

CIVIL WAR

School Version



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CIVIL WAR

School Version

Length: ~2.5 miles

Starting Point: Section 27 (0.5 miles from Welcome Center)

Exertion Level: High

There are three types of stops on this walking tour:



HONOR stops mark the gravesites of specific individuals.



REMEMBER stops commemorate events, ideas or groups of people.



EXPLORE stops invite you to discover what this history means to you.

1	Section 27	Section 27			
2	Robert Todd Lincoln	Section 31, Grave S-13			
3	Arlington House	Section 2			
4	Section 2 Officers	Section 2			
5	Freedman's Village	Rose Garden			
6	Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns	Section 26			
7	Tanner Amphitheater	Tanner Amphitheater			
8	Montgomery Meigs	Section 1, Grave 1-EH			
9	Section 1 Officers	Section 1			
10	Section 13	Section 13			



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



Arlington National Cemetery, circa 1865. (LOC)

Arlington National Cemetery exists because of the Civil War. The start of the war in April 1861 split the nation in half. Virginia joined the rebelling Confederate States of America, while Washington, D.C., just across the Potomac River, remained the capital of the United States of America.

THE WAR & ARLINGTON

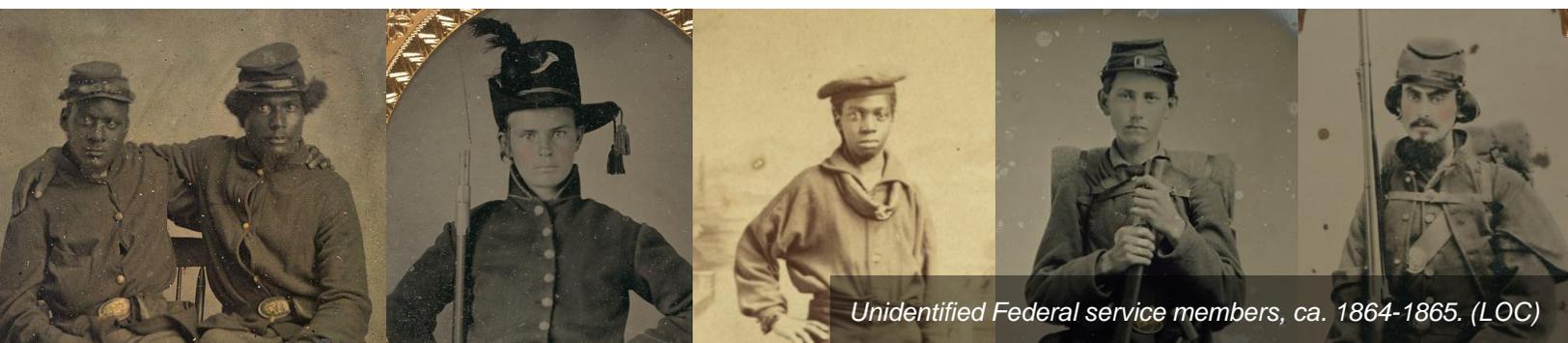
When the war broke out, Mary Custis Lee (married to U.S. Army general Robert E. Lee) owned the land that is now Arlington National Cemetery. After Virginia seceded, Lee joined the Confederate Army, and the Lee family left their estate and fled to Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy. On the morning of May 24, 1861, the U.S. Army seized the property – strategically located on high ground just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. – and built three fortifications on the property to help defend the nation’s capital. In 1863, the government also established a Freedman’s Village, one of numerous settlements created to house and provide social services for newly freed African Americans.

During the Civil War, both U.S. and Confederate ill or wounded soldiers were often transported to hospitals in the Washington, D.C. area. By the third year of the war, the increasing number of fatalities were outpacing the burial capacity of local cemeteries. To meet the demand for burial space, on May 13, 1864, the U.S. Army designated a section of the Arlington plantation for military burials – forever changing its landscape.

Arlington officially became a national cemetery on June 15, 1864, by order of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. The original cemetery was 200 acres, and it has since grown to 639 acres (as of 2023). Once it became a national cemetery, Arlington was racially segregated, like all national cemeteries at the time. It remained racially segregated until 1948, when President Harry S Truman desegregated the military. Officers and enlisted service members were also separated in different sections (with some Black officers buried in sections with white officers).

The history of the Civil War is imprinted onto the landscape of Arlington National Cemetery. Thousands of headstones mark the resting places of known and unknown service members who served and sacrificed in the war. The headstones in Section 27 (one of the cemetery’s oldest sections) tell stories of honorable service and sacrifice, as well as struggles for freedom and equality. The steady incline up to Arlington House explains why the U.S. Army first occupied this land in 1861, and the house itself serves as a reminder of the enslaved people who worked and lived on this land. The cemetery also contains numerous Civil War-era monuments and memorials, including the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns and Tanner Amphitheater, where early Decoration Day celebrations took place. Explore these stories and more on this tour.

TERMINOLOGY NOTE: During the Civil War, the U.S. Army was often referred to as the Union Army or the Northern Army. Throughout this tour, the term U.S. Army is used because the “Union Army” was the U.S. Army – the same army that Congress established in 1789 and that still exists today.



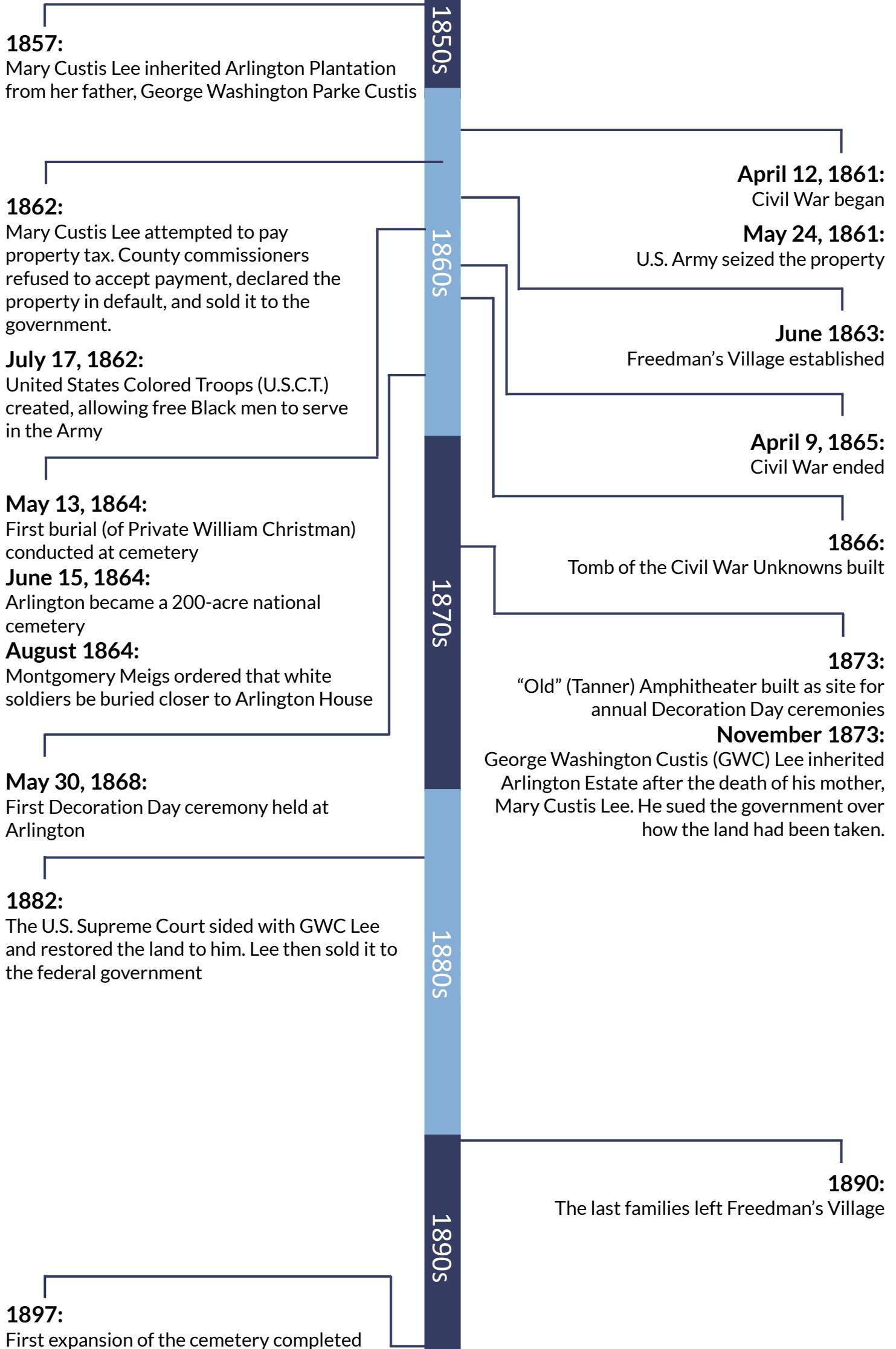
Unidentified Federal service members, ca. 1864-1865. (LOC)



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



CEMETERY TIMELINE: 1857-1897





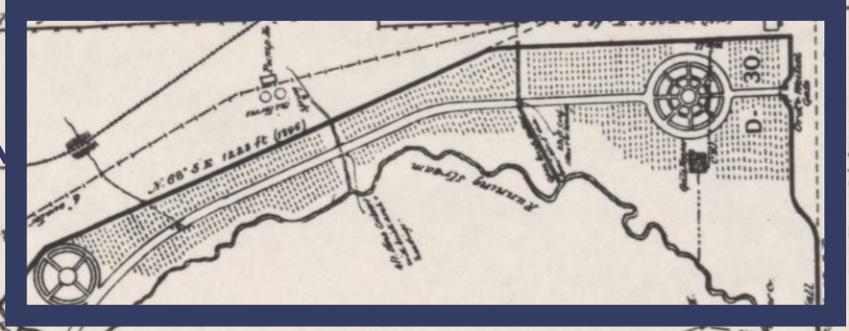
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



1901 Map of Arlington National Cemetery

Section 27

- "Lower Cemetery"
- Site of first burials at the cemetery
- Segregated section for Black military and free African American civilians

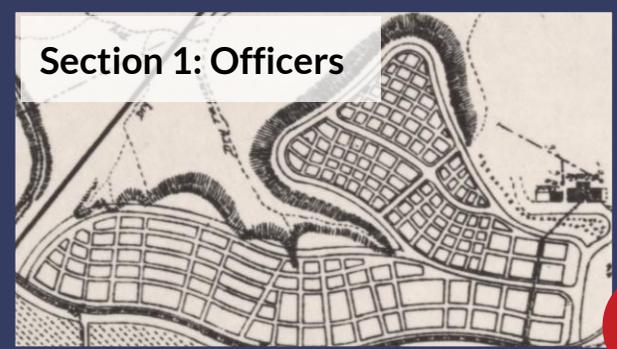


Many in the officer-only sections survived the war and chose to be buried at ANC

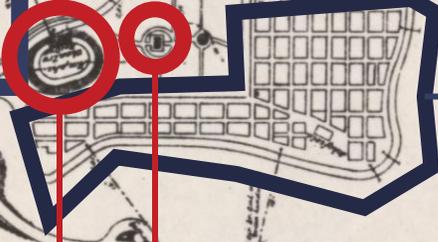
Arlington House & Slave Quarters

- Highest point on property
- House served as Army headquarters and officers' housing during the war

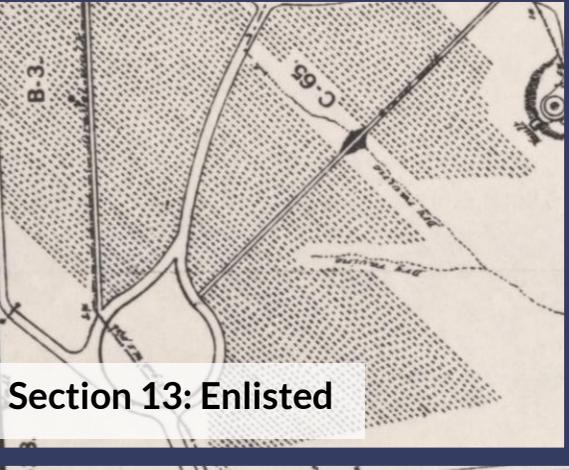
Section 1: Officers



Section 2: Officers



Section 13: Enlisted



Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns

- Contains partial remains of 2,111 unidentified soldiers
- Most remains came from the fields of Manassas, Virginia (1st and 2nd Battles of Bull Run)
- May contain both U.S. and Confederate remains

Tanner Amphitheater

- Built in 1873
- Original site for Decoration Day ceremonies
- Increased ANC's profile and prestige

Section 16: Confederate Section

- Confederate soldiers were not interred at the cemetery before 1900

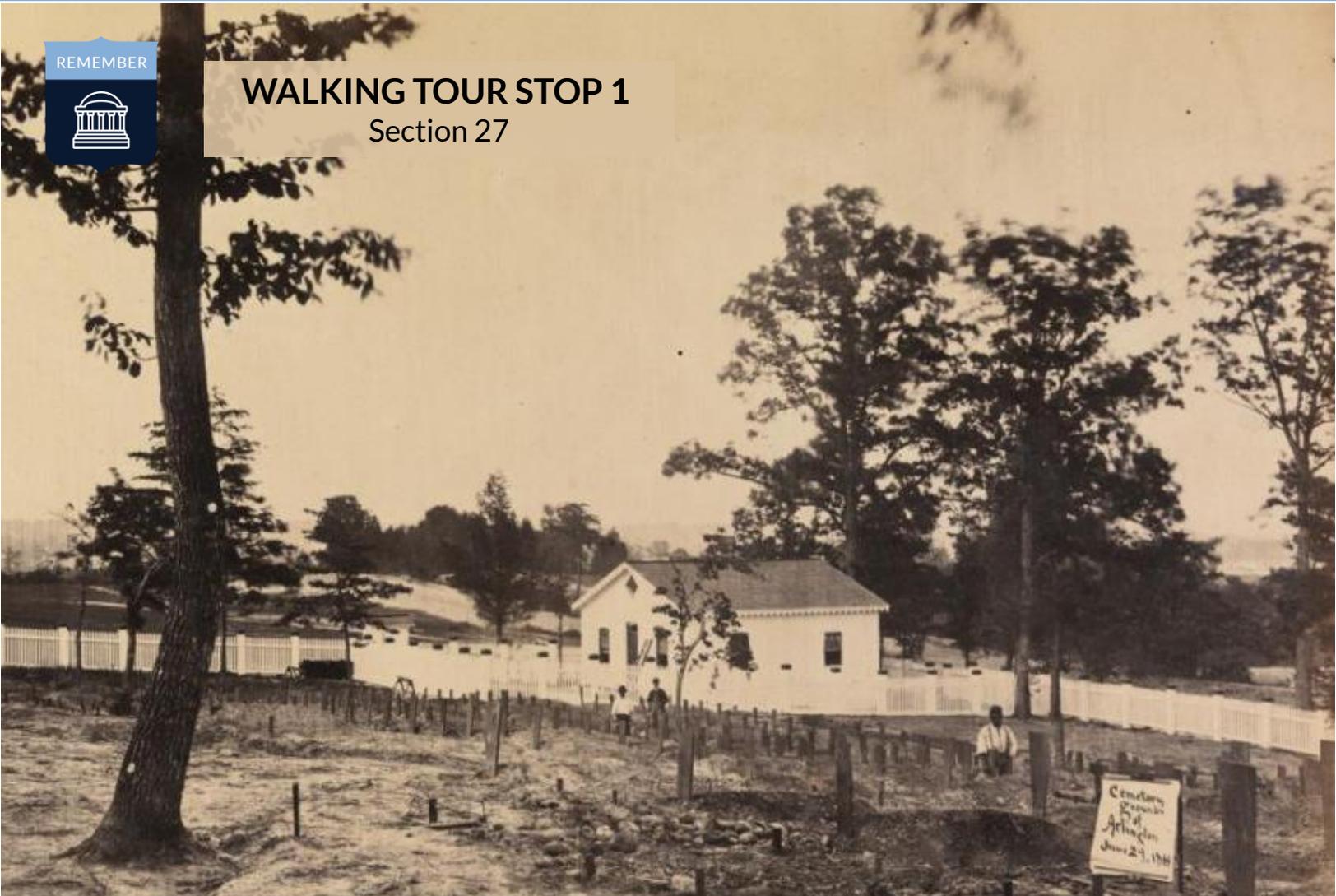
For additional background, a timeline of major events of the Civil War and short descriptions of major engagements can be found at the end of this tour.





