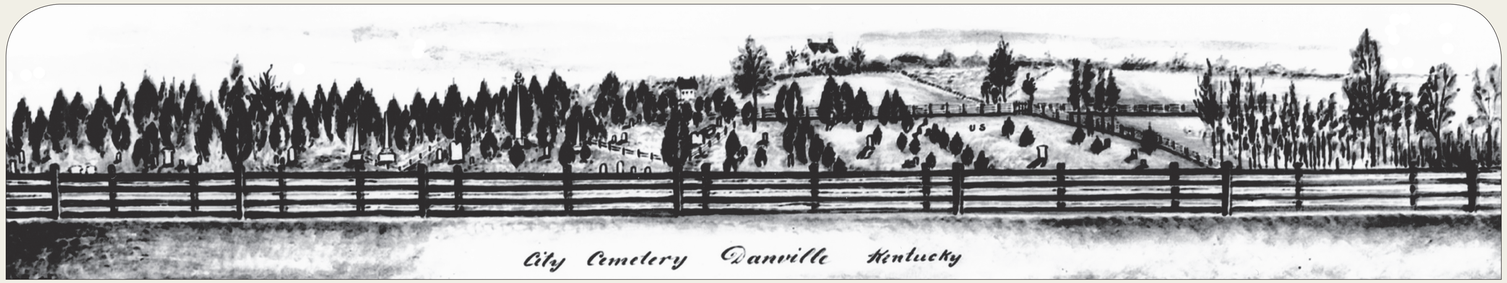
DANVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

"One Great Hospital"

Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg invaded central Kentucky in summer 1862 with the goal of occupying it and mobilizing more troops for the South. Union Gen. Don Carlos Buell met Bragg's troops at Perryville, 10 miles west of here. The October 8, 1862, Battle of Perryville resulted in 7,000 casualties, a number that overwhelmed the hamlet with dead and wounded.

Union troops enter Danville just before the October 8, 1862, Battle of Perryville. Harper's Weekly *(November 8, 1862).*

Wounded Union soldiers were taken to nearby towns, including Danville. Centre College became the main hospital. However, most every available building—courthouse, churches, shops, businesses, stables, and homes—was employed to care for more than 4,000 men. One Indiana doctor wrote, "Danville was one great hospital." The Union Army occupied Centre College through June 1863. Many soldiers died of wounds. More succumbed to typhoid fever, dysentery, and pneumonia. To keep up with the pace and number of deaths, soldiers were assigned to perform burial duty.



Danville National Cemetery, from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman's final report, c. 1869. Whitman used the phrase "Harvest of Death" in his exhaustive report to describe the work of collecting the dead. National Archives and Records Administration.

"Harvest of Death"

Early in 1866, Capt. E. B. Whitman began gathering information in preparation for the reinterment of Union soldiers buried in the Military Division of Tennessee. This huge district included Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Captain Whitman, later lieutenant colonel, placed newspaper notices seeking locations of Union graves. Citizens, chaplains, soldiers, and officers replied.

Whitman made three major expeditions across the region, stopping at hundreds of battlefields and engagement sites. Because of his work, thousands of Union dead were moved to twelve new national cemeteries. In May 1869, Whitman submitted a detailed summary of this difficult project to the quartermaster general. The report contained sketches and site plans of each cemetery, and data on interments and service affiliations.

Danville National Cemetery, c. 1940. Headstones in the private Danville Cemetery are visible in photograph, back right. National Cemetery Administration.

National Cemetery

Prior to 1869, ten federally established or public cemeteries in Kentucky contained the remains of Union soldiers. The work of reinterring the dead was almost complete when the army changed its plan and reduced the number of cemeteries in the state to six.

Soldiers who died in Danville hospitals were buried in the northwest corner of the city cemetery (now Bellevue Cemetery), established in the 1840s. In June 1868, the city deeded sixteen lots to the government. By 1874, the new national cemetery contained 358 burials, including fourteen soldiers removed from nearby Hustonville and Millersburg.

The city cemetery association maintained these sections as the number of graves did not warrant a full-time federal superintendent. The army installed blocks inscribed with 'U.S.' at the corners of the national cemetery to identify property boundaries. Later it added a flagstaff and four cast-iron plaques featuring General Orders No. 80, which laid out rules for visitors, and three stanzas from the poem "Bivouac of the Dead."

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DANVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

National Home

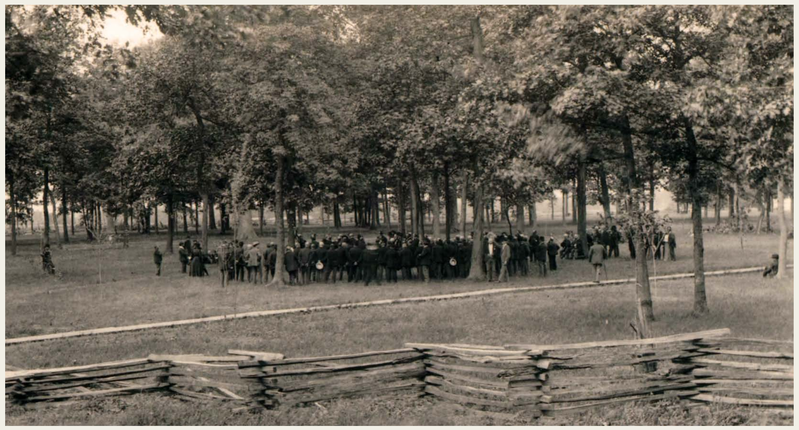
Construction of the Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) began in early 1898. The first resident, Charles Butler, arrived October 13.

The home's sprawling 325-acre campus included every facility that aging veterans might require. The men lived in barracks and dined in a mess hall. Protestant and Catholic chapels served spiritual needs. The sick were treated in a hospital.

National Home barracks under construction, March 1898. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library.

The campus operated a farm and shops devoted to printing, painting, machinery, tinwork, and harness making. Veterans staffed all of them. Entertainment included a library, opera house, amusement hall, and bandstand. The government never envisioned National Homes as charity. They were available to veterans as a reward for military service.

The National Homes merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930. The facility continues to serve veterans as the VA Illiana Health Care System.



First Decoration (Memorial) Day at the National Home, May 30, 1899. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library.

NHDVS Cemetery

The first cemetery was located northwest of here. Martin Branch, formerly in the 60th U.S. Colored Infantry, who died in January 1899, was the first interment. Two years later, the government acquired 30 acres east of the main NHDVS complex and opened the existing cemetery. It was designed so graves formed concentric circles radiating from the center.

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

The remains of ninety-nine veterans were moved from the old Danville burial ground and reinterred here. It was designated a national cemetery in 1973, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

One Civil War Medal of Honor recipient is buried here. First Lt. Morton A. Read, 8th New York Cavalry, captured the 1st Texas Infantry flag at the Battle of Appomattox Station, Virginia, April 8, 1865 (Section 10, Grave 3033).

Soldiers' Monument

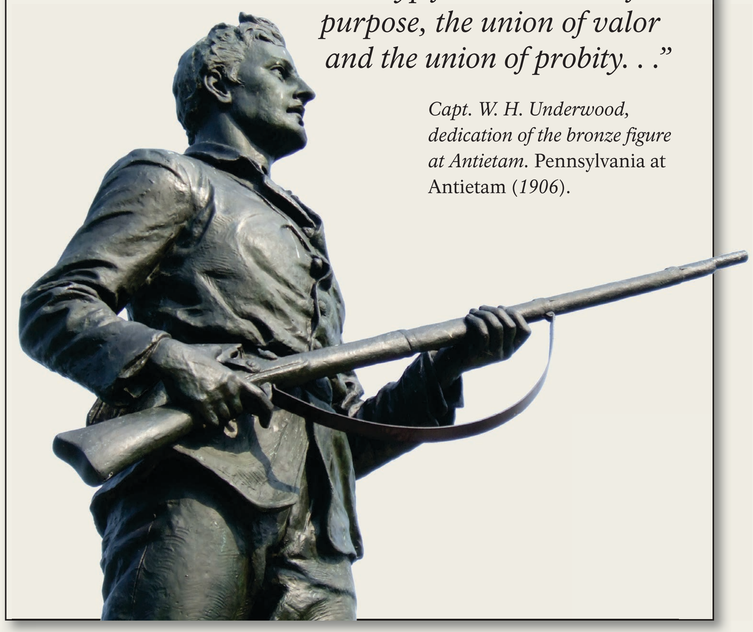
A 20-foot-tall Soldiers' Monument is located at the center of the cemetery. The bronze soldier was created by sculptor W. Noble Clark of Maine.

Clark designed numerous figures for military monuments. This one is also used in the 100th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers Monument, erected on Antietam Battlefield in September 1904.

The Danville monument was dedicated on Memorial Day 1917. The inscribed granite base reads, "In memory of the men who offered their life in defense of their country."

"In the private soldier I seem to see typified the union of purpose, the union of valor and the union of probity. . ."

Capt. W. H. Underwood, dedication of the bronze figure at Antietam. Pennsylvania at Antietam *(1906).*



DAYTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, c. 1877. The Soldiers Monument is visible in upper right. Library of Congress.

National Home

President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill in March 1865 that funded the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS). The Central Branch in Dayton, one of the original three, opened in September 1867. Ten years later the 355-acre campus had 132 buildings. The modern campus boasted steam heat, gas lights, a sewage system, four lakes, and paved roads. A 250-acre farm worked by resident veterans helped feed those who lived here.

By 1884, the Central Branch housed 7,000 veterans. It was the largest facility of its kind in the world. As a tourist attraction, it drew more than 600,000 visitors a year.

The National Homes were merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and the Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930. Today, the Dayton VA Medical Center carries on the tradition of care that began in 1867. In 2012 the VA campus, including the cemetery, was designated a National Historic Landmark.

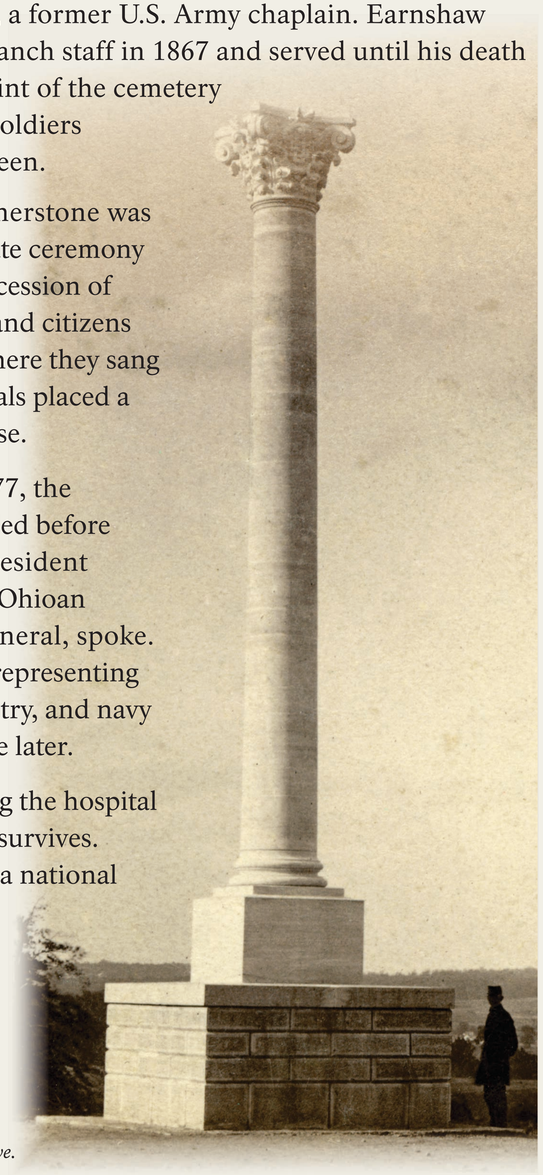
Cemetery and Monument

The first Civil War veteran was buried here in 1867, the last in 1947. Design of the original 52.8-acre cemetery is attributed to William B. Earnshaw, a former U.S. Army chaplain. Earnshaw joined the Central Branch staff in 1867 and served until his death in 1885. The focal point of the cemetery is the hill where the Soldiers Monument is easily seen.

The monument's cornerstone was laid during an elaborate ceremony on July 4, 1873. A procession of veterans, dignitaries, and citizens led to the cemetery where they sang patriotic songs. Officials placed a time capsule in the base.

On September 12, 1877, the monument was unveiled before a crowd of 20,000. President Rutherford B. Hayes, Ohioan and former Union general, spoke. Four marble figures representing artillery, cavalry, infantry, and navy were added to the base later.

Part of a tunnel linking the hospital (razed) and cemetery survives. The property became a national cemetery in 1973.



Soldiers Monument before it was completed in 1877. Dayton Veterans Affairs Archive.

Temporary wooden headboards, c. 1870s. Dayton Veterans Affairs Archive.
Civil War Army Medal of Honor (below). Gettysburg National Military Park.

Three Civil War recipients of the Medal of Honor are buried here. First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal.

Second Lt. Henry W. Downs, 8th Vermont Infantry, twice crossed an open field under fire and returned with ammunition at Winchester, Virginia, September 19, 1864 (Section Q, Grave 24).

Seaman John H. James manned his gun on the U.S.S. *Richmond* with skill and courage at Mobile Bay, Alabama, August 5, 1864 (Section 1, Grave 58).

Pvt. Charles A. Taggart, 37th Massachusetts Infantry, captured an enemy flag at Sailor's Creek, Virginia, April 6, 1865 (Section R, Grave 14).

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FAYETTEVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

An 1889 lithograph depicting the Battle of Pea Ridge, March 6-8, 1862. Library of Congress.

Civil War in Northern Arkansas

The first battle in Arkansas occurred on February 16, 1862, at Big Sugar Creek just south of the Missouri border. The next day, Union Gen. Samuel Curtis' Army of the Southwest continued its southward march.

The invasion culminated in the Battle of Pea Ridge three weeks later. Curtis defeated Gen. Earl Van Dorn's Confederate forces, which retreated east across the Mississippi River. The Battle at Prairie Grove in early December, also a Confederate defeat, left northern Arkansas firmly in Union control.

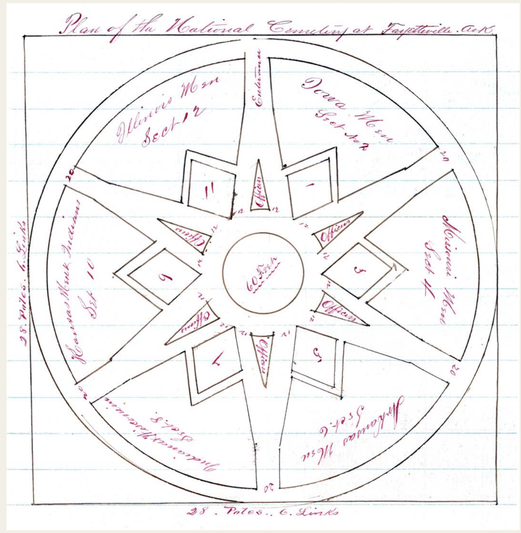
After the victory at Prairie Grove, federal troops occupied Fayetteville. In April 1863, Confederate troops attacked the city. They held the town briefly while the engagement continued, but eventually were forced to retreat. Except for a few months in summer 1863, Union forces occupied Fayetteville throughout the war.

National Cemetery

The U.S. Army established Fayetteville National Cemetery in 1867. Remains were brought here from the battlefields of Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Cane Hill, and Fayetteville.

The Quartermaster Department created a compass-rose design for the roughly square cemetery lot. A circular grass walkway enclosed the burial sections and six interior walks provided access to the central flagpole. These walkways defined distinct burial sections.

Six sections were designated for soldiers from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, and for "Indian" soldiers. Diamond-shaped areas near the center were set aside for monuments. Officers were interred in triangular sections within the interior walkways.



Quartermaster Department sketch plan for cemetery, 1869. National Archives and Records Administration.

By law, the secretary of war appointed a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the cemetery. To qualify for the position, an individual must have been an army enlisted man disabled in service. Josiah Nutting, formerly a private in the 19th Maine Infantry, was named superintendent in September 1867.

The cemetery in 1903. The lodge, rostrum, and most of the wall were removed in the late twentieth century. National Archives and Records Administration.

Cemetery Changes

In the 1870s, the federal government undertook improvements to the cemetery. Permanent marble headstones replaced temporary wooden headboards. A brick wall was constructed to enclose the cemetery, and a Second Empire-style lodge was erected for the superintendent and his family. Areas intended for monuments were planted with flowers and shrubs. In 1894, a brick-and-iron rostrum was completed for ceremonial events.

As the cemetery expanded over the years to provide additional burial space, original features have been removed. The compass-rose design was lost as walkways filled with graves. The lodge and rostrum were razed, and only a fragment of the boundary wall exists.

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FINN'S POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort Delaware

Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island, in the Delaware River, was part of a system of permanent fortifications built between 1817 and 1861 to protect the U.S. coastline. Built over ten years, the fort protected the ports of Philadelphia and Wilmington. It was the largest and most powerful of the coastal strongholds. When fully armed, Fort Delaware was equipped with more than 150 cannon.

With Abraham Lincoln's election as president in November 1860, "slave states" began to agitate toward secession. Voters in Delaware rejected Lincoln and overwhelmingly supported the southern Democratic candidate. Nonetheless, on January 3, 1861, the state legislature unanimously rejected secession.

When Jefferson Davis became president of the Confederate States of America a month later, only twenty-one soldiers, without artillery, were posted at Fort Delaware. By June, the garrison had grown to 250 soldiers with forty-seven artillery pieces. However, it soon became clear the Confederate navy was not a threat.

In July 1861, eight Confederate prisoners of war arrived at the fort. It served as a prison for the rest of the war.

Fort Delaware, from sheet music "Sounds of Fort Delaware," 1864. Library of Congress.

Burying Union Dead

Union soldiers, many of whom were prison guards, died at Fort Delaware. They were buried in a post cemetery established outside the fort walls on Pea Patch Island.

The wall and gate in 1903. National Archives and Records Administration.

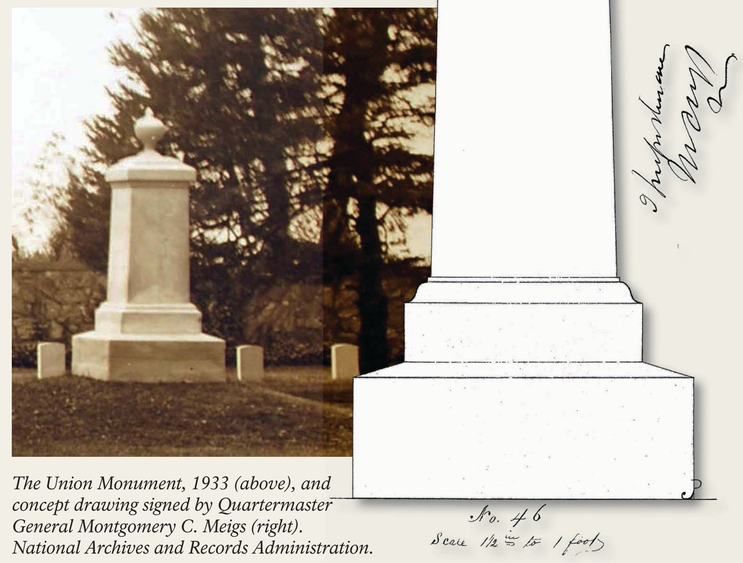
In addition to the island cemetery, the U.S. Army established a cemetery at Finns Point, New Jersey, in 1863, for the burial of Confederate prisoners who died at Fort Delaware. The remains of more than 2,000 prisoners and ten guards were transported from the island and buried here during the course of the Civil War.

In May 1875, the governor of Virginia wrote the secretary of war requesting information about Confederate graves on government land. This letter initiated an inspection of the Finns Point and Pea Patch Island cemeteries.

As a result, the federal government decided to remove all burials from the island. By November the remains of 209 Confederate prisoners and 135 Union soldiers were reinterred here at Finn's Point National Cemetery.

In 1878, the army completed the Second Empire-style superintendent's lodge. A year later the government erected a simple marble obelisk dedicated to the 135 federal soldiers buried in the cemetery. It is inscribed with the names of 105 known dead. A cast-concrete temple-shaped structure was built to shelter the monument in 1936.

The 4.5-acre cemetery was enclosed by a stone wall in the 1880s. Cast-iron tablets bearing stanzas of the poem "Bivouac of the Dead" were also placed on the grounds.



The Union Monument, 1933 (above), and concept drawing signed by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs (right). National Archives and Records Administration.

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CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Fort Delaware Prison

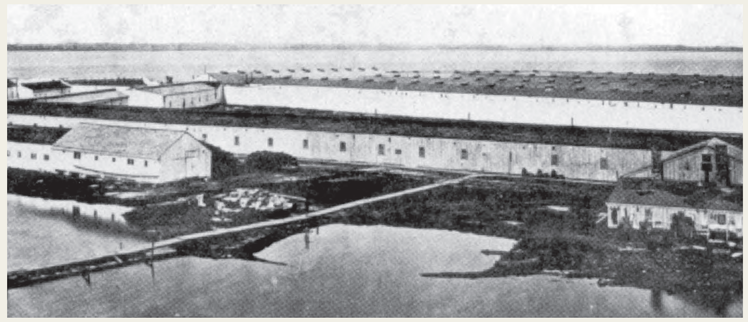
The federal government constructed Fort Delaware between 1848 and 1859. Located on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River, the fort was built to defend Philadelphia.

In the second year of the Civil War, Fort Delaware's role changed. After the Union's March 23, 1862 victory at the Battle of Kernstown, Virginia, 248 prisoners of war arrived at the fort. They were the first of more than 30,000 Confederate soldiers imprisoned at Fort Delaware during the war. The last prisoner was freed in 1866.

Located northwest of the fort, the prison consisted of a barracks and hospital enclosed by a tall plank fence. The 8-acre compound was divided into two areas, the larger for enlisted men and the smaller for officers.

Overcrowding, poor diet, lack of clean drinking water, and swampy ground that bred mosquitos contributed to a high rate of disease. Over a single three-month period, diarrhea, pneumonia, scurvy, typhoid, dysentery and other illnesses claimed more than 12 percent of the prison population.

Confederate prisoners arriving at Fort Delaware, June 1863. Fort Delaware Society.



The prison barracks, c. 1864. Fort Delaware Society.

Burying the Dead

Initially, most prisoners who died at Fort Delaware were buried on the island, quickly filling up the fort cemetery. Pea Patch Island's high water table made it a particularly undesirable location for a permanent cemetery. The U.S. government owned land on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River at Finns Point near the Fort Mott military reservation; in 1863, a new cemetery was established here.

A former Confederate prisoner recalled the burial procedure used: "… the dead were placed in pine boxes and sent in steamboats. Holes were dug, about 6 feet square, and into these we placed as many as possible, usually about 12. Whenever we found names we would mark the spot in some way. It was an awful task." After the war, Pea Patch Island burials were removed to the U.S. cemetery on Finns Point, which was designated a national cemetery in October 1875.

When the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead traveled to the national cemetery in August 1906, they learned that documentation to mark individual graves was not available. Two years later, the Commission proposed erecting a single monument. The Van Amringe Granite Company of Boston, Massachusetts, completed the nearly 83-foot-tall obelisk in spring 1910.

Toward Reconciliation

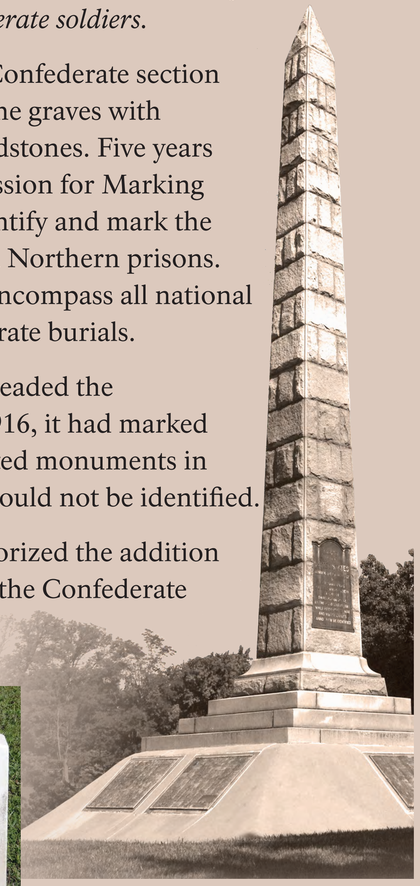
On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

> *The Union is once more the common altar of our love and loyalty, our devotion and sacrifice . . . Every soldier's grave made during our unfortunate Civil War is a tribute to American valor . . . in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.*

The War Department created the Confederate section at Arlington in 1901, and marked the graves with distinctive pointed-top marble headstones. Five years later, Congress created the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead to identify and mark the graves of Confederates who died in Northern prisons. Its mission was later expanded to encompass all national cemeteries that contained Confederate burials.

Four former Confederate officers headed the Commission over its lifetime. By 1916, it had marked in excess of 25,500 graves and erected monuments in locations where individual graves could not be identified.

In 1930, the War Department authorized the addition of the Southern Cross of Honor to the Confederate headstone.



North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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FLORENCE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Florence

When Atlanta fell to the Union Army in September 1864, Gen. William T. Sherman began his "March to the Sea." Fearing the Union Army would free prisoners held in southern Georgia, Confederate authorities moved them. Some 10,000 Union prisoners of war were relocated to the unfinished Florence Military Prison in October.

A 16-foot-tall log stockade enclosed the hospital, tents, and other simple structures. A swampy stream running through the 23-acre prison provided the only source of water.

During the six months the prison operated, more than 25 percent of the 12,000 prisoners died. The bodies were buried in one of two nearby cemeteries. Former prisoner Robert H. Kellogg recalled:

> *[The dead] were piled one upon another until the wagon was filled. A party of prisoners was at work every day digging trenches where the bodies of the dead soldiers were to be laid.*

Florence Military Prison, 1864, by Pvt. Robert Knox Sneden. Virginia Historical Society.

Postcard view of cemetery, c. 1923. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

In 1865, the U.S. Army quartermaster general designated the original 3.76-acre prison cemetery as Florence National Cemetery. It contains not only the bodies of Union prisoners who died in Florence, but soldiers removed from Charleston, Cheraw, Darlington, and Marion, South Carolina.

By 1874, of the remains of 2,969 men here, only 168 were known. The federal government had erected a brick superintendent's lodge, flagstaff, and two gun monuments. In 1877, a brick wall enclosed the cemetery. A second lodge was built in 1906, but the army removed it in 1970.

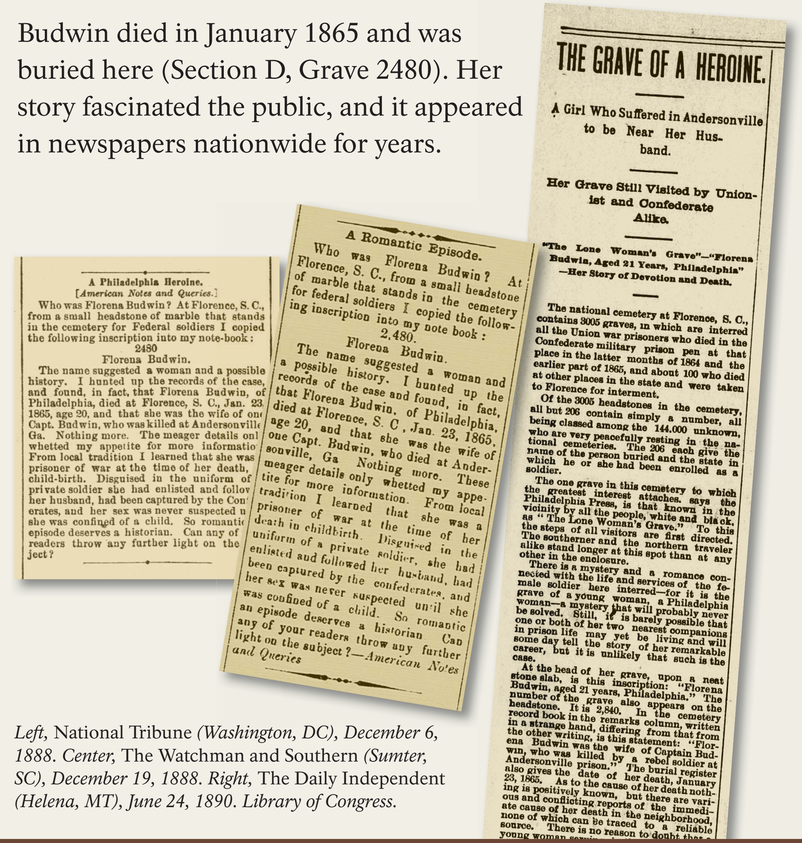
The secretary of war, by law, appointed a "meritorious and trustworthy" man to manage each cemetery. To qualify, an individual must have been an army enlisted man disabled in service. Phillip R. R. M. Sattes was the first superintendent at Florence. While a private in the 1st Kentucky Infantry (U.S.), Sattes was twice wounded in action.

"The Lone Woman's Grave"

For decades, the only woman buried at this national cemetery was Florena Budwin—likely an alias. Purportedly married to a Union officer from Pennsylvania, Budwin disguised herself as a man in order to enlist.

She and her husband were said to have been confined at Georgia's Andersonville Prison, where he died. She was moved with other Union prisoners to Florence in fall 1864. When she fell ill, the camp doctor discovered her secret. Budwin was moved into quarters separate from the men. Sympathetic women of Florence gave her food and clothing. After recovering, she remained at the prison as a nurse.

Budwin died in January 1865 and was buried here (Section D, Grave 2480). Her story fascinated the public, and it appeared in newspapers nationwide for years.



A Philadelphia Heroine.

[*American Notes and Queries.*]

Who was Florena Budwin? At Florence, S. C., from a small headstone of marble that stands in the cemetery for Federal soldiers I copied the following inscription into my note-book:

2480

Florena Budwin.

The name suggested a woman and a possible history. I hunted up the records of the case, and found, in fact, that Florena Budwin, of Philadelphia, died at Florence, S. C., Jan. 23, 1865, age 20, and that she was the wife of one Capt. Budwin, who was killed at Andersonville, Ga. Nothing more. The meager details only whetted my appetite for more information. From local tradition I learned that she was a prisoner of war at the time of her death, in childbirth. Disguised in the uniform of a private soldier she had enlisted and followed her husband, had been captured by the Confederates, and her sex was never suspected until she was confined of a child. So romantic an episode deserves a historian. Can any of your readers throw any further light on the subject?

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THE GRAVE OF A HEROINE.

A Girl Who Suffered in Andersonville to be Near Her Husband.

Her Grave Still Visited by Union-ist and Confederate Alike.

"The Lone Woman's Grave"—"Florena Budwin, Aged 21 Years, Philadelphia"—Her Story of Devotion and Death.

The national cemetery at Florence, S. C., contains 3005 graves, in which are interred all the Union war prisoners who died in the Confederate military prison pen at that place in the latter months of 1864 and the earlier part of 1865, and about 100 who died at other places in the state and were taken to Florence for interment.

Of the 3005 headstones in the cemetery, all but 206 contain simply a number, all being classed among the 144,000 unknown, who are very peacefully resting in the national cemeteries. The 206 each give the name of the person buried and the state in which he or she had been enrolled as a soldier.

The one grave in this cemetery to which the greatest interest attaches, says the Philadelphia Press, is that known in the vicinity by all the people, white and black, as "The Lone Woman's Grave." To this the steps of all visitors are first directed. The southerner and the northern traveler alike stand longer at this spot than at any other in the enclosure.

There is a mystery and a romance connected with the life and services of the female soldier here interred—for it is the grave of a young woman, a Philadelphia woman—a mystery that will probably never be solved. Still, it is barely possible that one or both of her two nearest companions in prison life may yet be living and will some day tell the story of her remarkable career, but it is unlikely that such is the case.

At the head of her grave, upon a neat stone slab, is this inscription: "Florena Budwin, aged 21 years, Philadelphia." The number of the grave also appears on the headstone. It is 2,840. In the cemetery record book in the remarks column, written in a strange hand, differing from that from the other writing, is this statement: "Florena Budwin was the wife of Captain Budwin, who was killed by a rebel soldier at Andersonville prison." The burial register also gives the date of her death, January 25, 1865. As to the cause of her death nothing is positively known, but there are various and conflicting reports of the immediate cause of her death in the neighborhood, none of which can be traced to a reliable source. There is no reason to doubt that a young woman serv

Left, National Tribune *(Washington, DC), December 6, 1888. Center,* The Watchman and Southern *(Sumter, SC), December 19, 1888. Right,* The Daily Independent *(Helena, MT), June 24, 1890. Library of Congress.*

FOREST HILL SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

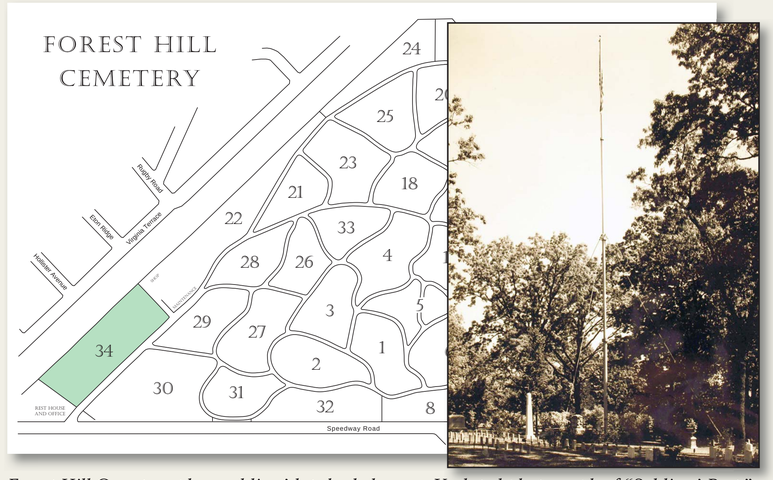
The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

Harvey U.S. General Hospital

In spring 1862, Wisconsin Gov. Louis P. Harvey traveled south to visit the state's volunteer soldiers who were being treated in hospitals near the fighting. On April 19, while crossing from one boat to another at Savannah, Tennessee, Harvey fell in the river and drowned. After his death, Harvey's widow, Cordelia, was appointed the state sanitary agent. Mrs. Harvey worked tirelessly to provide for Wisconsin's troops during the Civil War.

She toured hospitals in the South and saw the appalling conditions soldiers endured. In 1863, she persuaded President Abraham Lincoln to establish a general hospital in Madison. Harvey U.S. General Hospital opened in a three-story octagonal house built for former Gov. Leonard Farwell. A branch hospital at nearby Camp Randall was also set up. In December 1864, the complex reported that it was treating 587 patients. After the war, the general hospital became the Wisconsin Soldiers' Orphans' Home.

Orphans' Home, 1870. It closed in 1874, after the last children had aged out of care. Wisconsin Historical Society, WHS-2690.



Forest Hill Cemetery plan, soldiers' lot shaded green. Undated photograph of "Soldiers' Rest." National Archives and Records Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

The City of Madison purchased land in 1857 to establish Forest Hill Cemetery. Section 34 of this 140-acre cemetery, set aside for Union dead in 1862, was initially known as "Soldiers' Rest." Its 240 interments include troops who died while training at Camp Randall. The remainder died at Harvey U.S. General Hospital. The city deeded the 0.36-acre lot to the federal government in 1866. The government acquired a second, smaller parcel in Forest Hill Cemetery in 1908.

The soldiers' lot contains two Civil War memorials. The Wisconsin Soldiers' Orphans' Home Monument was erected in 1873. The marble obelisk is inscribed with the names of eight orphans who died at the home. Flanking it are the children's graves marked with headstones bearing their initials.

In 1891, the Woman's Relief Corps No. 37 erected a large boulder inscribed "To the Unknown Dead." The corps—an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization—was founded in 1883 to perpetuate the memory of the men who saved the Union.

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FOREST HOME SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

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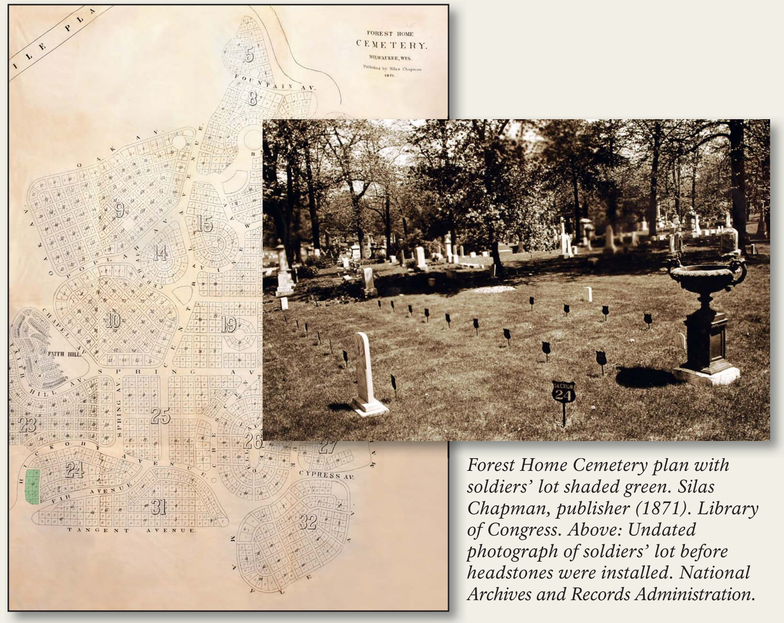
Milwaukee at War

On April 15, 1861, citizens of Milwaukee met to answer President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops to suppress the southern rebellion. Less than ten days later, the 1st Wisconsin Infantry mustered in at nearby Camp Scott. It was the first of six regiments raised in the city.

Soon after the Civil War began, the Milwaukee Ladies Association formed. They worked tirelessly to send supplies to recuperating soldiers. In 1862, the association split into the Wisconsin Soldiers' Aid Society—a U.S. Sanitary Commission branch (predecessor to the American Red Cross)—and the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society. The latter provided food, temporary lodging, and medical care to soldiers from its West Water Street storefronts.

