

Glendale National Cemetery

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



Glendale National Cemetery was established in 1866, and was originally intended to be a final resting place for Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. Today, the cemetery contains the graves of more than 2000 veterans of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The Civil War soldiers buried at Glendale National Cemetery were originally buried on the nearby battlefields of Glendale and Malvern Hill, and other battlefields and camps within a fifteen mile radius.

Cemetery

After the Civil War, a grim task began. In October 1865, U. S. Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs directed officers to find Union Civil War dead and plan to reinter them in new national cemeteries. No consideration was given to the race of the soldiers – the cemeteries would be racially integrated. The task of locating and reintering Union Civil War dead was monumental.

By 1872, 74 national cemeteries around the country contained 305,492 remains, about 45 percent of whom were unknown. At first, only United States soldiers and sailors who died during the Civil War were buried in national cemeteries. In 1873, eligibility expanded to all honorably discharged veterans.

Glendale National Cemetery was established May 7, 1866, on land purchased from a local resident, Lucy C. Nelson. The cemetery name is taken from the farm located on this property, which gave its name to the battle here. Original interments were the remains of Union soldiers recovered from Malvern Hill, Frayer's Farm, Harrison's Landing and other areas in the vicinity. An inspector's report of July 26, 1871, noted a total of 1,189 interments, including 236 known and 953 unknown gravesites. The cemetery is composed of a nearly square plan, with the graves laid out in picturesque, concentric rows.



Captured Confederate cannon with original commemorative plaque

Memorialization

Of all the cemeteries I have visited, this seemed to me the saddest, the loneliest. ...As the years pass, the soldiers' sacrifice and suffering and death are forgotten...Whenever I hear the martial music and the rattle of the accoutrements...or listen to the glowing [words] of the patriotic orator, I see, as in a vision, that quiet little cemetery...sheltering the graves yonder in the wilderness. "

Clarence E. Maccartney, describing a visit to Glendale National Cemetery, 1926

The Battle of Glendale was fought in the midst of a free Black community. Thousands of men fought desperately around these crossroads on June 30, 1862, and continued the next day a few miles south at Malvern Hill. After the war, Glendale National Cemetery became a nexus for memorialization of Union war dead, especially among local African-Americans of the Gravel Hill community. Every year, Memorial Day events were held here, the local racial and political counterpoint to the prominent Confederate Memorial Day activities at Richmond's cemeteries. This continued well into the 20th Century, but gradually faded away as the Lost Cause memory of the Civil War became the national narrative.

[Memorial Day, 1893] "...Mr. Isaac Pleasants, the old colored superintendent of the Gravel Hill Sunday-School, brought his whole congregation, the children and their parents, to the number of 130, and they came accompanied by their church organ. This organ was set on the front piazza...Mr. W. H. James, Sr...was the orator of the day. He gave a very tender and feeling address, and called the attention of all his people to the great debt that his race owed to the silent heroes that are now living in the various National Cemeteries throughout the United States, and admonished them never to forget this great (and to them) holy day...The graves had a flag at each headstone...the people placed a bouquet at the head of nearly every grave." Keeper Frances H. Osborne, June 14, 1893



Most of the 20th Century soldiers buried here lived long after their service was completed. They served all over the globe in times of war and peace, and died in the America they helped to shape. Most were veterans from the Richmond area whose families stood here in times of deep grief to bury their fallen loved ones. The Civil War soldiers buried here never lived to see the results of the war for which they gave their lives. They perished far from their homes in a land once considered their own country. They were buried in haste wherever a grave could be procured. There were no funeral processions, folded flags, or even notifications to loved ones. The people left behind often never knew what became of the man they sent off to war. The many stones marked "unknown" testify to the sacrifice of soldiers who never lived to have children, to experience a long life, and to see the world they helped create. On behalf of a grateful nation, this cemetery is their monument.

More Information

Glendale National Cemetery
8301 Willis Church Road
Richmond, VA 23231
(804) 795-2031
www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/glendale.asp

The cemetery is open for visitation daily from sunrise to sunset.

