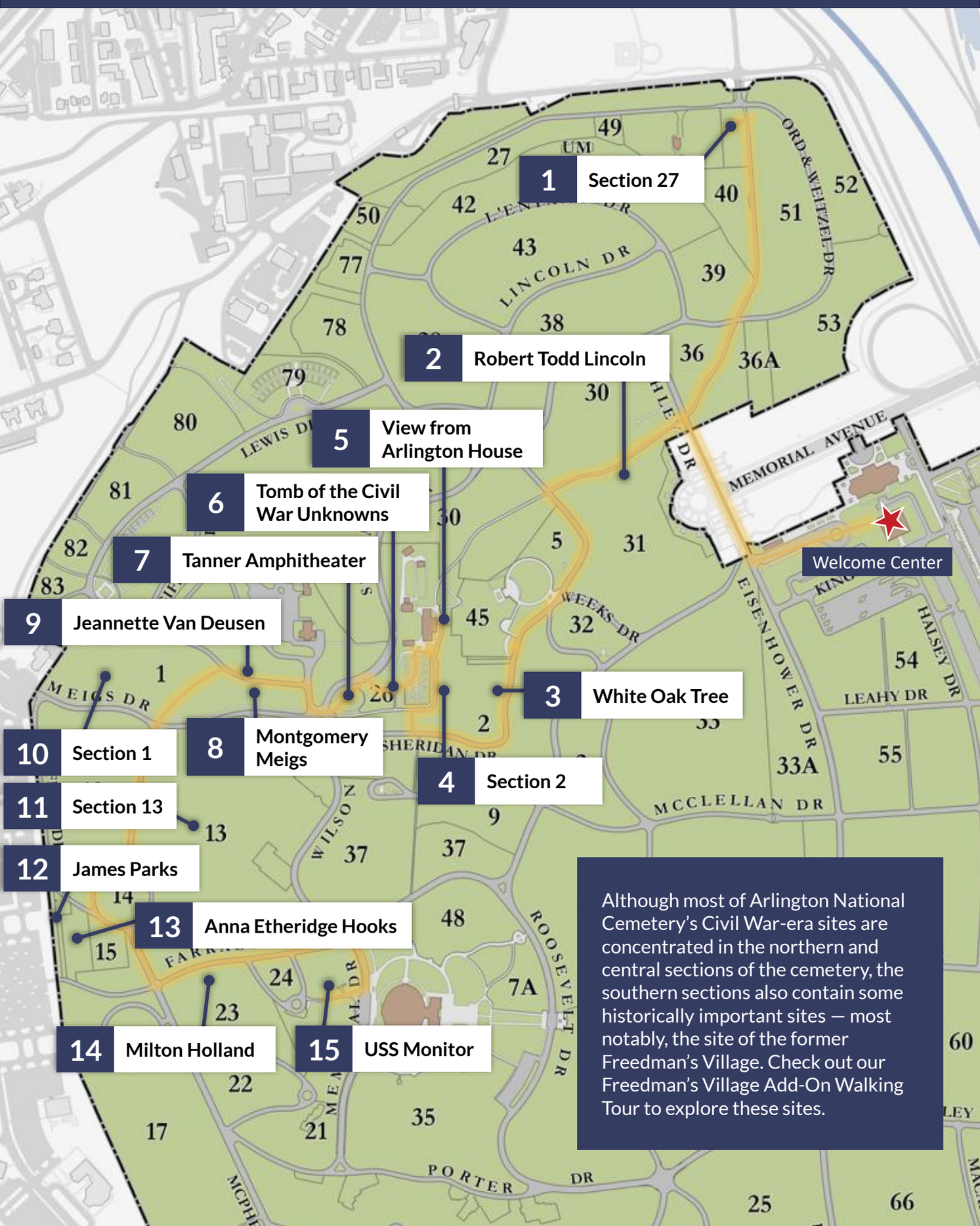
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

CIVIL WAR



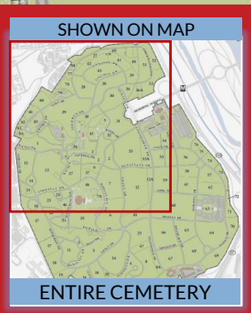
Although most of Arlington National Cemetery's Civil War-era sites are concentrated in the northern and central sections of the cemetery, the southern sections also contain some historically important sites — most notably, the site of the former Freedman's Village. Check out our Freedman's Village Add-On Walking Tour to explore these sites.

ENGAGE

We love hearing about your visit! Share your pictures, questions, and favorite parts of the tour on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

@ArlingtonNatl

#ANCEducation #CivilWarANC



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

CIVIL WAR

Length: ~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*	HONOR REMEMBER EXPLORE
2	Robert Todd Lincoln	*Section 31, Grave S-13*	HONOR
3	White Oak Tree	*Section 2*	REMEMBER
4	Section 2 Officers	*Section 2*	HONOR
5	View from Arlington House	*Arlington House*	REMEMBER
6	Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns	*Section 26*	REMEMBER EXPLORE
7	Tanner Amphitheater	*Tanner Amphitheater*	REMEMBER
8	Montgomery Meigs	*Section 1, Grave 1-EH*	HONOR
9	Jeannette Van Deusen	*Section 1, Grave 177*	HONOR EXPLORE
10	Section 1 Officers	*Section 1*	HONOR
11	Section 13	*Section 13*	REMEMBER EXPLORE
12	James Parks	*Section 15E, Grave 2*	HONOR
13	Anna Etheridge Hooks	*Section 15C, Grave 709-710*	HONOR EXPLORE
14	Milton Holland	*Section 23, Grave 21713*	HONOR
15	USS Monitor	*Section 46*	REMEMBER

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Arlington National Cemetery, ca. 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 was 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.

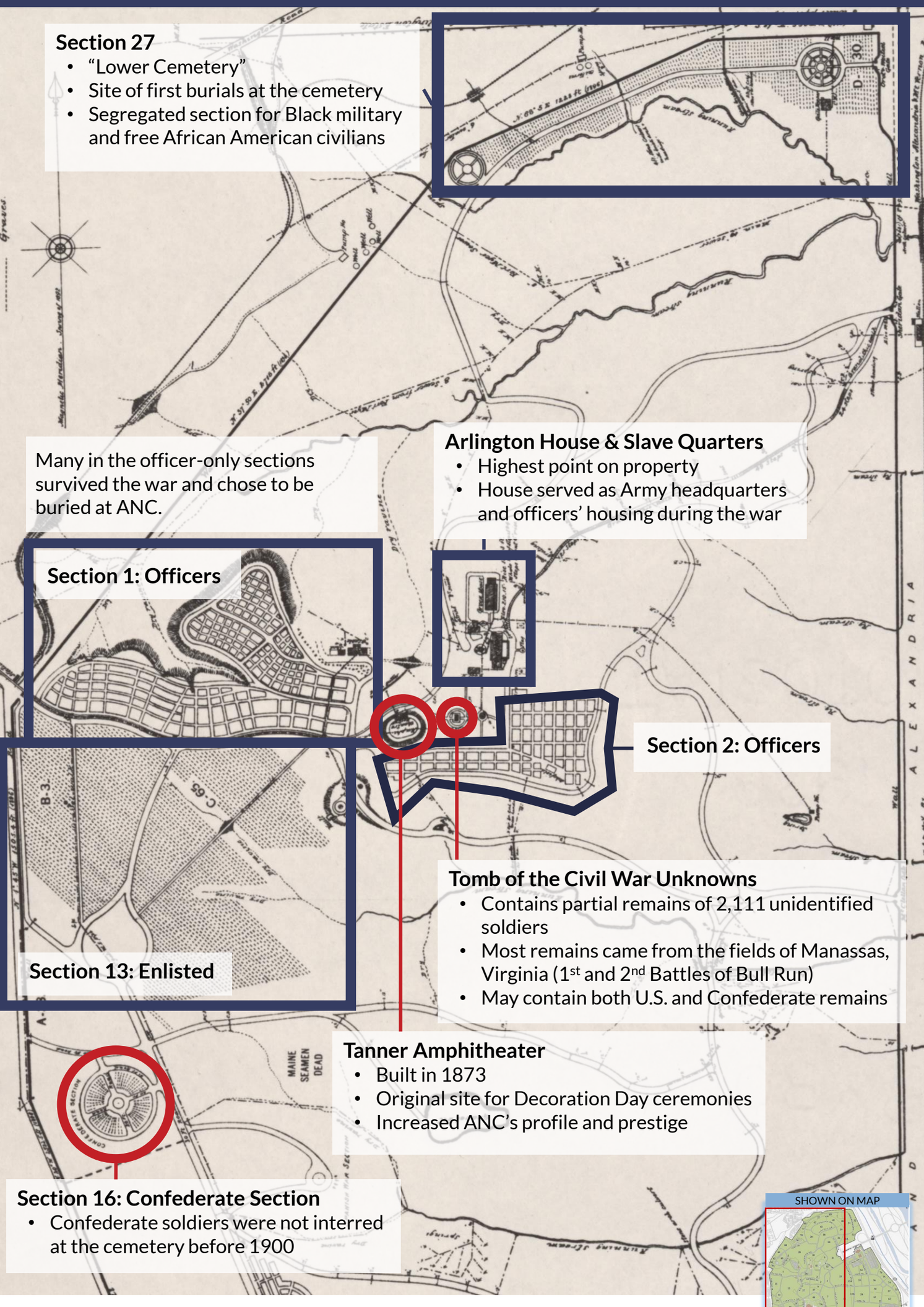
Arlington officially became a national cemetery on June 15, 1864, by order of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. The original cemetery was 200 acres, and it has since grown to 639 acres (as of 2023). Once it became a national cemetery, Arlington was racially segregated, like all national cemeteries at the 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 ★