WALKING TOUR STOP 1

Section 27



Some of the first graves in Arlington National Cemetery in what is now Section 27, June 29, 1864. (Chrysler Museum of Art/Andrew Joseph Russell)

BACKGROUND:

- Section 27 is one of the oldest sections of Arlington National Cemetery.
- The U.S. Army had occupied the property since 1861.
- On May 13, 1864, the first military burial at the cemetery was conducted here, on the northern edge of the property, hidden from the view of Arlington House.
- Existing D.C.-area national cemeteries had run out of space by 1864.

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

From the Welcome Center, turn right on Eisenhower Drive. Turn right on Custis Walk, continue until you reach the gate. Turn left onto Ord & Weitzel Drive to walk through Section 27.

The First Military Burials at Arlington

Private William Henry Christman

- Section 27, Grave 19
- First military burial
- 20-year-old farmer from Pennsylvania
- Died from rubella in a Washington, D.C. hospital on May 11, 1864
- Became the first soldier interred at Arlington on May 13

Private William H. McKinney

- Section 27, Grave 98
- First service member buried at Arlington with his family present
- 17-year-old soldier from Pennsylvania
- Died from illness at a Washington, D.C. hospital
- Became the second service member laid to rest at Arlington on May 13, 1864



SECTION 27



WALKING TOUR STOP 1.1

Section 27

William H. Brown

James H. Harris

Mostly civilian headstones

James Richmond

Mostly military headstones

Christman, McKinney, Blatt, and Reeves

SHOWN ON MAP



ENTIRE CEMETERY

The First Military Burials at Arlington, *Continued*

Private William Blatt

- Section 27, Grave 18
- First battle casualty interred at Arlington
- Seriously wounded in General Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign on May 10, 1864
- Died in a hospital three days later
- Became the third soldier and the first combat casualty interred at Arlington on May 14

Private William Reeves

- Section 27, Grave 99
- First draftee interred at Arlington
- Drafted at 19 years of age in August 1863
- Died from a gunshot wound received during the Overland Campaign

Unknowns:

- On May 15, 1864, two unknown U.S. soldiers were interred in Section 27.
- The first of nearly 5,000 unknowns to eventually be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, which include those buried at the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns (Stop 6) and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Headstone for an unknown soldier in Section 27, 2023. (ANC/Crystal Monson)



The headstones of the first four military burials at Arlington (l-r): Christman, McKinney, Blatt, Reeves, 2023. (ANC/Emily Rheault)



READING HEADSTONES



Take a look at the headstones around you. ANC is famous for rows of identical white headstones. But what do you notice here? In Section 27, the headstones are not all uniform.

- 1864: Graves were marked with wooden boards.
- However, wooden boards deteriorated quickly.
- The War Department experimented with more durable materials, such as metal and stone.
- 1873: The War Department began to replace wooden grave markers with permanent headstones at all national cemeteries.
- Since 1873, the design of government-provided headstones has changed several times.

The shape, size, and inscription on a headstone can tell us a lot about when it was added to the cemetery and who it honors.

The modern headstone design was implemented post-World War I.

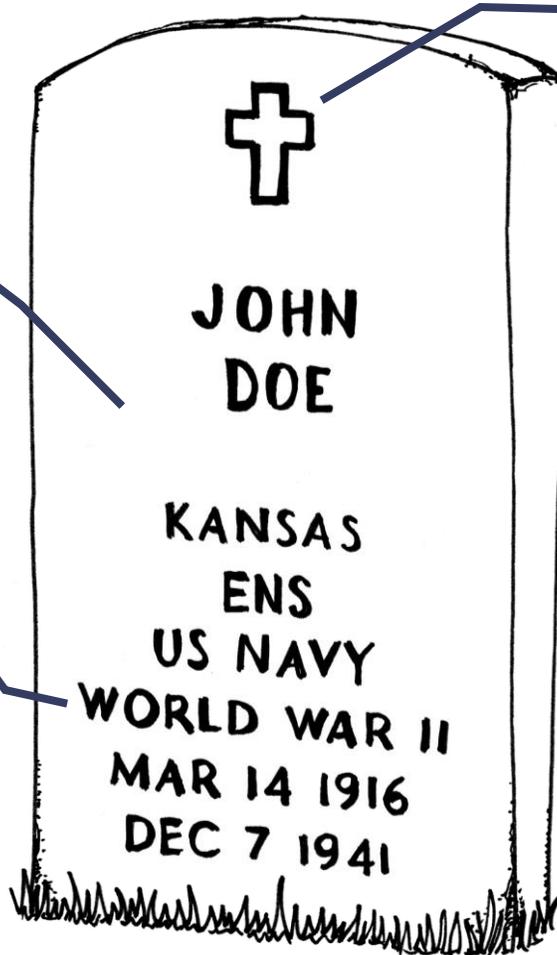
It includes standard information about the deceased person's life and service.

Typically includes:

- Name
- Rank
- Branch of service
- Date of birth
- Date of death

May also include:

- Place of enlistment
- Combat service era(s)
- Significant awards
- Term of endearment



Currently, the only symbols allowed on government-provided headstones are the Medal of Honor or an Emblem of Belief.

Custom headstones:

- From 1864 until 2017, families could either use a government-provided grave marker or purchase a custom headstone.
- Private markers came in all shapes and sizes, from simple granite slabs to ornate obelisks.
- Custom headstones may include additional information, but do not reflect service records or rank.



READING HEADSTONES



ANC staff monitors the condition of government-provided headstones and replaces those that are badly deteriorated or illegible. Current policy requires that a grave marker be replaced with one of the same type used at the time of the person's death. Prior to this policy, headstones were sometimes replaced with ones that reflected current styles, or a hybrid style. These changes in policy contributed to the variation in styles found within the section.

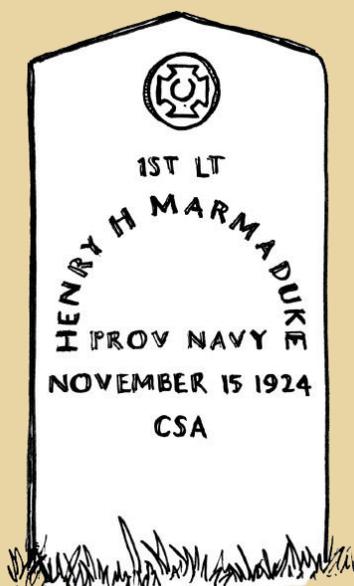
Shape and Design

- Helps identify when a person was buried at ANC
- **U.S. (Union) Civil War markers:** white marble slabs with a slightly curved top and a sunken shield carved into the front
- **Confederate Civil War markers:** white marble slabs with a pointed top and no shield
- **Unknown soldiers' markers (before 1879):** a block of marble with the grave number carved into the top

CIVIL WAR MARKERS



CONFEDERATE MARKERS



UNKNOWN MARKERS

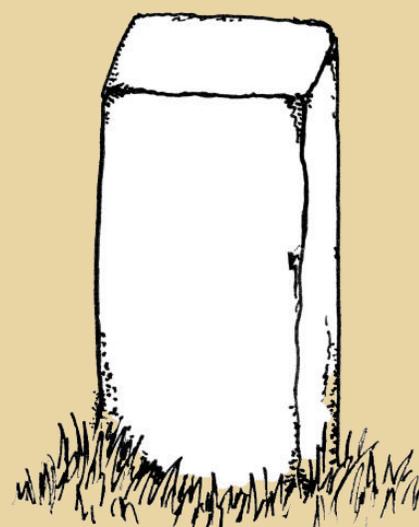


Photo Activity Ideas:

Challenge students to explore the area taking pictures. Give them an appropriate time and/or space limitation and remind them of appropriate cemetery behavior.

- How many different styles of headstones can you find in Section 27?
 - Differences can include size, shape, font, design, etc.
- What's the earliest birth you can find in the section? The latest death?



WALKING TOUR STOP 1.2

Section 27

Section 27 Beginnings:

- Originally called the “Lower Cemetery”
- From May 13 through June 1864, more than 1,000 service members were buried here
- Initially, burials were racially integrated
- Interments included white and Black service members, civilian employees of the U.S. government, and Confederate soldiers who died in Washington, D.C. area hospitals.
- When Arlington became a national cemetery in June 1864, burials were required to be racially segregated

Segregation:

- August 1864: U.S. Army Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs ordered white U.S. (Union) soldiers to be buried closer to Arlington House
 - Meigs wanted to place graves near the house to make the property unattractive to the Lee family
- Burials of African American soldiers and civilians continued in Section 27
- Burials remained segregated until 1948, when President Harry S Truman desegregated the military.
- In Section 27, you can find the graves of African American service members by looking for headstones marked Navy or “U.S.C.T.”

U.S.C.T.:

- Stands for United States Colored Troops, the Army’s official designation for Black soldiers
- Regiments in the U.S. Army composed mainly of African American soldiers (with white officers)
- Fought in the Civil War and, later, in conflicts with American Indians in the American West
- Suffered heavy casualties
- Members captured as prisoners of war (POW) often suffered serious abuse by their Confederate captors.
- U.S.C.T. soldiers and Black Navy veterans (the Navy was not racially segregated*) are also buried in Section 23.

**While the Navy was not racially segregated, Black sailors were typically given menial labor roles.*

USCT stand with rifles, ca. 1863-1866. (LOC/William Morris Smith)



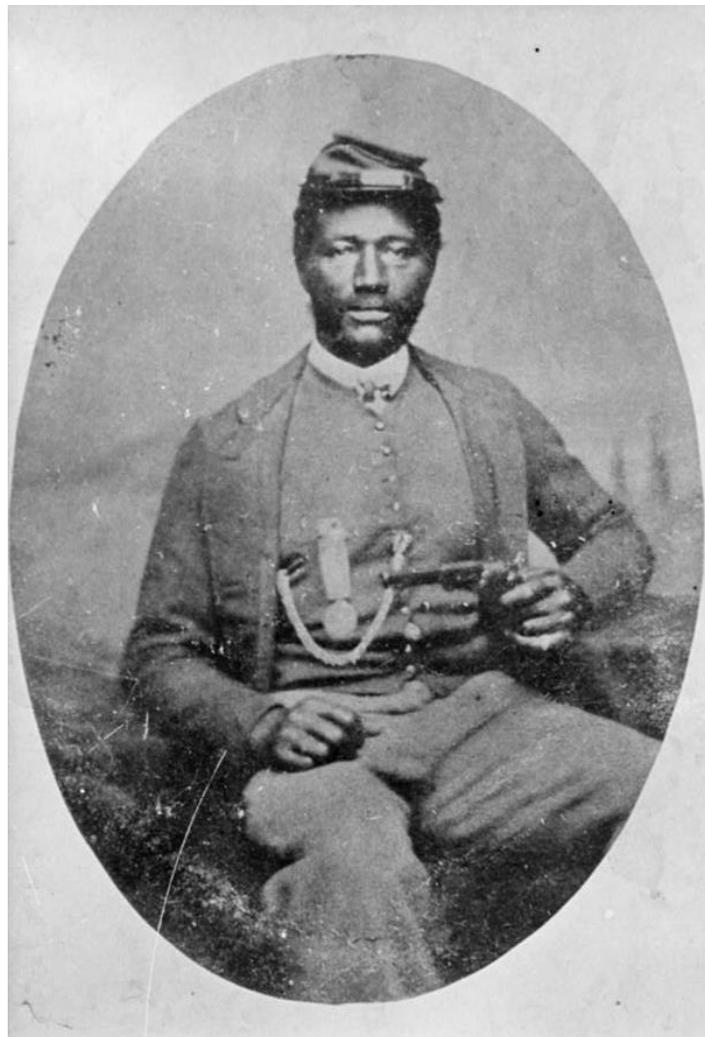


United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.)