In 1866, Milwaukee was selected as a site for a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS). The Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society transferred its assets to support land purchase and building construction. The Northwestern Branch NHDVS opened to needy veterans the following year.

Undated photograph of Union soldiers on the Milwaukee courthouse lawn. Courtesy of the Milwaukee County Historical Society.



Forest Home Cemetery plan with soldiers' lot shaded green. Silas Chapman, publisher (1871). Library of Congress. Above: Undated photograph of soldiers' lot before headstones were installed. National Archives and Records Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

Forest Home Cemetery was established by St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1850 on 72 acres located about 4 miles southwest of downtown Milwaukee. It was the first rural-style cemetery in the region, and it would grow to nearly 200 acres.

An 1868 War Department inspection of national cemeteries detailed twenty-four Union troops buried in a soldiers' lot here. All had died in the Milwaukee general hospital. The report also listed forty-one soldiers in private lots. The federal government purchased the soldiers' lot (Block 5, Section 24) from St. Paul's for $525 in 1872. There are twenty-one marked graves here today.

A second lot at Forest Home Cemetery contains the remains of veterans who died at the Milwaukee NHDVS between 1867 and 1871. That year, a cemetery was established at the home. It became Wood National Cemetery in 1973.

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FORT GIBSON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Barracks at Fort Gibson. Fort Gibson: A Brief History, *by Grant Foreman. Copyright 1936 University of Oklahoma Press. Reproduced with permission. All Rights reserved.*

Civil War Fort Gibson

The U.S. Army established a post here in 1824 and named it for Col. George Gibson, the army's first commissary general. Thirty-three years later, the federal government turned the fort over to the Cherokee Nation, which established a town at this site.

Soon after the Civil War began in 1861, Confederate troops seized the old fort. Union forces regained possession in early 1863, and by mid-April approximately 3,150 soldiers were stationed at Fort Gibson. Troops included three regiments of Indian Home Guards, four companies of Kansas cavalry, and a battery of artillery. The 1st Kansas Colored Infantry joined them soon after. Strategically located on the Arkansas River and a military road, Fort Gibson became the most important Union stronghold in Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

On July 1-2, 1863, Fort Gibson troops engaged a Confederate force that threatened supply wagons at Cabin Creek. They clashed again July 17 at Honey Springs, the largest Civil War battle in Oklahoma. It was the first time black soldiers in regimental strength carried out a successful offensive against Confederate troops.

National Cemetery

Soldiers and family members who died at Fort Gibson were buried in one of three small post cemeteries established between 1824 and 1857. Most died from accidents or disease—the fort endured several yellow fever epidemics. When the U.S. Army abandoned Fort Gibson, it left the cemeteries in place.

Reoccupation of the garrison during the Civil War meant more interments. In 1868, a new Fort Gibson National Cemetery was established on land formerly part of the larger military reservation. It was laid out in four sections with a central officers' circle and flagpole. In 1871, there were 2,123 graves in the cemetery—156 known Union soldiers and 1,967 dead associated with the post.

Undated view of cemetery showing private headstones in the officers' circle. National Archives and Records Administration.

Second Empire-style lodge and wall, 1903. National Archives and Records Administration.

In 1872, Secretary of War William W. Belknap directed the quartermaster general to relocate the dead from Fort Washita, Fort Towson, and Fort Arbuckle in southern Oklahoma to this cemetery. The remains of Union soldiers from other battlefields and sites in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri were eventually reinterred here, too. By 1874, the cemetery contained 2,296 graves, of which only 194 were known.

The U.S. Army permanently abandoned Fort Gibson in 1890, but retained control of the 7-acre national cemetery. It was enclosed by a sandstone wall that matched the Second Empire-style lodge completed in 1878. This lodge, which housed the superintendent and his family, was replaced by a Dutch Colonial-style brick structure in 1934. An administration building now occupies the site.

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FORT HARRISON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort Harrison after its capture on September 29, 1864. Library of Congress.

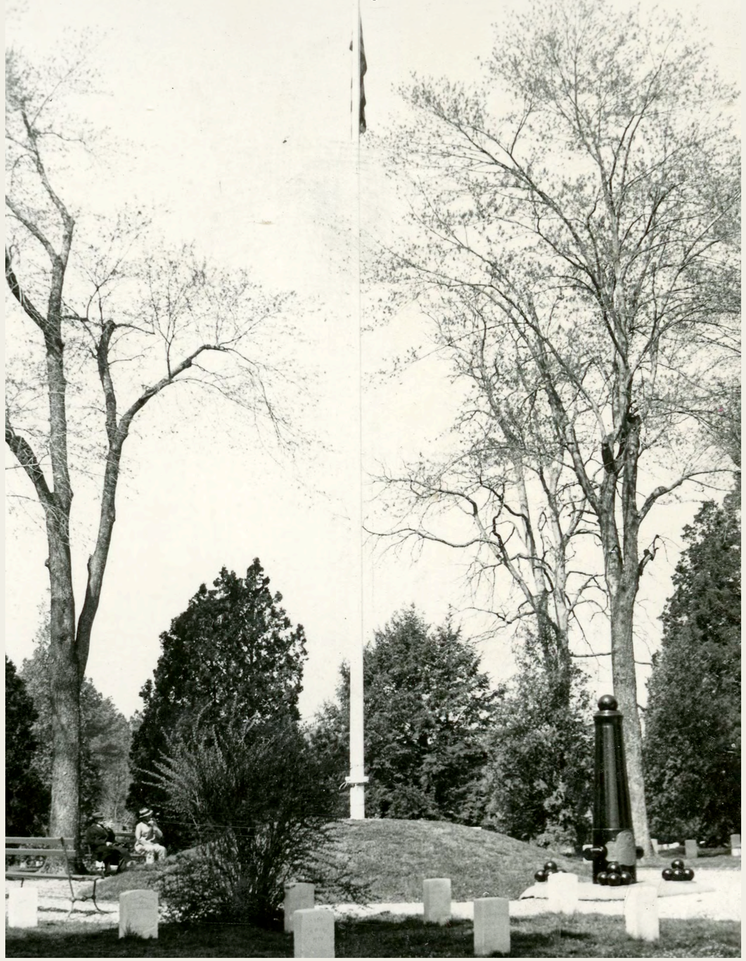
New Market Heights

Fort Harrison was the strongest point in the Confederate defense line and the key to Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's plan to capture Richmond, the Confederate capital. The Confederate fort was held by less than 200 soldiers who manned the fort's artillery and protected the walls.

On September 29, 1864, the Union captured the fort and another attack took nearby New Market Heights. The next day, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee organized a counterattack to retake the fort. The Confederate assault failed.

Fort Harrison was renamed Fort Burnham in honor of Union Brig. Gen. Hiram Burnham, who was killed in the fighting that September day.

National Cemetery



The flagstaff and artillery monument c. 1940. National Archives and Records Administration.

During the Civil War, thousands of Union soldiers perished in battles fought for control of Richmond. They are now buried in Fort Harrison National Cemetery and six other national cemeteries established in the Richmond-Petersburg area in 1866. When the cemetery was established in May, it contained the remains of 814 soldiers—more than half were unknown.

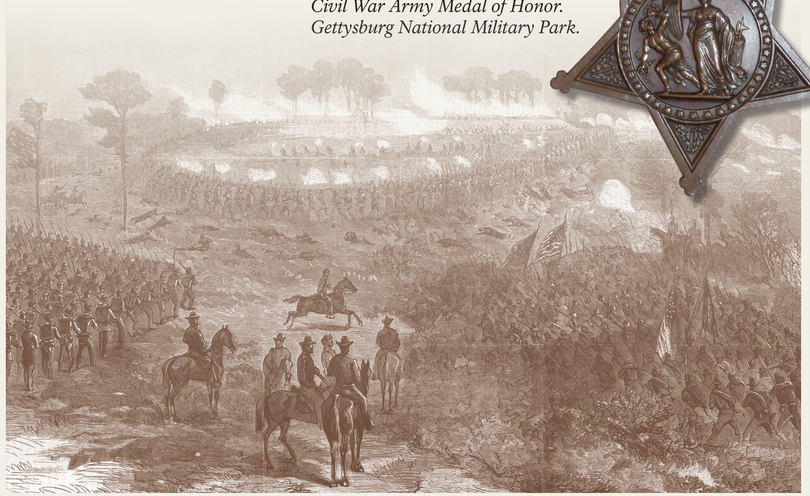
Today, this 1.6-acre cemetery contains the remains of 1,522 individuals, including four Confederate soldiers. Many of the dead are U.S. Colored Troops killed in the assault on New Market Heights.

In 1872, the U.S. Army built a stone Second Empire-style lodge for the superintendent, followed a few years later with a brick enclosure wall. Other cemetery improvements included a central flagpole mound and artillery monument—a cannon barrel planted upright in the ground topped by a cannon ball.

Medal of Honor Recipient

Pvt. George A. Buchanan, Co. G, 148th New York Infantry, received the Medal of Honor for his actions at New Market Heights. Serving in advance of the Union skirmish line, Buchanan drove Confederate artillerists from their guns. He died of wounds received on October 2, 1864 (Section A, Grave 224).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.



The assault on Fort Harrison, September 29, 1864. Harper's Weekly, *October 22, 1864.*

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FORT LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort Leavenworth, 1867. Library of Congress.

Civil War Fort Leavenworth

Fort Leavenworth was established in Kansas Territory in 1827 by Col. Henry Leavenworth. It is one of the oldest continuously operating military posts west of the Mississippi River. With the start of the Civil War, it became the main supply depot for the region. Wagon trains, some more than 200 carts long, delivered vital supplies to forts including Scott, Gibson, and Smith—the latter more than 330 miles south in Arkansas. The fort was also a recruiting and training center for soldiers.

Despite entering the Union as the thirty-fourth state in January 1861, Kansas was home to a strong pro-Confederate faction. Fort Leavenworth soon became a refuge for pro-Union supporters—white, black, and American Indian—seeking protection. In July 1862, Gen. James Lane organized early companies of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry here. Confederate Gen. Sterling Price failed to capture Fort Leavenworth in 1864, when Union troops led by Gen. Samuel Curtis defeated his army at the Battle of Westport, near Kansas City.

National Cemetery

Soon after Fort Leavenworth was established, the U.S. Army created two cemeteries—one for officers, one for enlisted men. In 1858, remains from both were moved to new ground that, in 1862, was designated Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. By 1874, a stone wall enclosed the 9-acre cemetery that contained two gun monuments. At the time, some 1,377 dead were buried here, including 398 known Union soldiers and sailors, 752 unknown Union soldiers, and 227 known citizens, women, and children. The superintendent and his family lived in a stone Second-Empire-style lodge until 1905, when it was replaced with a new building.

The graves of two noted soldiers are marked by private headstones. Colonel Leavenworth, who died in 1834 in Indian Territory (Oklahoma), was originally buried in New York. His remains were moved here in 1902 and marked with a granite shaft (Section 2, Grave 3215). Col. Edward Hatch enlisted in the volunteer army during the Civil War and later served in the Regular Army (Section A-OFF, Grave 2204). Men of the all-black 9th U.S. Cavalry who served under Hatch during the Indian Wars funded his granite pedestal-style marker.

Colonel Leavenworth's grave marker, 1933, before the eagle was added to the top in 1956. National Archives and Records Administration.

Thomas W. Custer (center) with his brother, George Armstrong, and sister-in-law, Libby Custer, 1865. Library of Congress.

Thomas W. Custer

One Civil War Medal of Honor recipient is buried here. Second Lt. Thomas W. Custer, 6th Michigan Cavalry, was the first man twice awarded the nation's highest military decoration.

Custer captured enemy flags on two separate occasions during the last days of the war in April 1865. The second time, at the Battle of Sailor's Creek, Virginia, he was severely wounded and his horse shot from under him. The younger brother of Gen. George Armstrong Custer, Thomas died at the Battle of Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876. Initially buried on that battlefield, Custer's remains were reinterred here in 1877 (Section A, Grave 1488).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

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FORT McPHERSON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort McPherson, 1865. The Battle of Atlanta *(1910)*.

Frontier Fort

In 1863, the U.S. Army sent Gen. George M. O'Brien to select the site for a fort to protect the growing transcontinental railroad and settlers migrating west. Perched above Cottonwood Canyon in the Nebraska Territory, Fort McKean was renamed in 1866 for Union Gen. James B. McPherson, who was killed in the 1864 Battle of Atlanta. Soldiers posted here were actively engaged with various American Indian tribes from 1864 until the army abandoned the fort.

Two significant expeditions embarked from Fort McPherson. Lt. Col. George A. Custer led the 7th U.S. Cavalry in a campaign against tribes in Kansas in 1868. The following year, Maj. Eugene Carr led the 5th U.S. Cavalry to defeat the Cheyenne at the Battle of Blue Summit Springs.

For seventeen years, the garrison protected wagon trains, stagecoaches, and mail and telegraph lines. Completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 transformed the area. Wagon traffic declined and American Indians were pushed farther west. In 1880 the U.S. Army vacated Fort McPherson.

National Cemetery

Fort McPherson National Cemetery, established in October 1873, evolved from an existing post cemetery. The army used a 107-acre tract to consolidate the dead removed from frontier posts it had abandoned. The first remains came from Fort Kearney, Nebraska, and Fort Sedgwick, Colorado.

By 1874, the remains of 389 U.S. soldiers, 271 of them unidentified, had been reinterred. Between 1878 and 1947, remains from twenty-three more military posts in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming were reburied here.

An undated photograph of Decoration (Memorial) Day at the cemetery. Nebraska State Historical Society, NE RG2608-2926b.

Lodge and cemetery, 1903. National Archives and Records Administration.

Per an 1867 law, the secretary of war appointed a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the cemetery. To qualify for the position, the individual had to have been an enlisted man disabled in service. These rules were loosened in 1872 to allow any man honorably discharged from the service of the United States to serve as a cemetery superintendent.

The first superintendent, assigned here on March 9, 1874, was George Griffin, formerly a captain in the 1st District of Columbia Cavalry. The army constructed a lodge for the superintendent and his family two years later.

In 1920, the U.S. Army determined that the property was too large for a national cemetery. As a result, much of the undeveloped land was transferred to private ownership. The federal government retained 20 acres.

FORT SCOTT NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort Scott as it appeared in the 1890s. Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society.

Civil War Fort Scott

Fort Scott, founded 1842, was named for former commander-in-chief of the U.S. Army, Gen. Winfield Scott. The army abandoned the fort in 1853, but the Civil War prompted federal troops to return in 1862. Fort Scott became the headquarters of the Department of Kansas and an important supply depot. Pro-Union supporters in Kansas—white, black, and American Indian—also found refuge here.

The first black regiment recruited in a Northern state, the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, mustered into service at Fort Scott on January 13, 1863. The 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry was organized here in fall 1863 before departing for Arkansas.

Prior to this, in late October 1862, a group of 224 Union soldiers, seven officers, and several scouts—men who later served in the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry—left Fort Scott for Missouri in search of Confederates. They quickly found them. At Island Mound fighting lasted two days. The 1st Kansas "fought like tigers," reported a Union lieutenant. It was the first of many battles where the regiment excelled.

National Cemetery

From 1842 to 1853, seventeen individuals were buried in the Fort Scott post cemetery. When the fort was reoccupied in 1862, the U.S. Army established a new area as Fort Scott National Cemetery for the interment of Union soldiers.

An 1867 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the national cemetery. To qualify for the position, the individual had to have been an enlisted man disabled in service. These restrictions were loosened over time. Absalom Hyde, formerly a captain in the 16th Kansas Cavalry, was named superintendent here in July 1868.

The U.S. Army improved the cemetery in the 1870s. A stone wall enclosed the 5-acre property, which contained 492 interments, including fourteen Confederate prisoners. A brick Second Empire-style lodge housed the superintendent and his family. Prior to its completion, the superintendent lived in town.

Undated photograph of the superintendent's family near the lodge and a 20-pounder Parrott rifle. National Archives and Records Administration.

Postcard view of cemetery entrance, c. 1900. National Cemetery Administration.

Several notable Civil War soldiers are buried or memorialized in the cemetery. A large sandstone boulder marks the grave of Capt. Eugene F. Ware, 7th Iowa Cavalry, who worked as a lawyer and author, known as "Ironquill," after the war. He died in 1911 (west end of Sections 10 and 13, Grave 1).

Also buried here are sixteen American Indian soldiers who enlisted in Union Indian Home Guard during the Civil War. These regiments were made up of loyal refugees who came to Kansas from Indian Territory (Oklahoma) in 1861 and 1862. The men served as scouts for other Union regiments.

A granite monument dedicated to soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry and the 2nd Kansas Battery was erected here in 1984. It is inscribed with the names of eighteen men killed in battle near Sherwood, Missouri, on May 18, 1863.

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FORT SMITH NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort Smith, 1865. Courtesy of the Fort Smith National Historic Site.

Civil War Fort Smith

In 1817, the U.S. Army sent a detachment of soldiers to Arkansas Territory to keep the peace between the Osage and Cherokee nations. They built a post on the shore of the Arkansas River and named it for Gen. Thomas A. Smith.

The army abandoned Fort Smith in 1825 but returned in 1836. A federal garrison held Fort Smith until April 23, 1861, when the Arkansas militia seized it. Union forces retook the fort in September 1863 and held it for the rest of the war.

Fort Smith became an important supply depot and outpost at the edge of Indian Territory. In 1865, a council meeting at Fort Smith was held to negotiate between the federal government and tribes that had sided with the Confederacy. The council reestablished treaties between those tribes and the government.

National Cemetery

Post Surgeon Thomas Russell, who died in 1819, was the first interment at Fort Smith. The 5.5-acre cemetery served the garrisons, both Union and Confederate, during the Civil War. In 1867, it became one of three national cemeteries established in Arkansas. In addition to U.S. soldiers, burials include several hundred Confederates and more than 160 civilians who died at the fort.

In the 1870s, the U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office constructed a brick lodge and wall, and placed permanent marble headstones on the graves. In 1898, a tornado swept through Fort Smith and caused extensive damage. The wall was rebuilt in stone, and the lodge was replaced with the current two-story building in 1904. When a new entrance was erected in 1942, the old iron gates were moved into the cemetery. Over the years, the cemetery has expanded to more than 32 acres.

The lodge in 1941. National Archives and Records Administration.

Judge Parker

Isaac Charles Parker was born on October 15, 1838, in Ohio. In 1859, he became a lawyer and moved to St. Joseph, Missouri. Parker resigned from his position as city attorney in 1861 to join the Union Army. After the Civil War, he was elected county prosecutor and later served two terms in the U.S. Congress. On March 18, 1875, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed him judge of the Western District of Arkansas, based in Fort Smith.

Isaac C. Parker, c. 1875. Library of Congress.

Judge Parker held court six days a week, often hearing cases for ten hours each day. He presided over an unusually large number of cases with a mandatory death sentence. Although personally opposed to capital punishment, federal law required Parker to hand down the death sentence if the jury returned a guilty verdict for crimes of rape or murder.

Parker served until shortly before his death on November 17, 1896, and was buried in this cemetery (Section 9, Grave 4000). In the years after his death he was often referred to as the "Hanging Judge."

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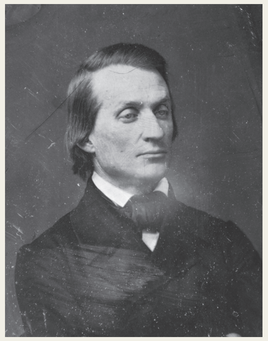
CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Confederate Occupation

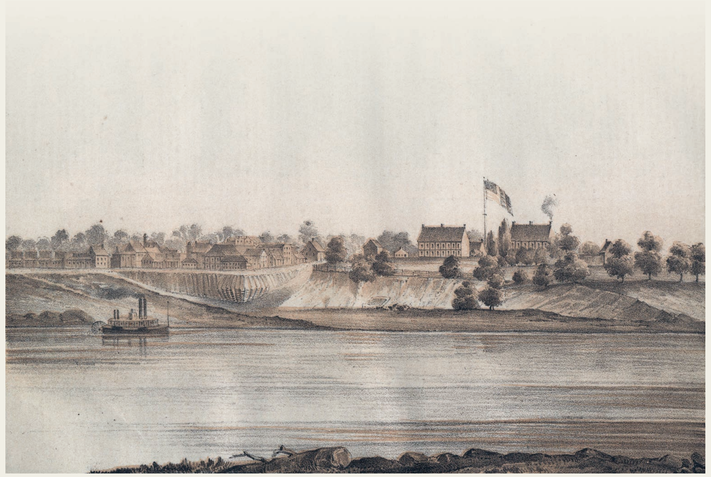
The War Department established Fort Smith in 1817 and occupied it until April 23, 1861. Learning that the Arkansas militia was advancing, the garrison retreated, taking arms and supplies from the fort with them. Hours later, Arkansas Volunteers led by Col. Solon Borland, a former U.S. senator, marched into Fort Smith and took possession in the name of the state of Arkansas.



Solon Borland, Democratic Senator from Arkansas, 1848-1853. Library of Congress.

Fort Smith's location, transportation and communications network, and storage facilities made it an important supply depot. Over the next thirty months, Confederates launched military expeditions from this location. As the Union army approached Fort Smith on August 31, 1863, the Confederates withdrew.

During the occupation, Confederates buried their soldiers in the existing post cemetery. In 1867, the post cemetery was designated Fort Smith National Cemetery.



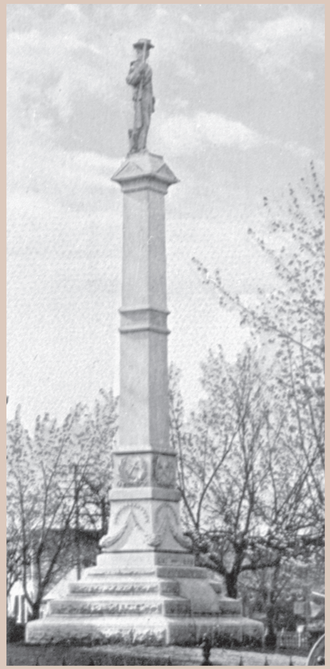
Fort Smith, Arkansas, c. 1855. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

The Confederate Monument

James F. Fagan, c. 1880. Arkansas History Commission.

Sometime after Fort Smith National Cemetery was established, former Confederate general James F. Fagan and Dr. Elias Duval decided to erect a memorial here honoring Confederate dead buried in the cemetery including Gens. Alexander E. Steen and James McIntosh. Fagan and Duval, aided by the women of Fort Smith, raised money for the memorial and sometime before 1898, "a modest, yet appropriate shaft" was erected in Section 2. A tornado in January 1898 destroyed the memorial and caused considerable damage to the cemetery.

The United Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy raised money to replace the monument, and in 1901 they submitted the design to the War Department. The design was rejected because the inscription violated government policy that text be "without praise and without censure." The proposed monument was eventually erected on the Sebastian County courthouse lawn, where it stands today. About 1904, the War Department replaced the destroyed monument with a small marble obelisk.



The Fort Smith Confederate Monument on the courthouse lawn, 1960. Arkansas History Commission.

Fort Smith National Cemetery

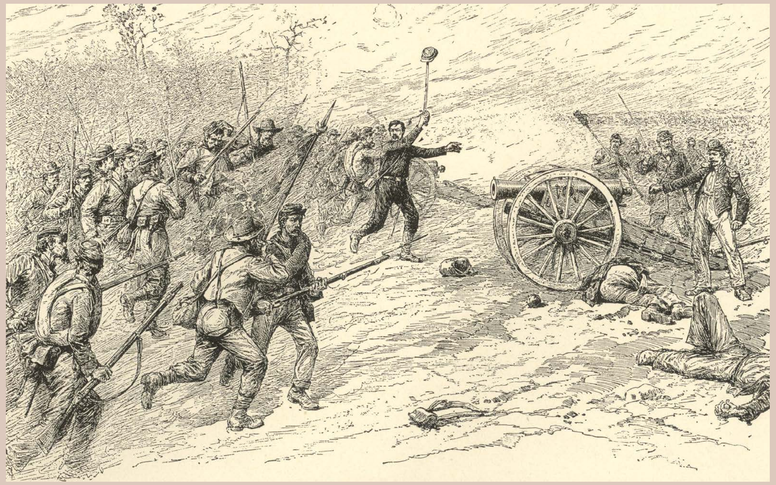
The largest group of Confederate burials in Fort Smith National Cemetery is in Section 3; other interments are scattered throughout Sections 1, 2, 4 and 8. Many graves contain two or more burials, and some as many as thirty individuals.

Confederate headstones, c. 1934, with the Southern Cross of Honor. The 1904 monument is in the background. National Cemetery Administration.

The Confederate Headstones

The distinctive pointed-top headstones on the Confederate graves were installed after 1930. That year, the War Department authorized the addition of the Southern Cross of Honor to the Confederate headstone. The United Daughters of the Confederacy created the cross medal in 1898 and bestowed it upon Confederate veterans or their families. The emblem on the headstone is a simplified version of what appears on the medal.

GLENDALE NATIONAL CEMETERY



Battle of Glendale, also known as Frayser's Farm. The Century War Book, *1894.*

Battle of Glendale

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia in June 1862. His first actions were a series of assaults on Union forces that were moving toward Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital.

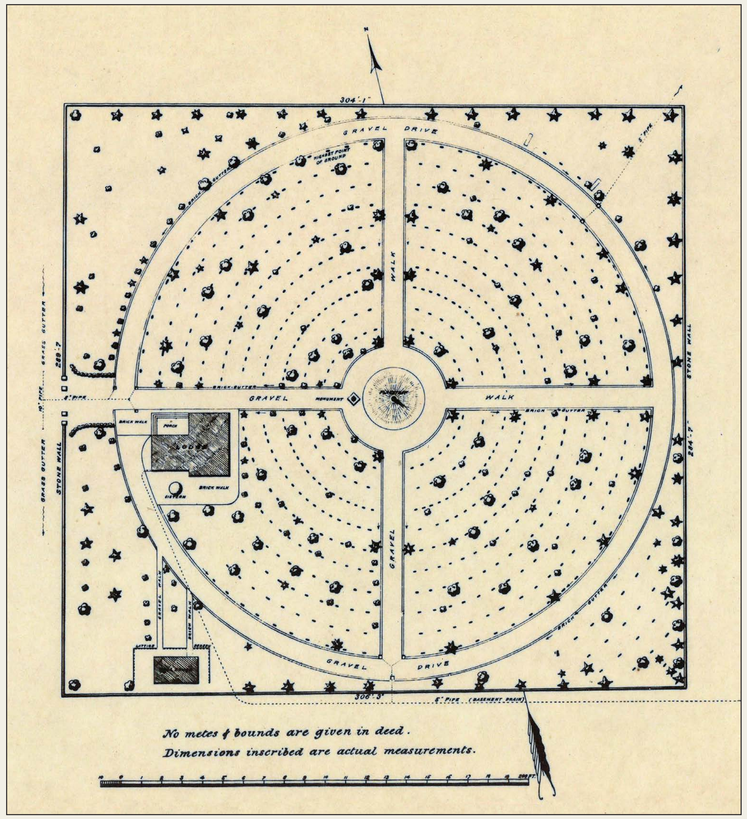
Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac, some 100,000 strong, was within 5 miles of Richmond. A defeat at Gaines Mill in late June forced McClellan to fall back. Hoping to trap McClellan, Lee ordered Maj. Gen. James Longstreet forward. The two forces met near Glendale on June 30. Fighting was fierce. A Union officer wrote, "It was muzzle to muzzle, and powder actually burned the faces of the opposing men."

Hours of bloody fighting ended as night fell. Confederate forces captured six Union guns and a few acres of woods but failed to halt McClellan's retreat. Lee and McClellan each lost approximately 3,500 men in the engagement. The Battle of Glendale was the fifth action Lee undertook in what became known as "The Seven Days Battles." Glendale was a loss for both sides.

National Cemetery

During the Civil War, Union and Confederate armies fought numerous battles for control of Richmond. Thousands of Union soldiers perished. They are now buried in Glendale National Cemetery and six national cemeteries established in the Richmond-Petersburg area in 1866.

Here lie the remains of 1,192 soldiers who died on the battlefields of Glendale and Malvern Hill, in hospitals at Harrison's Landing, and elsewhere in the vicinity. The names of only 234 were known.



Cemetery plan, 1892. National Archives and Records Administration.

Cemetery entrance, 1904. National Archives and Records Administration.

The Cemetery Develops

When the cemetery was created, it was a little less than 2 acres. It featured walkways radiating out from a central flagstaff mound. The design divided the burials, in rows of concentric circles, into four sections.

By the 1870s, the U.S. Army reported several improvements. A brick Second Empire-style lodge, the superintendent's home and office, was constructed. An inverted cannon was installed in the walkway between the lodge and flagstaff. A a bronze plaque with the number of known and unknown burials was affixed to the gun monument. A stone wall enclosed the cemetery.

An 1872 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a superintendent for each national cemetery from among "meritorious and trustworthy soldiers, either commissioned officers or enlisted men of the Volunteer or Regular Army." To qualify, an individual must have been honorably mustered out or discharged from the service of the United States.

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GRAFTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

A State Forged from War

On April 17, 1861, just days after President Abraham Lincoln's order to seize Fort Sumter in South Carolina, a convention of Virginia officials met to back a bill that would let Virginians vote on secession from the Union. Many delegates from western Virginia withdrew from the convention and vowed to form a state government loyal to the Union.

After the victory at the Battle of Philippi on June 3, 1861, Union forces occupied northwestern Virginia. Secure from Confederate interference, a new convention met in Wheeling and formed the Restored Government of Virginia, which President Lincoln recognized as the state's legitimate government.

The U.S. Constitution allows for the formation of a new state from an existing one if the original state consents. Since the federal government accepted the Restored Government as Virginia's legal authority, the state granted itself permission. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia was officially created with the provision that slavery would gradually be abolished in the new state.

Battle of Philippi, June 3, 1861. The Soldier in Our Civil War *(1895).*

National Cemetery

Grafton National Cemetery was established in 1867. The site was chosen for its proximity to existing Union burials in the private Maple Avenue Cemetery. Remains were brought here from Wheeling, Rich Mountain, and elsewhere in West Virginia and eastern Kentucky.

Cemetery in 1904. National Archives and Records Administration.

The rugged terrain challenged the Quartermaster General's staff. They terraced the 3.5-acre cemetery into three levels. A central path connected the terraces and a stone wall was built to enclose the grounds.

On June 14, 1868, Union veterans, townspeople, and local and state dignitaries gathered to dedicate the picturesque cemetery. West Virginia's first governor, Arthur Boreman, spoke. The original 1,254 interments were almost equally known and unknown dead. The cemetery contains more than 2,100 burials today.

Memorial Day

Grafton first hosted Memorial Day ceremonies in spring 1869. That year, the mayor asked residents to observe "flower strewing day" alongside Civil War veterans. The program grew over the years. School children still march in a parade to the cemetery carrying flowers and American flags for placement on the graves.

In 1882, local Union veterans formed a chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). "Flower strewing day" officially became Decoration Day (later Memorial Day) when the GAR adopted the formal name. Grafton became known as "Memorial City" as the annual event gained recognition.

Memorial Day parade in Grafton, c. 1900. Private Collection.

GREEN MOUNT SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

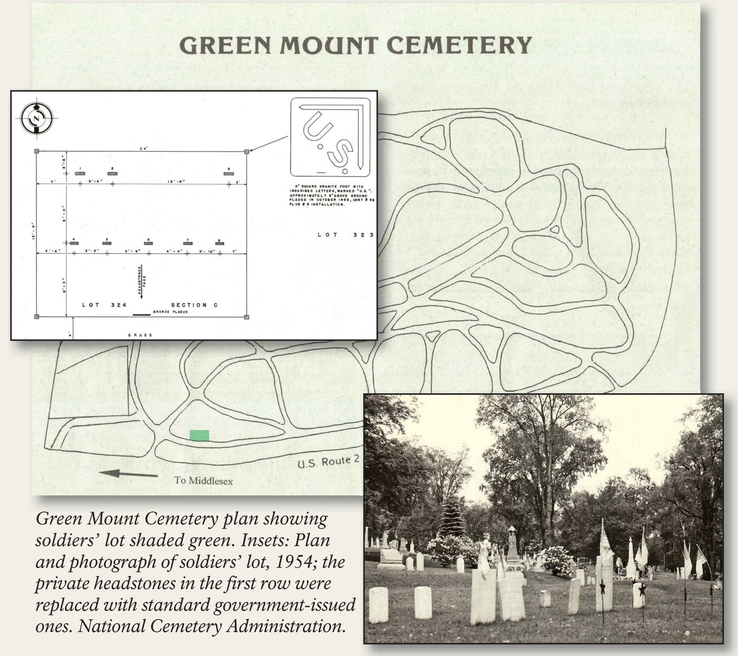
Vermont at War

On April 23, 1861, eleven days after Confederate forces assaulted Fort Sumter in South Carolina, Gov. Erastus Fairbanks asked Vermont legislators to help fund the federal response. "The United States government must be sustained and the rebellion suppressed," he said. After a brief debate, the state legislature appropriated $1 million to the Civil War effort. Montpelier raised only one regiment, but Vermont's capital city was home to one of the state's three U.S. General Hospitals.

Sloan General Hospital, the smallest but most modern of the three, opened in June 1864. Vermont Surgeon General Samuel Thayer Jr. chose the site on a hill near a good spring and with access to the railroad. The hospital's 496 beds were divided among twelve buildings. The complex included an administration building, dead house, and chapel. It opened after the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia (May 31-June 12, 1864), and was among the first hospitals to care for more patients with battle wounds than disease.

During the Civil War, Vermont's three general hospitals cared for 8,574 patients. Sloan closed in December 1865. In just more than eighteen months, 1,670 patients were treated here. Of the 174 who died, some were buried in town.

Sloan General Hospital, Montpelier, c. 1865. Courtesy of Special Collections, Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont.



Green Mount Cemetery plan showing soldiers' lot shaded green. Insets: Plan and photograph of soldiers' lot, 1954; the private headstones in the first row were replaced with standard government-issued ones. National Cemetery Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

Green Mount Cemetery was established in 1854 on 35 acres in Montpelier. The city deeded 450-square-feet in this cemetery to the federal government on March 28, 1866. The Lot 324 reservation, located along the front of the cemetery, is identified by square granite corner markers inscribed with "U.S."

Two graves containing Union soldiers were here in 1868, and the number doubled in 1874. The eight interments recorded today make it one of the National Cemetery Administration's smallest soldiers' lots.

The graves are marked by standard, round-topped government-issued marble headstones. This design was approved by the secretary of war in 1873 to mark the graves of known Union soldiers.

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HAMPTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Fort, Battles & Hospitals

The Hampton, Virginia-area saw many significant Civil War events. At Fort Monroe in 1861, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler declared three slaves seeking protection behind Union lines to be “contraband of war.” Butler’s precedent helped free enslaved persons before President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863.

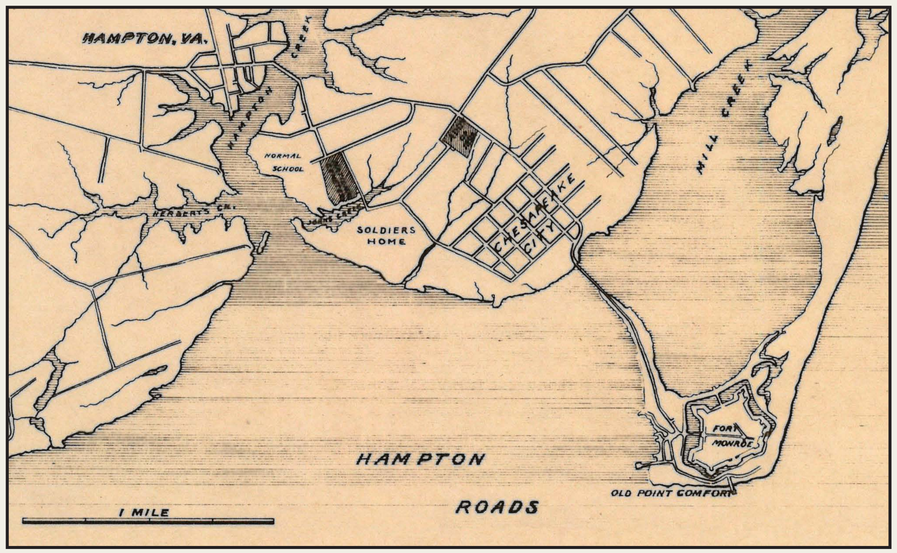
Also in 1862, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan used Fort Monroe as his Peninsular Campaign base. At nearby Hampton Roads, the U.S.S *Monitor* and C.S.S. *Merrimac* fought to a draw in the first engagement between ironclad warships. Later, Butler launched his 1864 Richmond campaign from the fort.

Troops in these and other campaigns often returned to Hampton as casualties. Chesapeake Military Hospital and Hampton Military Hospital, with a total of 1,800 beds, treated sick and wounded officers and enlisted men.

Fort Monroe as it appeared c. 1861. Library of Congress.

National Cemetery

The U.S. Army established Hampton National Cemetery in 1866 about two miles from Fort Monroe. The Southern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, opened in 1870, used this cemetery when residents died.



Detail of an 1892 cemetery plan showing the two cemetery tracts, Soldiers Home and Fort Monroe. Hatched areas show the original (left) and new (right) cemetery properties. National Archives and Records Administration.

By 1874, the 11-acre cemetery contained 5,209 individuals, including 83 citizens, women, and children; 475 of the graves were unknown. Land to the east was purchased in 1892 to provide additional burial space. This “Phoebus Section” was expanded again in 1894 and 1934. A Second Empire-style superintendent’s lodge was finished in 1872; it was replaced in 1940.

Sections D and E contain the remains of 272 Confederate prisoners of war. The soldiers were held at various Tidewater Virginia locations including Fort Monroe, Newport News, and Portsmouth. Both sections contain granite blocks inscribed “To Our Confederate Dead.”