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

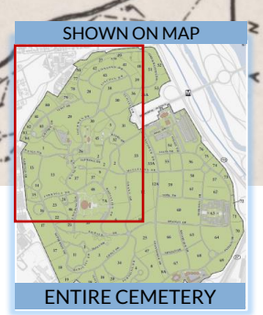
Section 2: Officers

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

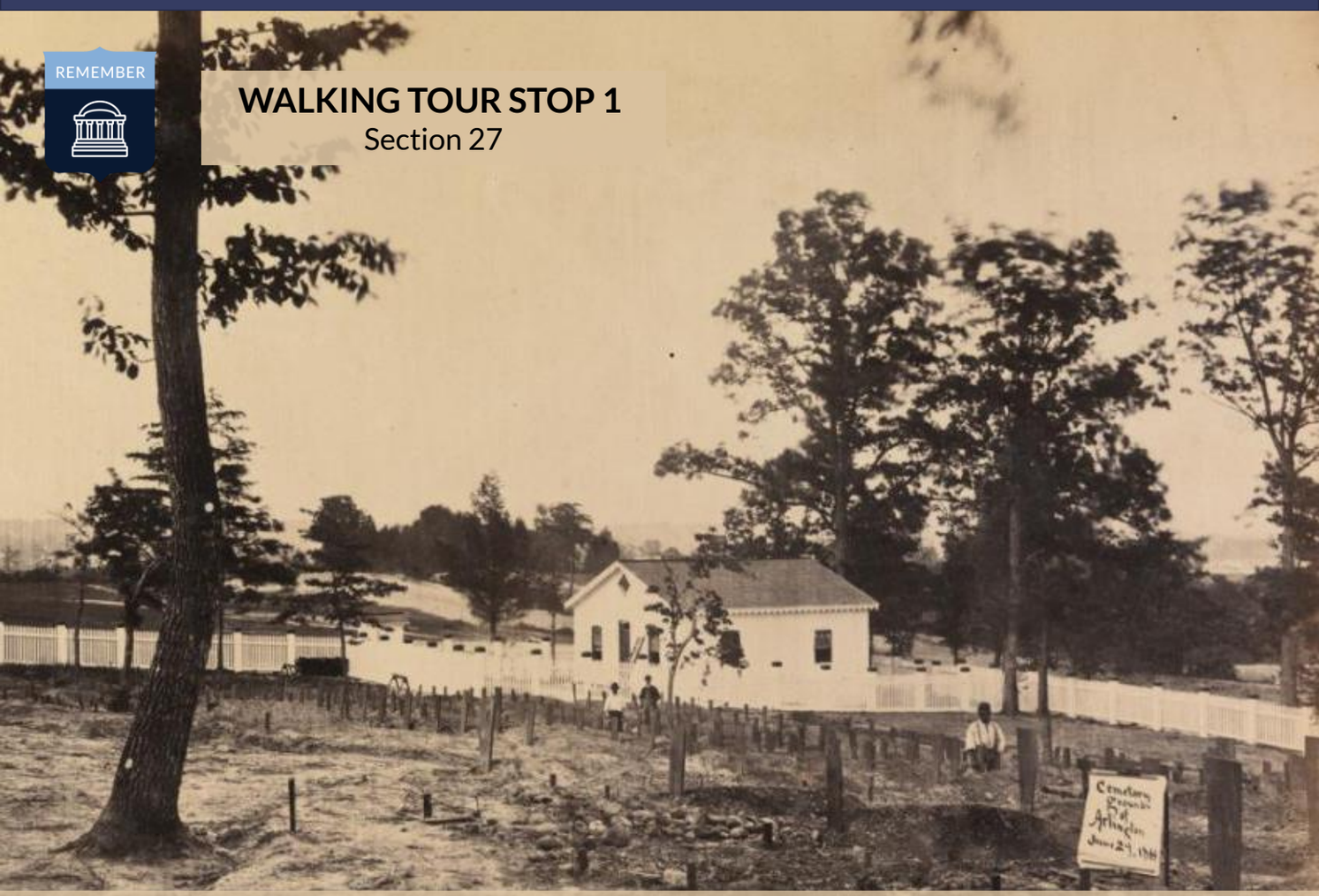


1901 Map of Arlington National Cemetery

SECTION 27

REMEMBER

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)

One of the oldest sections of Arlington National Cemetery, Section 27 dates from 1864, when the U.S. Army conducted the first military burials on the property here.

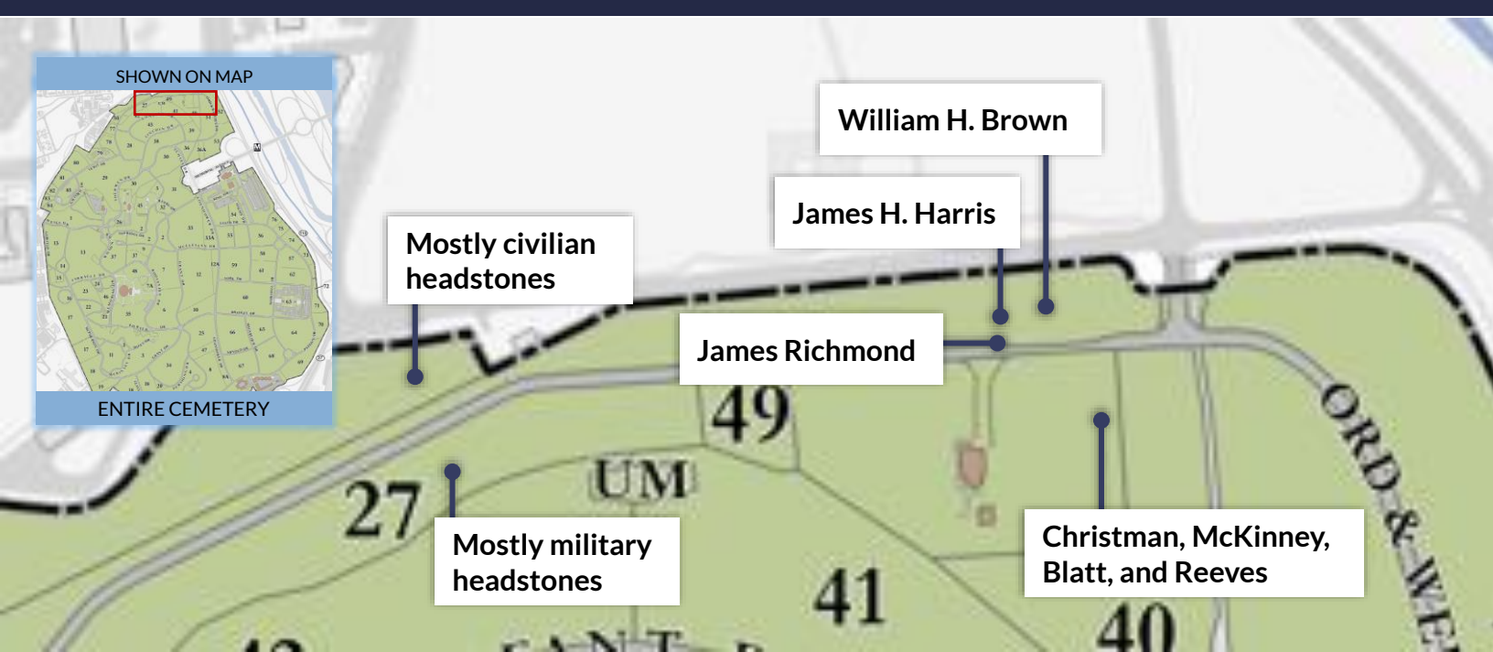
Its headstones tell stories of honorable service and sacrifice, and also document the history of slavery, segregation, and the ongoing American struggle for freedom and equality.

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.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

Continue to learn about the individual people and groups buried in Section 27.



SECTION 27

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

On May 13, 1864, the first military burial was conducted on the Arlington property. Brigadier General Montgomery Meigs (Stop 8) — Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army, who was responsible for the burial of soldiers — ordered that the Arlington Plantation should be used as a cemetery. The U.S. Army had occupied the property since 1861, but it had not yet been used for military burials. The first burials were located on the northern edge of the property, hidden from the view of Arlington House (which the Army used for its headquarters and officers' housing). The existing D.C.-area national cemeteries, Soldiers' Home and Alexandria National Cemeteries, had run out of space by 1864; both closed on the day that burials began at Arlington.

