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.