Three Black Civil War Medal of Honor recipients are interred in Section 27:

Landsman William H. Brown, U.S. Navy (1836-1896)

- Grave 565-A
- Fought in the Battle of Mobile Bay in Alabama on August 5, 1864
- Earned the Medal of Honor for remaining “steadfast at his post and perform[ing] his duties in the powder division throughout the furious action,” despite enemy fire killing and wounding those around him
- Brown’s actions helped the U.S. Navy to inflict damage on Fort Morgan, force the Confederates to surrender the CSS Tennessee, and win the battle



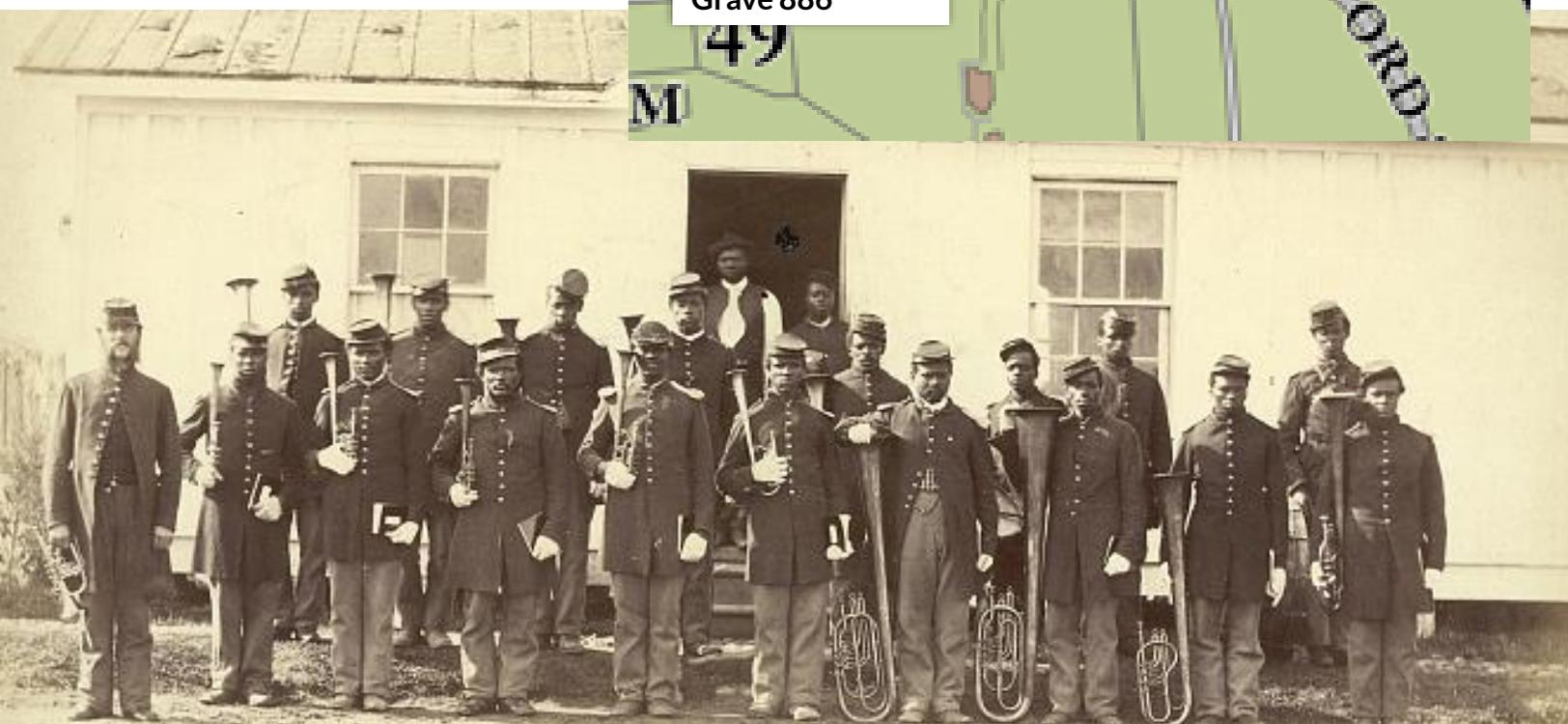
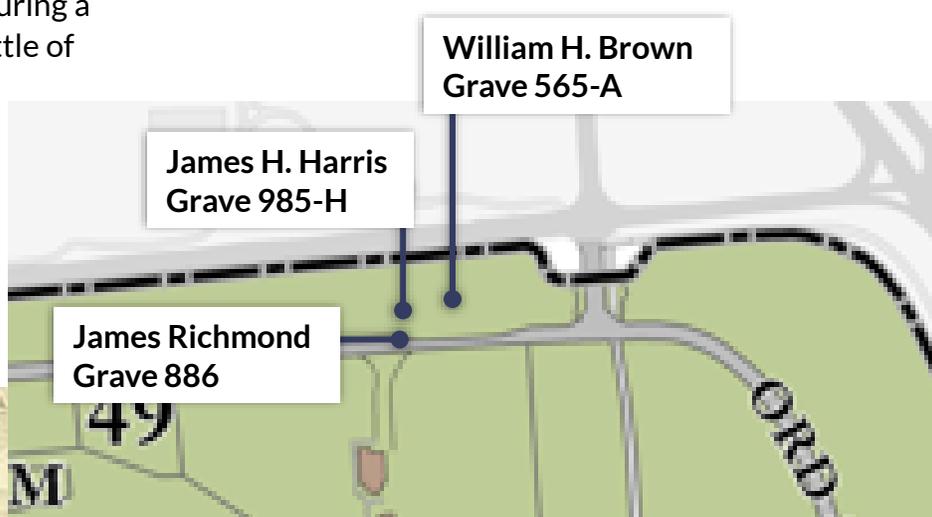
James H. Harris, ca. 1890-1910. (LOC)

Sergeant James H. Harris, U.S. Army (1828-1898)

- Grave 985-H
- Fought in the Battle of New Market Heights in Virginia on September 29, 1864
- With his regiment, fought through treacherous terrain while being barraged by enemy infantry and artillery fire, ultimately capturing the Heights
- Received the Medal of Honor for his actions, along with 13 other African American soldiers

Private James Richmond, U.S. Army (1843-1864)

- Grave 886
- Received the Medal of Honor for capturing a Confederate battle flag during the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania

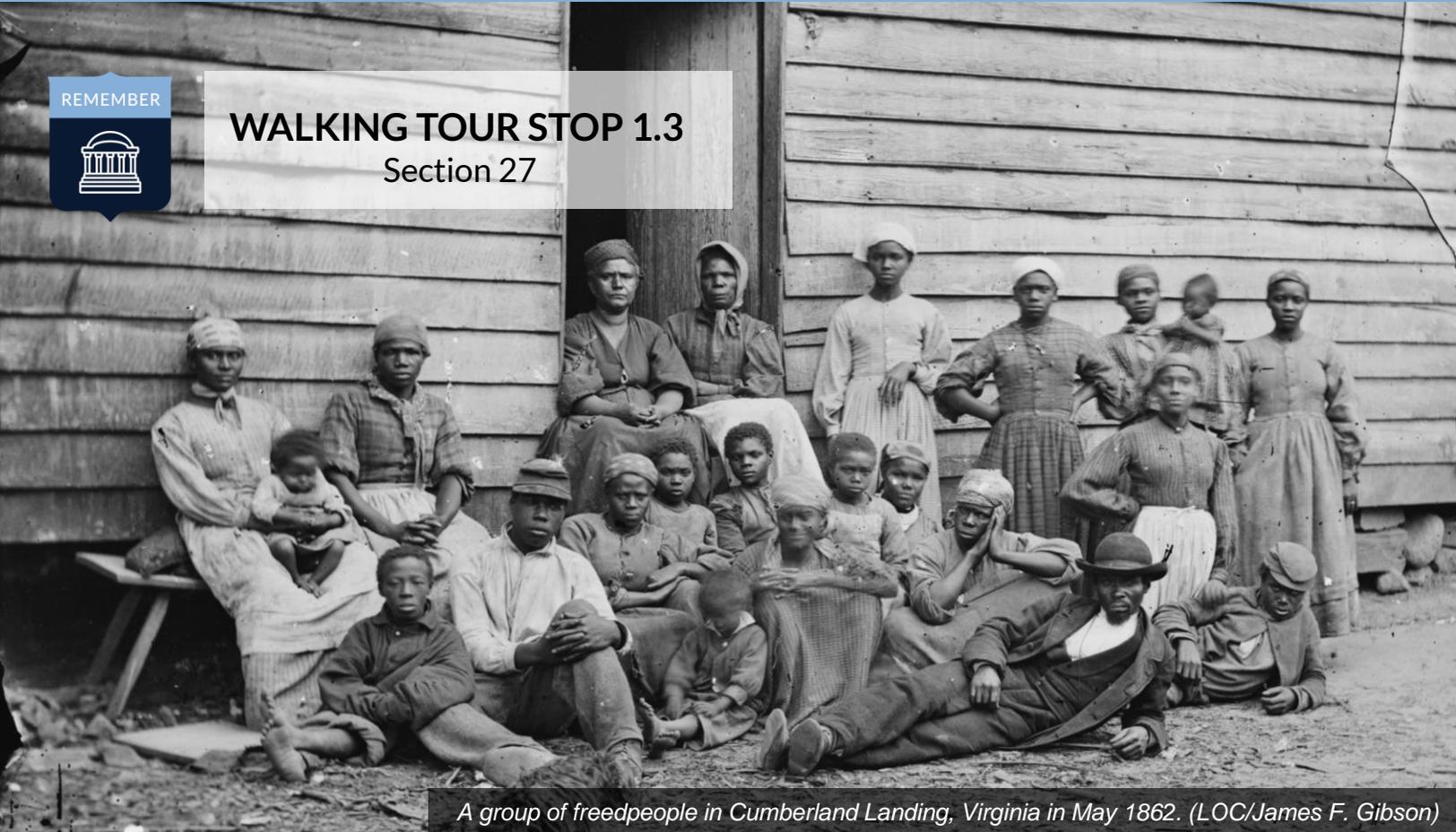


USCT 107th band at Fort Corcoran in November 1865. (LOC/William Morris Smith)

★ FREEDPEOPLE in SECTION 27 ★



WALKING TOUR STOP 1.3 Section 27



A group of freedpeople in Cumberland Landing, Virginia in May 1862. (LOC/James F. Gibson)

- More than 3,800 African American “freedpeople” are interred in Section 27
- Graves are marked “citizen” or “civilian”
- Not all of the freedpeople were formerly enslaved
- Thousands of freedpeople lived in the D.C. area, in settlements managed by the Freedmen’s Bureau
 - Freedmen’s Bureau support included providing burial assistance as needed
 - Freedpeople who lived in the region and were too poor to afford a proper burial could be buried at ANC
- 1864 to 1867: African American civilians buried in Section 27 outnumbered the number of soldiers (both white and Black) buried in the section
- Little is known about the individual lives of the freedpeople buried in Section 27
- Burial records are incomplete and may have errors:
 - Remains were sometimes moved
 - Grave markers were replaced multiple times
 - Cemetery administrators did not prioritize records management for poor civilians



An unidentified soldier with his family, ca. 1863-1865. (LOC)

What we do know:

- Records reflect where African Americans were allowed to live in and around Washington, D.C.
- Civilians in this section had not lived at the Freedman’s Village at ANC
- Individuals who were formerly enslaved tried to make new lives for themselves in the area
- Individual buried at ANC often came from families who were too poor to afford a burial in a private cemetery
- Individuals were laid to rest alongside many U.S. Army soldiers who had fought to free them



Mostly civilian headstones

Mostly military headstones

CAPTAIN ROBERT TODD LINCOLN

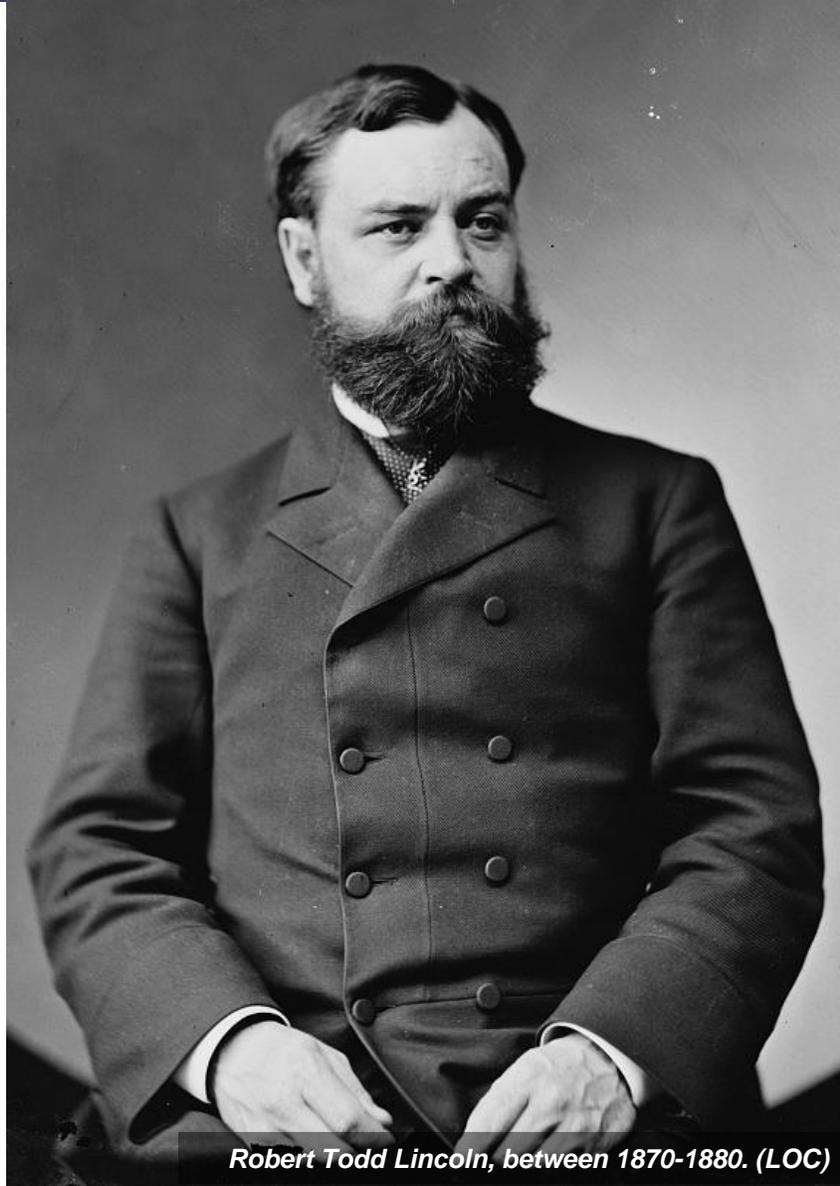


WALKING TOUR STOP 2 Section 31, Grave S-13

BIRTH: August 1, 1843, Springfield, IL

DEATH: July 26, 1926, Manchester, VT

- Only son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to live to adulthood
- Worked as a lawyer, statesman, and business executive
- Commissioned as a U.S. Army captain during the Civil War
- Served as secretary of war (1881-1885) and as U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom (1889-1893)
- Oversaw the U.S. government's official purchase of the Arlington property from the Custis-Lees in 1883



Robert Todd Lincoln, between 1870-1880. (LOC)