The First Military Burials at Arlington

Private William Henry Christman, 67th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment — First military burial. Christman, a 20-year-old farmer, enlisted in March 1864. Like so many Civil War soldiers, he soon succumbed to illness, dying from rubella in a Washington, D.C. hospital on May 11, 1864. Two days later, he became the first soldier interred at Arlington. (Grave 19)

Private William H. McKinney, 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry — First service member buried at Arlington with his family present. The 17-year-old soldier succumbed to illness at a Washington, D.C. hospital. On May 13, 1864, he became the second service member laid to rest at Arlington, and the first to have a funeral service attended by his family. (Grave 98)

Private William Blatt, 49th Pennsylvania Infantry — First battle casualty interred at Arlington. While fighting in General Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign, Blatt was seriously wounded on May 10, 1864, and died in a hospital three days later. On May 14, 1864, he became the third soldier and the first combat casualty interred at Arlington. (Grave 18)

Private William Reeves, 76th New York Infantry — First draftee interred at Arlington. At 19 years of age, Reeves was inducted into service in August 1863. Less than a year later, on May 13, 1864, he died from a gunshot wound received during the Overland Campaign. Reeves was the fourth soldier and first draftee interred at Arlington. (Grave 99)

On May 15, 1864, two **unknown U.S. soldiers** were interred in Section 27. They were 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.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

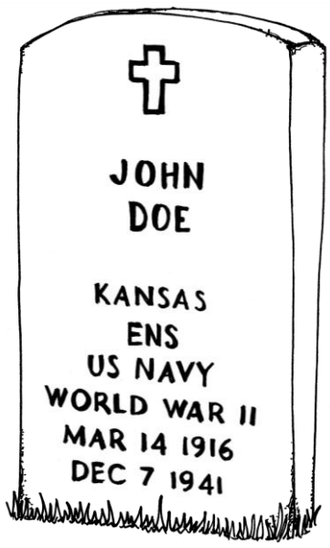
READING HEADSTONES

EXPLORE

As you look around Section 27, you'll notice that the headstones are not uniform. When Arlington National Cemetery was founded in 1864, graves were initially marked with wooden boards. Because these boards deteriorated quickly, the War Department soon began to experiment with more durable materials such as metal and stone. In 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 reveal a lot about when it was added to the cemetery and the person it honors.

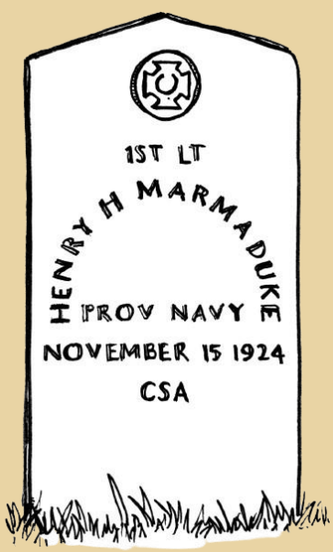
- The modern headstone design, referred to as the "General" style, was implemented post-World War I.
- Headstone inscriptions reveal information on the deceased person's life and service. Inscriptions often include the deceased's name, rank, branch of service, date of birth, and date of death. They may also include combat service, significant awards, a term of endearment, or a religious emblem.
- The only symbols allowed on government-provided headstones are the Medal of Honor or an Emblem of Belief.



CIVIL WAR MARKERS

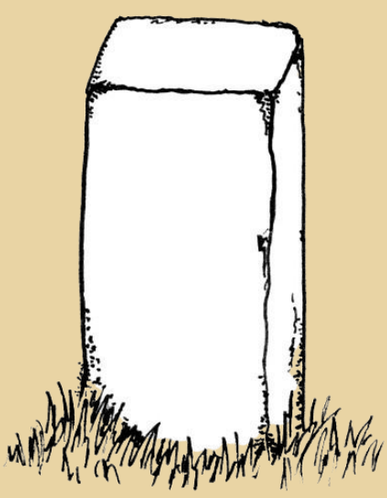
Veterans of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, except for Civil War Confederate soldiers, received white marble slabs with a slightly curved top and a sunken shield carved into the front.

CONFEDERATE MARKERS



In 1906, Congress authorized the furnishing of headstones for the graves of Confederate soldiers buried in national cemeteries. These headstones were the same size and material as the Civil War type, but with pointed tops and without the carved shield.

UNKNOWN MARKERS



The graves of unknown soldiers at this time received a block of marble with the grave number carved into the top.

Arlington National Cemetery 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, stones were sometimes replaced with ones that reflected the current style, or a hybrid style. These changes in policy contribute to the variation in styles found within a section.

Learn more about the variation of grave markers at Arlington National Cemetery and what these markers can tell you about the person who's grave it marks.

U.S.C.T. in SECTION 27

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

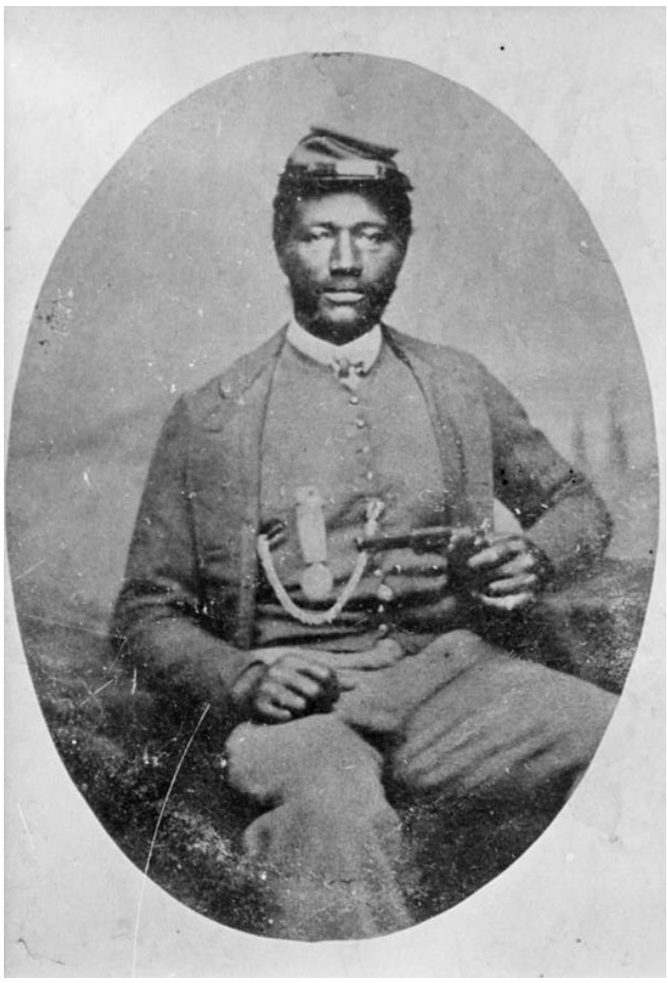
Approximately 1,500 U.S.C.T. are interred in Section 27. The U.S.C.T. regiments were composed primarily of African American soldiers and white officers who fought in the Civil War and, during the following decades, in conflicts with American Indians in the American West. These regiments suffered heavy casualties, and during the Civil War, members captured as prisoners of war often endured serious abuse by their Confederate captors. Black U.S.C.T. soldiers and Navy sailors are also buried in Section 23.

Two Civil War U.S.C.T. Medal of Honor recipients, along with one Black Medal of Honor recipient from the U.S. Navy, are also interred in Section 27:

Landsman William H. Brown, U.S. Navy (1836-1896) — Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Brown joined the U.S. Navy on March 23, 1864. During the Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864, Brown 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. (Grave 565-A)

Sergeant James H. Harris, U.S. Army (1828-1898) — Harris enlisted in the U.S. Army on February 14, 1864. He served in the siege of Petersburg and Richmond in Virginia. During the Battle of New Market Heights on September 29, 1864, Harris's regiment fought its way through treacherous terrain while being barraged by enemy infantry and artillery fire; they ultimately captured the heights. Harris, along with 13 other African American soldiers, received the Medal of Honor for his actions that day. He was mustered out of service in 1867 and, for the remainder of his life, he worked as a carpenter in Washington, D.C. (Grave 985-H)

Private James Richmond, U.S. Army (1843-1864) — For his actions on July 3, 1863, during the Battle of Gettysburg, Richmond received the Medal of Honor for capturing a Confederate battle flag. (Grave 886)



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

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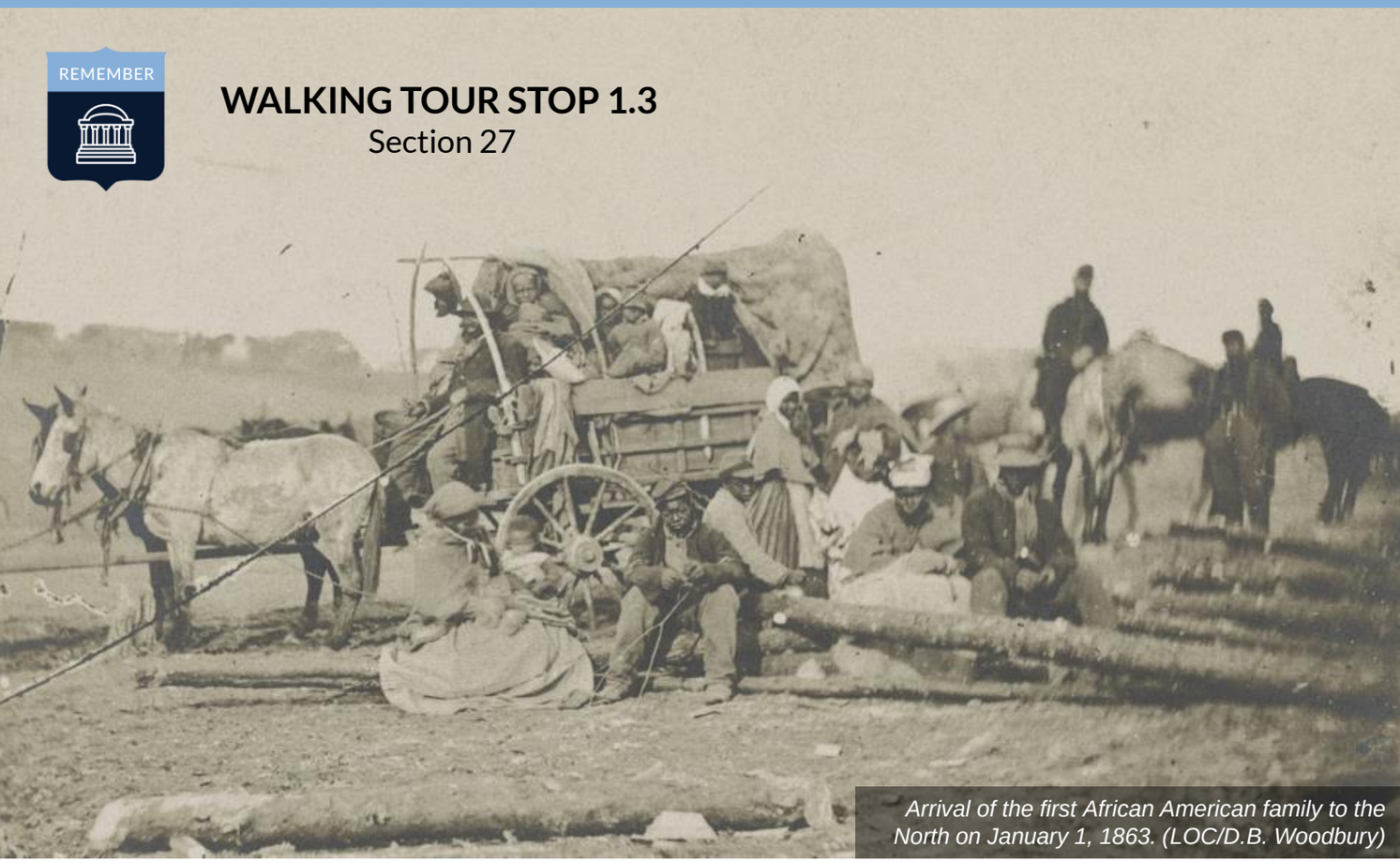
USCT 107th band at Fort Corcoran in November 1865. (LOC/William Morris Smith)