Medal of Honor Recipients

Six Civil War recipients of the Medal of Honor are buried here. Created in 1863, the medal is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal.

Michael Cassidy, landsman on the U.S.S. *Lackawanna*, August 5, 1864 (Phoebus Section B, Grave 9503).

James R. Garrison, coal heaver on the U.S.S. *Hartford*, August 5, 1864 (Phoebus Section B, Grave 9523).

Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton, Company H, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, September 29, 1864 (Hampton Section E, Grave 1231).

First Lt. Harry (Henry) J. Mandy, Company B, 4th New York Cavalry, August 15, 1864 (Phoebus Section C, Grave 8709).

Pvt. Charles Veale, Company D, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, September 29, 1864 (Hampton Section F, Grave 5097).

David Warren, coxswain on the U.S.S. *Monticello*, June 23-25, 1864 (Phoebus Section C, Grave 7972).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

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National Cemetery Administration

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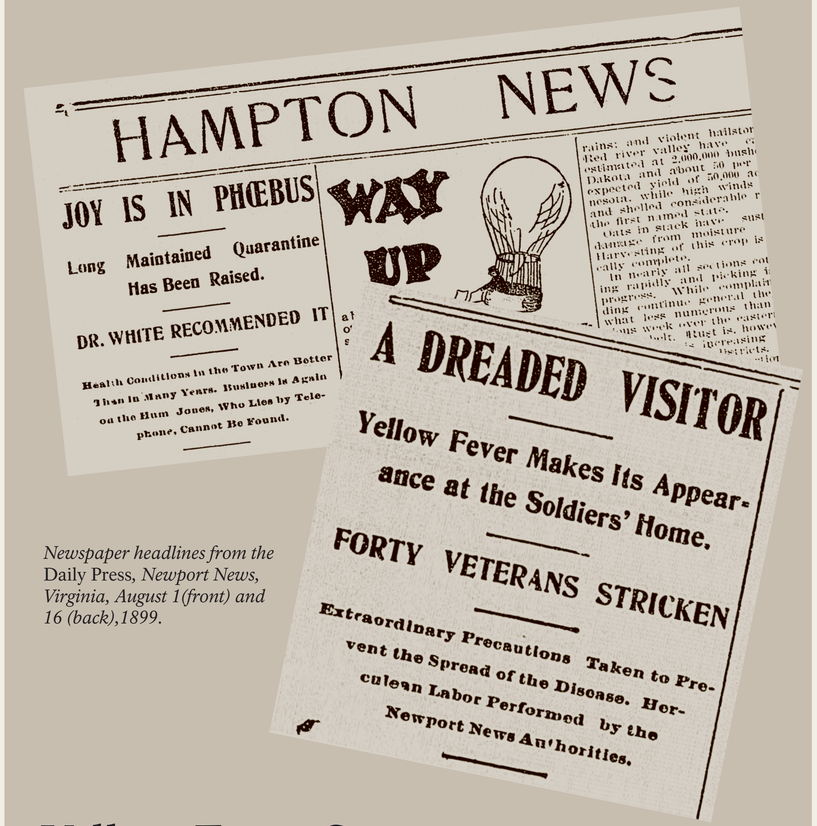
HAMPTON VAMC NATIONAL CEMETERY

National Soldiers' Home

In 1870, the federal government bought the building that had served as Chesapeake Military Hospital during the Civil War. It became the Southern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the fourth such facility. This Tidewater Virginia site was authorized for Civil War veterans, including former U.S. Colored Troops, who required a milder climate than other National Homes, at the time, located in Maine, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The old hospital became part of a sprawling campus. Its buildings included a theater, library, chapel, and beer hall. Operated like the military, barracks at the National Home had company designations and men wore uniforms. It was initially open to disabled veterans of the Mexican and Civil wars who received pensions of less than $16 per month.

Hospital building at the Southern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1902. Library of Congress.



HAMPTON NEWS

JOY IS IN PHŒBUS

Long Maintained Quarantine Has Been Raised.

DR. WHITE RECOMMENDED IT

Health Conditions in the Town Are Better Than in Many Years. Business is Again on the Hum Jones, Who Lies by Telephone, Cannot Be Found.

WAY UP

A DREADED VISITOR

Yellow Fever Makes Its Appearance at the Soldiers' Home.

FORTY VETERANS STRICKEN

Extraordinary Precautions Taken to Prevent the Spread of the Disease. Herculean Labor Performed by the Newport News Authorities.

Newspaper headlines from the Daily Press, *Newport News, Virginia, August 1(front) and 16 (back),1899.*

Yellow Fever Scare

In 1899, more than 3,700 veterans resided at the Southern Branch. On July 29 that year, the chief surgeon sought the services of a yellow fever expert. Doctors quarantined the National Home and the adjacent town of Phoebus.

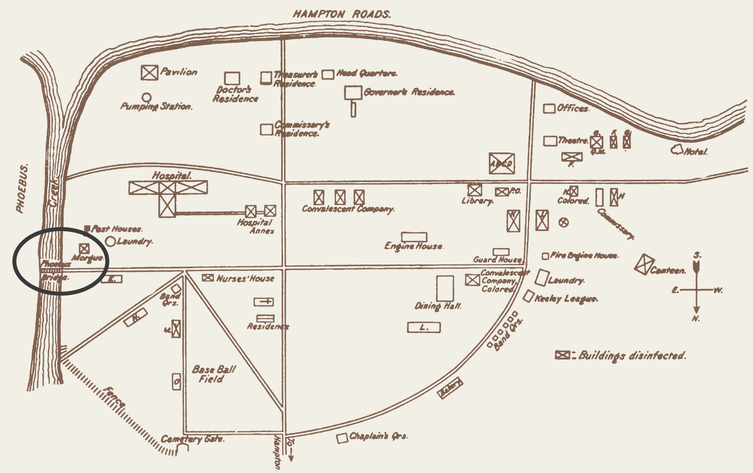
Authorities relocated 1,500 veterans, nearly half of the National Home population. Men occupied tents set up on the grounds while residence halls were fumigated and bed linens were disinfected or burned. The decisive actions by medical authorities controlled the spread of the disease. About forty cases of yellow fever were confirmed at the Home; of those thirteen died.

The Cemetery

An earlier yellow fever outbreak had killed more than 2,000 people in Hampton. Thus, medical authorities and local, state, and federal government officials took an epidemic threat seriously. Though Hampton National Cemetery was just outside the National Home, the quarantine forbade anyone from leaving the campus. Home officials were forced to create a new cemetery on the grounds.

By September 1899, twenty Civil War and Mexican War veterans were buried in the small cemetery, including eight yellow fever victims. The rest died of other causes during the quarantine. Two civilians who died in 1909 and 1912 brought the total number of graves to twenty-two.

Established as the result of a short-lived health crisis at the National Home, the smallest national cemetery has no lodge or enclosing wall. It has been erroneously called the "Spanish-American War" cemetery because the yellow fever outbreak occurred while the United States was engaged in that war.



National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers campus at the time of the 1899 yellow fever outbreak. Annual Report of the Marine Hospital Service. *Note the cemetery gate at bottom left, that led to Hampton National Cemetery. The new cemetery was established near the morgue, circled.*

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL CEMETERY

Aerial view of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium, c. 1955. Hot Springs Public Library.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium

Veterans and politicians began lobbying for a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1890. The U.S. Congress authorized funding in 1902, and construction started the next year. Landscape architect George E. Kessler and architect Thomas Kimball designed the campus and its elegant buildings. A blend of Spanish Colonial Revival and Richardson Romanesque styles, the buildings were constructed using local sandstone.

Unlike other homes established as residential facilities, Battle Mountain Sanitarium was a hospital that offered short-term care. Civil War veteran Charles Wibert transferred here from the Marion, Indiana, home in March 1907. Twenty-five men from the NHDVS at Danville, Illinois, soon followed. Within three years of opening, Battle Mountain began to specialize in the treatment of tuberculosis.

The National Homes merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and the Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930. In 2012, the Hot Springs VA Medical Center campus was designated a National Historic Landmark.

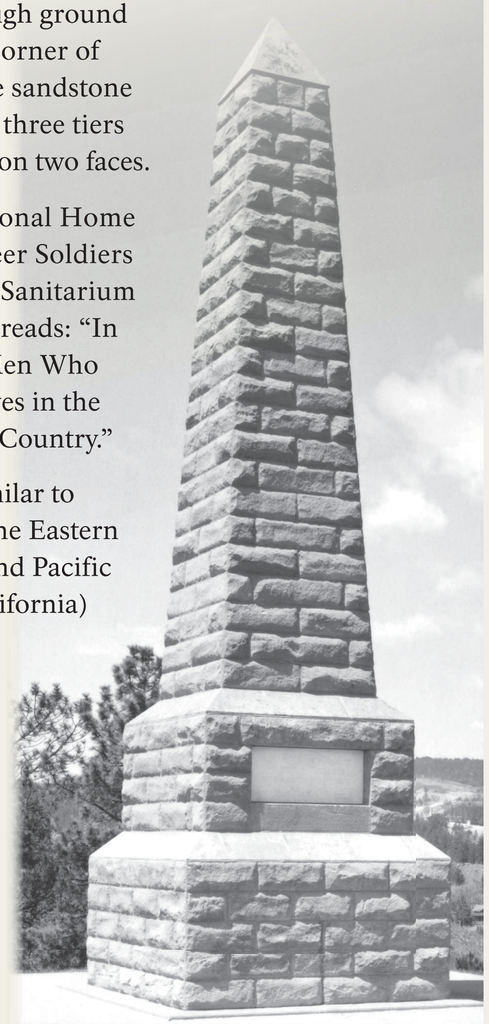
Cemetery and Monument

An 8.65-acre cemetery opened shortly after completion of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium hospital. The first interment on May 5, 1907, was Civil War veteran Elijah F. Williams, formerly of the 1st New Jersey Infantry.

A 32-foot-tall monument was constructed on high ground in the southeast corner of the cemetery. The sandstone obelisk is built in three tiers with inscriptions on two faces.

One reads: “National Home Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Battle Mountain Sanitarium 1914.” The other reads: “In Memory of the Men Who Offered Their Lives in the Defense of Their Country.”

The obelisk is similar to those erected at the Eastern (Togus, Maine) and Pacific (Los Angeles, California) National Homes.



Monument, 2006. Library of Congress, HALS SD-1.

Funeral procession, c. 1914. Hot Springs Public Library.

By 1913, sanitarium protocol called for funerals to start at 8 a.m. Each included an honor guard. Able patients walked to the cemetery behind a caisson carrying the coffin. The service ended with a rifle salute and the playing of “Taps.”

Veterans and their dependents comprise all but two of the nearly 1,500 burials here. The other graves, civilian employees who died on site in 1918, are distinguished by headstones that face a different direction than those of veterans. The cemetery was designated Hot Springs National Cemetery in 1973.

One Civil War Medal of Honor recipient is buried here. Corp. Charles L. Russell, 93rd New York Infantry, captured a regimental Confederate flag at Spotsylvania, Virginia, May 12, 1864 (Section 3, Grave 12).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

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JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY

Jefferson Barracks as it appeared in 1861. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper *(June 29, 1861).*

Civil War Jefferson Barracks

Jefferson Barracks, established by the U.S. Army in 1826, was in continuous use until 1946. Early in the Civil War, both pro-Union and pro-Confederate militia occupied St. Louis. Union militia drilled at Jefferson Barracks. In May 1861 pro-Confederate forces were expelled from the city.

Throughout the war Jefferson Barracks served as a hospital. The army converted existing buildings and erected new ones to serve as medical facilities. By the end of 1862, more than 5,000 sick and wounded had been treated at Jefferson Barracks General Hospital. In excess of 18,000 Union soldiers passed through it by the time the war ended in 1865.

National Cemetery

With the hospital came the need for a cemetery. The Jefferson Barracks post burial grounds had been in use since August 1827. By the time of the Civil War, more than 600 soldiers and civilians had been buried there. The national cemetery, established in 1866, was expanded beyond the post cemetery. By 1869, it contained more than 10,000 graves, the majority known. Among those interred were 1,106 Confederate prisoners of war.

Two Civil War Medal of Honor recipients are buried here. Pvt. Martin Schubert, 26th New York Infantry, picked up the colors and carried them until he was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 13, 1862 (Section 4, Grave 12310).

Corp. Lorenzo D. Immell, 2nd U.S. Artillery, gathered abandoned cannon and continued to fire on Confederates at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861 (Section 4, Grave 12342).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

Former cemetery entrance and gatehouse/office, 1933. The superintendent's lodge is visible beyond the gate. National Archives and Records Administration.

Minnesota Monument in 1933. National Archives and Records Administration.

Civil War Monuments

Sculptor John K. Daniels of St. Paul, Minnesota, designed the female figure holding a laurel wreath, a symbol of glory and victory. The monument was erected at the intersection of Longstreet and Monument drives. Dedicated on May 15, 1922, it honors 164 Minnesota soldiers buried here. It is one of five Minnesota monuments placed in the national cemeteries.

In the early twentieth century, Annie Wittenmyer Tent No. 3, Daughters of [Union] Veterans, erected a monument to the unknown Union dead interred at Jefferson Barracks.

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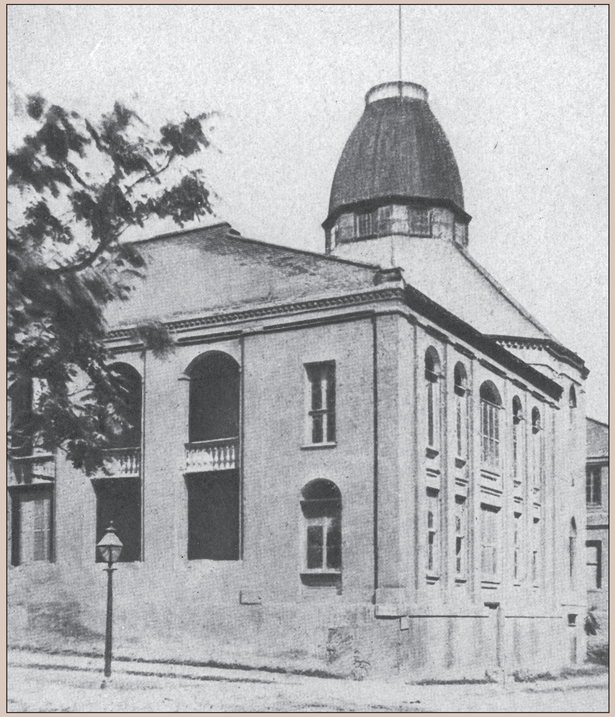
CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Military Prisons in St. Louis

St. Louis had two small Civil War prisons, each housing several hundred persons. Gratiot Street Prison was the former McDowell Medical College, located near Eighth and Gratiot streets and the Mississippi River. When the Civil War began, Dr. Joseph Nash McDowell left St. Louis, eventually joining the Confederate army. The college became Gratiot Street Prison in December 1861. The U.S. Army installed bunks and stoves in classrooms, and the dissecting room became a mess hall. The building could hold 500, but often exceeded that number. The first prisoners arrived on Christmas Eve 1861.



Gratiot Street Prison, c. 1865. Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War.

A two-and-a-half-story brick building—at the corner of present-day Clark Avenue and Broadway—owned by slave dealer Bernard M. Lynch became Myrtle Street Prison. The army confiscated "Lynch's Slave Pen" after Lynch fled south. With barred windows, it needed little alteration. Among the first prisoners was Max McDowell, a son of Dr. McDowell, who had remained in St. Louis to recruit soldiers for Confederate forces.

Both prisons also held civilians, including women and children, deemed Confederate sympathizers. Both facilities closed in summer 1865.

The Confederate Burials

Some Confederate prisoners who died at the Gratiot and Myrtle Street prisons, or in hospitals, were initially buried in Christ Church Cemetery. Others were interred by the firm of John A. Smithers & Brother at Wesleyan Cemetery. About 1867, the U.S. Army moved the remains of more than 1,000 Confederate prisoners interred in St. Louis cemeteries to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. This included six burials removed from Quarantine Island and a prisoner removed from Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

In 1908, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead placed the distinctive pointed-top headstones on the Confederate graves at the national cemetery. Because St. Louis prisons also housed Southern sympathizers, many of the dead were civilians.

A Confederate headstone on the grave of W. J. Arnett, a prisoner of war.

The Commission was only authorized to mark the graves of soldiers, but the War Department authorized the use of Confederate-style headstones to mark civilian prisoner graves. Among them were two women, Jane N. Foster (Section 20, Grave 4613) and Nancy J. Vaughn (Section 21, Grave 4815).

Toward Reconciliation

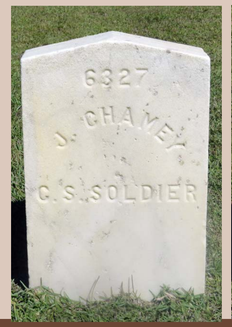
On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

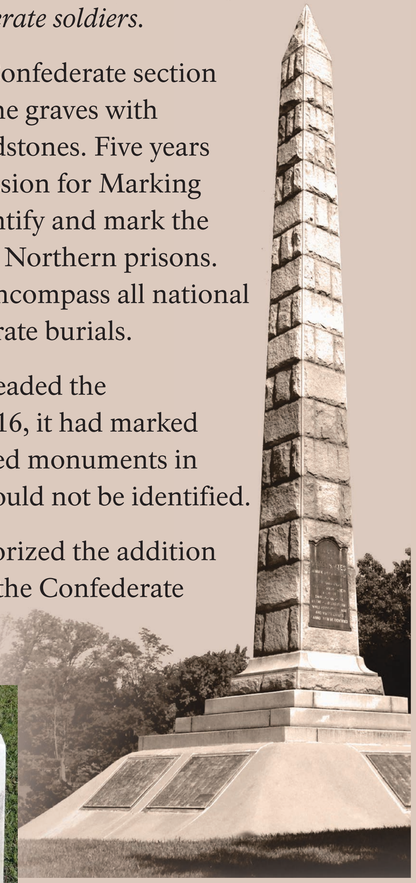
> *The Union is once more the common altar of our love and loyalty, our devotion and sacrifice . . . Every soldier's grave made during our unfortunate Civil War is a tribute to American valor . . . in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.*

The War Department created the Confederate section at Arlington in 1901, and marked the graves with distinctive pointed-top marble headstones. Five years later, Congress created the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead to identify and mark the graves of Confederates who died in Northern prisons. Its mission was later expanded to encompass all national cemeteries that contained Confederate burials.

Four former Confederate officers headed the Commission over its lifetime. By 1916, it had marked in excess of 25,500 graves and erected monuments in locations where individual graves could not be identified.

In 1930, the War Department authorized the addition of the Southern Cross of Honor to the Confederate headstone.





North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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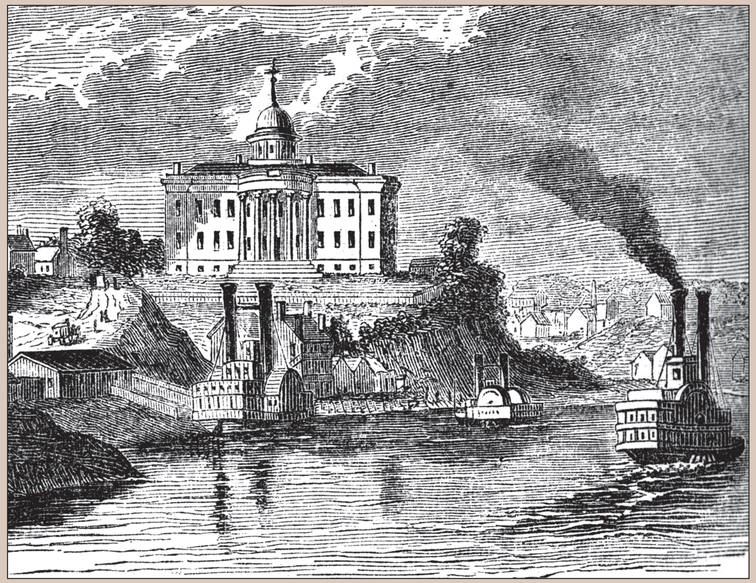
JEFFERSON CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Jefferson City

In spring 1861, Missouri was a slave state divided over the issue of secession. An uneasy peace existed between pro-Confederate state government militia and Union forces headquartered in St. Louis. On June 11, 1861, Union and pro-Confederate leaders met in the city. The conference ended abruptly when Union Gen. Nathaniel Lyon stormed out of the room yelling, “This means war!”

Four days later, Lyon’s troops marched into Jefferson City, the state capital. They found that pro-secessionist government officials had departed two days earlier.

The Union Army established a garrison at Jefferson City that operated throughout the war. Soldiers who died in the city were buried on land adjacent to the old city cemetery and Woodland Cemetery.



View of Jefferson City from the Missouri River. Barber and Howe, Our Whole Country *(1861). Courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.*

Entrance gate and lodge, 1903. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

In 1867, the federal government purchased the 2 acres being used for military burials from Woodland Cemetery. This tract was designated a national cemetery. Remains were brought here from Chariton, Cooper, Knox, Johnson, and Pettis counties.

By 1875, there were 754 interments, including three civilians and three Confederate soldiers. The narrow cemetery was enclosed with a stone wall, a Second Empire-style lodge was built for the superintendent, and a flagstaff installed.

The east wall was replaced with a wrought-iron fence and the stone utility building was completed in 1937. The rostrum was added in 1942.

Centralia Monument

On September 27, 1864, Confederate guerrillas led by “Bloody Bill” Anderson executed twenty-two Union soldiers returning home on furlough at the train station in Centralia, Missouri. Union Maj. A. V. E. Johnston, with detachments of companies A, G, and H, 39th Missouri Infantry, pursued the guerrillas.

The U.S. forces were outnumbered. Johnston and 121 men were killed. Residents buried some of the dead in a trench grave near the railroad station. Others were initially buried in the nearby town of Mexico, but were eventually moved to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis.

By 1868, the Centralia train station burial plot was enclosed by a board fence. A monument inscribed with the names of 122 officers and enlisted men of the 39th Missouri who died in the battle was installed within the enclosure. These remains and the monument were moved in 1873 to this national cemetery between
Sections 7 and 9.

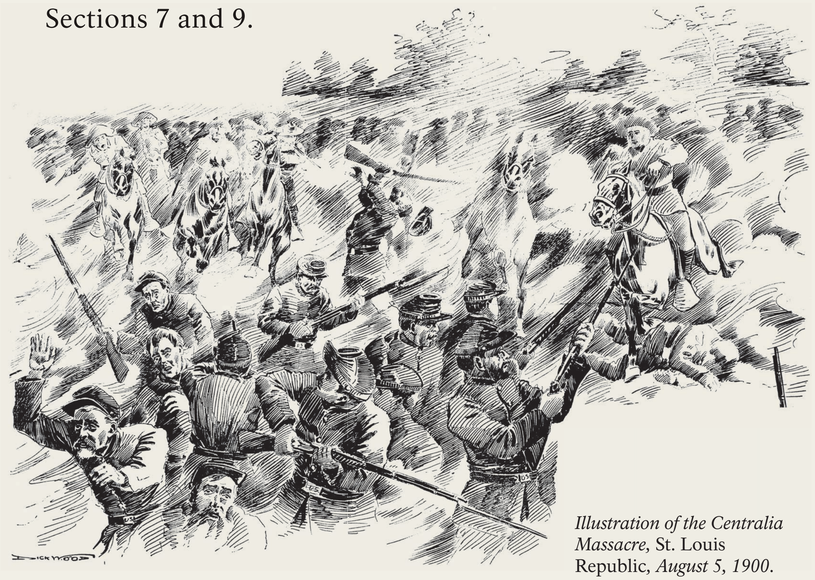


Illustration of the Centralia Massacre, St. Louis Republic, *August 5, 1900.*

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National Cemetery Administration

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KEOKUK NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Keokuk

Keokuk, Iowa, was a staging and training ground for seven Union regiments. The first soldiers mustered in at Camp Ellsworth in May 1861. Later, camps Rankin, Halleck, and Lincoln prepared Iowa troops for deployment south.

Its Mississippi River setting made Keokuk an important Union Army hospital center. The first wounded arrived soon after the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee, on April 7, 1862. A stream of patients continued throughout the war.

The army set up military hospitals at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Simpson House, Rice's Hardware Store, and the public school. The largest facility was the Estes House, a hotel converted into a U.S. General Hospital. Sick and wounded troops were treated here from April 17, 1862, until October 1, 1865.

Keokuk on the Mississippi River. Barber and Howe, Our Whole Country *(1861). Courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.*

View of the fenced cemetery with lodge, cannon, and rostrum, 1903. Completed for Memorial Day 1873, the rostrum was the first permanent one built in any national cemetery. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Soldiers who died in Keokuk military hospitals were buried in an Oakland Cemetery lot. After the war, the city donated the lot to the federal government, which expanded it to establish Keokuk National Cemetery. By 1871 the 2.5-acre national cemetery contained 627 Union dead, only twenty-seven unknown. Eight Confederate prisoners of war who died in Keokuk are also buried here.

By 1871, an iron fence enclosed the cemetery, upright cannon flanked the entrance, and a Second Empire-style brick lodge to house the superintendent and his family was complete. Four artillery pieces on gun carriages encircled a new flagstaff. A summer house was built to provide visitors a place to rest and contemplate the solemn landscape.

Monuments

In 1912, the Woman's Relief Corps and State of Iowa erected a 30-foot-tall granite pedestal topped with a granite statue of a Union soldier. The state legislature had appropriated $2,000 for this purpose the previous year. The monument is dedicated to unknown soldiers buried in the cemetery.

Sometime after 1929, the cornerstone of the Estes House Hotel was placed in the cemetery. Encased in a metal box with a glass lid, the cornerstone is a memorial to soldiers who died in Keokuk's U.S. General Hospital during the Civil War.

Undated photograph of the Estes House Hotel cornerstone in Keokuk National Cemetery. National Cemetery Administration.

Estes House Hotel, used in the Civil War as a hospital, c. 1920. Keokuk Public Library.

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KNOXVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Knoxville

In an 1861 referendum, 81 percent of East Tennessee voters rejected secession. Many in Knoxville, the region's largest city, supported the Union. During the Civil War, 30,000 East Tennesseans joined the U.S. Army. When Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside's troops arrived in Knoxville in 1863, they received a hero's welcome.

On November 17, 1863, Confederate forces led by Gen. James Longstreet surrounded Knoxville. The city was encircled by a strong line of earthworks anchored on the Tennessee River.

Longstreet attacked at Fort Sanders on the western edge of the Union line on November 29. The assault lasted less than an hour as Union soldiers inflicted heavy losses on Confederate troops. The Confederates retreated and attempted to lay siege to the city. Longstreet withdrew in December, leaving East Tennessee firmly in Union hands.

Fort Sanders, c. 1863. Surrounded by a ditch 8 feet deep, the fort was located near Clinch Avenue just north of what is today the University of Tennessee campus. Library of Congress.

Lithograph of cemetery, 1864, that emphasizes the Highlander Monument and headstones in Section A. Library of Congress.

National Cemetery

In December 1863, General Burnside ordered Capt. H. S. Chamberlain to prepare a cemetery for casualties of the Knoxville fighting. Three years later, Capt. E. B. Whitman, who was in charge of establishing national cemeteries in the South, described it as:

> *the only burial ground of Union Soldiers . . . originally laid out and constructed to the present time in a manner and on a system that renders it suitable to be converted into a National Cemetery . . .*

By 1874, there were 3,135 interments in the 10-acre tract. Approximately one-third were unknown. Graves were arranged in concentric circles around a central flagstaff. A stone wall enclosed the grounds.

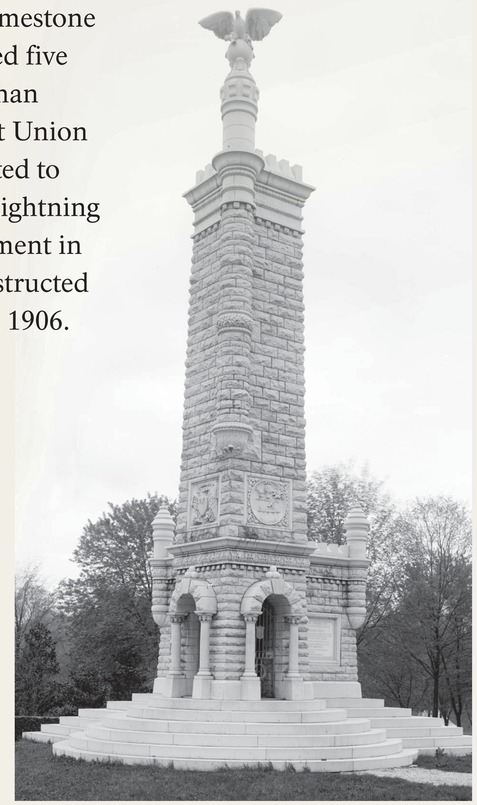
One Civil War Medal of Honor recipient lies here. Pvt. Timothy Spillane, 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry, received the commendation for gallantry at the Battle of Hatcher's Run, Virginia, February 5-7, 1865. He died in Knoxville in 1901 (Section A, Grave 3319).

Monuments

The first monument erected in the cemetery honors the 79th New York Volunteer Infantry known as the "Highlanders." Hugh Young, a stonecutter by trade and member of the regiment, carved this monument and surrounding headstones for his comrades in March 1864.

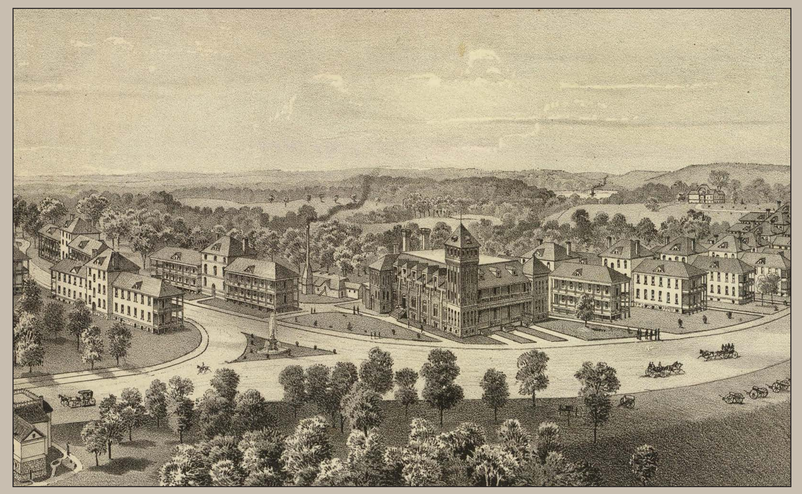
In 1893, the Tennessee Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans' organization, decided to build a monument to the state's Union dead. The cornerstone was laid in 1896 during a ceremony that featured a parade and speeches.

The 60-foot-tall, limestone tower was dedicated five years later. More than 7,000 donors, most Union veterans, contributed to the $11,000 cost. Lightning toppled the monument in 1904. It was reconstructed and rededicated in 1906.



The original Union Soldiers Monument, c. 1902. A statue of a standing soldier replaced the ball and eagle at the top when it was reconstructed four years later. Library of Congress.

LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY



Soldiers' Home in 1887. L. H. Everts, Official Atlas of Kansas *(1887). Courtesy of the David Rumsey Map Collection.*

National Home

The Western Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) was authorized in 1884. It was the first branch west of the Mississippi River and the fifth one to be constructed. The City of Leavenworth, Kansas, donated 640 acres and funded enhancements to the grounds. The first resident was admitted on July 11, 1885.

Minneapolis landscape architect Horace W. S. Cleveland designed the park-like grounds. Leavenworth-based contractor James A. McGonigle constructed the original buildings in a variety of then-popular styles. The campus contained barracks, hospitals, entertainment, educational, and maintenance facilities. Veterans were trained and employed here.

The National Homes merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and the Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930. Renamed the Eisenhower VA Medical Center, it continues to serve veterans. The campus was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011.

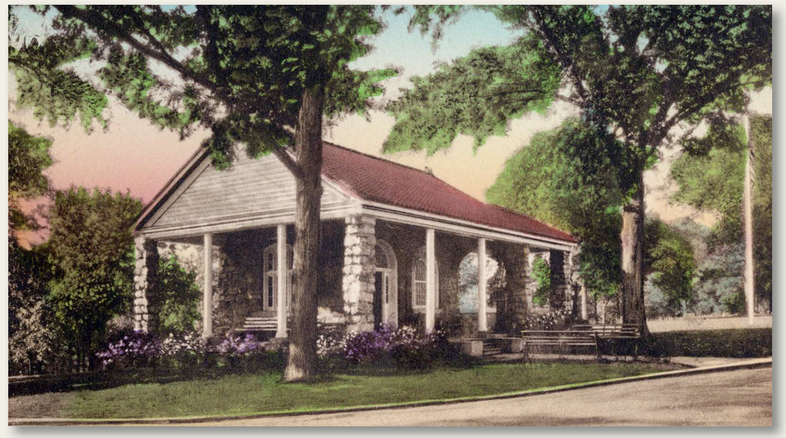
Cemetery and Monument

Horace Cleveland likely designed the 113-acre cemetery that opened about a year after the National Home. Rural-style paths and roads followed the natural topography, and a limestone wall enclosed the property.

Two noteworthy structures were completed in the early twentieth century. The "rest house," 1921, features stained-glass and a porch covering a cast-iron temperance fountain. In 1936, a Classical Revival-style rostrum with fluted Doric columns was built of limestone.

A large limestone obelisk dedicated to all veterans was completed in 1919. The cemetery was designated Leavenworth National Cemetery in 1973.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument was erected on the highest point of the cemetery. Library of Congress.



Postcard view of rest house, c. 1930. National Cemetery Administration.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Five Civil War soldiers who received the Medal of Honor, and were later National Home residents, are buried here.

Pvt. William W. Burritt, 113th Illinois Infantry, for gallantry at Vicksburg, Mississippi, April 27, 1863 (Section 16, Grave 7).

Corp. Daniel A. Dorsey, 33rd Ohio Infantry, for actions associated with Andrews Raid near Big Shanty, Georgia, April 1862 (Section 11, Grave 8).

Sgt. John S. Durham, 1st Wisconsin Infantry, for extraordinary heroism at Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862 (Section 33, Grave 18).

Sgt. William Garrett, 41st Ohio Infantry, captured artillery pieces and a Confederate regimental flag at Nashville, Tennessee, December 16, 1864 (Section 32, Grave 26).

Pvt. John Gray, 5th Ohio Infantry, captured artillery at Port Republic, Virginia, June 9, 1862 (Section 9, Grave 23).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

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LEBANON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Lebanon

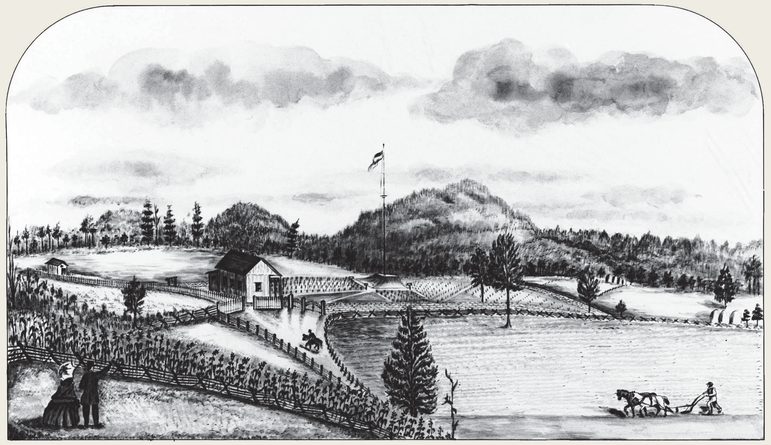
In 1860, Lebanon sat at the terminus of a Louisville & Nashville Railroad spur line. Turnpikes linked the city to Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky. This transportation network elevated Lebanon's strategic importance during the Civil War. The city served as a Union Army supply depot, recruiting center, and hospital.

In 1861, Col. John Marshall Harlan established Camp Crittenden at Lebanon to recruit men for the Union army.

Confederate Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan's cavalry came through Lebanon on two of his four raids through Kentucky. During the second, in July 1863, he briefly captured the Union garrison here.

In spring 1864, Camp Crittenden reopened as a training camp for U.S. Colored Troops. More than 2,000 black men enlisted in the Union Army at Lebanon.

Mid-twentieth century photograph of Louisville & Nashville Depot at Lebanon. Some of the Union garrison retreated to this building during the 1863 Confederate attack on the city. Courtesy of Nash Hayes, Lebanon, Kentucky.



Lebanon National Cemetery, from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman's final report, c. 1869. Whitman used the phrase "Harvest of Death" in his exhaustive report to describe the work of collecting the dead. National Archives and Records Administration.

"Harvest of Death"

Early in 1866, Capt. E. B. Whitman began gathering information in preparation for the reinterment of Union soldiers buried in the Military Division of Tennessee. This huge district included Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Captain Whitman, later lieutenant colonel, placed newspaper notices seeking locations of Union graves. Citizens, chaplains, soldiers, and officers replied. Whitman made three major expeditions across the region, stopping at hundreds of battlefields and engagement sites. Because of his work, thousands of Union dead were moved to twelve new national cemeteries.

In May 1869, Whitman submitted a detailed summary of this difficult project to the quartermaster general. The report contained sketches and site plans of each cemetery, and data on interments and service affiliations.

National Cemetery

Prior to 1869, ten federally established or public cemeteries in Kentucky contained the remains of Union soldiers. The work of reinterring the dead was almost complete when the army changed its plan and reduced the number of cemeteries to six.

Lebanon National Cemetery was established in 1867. The 407 Union soldiers who died in Lebanon are buried here. The remains of another 458 men collected from nearby locales increased the number to 865. By 1869 the unusual triangular 2-acre cemetery was enclosed by a limestone wall and featured a flagstaff. The U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office later provided gun monuments and, in 1875, a Second Empire-style lodge to house the superintendent and his family.

Cemetery entrance, 1904. National Archives and Records Administration.