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

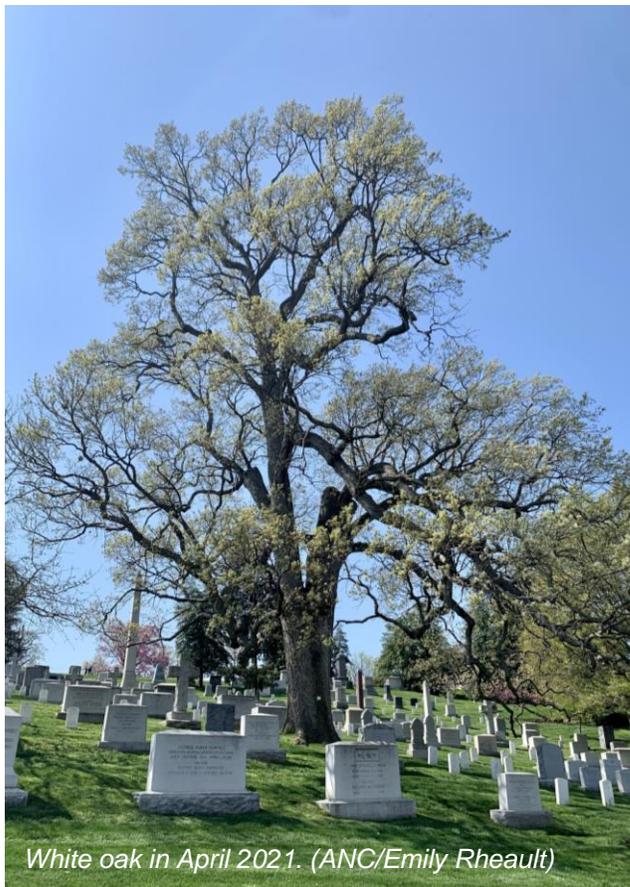
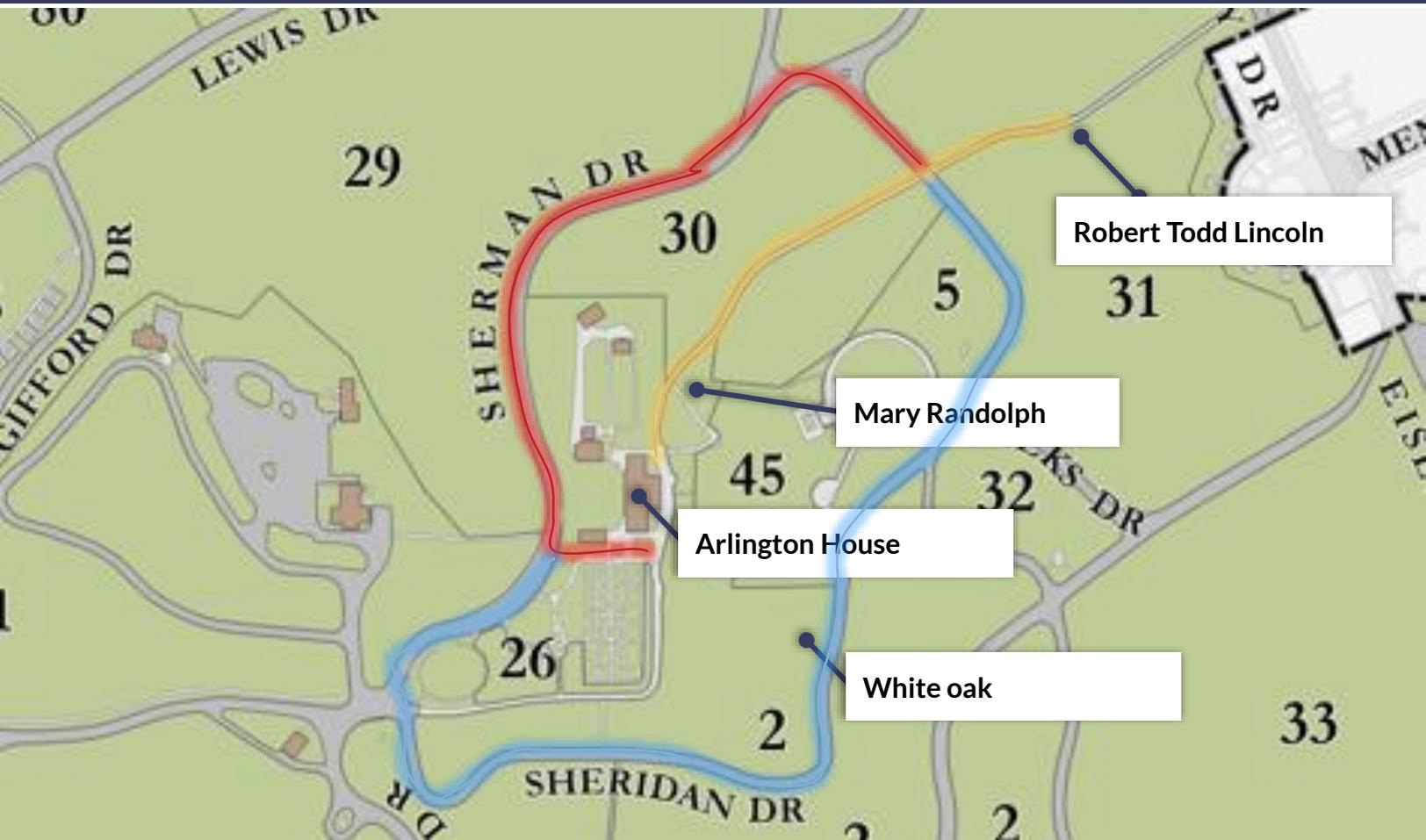
Return to Custis Walk and retrace your steps until you reach Schley Drive. Cross Schely Drive to continue on Custis Walk (staircase). Lincoln's gravesite will be on your left at the top of the hill. Note: This gravesite is not ADA accessible.



Lee, Lincoln, and the Ownership of Arlington

- U.S. Army controlled the Arlington property throughout the Civil War.
- However, the Lee-Custis family retained ownership.
- In 1862, Mary Custis Lee attempted to pay the property tax on Arlington by sending her cousin to pay.
- The commissioners:
 - Refused to accept payment from anyone but Mary Custis Lee
 - Declared the property to be in default
 - Sold it to the federal government at auction for \$26,800 (below the assessed value)
- In 1873, George Washington Custis (GWC) Lee inherited Arlington Estate after the death of his mother.
- Lee went to court because he believed that his rights as a landowner had been violated due to the way the government originally took control of the land.
- In 1882, the Supreme Court sided with GWC Lee, and restored the land to him.
- Lee then sold it to the federal government for \$150,000 (over \$4 million today).
- As secretary of war, Robert Todd Lincoln helped the U.S. government purchase the property in 1883.

WALKING TO ARLINGTON HOUSE



White oak in April 2021. (ANC/Emily Rheault)

As you walk up the hill, you will begin to see the high-ground view of Washington D.C. that made this location so important for the U.S Army to occupy throughout the Civil War.

Route 1: Continue up Custis Walk. As you cross Sheridan Drive, you will reach a long staircase. To make the climb easier, alternate which leg you step up with.

For an ADA-accessible route to the house:

Route 2: Turn right onto Sheridan and then left onto Sherman

Route 3: Turn left onto Sheridan and continue past the historic Arlington white oak (pictured below), one of the oldest trees in the cemetery. Continue on Sheridan until you reach the Tanner Amphitheater, where you will turn right onto either Sherman or Lee Drive.



Mary Randolph's grave in 2015. (ANC/Rachel Larue)

If you use Custis Walk, you will pass the grave of Mary Randolph, a relative of the Custis family and the first recorded burial on the property. Then, you can continue straight up to the house or turn left to a small overlook before continuing up to the house. If it is unoccupied by other groups, the overlook can be a good place to gather your group.



VIEW FROM ARLINGTON HOUSE



WALKING TOUR STOP 3 Arlington House



When you look at the view from Arlington House, what do you see?

The view:

- You can see:
 - Washington, D.C., the nation's capital
 - Nearly the entire city, especially in winter when there is little tree cover.
- The same was true in 1861 when the Civil War broke out.
- Whoever held control of Arlington Plantation, held control of Washington, D.C.'s defenses.
- If the Confederate Army gained control of the property, they could fire on the city's defenses and the capital city itself.

Arlington House:

- Only three miles from the White House
- Sightlines over the entire capital city
- Strategically important due to its location



Washington, D.C. from Arlington House in 1860. (LOC/Charles Bierstadt)

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

Today, Arlington House is owned and managed by the National Park Service. Take a tour of the house, former slave quarters, and gardens to learn more about the people who lived, worked, and/or were enslaved here.



VIEW FROM ARLINGTON HOUSE



Union troops on the steps of Arlington House, June 28, 1864. (LOC/Andrew J. Russell)

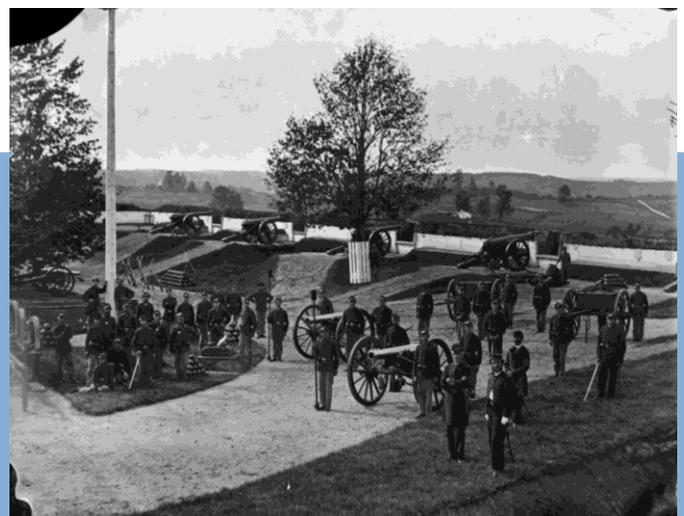


Arlington Plantation:

- At the start of the Civil War, Mary Randolph Custis Lee owned Arlington, including 196 enslaved persons who lived and worked on the plantation
- April 1861: Mary's husband, Robert E. Lee, resigned from the U.S. Army and pledged loyalty to the Confederacy
- May 1861: The Lee family fled Arlington House, never to return
- May 23, 1861: The U.S. Army occupied the Arlington property

D.C.'s Ring of Defenses

- Arlington plantation served as the site for three U.S. Army forts: Fort Whipple (now Fort Myer), Fort Cass (adjacent to today's Fort Myer), and Fort McPherson (now Section 11)
- By 1865, 68 forts and 93 batteries armed with over 800 cannons encircled the city
- Washington, D.C. was the most fortified city in the nation
- Of the 68 forts built around D.C. during the war, Fort Myer is the only one that remains a working military base
- Today, the National Park Service maintains 19 of the original 68 sites as part of its effort to preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington



Above: Fort Stevens in Washington, D.C. in 1865. (LOC/William Morris Smith)

Below: Fort Stevens in 2010. (LOC/Carol M. Highsmith)

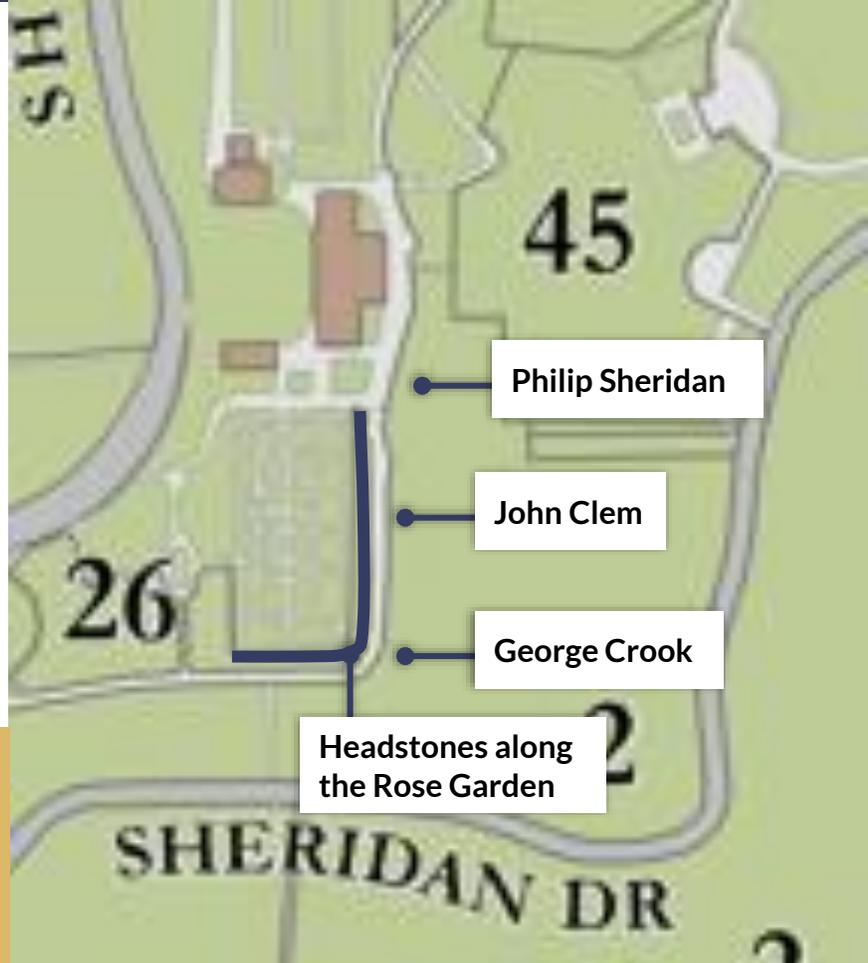


SECTION 2 OFFICERS



WALKING TOUR STOP 4 Section 2

- One of ANC's first officer-only sections
- Unlike Sections 27 and 13, most of the people buried here survived the war and later chose to be buried in the cemetery
- This was a sign of Arlington's increasing national prominence
- Continue reading for a sampling of the many Civil War veterans in Section 2



CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

Walk south, toward the rose garden, along Lee Drive.



Aerial view of Arlington House and Arlington National Cemetery. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser, May 2, 2022)

1. Arlington House
2. Philip Sheridan's gravesite
3. John Clem's gravesite
4. Rose Garden
5. Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns
6. Tanner Amphitheater
7. Section 1
8. Section 13

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE



SECTION 2 OFFICERS



General Philip H. Sheridan, U.S. Army (1831-1888)

- Grave S-1
- Dedicated his life to military service
- 1853: Graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point
- 1854-1861: Served on the American western frontier
- During the Civil War, became one of the U.S. Army's most prominent military leaders
- 1864: Led the Shenandoah Valley campaign, a major U.S. victory and turning point in the war
- Served in the Army until his death
- Received the first full military honors burial ceremony at Arlington
- His funeral helped to elevate the cemetery to national prominence



Sheridan seated outside his tent, ca. 1864. (New York State Archives/Matthew Brady)



L-R: Johnny Clem in his miniature uniform, ca. 1863. (LOC/Schwing & Rudd); Lithograph of Johnny Clem in battle, ca. 1864. (LOC/James Fuller Queen)

Maj. Gen. John L. Clem, U.S. Army (1851-1937)

- Grave 993
- 1861: Tried to enlist in an Ohio regiment at age 10
- Accepted into a Michigan regiment as a drummer boy at age 12
- 1863: Shot a Confederate officer who was mocking his small stature during the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia
- Promoted to sergeant at age 12, after Chickamauga
- Became the youngest noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army
- 1918: Retired from the Army
- Was the last Civil War veteran actively serving in the Army

Reflection Questions:



- More than 200,000 boys under the age of 18 served in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Why do you think so many wanted to fight?
- During the Civil War, stories of young drummer boys and boy soldiers were celebrated. Why do you think that is? How do you feel about the idea of children going to war?