REMEMBER

WALKING TOUR STOP 1.3

Section 27



Arrival of the first African American family to the North on January 1, 1863. (LOC/D.B. Woodbury)

More than 3,800 African American "freedpeople" are interred in Section 27. Their graves are marked "citizen" or "civilian." During the Civil War era, freedpeople included both formerly enslaved people who escaped from the South and free African Americans.

Thousands of freedpeople lived in the national capital region during and after the Civil War. Many lived in settlements managed by the Freedmen's Bureau, an agency established by the War Department in 1865 to assist formerly enslaved people. The Freedmen's Bureau offered help in many ways, including providing burial assistance as needed. Freedpeople who lived in and around Washington, D.C. and were too poor to afford a proper burial could be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, alongside many U.S. soldiers who had fought to free them.

From 1864 to 1867, more than 3,800 African American civilians were buried in Section 27, significantly outnumbering the number of soldiers (both White and Black) buried in the section. It is often assumed that the African American civilians buried in Section 27 were residents of the nearby Freedman's Village, located on present-day Sections 4, 8, 20, and 34. However, they were not. Freedman's Village residents were buried in other local cemeteries.

Little is known about the individual lives of the freedpeople buried in Section 27, but available burial records can provide some insight. Such records are often incomplete and may have errors, as remains were sometimes moved and grave markers replaced multiple times. Additionally, cemetery administrators did not prioritize records management for poor civilians. In general, however, the records reflect where African Americans were allowed to live in and around Washington, D.C., as well as the poor conditions they lived in.

Read "The Freedpeople of Section 27" to learn more about the freedpeople buried in Section 27.

A depiction of rations being issued to the poor freedpeople at the Freedmen's Bureau, 1866. (LOC/James E. Taylor)

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

ORD & WEITZEL GATE

REMEMBER

As you leave Section 27, you will walk along Custis Walk, which begins at the Ord and Weitzel Gate. Originally built in 1879, the gate was named for two Civil War generals, Gen. Edward O.C. Ord and Gen. Godfrey Weitzel. Their names are inscribed on the gate's columns.

Ord and Weitzel Gate stood at the northeast entrance to the cemetery until 1979, when it was disassembled because it was too narrow for modern vehicles. After extensive restoration, and with a change in location, the gate reopened in November 2022.

Workers place a column drum of the Ord & Weitzel Gate as part of the gate's reconstruction, 2022. (ANC/ Elizabeth Fraser)

McClellan Gate in 2019. (ANC/ Elizabeth Fraser)

Other historic gates on the property also reflect the cemetery's Civil War roots and periods of expansion. Named for Civil War generals George McClellan and Philip Sheridan (Section 2, Grave S-1), McClellan Gate and Sheridan Gate also served as eastern entrances to the cemetery. McClellan Gate was the original main entrance. It still stands in its original location, but is now located within the cemetery (between Sections 12 and 33). Like the Ord and Weitzel Gate, Sheridan Gate was also dismantled in 1979. It is being restored and will be returned to the cemetery following the completion of construction at the southern end of the cemetery.

Ord & Weitzel Gate, ca. 1900-1920. (LOC)

Sheridan Gate, ca. 1900-1920. (LOC)

CAPTAIN ROBERT TODD LINCOLN


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

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 2

Section 31, Grave S-13

BIRTH: August 1, 1843, Springfield, IL

DEATH: July 26, 1926, Manchester, VT

The first son of President Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln, and their only son to live to adulthood, Robert Todd Lincoln was a lawyer, statesman, and business executive. During the Civil War, he was commissioned as a U.S. Army captain and served as assistant adjutant to General Ulysses S. Grant. He then returned to civilian life and built a successful Chicago law practice. While he declined suggestions that he should run for the presidency, Lincoln did accept appointments as secretary of war (1881-1885) and as U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom (1889-1893). As secretary of war, Lincoln oversaw the U.S. government's official purchase of the Arlington property from the Custis-Lee family in 1883.

Robert Todd Lincoln is buried with his wife, Mary Eunice Harlan, and their son, Abraham "Jack" Lincoln II, who died at age 16.

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 (a 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

The U.S. Army controlled the Arlington property throughout the Civil War; however, it did not actually own the land on which it created three military forts, the Freedman's Village, and a national cemetery. The Lee-Custis family retained ownership. Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln played a key role in the U.S. government's efforts to purchase the property and preserve it as a national cemetery.

In 1862, one year into the Civil War, Mary Custis Lee attempted to pay the property tax on Arlington by sending her cousin to pay the bill in person. The commissioners refused to accept payment from anyone but Mary Custis Lee, declared the property to be in default, and sold it to the federal government at auction for $26,800 (below the assessed value). When her son George Washington Custis (GWC) Lee inherited Arlington Estate after the death of his mother in 1873, he went to court because he believed that his rights as a landowner had been violated due to the way the government had originally taken control of the land in 1862. In 1882, the Supreme Court sided with GWC Lee, and the land was restored to him. Lee then sold it to the federal government for $150,000 (over $4 million today) — despite the fact that he had previously rebelled against the U.S. government as a Confederate officer.

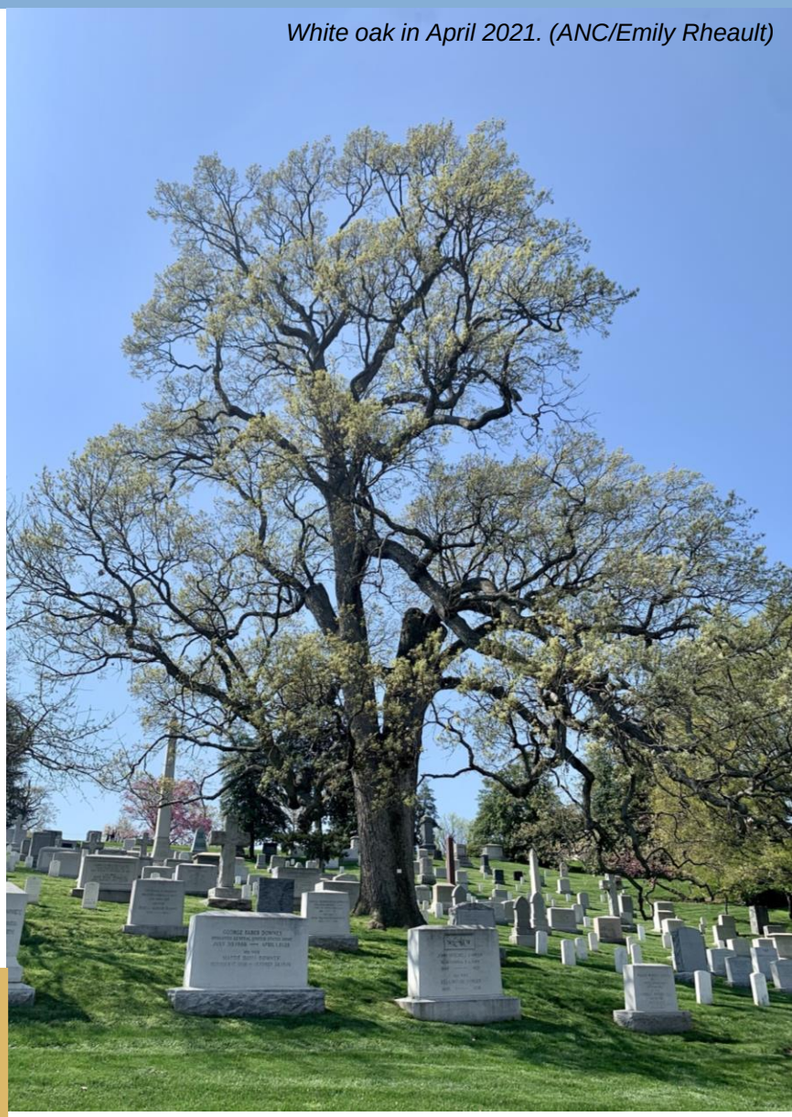
WHITE OAK

REMEMBER

WALKING TOUR STOP 3
Section 2

Around 250 years old, this white oak is one of the oldest trees in the cemetery. It dates to the time of the American Revolutionary War.