By law, the secretary of war appointed a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the cemetery. The cemetery's first superintendent, Charles Gohe, arrived in 1868. Formerly a sergeant in Company F, 19th U.S. Infantry, he had previously served as superintendent of Chattanooga National Cemetery in Tennessee.

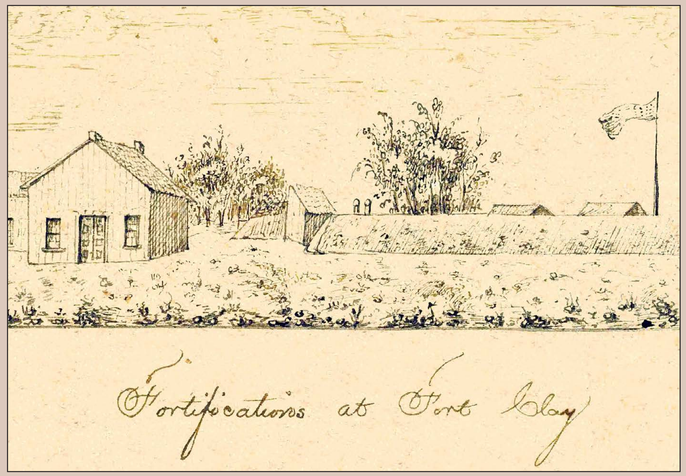
LEXINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Lexington

In 1847, Abraham Lincoln traveled to Lexington to visit his wife's family. It was a small county seat but a regional economic and cultural center. When the Civil War began in 1861, the railroads that linked Lexington with Cincinnati, Ohio, and Louisville, Kentucky, made the city a strategic transportation hub.

The Union Army maintained a supply depot and hospitals in Lexington. After the Union defeat at the Battle of Richmond (Kentucky) on August 30, 1862, Lexington was captured and briefly occupied by Confederate troops.

As a result of a raid by Confederate Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan in 1863, Union authorities built a series of fortifications in central Kentucky, including Fort Clay in Lexington. The fort's artillery fired on General Morgan's cavalry when they again raided the city for supplies in June 1864. This was the last time Confederate forces threatened Lexington.



Barracks and Fort Clay, c. 1865. National Archives and Records Administration.

Soldiers' Lot in Lexington City Cemetery, from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman's final report, c. 1869. Whitman used the phrase "Harvest of Death" in his exhaustive report to describe the work of collecting the dead. National Archives and Records Administration.

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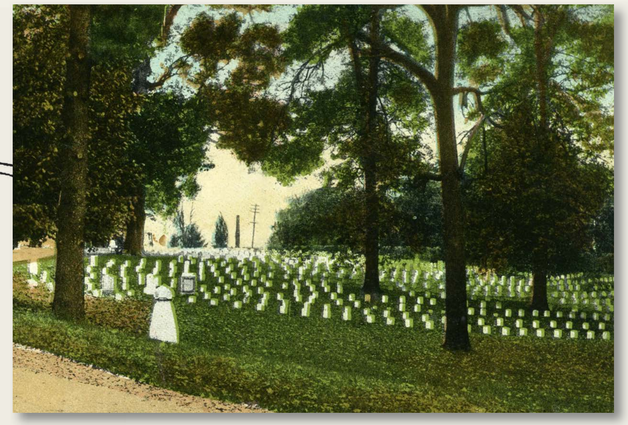
Drawing of cemetery boundary markers, 1870s. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Prior to 1869, ten federally established or public cemeteries in Kentucky contained the remains of Union soldiers. The work of reinterring the dead was almost complete when the army changed its plan and reduced the number of cemeteries to six.

Union soldiers who died in Lexington's army hospitals during the war were buried in the City Cemetery. Dead from battlefields at Mount Sterling and Cynthiana, and blockhouses and fortifications along the Kentucky Central Railroad, were also interred here. The 0.75-acre lot became Lexington National Cemetery in 1868. By 1874 it contained 929 burials, including 105 unknowns.



Undated postcard of Lexington National Cemetery. Postcard Collection, University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center.

White marble posts inscribed with 'U.S.' mark the national cemetery boundary. The U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office also installed a gun monument and flagstaff. Planted with trees and flowering shrubs, the landscape is typical of a rural-style cemetery. An army inspector described it as "a very pretty cemetery, and . . . kept in fine order."

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LITTLE ROCK NATIONAL CEMETERY

St. John's Hospital in Little Rock, c. 1870. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock.

Civil War Little Rock

Though Arkansas was one of the last states to secede from the Union, pro-Confederate activity began in February 1861, when state militia seized the federal arsenal in Little Rock.

The first major battle in the state occurred in March 1862, at Pea Ridge, near the Missouri border. In July, Union forces occupied the eastern city of Helena, on the Mississippi River. Five months later, the Battle of Prairie Grove near Fayetteville, secured Union control of northwest Arkansas.

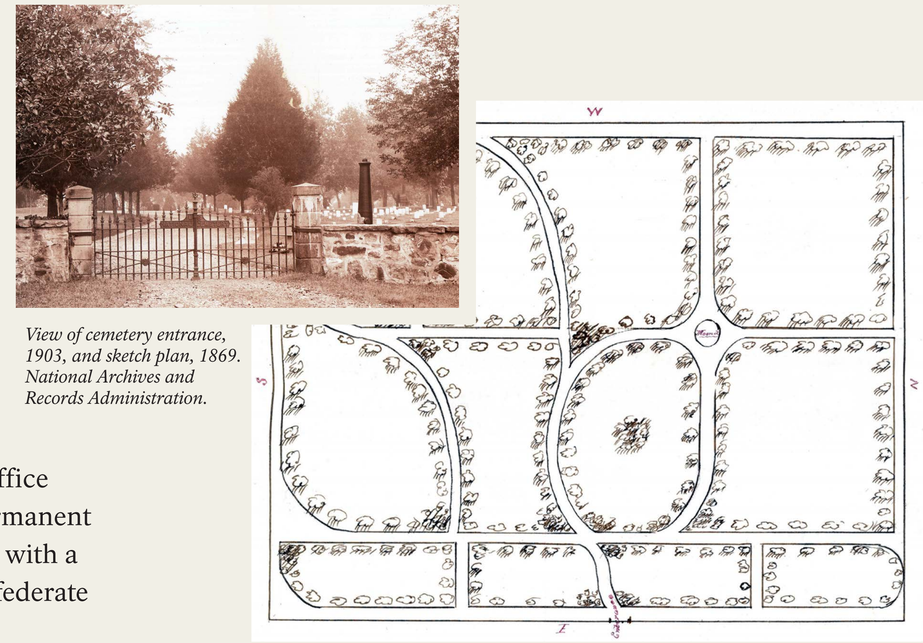
After the Confederates failed to retake Helena in July 1863, the Union Army marched on the state capital of Little Rock. Between August 25 and September 10, 1863, forces led by Union Gen. Frederick Steele fought a series of engagements that ended with the Battle of Bayou Fourche, east of the city. General Steele seized Little Rock, the fourth Confederate state capital to fall, and Union forces occupied it for the rest of the war.

The army established a hospital at St. John's College. By 1865, the hospital had treated nearly 5,000 patients.

National Cemetery

The Union Army buried their dead in the southeast corner of the new city cemetery—now Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery. In 1868, the federal government purchased additional land adjacent to the original burials and the 12.1-acre property was designated Little Rock National Cemetery. Remains were brought here from DeValls Bluff, Lewisburg, Marks Mills, Pine Bluff, Princeton, and other Arkansas towns and battlefields. About half the 5,409 remains were buried as unknowns.

In the 1870s, the U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office built a lodge for the cemetery superintendent, placed permanent marble headstones on graves, and enclosed the cemetery with a stone wall. The old Confederate Cemetery, now the Confederate Section, was deeded to the federal government in 1913.



View of cemetery entrance, 1903, and sketch plan, 1869. National Archives and Records Administration.

Veterans and dignitaries at the Minnesota Monument dedication, September 22, 1916. Minnesota Historical Society.

Minnesota Monument

In 1913, the Minnesota Monument Commission selected St. Paul sculptor John K. Daniels to create monuments to be placed in five national cemeteries. Daniels designed two monuments that reflected Minnesotans' perception of the noble character of their fallen soldiers, and the cause for which they fought. The Little Rock monument honors the valor and sacrifice made by thirty-six Minnesota soldiers buried here.

Funded by the state legislature, the bronze figure was dedicated September 22, 1916. The ceremony was attended by the Minnesota and Arkansas governors, Little Rock's mayor, and Union and Confederate veterans. Minnesota erected identical monuments at Andersonville and Memphis national cemeteries. The second monument designed by Daniels was placed at Jefferson Barracks and Nashville national cemeteries.

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CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Old Confederate Cemetery

Confederate forces occupied Little Rock, Arkansas, from 1861 until September 1863, when the Union Army captured it after a forty-day campaign. As they occupied the city, both armies reported soldiers dying almost daily from injury or disease. Confederate soldiers were buried at Mount Holly Cemetery and other sites near the hospitals, including Little Rock City Cemetery, now the Oakland Fraternal Cemetery. The U.S. government also acquired several adjacent lots in this cemetery. These lots were designated Little Rock National Cemetery in 1868.

Little Rock Confederate Cemetery, c. 1911. Souvenir program, 1911 UCV Reunion in Little Rock.

The Confederate burial ground next to the national cemetery was forgotten for many years. Then, in 1884, members of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union veterans' organization, cleared the cemetery and marked graves with small, flat-top headstones. Later that year, Mount Holly Cemetery trustees had the remains of 640 Confederate soldiers buried at that cemetery reinterred here. The next year, the trustees erected a squat obelisk monument on the grassy mound above the mass grave.

Ladies' Memorial Association

In June 1884, the city granted the Ladies' Memorial Association (LMA) responsibility for the land containing the Confederate burials. The association was composed of local women sympathetic to the Southern cause whose goal was to honor Confederate graves.

In the years that followed, the LMA had Confederate remains exhumed from cemeteries in and near Little Rock and reinterred here. It also permitted burial of Confederate veterans in the small cemetery and helped pay to bury indigent veterans who died at the Arkansas Confederate Home in Little Rock.

Eventually the LMA merged with the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), to form Memorial Chapter No. 48. The UDC chapter maintained the cemetery and erected a rostrum in 1907 for use during Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies.

Ladies' Memorial Associations existed thirty years before the UDC. These Southern women created Confederate cemeteries, erected monuments and decorated graves. LMA ribbon, c. 1892. Helena Museum, Helena, Ark.

The Cemeteries Merge

On February 7, 1913, the City of Little Rock deeded the Confederate cemetery, along with other property, to the secretary of war with the restriction that the cemetery only be used for the burial of Confederate veterans. The congressional act authorizing the transfer also required that "a suitable gate or entryway" be cut through the wall that separated the Confederate and national cemeteries, and that "organized bodies of ex-Confederates" should continue to use the cemetery for events. The Confederate cemetery was to be treated with the same care as the national one.

The 1907 rostrum erected by the UDC, 1925. National Archives and Records Administration.

A few years after the transfer, the U.S. government furnished pointed-top headstones in place of the small flat-top headstones. Headstones replaced later are inscribed with the Southern Cross of Honor, authorized by the War Department in 1930. The United Daughters of the Confederacy created the cross medal in 1898 and bestowed it upon Confederate veterans or their families. The emblem on the headstone is a simplified version of what appears on the medal.

Burial restrictions on the Confederate cemetery were revoked after 1938, to allow any U.S. veteran to be interred in the former Confederate cemetery.

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LOS ANGELES NATIONAL CEMETERY

President William McKinley addresses veterans at the Pacific Branch–National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, May 9, 1901. Los Angeles Public Library.

National Home

In 1887, the U.S. Congress approved funding for the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS). Three individuals donated land for the 640-acre site located 14 miles west of Los Angeles. The first barracks opened in December 1888 and filled quickly with Civil War and other veterans. Many pitched tents on the unfinished grounds awaiting a bed.

Desperate for space, the early construction was more functional than aesthetic. Over time, Mission Revival became the predominate architectural style. The National Home built a 1-million-gallon reservoir to supply the facility and its agricultural operations. This water allowed the home to profit from selling its produce. Its location on an interurban railway made the National Home a tourist attraction, too.

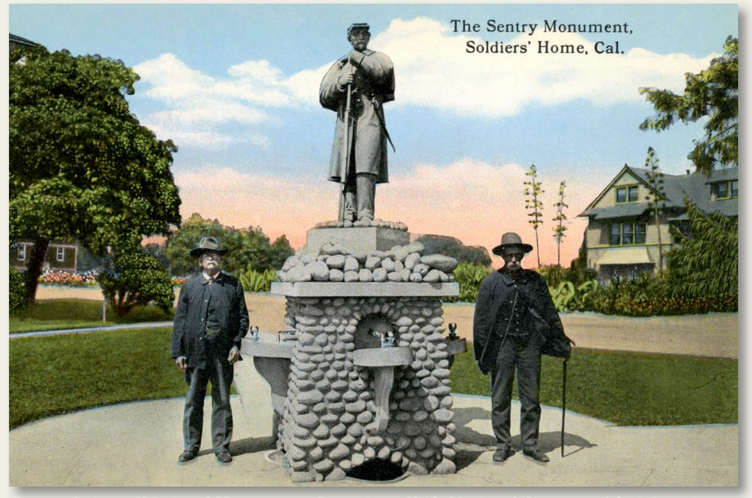
The National Homes merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and the Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930. The Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System-West Los Angeles Healthcare Center continues to care for veterans today.

Cemetery

The 20-acre National Home cemetery was established in 1889. The first interment was Mexican War veteran Abner Prather, formerly of the 4th Indiana Infantry. The cemetery was designated Los Angeles National Cemetery in 1973.

There are two monuments from the National Home's early years. The 27-foot-tall, three-tier granite obelisk memorializes all veterans. Similar obelisks are found at other NHDVS branches. The second is a Union soldier mounted on a boulder. The painted, cast-zinc figure originally stood atop a campus water fountain that was dedicated in 1896. When the fountain was razed in the 1940s, the zinc figure was relocated to the cemetery.

Postcard view of funeral at Pacific Branch, c. 1915. National Cemetery Administration.



Postcard view of National Home water fountain c. 1910. National Cemetery Administration. Below, Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

Five Civil War Medal of Honor recipients, later NHDVS residents, are buried here.

Corp. Luther Kaltenbach, 12th Iowa Infantry, captured a 44th Mississippi Infantry flag at Nashville, Tennessee, December 16, 1864 (Section 43, Grave A-15).

Color Sgt. George McKee, 89th New York Infantry, for gallantry in the assault on Fort Gregg at Petersburg, Virginia, April 2, 1865 (Section 1, Grave G-2).

Pvt. Charles W. Rundle, 116th Illinois Infantry, led a "volunteer storming party" at Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 22, 1863 (Section 34, Grave I-11).

Coxswain Timothy Sullivan, U.S.S. *Louisville*, for attention to duty, bravery, and coolness in action (Section 18, Grave H-2).

Pvt. James Sweeney, 1st Vermont Cavalry, captured a North Carolina flag, ambulance, and three officers at Cedar Creek, Virginia, October 19, 1864 (Section 78, Grave P-3).

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LOUDON PARK NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Baltimore

Slavery was legal in Maryland, but the state was divided over secession and the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers to suppress the Confederate rebellion on April 15, 1861. Four days later, Massachusetts troops stopped in Baltimore en route to the U.S. capital. Pro-Confederate residents shouted insults, threw rocks, and otherwise attacked the soldiers. The soldiers fired into the crowd, killing dozens of civilians and wounding many more. On May 13, Lincoln ordered Union forces to occupy Baltimore. They remained throughout the war. Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor became a prison for disloyal Maryland civilians and captured Confederate soldiers.

Pro-Union Baltimore supported the war. Escaped slaves made their way to Maryland where many enlisted in the 4th U.S. Colored Infantry. Thousands of soldiers trained in and around the city. Sick and wounded soldiers were treated at Jarvis U.S. General Hospital, the Steuart Mansion, and other facilities.

Massachusetts troops entering Baltimore, c. 1861. Library of Congress.

National Cemetery

In December 1861, the U.S. Sanitary Commission designated a small area of Loudon Park Cemetery for the burial of Union soldiers who died in Baltimore hospitals. The half-acre lot in the northeast corner of this private cemetery became one of the first national cemeteries.

By 1874, an estimated 1,646 Union soldiers and five civilians lay here. In 1884, the remains of approximately 238 U.S. Colored Troops were relocated from a government lot in Baltimore's Laurel Cemetery to the national cemetery. Five notable Union monuments were installed between 1885 and 1898.

Jarvis U.S. General Hospital, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

Confederate Dead

In 1912, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead identified 256 imprisoned soldiers and civilians who died in the Baltimore area during the Civil War. Twenty-nine, originally buried at Fort McHenry, had been reinterred at the national cemetery. The commission could not locate these graves, so it erected one granite monument with a bronze tablet listing the soldiers' names.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Two Civil War recipients of the Medal of Honor are buried in the cemetery. First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal.

Pvt. James T. Jennings, 56th Pennsylvania Infantry, captured the flag of the 55th North Carolina Infantry at Petersburg, Virginia, on August 20, 1864. Jennings died at Jarvis U.S. General Hospital on March 22, 1865 (Section A, Grave 1410).

Second Lt. William Taylor, 1st Maryland Infantry, burned a bridge at Front Royal, Virginia, in May 1862 to prevent a Confederate pursuit. On August 20, 1864, he replaced a wounded officer at Petersburg and led a reconnaissance mission (Officers Section, Grave 16).

Civil War Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

Maryland Sons Monument, right, and Maryland Naval Monument, left, with private cemetery in background, 1908. National Archives and Records Administration.

MARIETTA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Confederates destroyed this ordnance train prior to evacuating Atlanta, August 1864. Library of Congress.

Atlanta Campaign

During the Civil War, the fight for Atlanta began in early May 1864 in north Georgia. It ended when Union troops marched into the state capital on September 2. Over four months, Union and Confederate armies met in sixteen battles.

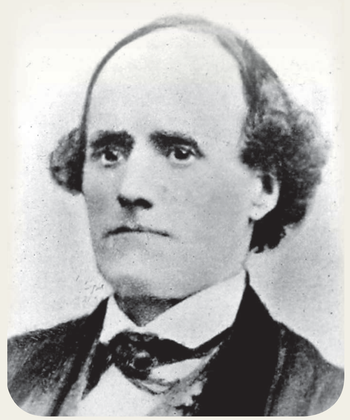
Union Gen. William T. Sherman started with 110,000 troops and Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston with 69,000. Johnston tried to force Sherman to assault fortified positions. Sherman instead used his larger army to out-flank the Confederates, forcing a retreat to Atlanta.

On August 31, the Union Army cut the last rail lines into Atlanta and Confederate forces evacuated the city. By the campaign's end both armies were staggered by losses. The Union sustained losses of approximately 37,000 men killed, wounded or missing. The Confederates lost 32,000.

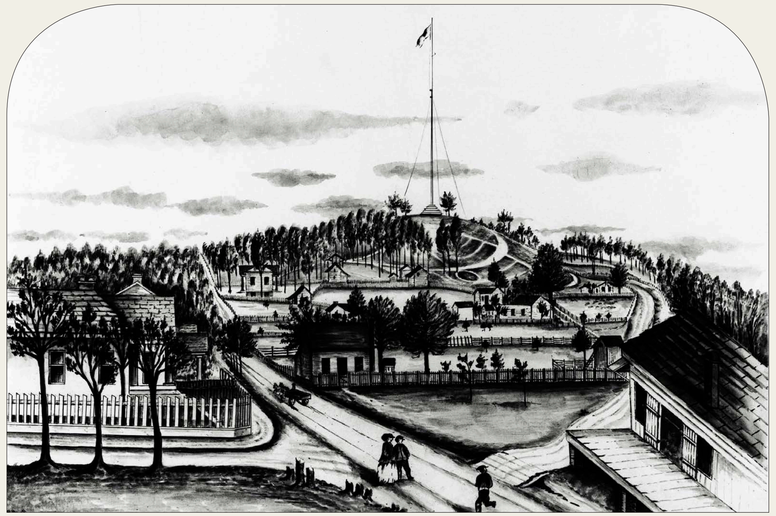
National Cemetery

The U.S. Army established this 23-acre cemetery in 1866 on land donated by Henry Green Cole. He had moved to Georgia from New York in 1838 to work as a civil engineer for a railroad. Later he became a successful businessman in Marietta.

During the Civil War, Cole remained loyal to the Union and spied for federal forces. Confederate officials arrested and imprisoned him in 1864 for these activities. After the war Cole returned to Marietta, where he lived until his death in 1875. He is buried in a family plot at the national cemetery.



Henry G. Cole (1815-1875), c. 1865, is buried in Grave 1, Cole Section. Courtesy of the Marietta Museum of History.



Sketch of cemetery from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman's final report on the reinterment of Union soldiers within the Military Division of Tennessee, c. 1869. National Archives and Records Administration.

Monumental archway at cemetery entrance, 1904. In 1883, the U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office constructed the 35-foot-tall structure. This is one of five classically inspired arches built at national cemeteries in the South. National Archives and Records Administration.

Thomas Budd Van Horne, former chaplain with the 13th Ohio Infantry, laid out twenty-one burial sections tailored to the natural landscape of the property. By 1868, about 10,000 remains, including Union dead from the Atlanta campaign and those removed from a discontinued national cemetery in Montgomery, Alabama, were reinterred here. Two monuments were donated—one to the 2nd Division, 20th Corps, and one to soldiers who died in area hospitals.

A stone wall enclosed the picturesque cemetery in 1870. A brick lodge, built near the entrance, was replaced in 1921. The Wisconsin Monument, dedicated on Memorial Day 1925, was the last Civil War memorial placed in the cemetery.

One Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, Dennis Buckley, is buried here (Section G, Grave 6686). Private Buckley, 136th New York Infantry, received his commendation posthumously for bravery at Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, July 20, 1864.

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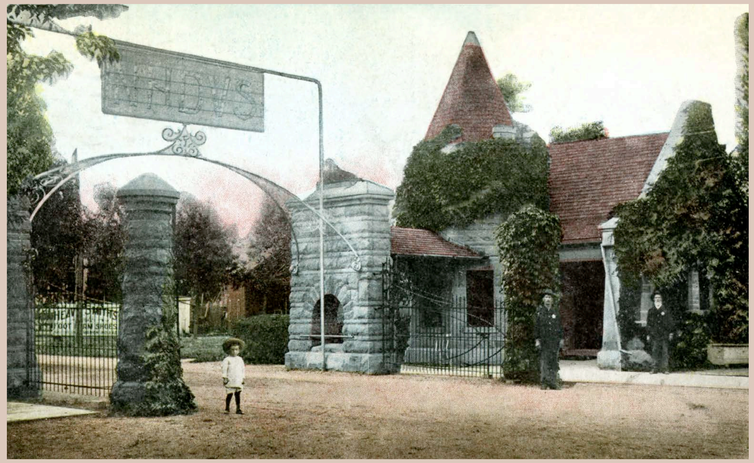
MARION NATIONAL CEMETERY

National Home

In spring 1888, Congressman George Steele, Sr., of Marion, Indiana, introduced legislation authorizing the establishment of a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) in Grant County. Construction began in 1889, and six barracks and a hospital were completed the next year. Between 1895 and 1898, a headquarters building, six more barracks, dining hall, kitchen, chapel, and Stinson Memorial Hall were built.



Postcard view of Marion National Home entrance, c. 1908. National Cemetery Administration.

When the National Home opened in 1890, only fifty-six Civil War veterans sought admittance. The next year, 500 men arrived. A decade later, there were more than 1,700 residents. The number of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans declined through the first two decades of the twentieth century. Incoming World War I veterans required a different type of care, so the facility became a psychiatric hospital. The National Homes were merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and the Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930.

NHDVS Cemetery

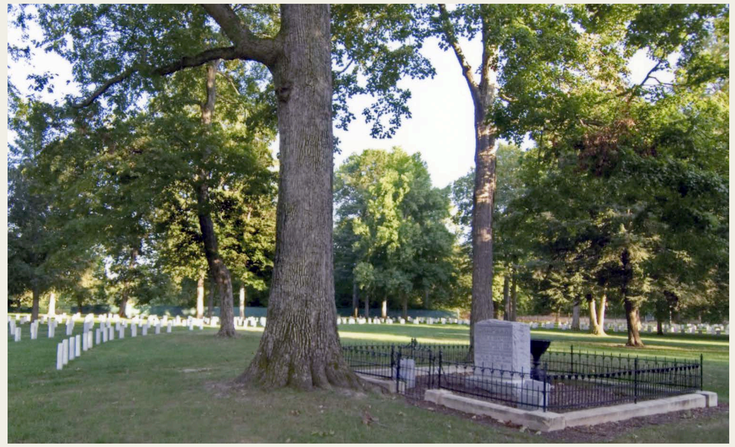
A cemetery was established on unused land on the east side of the Marion campus. Henry Smith, formerly a private in Company E, 20th Indiana Infantry, who died May 29, 1890, was the first interment. The initial graves were laid out in concentric circles. Sections developed in the 1920s, north of the original cemetery, were laid out in a traditional grid. The property was designated a national cemetery in 1973.

Soldiers Monument

The Soldiers Monument is composed of a 10-foot-tall bronze statue of three Civil War soldiers on a granite pedestal. It was designed by American sculptor and educator Lorado Taft.

It is a copy of a larger work erected in 1894 on the Chickamauga battlefield in Georgia. The Marion monument, unveiled in 1914, honors all Union soldiers. Its location at the original cemetery entrance is a reminder that the National Home was built to care for Civil War veterans.

The Soldiers Monument at Chickamauga, 1895. Longstreet-Thomas Library Trust, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.



Marion National Cemetery. The Chapman family burial area is in Section 1, foreground. Interred here is Justin H. Chapman, National Home governor from 1891 to 1904, and his wife, Kate. HALS-IN-2-18, Library of Congress.

Two Civil War recipients of the Medal of Honor are buried in the cemetery. First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal.

Seaman Nicholas Irwin, U.S.S. *Brooklyn*, manned his gun with skill and courage at Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864. His action resulted in the surrender of the C.S.S. *Tennessee* and damage to Fort Morgan, Alabama (Section 1, Grave 382).

Lt. Jeremiah Kuder, 74th Indiana Infantry, captured a Confederate battle flag at the Battle of Jonesboro, Georgia, September 1, 1864 (Section 4, Grave 2464).

Civil War Navy Medal of Honor. Naval History and Heritage Command.

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MEMPHIS NATIONAL CEMETERY

Battle of Memphis, June 6, 1862. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War *(1887).*

Civil War Memphis

When Tennessee seceded from the Union in June 1861, Memphis became the sixth-largest city in the Confederacy. Built on commerce and manufacturing, it was a vital river port and railroad hub.

After Nashville fell in early 1862 and the Confederate defeat at Shiloh in April, the city was isolated. Only eight wooden gunboats protected it. On June 6, 1862, a Union fleet of ten ships attacked and destroyed the Confederate vessels in less than two hours.

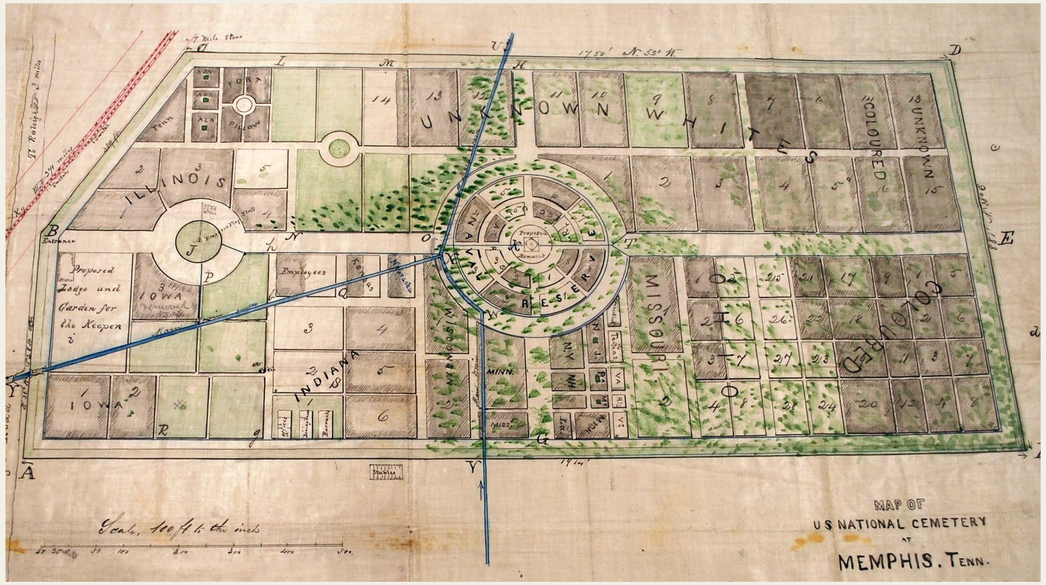
Union soldiers built Fort Pickering high above the banks of the Mississippi River, southwest of the city. It became a staging area for Union troops, and later a contraband camp for refugee slaves from Mississippi and Tennessee.

In August 1864, Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest raided the city but quickly withdrew. Memphis remained in Union control and emerged from the Civil War relatively intact.

National Cemetery

The U.S. Army established Memphis National Cemetery in 1867. Remains from graves scattered along railroads in west Tennessee, and near the Mississippi River in Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, were reburied here. By the 1870s, the remains of 13,932 Union soldiers lay in the cemetery—nearly 9,000 unknown. The 36-acre property was then enclosed by a brick wall.

There are two Civil War memorials in the cemetery. Erected in 1916, the Minnesota Monument was designed by St. Paul sculptor John K. Daniels. It is one of five placed in national cemeteries to honor the state's volunteer soldiers. The State of Illinois commissioned French-American sculptor Leon Hermant to create its monument. The bronze recumbent figure on a marble sarcophagus was completed in 1929.



Col. C. W. Folsom's cemetery plan shows sections reserved for officers, state volunteer soldiers, U.S. Colored Troops, and unknowns, July 15, 1867. Fort Pillow dead were buried in a separate section, upper left corner. National Archives and Records Administration.

Soldiers crowded on the deck of the Sultana *at Helena, Arkansas, on April 26, 1865, a day before the disaster. Library of Congress.*

Sultana Disaster

The worst inland marine disaster in U.S. history occurred in the early hours of April 27, 1865, on the Mississippi River near Memphis. The *Sultana* was a commercial steamboat licensed to carry 356 passengers. She was jammed with an estimated 2,485 former Union prisoners of war bound for Cairo, Illinois, to muster out of service.

The steamboat's boilers had just been repaired at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and again at Memphis. She steamed 8 miles north of the city on the rain-swollen river when her boilers exploded. Passengers were thrown into a 4-mile-wide torrent. More than half drowned. The official death toll was 1,547. Many of the victims are buried here.

MILL SPRINGS NATIONAL CEMETERY

Battle of Mill Springs, January 19, 1862. Our Soldier in the Civil War *(1886).*

Battle of Mill Springs

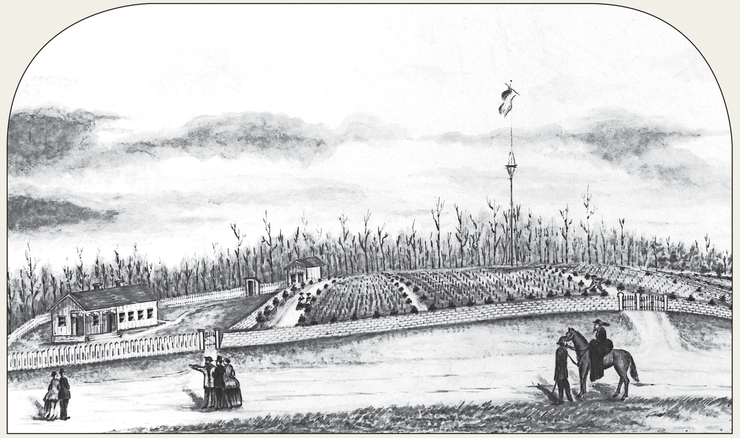
Confederate forces established a defense line across southern Kentucky in fall 1861. Union and Confederate armies fought small-scale actions in the area, but the Battle of Mill Springs was the first major engagement. Confederate troops under Gen. George B. Crittenden faced Union forces led by Brig. Gen. George H. Thomas near Logan's Crossroads, present-day Nancy. As the Confederates advanced in the early morning of January 19, 1862, they pushed Union soldiers back to a ridge about a mile south of the current national cemetery.

The two sides struggled for hours, sometimes fighting hand to hand. A Union bayonet charge finally broke the enemy line. The Confederates retreated, and that night crossed the Cumberland River—abandoning their encampment, wagons, ammunition, and wounded. Mill Springs was the first major Union victory in the West. Within weeks the Confederate army withdrew from Kentucky.

"Harvest of Death"

Early in 1866, Capt. E. B. Whitman began gathering information in preparation for the reinterment of Union soldiers buried in the Military Division of Tennessee. This huge district included Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Captain Whitman, later lieutenant colonel, placed newspaper notices seeking the locations of Union graves. Citizens, chaplains, soldiers, and officers replied. Whitman made three major expeditions across the region, stopping at hundreds of battlefields and engagement sites. Because of his tireless work, thousands of Union dead were moved to twelve new national cemeteries.



Mill Springs National Cemetery, from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman's final report, c. 1869. Whitman used the phrase "Harvest of Death" in his exhaustive report to describe the work of collecting the dead. National Archives and Records Administration.

In May 1869, Whitman submitted a detailed summary of this difficult project to the quartermaster general. The report contained sketches and site plans of each cemetery, and data on interments and service affiliations.

Cemetery entrance, 1904. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Prior to 1869, ten federally established or public cemeteries in Kentucky contained the remains of Union soldiers. The work of reinterring the dead was almost complete when the army changed its plan and reduced the number of cemeteries to six.

Captain Whitman chose the site for Mill Springs National Cemetery from lands at Logan's Crossroads owned by William H. Logan. Remains were recovered from temporary graves on the Mill Springs battlefield and other locations within a 40-mile radius. By 1869, a limestone wall enclosed the 3-acre cemetery. Of the 708 original interments, approximately half were unknown.

By law, the secretary of war appointed a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the cemetery. James Burke, a sergeant in Company K, Veteran Reserve Corps, served as the first superintendent here in 1867. He lived on the grounds in a lodge that burned down in 1916.

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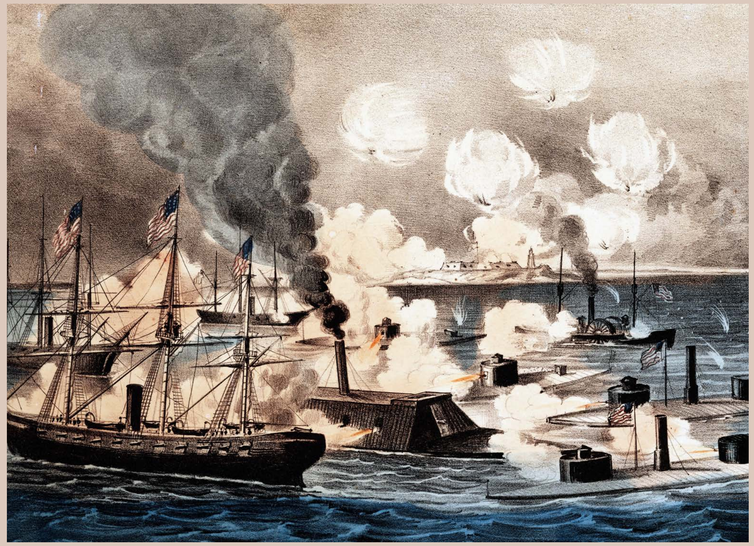
MOBILE NATIONAL CEMETERY



Currier and Ives print of the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864. Library of Congress.

Civil War Mobile

When the city of New Orleans fell in April 1862, Mobile became the last significant Confederate port on the Gulf of Mexico. A Union blockade failed to close the port, which was guarded by extensive fortifications at the mouth of Mobile Bay—forts Gaines, Morgan, and Powell. Mines, then called "torpedoes," were strung across the bay. Three lines of earthworks protected the city's west side, and earthworks stretching from the cities of Spanish Fort to Blakely defended the east.

In August 1864, Union Adm. David Farragut's fleet charged past the forts. His eighteen ships overwhelmed Confederate vessels. Only the ironclad C.S.S. *Tennessee* remained in action. After the *Tennessee* surrendered, Farragut pounded the forts with artillery fire. Fort Morgan surrendered on August 23, 1864, yielding control of Mobile Bay to U.S. forces. The city did not surrender until the final days of the war in spring 1865.

National Cemetery

Mobile National Cemetery was established in May 1866 on 3 acres of land in Magnolia Cemetery. The City of Mobile donated the land to the federal government. The cemetery was divided into four sections with a central flagstaff. It contained more than 900 burials. Remains were brought here from forts Morgan and Gaines, and cemeteries in Conecuh and Pollard in Conecuh County, and Claiborne in Monroe County.