General Crook, ca. 1870. (LOC)

Maj. Gen. George Crook, U.S. Army (1830-1890)

- Grave 974
- Career Army cavalry (fought on horseback) officer
- Fought in several major Civil War battles, including Antietam, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Appomattox Court House
- Commanded the 36th Ohio Infantry and later a cavalry division
- Captured in 1865 and briefly held as a prisoner of war
- Fought in the "Indian Wars" of the 1870s and 1880s
- Negotiated the surrender of Apache leader Geronimo in 1883 and 1886
 - The 1883 meeting is memorialized on his grave marker



SECTION 2 OFFICERS



Rose Garden Walk

- Being buried at Arlington National Cemetery was not always an honor
- Civil War national cemeteries began as burial places for service members whose families could not afford to ship their loved one's bodies home
- As you walk past the Rose Garden, notice the graves lining the fence
- The 26 officers buried along the fence died during the Civil War in the hospitals of Washington, D.C.
- Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs ordered their burials near the house in August 1864
- In the decades following the war, the cemetery gradually earned a national reputation as a desirable burial site





FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE



WALKING TOUR STOP 5 Rose Garden

- A Freedman's Village used to exist on what is now Arlington National Cemetery
- As you look south over today's Sections 3, 4, 8, 18, and 20, you're looking at land that was part of the village (exact boundaries unknown)

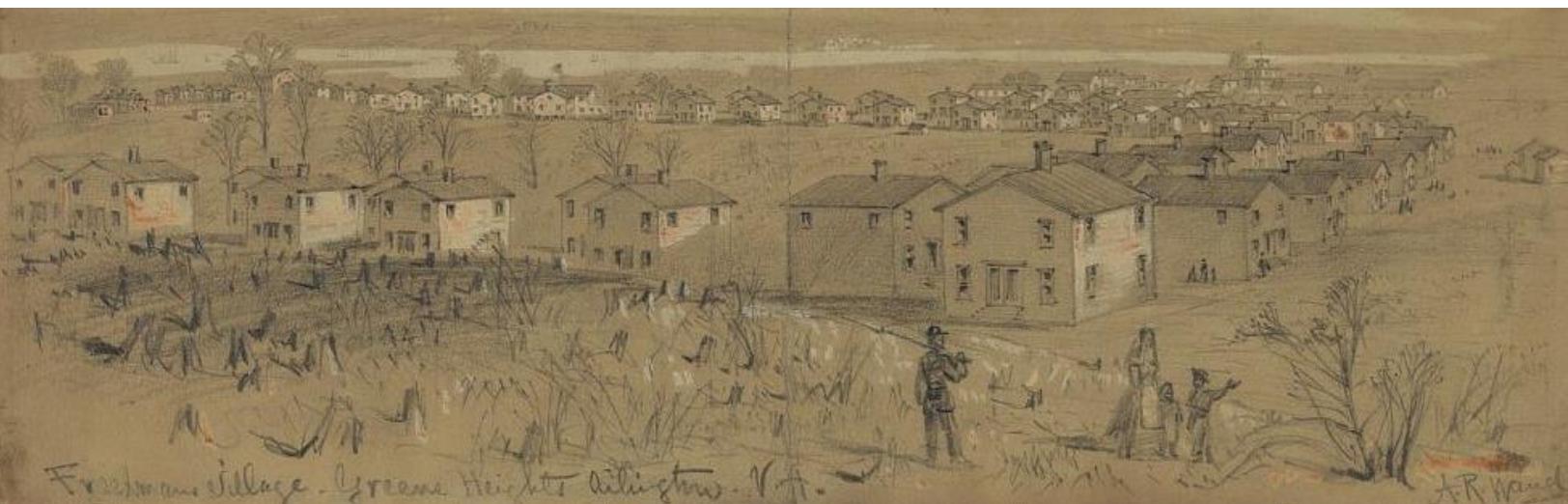


Freedpeople:

- Many newly freed African Americans moved into and around Washington D.C.
- They faced numerous challenges, primarily the need for housing, food, and employment.
 - To address these needs, the federal government established Freedman's Villages throughout the city.
 - These were intended to be temporary settlements for formerly enslaved people – essentially refugee camps.

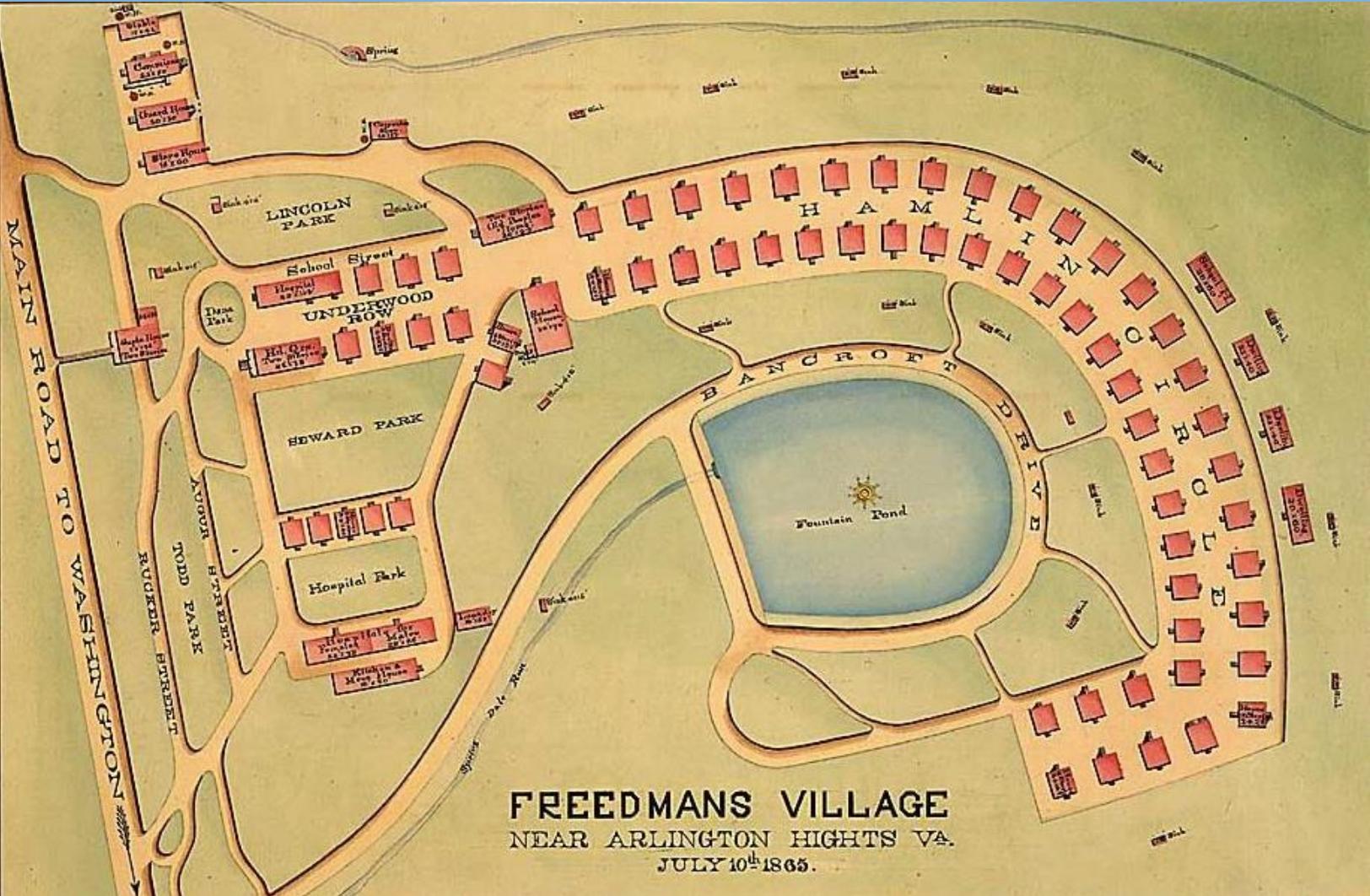
Freedman's Village at Arlington:

- Opened in 1863
- Eventually became a semi-permanent settlement
- Residents were encouraged to learn skills, find work, and live in the village until they could find other housing
- Some residents remained for years
- Noted abolitionist Sojourner Truth lived in the village for a year, helping to educate and train residents
- Over the years, the village population fluctuated between 1,000 and 3,000 people
- Residents established schools, churches, a hospital, and a home for the aged and sick



Sketch of Freedman's Village in April 1864. (LOC/Alfred Waud)

★ FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE ★



Map of Freedmans Village, July 10, 1865. (NARA)

Problems in the Village:

- Residents lived under military rule and, later, the jurisdiction of the federal government's Freedmen's Bureau
- Residents were required to work for the federal government or find another means of employment
- The government sometimes pressured residents to sign work contracts, which many African Americans feared was signing their way back into slavery
- Managing social services proved challenging
- Many camps were overcrowded with poor sanitation

Closing the Village:

- 1868: The federal government made its first efforts to close the village
- December 1887: The Army informed villagers that they had 90 days to relocate
- Major Louis H. Carpenter, the commanding officer at Fort Myer, halted the closure by calling for an investigation that included a survey, a census, and an evaluation of property
- 1888: 763 people still lived in the village
- 1890: The last 150 families moved, and the Army tore down the remaining buildings
- 1900: Congress appropriated \$75,000 to pay the villagers for their lost property
 - Former residents or their descendants were also paid
- Official reason for closing the village: Army regulations forbade civilians from residing on military reservations
- Contemporary newspaper reports outlined other considerations, including land developers wanting the valuable land and the larger (mostly white) Alexandria community opposing the existence of the community



FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE



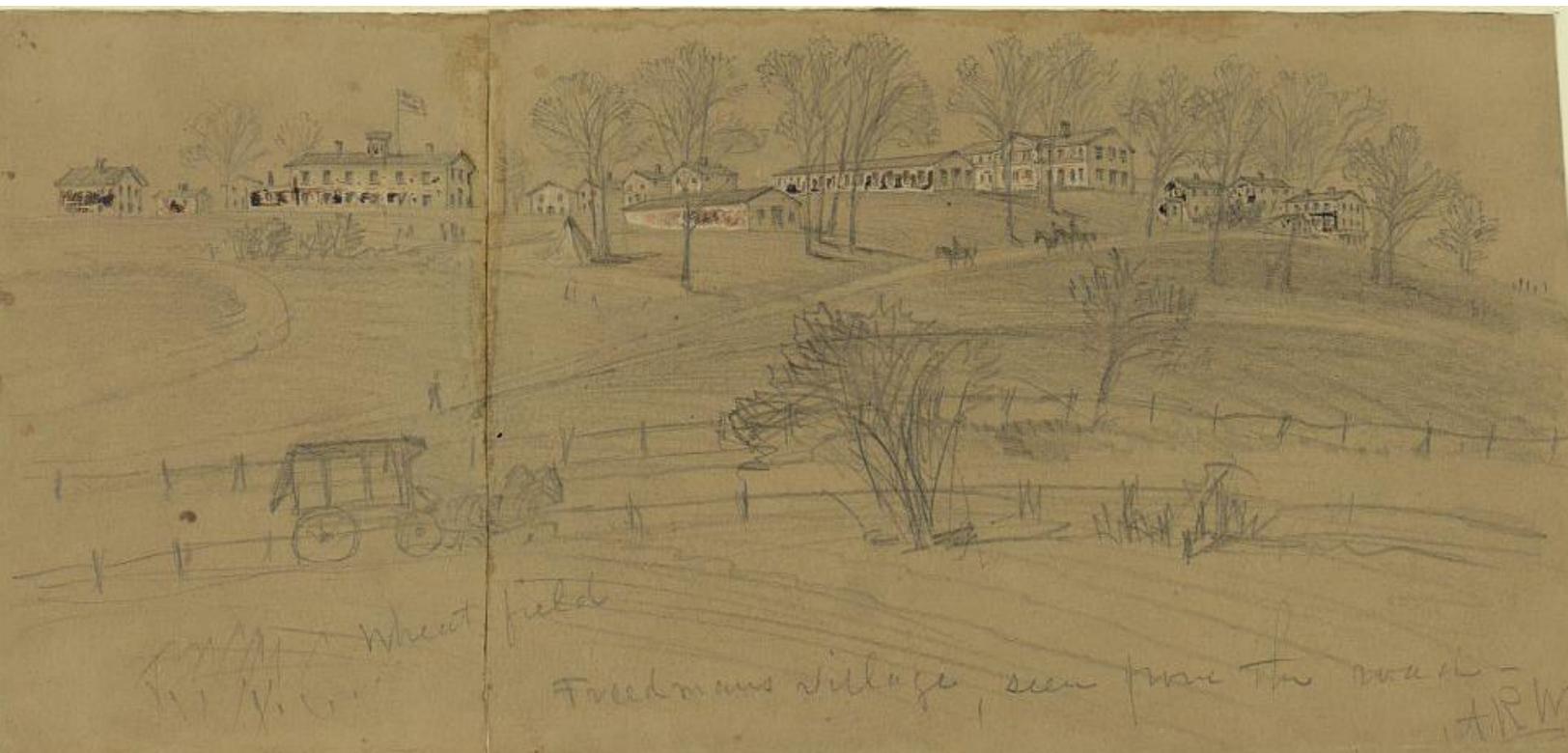
Village Legacy:

- Today, no physical trace of Freedman's Village remains.
- Yet the residents' community did not collapse: they formed other Black communities in the Arlington area.
- Three of these communities — Green Valley, Hall's Hill, and Johnson's Hill — still exist, and some local families can trace their family history to Freedman's Village.
- Organizations that began in the village and continue in Arlington today include the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows and the Mt. Olive and Mt. Zion Baptist churches.



A freedmans village, undated. (NPS)

While nothing physical remains of Freedman's Village today, by visiting its site you can learn about and honor the people who lived there. These brave Americans seized their freedom and sought opportunities to build a new life during one of the most dramatic periods in American history. Their stories remind us of the cause of the Civil War — slavery — and its most significant outcome, the end of human enslavement in the United States.



Sketch of Freedmans Village in April 1864. (LOC/Alfred Waud)

TOMB OF THE CIVIL WAR UNKNOWNNS

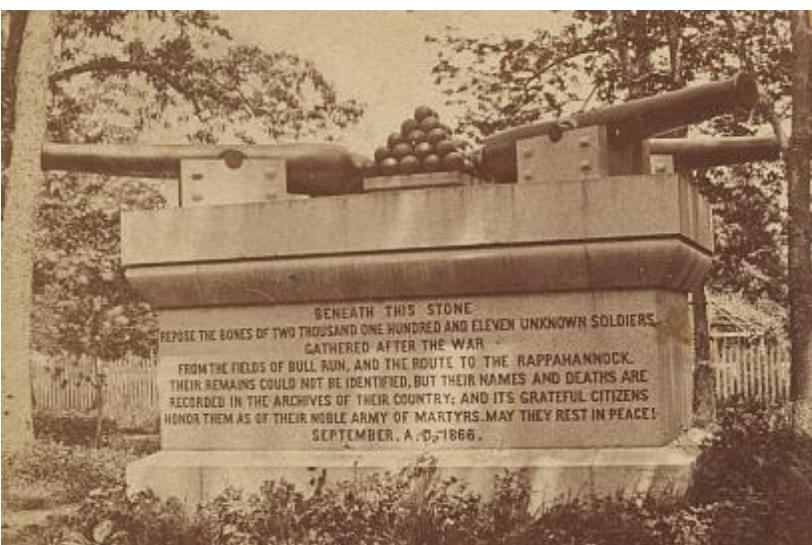


WALKING TOUR STOP 6 Section 26

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

Facing Arlington House, go to the left of the House and walk through the enclosed Rose Garden. The Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns is directly behind the Rose Garden.

- Memorial and mass grave dedicated to unknown service members who died in the Civil War
- First memorial at Arlington dedicated to soldiers who died in battle and whose remains could not be identified
- Contains the partial and commingled remains of 2,111 unknown soldiers
- Most of the remains were found in and around the fields of Manassas (Bull Run), Virginia
 - Two major Civil War battles were fought at Bull Run/Manassas, in July 1861 and August 1862
 - In both bloody battles, the U.S. Army suffered unexpected defeats and was forced to quickly retreat, leaving behind its dead
- 1865-1870: The War Department located, identified, and reburied the remains of hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers scattered across battlefields
 - Nearly 300,000 U.S. dead had been reinterred in national cemeteries such as Arlington
 - 42% of the bodies could not be identified and were placed in individual graves marked as “unknown”
 - Many remains were not intact, which further prevented accurate identification
- 1866: Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs ordered the construction of a collective crypt and monument at ANC – the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns.
 - The Tomb possibly includes both U.S. (Union) and Confederate remains
 - This site quickly became an important place to honor and mourn the dead of the Civil War
- As you pause here, reflect on the ways you can honor and remember unknown service members



Original Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns, as designed by Montgomery Meigs, ca. 1866. (William M. Chase)

- Since its dedication in 1866, this memorial has been redesigned multiple times, although its design has not changed since the early 1900s.
- Compare historic images of the tomb to how it looks today.