When the U.S. Army occupied the Arlington Plantation during the Civil War, it used the Arlington House as a headquarters and officers' housing, and soldiers camped around the property. The Army cut down many acres of forest to build forts and encampments on the land. Although the Army cut down most of the large trees near Arlington House to provide space for soldiers to camp and to create clear sightlines for artillery, it kept some trees to provide shade for soldiers — crucial in Virginia summers. This white oak, around 100 years old at the time of the Civil War, is one of the trees that the Army kept.



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

CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR

Continue along Custis Walk and then turn left on Sheridan Drive. Stay on Sheridan Drive past the Kennedy gravesites. The White Oak will be on your right.

Left: Sketch of solders cutting trees at Arlington in 1861. (Arlington House Archives)

Right: Watercolor of Arlington House during U.S. Army occupation, circa September-December 1862. (Arlington Historical Society/Robert Knox Sneden)

SECTION 2 OFFICERS

HONOR

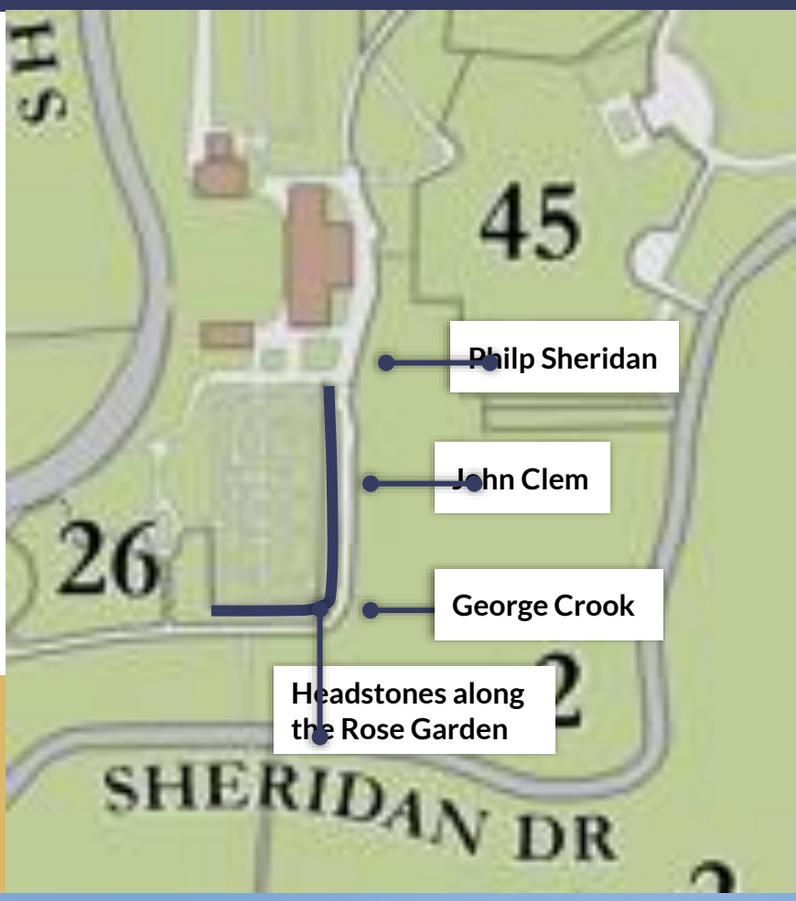
WALKING TOUR STOP 4
Section 2

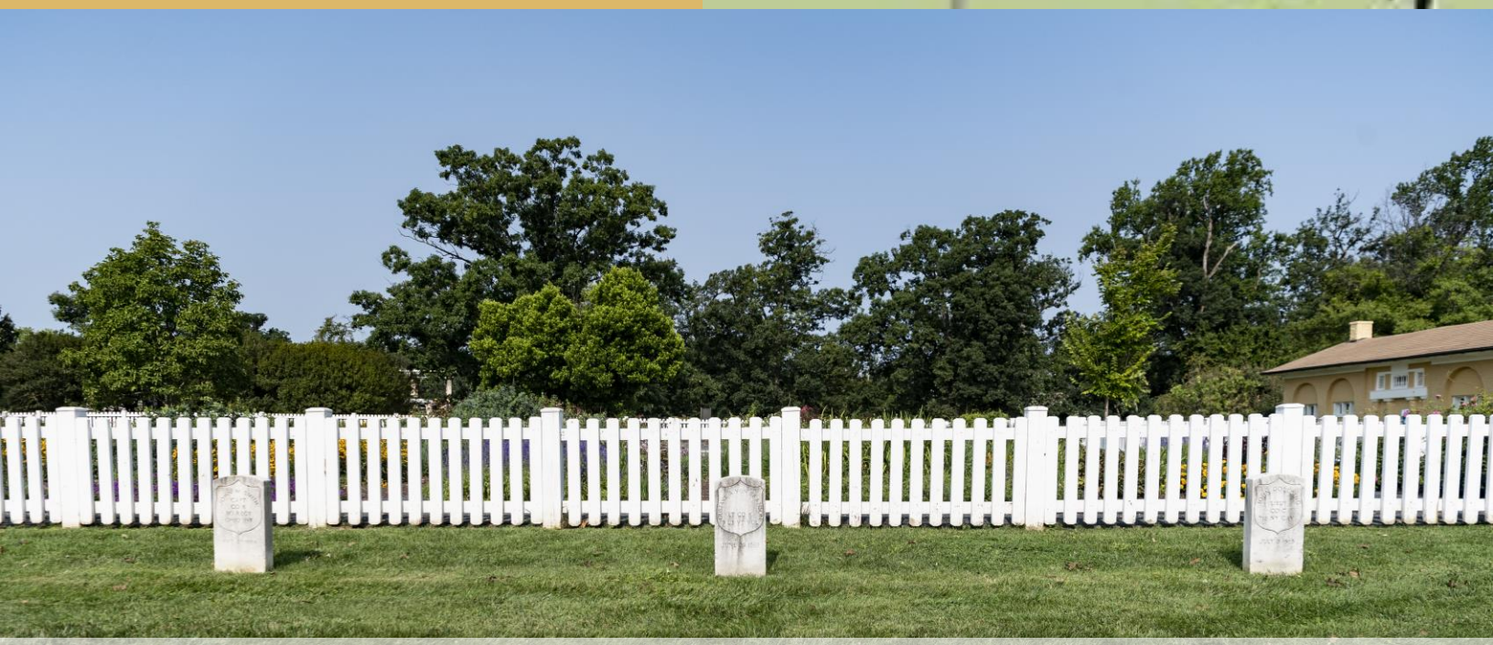
Section 2 is one of Arlington National Cemetery's first officer-only sections. Unlike Sections 27 and 13 (Stops 1 and 11), most of the people buried here survived the war and later chose to be buried in the cemetery, an indication of Arlington's increasing national prominence.

Continue reading for a sampling of the many Civil War veterans honored in Section 2.

CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR

Continue walking on Sheridan Drive through Section 2.





Rose Garden Walk

Arlington National Cemetery did not always have the prestige it holds today. Like other Civil War national cemeteries, it began as the final resting place of service members whose families did not have the money to bring their loved ones home.

As you walk up to Arlington House and pass the rose garden, notice the graves lining the fence. Unlike the officers of Section 2, who survived the war and chose Arlington National Cemetery as their final resting place, these 26 officers died during the Civil War in the hospitals of Washington, D.C. Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs ordered their burials along the rose garden in August 1864.

Major General George Crook, U.S. Army (1830-1890) – A career Army officer, George Crook fought in several major Civil War battles, including Antietam (September 17, 1862) and Appomattox Court House (April 9, 1865). He later fought in the Indian Wars of the 1870s and 1880s including attempting to negotiate a peace treaty with Apache leader Geronimo. The negotiations are memorialized in a bronze relief on his grave marker. (Grave 974)

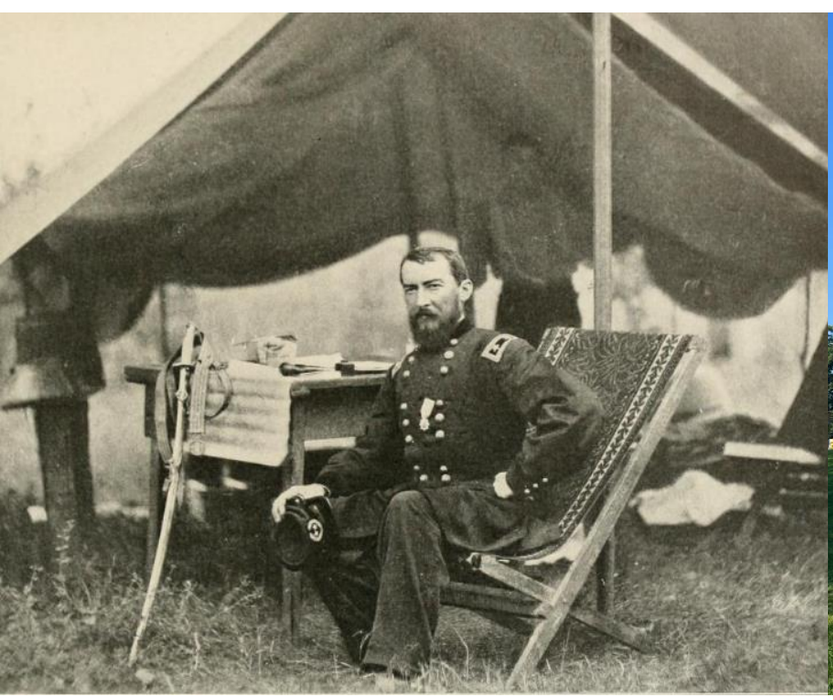
CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