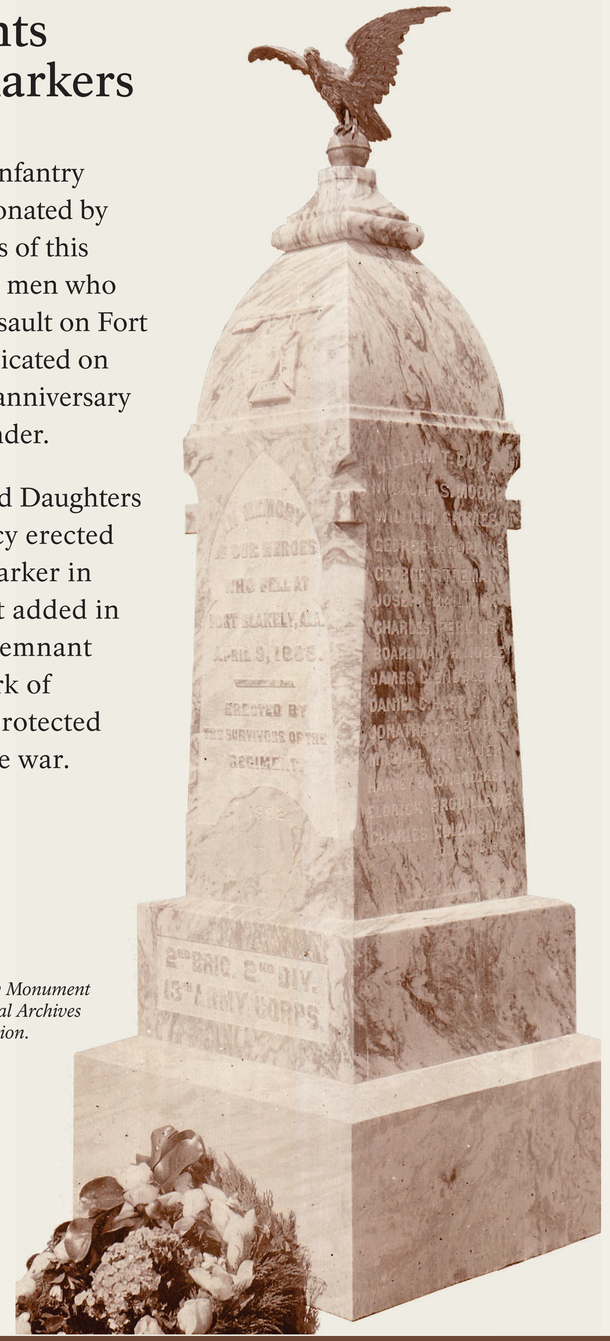
In the 1870s, the U.S. Army built a brick wall around the cemetery. A brick Second Empire-style lodge for the superintendent and his family was erected in 1881. A decade later, an octagonal brick-and-iron rostrum was constructed for ceremonial events. In 1936, the government expanded the cemetery by purchasing 3 acres on the opposite side of Virginia Street. The remains of four Confederate soldiers are buried in that section.

The new section of the cemetery after it was purchased in 1936. National Archives and Records Administration.

Monuments and Markers

The 76th Illinois Infantry Monument was donated by surviving members of this regiment to honor men who died during the assault on Fort Blakely. It was dedicated on April 9, 1892, the anniversary of the fort's surrender.

In 1940, the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected an interpretive marker in the cemetery tract added in 1936. It marks a remnant of the vast network of earthworks that protected the city during the war.



The 76th Illinois Infantry Monument on April 9, 1892. National Archives and Records Administration.

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MOUND CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Mound City

Mound City's location at a river crossroads was strategic to the Union war effort. It was near the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and the confluence of the Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland rivers.

The Illinois city was home to the headquarters of the Union Navy's Mississippi Squadron, some eighty vessels of the "brown water" or inland navy. Three ironclad gunboats—the U.S.S. *Cairo*, *Cincinnati*, and *Mound City*—were built here.

A U.S. General Hospital was erected in Mound City after the April 7, 1862, Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee. The army also converted a hotel, warehouse, and foundry into hospitals collectively containing 1,500 beds. Union medical personnel used the captured Confederate steamboat *Red Rover* to ferry wounded soldiers from areas of engagement along the Mississippi River to Mound City.

Union hospital ship Red Rover, *c. 1865. Library of Congress.*

View of cemetery entrance with rostrum (left) and lodge (right), 1903. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Mound City National Cemetery was established in 1864. A levee protected the 10-acre tract from high water. By 1871, the cemetery contained nearly 5,000 graves—1,644 dead from Mound City hospitals and the remainder from battlefields and Union garrisons in Illinois, Kentucky, and Missouri. More than half the remains were unknown, including twenty-seven Confederate prisoners. The cemetery had a flagstaff and four cannon monuments.

Completed in 1880, the superintendent's lodge was designed by the Office of the Quartermaster General. It differs from the mansard-roof, Second Empire-style lodge the army built in the previous decade at other national cemeteries. Made of two-color brick, a steep cross-gable roof on the Mound City lodge allows for a full-height second floor. The rostrum was built in 1939.

Monument

The elaborate Illinois State Monument, erected in 1874-75, rises from the center of the original cemetery. Its classically inspired granite-and-marble base supports figures of a soldier and sailor. The 15-foot-tall shaft is topped with the female figure "Liberty."

Illinois State Rep. Newton B. Casey of Mound City introduced the bill that funded the $25,000 monument. It honors all soldiers and sailors, known and unknown, who died during the Civil War and were buried here. More than 2,000 names, representing twenty states and the U.S. Army and Navy, are engraved on the base.

Early twentieth-century view of graves and monument. National Archives and Records Administration.

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MOUND CITY SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

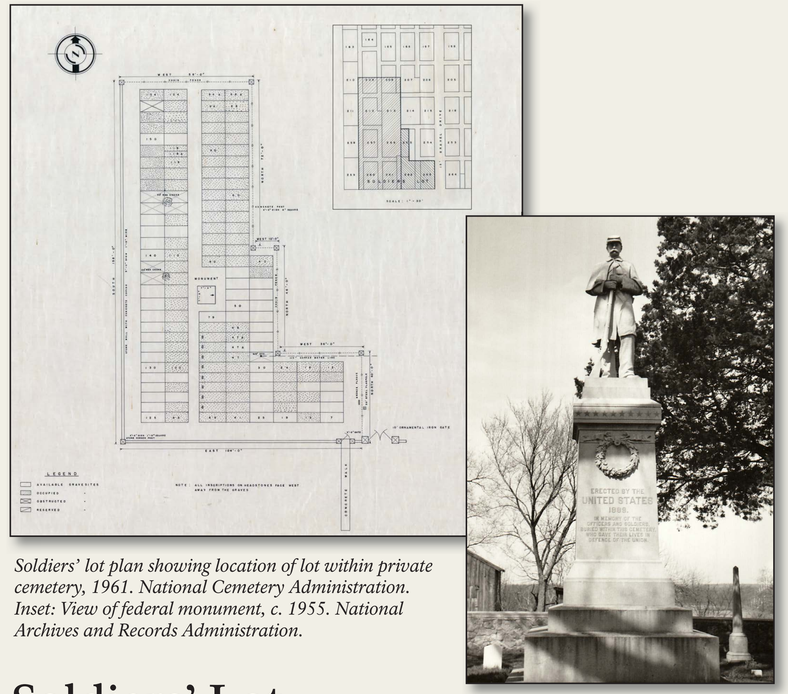
The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

Price's Raid

On September 19, 1864, Confederate Gen. Sterling Price led 12,000 men from Arkansas into Missouri. His objective was to capture the state for the Confederacy. For more than a month, Price recruited men and gathered supplies while the Union Army tried to stop him. Finally, in late October, Union forces defeated Price's troops near Kansas City at the Battle of Westport.

Price retreated into Kansas with Union cavalry in pursuit. On October 25, 1864, the two forces met in three engagements. At daybreak, Union troops attacked the Confederates just north of Pleasanton, Kansas, on the Marais des Cygnes River. The Confederates retreated south to Mine Creek. In the skirmish that followed, Union forces inflicted 1,200 casualties and captured two generals. A successful Confederate action at the Little Osage River later that day allowed General Price and his army to escape.

The Battle of Mine Creek by Samuel J. Reader (1865). Courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society.



Soldiers' lot plan showing location of lot within private cemetery, 1961. National Cemetery Administration. Inset: View of federal monument, c. 1955. National Archives and Records Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

Mound City Cemetery (also known as Woodland) was established in the late 1850s to serve the local community. During the Civil War, the Mound City Cemetery Association set aside land to bury Union soldiers. The first interments were thirty soldiers killed in the battles of Marais des Cygnes and Mine Creek. The federal government acquired the lots where the men were buried in 1870. Additional Union remains recovered from the area were moved here in the 1880s.

The U.S. government erected the monument honoring Union soldiers in 1889. The 7-foot-tall granite figure of a Union soldier at parade rest stands on a 12-foot-tall granite base. In 1940, the Works Progress Administration erected a stone wall and post-and-chain fence to separate the soldiers' lot from the city cemetery. The remains of eighty federal soldiers lie here today.

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MOUNTAIN HOME NATIONAL CEMETERY

National Home

The ninth of eleven branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), the Mountain Branch was authorized in 1901.The first resident arrived in 1903, a year before the home officially opened. Civil War veterans were the largest population initially.

The sprawling complex in Johnson City, Tennessee, covered some 400 acres. Architect Joseph H. Freelander designed the campus, which included administrative and hospital buildings, barracks, staff housing, mess hall, chapel, two lakes, and a cemetery. The buildings were constructed in the Beaux Arts style using local timber, brick, and limestone.

Mountain Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, c. 1910. Souvenir Booklet: National Soldiers Home Tennessee, *McClung Historical Collection.*

Freelander's plan remained unchanged until the care of World War I veterans required the construction of new facilities and repurposing of old buildings.

The National Homes were merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930.

NHDVS Cemetery

The original 38-acre cemetery was established on the north side of the campus to bury National Home residents. On September 18, 1903, Francis Conaty, formerly a private in the 18th New York Infantry, became the first interment here. Sections A through H, which surround Monument Circle, are the oldest burial areas of the cemetery.

In 1973, the cemetery was designated Mountain Home National Cemetery. It is part of the Mountain Home Branch-NHDVS National Historic Landmark district, designated in 2011.

Mountain Branch Cemetery, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, c. 1910. Souvenir Booklet: National Soldiers Home Tennessee, *McClung Historical Collection.*

Medal of Honor Recipients

Three Civil War Medal of Honor recipients are buried here. First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal.

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

Pvt. Henry G. Buhrman, 54th Ohio Infantry, was among a party of volunteers who stormed Confederate works at Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 22, 1863 (Section C, Grave 12).

Lt. Frederick Clarence Buck, 21st Connecticut Infantry, although wounded, refused to leave the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, Virginia, September 29, 1864 (Section F, Grave 9).

Seaman Thomas Smith, U.S.S. *Magnolia*, demonstrated coolness under fire in the assault at St. Marks, Florida, March 5-6, 1865 (Section G, Grave 3).

Walter Preston Brownlow

Walter Preston Brownlow, a prominent East Tennessee businessman, was the driving influence behind the NHDVS Mountain Branch. He worked in the newspaper business and served as postmaster at Jonesboro, Tennessee.

A Republican, Brownlow was elected to Congress in 1897, and went on to serve six continuous terms. He sat on the National Home Board of Managers from 1902 until his death in 1910.

A large granite obelisk in Monument Circle marks the graves of Brownlow and his wife, Clayetta.

Walter Preston Brownlow (1851-1910). Tennesseeans 1901-1902 *(1902), McClung Historical Collection.*

MOUNT MORIAH SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

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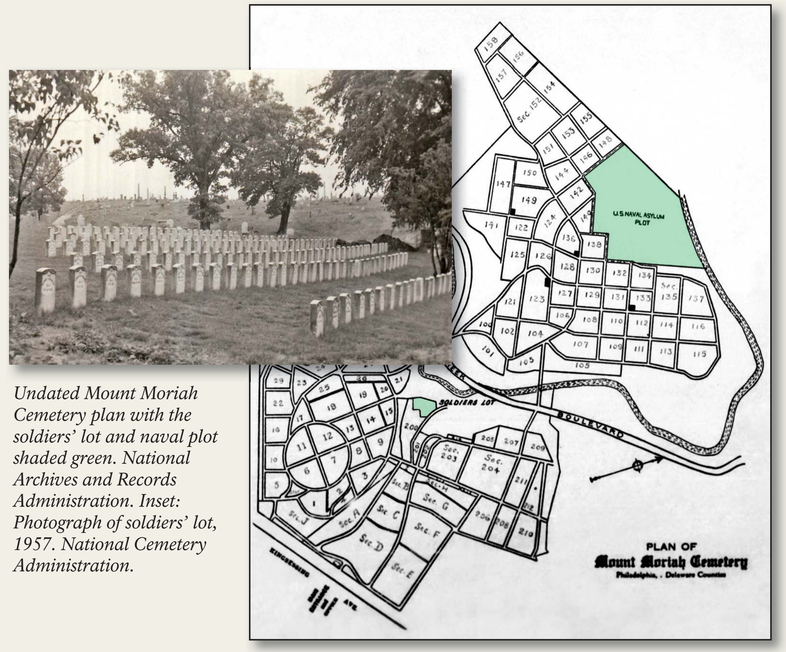
Philadelphia at War

Thousands of Union soldiers wounded in battles on the eastern seaboard were sent to Philadelphia hospitals. Private hospitals pressed into federal service proved inadequate to treat the overwhelming number of sick and wounded. The War Department created fourteen military hospitals collectively able to care for 14,000 patients in the Philadelphia area by the end of the Civil War.

The first military hospital was located at Broad and Cherry streets, near a railroad. When wounded began to arrive from Virginia in early summer 1862, additional facilities were needed. Several public and commercial buildings were converted into U.S. General Hospitals. Satterlee, opened in summer 1862, and Mower, completed that December, were the two largest hospitals. Together, they could accommodate 7,000 patients.

Over the course of the Civil War, more than 157,000 soldiers, sailors, and Confederate prisoners were treated in Philadelphia hospitals. Many died from disease or their wounds and were buried in nearby cemeteries.

This ward at a Washington, D.C., hospital was typical of those where Union soldiers were treated during the Civil War. Library of Congress.



Undated Mount Moriah Cemetery plan with the soldiers' lot and naval plot shaded green. National Archives and Records Administration. Inset: Photograph of soldiers' lot, 1957. National Cemetery Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

Mount Moriah Cemetery administrators offered the federal government Lot 1, Section 200, for Union soldiers who died in the nearby Summit House General Hospital. Of the 404 burials here, one is unknown and six are Confederate prisoners.

During the war, Union dead were interred in numerous cemeteries in and around Philadelphia. All the remains from these government lots—except those at Mount Moriah—were removed to Philadelphia National Cemetery after it was established in 1885.

Today, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) oversees two tracts in Mount Moriah: this soldiers' lot and the Naval Plot, the cemetery that served the former U.S. Naval Home (1834-1976) in Philadelphia. The Naval Plot, which contains more than 2,000 graves, was transferred to NCA in 1977.

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MOUNT PLEASANT SOLDIERS' LOT

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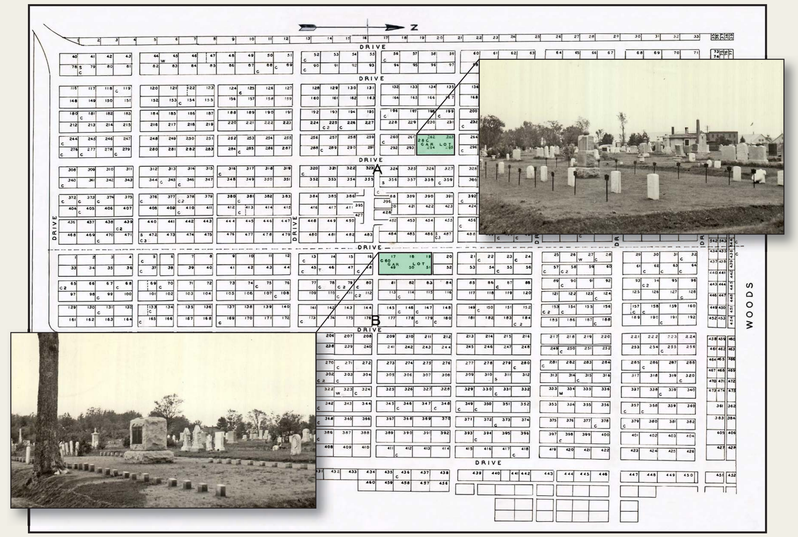
Augusta at War

On April 22, 1861, ten days after Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, Gov. Israel Washburn addressed the Maine General Assembly. The governor requested, and the assembly authorized, 10,000 recruits for three years' service and $3 million to train and equip them. Companies of volunteers began to arrive in Augusta. By December 1861, six infantry regiments, one cavalry regiment, and an artillery battery had trained here and departed for the war's front line.

In 1862, a rendezvous was designated at Augusta for new recruits. Known as Camp Keyes, barracks and other structures were constructed on farmland overlooking the capital city. Camp Keyes served briefly as a hospital until this function moved to Camp Cony, a former cavalry barracks. The latter was expanded and renamed Cony General Hospital. It was Maine's only U.S. General Hospital where sick and wounded Union soldiers were treated throughout the Civil War.

Field, staff, and line officers of the 19th Maine Volunteer Infantry, c. 1865. Maine State Archives.



Mount Pleasant Cemetery plan, 1941, with NCA property shaded green. Maine State Library. Insets: Mid-twentieth century photographs of the eastern division lot (left) and the western division lot (right). National Cemetery Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

Mount Pleasant Cemetery was established in 1853 on Augusta's "Burnt Hill." Half of its 12 acres was to be sold to families; the other half was to be available to the public at no cost.

Over time, the city donated ten lots within Mount Pleasant Cemetery to the U.S. government for Union soldiers who died in local hospitals. Six adjacent lots (17-19 and 49-51) were in the cemetery's eastern division. An 1874 inspection reported sixty burials here. The other four lots (262-263 and 294-295), in the western division, would eventually contain the remains of twenty-nine soldiers—sixteen known and thirteen unknown.

In 1906, the federal government placed a granite die-and-base monument in the eastern division lot to mark fifty-five graves. The Seth Williams Post No. 13, Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans' organization, erected a monument in the western division lot.

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NASHVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

An 1891 depiction of the U.S. Colored Troops charging Overton Hill. Library of Congress.

Civil War Nashville

Tennessee was among the last states to secede from the Union, and one of the first reoccupied by U.S. forces. After the Union Army took Nashville on February 24, 1862, the city became a vital supply depot and hospital center. In December 1864, Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood attempted to retake the city. Union commander Gen. George H. Thomas prepared and waited as Hood encircled the city. On December 15, Thomas attacked, but darkness ended the fighting. The next day, Union soldiers assaulted Overton and Shy's hills, routing the Confederates and ending the Battle of Nashville.

National Cemetery

General Thomas chose a site on the battlefield, marked by a hill, to bury the more than 2,000 Union dead. He said:

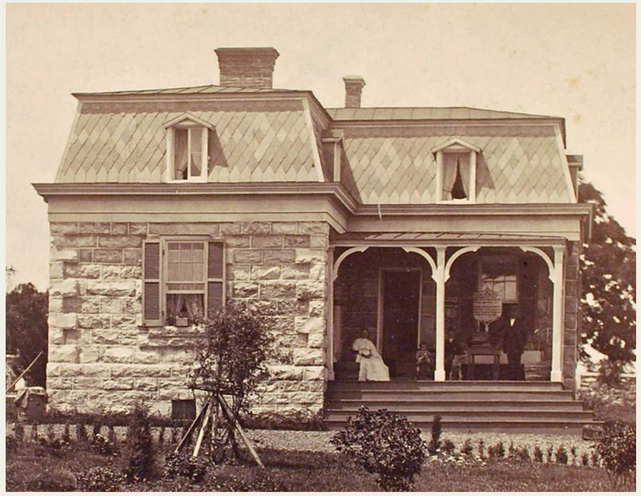
> *No one could come to Nashville from the north and not be reminded of the sacrifices that had been made for the preservation of the Union.*

The War Department renamed the 64-acre Union burial ground Nashville National Cemetery in 1866. Remains were moved here from city hospital grounds, battlegrounds, sites along the Cumberland River, and forts, blockhouses, and engagement sites along the three railroads that converged in Nashville.

Because two years had elapsed between the original burials and the reinterments, many dead could not be identified. However, the *Roll of Honor No. XXII* (1869), published by the War Department, lists soldiers likely buried here in graves marked "unknown."

In 1870 the army built a 32-foot-high monumental Neoclassical archway facing Gallatin Pike as the cemetery entrance. It is the oldest of five such arches erected in southern national cemeteries. By 1874, an estimated 16,538 individuals were buried here, with approximately one-quarter unknown.

The cemetery in 1873, with road and limestone wall in foreground. National Archives and Records Administration.



Cemetery lodge, 1873. The superintendent and his family lived in this Second Empire-style lodge built on the grounds. The current Dutch Colonial-style lodge replaced it in 1931. National Archives and Records Administration.

Monuments

Two monuments honor Civil War soldiers here. In 1913, the Minnesota Monument Commission selected St. Paul sculptor John K. Daniels to create monuments for five national cemeteries. His design reflected Minnesotans' perception of the noble character of their fallen soldiers, and the cause for which they fought. This monument was dedicated May 18, 1921.

The Tennessee U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Monument, a 9-foot-tall bronze figure of a black soldier, honors the 1,910 USCT buried here. Many were members of the 1st and 2nd Colored Brigades who fought and died in the Battle of Nashville. Sculpted by Roy Butler, the monument was dedicated in 2006.

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY

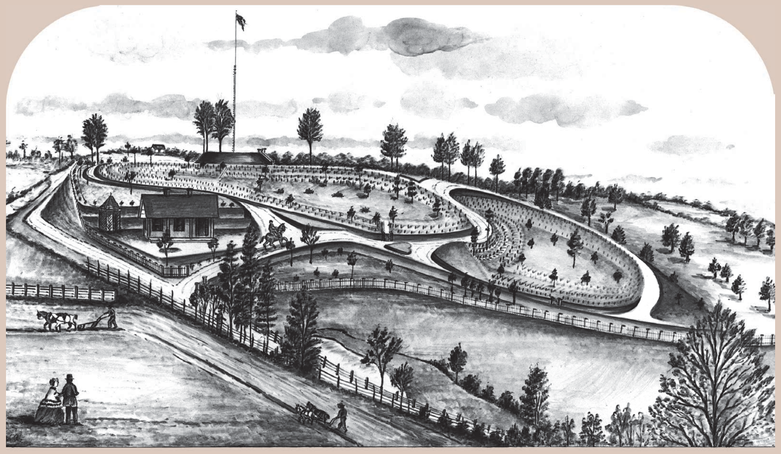
Civil War Natchez

In 1860, Natchez was one of the wealthiest cities in the United States. Within the surrounding Adams County, population 14,000, nearly 70 percent were enslaved. A few individuals held the vast majority of those slaves. Forty-one wealthy individuals each owned eighty-nine or more slaves.

When the Civil War began, fifteen companies of Confederate militia formed in Natchez. Wealthy planters equipped many of them with uniforms and weapons. In May 1862, after capturing New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Union gunboats steamed up the Mississippi River and briefly occupied the city. Union troops returned to Natchez on July 13, 1863, and held it throughout the war.

The Union Army used at least two Natchez buildings as military hospitals—Natchez Marine Hospital and "The Gardens," a plantation house. One army report listed a city hospital and a pest house in Natchez used by the military. During the war, 1,784 Union personnel died and were buried in the city.

Men gather at the Natchez courthouse to enlist in Confederate service, c. 1861. Thomas H. and Joan Gandy Photograph Collection, Mss. 3 778, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Natchez National Cemetery, from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman's final report, c. 1869. Whitman used the phrase "Harvest of Death" in his exhaustive report to describe the work of collecting the dead. National Archives and Records Administration.

"Harvest of Death"

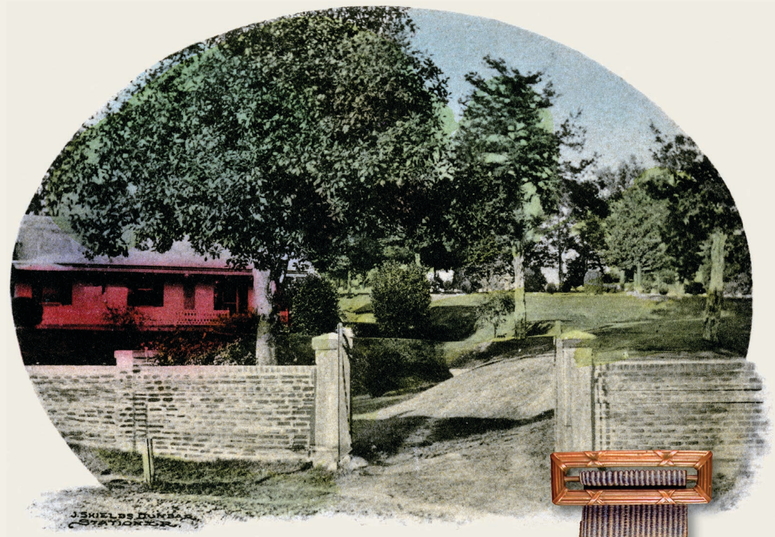
Early in 1866, Capt. E. B. Whitman began gathering information in preparation for the reinterment of Union soldiers buried in the Military Division of Tennessee. This huge district included Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Captain Whitman, later lieutenant colonel, placed newspaper notices seeking locations of Union graves. Citizens, chaplains, soldiers, and officers replied. Whitman made three major expeditions across the region, stopping at hundreds of battlefields and engagement sites. Because of his work, thousands of Union dead were moved to twelve new national cemeteries.

In May 1869, Whitman submitted a detailed summary of this difficult project to the quartermaster general. The report contained sketches and site plans of each cemetery, and data on interments and service affiliations.

National Cemetery

In 1866, the government purchased 11 acres near Natchez City Cemetery. Remains were brought here from elsewhere in the city, and sites in Mississippi and Louisiana. By the 1870s, the remains of 3,085 soldiers were interred in the cemetery. The identities of only 305 were known. The cemetery was enclosed by a brick wall about 1880. In 1931, the original brick lodge was replaced, and an octagonal rostrum constructed.



Postcard view of cemetery entrance, c. 1906. National Cemetery Administration.

One Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, Landsman Wilson Brown, is buried here. His commendation was for gallantry aboard the U.S.S. *Hartford* during the Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864. A native of Natchez, he died in 1900 (Section G, Grave 3152).

Civil War Navy Medal of Honor. Naval History and Heritage Command.

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NEW ALBANY NATIONAL CEMETERY

“Falls of the Ohio” in the Civil War

The towns of Jeffersonville and New Albany, Indiana, are located near the falls of the Ohio River across from Louisville, Kentucky. This location made them critical to the Union war effort. Jeffersonville was home to Camp Joe Holt, a recruiting and training center for Indiana and Kentucky troops. In 1864, the U.S. Army completed Jefferson General Hospital, where more than 16,120 Union soldiers were treated.

Jeffersonville also served as a Union supply depot. Southbound ammunition, rations, uniforms, wagons, and other provisions were transported by railroad through Louisville, or shipped down the Ohio River.

All or parts of seven Indiana regiments—five infantry and two cavalry—originated in New Albany. In 1862, the Union Army converted several schools and other buildings into hospitals. Dr. Thomas Fry was ordered to New Albany to supervise these facilities. He recommended a cemetery be established near the hospitals.

Camp Joe Holt, c. 1866. Indiana Historical Society.

New Albany National Cemetery, from Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Whitman’s final report, c. 1869. Whitman used the phrase “Harvest of Death” in his exhaustive report to describe the work of collecting the dead. National Archives and Records Administration.

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National Cemetery

Established in 1862, the first burials at New Albany National Cemetery were Union soldiers who died in local hospitals. By 1869, this 5-acre tract contained 2,807 interments. Most remains were removed from sites along the Ohio River and its tributaries in Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

The cemetery was soon enclosed by a stone wall, and contained a flagstaff and a rostrum. By the 1870s, a brick Second Empire-style lodge was completed for the superintendent and his family. Two gun monuments flanked a central walkway. The existing rostrum replaced the original one in 1931.

By law, the secretary of war appointed a “meritorious and trustworthy” superintendent to manage the cemetery. John Jay Smith, formerly a sergeant in Company H, 33rd U.S. Infantry, was selected for the position here on August 20, 1868.

Cemetery in 1904. A temporary frame lodge (1868) is visible behind the brick lodge (1871), where it was reused as a summer kitchen. The brick lodge was replaced in 1941, but it was razed in 1985. National Archives and Records Administration.

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NEW BERN NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War New Bern

In February 1862, the Union Army began a campaign to capture large areas of coastal North Carolina. By the end of the month, Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside had seized Roanoke Island and Elizabeth City.

Union fleet bombards Fort Thompson during the Battle of New Bern, March 14, 1862. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War *(1887).*

On March 14, in a combined land-and-sea operation, Burnside attacked the Confederate fortifications south of New Bern. After a five-hour battle, the Union force of 10,000 men overwhelmed Gen. Lawrence Branch's 5,000 Confederates. By summer, eastern North Carolina and the Outer Banks were in Union control.

In March 1865, Union troops marched west from New Bern. They defeated Confederate forces at Wyse Fork near Kinston, then won the Battle of Bentonville, the last significant engagement in North Carolina.

Late-nineteenth century view of cemetery. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

In 1869, the U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office purchased 7 acres to develop New Bern National Cemetery. By 1874, there were 3,249 interments here. The dead included 140 civilians and 1,068 unknown soldiers. The remains came from cemeteries in New Bern, Morehead City, and Beaufort; battlefields at New Bern, Hatteras, Kinston, Roanoke Island, and Wyse Fork; and other eastern North Carolina sites.

An 1867 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage each national cemetery. William Dougherty, formerly a sergeant in the 101st Pennsylvania Infantry, was appointed here on August 31, 1867.

Over the years the army improved the property. A stone Second Empire-style lodge was constructed for the superintendent and his family. The cemetery was enclosed by a brick wall. An octagonal rostrum was erected in the 1890s, and the present lodge in 1916.

Monuments

Four monuments here honor Union soldiers who fought and died in North Carolina during the Civil War. A granite soldier erected by the State of New Jersey in 1905, honors the Ninth New Jersey Infantry. A bronze female figure sculpted by W. W. Manatt distinguishes the 1906 Rhode Island Monument. Two other states donated memorials in 1908.

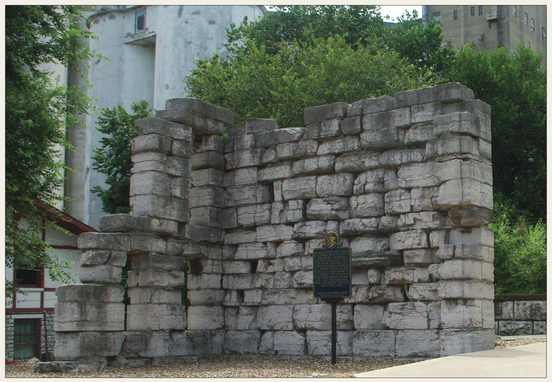
Sculptor Melzar Mossman created the bronze female figure on the Massachusetts Monument. Connecticut erected a granite flag-draped obelisk to memorialize its soldiers who died in 1864 of yellow fever and those killed in battle in 1865.

Dedication of New Jersey Monument, 1905. New Jersey State Archives, Department of State.

NORTH ALTON CONFEDERATE CEMETERY

Alton Military Prison

In late 1861, Union Gen. Henry Halleck received permission to use the former Illinois State Penitentiary in Alton, Illinois, as a military prison. The old prison had 256 cells, a hospital, a warden's house, and long-standing problems with drainage and sanitation.



This section of wall in downtown Alton is the only remnant of the old state penitentiary that held Confederate prisoners.

A U.S. Army inspector reported that the prison could house up to 1,750 prisoners. The first 1,640 prisoners arrived in early March 1862. Most had been captured at Fort Donelson, a Confederate stronghold on the Cumberland River west of Clarksville, Tennessee, that surrendered on February 16, 1862.

Within months smallpox broke out and the disease was a constant plague at the prison. The army built hospitals on islands in the Mississippi River in an effort to treat victims and contain the disease. Prisoners and Union soldiers who died on the islands were buried there; the remains were never moved to the mainland.

Between February 1862 and the end of the war, 11,760 Confederate prisoners entered the prison at Alton. Nearly 1,300 died there and were buried on the grounds.

The Confederate Cemetery

Lt. Col. Sidney Burbank received specific instructions to guide burial of prisoners: "Those who may die will be decently interred and a proper mark affixed to their place of burial, which will be within the usual grounds set apart for that purpose in the city of Alton." Prisoners were placed in individual coffins in trenches. Each grave was marked with a numbered stake. Mr. W. H. Hart buried most of these dead and kept a record book of the interments.

The federal government assumed ownership of the cemetery in 1867. Henry Nichols, a U.S. Army quartermaster clerk, inspected the site in 1899. After speaking with Hart, he decided that even using the record book, it was "utterly impossible to identify the graves of those buried there."

The Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead tried without success to document these burials in 1907. Finally, the Commission hired Van Amringe Granite Company to erect the existing 57-foot-tall obelisk, which was completed in December 1909. Bronze plaques on the base contain the names of 1,354 soldiers buried here and those buried in the smallpox hospital cemetery. Names of civilians who died at the prison were omitted from the plaques.

The Champion Iron Company of Kenton, Ohio, erected the wrought-iron fence and the memorial gates between 1909 and 1911; the Works Progress Administration repaired them in 1935. National Archives and Records Administration.

Toward Reconciliation

On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

> *The Union is once more the common altar of our love and loyalty, our devotion and sacrifice . . . Every soldier's grave made during our unfortunate Civil War is a tribute to American valor . . . in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.*

The War Department created the Confederate section at Arlington in 1901, and marked the graves with distinctive pointed-top marble headstones. Five years later, Congress created the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead to identify and mark the graves of Confederates who died in Northern prisons. Its mission was later expanded to encompass all national cemeteries that contained Confederate burials.

Four former Confederate officers headed the Commission over its lifetime. By 1916, it had marked in excess of 25,500 graves and erected monuments in locations where individual graves could not be identified.

In 1930, the War Department authorized the addition of the Southern Cross of Honor to the Confederate headstone.

North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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OAKDALE SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

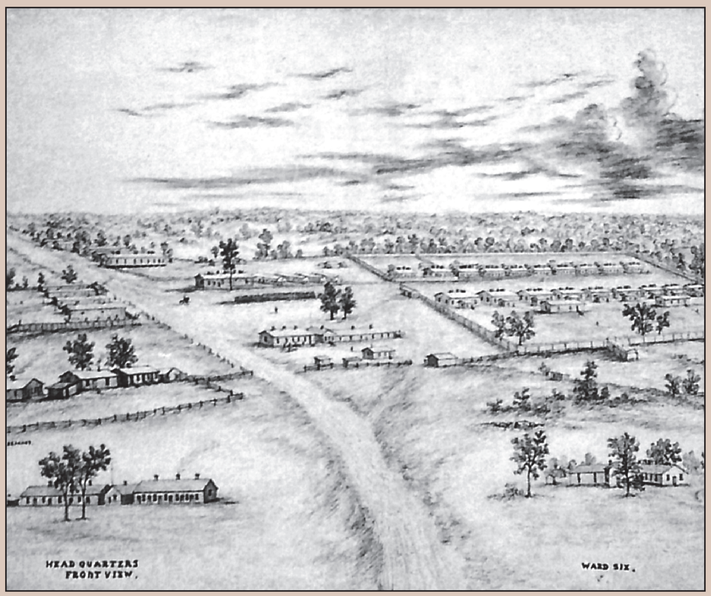
The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

Davenport at War

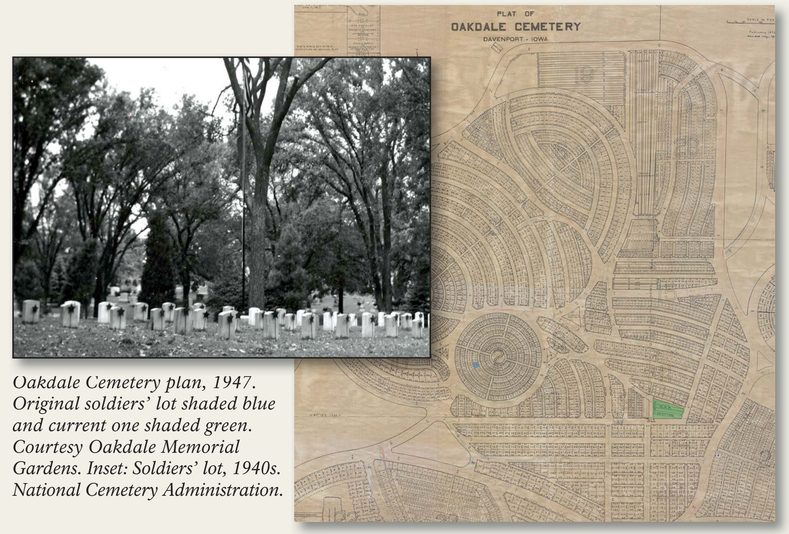
On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for volunteers to put down the southern rebellion. During the Civil War, nine infantry regiments, six cavalry regiments, and one battery of artillery would be organized in Davenport, Iowa. Some Davenport units fought in major battles on both sides of the Mississippi River.

In August 1861, Camp McClellan was established east of town. A barracks, mess hall, commissary, canteen, and officers' quarters were built for men who volunteered for Union service. They enlisted, mustered in, and trained there.

Later renamed Camp Kearney, the sprawling facility also contained a U.S. General Hospital with 300 beds. Sick and wounded soldiers were treated here. Men who died at the hospital were buried in Oakdale Cemetery.



Drawing of Camp McClellan by W. S. Harnon, December 1865. National Archives and Records Administration.



Oakdale Cemetery plan, 1947. Original soldiers' lot shaded blue and current one shaded green. Courtesy Oakdale Memorial Gardens. Inset: Soldiers' lot, 1940s. National Cemetery Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

Oakdale Cemetery (now Oakdale Memorial Gardens) was established in 1856 on 40 acres. Graves of Union dead were once scattered throughout the cemetery. The largest group, 160, was interred in the "back part of Oak Dale cemetery." These remains, along with eleven others in another section, were removed to Rock Island National Cemetery by September 1868.

The federal government continued to maintain two lots in Section 2 at Oakdale. Part of the center circle held the remains of seven soldiers from Scott County, Iowa, who died in 1862 at the Battle of Fort Donelson, Tennessee. Lot 140 contained Civil War veterans who died in the 1890s.

In 1900, the U.S. government moved the remains of eleven soldiers and two children from these lots to one owned by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a Union veterans organization. In 1940, the GAR deeded its lot to Oakdale Cemetery. The federal government acquired it the next year. Today the soldiers' lot contains seventy-one Civil War veterans, four other veterans, and two children.