Redesigned Tomb, 1912. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)



Modern day Tomb, 2019. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)

EVOLUTION OF A CIVIL WAR CEMETERY



EXPLORE



Section 13 of Arlington National Cemetery, ca. 1865. (LOC/G.O. Brown)

ANC in April 1868:

- One of approximately 74 national cemeteries established during the Civil War
- Contained the graves of some 16,000 individuals and spanned 200 acres
- Uniform rows of white-washed wooden headboards filled the hills
- Little distinguished this cemetery as remarkable or different from other Civil War national cemeteries

The Civil War marked an important shift in how the United States cared for its war dead.

- Before 1862:
 - American service members were often buried near the places they fell in battle
 - The military had no formal process for marking graves or informing a soldier's family of his burial location
- During the Civil War:
 - The U.S. military changed its disorganized approach to dealing with the dead
 - About 620,000 people died during the war on both sides, either from combat or disease
 - The quantity of the dead and the health risks posed by corpses required new burial methods and cemeteries
 - The war dead came to represent the war itself
 - Many felt that these men had the right to a decent burial and should be honored for their service
 - Many hoped to die in a way that would be comforting to them and their relatives (Example: At home, surrounded by family)
 - Soldiers who died alone on a battlefield were denied these comforts, which upset them and their families
 - Soldiers and their families were further upset by the many unidentifiable soldiers
 - In response, the national cemetery system was established in 1862
 - The U.S. government began a large-scale effort to recover, identify, and bury its military dead

Mourners at a mass burial site outside Manassas, Virginia, 1862. (LOC/George N. Barnard)



National cemeteries:

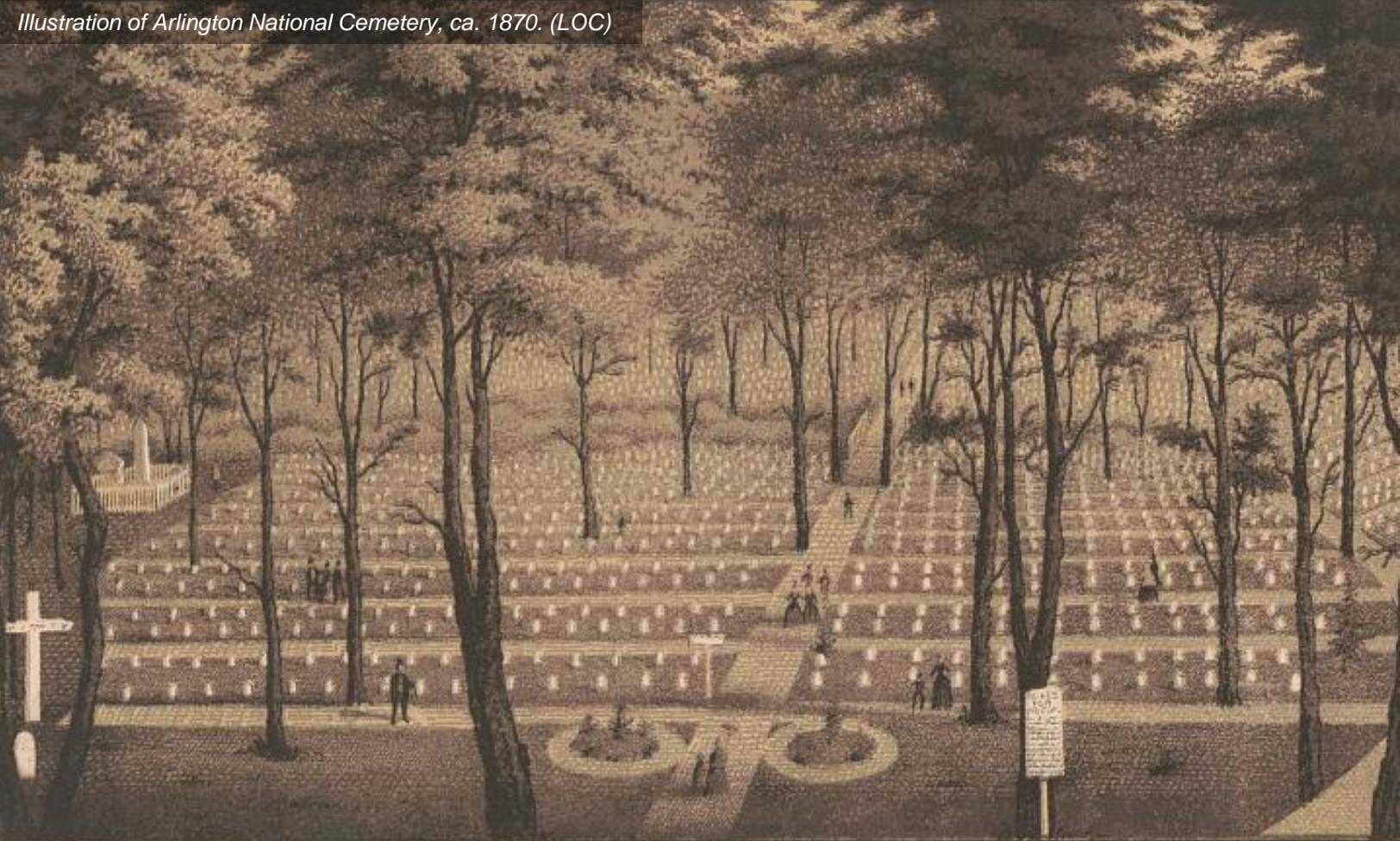
- Originally seen as “potters’ fields” or “pauper’s fields” – burial grounds for those whose families did not have enough money for a burial at a private cemetery
- The cost of private burials was prohibitive to many families across the United States
 - Expenses included embalming, a shipping casket, and the transportation of the remains
 - National cemeteries offered dignified burials, free of cost to the family

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EVOLUTION OF A CIVIL WAR CEMETERY



Illustration of Arlington National Cemetery, ca. 1870. (LOC)



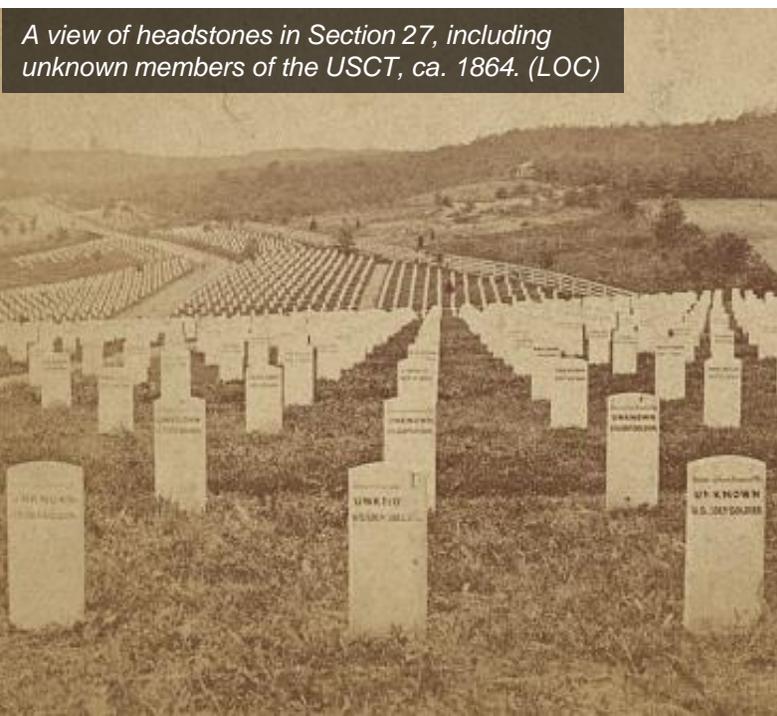
VIEW OF NATIONAL CEMETERY AT ARLINGTON.
WHITE GRAVES 9666. COLORED GRAVES 1120, IN VAULT 211, EXHUMED GRAVES 262. TOTAL GRAVES 16159.

- Around 1868:
 - ANC's identity as the United States' premier national cemetery began to take shape
 - ANC hosted the nation's first annual Decoration Day ceremony
- Continue to Tanner Amphitheater to learn more about Decoration Day (now called Memorial Day)

Reflection Questions:

- Why is it important for the government to care for the war dead?
- What is meaningful to you about visiting an individual's gravesite?

A view of headstones in Section 27, including unknown members of the USCT, ca. 1864. (LOC)



A woman at Arlington National Cemetery, 1906. (LOC)





JAMES R. TANNER AMPHITHEATER



WALKING TOUR STOP 7 James R. Tanner Amphitheater



Tanner Amphitheater in 2019. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)

The beginnings of Decoration Day:

- By the end of the war in 1865, the newly reunited United States needed to heal and commemorate its fallen
- To honor and remember those who died, communities across the nation began decorating the graves of the fallen with flowers
- Possible first event:
 - May 1, 1865: a group of African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina took part in a procession to the graves of U.S. prisoners of war
 - There, the group decorated these graves with flowers

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

Exit the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns from either of the two exits not facing Arlington House. Tanner Amphitheater will be directly ahead.

May 1868:

- The first official, annual, national observance of Decoration Day was held here at Arlington
- The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a prominent and influential organization of U.S. veterans, called for a national holiday to honor and decorate the graves of U.S. service members.
- Former U.S. Army Major General John A. Logan – a Civil War veteran, U.S. Congressional representative from Illinois, and commander-in-chief of the GAR – declared May 30 as a day of national remembrance
- The observation featured a procession from Arlington House to the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns and into the cemetery, where people decorated the graves of the war dead

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

Scenes from Decoration Day 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery, published in Harper's Weekly. Left: children decorating graves. Right: Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns.





JAMES R. TANNER AMPHITHEATER



Over time:

- Decoration Day gained popularity and the numbers of visitors to the cemetery increased
- The Army needed a venue for hosting the large ceremony.
- A site for an amphitheater was chosen yards from the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns
- Now called Tanner Amphitheater, it was built for Decoration Day in 1873
- Decoration Day changed Arlington's cultural status and helped transform it into a nationally significant site
- Civil War veterans began to clamor for plots at Arlington because they wanted to be associated with the honor that now came with the cemetery's annual memorial ceremony
- By the turn of the twentieth century, ANC had transformed from a regular military cemetery, just like the others, into a nationally significant site of memorialization



The crowd attending the 1919 Decoration Day service in the Tanner Amphitheater. (NARA/S.C. Coombs)

Memorial Day:

- Americans eventually began to use the terms "Decoration Day" and "Memorial Day" interchangeably
- In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a federal holiday

Mourners at Arlington National Cemetery on Decoration Day 1929 and 1924. (LOC)



HONOR



In 2014, the "Old Amphitheater" was renamed the James R. Tanner Amphitheater, in honor of a wounded Civil War veteran who became a prominent advocate for veterans' rights. Tanner is buried nearby in Section 2.

Corporal James R. Tanner, U.S. Army (1844-1927)

- Section 2, Grave 877
- Served as a corporal in the 87th New York Volunteer Infantry
- 1862: At the Second Battle of Bull Run, he suffered a gruesome wound that resulted in the loss of both legs
- After his amputation, Tanner learned to walk using prosthetic limbs, taught himself stenography, and took a job within the War Department as a clerk
- Became a prominent advocate for veterans' rights
- Became commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic



*James Tanner, ca. 1905.
(U.S. Army)*

MAJOR GENERAL MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS



WALKING TOUR STOP 9 Section 1, Grave 1-EH

BIRTH: May 3, 1816, Augusta, GA

DEATH: January 2, 1892, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND:

- 1836: Graduated from West Point and joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Before the Civil War, supervised federal projects such as the construction of the U.S. Capitol

CAREER:

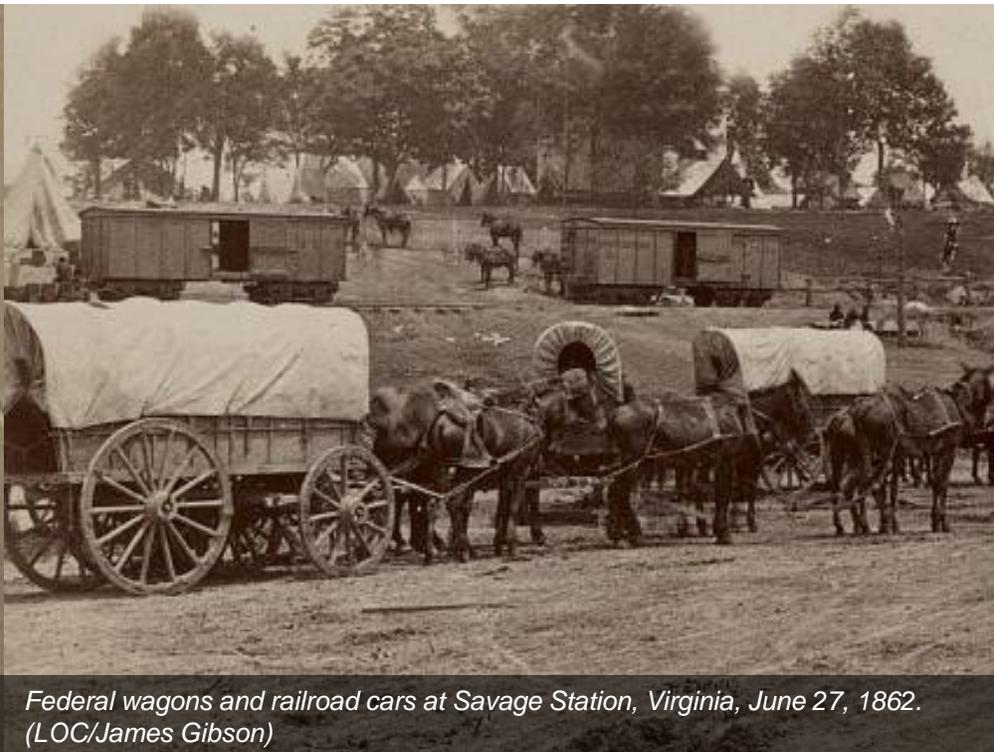
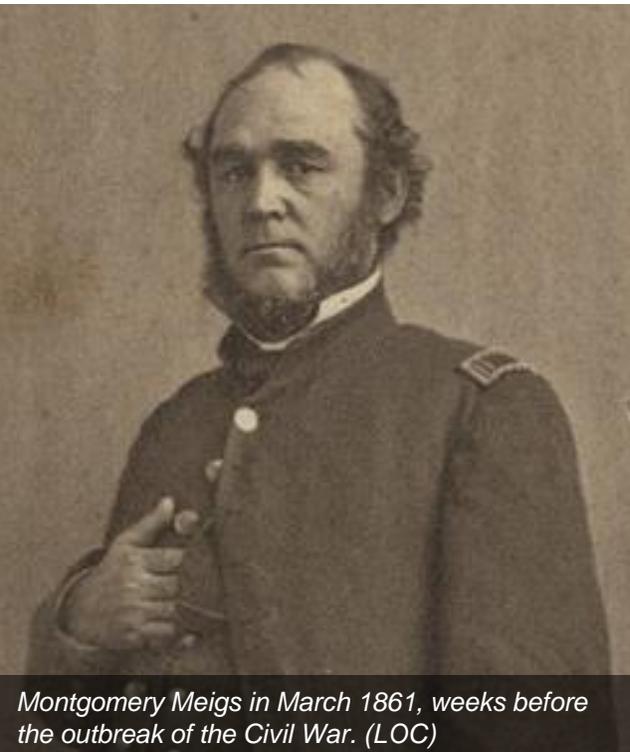
- 1861: Appointed quartermaster general of the Army
 - Managed Army logistics, ensuring supplies and troops moved efficiently and accurately
 - Directed the Army to build or buy hundreds of miles of railroad track, thousands of horses and mules, nearly 600 boats and ships, and dozens of hospitals
 - Ensured soldiers received the food, uniforms, tents, blankets, pans, and other supplies that they needed
- Secretary of State William Seward said of Meigs: “[W]ithout the services of this eminent Soldier the national cause must have been lost or deeply imperiled

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR



Exit Tanner Amphitheater towards the intersection and walk past the white building to Meigs Drive. About 30 feet past the white building, Meigs' gravesite is to the left.