SECTION 2 OFFICERS

Major General John L. Clem, U.S. Army (1851-1937) – In May 1861, when Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers to join the Army, 10-year-old John Clem was rejected from enlisting in an Ohio regiment. Two years later, he had better luck in Michigan, where the 22nd Infantry Regiment accepted him, then age 12, as a drummer boy. During the Battle of Chickamauga, Clem shot a Confederate officer who was mocking his small stature. He received a promotion to sergeant, becoming the youngest noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army. The "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga" retired in 1918. At the rank of major general, Clem was the last Civil War veteran actively serving in the Army. (Grave 993)

Johnny Clem as a boy in his miniature uniform, ca. 1863. (LOC/Schwing & Rudd)

General Philip H. Sheridan, U.S. Army (1831-1888) – Philip Sheridan dedicated his life to military service. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Pont in 1853 and served on the western frontier between 1854 and 1861. During the Civil War, Sheridan was one of the U.S. Army's most prominent military leaders. He led the Shenandoah Valley campaign in 1864, a major U.S. victory and turning point in the war. Sheridan was appointed as commanding general of the Army in 1883 and general of the Army of the United States (at the time, the nation's highest military rank) on June 1, 1888, about two months prior to his death. He received the first full military honors burial ceremony at Arlington, and his funeral helped to elevate the cemetery to national prominence. The monument at Sheridan's gravesite is a granite Egyptian-style obelisk, similar to the Washington Monument, also completed in 1888. His son, U.S. Army Major Philip H. Sheridan Jr. (Section 2, Grave S-2), is buried nearby. (Grave S-1)



General Sheridan, ca. 1864. (Public domain)

VIEW FROM ARLINGTON HOUSE

REMEMBER

WALKING TOUR STOP 5
Arlington House

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

Not only can you see many major landmarks of Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, you can see nearly the entire city, especially in winter when there is little tree cover. Today, you can spot the Washington Monument, the White House, the Capitol, the Old Post Office building, and more. In 1861, you could spot the important sites of the day, including many federal offices and headquarters.

When the Civil War broke out, the U.S. Army knew that whoever controlled the high ground of Arlington Plantation could potentially control Washington, D.C. If the Confederate Army gained control of the property, they could easily fire on the city's defenses and the capital city itself. Arlington House, only three miles from the White House and with sightlines over the entire capital city, took on an immediate strategic importance.

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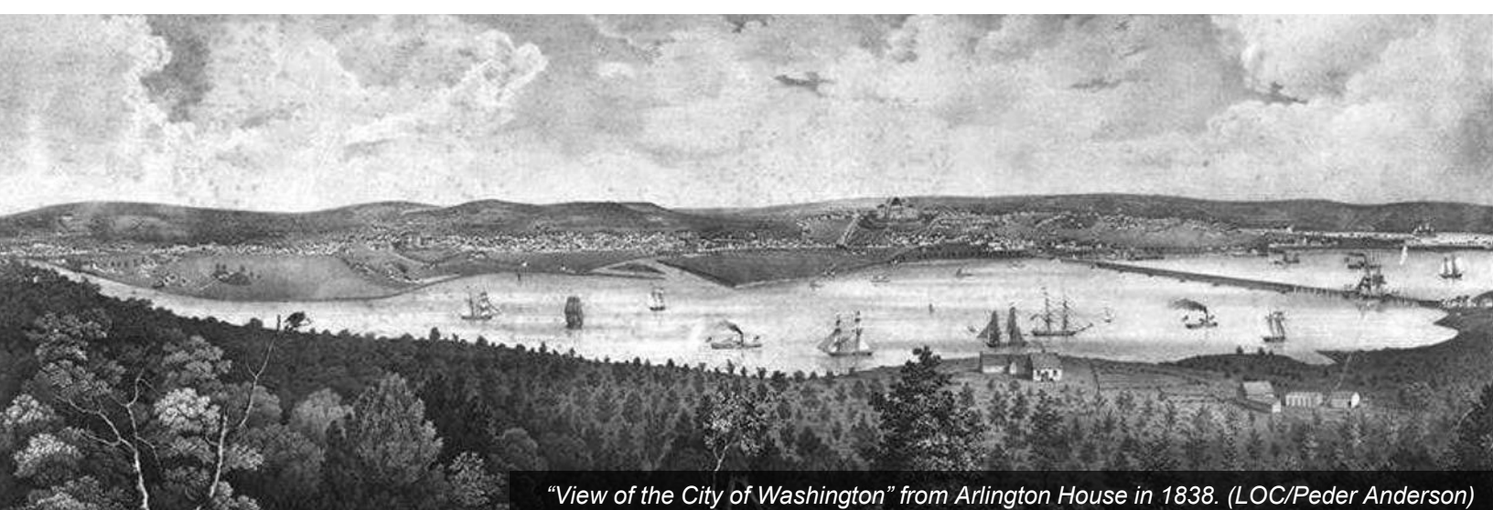


"View of the City of Washington" from Arlington House in 1838. (LOC/Peder Anderson)

Arlington House, owned and managed by the National Park Service, tells the stories of people — both free and enslaved — who lived and worked at Arlington Plantation. It is the only national memorial to Robert E. Lee, a West Point graduate and Confederate general, who led Confederate forces against the United States in its most costly and catastrophic conflict.

Learn more through exhibits and ranger talks.

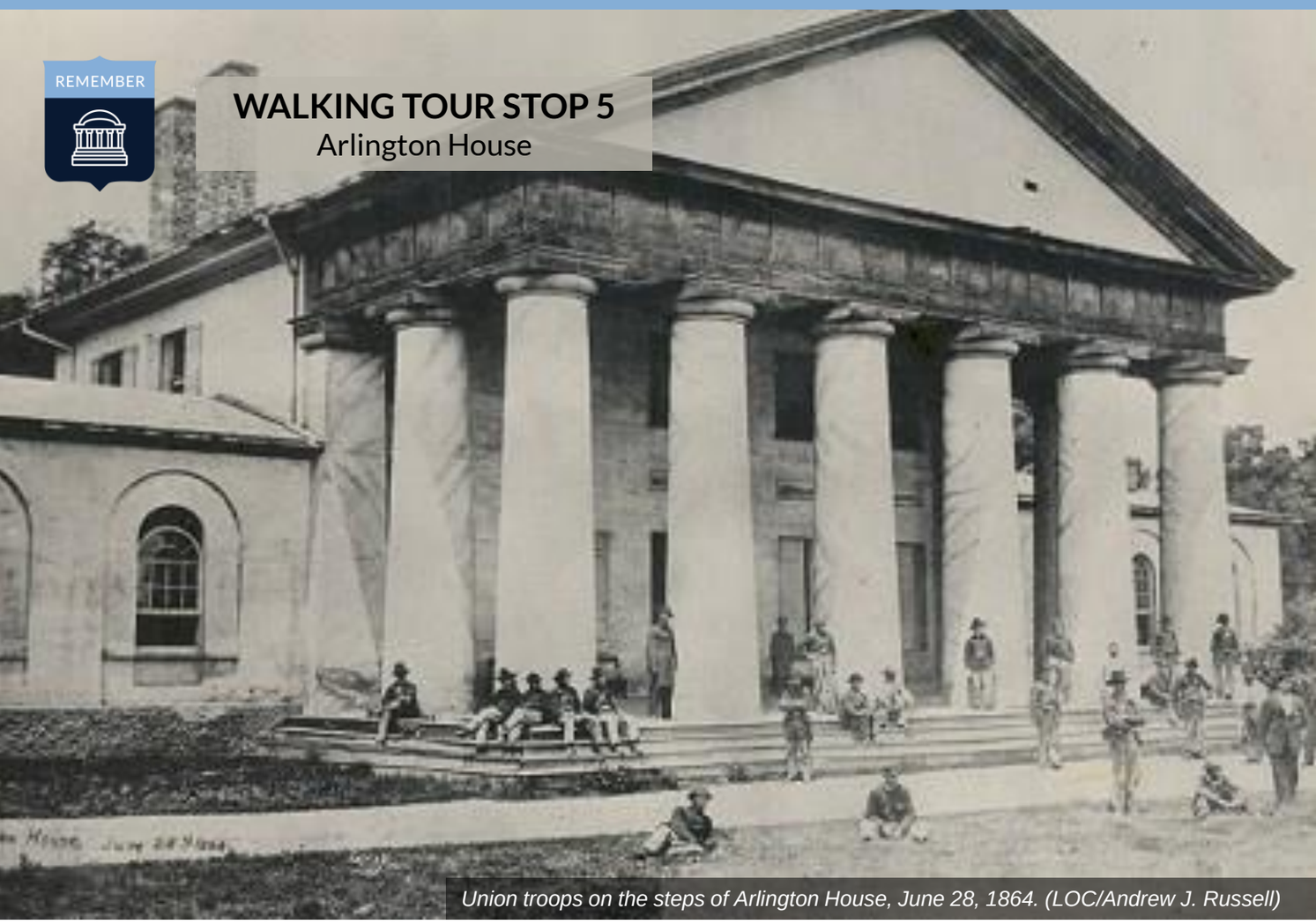
CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR

From Sheridan Drive, take the steps up to Lee Drive. Follow Lee Drive to the right to reach the front of Arlington House

VIEW FROM ARLINGTON HOUSE

REMEMBER

WALKING TOUR STOP 5
Arlington House



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

At the start of the Civil War, Mary Randolph Custis Lee owned Arlington Plantation, including 196 enslaved persons who lived and worked there. Mary's husband, U.S. Army officer Robert E. Lee was the executor of his father-in-law's estate. On April 20, 1861, Lee resigned from the U.S. Army, pledged his loyalty to the Confederacy, and took up arms against the United States. The Lee family fled Arlington House a few weeks later, never to return.

