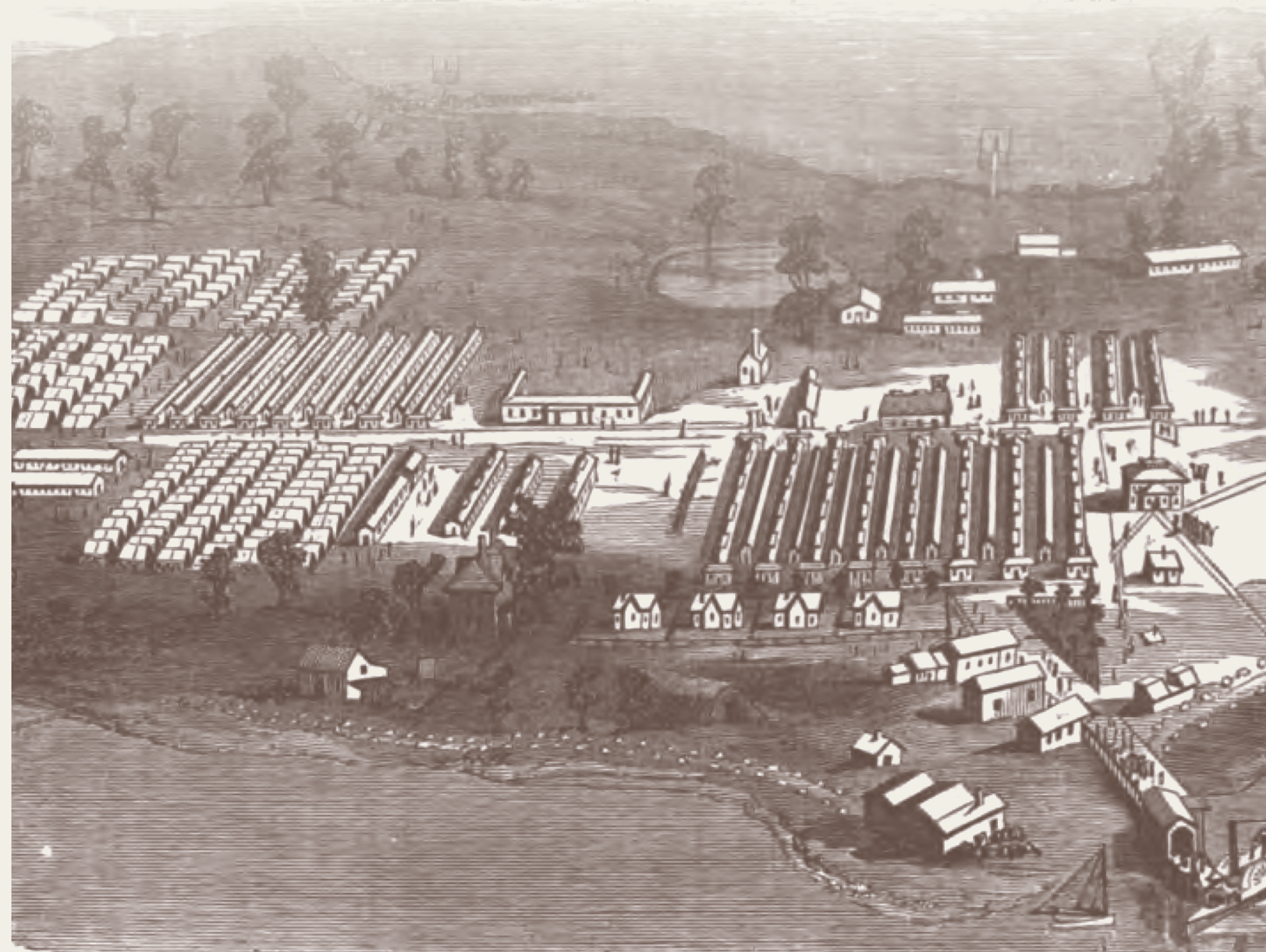


CYPRESS HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY

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.