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Montgomery Meigs in March 1861, weeks before the outbreak of the Civil War. (LOC)

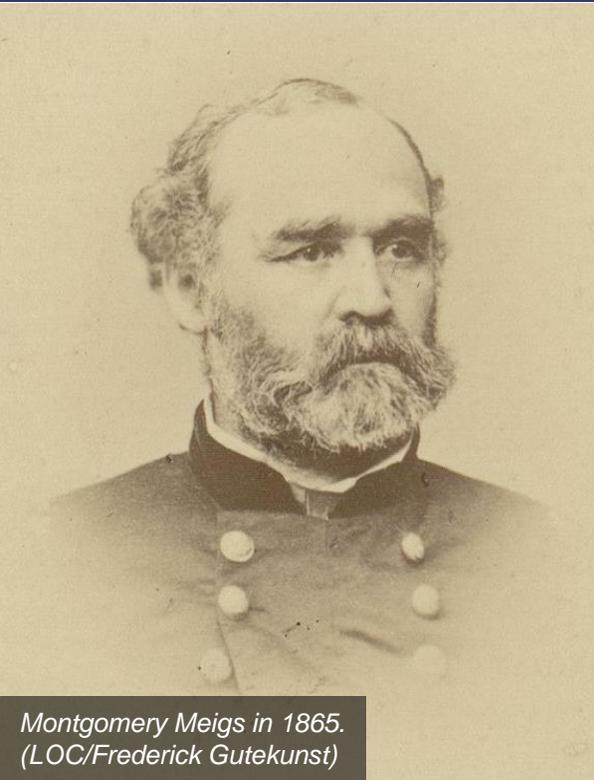
Federal wagons and railroad cars at Savage Station, Virginia, June 27, 1862. (LOC/James Gibson)



McClellan Gate was the original entrance to the cemetery, and you can spot Meigs' name on the gate's left column. Meigs was known for inscribing his name on his projects so that his role would not be forgotten. His name is also found on the U.S. Capitol and Union Arch Bridge.

McClellan Gate between Sections 12 & 33, April 2018. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)

MAJOR GENERAL MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS



Montgomery Meigs in 1865.
(LOC/Frederick Gutekunst)



Montgomery Meigs, ca. 1865. (LOC)

- Responsible for managing the new national cemetery system
 - Authorized the first burial of soldiers on the Arlington property (STOP 1)
 - Ensured that burials moved to within view of Arlington House (STOP 4)
 - Created what became known as the “Field of the Dead” in today’s Section 13 (STOP 10)
 - Directed much of the early development of the cemetery, including Tanner Amphitheater (STOP 7), McClellan Gate, and the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns (STOP 6)
- After his death in 1892, he was interred here with full military honors and with specific instructions for his gravesite
 - His plot also contains the remains of his wife, grandfather, uncle, and children
 - His son, John Rodgers Meigs (Grave 1-SH), was killed in 1864 while serving as an aide to General Phillip Sheridan (STOP 4)
 - Headstone depicts the scene of his death
 - Not originally buried at Arlington
 - Meigs moved his son and other family members here in November 1880

LEGACY:

- Created the cemetery where you stand today
- 1892 Army obituary tribute to Meigs: “The army has rarely possessed an officer who combined within himself so many and valuable attainments and who was entrusted by the Government with a greater variety of weighty responsibilities or who has proved himself more worthy of confidence. There are few whose character and career can be more justly commended or whose lives are more worthy of respect, admiration, and emulation.”



SECTION 1 OFFICERS



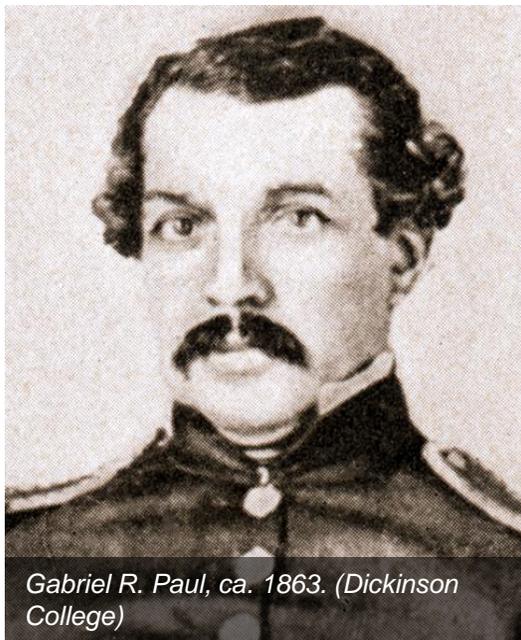
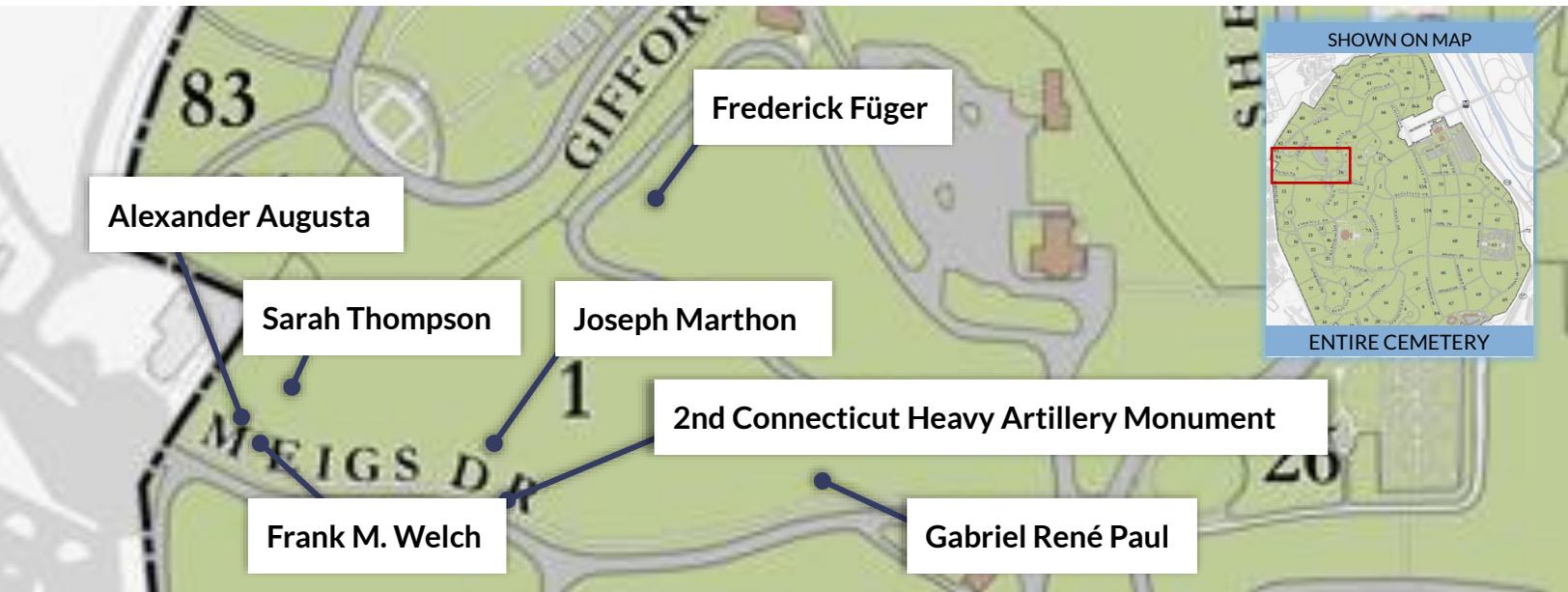
WALKING TOUR STOP 10 Section 1

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

From Meigs' grave, walk about 50 feet west to the obelisk marking General Paul's grave.

- One of the oldest sections in the cemetery
- Functioned as one of the first "officer" sections
- In response to increased officer burial requests, Arlington created three new officers-only sections — Sections 1, 2, and 3.

You could spend days exploring the stories of the people laid to rest here. Here is a small sampling:



Brigadier General Gabriel René Paul, U.S. Army (1813-1886)

- Grave 16
- Son of an officer in Napoleon Bonaparte's army, born in the U.S.
- Began his military career at age 16 when he earned a commission to the United States Military Academy
- Served in the Second Seminole War (1835-1842) and the Mexican-American War (1846-1848)
- Commanded forces in three major Civil War battles: Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville in 1862 and Gettysburg in 1863
- At Gettysburg, a bullet tore through Paul's head, leaving him blind in both eyes
- February 1865: Retired from active-duty service due to his disability
 - Suffered near daily seizures in his final months because of his head injury
 - 1886: Died during an epileptic attack
- His widow, Louise Paul, applied for and received a pension after his death
 - She argued that her husband's death was caused by his Gettysburg wound.
- His case called attention to the fact that battle wounds could cause deaths even after a war's end.



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SECTION 1 OFFICERS



Lt. Col. Frederick Fuger, U.S. Army (1836-1913)

- Grave 511
- Immigrated to the United States from Germany at age 17
- 1856: Enlisted in the U.S. Army
- Served in approximately 63 battles during the Civil War
- July 1-3, 1863: Fought in the Battle of Gettysburg
 - On the third day of the battle, was stationed on Cemetery Ridge – the place in the U.S. Army line where Lee tried to break through during Pickett’s Charge
 - Confederate forces destroyed five of six cannons and mortally wounded his commander.
 - Assumed command with Confederate forces charging forward and only one cannon remaining
 - Under his leadership, the U.S. Army held its position, repelled Pickett’s Charge, and defeated the Confederates
 - Received the Medal of Honor for his actions
- 1888: Became a U.S. citizen
- 1900: Retired after serving over 44 years in the U.S. Army



Frederick Fuger, ca. 1864. (Fuger Family History)



Lt. Com. Joseph Marthon, U.S. Navy (1839-1891)

- Grave 103-A
- August 5, 1864: Served aboard Admiral David Farragut’s USS Hartford during the Battle of Mobile Bay
 - Mobile Bay (on the shore of Alabama) was one of the Confederate’s last open ports, and protected by forts, ships, and mines
 - Marthon commanded the crow’s nest gunnery – the platform at the top of a ship’s mast, depicted on his headstone
- Headstone:
 - Depicts Marthon’s actions during the Battle of Mobile Bay
 - Includes a written account of his naval career
 - Features a memorial mainmast in honor of Admiral Farragut, whose headstone also featured a memorial mainmast

2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Monument

- One of only two regimental memorials at Arlington National Cemetery
- Honors the 2nd Connecticut forces who helped man Washington, D.C.’s defenses against Confederate forces



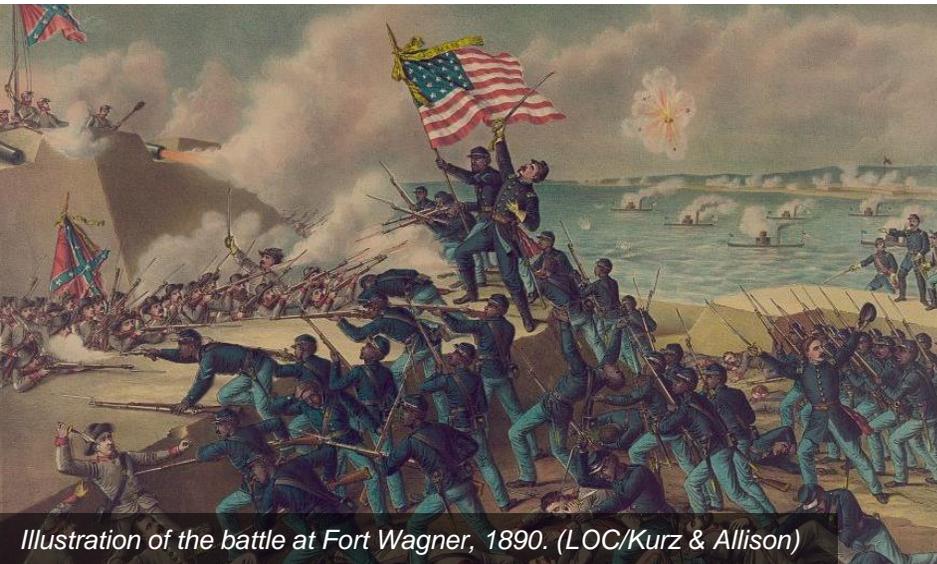


SECTION 1 OFFICERS



Lt. Frank M. Welch, U.S. Army (1841-1907)

- Grave 123-A
- Served with the famed African American Company F of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry during the Civil War
- Wounded in the neck during the assault on Fort Wagner, as depicted in the 1989 film *Glory*
- July 18, 1863: Assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina
 - One of the first opportunities for Black soldiers like Welch to prove themselves in combat
 - The 54th was commanded by White officer Colonel Robert Gould Shaw.
 - Welch and the 54th fought gallantly, but ultimately suffered defeat.
 - Yet the battle was a symbolic victory that proved that Black men could and would fight bravely.
 - Inspired the U.S. military to increase its recruitment and mobilization of Black soldiers
 - Over 180,000 Black soldiers enlisted in the U.S. military by the end of the war.