Leave a tribute for any veteran interred in a National Cemetery by visiting VA's digital memorial platform at VA.gov/remember

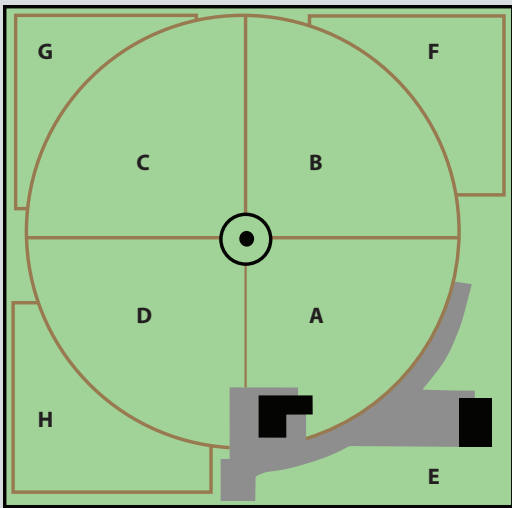


VISIT VLM

This brochure was produced through a collaboration between the National Cemetery Administration's Veterans Legacy Program and the staff at Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Glendale National Cemetery - Notable Burials

Every soldier buried in this cemetery has an important story to tell. The individuals listed below are only selected examples of the vast sweep of history and service represented in this cemetery. We invite you to take some time to visit and read about some of the soldiers buried here.



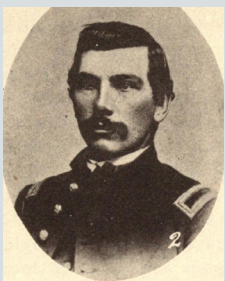
Map of Glendale National Cemetery

Ephraim & Asa Freeman: Civil War; Co. D, 83rd Pennsylvania Infantry. Ephraim Freeman was born in 1835 in Cussewago Township, Pennsylvania. His brother Asa, also known as "Acy," was born two years later. In August, 1861, both brothers enlisted in the 83rd Pennsylvania Infantry. While stationed in the defenses of Washington, Asa visited Blenheim House in Fairfax and signed his name on the wall, where visitors can still see his signature today.

The first real test of battle faced by the 83rd were the Seven Days Battles around Richmond. After suffering severe casualties at Gaines' Mill, the regiment was on the front line again at Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862. Confederates attacked the Union line there throughout the day resulting in over 5,000 casualties. The 83rd had to drive the attackers away with a bayonet charge at one point. The commander later recalled, "we felt almost overpowered from the fury and storm of shot poured into us." Some men fired over 100 rounds, and had to scrounge for more ammunition from the dead and wounded.

At some point during the fight both Asa and Ephraim were killed - two of the unit's 146 casualties. They were buried on the battlefield during the night, and the Union army withdrew from the hill the next day. After the war, their bodies were removed from the battlefield and reinterred at Glendale National Cemetery. The Freeman brothers are just two of the cemetery's 953 unknown Civil War soldiers.

PVT Lewis Baxter: Civil War; Co. I, 1st United States Colored Troops Cavalry. 18 years old at the time of his enlistment on 12/17/1863 in Norfolk, Va. 5' 6" tall. Born in in King William Co., Virginia, occupation, "servant." Killed in action at Fort Pocahontas, Virginia, 11/30/1864. Originally buried at Wilson's Landing, Va. Sec C 503



2LT John Frane: Civil War; Co. D, 39th Illinois Infantry. Born in Columbia, Pennsylvania in 1839. Enlisted in Chicago, Illinois on October 11, 1861, and quickly promoted to 1st Sergeant. He was 5'10" tall, black hair, blue eyes, dark complexion, occupation farmer. While his unit was stationed at Hilton Head, South Carolina, in 1863, he was commissioned a 2nd

Lieutenant. In February 1864, he was sent home on recruiting duty in Springfield, Illinois. This was to be the last time he saw his family. His unit went into the battle of Second Deep Bottom (just a few miles up the Darbytown Road) on August 13, 1864 with 243 men. They came out with 120. Lt. Frane was "struck dead by rebel bullets...and buried on the field where [he] gallantly charged and so bravely met [his] death." Section C, Site 99

NAME LOST, AND FOUND:

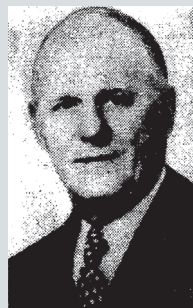
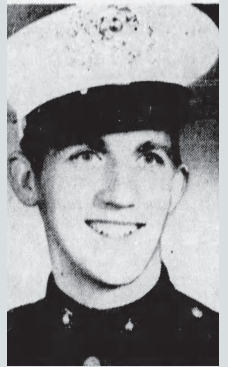
This grave illustrates the problem of identification of the dead. Robert Scott of the 28th USCT survived the war, but his comrade Uriah S. Scott did not. The early records were either flawed or could not be read properly. No one at the time had access to soldier records like we do, and could not put a proper name to the body. In some cases, now we can. This is one of them:

PVT Uriah S. Scott: Civil War; Co. C, 28th United States Colored Troops. Born to free Black parents in Randolph County, Indiana. He and his brother Wilburforce joined Indiana's only Black Civil War unit, the 28th USCT, on December 25, 1863. Another brother joined the famous 54th Massachusetts. Uriah was described at enlistment as a farmer, 18 years old, 5' 3" tall, sandy complexion, black eyes, sandy hair. On June 23, 1864, in a small skirmish at Jones' Bridge five miles east of here, he was wounded in action and died two days later in camp. Although his brother must have known where he was buried and whom he actually was, the wrong name became attached to this body by the time the first reburial efforts began the next year. All his other siblings lived into the 20th Century, but never knew that this grave held the remains of their lost brother. Section C, Site 249



CPL Michael Fleming Folland: Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam War; 199th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. Born in Richmond, but was sent to a reform school due to being "mixed-up and mischievous." He played basketball for Richmond's Thomas Jefferson High School before volunteering for the Army in 1968. Before deploying for Vietnam, he told his mother, "I'll be a hero one day, even if I'm a dead one." While on a reconnaissance mission on July 3, 1969, his unit was ambushed. Folland immediately joined a counterattack against enemy bunkers. When a grenade was lobbed into his position, he "shouted a warning to his fellow soldiers. Seeing that no one could reach the grenade and realizing that it was about to explode, Cpl. Folland, with complete disregard for his safety, threw himself on the grenade." Folland lived for 15 days before succumbing to his wounds. He had planned on getting married when he returned from Vietnam, but his fiancée could only "put the wedding ring she was to have worn into the grave with him." Folland was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic sacrifice. He was only 20 years old when he died. Section H, Site 846.

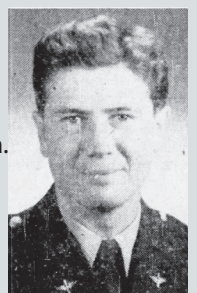
PFC John Hobbs Hubacher, Jr.: World War II; 23rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. Born in Wayne, Ohio. When he joined the Marine Corps in 1943, he was 6' 1" tall, 160 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair, light complexion, "scar on left cheek." He fought at the battles of Guadalcanal and Guam before the 3rd Marine Division shipped out for Iwo Jima. The Hubacher family received word on Monday, March 12, 1945, that their son Raymond, a Coast Guardsman on the USS Serpens, was killed when his ship exploded on January 29 near Guadalcanal. On Saturday, they received word that John had been killed in action by mortar fire at Iwo Jima on March 1. The two brothers had met briefly on Guadalcanal shortly before their deaths. Raymond is buried with his crewmates at Arlington National Cemetery, and John was repatriated and buried here in 1948. Nothing has been found to indicate why his family chose to bury him here, still so far from home. Section G, Site 690



1LT Frank Hamett Rowe: World War I; 111th Field Artillery, 29th Infantry Division. Born on April 27, 1888, in Richmond, Virginia. He went into the insurance business, and joined the Richmond Howitzers, a National Guard unit. After federal service in Mexico against Pancho Villa, he sought exemption from the draft due to a dependent wife and mother, but it was denied. The Howitzers were mobilized and deployed to France. They were en route to

the front when the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. After the war, he moved to Washington DC, where he became president of the Georgetown Realty and Insurance company. When he died in Washington, DC, aged 79, he left behind his wife, three grown children, and 11 grandchildren. Despite a lifetime of civilian service, he chose to be buried here, near other local men he had served with. Section C, Site 505

MAJ Walter Preston Gorham: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War; 404th Fighter Group (9th Air Force); 315th Troop Carrier Group. Recipient of the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters. Born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1942, he was 5' 6" tall, 125 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair, light complexion, with a "small scar underneath chin." While attending Franklin College, Indiana, he served as a Baptist minister at two local churches. He entered service in



1943 and received his pilot's wings after "two months' intensive training," and was sent to Europe to fly P-47s. He received the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster by shooting down a German plane with and photographing the parachuting pilot over Weimar, Germany, April 10, 1945. He completed 46 missions in World War II, returned to the ministry in Indianapolis, and later moved to Richmond to work as an investigator for the Retail Credit Association. He returned to service in the Air Force in the Korean War, flying out of Japan with a P-51 squadron. Afterwards, he was a flying safety officer for the 3575th Pilot Training Wing at Vance AFB, Oklahoma. He volunteered for duty with the Vietnam Military Advisory Group, but suffered a fatal heart attack March 16, 1963, in Saigon. He was 41 years old. Although he had been in near constant military service his entire adult life, he considered Richmond his home. His wife Ruth lived out her remaining years close by and joined him here in 1986. Major Gorham was only the 97th American serviceman to die in Vietnam. Over 58,000 were yet to come. Section H, Site 751