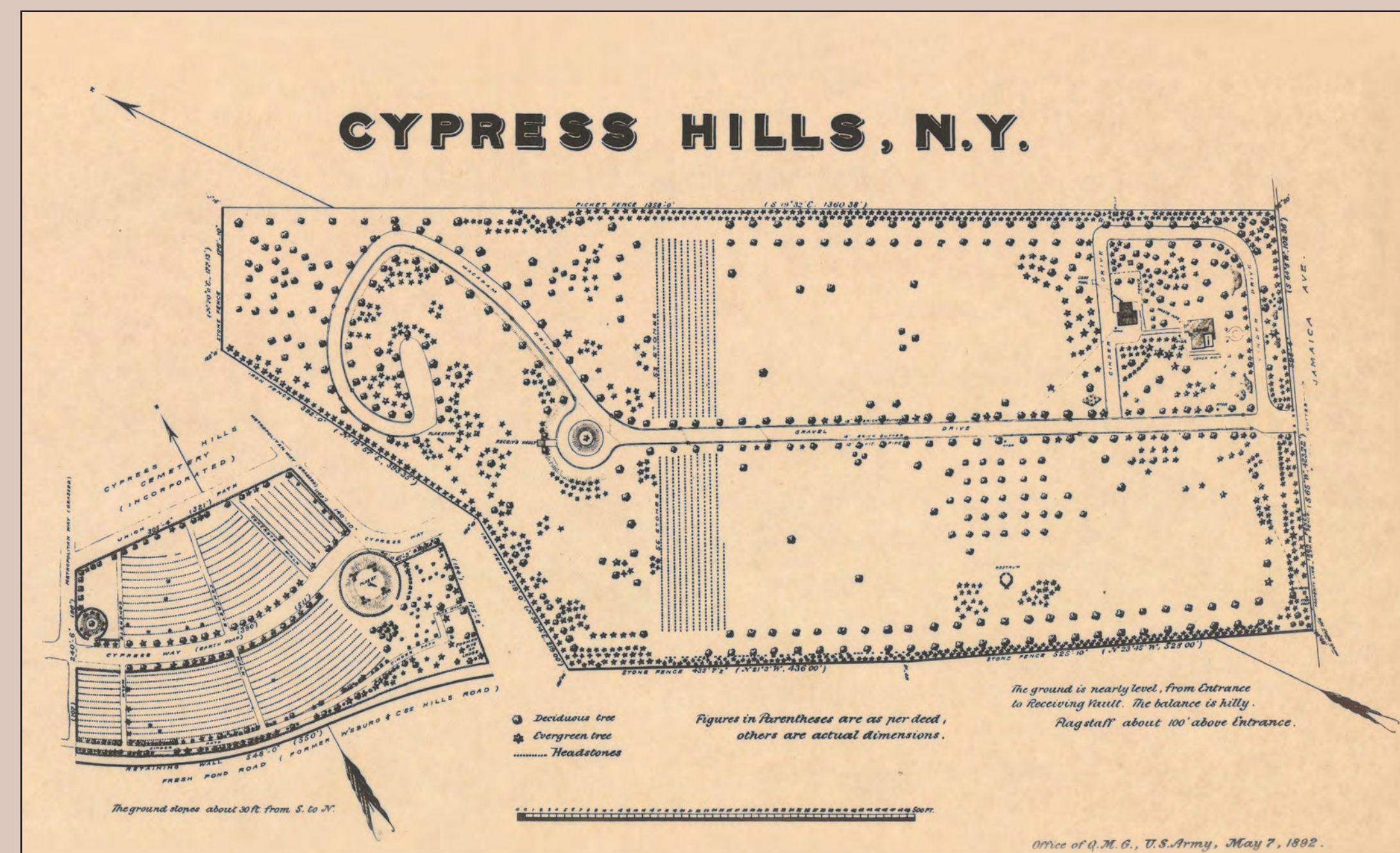


DeCamp General Hospital, c. 1864. Regulations of DeCamp General Hospital.

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).

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).



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