On May 23, 1861, the U.S. Army occupied the Arlington property.

D.C.'s Ring of Defenses

Given Arlington Plantation's proximity to Washington, D.C. and its natural high ground, the Army built three forts on the property: Fort Whipple (now Fort Myer) , Fort Cass (adjacent to today's Fort Myer), and Fort McPherson (located in what is now Section 11). General George McClellan used Arlington House as his headquarters while he oversaw construction of the city's fortifications from 1861 to 1862. Forts Whipple and McPherson were only two of the 68 forts that ringed Washington, D.C. by the end of the war. With 68 forts and 93 batteries armed with over 800 cannons encircling the city by 1865, Washington, D.C. was the most fortified city in the nation.

Just as Arlington was one of many military cemeteries in the region, it also formed just one part of Washington, D.C.'s vast network of defenses. It had yet to gain the prestige and importance that it holds today. Of the 68 forts that made up Washington, D.C.'s defenses, Fort Myer is the only one that remains a working military installation today. Most of the other forts were dismantled or abandoned after the war. Today, you can visit many of the original sites as part of the National Park Service's effort to preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington.

Visit the Library of Congress's website to explore an 1865 Map of the Defenses of Washington.

TOMB OF THE CIVIL WAR UNKNOWNS

REMEMBER

WALKING TOUR STOP 6
Section 26

Near Arlington House, in what was once part of the estate's famous rose garden, stands a monument dedicated to the unknown service members who died in the Civil War. This Tomb contains the partial and commingled remains of 2,111 unknown soldiers, mostly 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 serious and unexpected defeats and was forced to quickly retreat, leaving behind its dead. Nearly 1,800 remains buried in the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns came from Bull Run; the rest were found at other battlefields within an approximately 25-mile radius of Washington, D.C.

Following the Civil War, the War Department began a large-scale effort, called the Federal Reburial Program, to locate, identify, and rebury the remains of hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers scattered across battlefields. By the time the program ended in 1870, the individual bodies of nearly 300,000 U.S. dead had been reinterred in national cemeteries such as Arlington. Forty-two percent of the bodies could not be identified and were placed in individual graves marked as “unknown.”

Many remains from battles fought in Virginia were not intact. To honor those men, in 1866 Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army Montgomery Meigs ordered the construction of a collective crypt and monument — the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns. Because the condition of many remains prevented accurate identifications, it is possible that the Tomb includes both U.S. and Confederate remains. At the time of the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns’ construction in 1866, some people complained about this possibility; within a few years, however, the Tomb had become a revered place to honor and mourn the dead of the Civil War.

This was the first memorial at Arlington to be dedicated to soldiers who had died in battle and whose remains could not be identified. In many ways, it served as a precursor to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, constructed nearly 50 years later. As you pause here, reflect on the ways you can honor and remember unknown service members.

Since its dedication in 1866, this memorial has been redesigned multiple times. The first design featured four Rodman guns atop each corner of the Tomb and a pyramid of round shot in the center. Walking paths and flower beds originally surrounded the memorial. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the monument was redesigned to reflect the aesthetics of the time. The Rodman guns and round shot pyramid were removed and replaced with a frieze (a horizontal band of decoration) and cap, which remain today. The cap features carved stars and Greco-Roman motifs. The Tomb was also raised onto a new rough-cut stone base, and the flower bed was removed. The Tomb’s design has not changed since the early twentieth century, but ANC has replanted the flower bed and added hedges around the monument.

Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns, as designed by Montgomery Meigs, ca. 1866. (LOC/W.M. Chase)

Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns, ca. 1900. (LOC)

Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns, 2019. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)

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.

EVOLUTION OF A CIVIL WAR CEMETERY

EXPLORE

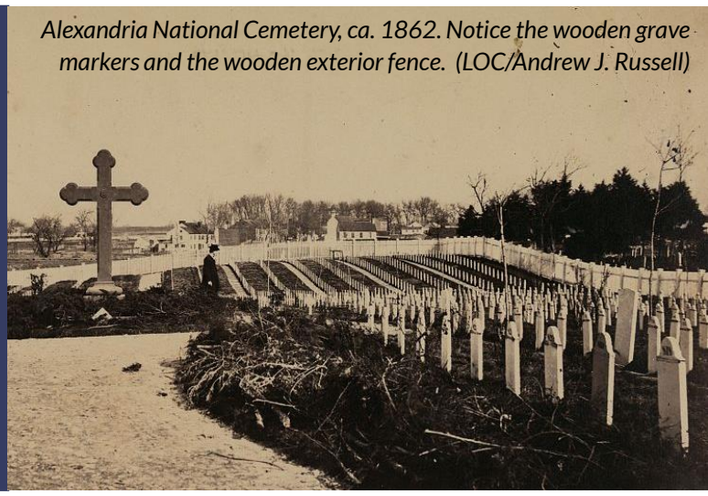
By the end of April 1868, uniform rows of white-washed wooden headboards, each representing the gravesite of a fallen Civil War service member, lined the hills of Arlington National Cemetery. The property's prominent ridgeline, marked by Arlington House, offered stunning views of Washington, D.C. However, little else distinguished this national cemetery as remarkable or different from other Civil War national cemeteries. While ANC contained the graves of some 16,000 individuals and spanned 200 acres, it was only one of approximately 74 national cemeteries established during the Civil War.

The Civil War marked an important shift in how the United States cared for its war dead. Before the war, the U.S. military did not have a systematic method or organized policies for burying its dead. However, the Civil War forced the U.S. military to finally confront and change its haphazard approach to dealing with the dead. There are three main reasons for this shift:

1. The Civil War resulted in the most wartime deaths that the U.S. had ever seen, and it remains the nation's bloodiest conflict. About 620,000 people died, either from combat or disease, on both sides. The sheer quantity of the dead and the health risks posed by the corpses required new burial methods and cemeteries.
2. By the 1860s, Americans had become emotionally invested in the act of dying. Many people hoped to die in a way that would be comforting to them and their relatives, such as dying at home, surrounded by family. Soldiers who died alone on a battlefield, with no one to hear their final words or pray for them, were denied these comforts, something that upset service members and their families.
3. The war dead came to represent the war itself, symbolizing the trials of a nation torn apart. The military's ad hoc burial methods, and the many unidentifiable soldiers, led to public demands for all service members to receive a decent, honorable burial.

In 1862, the U.S. Army created the first cemeteries of what became a new national cemetery system. By 1871, this system consisted of 73 national cemeteries, including ANC.

National cemeteries, including Arlington National Cemetery, were originally seen as "potters' fields" or "pauper's fields"— burial grounds for those whose families did not have enough financial resources for a burial at a private cemetery. During the horrific carnage of the Civil War, the cost of private burials proved prohibitive to many families across the United States. Expenses included embalming, the purchase of a shipping casket, and the transportation of the remains home. Thus, burials at national cemeteries indicated that the deceased's family did not have the financial means to bring their lost loved one home.