Lt. Col. Alexander T. Augusta, U.S. Army (1825–1890)

- Grave 124-C
- Pioneering doctor and the highest-ranking African American officer of the Civil War
- Promoted to brevet lieutenant colonel in 1865
- Served as regimental surgeon of the 7th Infantry, U.S. Colored Troops
- First Black physician in the Army
- Received the same wages as a Black enlisted soldier during his service, although he was an officer
- First Black hospital administrator in the United States (Freedman's Hospital, Washington, D.C.)
- Founding faculty member of the Howard University Medical Department and the first Black professor of medicine





SECTION 1 OFFICERS



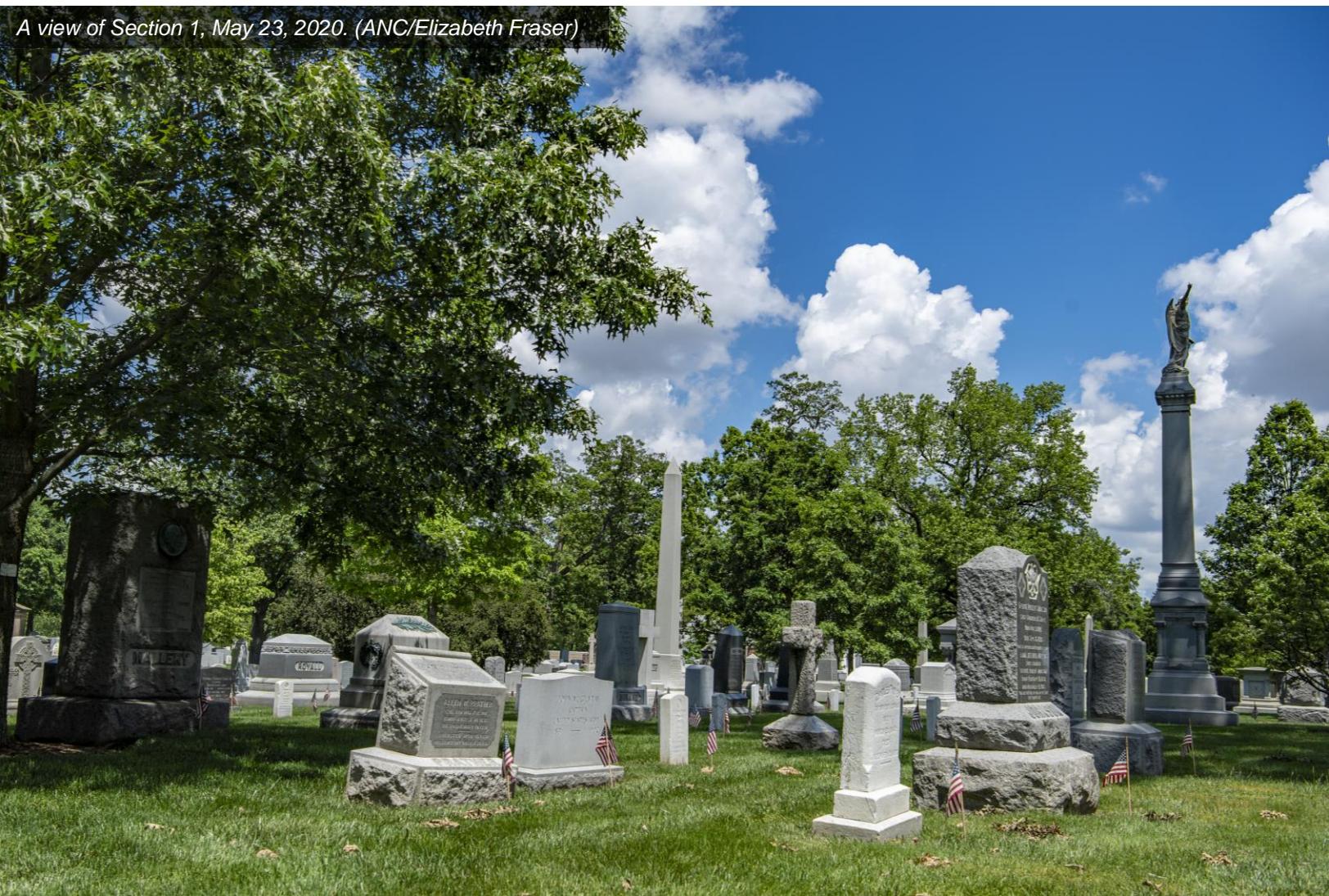
Sarah Thompson, U.S. Army (1838-1909)

- Grave 1261-WH
- Served as a U.S. Army spy and scout in Greenville, Tennessee
- Only woman entered into the Army rolls as a soldier during the Civil War
- Assisted her husband, Private Sylvanius Thompson, who served as a recruiter for the U.S. Army
- Early 1864: A Confederate supporter killed Sylvanius, likely for his loyalties to the United States
- Continued delivering dispatches and recruiting information to Army officers in the region
- Fall 1864: Alerted U.S. forces to the location of Confederate Army General John Morgan as he traveled through Greenville
 - U.S. forces ambushed the Confederate troops and killed Morgan
- Received letters of commendation from General Ulysses S. Grant, General William Tecumseh Sherman, and others
- 1897: Congress finally granted her a military pension, after she advocated for her right to receive one
- Buried with military honors



Sarah Thompson, undated. (Duke University)

A view of Section 1, May 23, 2020. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)





SECTION 13



WALKING TOUR STOP 11 Section 13



Section 13, ca. 1867. (LOC/Bell & Bro)

Section 13 has been called the “Field of the Dead” because of the rows and rows of mostly identical headstones in every direction. Now, of course, identical government-issued headstones dominate most ANC sections. At the time of the Civil War, however, the officer’s sections (such as Section 1) featured private markers of every size and shape, while government markers dominated Section 13, the primary burial ground for enlisted white soldiers and unknown service members.

**CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR**

Head east down Meigs Drive, then turn left onto McPherson Drive to walk through Section 13. When the road splits follow the right branch.



Left: A view of Section 13, with a sign featuring a stanza from the poem “Bivouac of the Dead,” by Theodore O’Hara, ca. 1870. (LOC/W.M. Chase); Right: Section 13 of Arlington National Cemetery, ca. 1870. (LOC)



SECTION 13



As you explore this section, take note of two particular graves:

McCullough brothers, U.S. Army – Grave 13724

- Grave of four brothers who fought in the Civil War, all as privates in the 100th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry:
 - Jacob McCullough (1838-1864)
 - Joseph McCullough (1847-1864)
 - John McCullough (1842-1869)
 - Nathaniel McCullough (1844-1908)
 - Jacob and Joseph died during the war, the other two brothers after
- Their story suggests the Civil War's impact on individual families



Capt. Daniel Keys, U.S. Army (d. 1883)

- Grave 13615
- Civil War veteran
- ANC's only remaining cast-iron headstone, also known as a "Meigs Marker"
- The U.S. government originally used wooden markers for military burials, but wood was costly to replace
- Two alternatives were chosen: marble and galvanized iron coated with zinc
- Marble soon became the standard
- Army Quartermaster General Meigs championed the use of iron headstones – hence their nickname



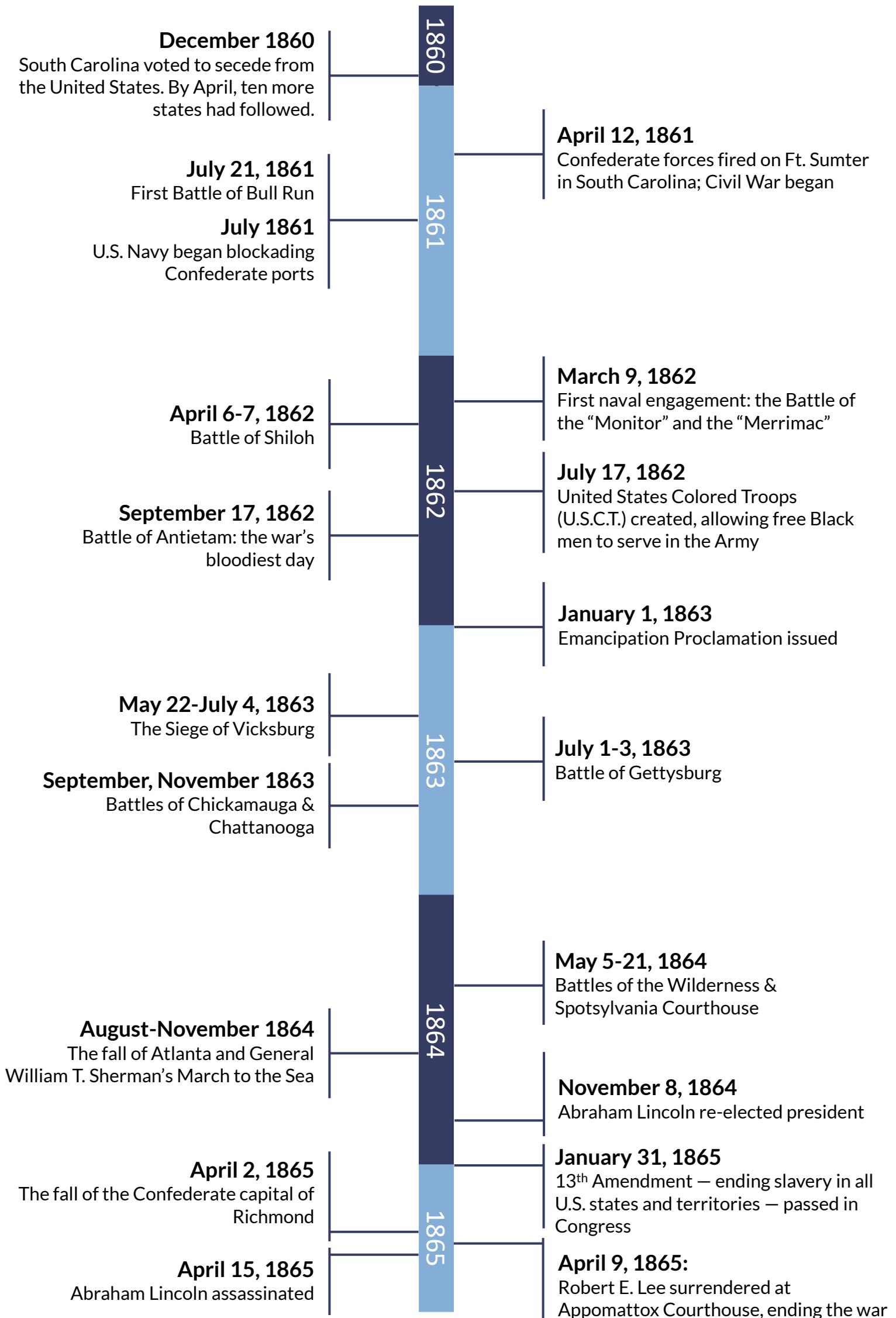
Compare this headstone to the marble ones surrounding it. Unlike the weathered marble headstones, this iron headstone looks almost new, despite being over 100 years old. Imagine if the U.S. military had chosen this style of headstone instead of the marble style. How would that have changed Arlington's landscape and symbolism? What do you think are the pros and cons of each style?



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



CIVIL WAR TIMELINE: 1860-1865





U.S. Army soldiers stand near the bodies of dead Confederate soldiers on September 19, 1862, after the Battle of Antietam. (LOC/Alexander Gardner)

MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS

An in-depth timeline and analysis of events of the Civil War is outside the scope of this tour. Basic information about major engagements and events offers historical context for the experiences of the individuals highlighted on this tour. The war lasted over four years and resulted in over 1.5 million casualties and 600,000 deaths. Casualty numbers include dead, wounded, sick, captured, or missing in action.

FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN

July 21, 1861: General-in-Chief Winfield Scott ordered an attack on Confederate troops stationed at Manassas Junction, Virginia. McDowell's attack was initially successful, but Confederate reinforcements sparked a chaotic retreat to Washington, D.C.

Casualties: 4,700

- U.S. Army: 3,000
- Confederate Army: 1,700

BATTLE OF SHILOH

April 6-7, 1862: After U.S. Army victories in central Kentucky and Tennessee, Confederate forces attacked General Ulysses S. Grant's troops at Shiloh, Tennessee. What initially looked to be a U.S. Army loss became a victory as reinforcements arrived overnight.

Casualties: 24,000

- U.S. Army: 13,000
- Confederate Army: 11,000

SIEGE OF VICKSBURG

May-July 1863: After winning several victories around Vicksburg, Mississippi, Grant began a siege. After six weeks, Confederate Gen. John Pemberton surrendered. A short time later, the U.S. Army controlled the entire Mississippi River, dividing the Confederacy.

Casualties: 19,000

- U.S. Army: 10,000
- Confederate Army: 9,000

BATTLE OF THE "MONITOR" AND THE "MERRIMAC"

March 9, 1862: In the first naval engagement between iron-clad ships, the USS Monitor fought the former USS Merrimac (which had become the Confederate ship Virginia) to a draw. The Monitor later sunk on December 31, 1862. In 2013, two unidentified sailors who had been recovered from the wreckage were laid to rest in Section 46 of ANC.

BATTLE OF ANTIETAM

September 17, 1862: After achieving victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run in August, Gen. Robert E. Lee moved his army north into Maryland. Near Sharpsburg, U.S. Gen. George McClellan waited to attack, allowing time for Confederate reinforcements. The battle ended in a draw and Lee retreated.

Casualties: 23,300

- U.S. Army: 11,600
- Confederate Army: 11,700

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

July 1-3, 1863: Recent Confederate victories in Virginia prompted Lee to move north into Pennsylvania. U.S. Gen. George Meade halted Lee's forces in Gettysburg. After three days of fighting, Lee retreated, and Meade did not pursue him.

Casualties: 51,000

- U.S. Army: 23,000
- Confederate Army: 28,000



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



Federal soldiers stand outside Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865. (LOC/Timothy O'Sullivan)



MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS, CONTINUED

The Battle of Gettysburg and the end of the Siege of Vicksburg marked the turning point of the war.

BATTLES OF CHICKAMAUGA & CHATTANOOGA

September 19, 1863: U.S. and Confederate forces fought on the Tennessee-Georgia border. After a Confederate victory, the U.S. Army retreated to Chattanooga. In the November Battle of Chattanooga, Grant broke through the Confederate defenses, placing this important railroad center in U.S. hands.

Chickamauga:

Casualties: 34,700

- U.S. Army: 16,200
- Confederate Army: 18,500

Chattanooga:

Casualties: 12,500

- U.S. Army: 5,800
- Confederate Army: 6,700

BATTLE OF APPOMATTOX COURTHOUSE

April 9, 1865: After the U.S. Army capture of Atlanta and the siege of Richmond, Grant surrounded Lee's forces. On April 9, Lee surrendered. Confederate troops in other locations surrendered throughout May and June.

BATTLES OF THE WILDERNESS & SPOTSYLVANIA COURTHOUSE

May 5-21, 1864: With his promotion to commander of the United States' armies, Grant began his campaign to force Lee's surrender. Grant's forces suffered heavy casualties, but had more reinforcements than Lee.

Wilderness:

Casualties: 29,800

- U.S. Army: 18,400
- Confederate Army: 11,400

Spotsylvania:

Casualties: 30,000

- U.S. Army: 18,000
- Confederate Army: 12,000



*Top: Two cannons at Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park in 2017. (LOC/Carol M. Highsmith)
Bottom: Color lithograph of the Battle of Spotsylvania, ca. 1888. (LOC/Kurz & Allison)*

★ HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ★



Civil War Battlefields Mentioned on this Tour

- ★ U.S. Victory
- ★ Confederate Victory
- ★ Inconclusive

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

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- Page 3: Two brothers in arms, ca. 1860-1870, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.13484/>.
- Page 3: Unidentified young soldier in Union uniform and Hardee hat with bayoneted musket, ca. 1861-1865, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.36853/>.
- Page 3: Ball and Thomas, Full-length portrait of an African American sailor, facing front, ca. 1861-1865, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.11280/>.
- Page 3: Unidentified young soldier in Union uniform with musket, bayonet, and knapsack, ca. 1861-1865, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.36851/>.
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CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

IMAGES, continued

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IMAGES, continued

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Page 31: Emily Rheault, 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Monument, 2023, Arlington National Cemetery.

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Page 35: Emily Rheault, Captain Daniel Keys' headstone (front), 2023, Arlington National Cemetery.

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