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PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Philadelphia

At the time of the Civil War, Philadelphia was the second-largest American city. Its factories supported the Union war effort by producing everything from blankets to gunboats. In less than three months, its navy yards produced the sloop-of-war U.S.S. *Tuscarora*. The ironclad U.S.S. *New Ironsides*, which saw action at Charleston, South Carolina, and at Fort Fisher and Wilmington, North Carolina, was also built in Philadelphia shipyards.

Ward in Union Volunteer Hospital, a private hospital in Philadelphia, c. 1862. Library of Congress.

Thousands of Union soldiers passed through the city on the way to the front. Local organizations provided lodging, food, laundry, and bathing facilities. Later, the city opened hospitals for soldiers, as did the federal government. Ailing troops were treated at Broad Street, Christian Street, Citizens Volunteer, Cuyler, Haddington, Islington Lane, McClellan, Officer, South Street, Summit House, and Turner's Lane hospitals.

Satterlee and Mower hospitals were the largest. Satterlee General Hospital, opened 1862, could accommodate 3,000 patients. Mower General Hospital, opened 1863, held 4,000 patients. During the war more than 157,000 soldiers, sailors, and Confederate prisoners were treated in Philadelphia hospitals. Many died from disease or wounds.

National Cemetery

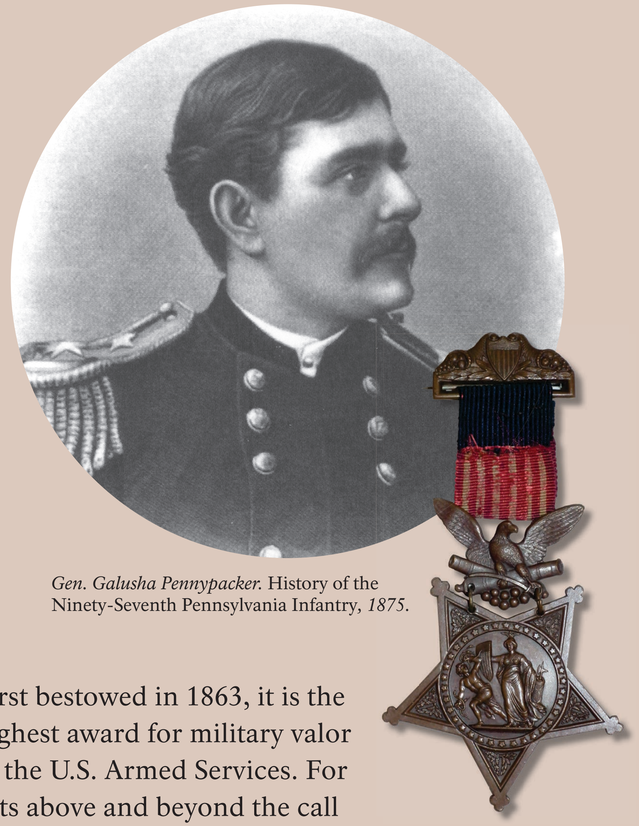
The dead were initially buried in several locations that collectively made up the original Philadelphia National Cemetery. The War Department maintained lots in seven city cemeteries—Glenwood, Lafayette, Lebanon, Mount Moriah, Odd-Fellows, United American Mechanics, and Woodlands. Lots in Rural Cemetery in Chester, and Whitehall and Bristol cemeteries, also received military burials. By the early 1880s, Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs chose to consolidate these dead into a single national cemetery. After the War Department acquired more than 13 acres in northwest Philadelphia in 1885, an estimated 1,500 Union and Confederate remains were reinterred here.

The cemetery was designed in the rural style. Curving roads and generous plantings created a park-like environment. A large Italianate house acquired with the property served as the superintendent's residence for fifty years. It was razed in 1934.

View of cemetery with lodge, 1903; the gate was replaced in 1940. National Archives and Records Administration.

Medal of Honor Recipient

One Civil War recipient of the Medal of Honor is buried in the cemetery: Gen. Galusha Pennypacker, 97th Pennsylvania Infantry.



Gen. Galusha Pennypacker. History of the Ninety-Seventh Pennsylvania Infantry, *1875.*

First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal. Pennypacker earned it for bravery in the January 1865 assault on Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Afterward he was promoted, and at 20 became the youngest Union general. He died in 1916 (Officers Section, Grave 175).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

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CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Citizens Volunteer Hospital in Philadelphia was one of many facilities where Confederate prisoners captured at Gettysburg were treated, c. 1865. Library of Congress.

The Confederate Section

All of the Confederate prisoners of war buried here died in a Civil War military hospital in or near Philadelphia. All were originally interred near the hospital where they died. In the late 1880s, the dead were moved here from three Philadelphia cemeteries—Glenwood City, Odd Fellows, and Mount Moriah—and Rural Cemetery, in nearby Chester.

The War Department established Philadelphia National Cemetery in March 1885 and moved Union and Confederate burials here from several area cemeteries. The Confederate remains were placed in a single section without headstones.

In 1897, the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) in Philadelphia approached the cemetery superintendent about donating a monument to the Confederate section. The Union veterans' organization in Germantown, Pennsylvania, protested.

The UDC abandoned its plan for a grand obelisk; instead the obelisk was erected in the Confederate section of Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia. Three years later, the UDC placed a small tablet memorial to 224 unknown Confederate dead at Philadelphia National Cemetery.

The Monument

The Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead began documenting burials in July 1906. No one was able to explain to the Commission how the UDC arrived at the number of 224 unknown listed on the tablet. Few records accompanied the burials moved from Rural Cemetery, which had the greatest number of Confederate burials in the area. Many records were incomplete and documentation of remains removed to other states was contradictory. The Commission agreed that graves could not be matched with individuals.

The monument dedication, 1911. Confederate Veteran, *December 1911.*

In fall 1911, James T. Maxwell & Sons of Philadelphia completed the granite monument. The plaques affixed to the monument list the names of 184 Confederate prisoners that the Commission documented as being buried at Philadelphia National Cemetery. The UDC Philadelphia chapter held the dedication ceremony on October 12, 1912, the anniversary of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's death. The elaborate event featured music, hymns, prayers, poetry, and a stirring oration delivered by John Shepherd Beard, a notable Philadelphian. The ceremony ended with a thirty-gun salute and the playing of "Taps." According to newspaper accounts, some 1,000 people attended the unveiling.

Toward Reconciliation

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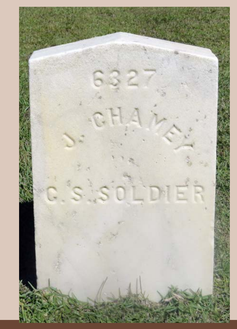
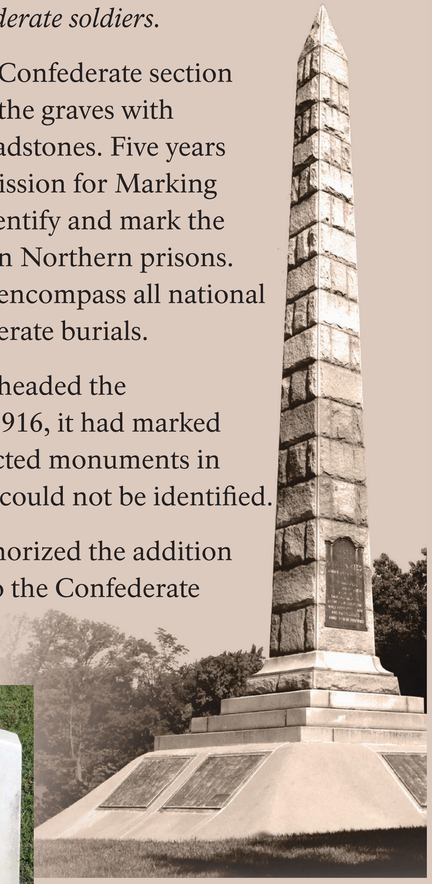
In 1930, the War Department authorized the addition of the Southern Cross of Honor to the Confederate headstone.





North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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POINT LOOKOUT CONFEDERATE CEMETERY

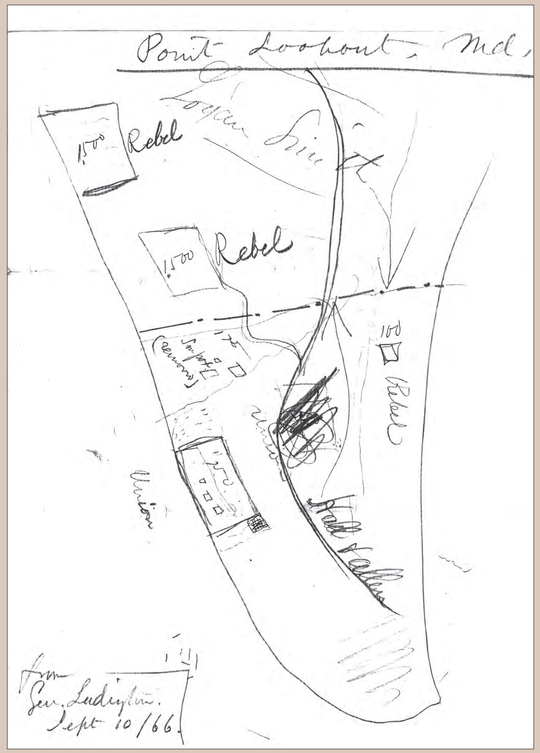
Camp Hoffman Prison

The Union prison at Camp Hoffman, Maryland—called Point Lookout—opened in 1863. A 15-foot-high plank fence surrounded the 40-acre prison compound. The first prisoners arrived in July 1863—Confederates captured at the Battle of Gettysburg. By year's end, the population reached 9,000. All prisoners lived in tents, including the sick. When the war ended in April 1865, the prison housed 22,000 men.

The Confederate Dead

Between July 1863 and June 1865, when it closed, more than 52,000 prisoners had been held at Point Lookout. More than 3,000 died and were interred in three prison cemeteries. All graves were marked with wooden headboards.

After the war, some bodies were removed from the cemeteries at Point Lookout. However, no record was made of who was removed. One unauthorized business removed bodies, at the request of friends or family, for a fee.



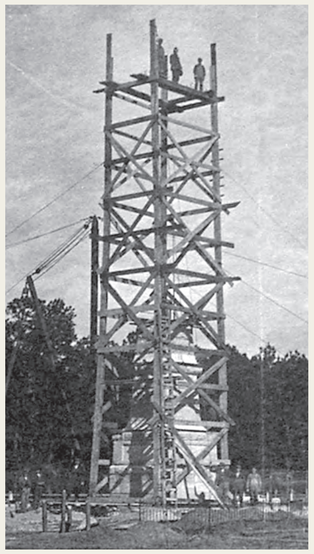
Sketch map of Point Lookout cemeteries, including one Union and three Confederate, "from Gen. Ludington, Sept. 10 / 66." National Archives and Records Administration.

The Commission

In 1867, the War Department purchased the land containing the Union and Confederate cemeteries. Soon, the U.S. Army moved Union remains to Arlington National Cemetery. Confederate remains at Point Lookout were marked with new headboards. Three years later, the State of Maryland purchased this ground and moved 3,404 Confederate dead from the federally-owned cemeteries to this site. In 1876, Maryland erected a modest marble obelisk to mark the graves.

The Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead began documenting interments at Point Lookout in 1906. After the Commissioner determined that the graves could not be marked individually, he received permission to erect a single monument.

Maryland deeded this cemetery to the federal government in 1910. The Van Amringe Granite Company of Boston, Massachusetts, finished the 85-foot granite obelisk the following year. Bronze plaques on the monument base and the mound supporting it contain the names of 3,384 Confederate soldiers and sailors; forty-four civilians identified by the Commission as buried at the site are not listed. However, the exact number of individuals who died at the prison and are buried here may never be determined.



Monument under construction, c. 1910. National Archives and Records Administration.

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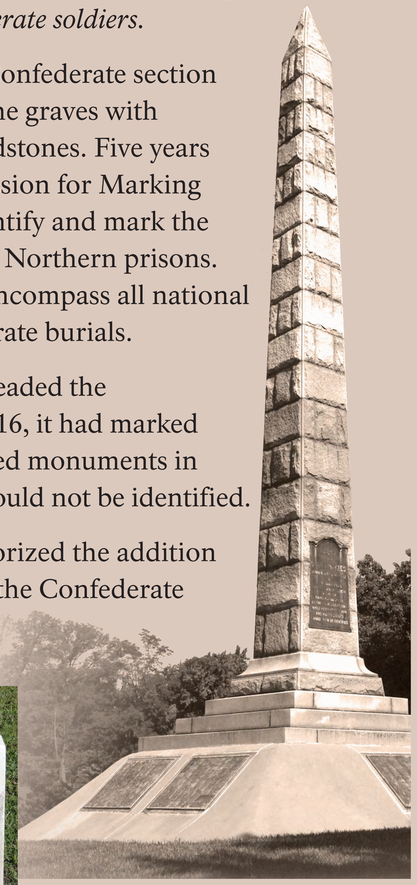

North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The 1st and 3rd Louisiana Native Guards drill near Port Hudson in 1863. State Library of Louisiana.

Fall of Port Hudson

In May 1863, Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks landed 30,000 soldiers at Bayou Sara north of Port Hudson. A force of 7,500 men commanded by Confederate Gen. Franklin Gardner held the Mississippi River stronghold. General Banks' May 27 assault on Port Hudson failed and nearly 2,000 soldiers died. Among them were 600 men from two black regiments—the 1st and 3rd Louisiana Native Guards. The Port Hudson engagement was among the first opportunities for black soldiers to fight in the Civil War. Their determination proved to the North that they could and would ably serve the Union cause.

Banks then launched a siege operation, building fortifications and bringing up more artillery. On June 14, he began pounding the Confederates. This second failed attack resulted in another 2,000 Union casualties. Banks continued the siege. Finally, on July 9 with the Confederate garrison reduced to eating mules and rats, Port Hudson surrendered. Over the 45-day siege Banks lost approximately 10,000 men, half from disease. The Union gained absolute control of the Mississippi River.

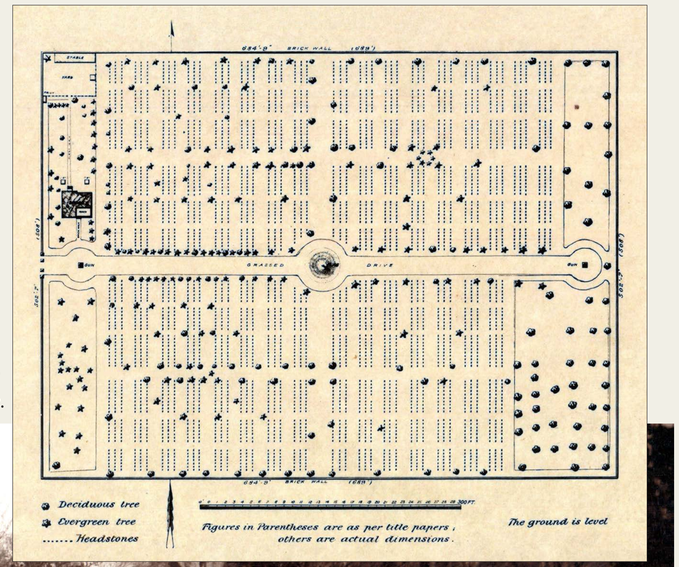
National Cemetery

In August 1866, Lt. A. Rayburn chose this site for Port Hudson National Cemetery. The 8-acre plot was already the final resting place of Union soldiers who died fighting at Port Hudson. The government paid $3,000 for the land.

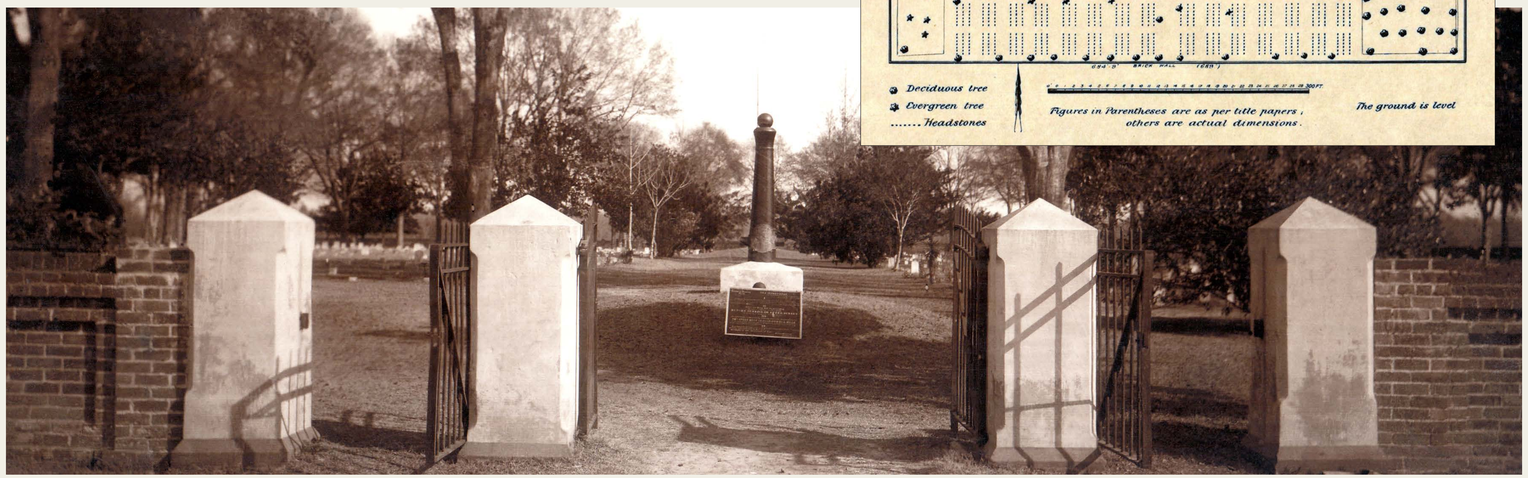
Among those buried here are 256 men who served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT). The first USCT regiments were formed in March 1863, when the federal government began actively recruiting black men for the Union Army. USCT regiments fought in battles and engagements from Virginia to Texas. Eight regiments were engaged at Port Hudson.

By 1875, Port Hudson National Cemetery contained 3,804 graves, most marked as unknowns. Remains from elsewhere in Louisiana, including Morganza village; the Carnes, Dunn's, Haynes, Slaughters, and Wilson's plantations; and Methodist College in West Baton Rouge Parish were reinterred here.

Early improvements included a brick wall to enclose the cemetery and two gun monuments at the entrance road. In 1879, the Quartermaster Department built a brick Second Empire-style lodge for the superintendent and his family. Cast-iron plaques with stanzas from the poem "Bivouac of the Dead" were installed in the 1880s. The cemetery has expanded twice in the twentieth century and now covers almost 20 acres.



Right, cemetery plan, 1892. National Archives and Records Administration.



Cemetery gate and gun monument in 1904. National Archives and Records Administration.

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PROSPECT HILL SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

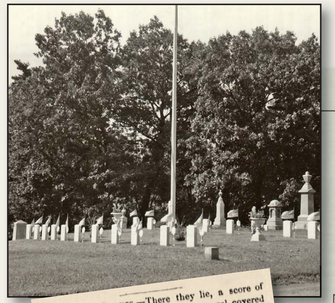
The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

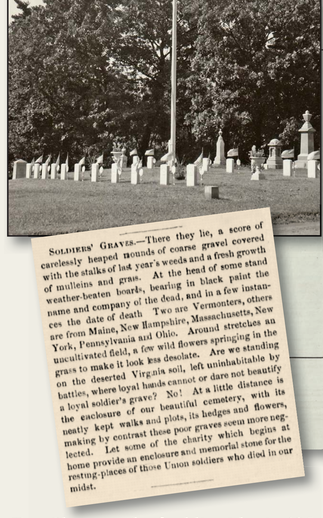
Brattleboro at War

In May 1861, a month after the Confederate assault on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, the State of Vermont established a camp in the town of Brattleboro. The barracks and other buildings were used to house recruits and train volunteer Union soldiers. In September, the 4th Vermont Infantry mustered into service and departed for Washington, D.C. They were the first of more than 10,000 troops to pass through the camp. Ten infantry regiments and one artillery battery were organized here.

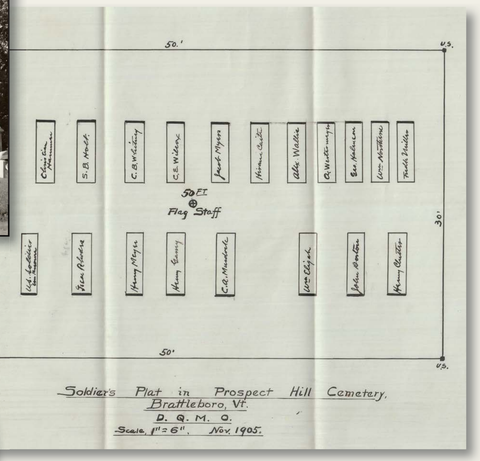
Gov. Frederick Holbrook, for whom the camp was later named, prevailed upon the War Department to establish a military hospital in Vermont. He believed fresh cool Vermont air would aid the recovery of men unaccustomed to southern heat. In January 1863, several buildings were converted into a U.S. General Hospital. It could originally accommodate up to 2,000 patients. By 1864, new construction doubled that number. Brattleboro was home to the largest of three military hospitals operating in Vermont during the Civil War.

Top: Undated photograph of U.S. General Hospital. Special Collections of the Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro. Right: Union soldiers outside of a supply hut at the hospital, 1864. Courtesy of Thomas St. John.





SOLDIERS' GRAVES.—There they lie, a score of carelessly heaped mounds of coarse gravel covered with the stalks of last year's weeds and a fresh growth of mulleins and grass. At the head of some stand weather-beaten boards, bearing in black paint the name and company of the dead, and in a few instances the date of death Two are Vermonters, others are from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Around stretches an uncultivated field, a few wild flowers springing in the grass to make it look less desolate. Are we standing on the deserted Virginia soil, left uninhabitable by battles, where loyal hands cannot or dare not beautify a loyal soldier's grave? No! At a little distance is the enclosure of our beautiful cemetery, with its neatly kept walks and plots, its hedges and flowers, making by contrast these poor graves seem more neglected. Let some of the charity which begins at home provide an enclosure and memorial stone for the resting-places of those Union soldiers who died in our midst.



Top: Photograph of soldiers' lot in 1954. National Cemetery Administration. Lower left: Article published in the Vermont Phoenix (Brattleboro)*, June 15, 1866. Library of Congress. Right: Plan of soldiers' lot with the names of the dead, November 1905. National Archives and Records Administration.*

Military Burials

The bodies of most Vermont soldiers who died at the U.S. General Hospital were transported home for burial. Nineteen Union soldiers were interred on the hospital grounds, only one was unknown.

In 1866, the army moved these remains from the hospital cemetery to Brattleboro's Prospect Hill Cemetery. Three years later the town sold the small, rectangular soldiers' lot to the U.S. government for $100.

Civil War veterans decorated the soldiers' graves with flowers as part of the first Decoration (Memorial) Day observance in 1868. The ceremony featured music, speeches, and a cannon salute. By 1874, the lot was enclosed with a hedge and trees were planted at the corners. The nineteen graves were marked with permanent marble headstones. A flagstaff was installed in the 1890s.

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PROSPECT HILL SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

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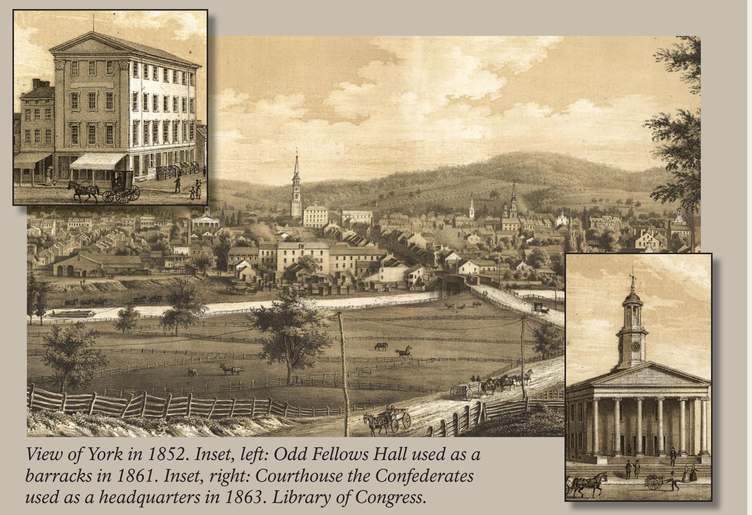
York at War

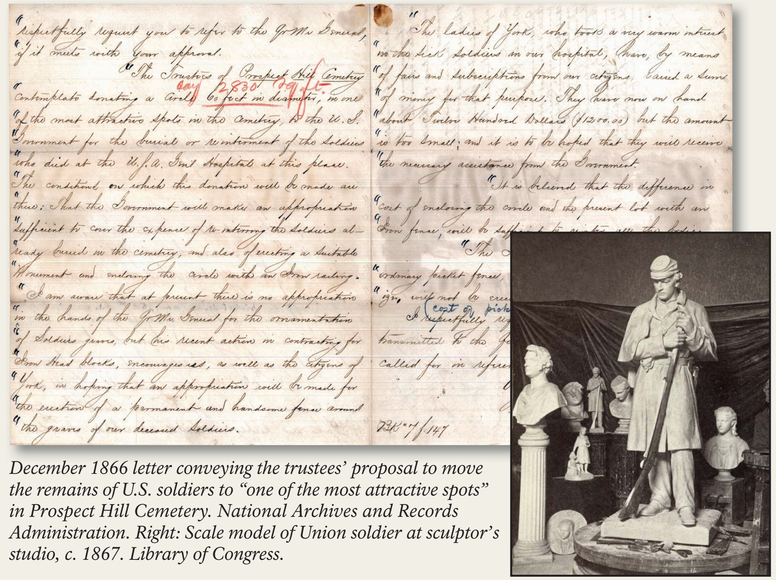
On April 23, 1861, less than two weeks after Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina, Gov. Andrew G. Curtin established Camp Scott at York, Pennsylvania. By early May, six regiments were lodged in the Odd Fellows Hall and buildings at the fairgrounds. The army recruited or trained all or portions of seventeen Pennsylvania regiments in York.

In June 1862, a U.S. General Hospital was established in the city. Barracks constructed on the public common were adapted to accommodate more than 1,000 beds. The hospital had treated 14,000 patients by the time it closed in summer 1865. Many of the 193 soldiers who died in York were buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

During the Gettysburg Campaign, in summer 1863, Confederate forces briefly captured York. Citizens met with Confederate Gen. John Gordon the day before he arrived. They agreed to surrender if Gordon would spare the city. The Confederates occupied York for two days, took money and supplies, but did no damage.



View of York in 1852. Inset, left: Odd Fellows Hall used as a barracks in 1861. Inset, right: Courthouse the Confederates used as a headquarters in 1863. Library of Congress.



December 1866 letter conveying the trustees' proposal to move the remains of U.S. soldiers to "one of the most attractive spots" in Prospect Hill Cemetery. National Archives and Records Administration. Right: Scale model of Union soldier at sculptor's studio, c. 1867. Library of Congress.

Soldiers' Lot

Prospect Hill Cemetery, a rural-style burial ground, was established in 1849. By 1870, some 163 Union soldiers were interred in a northwest-corner lot. All but two were known. Most graves were marked with wood headboards. A few had marble headstones purchased by family or friends. In 1873, the War Department authorized reinterment of these remains in a prominent lot near the cemetery entrance. Names of the dead were inscribed on two concentric granite curbs within the new soldiers' circle, rather than on standard government-issued headstones.

The Ladies Aid Society and citizens of York raised $3,000 to build a memorial here. A. J. Brashears & Son of York installed it in 1874. The granite base supports a 15-foot-tall bronze soldier. Irish-born sculptor Martin Milmore designed this and many other Civil War monuments found in northern states. The York soldiers' lot, with four cannon, is enclosed by a granite post-and-chain fence.

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QUINCY NATIONAL CEMETERY

An early-twentieth century reunion of Company E, 50th Illinois Infantry, in Camp Point, Illinois. The regiment was organized in Quincy in 1861. Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.

Civil War Quincy

Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina on April 12, 1861. Three days later, President Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers to suppress the rebellion. Men in Quincy, Illinois, rushed to volunteer for federal service.

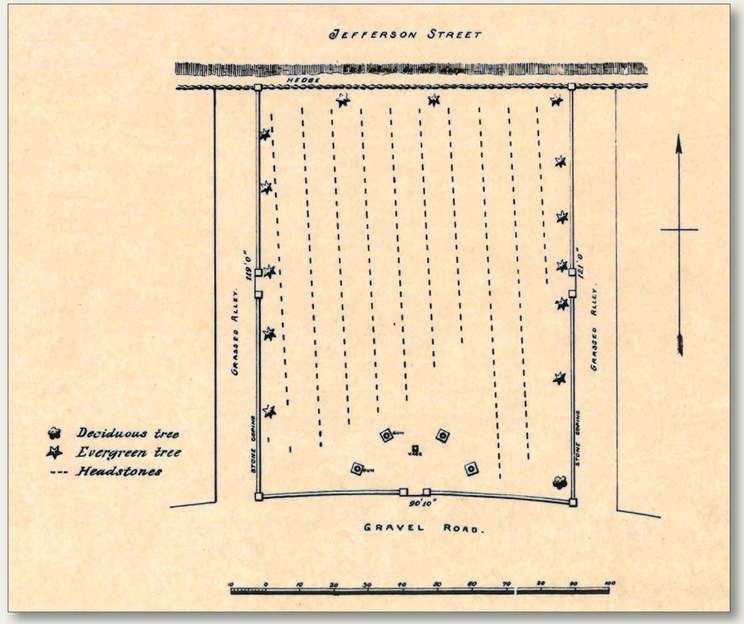
Located on the Mississippi River and served by railroads, the city was an excellent staging area for soldiers headed south. The U.S. Army constructed a permanent barracks in Franklin Square, the heart of the city.

As the Civil War began in earnest, wounded troops required medical care. Quincy's first hospital opened in July 1861 in a former chair factory. A second opened in a three-story brick factory. Finally, the U.S. Army occupied and converted the Quincy College campus into hospital space. Many sick and wounded soldiers died in these facilities.

Soldiers' Lot

In 1861, the U.S. Army began burying its dead in a lot within Woodland Cemetery. This cemetery had been established in 1847 by Quincy founder and former Illinois Gov. John Wood. By the end of the war, the 12,000-square-foot lot contained 242 graves, including six unknowns.

In 1870, the lot was officially donated to the federal government. Stone curbing enclosed three sides. Four gun monuments marked the south entrance. The local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans' organization, in 1882 successfully lobbied to have the property designated a national cemetery. When the first superintendent appointed here was charged with fraud, the secretary of war canceled the position. Thereafter, the government paid the Woodland Cemetery Association to care for the gravesites.



Soldiers' lot plan at Woodland Cemetery, 1892. National Archives and Records Administration.

Soldiers' lot in Graceland Cemetery, 1933. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Woodland Cemetery's location on a ridge above the Mississippi River led to erosion problems. Faced with a choice between building a retaining wall or moving the dead, the U.S. Army concluded it was best to relocate the graves. In fall 1899, the federal government purchased a lot in Graceland Cemetery, east of downtown, from the Quincy Cemetery Association. The remains of 287 soldiers were reinterred in the new 0.45-acre soldiers' lot—no longer classified as a national cemetery. The federal government contracted with the association to maintain its property.

By 1924, a part-time caretaker was appointed to oversee the soldiers' lot. In 1936, it was redesignated Quincy National Cemetery. Over the years, modern development, including the extension of Maine Street through the private cemetery in the 1970s, has separated the two burial grounds.

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RALEIGH NATIONAL CEMETERY

North Carolina State Capitol, 1861. Courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina.

Civil War Raleigh

After President Abraham Lincoln called for troops to put down the Confederate rebellion in April 1861, North Carolina seceded from the Union. Raleigh became a hub of Confederate activity as recruiting and training camps sprang up in the city. A bayonet factory and powder mill opened, and warehouses for military supplies and equipment were established. Later the Confederates built a hospital at the old fairgrounds.

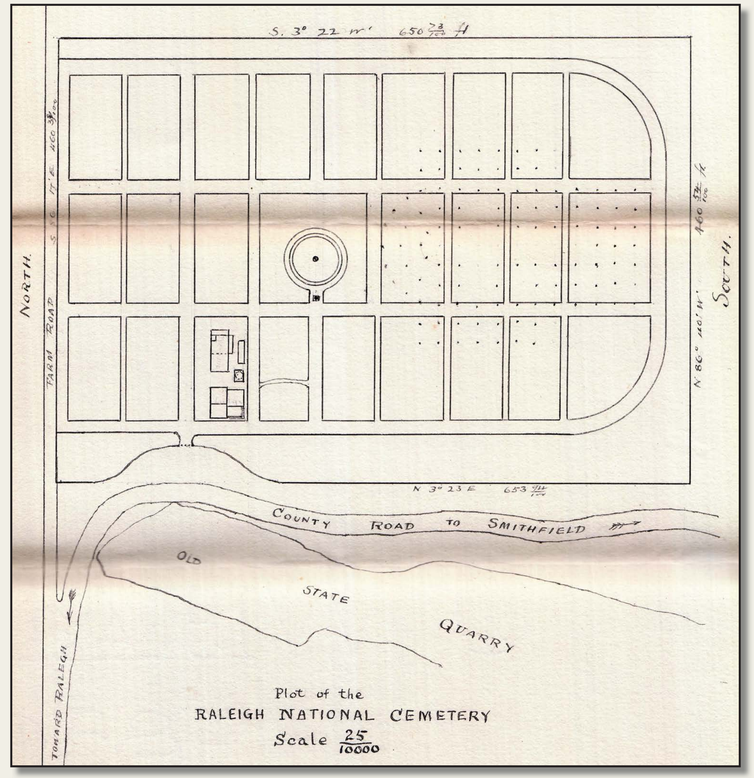
After the Battle of Bentonville in March 1865, Union troops began approaching the city. Gov. Zebulon Vance sent representatives to meet with Union Gen. William T. Sherman, who promised no harm would come to the city if his troops met no resistance. Union soldiers occupied Raleigh on April 13, 1865, and Sherman set up his headquarters in the governor's mansion. More than 100,000 Union soldiers camped in and near the city. They buried their dead here, too.

National Cemetery

The State of North Carolina donated land to the federal government for a Union cemetery. It was designated Raleigh National Cemetery in 1865. The rectangular tract was divided into twenty-two sections with a central flagstaff and gun monument.

The remains of 1,173 soldiers were reinterred here from other locations in Raleigh; the Averasboro, Bentonville and Goldsboro battlefields; and elsewhere in the state. Volunteer regiments from thirteen states are represented, and were buried together. Other sections were set aside for U.S. Army Regulars and U.S. Colored Troops. Four sections contain 547 unknown soldiers.

View into cemetery, 1904. Visible on right is the original wood-frame lodge, reused as a kitchen and tool-house after the new brick lodge was built in 1874. National Archives and Records Administration.



Plan of cemetery, 1881. National Archives and Records Administration.

An 1867 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage each national cemetery. To qualify for the position, an individual must have been an army enlisted man disabled in service. A later change to the law allowed any honorably mustered out or discharged commissioned officer or enlisted man to serve as a cemetery superintendent. George A. Dichtl, formerly a second lieutenant in the 1st Oregon Cavalry, was appointed to this post at Raleigh in June 1868.

A Second Empire-style lodge was constructed for the superintendent and his family to live in. The current Colonial-Revival building replaced that lodge in 1938.

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RICHMOND NATIONAL CEMETERY

Union Prisoners

Richmond, the Confederate capital, housed thousands of Union prisoners of war in three prisons—Libby Prison, Castle Thunder, and Belle Isle. In March 1862, the Confederate government seized Luther Libby's warehouse and converted it into Libby Prison. Five months later, Gleanor's Tobacco Warehouse, Palmer's Factory, and Whitlock's Warehouse collectively became Castle Thunder prison.

Another prison opened that summer on Belle Isle, a small island in the James River across from Libby Prison. This facility housed prisoners in tents on an open field. Unshaded in summertime, tents were stifling; in winter they were cold and windy. Poor conditions fostered disease at all three prisons and, as a result, thousands of Union captives died. Confederate authorities buried them in various private Richmond cemeteries. Hundreds were buried on Belle Isle.

Libby Prison, c. 1864. The print, with prisoners visible in the windows, contradicts Confederate orders directing guards to shoot anyone looking out. Library of Congress.

National Cemetery

During the Civil War, Union and Confederate armies fought multiple battles for control of Richmond. Thousands of Union soldiers perished. They are now buried in Richmond National Cemetery and six other national cemeteries established in the Richmond-Petersburg area in 1866.

Union prisoners were housed in tents on Belle Isle, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

Most of the men who lie here died in Richmond's Confederate prisons. Among those are 3,200 Union soldiers reinterred from Oakwood Cemetery, and another 388 from Hollywood Cemetery. The remains of 210 prisoners were moved from Belle Isle to the national cemetery, along with twelve men removed from a trench in the "Rocketts," a suburb near Castle Thunder prison. The remains of 2,710 Union soldiers who died in local battles are interred here, too.

Nearly a decade passed between the time the cemetery was established and the completion of the reinterments. An 1868 U.S. Army report estimated the total at 6,329. By 1874, the grave count rose to 6,540. In addition, fourteen non-combatants—civilians and government employees—are buried here.

The 8-acre cemetery was originally laid out in four sections with a flagstaff mound in the center. Each section, divided by graveled walks, was organized into six plots. The government erected its first brick Second Empire-style lodge here in 1870. By 1874, a stone wall enclosed the cemetery. The first superintendent, Patrick Hart, a discharged sergeant from Co. B, 44th U.S. Infantry, erected a greenhouse near the lodge where he raised plants and trees for use in the cemetery.

Today, over 9,000 burials are located in the cemetery, including an unknown Confederate soldier reinterred here in 1978.

The rostrum, built 1888, with unknown grave markers in foreground, 1908. National Archives and Records Administration.

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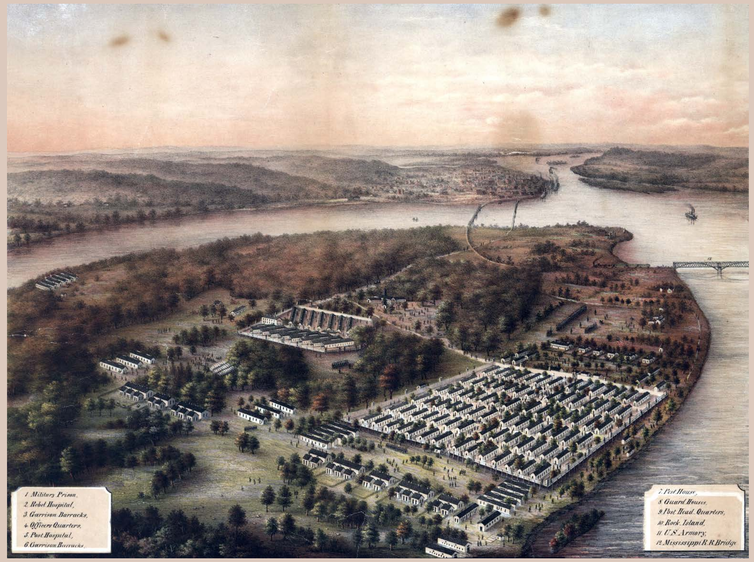
ROCK ISLAND NATIONAL CEMETERY



Bird's-eye view of Rock Island, 1864. Library of Congress.

Civil War Rock Island

The U.S. Army built Fort Armstrong on Rock Island in 1816. It abandoned the fort in 1836, but then reoccupied it for five years, 1840-45. The onset of the Civil War created a need for military facilities with access to transportation corridors. In 1862, the army returned to the Illinois island permanently.

It built an arsenal here to store ordnance and arms, and repair damaged weapons. Situating the arsenal on an island in the Mississippi River enabled the government to easily ship weapons to troops throughout the region.

In 1863, Rock Island became a prison camp for captured Confederate soldiers. More than 12,000 Confederates passed through Rock Island Prison Barracks between December 1863 and July 1865. Nearly 2,000 prisoners died here.

National Cemetery

The U.S. Army established Rock Island National Cemetery in 1863 near the arsenal. It contained the graves of 136 prison guards. Forty-nine of the dead were members of the 108th U.S. Colored Infantry. When new construction on Rock Island threatened the cemetery in 1868, the Union remains were moved to the present location. Soon after, the remains of 171 soldiers who died in hospitals in nearby Davenport, Iowa, were reinterred here. The roughly-square cemetery encompassed about 1.2 acres.

By 1875, the cemetery was enclosed with an ornate metal fence and accessed through an arched gate. A gravel path led to a rostrum (removed in the 1950s). Arsenal personnel maintained the cemetery until 1973, when it became one of the national cemeteries transferred to the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs). The oldest part of the cemetery—Sections NW, SE, and SW—is in the southeast corner of the property. Sections of original fence are at the entrance to the Memorial Walkway.

Graves marked with wooden headboards, c. 1875. Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

Rodman grave and monument, 1919. Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

Rodman Monument

Thomas Jackson Rodman served in the army's ordnance department during the Civil War. There he developed a method for casting large-caliber artillery. These new guns were stronger and less likely to explode than earlier models. In August 1865, General Rodman was appointed commandant of Rock Island Arsenal, a position he held until his death in 1871.

Known as the "Father of Rock Island Arsenal," Rodman is credited with the old arsenal plan. Ten massive stone buildings made up the core of the arsenal layout. A large obelisk marks Rodman's grave and that of his wife, Martha Ann, who died in 1908.

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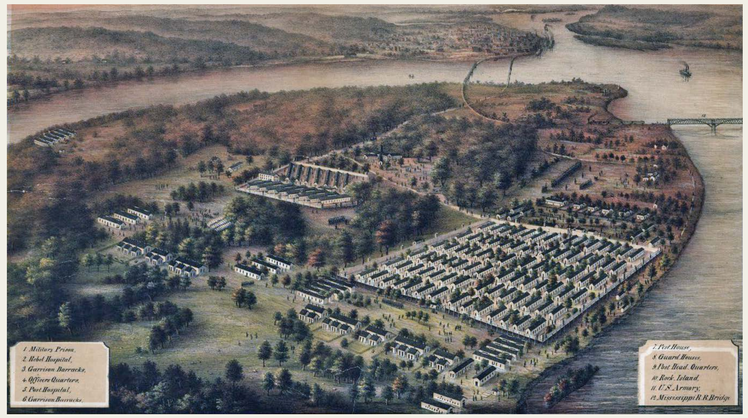
ROCK ISLAND CONFEDERATE CEMETERY



Bird's-eye view of Rock Island Prison Barracks, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

Rock Island Prison Camp

During summer 1863 two significant events took place. The Union and Confederate armies stopped exchanging prisoners, and the Union Army defeated the Confederates at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Union prison system could not handle the resulting influx of prisoners, so later that summer, the War Department authorized a prisoner of war camp at Rock Island, Illinois.

Rock Island's 12-acre prison compound was surrounded by a ditch and a 12-foot-high plank fence punctuated with guard towers. It contained eighty-four barracks that held 10,080 prisoners. There was no hospital. The first prisoners arrived in December 1863. Temperatures fell, wind howled through walls; smallpox broke out. Nearly one-third of all prisoners who perished at Rock Island—995 men—died in the first three months.

By the end of July 1865 when the prison closed, more than 12,000 prisoners had passed through its gate. Almost 2,000 died at Rock Island. The U.S. Army razed the last prison buildings in 1907; nothing remains except the Confederate cemetery.

The Cemetery

The prison surgeon felt the original cemetery was too close to the prison. He selected this site for the new cemetery. Most Confederates in this cemetery were interred at the time of their death, but all prisoners buried elsewhere on the island were eventually moved here.

Confederate dead were buried by contract after removal to the "dead house." Frank Knox of Rock Island prepared bodies for burial and laid them in coffins made by his father Charles. Another man, J. de Harpart, hauled coffins to the cemetery and placed them into trenches he had prepared earlier. A headboard marked each grave.

In 1871, Lt. M. L. Poland mapped all graves using cannon barrels at each corner of the property as reference points. He wrote grave numbers on the map, corresponding to lists of the dead. Poland gave the plan to the post quartermaster for safe keeping.

The Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead inspected the cemetery in 1907. They used Lieutenant Poland's map to identify individual graves and set pointed-top marble headstones inscribed with the name and regiment of the deceased.

The cemetery pre-1890, with small U.S. flags on the graves. Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

Toward Reconciliation

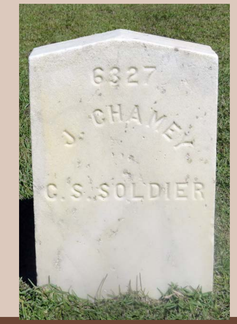
On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

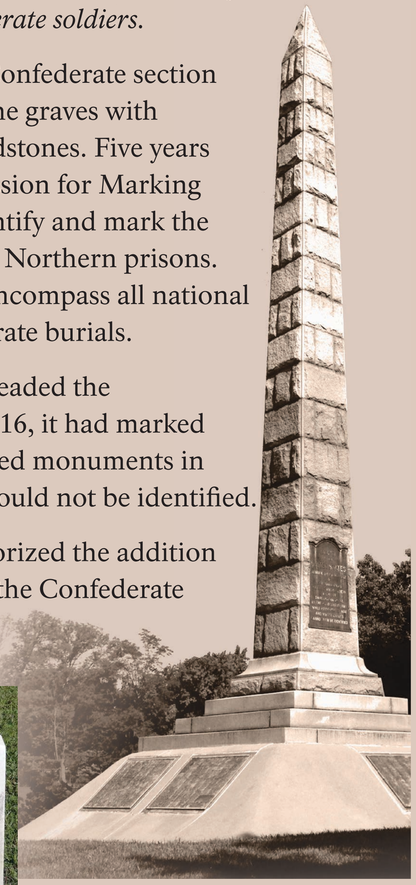
> *The Union is once more the common altar of our love and loyalty, our devotion and sacrifice . . . Every soldier's grave made during our unfortunate Civil War is a tribute to American valor . . . in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.*

The War Department created the Confederate section at Arlington in 1901, and marked the graves with distinctive pointed-top marble headstones. Five years later, Congress created the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead to identify and mark the graves of Confederates who died in Northern prisons. Its mission was later expanded to encompass all national cemeteries that contained Confederate burials.

Four former Confederate officers headed the Commission over its lifetime. By 1916, it had marked in excess of 25,500 graves and erected monuments in locations where individual graves could not be identified.

In 1930, the War Department authorized the addition of the Southern Cross of Honor to the Confederate headstone.





North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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SALISBURY NATIONAL CEMETERY

Baseball game in the prison yard, 1863. Camp conditions deteriorated in the last years of the war. Library of Congress.

Civil War Salisbury

Salisbury was a vital location and the Confederate government invested heavily in the city. Early in the war, an auxiliary ordnance installation was established here. The converted factory became Salisbury Arsenal and it produced munitions, guns, and artillery. In addition, the Confederates built hospitals, warehouses, and a distillery. The city housed the Nitre and Mining Bureau, and commissary department district headquarters. Finally, the Confederacy established a prisoner-of-war camp in Salisbury—where thousands of Union soldiers were held until it was abandoned in February 1865.

Union authorities also recognized Salisbury's strategic importance. In spring 1865, Union Gen. George Stoneman and 6,000 cavalry rode into North Carolina. On April 12, Stoneman attacked Salisbury. The Federals defeated the Confederate force of 800 and captured the city. Then they destroyed the railroad track and anything of use in a fire that burned for two days.

National Cemetery

Salisbury National Cemetery was established in 1865 around the old prison burial ground. By 1874, it occupied 7 acres. In addition to the prisoners, 425 soldiers were buried here in individual graves—ninety-two were known.

In the 1870s, the cemetery was enclosed with a stone wall. The entry features ornate iron gates cast with iconic military symbols. The original Second Empire-style lodge built for the superintendent was replaced in 1934 with the current Dutch Colonial-style building.

There are two state Civil War monuments here. The Maine Monument, erected 1908, honors its soldiers who died while imprisoned at Salisbury. The 25-foot-tall granite monument features a statue of a Union soldier and polished ornamental cannon.

Superintendent E. R. Fonda and his wife standing in front of cemetery lodge, c. 1910. National Cemetery Administration.

Pennsylvania Monument under construction. National Cemetery Administration.

In 1910, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania funded construction of a 32-foot-tall memorial pavilion. It is topped by an 8-foot-tall bronze prisoner of war to honor its volunteer soldiers who perished here.

The Pennsylvania members of the National Association of the Union Ex-Prisoners of War organization were inspired by the New Jersey Monument that they saw at Georgia's Andersonville National Cemetery. As a result, the Pennsylvania government donated monuments to national cemeteries at Andersonville and Salisbury. It also paid the travel expenses of more than 100 former prisoners to attend the Salisbury dedication ceremony.

SAN ANTONIO NATIONAL CEMETERY

Confederate militia accept the surrender of Union Gen. David Twiggs. Harper's Weekly *(March 23, 1861).*

Civil War San Antonio

When Texas became a state in 1845, the annexation treaty transferred all Texas forts to the U.S. Army. In 1848, the army established a small garrison and quartermaster depot at the Alamo, a former Spanish mission. Eleven years later an arsenal was added.

On February 1, 1861, a convention of Texas officials voted to secede from the Union, although a public vote would not be held until spring. Just two weeks after the convention, Texas state cavalry led by Col. Benjamin McCulloch rode into San Antonio. They surrounded Maj. Gen. David E. Twiggs, commander of all U.S. troops stationed in Texas, and his garrison.

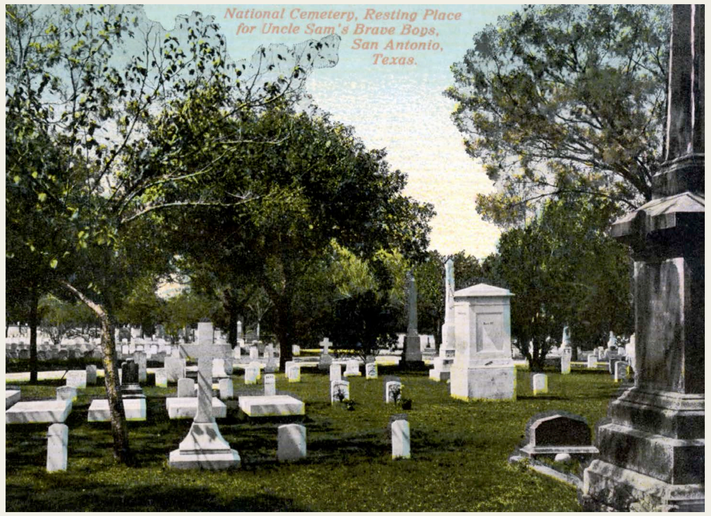
Twiggs surrendered all federal property in Texas and evacuated 2,700 Union troops at frontier forts scattered throughout the state. San Antonio and its supply depot remained under Confederate control through the war. The U.S. Army returned to the city in 1865.

National Cemetery

San Antonio National Cemetery was established in 1867 on land the city gave to the federal government. The 2-acre parcel occupied a hill about a mile east of the city plaza. By December 1868, the cemetery was enclosed by a limestone wall. Two years later the army constructed a two-room Swiss-style cottage at the main entrance to shelter the cemetery caretaker and store tools.

Symmetrical drives formed two circular areas within the rectangular cemetery. A flagstaff was centered in the east circle, where officers were buried. By 1892, a rostrum occupied the west circle.

In 1874, the cemetery contained 334 graves—one-third of them unknown. U.S. officers who died and were buried elsewhere in San Antonio were reinterred here. So were the remains of soldiers who died at Austin, Indianola, the Medina River vicinity, and Salado.



Postcard view of cemetery, c. 1910, showing many of the private headstones here. National Cemetery Administration.

Cemetery entrance in 1904. On left is the Swiss-style cottage used as an office and chapel until it was razed in 1945. On right is the Second Empire-style lodge, 1878-1910. National Archives and Records Administration.

By July 1878, a Second Empire-style lodge was completed for the superintendent and his family. It was replaced in 1910. The federal government erected a small granite memorial to the unknown dead in Section H in 1912.

One Civil War Medal of Honor recipient is memorialized here: Pvt. William H. Barnes, 38th U.S. Colored Infantry. Though wounded, he was among the first to enter the Confederate earthen works at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, Virginia, September 29, 1864 (Section MA, Grave 86).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

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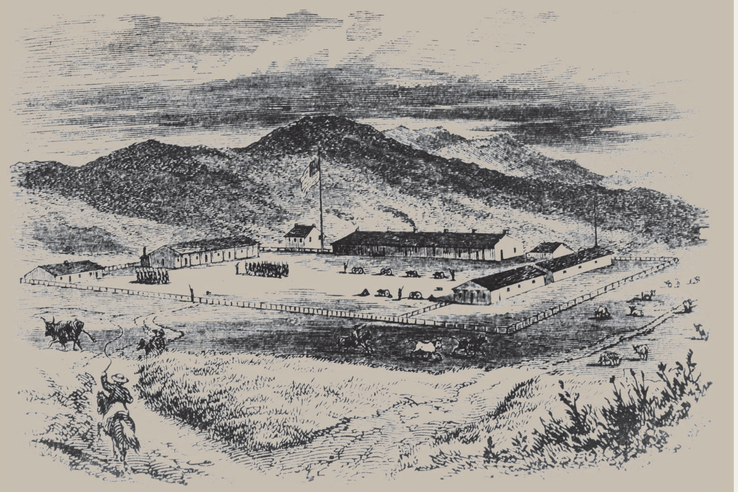
SAN FRANCISCO NATIONAL CEMETERY

Presidio

When the United States took possession of California in 1846, U.S. troops seized the old fort—which the Spanish called Presidio de San Francisco. In November 1850, this land was set aside as a U.S. military reservation by presidential executive order. During the Civil War, Union troops began to convert the former Spanish-Mexican post into a modern army facility.

Construction began in earnest in 1862. A new parade ground, 150 yards wide and 550 yards long, formed the core of the post. New frame buildings faced onto this open space. The buildings, typical of posts west of the Mississippi River, included barracks, chapel, bakery, officers' quarters, offices, and maintenance shops. The facility was manned throughout the Civil War, but Confederate forces were never a threat.

The Presidio was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962.



The Presidio in 1854. Library of Congress.

Unidentified veterans at the Pacific Coast Garrisons Monument, c. 1897. National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area Archives.

National Cemetery

Soon after taking control of the Presidio, the U.S. Army established a post cemetery here. On December 12, 1884, the post cemetery and additional acreage was designated San Francisco National Cemetery. It was the first one built on the West Coast. With this accomplishment, the War Department realized a coast-to-coast system of more than eighty national cemeteries. Remains from abandoned military posts along the Pacific and western frontier were reinterred in the cemetery.

Two early cemetery monuments are located near the officers' circle. The George H. Thomas Post No. 2, Grand Army of the Republic, donated the granite obelisk to commemorate Union soldiers who died during the Civil War. It was dedicated on Memorial Day 1893. The Pacific Coast Garrisons Monument, a zinc figure of a soldier on a pedestal, was dedicated to the U.S. Army and Union Navy on Memorial Day 1897.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Four long-lived Civil War Medal of Honor recipients who died in the twentieth century are buried here.

Maj. James Coey, 147th New York Infantry, seized the regimental colors and led an advance on the enemy that inspired a brigade to follow. Though wounded, he rallied the line twice at Hatchers Run, Virginia, February 6, 1865 (Section OS, Grave 89-1).

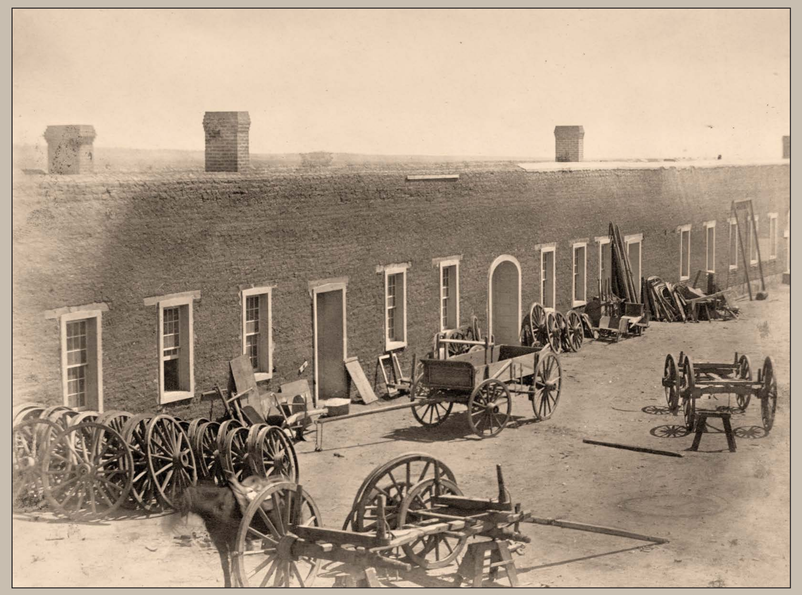
Sgt. James Congdon (Madison), 8th New York Cavalry, recaptured Gen. George Crook's headquarters flag at Waynesboro, Virginia, March 2, 1865 (Section OSA, Grave 15-7).

Maj. Oliver D. Greene, U.S. Army, formed men into columns while under heavy fire and positioned them at Antietam, Maryland, September 17, 1862 (Section OS, Grave 49-8). Greene retired in 1898 with the rank of colonel.

First Lt. William Rufus Shafter, 7th Michigan Infantry, was wounded when he led a charge across an open field. He hid his injuries for three days until other wounded had left Fair Oaks, Virginia, May 31, 1862 (Section OS, Grave 30-3). Shafter later joined the Regular Army. He was promoted to brigadier general in May 1898 and led troops in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY



U.S. Army repair shops at Fort Union, 1866. Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA), 001839.

Civil War New Mexico

At the start of the Civil War in 1861, the Confederacy planned an ambitious western campaign. Troops were to take Santa Fe and the federal supply depot at Fort Union to the north, proceed into Colorado Territory to capture gold mines, then head west to invade California. The first engagement in New Mexico Territory occurred north of Fort Craig at Valverde in February 1862. Confederate forces captured Santa Fe on March 13, 1862.

On March 26, Union troops attacked a Confederate detachment as it emerged from Glorieta Pass in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, southeast of Santa Fe. The Union assault initially forced a Confederate retreat. Two days later the armies clashed again. Though the Confederates pushed back the Union forces, a small detachment of U.S. soldiers destroyed the Confederate supply train. Lacking food and supplies, the Confederates retreated to Santa Fe. They abandoned New Mexico by July 1862.

National Cemetery

The U.S. Army acquired less than an acre from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Santa Fe in 1870 for use as a cemetery. The first interments were 265 soldiers who died in local Civil War battles and during the Mexican War (1846-1848) at nearby Fort Marcy. The property was designated Santa Fe National Cemetery on April 6, 1875. Over the next year, additional land was obtained to provide more gravesites. However, it was reclassified as a post cemetery.

In 1892, it became a national cemetery again. Between 1896 and 1912, the government moved remains here from abandoned forts including Apache and Grant in Arizona, Hatch and Wingate in New Mexico, and Duchesne in Utah.

The stone Victorian-style superintendent's lodge, stable, and tool house were completed in 1895. A stone wall was built to enclose the property. In the twentieth century, the Works Progress Administration was responsible for transforming the appearance of the lodge to blend into the regional Adobe-style architecture. Laborers also improved cemetery roads and walks. In 1944, an Adobe-style garage, utility building, and rostrum were completed.

Memorial Day, 1898. National Archives and Records Administration.

Remains of soldiers and civilians recovered from the site of Fort Craig were reinterred here in 2009. National Cemetery Administration.

Reinterred Burials

In 1895, five Confederate soldiers who died in April 1862 were removed from the Masonic Cemetery in Santa Fe and reinterred here. Nearly 100 years later in June 1987, a construction crew discovered a mass grave near Glorieta Pass. The remains were identified as thirty-one Confederate soldiers killed at the 1862 battle. All but one were reburied here in April 1993—two individually and the remainder in a shared grave that is marked by a bronze and granite monument (Section K, Sites 330C, 350C & 370C).

Similarly, the remains of sixty-four federal soldiers and civilians were discovered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 2007 at the site of Fort Craig. Troops there fought Apaches, Navajos, and Confederates in the Battle of Valverde. Two years later, the remains—three identified—were reinterred in Section 15A.

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National Cemetery Administration

SEVEN PINES NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort Sumner, Fair Oaks Station, was part of a line of earthen fortifications the Union Army constructed after the Battle of Seven Pines, June 1862. Library of Congress.

Battle of Seven Pines

In spring 1862, Union Gen. George B. McClellan devised a plan to take Richmond, the Confederate capital. By May, McClellan had pushed Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's forces to the city outskirts. The Union troops outnumbered the Confederates by 40,000 men.

As McClellan pushed forward, the Chickahominy River divided his army, giving Johnston an opportunity to strike. The Confederates attacked on May 31, 1862, but a complex battle plan and poor coordination resulted in a five-hour delay. Still, the Confederates drove Union forces back. The timely arrival of Union reinforcements prevented further Confederate gains.

The next day, June 1, the battle renewed but neither side made headway. By mid-afternoon it was over. The Union Army lost approximately 5,000 men, the Confederates 6,200.

National Cemetery

During the Civil War, Union and Confederate armies fought numerous battles for control of Richmond. Thousands of Union soldiers perished. They are now buried in seven national cemeteries created in the Richmond-Petersburg area in 1866.

Seven Pines National Cemetery contains the remains of Union soldiers killed at the Battle of Seven Pines, associated engagements at Fair Oaks, and the Battle of Savage Station. Additionally, remains recovered from burial grounds near field hospitals at sixty farms are interred here. By 1874, a total of 1,357 Union soldiers were buried at this cemetery, only 150 were identified.

The cemetery design divided the nearly 2-acre tract into four burial sections separated by gravel walks. A flagstaff mound marked the center. By 1871, an iron gun monument had been placed south of the flagstaff. A few years later, a brick Second Empire-style lodge was completed. A brick wall enclosing the cemetery was built soon afterward.

Artillery Monuments

Bronze plaques, authorized in 1872 to be placed on ornamental cannon (right), were an important cemetery feature. According to the Quartermaster General: "No cemetery can be considered properly finished till some considerable monumental brass bears an inscription recognizing its establishment and the number of dead soldiers it contains." Many of these plaques and artillery monuments survive in the cemeteries. National Cemetery Administration.

The Seven Pines

Civil War maps show a village labeled "Seven Pines" at the intersection of Williamsburg Pike and Nine Mile Road. According to local lore, the name came from seven pine trees that had once stood at the crossroads. About 1869, cemetery superintendent James Kelly planted seven new pines, three on the west side and four on the east side of the gate along Williamsburg Pike.

View of cemetery showing the seven pine trees planted by Superintendent Kelly, 1912. Library of Congress.

SPRINGFIELD NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Springfield

Federal troops occupied Springfield, Missouri, in June 1861. In August, when Confederate forces marched on the city, Union Gen. Nathaniel Lyon led his army out to meet them.

On August 10, 1861, the Confederate army commanded by Gen. Sterling Price defeated Lyon's troops at Wilson's Creek. The courthouse, Methodist church, and many other Springfield buildings were pressed into service as hospitals for the Union wounded.

After the spring 1862 Battle of Pea Ridge in Arkansas, the U.S. Army established a General Hospital in Springfield. The city was already a pivotal Union supply depot. The Confederates attacked Springfield on January 8, 1863, but were defeated. The city saw no more major Civil War engagements.

Battle of Wilson's Creek, c. 1861. Library of Congress.

Cemetery entrance and original Second Empire-style lodge, 1903. National Archives and Records Administration.

National Cemetery

Springfield National Cemetery was established in 1867 on a 5-acre tract purchased from the city. Remains of Union dead from Lebanon, Newtonia, Springfield, and Wilson's Creek battlefields were reinterred here. By 1868 it contained 1,514 graves, about half unknown. In 1911, Congress authorized the secretary of war to take ownership of the adjacent 2.7-acre Confederate cemetery. The existing superintendents' lodge and rostrum, built in the 1940s, replaced the original ones.

Three Civil War Medal of Honor recipients are buried here. Corp. Harrison Collins, 1st Tennessee Cavalry (U.S.), captured a Confederate flag at Richland Creek, Tennessee, December 24, 1864 (Section 26, Grave 1357B).

Musician Orion P. Howe, a wounded 14-year-old drummer with the 55th Illinois Infantry, stayed on the battlefield until he was able to tell Gen. William T. Sherman that his regiment needed ammunition, Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 19, 1863 (Section 4, Grave 207A).

Capt. Patrick Pentzer, 97th Illinois Infantry, accepted the surrender of a Confederate general and a flag at Fort Blakely, Alabama, April 9, 1865 (Section 24, Grave 1696).

Civil War Army Medal of Honor. Gettysburg National Military Park.

Monuments

There are two Union Civil War monuments here. Dedicated on Memorial Day 1873, a 24-foot-tall pedestal and shaft topped by a marble figure of a Union soldier honors troops killed in the Battle of Springfield. Dr. Thomas Jefferson Bailey, former slave owner and staunch Unionist who died in 1869, had bequeathed funds to erect it.

The second honors Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, the U.S. commander at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Lyon, who was killed in action, was the first Union general to die in the Civil War. Citizens of Springfield raised funds for the 14-foot-tall marble column erected in 1888. Lyon is buried in Eastford, Connecticut.

Postcard view of cemetery with Union Monument (foreground) and Lyon Monument (background), c. 1907. National Cemetery Administration.

CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Confederate Cemetery

After the Civil War, women's groups in the South, known collectively as Ladies' Memorial Associations (LMA), undertook efforts to consolidate the remains of Confederate soldiers. In 1866, a group of women in Springfield, Missouri, formed the Confederate Cemetery Association. In 1869, the organization appealed for aid and within months raised $3,000. They purchased 3 acres near Springfield National Cemetery and enclosed it with a picket fence.

LMA ribbon, c. 1892. Helena Museum, Helena, Ark.

By 1872, the Confederate Cemetery Association had moved the remains of 504 soldiers, most unknown, from Wilson's Creek, Hartsville, and Springfield to this cemetery. They marked each grave with a cedar headboard.

The Confederate Veterans Association of Missouri, the statewide United Confederate Veterans organization (UCV), assumed ownership of the Confederate cemetery in 1882. The following year, the UCV built the stone wall and connected it to the one surrounding the adjacent national cemetery.

By 1901, small square headstones had replaced the cedar headboards. The standard government headstones were erected between 1914 and 1948. Missouri UCV Reunion Souvenir Program, *1901.*

The Confederate Monument

The Confederate Veterans Association of Missouri and the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) began raising funds to erect a monument in the mid-1880s. Sculptor Gaetano Trentanove completed the monument, envisioned as the cemetery's centerpiece, in 1901.

An estimated crowd of 1,000 people attended the unveiling on August 10, 1901—the fortieth anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Special excursion trains brought many to Springfield. After a bugle call, 135 young women marched into the cemetery. Each carried a flag representing one of the eleven Missouri chapters of the UDC. A minister led a prayer and Miss Laura Virginia Edwards unveiled the monument. Speeches and an artillery salute concluded the ceremony.

A ceremony in the Confederate cemetery, 1905. History Museum on the Square, Springfield, Mo.

The Last Confederate Veteran

Thomas Henry Hadden, 90, the last Confederate veteran interred in Springfield National Cemetery, was buried June 12, 1939. He requested burial in a Confederate uniform, with the Confederate flag. The local UDC chapter supplied the uniform. Hadden was laid to rest near the Confederate monument. His wife, Martha, was buried next to him in 1964.

A National Cemetery

Springfield National Cemetery was created in 1867. The federal government accepted the deed to the Confederate cemetery in 1911, ensuring that it would be maintained in perpetuity.

The small square markers the UDC erected in the 1880s were replaced with the distinctive pointed-top marble headstones in the 1920s-1930s. Some headstones are engraved with the Southern Cross of Honor, the addition of which was authorized by the War Department in 1930. The UDC created the cross medal in 1898 and bestowed it upon Confederate veterans or their families. In 1939, part of the wall between the Confederate and national cemeteries was removed and a Neoclassical temple-like rostrum was built by the federal government in its place. It was used for Memorial Day ceremonies at both sites.

In 1984, the UDC lifted a deed restriction reserving the cemetery for Confederate dead, enabling all eligible veterans to be buried here. New graves in the Confederate section are marked with stones set flush with the ground to maintain the historic appearance of the landscape.

The separate cemeteries had their own rostrums. View of Confederate rostrum, 1930. National Archives and Records Administration.

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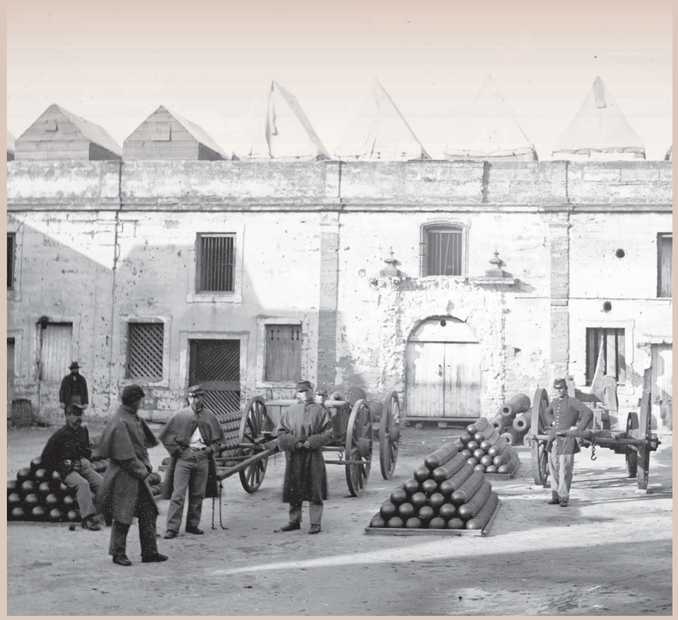
ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY



Fort Marion, c. 1863. Library of Congress.

Civil War St. Augustine

Florida seceded from the Union in January 1861. Confederate troops then captured Fort Marion, which was built in St. Augustine in the late 1600s as Castillo de San Marcos. By early 1862, the fall of Nashville, Tennessee, forced the Confederacy to make hard decisions. Troops in Florida were ordered to Tennessee, leaving the state virtually defenseless.

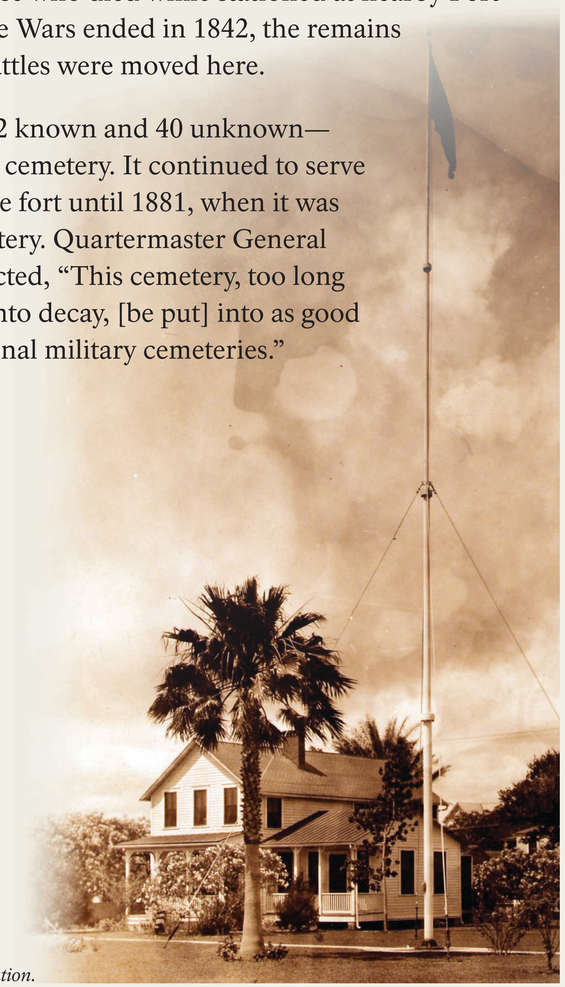
In March 1862, a combined Union Army-and-Navy operation moved on major cities located on Florida's Atlantic Coast. The U.S.S. *Wabash* anchored off St. Augustine. A few days later, Com. Christopher Rogers led a detachment of unarmed sailors ashore and accepted the surrender of Fort Marion and St. Augustine. Union forces controlled the city for the rest of the war.

National Cemetery

The land now occupied by St. Augustine National Cemetery was part of a monastery until 1763, when England took Florida from Spain. The British repurposed the monastery to house its soldiers, calling it St. Francis Barracks. The Spanish regained Florida in 1783 and continued to use the old monastery for military purposes. After Spain ceded Florida to the United States in 1821, the U.S. Army moved in. In 1828, a post cemetery was established here for those who died while stationed at nearby Fort Marion. When the Seminole Wars ended in 1842, the remains of soldiers killed in those battles were moved here.

By 1875, Union soldiers—42 known and 40 unknown—were also buried in the post cemetery. It continued to serve only soldiers who died at the fort until 1881, when it was reclassified a national cemetery. Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs directed, "This cemetery, too long neglected and lately fallen into decay, [be put] into as good condition as the other national military cemeteries."

By 1893, a wall enclosed the cemetery, which was expanded in 1912 and 1913. The current Spanish Colonial Revival-style superintendent's lodge, made of coquina stone to complement the city's historic architecture, was completed in 1938. The matching rostrum was built in 1940.



Original frame lodge and flagpole, 1933. National Archives and Records Administration.

Cemetery before 1873 with wooden headboards and stucco-covered pyramids. Library of Congress.

Florida War Monuments

Three coquina-block pyramids mark the graves of officers and soldiers who were killed in action or died in service between 1835 and 1842 during the Second Seminole War.

The remains of Maj. Francis L. Dade and 110 men under his command, killed December 28, 1835, are in this group burial. On July 25, 1842, Col. William J. Worth ordered that vaults be prepared for the reburial of these men and that "unostentatious monuments" be built to mark them.

In 1844, an 18-foot-tall marble obelisk was erected near the pyramids. Inscribed panels provide a dedication and information about the men who lie here. Members of the St. Augustine garrison contributed "one day's pay" toward the cost of the monument.

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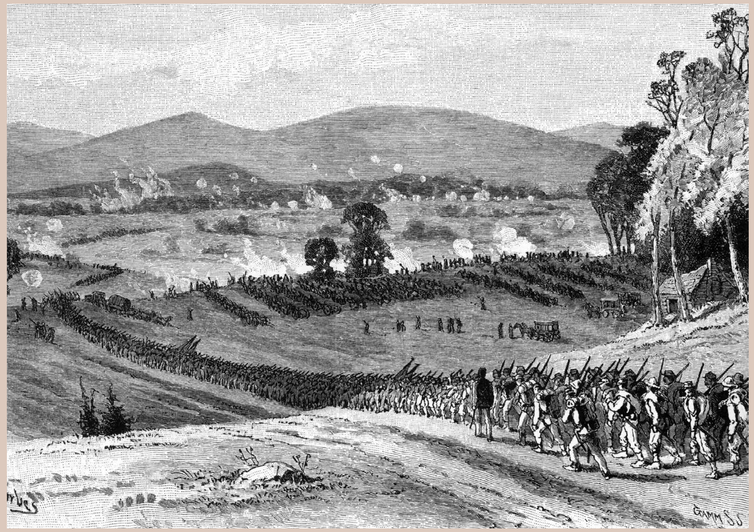
STAUNTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



Battle of Cross Keys, one of four major battles fought during Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, *1887.*

Jackson's Valley Campaign

Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's thirty-four day campaign was a remarkable feat. His command marched 245 miles, fought four major battles, and swept the Union forces out of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. General Jackson's May 1862 victories at McDowell, Front Royal, and Winchester caused Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks to retreat across the Potomac River to Maryland.

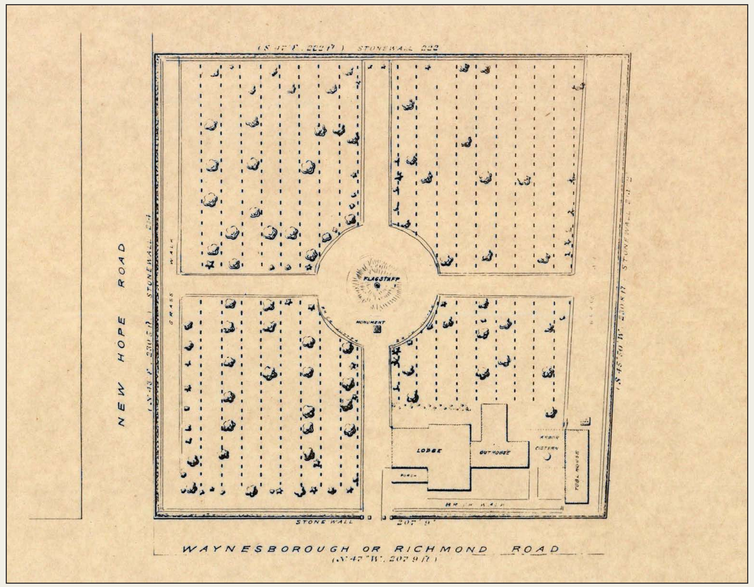
The Union defeat forced Gen. John Frémont into action. He and Gen. Irvin McDowell were ordered to catch and crush Jackson. The Union's 40,000 men faced 18,000 led by Jackson. But the two Union armies were separated by Massanutten Mountain, which divides the valley. Jackson raced south and defeated Frémont at Cross Keys on June 8, then crossed the North River and defeated another Union column at Port Republic. These losses forced Union troops to retreat from the Shenandoah Valley.

National Cemetery

Staunton National Cemetery was established in 1867. The remains of 753 Union soldiers, of which 521 are unknown, lie here. The remains came from Staunton and Waynesboro city cemeteries, and the battlefields at Cross Keys, McDowell, Piedmont, Port Republic, and nearby locations. Sixty-seven Union prisoners who died in Confederate hospitals also lie here.

Gravel paths originally divided the 1.15-acre cemetery into four sections with a flagstaff mound at the center. In 1874, a stone Second Empire-style lodge and enclosure stone wall were completed.

After the Civil War, African Americans settled near the cemetery. The area became known as Uniontown Village. The neighborhood was home to the "Cemetery School." Throughout the nineteenth century, the community held annual Memorial Day services at Staunton National Cemetery.



Cemetery plan, 1892. National Archives and Records Administration.

Immigrant Veterans

Nicolae (Nicholas) Dunca, a Romanian, arrived in New York four months before the Civil War began. He enlisted in the 12th New York Infantry. In March 1862, Gen. John C. Frémont appointed Captain Dunca to his staff. Dunca was killed on June 8, 1862, while delivering orders on the battlefield. He was reinterred here in Section B, Grave 292.

Lodge with unknown grave markers at Staunton National Cemetery, 1908. National Archives and Records Administration.

Maj. William O'Brien was the superintendent at Staunton National Cemetery when he died in February 1899. An immigrant from Ireland, he enlisted in the regular army and served on the western frontier before the Civil War. His regiment returned east for the duration of the war. Injured in battle at Frederick, Maryland, he recuperated in Alexandria, Virginia. After the war he resumed his military duties. Prior to Staunton, he was in charge of Loudon Park, Fayetteville, and New Bern national cemeteries. He was buried in Section C, Grave 762.

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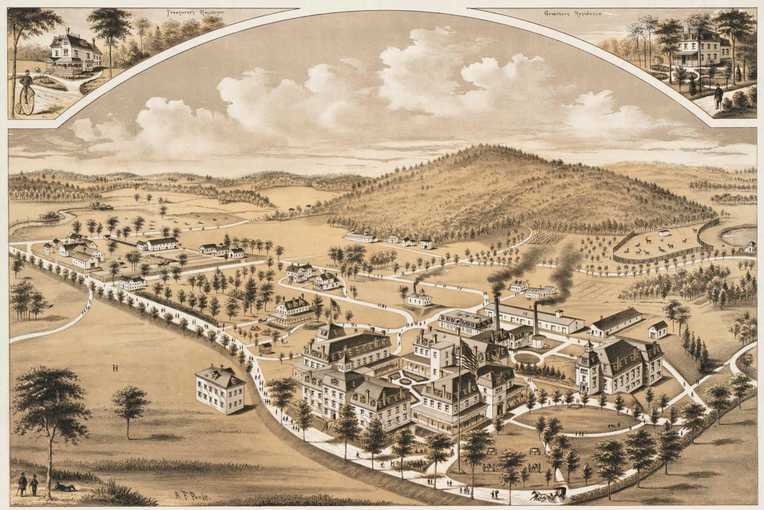
TOGUS NATIONAL CEMETERY

National Home

The Eastern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) opened in 1866. This first and oldest National Home was established in a former resort, called Togus, in southeast Maine. In its first year, more than 250 service-disabled Civil War veterans found refuge at the Togus facility. Its average residential population grew to more than 2,000 in the early twentieth century.

By 1900, any honorably discharged U.S. soldier, sailor, or marine (who had not fought for the Confederacy) was eligible to live at a National Home if a disability or old age prevented him from supporting himself or his family. Veterans lived, worked, and received medical treatment here.

The population fell significantly by 1910 as aging Civil War veterans' death rates rose. The National Homes were merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and the Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930.



Bird's-eye view of the Eastern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1885. Boston Public Library, Norman B. Leventhal Map Center.

NHDVS Cemetery

In 1867, a cemetery was established on the west side of the Togus campus. The irregular layout is a result of the rolling and rocky terrain. August Moller, a former New York volunteer soldier, died in spring 1867 and was the first veteran buried here. Memorial Day programs began in 1868 and continue to this day.

Funeral scene with bugler and honor guard firing salute, from 1910 souvenir booklet "Eastern Branch National Home for D.V.S. Maine."

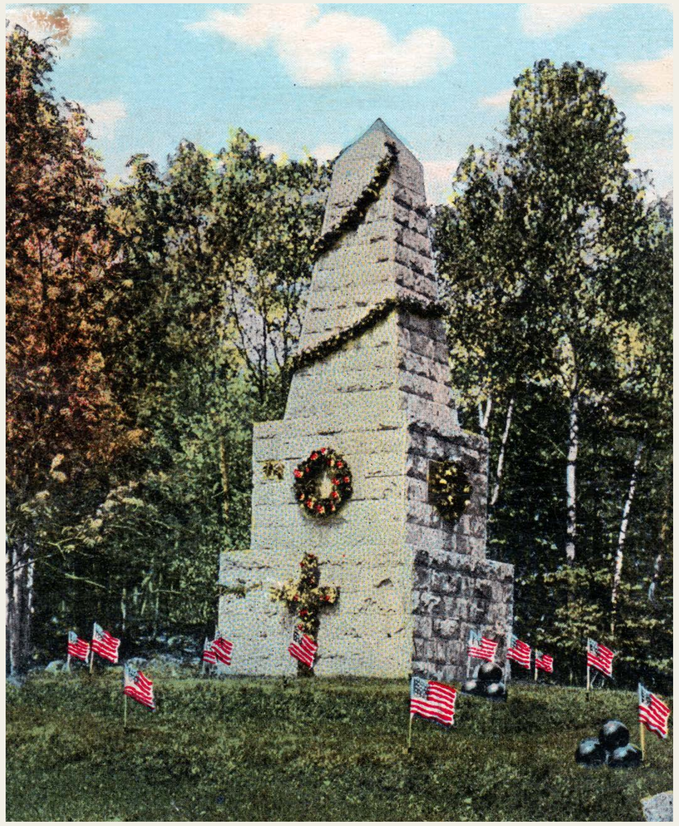
Funerals held for the veterans were solemn and formal. The U.S. flag flew at half-mast. The casket rode to the cemetery on a horse-drawn caisson, accompanied by comrades and the National Home band. A chaplain spoke at the gravesite, an honor guard fired a salute, and a bugler played "Taps." The original or West Cemetery was used until 1936 when a second, East Cemetery, opened. They became jointly known as Togus National Cemetery in 1973.

One Civil War recipient of the Medal of Honor is buried here: John Preston, landsman, U.S.S. *Oneida*. First bestowed in 1863, it is the highest award for military valor in the U.S. Armed Services. For acts above and beyond the call of duty, 1,522 individuals who served in the Civil War received the medal. Preston's commendation cites his heroic actions during the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864. He died at Togus in 1885 (Section H, Grave 456).

Constructed by Veterans

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument was designed and built by Togus residents. The 30-foot-tall granite-block obelisk was dedicated in 1889.

During a major restoration project, a time capsule containing NHDVS annual reports, newspapers, and photographs was discovered in the monument. A new time capsule was placed under the pyramidal capstone when the monument was rededicated in September 2010.



Postcard view of Soldiers and Sailors Monument, c. 1913. National Cemetery Administration.

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UNION CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

The Battle of Westport

In August 1864, Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price led an expedition from Arkansas into Missouri. The raid had several objectives: to capture St. Louis, divert Union manpower from the East, recruit Missourians for the Confederates, and obtain military supplies. The raid went badly. St. Louis and Jefferson City were well defended, so Price decided to capture Kansas City. On October 23, Price's troops assaulted a strong Union defensive position held by Maj. Gen. Samuel Curtis at Westport, across the river from Kansas City. The Confederates retreated after a four-hour battle, leaving some 1,500 dead and wounded on the field.

Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, C.S.A. Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Caring for the Wounded

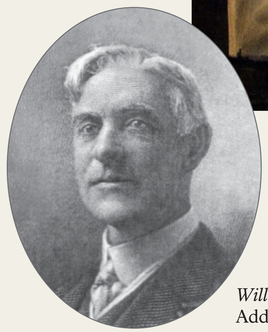
After the battle, Westport buildings were pressed into service as hospitals, including Curtis' headquarters, the Harris House hotel. A local newspaper praised Kansas City women for their tireless efforts in caring for the wounded. A Westport hospital reported eighteen wounded Confederates; four had died and it was feared more would follow. The number of Confederates who died following the Battle of Westport is unknown. A number of wounded were captured, treated, and died in area hospitals. Fifteen were reportedly buried in the Kansas City Cemetery.

The Confederate Monument

In 1908, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead began documenting the burials in Kansas City and learned that the Kansas City Cemetery no longer existed. The Confederate remains had been moved to Union Cemetery in the 1870s, and the cemetery records had been lost in a fire. It was not possible to determine where the dead might have been reinterred.

The contractor's concept for the Union Confederate Monument, c. 1911. National Archives and Records Administration.

William P. Boreland, a U.S. Congressman from Missouri, worked with the Commission and cemetery officials to have a plot deeded to the U.S. government for the placement of a memorial to the fifteen Confederate soldiers who died in Kansas City. In 1911, the Commission erected a simple obelisk with bronze dedication plaques. That October, the mayor of Kansas City presided over the unveiling, which included Union and Confederate dignitaries. Judge John B. Stone, a former Confederate soldier, praised the federal government saying, "We are proud to honor a government broad enough and generous enough to erect a monument as this to their defeated enemies."



William Boreland. Memorial Addresses, *1922.*

Toward Reconciliation

On May 30, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic decorated Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed:

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North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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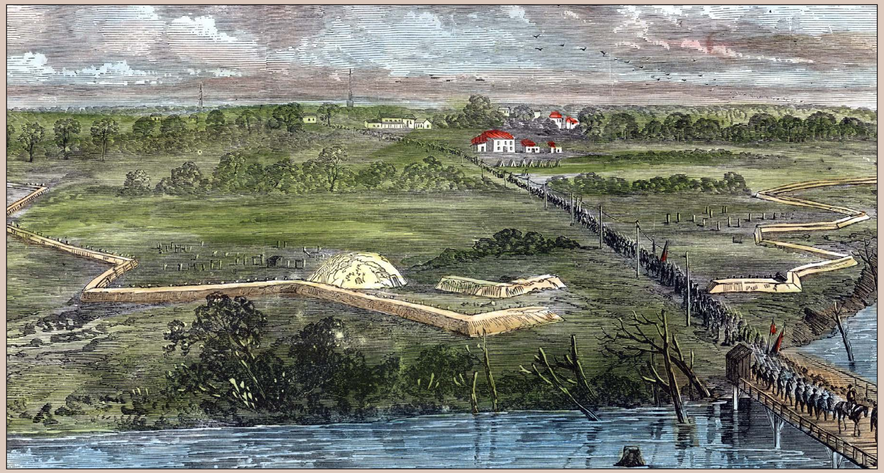
WILMINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Civil War Wilmington

Wilmington was a minor Atlantic port when the Civil War started and the U.S. Navy did little to secure it. In fall 1862, the Confederate Ordnance Bureau designated it as the port of entry for its blockade runners. At night these vessels would steal into port, eluding the Union Navy. Wilmington gained importance as Union blockades shut off trade with other southern ports including Charleston, South Carolina. By July 1863, it was the most important port in the Confederate supply network. Blockade runners made more than 300 round-trips between the city and Caribbean ports to exchange cotton for military supplies.



Union troops march through Wilmington fortifications after the city fell, March 1865. Frank Leslie's Our Soldier in the Civil War (*1884*).

Strong Confederate defenses protected Wilmington. Forts Fisher and Caswell at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, and a series of forts along its banks guarded the sea approach. Fortifications encircling the city protected the land approach. Fort Fisher, the largest of Wilmington's defenses, protected New Inlet—the preferred route of blockade runners. A combined Union land-and-sea assault took Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865. The Union victory closed the port, and the next month Confederate troops abandoned the city completely.

Postcard view showing the rostrum constructed in 1887 with an open iron roof, c. 1905. Courtesy of Robert Fales Collection, New Hanover County Public Library.

National Cemetery

The U.S. Army Quartermaster General's Office established Wilmington National Cemetery in 1867 on 5 acres purchased from a private citizen. By 1874, the remains of 2,060 Union dead were reinterred here from Fayetteville, Fort Fisher, Fort Johnson, Wilmington, and other North Carolina locales. The 701 known dead represented twenty states.

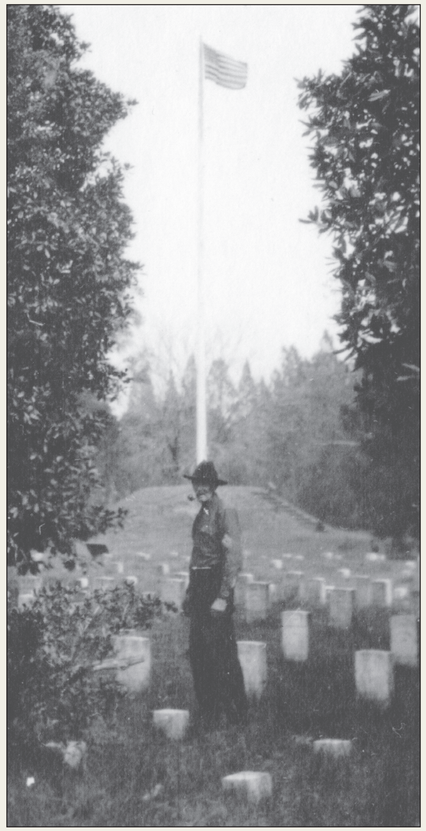
In addition, 557 U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) lie here. Most are buried in the northwest corner of the cemetery.

In March 1863, the federal government had begun to actively recruit black men for the Union Army. A few months later, the War Department created the Bureau of United States Colored Troops. USCT regiments fought in battles and engagements from Virginia to Texas.

Superintendents

An 1867 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage each national cemetery. To qualify for the position, an individual must have been an army enlisted man disabled in service. A later change to the law loosened these restrictions. Matthew Dillingham, formerly a sergeant in the 6th U.S. Infantry, was appointed to the Wilmington post in October 1867.

In the 1870s, the army built a stone lodge for the superintendent and his family. The cemetery was also enclosed by a brick wall. The current Dutch Revival-style lodge replaced the original lodge in 1934.



Superintendent John S. Hall in the cemetery, 1921. National Archives and Records Administration.

WINCHESTER NATIONAL CEMETERY

Third Battle of Winchester, September 19, 1864. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, *1888.*

Six Battles

Control of the Shenandoah Valley was essential for the Confederacy. Six major battles were fought in Winchester and nearby locations.

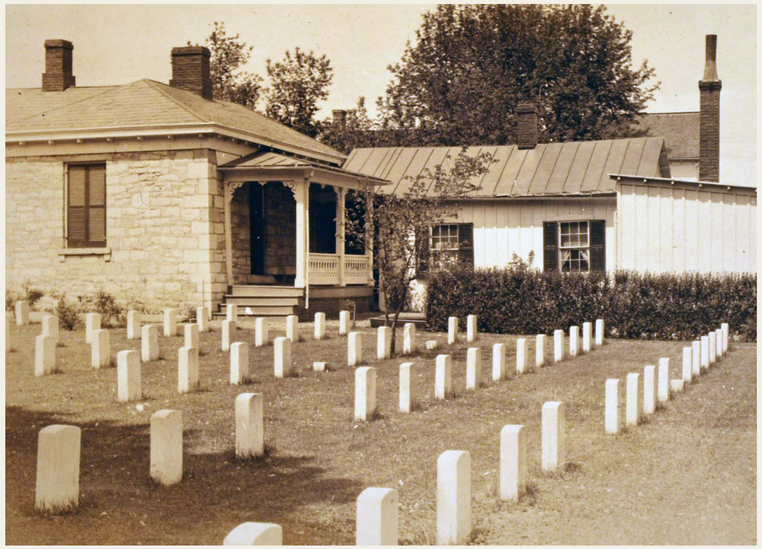
At the First Battle of Kernstown on March 23, 1862, Union Col. Nathan Kimball defeated Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. On May 25, 1862, Jackson won a decisive victory over Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks at the First Battle of Winchester. The Second Battle of Winchester, June 1863, was another Confederate victory.

Three more battles occurred here in 1864. On July 24, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early defeated Gen. George Crook at the Second Battle of Kernstown, and kept Crook from reinforcing Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Petersburg, Virginia. At the Third Battle of Winchester on September 19, Union Gen. Philip Sheridan defeated General Early. They met again on October 19 at the Battle of Cedar Creek. Sheridan rallied his troops and drove Confederates from the valley. It was the last major engagement in the area.

National Cemetery

Winchester National Cemetery was established in 1866 on the site of the Third Battle of Winchester. Soon after the federal government created the 5-acre cemetery, remains were moved here from the battlefields at Winchester, New Market, Front Royal, Snicker's Gap, Harpers Ferry, Martinsburg, Romney, and other nearby places.

Though approximately half of the 4,440 remains buried here were unknown, when possible they were placed in sections designated for particular states.



The 1871 superintendent's lodge before a second story was added, c. 1905. National Archives and Records Administration.

By law, the secretary of war appointed a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the cemetery. To qualify for the position, an individual must have been an army enlisted man disabled in service. Former private Philetus Sedgwick, 125th New York Infantry, was appointed the first superintendent on October 1, 1867. He served until his death in 1874.

Monuments

The cemetery contains fourteen monuments that honor men and regiments that fought in battles in and near Winchester.

The first monument was erected in 1866 to officers and soldiers of the 14th New Hampshire who died at the Third Battle of Winchester. Many more monuments were erected in the 1880s and 1890s, some on the anniversary of this battle, September 19.

A final wave of dedications occurred in the early 1900s. In addition to New Hampshire, regiments from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Vermont, and troops of the 6th Army Corps are memorialized.

A monument dedicated to the 8th Vermont Volunteer Infantry, led by Col. Stephen Thomas during the Third Battle of Winchester, was moved from the battlefield to the cemetery in 1896 at the request of the Vermont Quartermaster General's Office. It sits among the graves of Vermont's volunteer soldiers.

Monument to the 3rd Massachusetts Cavalry, c. 1888. Four of the fourteen monuments in the cemetery honor Massachusetts soldiers. The Third Massachusetts Cavalry in the War for the Union, *1903.*

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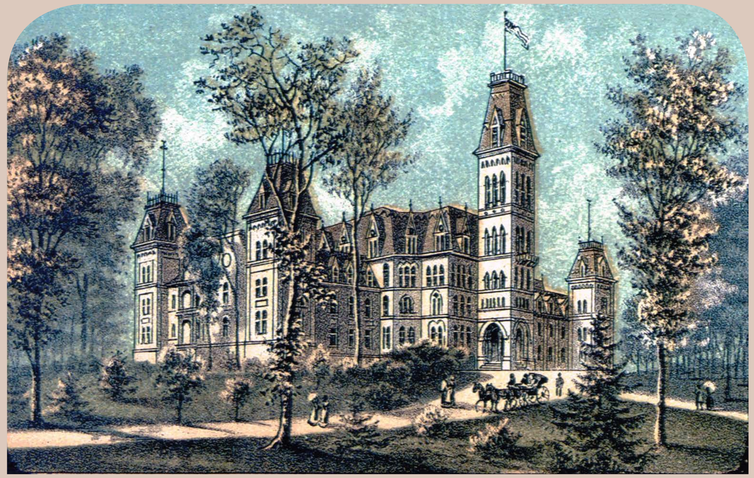
WOOD NATIONAL CEMETERY



The National Home, 1886. Library of Congress.

National Home

The Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) opened in 1867 in Milwaukee. Local architect Edward Townsend Mix designed the campus using popular architectural styles. Thomas Budd Van Horne designed the grounds with gardens, curved paths, and park space. City residents found the setting so pleasant the National Home became a popular destination to enjoy leisurely strolls and picnics.

The hospital was distinguished by innovative medical practices. It was the first to hire female nurses. A mess hall in a barracks for older residents served special-diet meals. Other NHDVS branches later adopted both practices.

The National Homes merged with the U.S. Veterans Bureau and Bureau of Pensions to form the Veterans Administration (now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1930. Today the facility continues to serve veterans as the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.

NHDVS Cemetery

Men who died at the National Home were initially buried in private cemeteries. In 1871, a cemetery was laid out on a wooded rise in the northwest corner of the campus. The design combined the formality of early national cemeteries with the picturesque landscapes found on the National Home grounds.

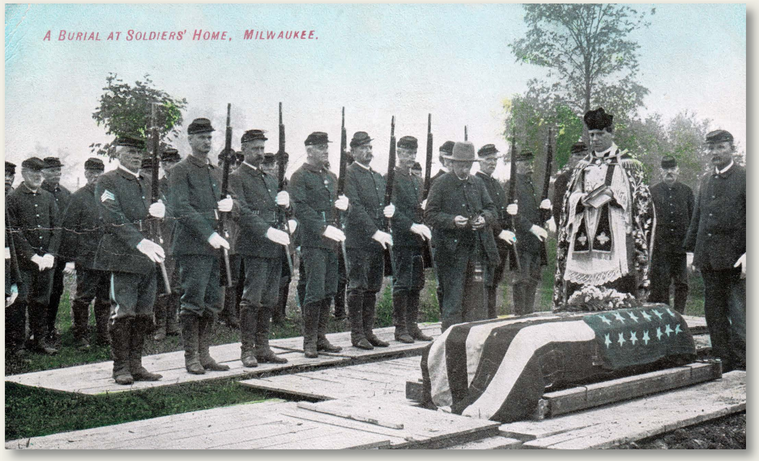
In 1937, the name was changed to Wood Cemetery after Gen. George H. Wood, the last NHDVS Home Board of Managers president. It became a national cemetery in 1973. The cemetery is part of the Northwestern Branch, NHDVS, National Historic Landmark district, designated in 2011.

Civil War Monument

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association of the home funded this monument. It was dedicated in 1903.

Joseph Shaver Granite & Marble of Milwaukee constructed the 46-foot-tall shaft of rough-cut New Hampshire granite. A Union soldier wearing a great coat stands at parade rest at the top.

Early twentieth-century photograph, Soldiers and Sailors Monument. National Cemetery Administration.



Postcard view of a burial at the National Home, c. 1908. National Cemetery Administration.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Five Civil War Medal of Honor recipients are buried or memorialized here.

Ordinary Seaman James K. L. Duncan, for gallantry aboard the U.S.S. *Fort Hindman* during an engagement near Harrisonburg, Louisiana, March 2, 1864 (Section 19, Grave 41).

Pvt. Milton Matthews, 61st Pennsylvania Infantry, captured the 7th Tennessee Infantry flag at the Battle of Petersburg, Virginia, April 2, 1865 (Section 11, Grave 61).

Boatswain's Mate Michael McCormick, for gallantry aboard the U.S.S. *Signal* during the Red River Campaign, Louisiana, May 5, 1864 (Section MA, Grave 10A).

Corp. Winthrop D. Putnam, 77th Illinois Infantry, for bravery at Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 22, 1863 (Section 16, Grave 109).

Pvt. Lewis A. Rounds, 8th Ohio Infantry, captured an enemy flag at the Battle of Spotsylvania, Virginia, May 12, 1864 (Section 20, Grave 256).

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WOODLAND SOLDIERS' LOT

Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War *(1910).*

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

Cleveland at War

The U.S. Army established six recruiting and training camps in Cleveland, Ohio. Camp Cleveland, located in what is now the East Tremont area, was the largest. It opened July 1862 and operated until October 1865. More than 15,000 Union soldiers trained at the camp.

Troops also mustered in at other city facilities—camps Brown, Taylor, Tod, Wade, and Wood—in the first year of the war. Approximately 5 percent of Union soldiers from Ohio mustered in at Cleveland, forming infantry and cavalry regiments, artillery batteries, and several companies of sharpshooters.

City factories were converted to manufacture uniforms, blankets, leather goods, and rifle barrels. Citizens donated bedding and clothing, medical supplies, food, and other items to the Cleveland Soldiers' Aid Society for distribution to Union soldiers. A U.S. General Hospital opened near Camp Cleveland in January 1863. By July 1865, some 3,020 enlisted men and non-commissioned officers had been treated at the hospital.

Undated photograph of Camp Cleveland. Courtesy of Christopher C. Whipple.

Woodland Cemetery plan detail, 1883, with NCA property in green: Section 10, Lots 59-60 (upper left), and Section 14, Lot 48 (bottom center). Blocks inscribed with "U.S." mark lot corners. Inset: Veterans decorate soldiers' graves at Woodland for Memorial Day, c. 1920s. Courtesy of Cleveland Public Library Digital Gallery.

Soldiers' Lot

Civil War soldiers who died in Cleveland were buried in Monroe Street Cemetery, also known as West Side Cemetery. At the time, it was the only public cemetery west of the Cuyahoga River. The soldiers had been interred in "free ground"—the pauper section—mingled among civilian graves.

The 60-acre Woodland Cemetery, dedicated in June 1853, became Cleveland's main public burial ground east of the Cuyahoga River. In September 1868, the federal government purchased about 700 square feet in Section 10. The first interments here were twenty-seven Union dead removed from West Side Cemetery. A city-owned tract, Lot 48 in Section 14, contained the graves of sixteen Union soldiers. Ownership of this land was later transferred to the U.S. government.

Many Union dead are buried elsewhere in Woodland Cemetery, including private plots and Section 72. In addition, two monuments to Union regiments are located in the public cemetery.

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WOODLAWN NATIONAL CEMETERY

Elmira Military Depot

On April 15, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for volunteers to put down the Confederate rebellion. Three days later, New York Gov. Edwin G. Morgan appealed for 13,280 troops to fill the state's quota of soldiers. He also announced that military bases would be established at New York City, Albany, and Elmira.

Located on two railroad lines and a canal, Elmira was the perfect rendezvous point for enlistees from upstate New York. Between 1861 and 1863, more than 20,000 men passed through the city on their way to the front. All three units of the army—infantry, artillery, and cavalry—were mustered in and trained at Elmira.

The 8th New York Militia band, some of the 20,000 men who mustered in at Elmira, c. 1861. Library of Congress.

Various buildings in town were leased to house recruits and store supplies. Later, officials acquired land in four Elmira locales, and established camps with barracks, officers' quarters, kitchens, and mess halls. Two of these camps were eventually closed. In summer 1864, Camp Rathbun or Barracks No. 3, located between Water Street and the Chemung River, became Elmira Prison Camp. Prison guards were housed in tents and barracks outside the west wall of the prison. Arnot Barracks, or Barracks No. 1, continued to house recruits and drafted men for the duration of the war.

National Cemetery

An 1871 Quartermaster Department inspection reported that 119 Union soldiers and 2,982 Confederate prisoners were buried in the private Woodlawn Cemetery. The graves of nine more Union dead were acknowledged here later. Most had died at Elmira General Hospital.

In 1874, through the efforts of Congressman H. Boardman Smith of Elmira, the government lot in Woodlawn Cemetery was designated Woodlawn National Cemetery. The Union graves, at the north end of the cemetery, were marked with marble headstones.

Smith also wanted the War Department to mark Confederate graves, but it refused on the basis it lacked the authority. These graves remained unmarked until 1908 when the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead completed installation of the distinctive pointed-top headstones.

Woodlawn National Cemetery, c. 1933. National Archives and Records Administration.

Shohola Monument, 1912. National Archives and Records Administration.

Disaster: Shohola Monument

On July 15, 1864, a train bound for Elmira carrying Confederate prisoners and their Union guards departed Camp Lookout, Maryland. As it rounded a curve near Shohola, Pennsylvania, it rammed a coal train head-on. A telegraph operator had mistakenly put both trains on the same track.

Forty-nine prisoners and seventeen guards died. Railroad employees and Confederate prisoners buried them in a mass grave near the accident site. In 1911, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead exhumed the remains and reburied them in Woodlawn National Cemetery. The victims' names were inscribed on a single monument installed the next year—Union on one side, Confederate on the other.

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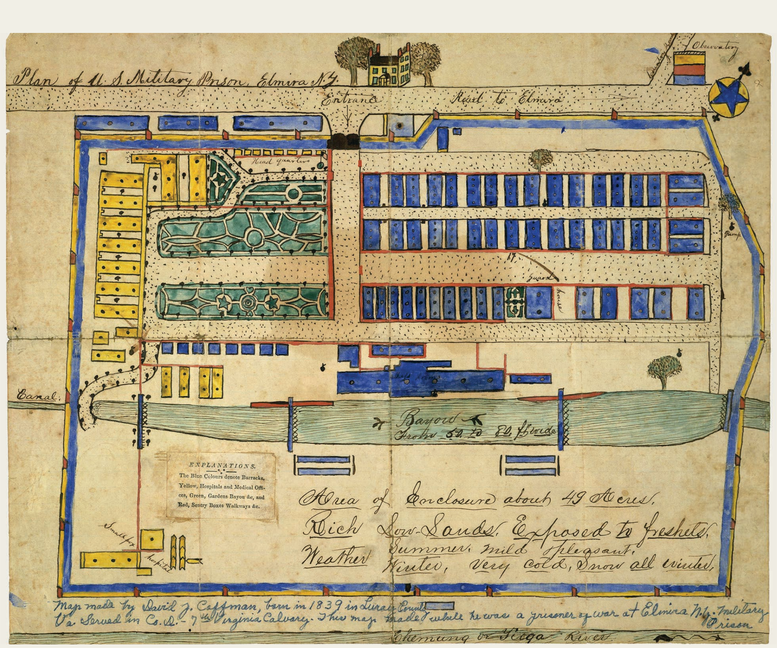
CONFEDERATE BURIALS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Elmira Prison Camp

Overcrowding at the military prison at Point Lookout, Maryland, led the U.S. Army to establish Elmira Military Prison in May 1864. Elmira, New York, initially a rendezvous point for enlisting Union soldiers, had barracks, hospitals, storehouses and stables. The first prisoners arrived on July 6, and by fall 1864, more than 9,000 prisoners occupied Elmira. Most lived in small canvas tents, as barracks would not be completed until New Year's Day 1865, too late for many prisoners.

More than 12,000 prisoners passed through the gates of the prison during the year it operated. Almost 3,000 men died, rendering Elmira's mortality rate the highest of any Union military prison. Most of the deaths were attributed to the harsh winter of 1864-1865.



Plan by Pvt. David J. Coffman, Co. D, 7th Virginia Cavalry, drawn while incarcerated at the U.S. military prison at Elmira, c. 1864. Library of Congress.

Wooden headboards mark the graves, c. 1875. National Archives and Records Administration.

The Cemetery

Almost immediately, the U.S. Army leased a half acre of land from Woodlawn Cemetery for the interment of Confederate prisoners and Union soldiers. The prison commandant hired John W. Jones, an escaped slave and caretaker of Woodlawn Cemetery, to bury the Confederates. When a prisoner died, his body was taken to the "dead house" and placed in a coffin. His name, rank, company, regiment, date of death, and grave number were written on the lid. At the cemetery, the coffin was placed in a trench and covered. Wooden headboards, painted with the information copied from the coffin lid, marked each grave. On a single day, Jones buried forty-eight men; he kept records on every burial.

In 1874, the federal government purchased two acres containing the graves of Union and Confederate dead to establish Woodlawn National Cemetery. The Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead visited the cemetery in 1906. The Commission clerk spent a month documenting prison burials and wrote to Southern states asking for further information. Finally, a list of more than 2,000 names was compiled. In 1908, the Commission placed Confederate-style headstones inscribed with the deceased's name and regiment on the graves.

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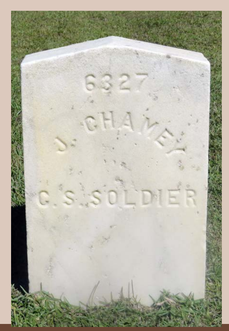

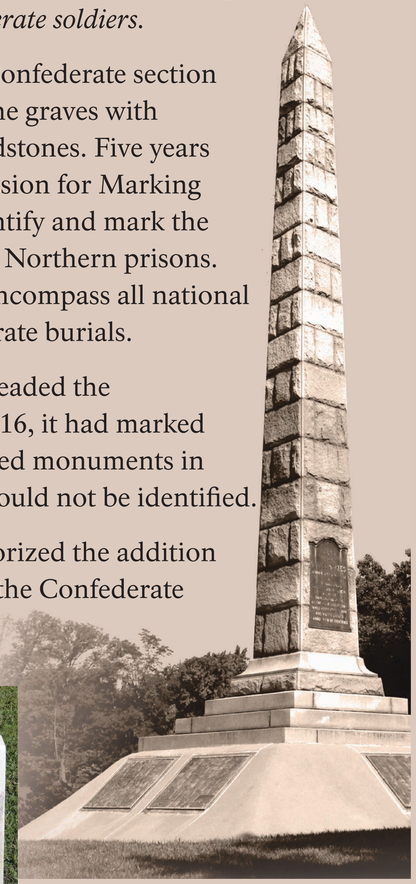

North Alton Confederate Cemetery Monument, 1909, Alton, Ill.

Original Commission headstone (left) and headstone with Southern Cross of Honor (right).

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WOODLAWN CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Confederate prisoners at Fort Donelson, The American Soldier in the Civil War, *1895.*

The Confederate Prisoners

Fort Donelson, a Confederate stronghold on the Cumberland River west of Clarksville, Tennessee, surrendered on February 16, 1862. Suddenly, the Union Army needed to house 15,000 Confederate prisoners. Several training camps, including Camp Morton in Indianapolis, became prison facilities almost overnight.

A day or two after the surrender, a train pulled into the Terre Haute depot. It carried about 300 Confederate prisoners bound for Camp Morton. Col. Bernard F. Mullen's 61st Indiana Infantry marched the prisoners to an old pork-packing building. Colonel Mullen reported he had 279 prisoners. By mid-March, most had been sent to Indianapolis, forty-one were hospitalized in Terre Haute, and seven had died.

Woodlawn Cemetery

Eleven Confederate prisoners died in Terre Haute and were buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. Undertaker Isaac Ball recalled, "[The] Colonel commanding the regiment that was guarding them came to me and told me to bury them in a plain coffin with an outside box and use a hearse for transporting to the cemetery and to use a guard of U.S. soldiers as an escort."

In summer 1907, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead traveled to Terre Haute and discovered the cemetery records had burned. Mr. Ball told L. Frank Nye, Commission clerk, where he had buried the prisoners but had no record of their names. Subsequently, the U.S. Army adjutant general found the records of the men's names.

The paupers' section, near the eastern edge of the cemetery, in 2009.

Officials were unable to locate the individual graves in the cemetery's paupers' section. Instead, the City of Terre Haute donated to the federal government part of Section 37 on which to erect a single monument inscribed with the eleven names. M. H. Rice of Kansas City, Missouri, completed the gray Vermont granite obelisk in 1912. In 1951, the monument was moved from its original location to its current and more prominent location.

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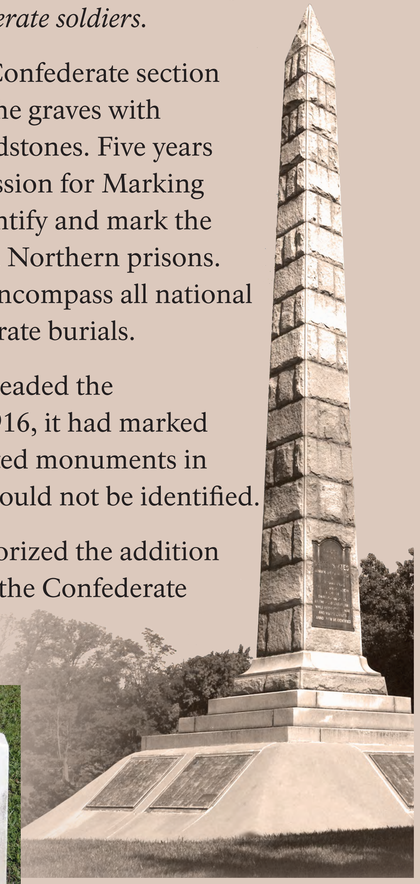

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