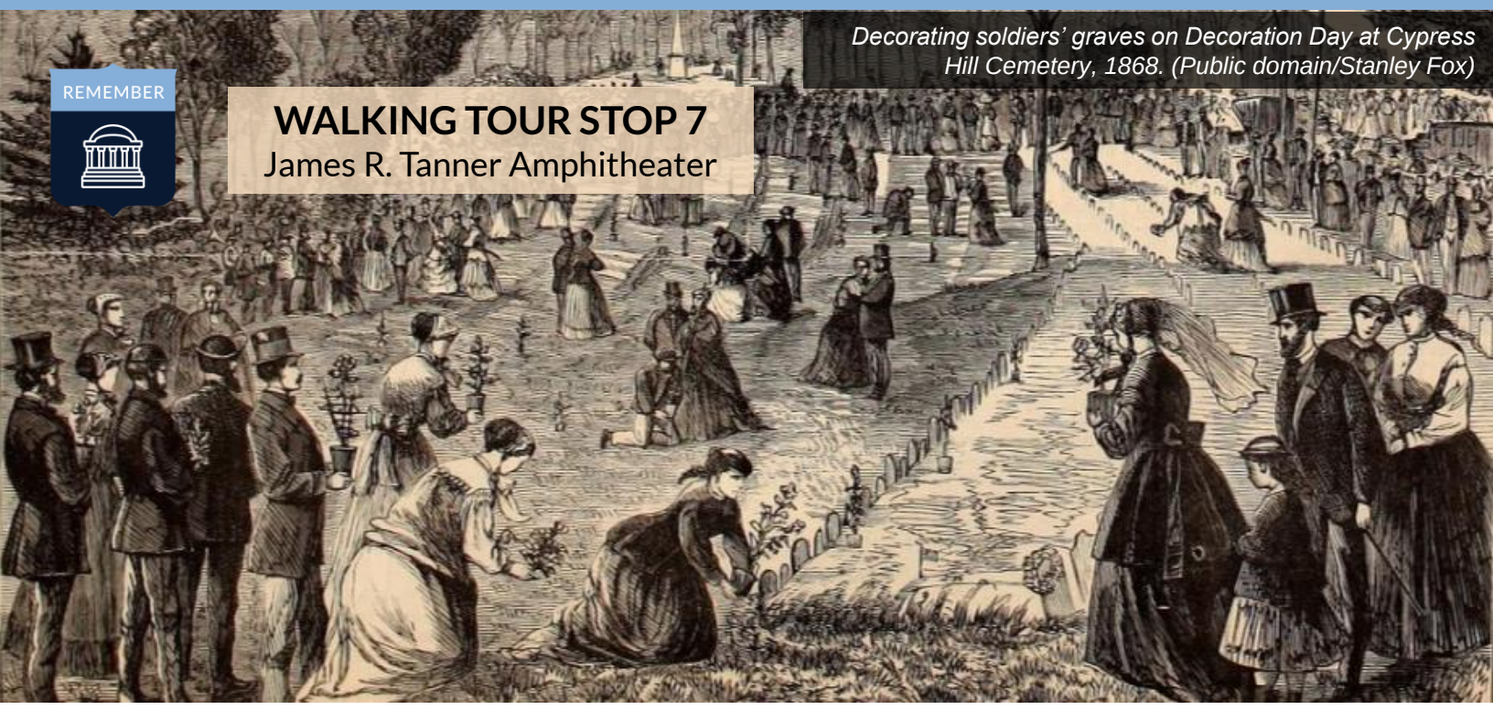
Alexandria National Cemetery, ca. 1862. Notice the wooden grave markers and the wooden exterior fence. (LOC/Andrew J. Russell)

Arlington National Cemetery's identity as the United States' premier national cemetery began to form around 1868, when it hosted the nation's first annual Decoration Day ceremony. Continue to Tanner Amphitheater to learn more about the origins of Decoration Day (now called Memorial Day) and how it forever changed this memorial landscape.

REFLECT

- Have you visited other national military cemeteries?
  - If so, compare your experience at those cemeteries to your experience at ANC. What distinguishes ANC?
  - If not, why did you choose to visit Arlington? Do you have plans to visit additional national cemeteries? (*Note*: Alexandria National Cemetery, established in 1862, is eight miles south.)
- Why is it important for the government to care for the war dead?

JAMES R. TANNER AMPHITHEATER

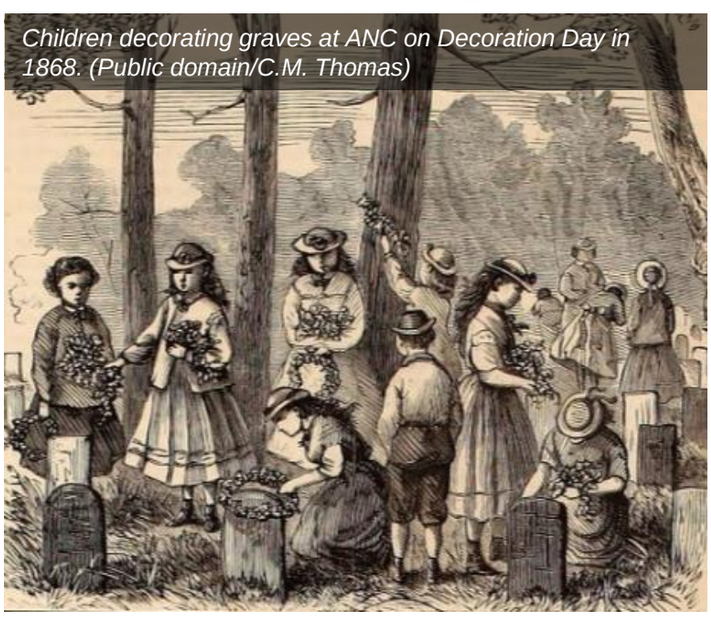


Decorating soldiers' graves on Decoration Day at Cypress Hill Cemetery, 1868. (Public domain/Stanley Fox)

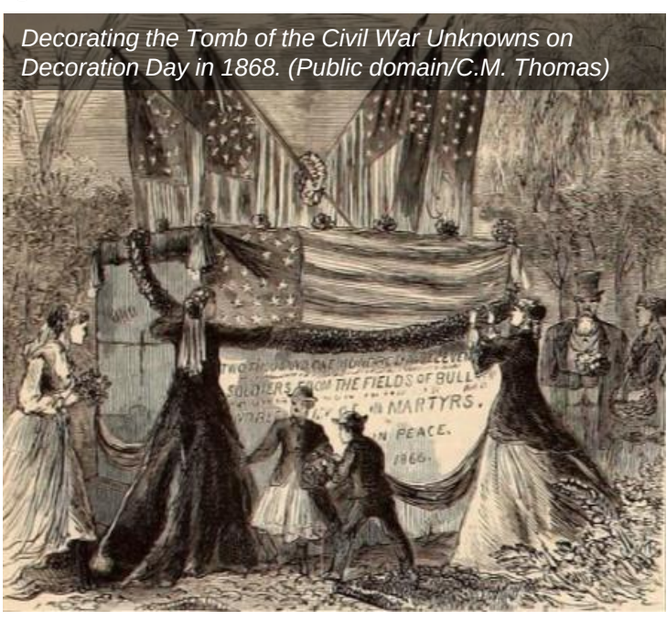
WALKING TOUR STOP 7
James R. Tanner Amphitheater

By the end of the war in 1865, nearly 650,000 soldiers had died, much of the nation's land and infrastructure was destroyed, and the nation was reeling from four years of brutal conflict. The newly reunited United States needed to heal. Americans wanted to unify the broken nation and commemorate its fallen. In the aftermath of the war, communities in the North, South, and West began decorating military graves with flowers, as a way to honor and remember those who had served and sacrificed. Soon, informal "Decoration Day" rituals took place in towns throughout the country.

The first such event of this type may have occurred as early as May 1, 1865. That day, a group of African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina, along with local supporters and U.S. troops, took part in a procession to the graves of U.S. prisoners of war located at a former racetrack that the Confederacy had converted into a prison. There, the group decorated these graves with flowers.



Children decorating graves at ANC on Decoration Day in 1868. (Public domain/C.M. Thomas)



Decorating the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns on Decoration Day in 1868. (Public domain/C.M. Thomas)

While local observances continued, Decoration Day coalesced into a more official event in May 1868, when the first official, annual, national observance was held here at Arlington. In 1868, 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.

On May 15, 1868, 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. That May, the first official, annual national observation of Decoration Day featured a procession from Arlington House to the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns and into the cemetery, where people decorated graves with flowers.

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

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

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JAMES R. TANNER AMPHITHEATER

Tanner Amphitheater decorated for the fifth annual Decoration Day celebration at Arlington National Cemetery, 1873. (LOC/John F. Jarvis)

As Decoration Day gained popularity and the numbers of visitors to the cemetery increased, the Army needed a suitable venue to host the large annual ceremony. A site for an amphitheater was chosen yards from the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns. Designed by Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs, Arlington National Cemetery's original amphitheater, now called Tanner Amphitheater, was built for Decoration Day 1873.

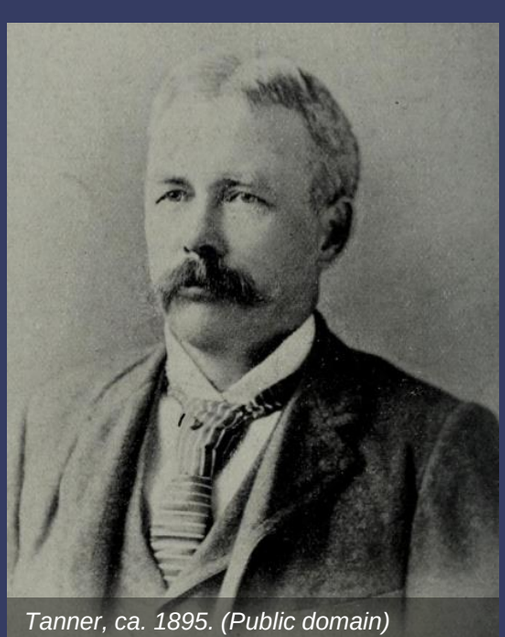
Decoration Day forever changed Arlington's status and helped transform it into a nationally significant site. After the Army began holding Decoration Day ceremonies in the new amphitheater in 1873, an average of 25,000 individuals participated in the commemorations. Meanwhile, Civil War veterans began to clamor for plots at Arlington. They wanted to be associated with the honor that now came with the cemetery's annual memorial ceremony — and to rest eternally near their former comrades.

Additional Decoration Day events, year after year, increased the public's awareness of Arlington. As more Civil War veterans opted for burial at the cemetery, public perceptions of Arlington changed. Individuals started to refer to Arlington as the "nation's premier military cemetery" and "America's most sacred shrine." This shift would likely not have occurred without the cemetery's connection to Decoration Day. In less than a decade, ANC transformed from an ad hoc military cemetery, just like the others, into a nationally significant site of memorialization.

Within a decade of the first national Decoration Day, Americans began to use the terms "Decoration Day" and "Memorial Day" interchangeably. It was not until 1971, however, that the day received its official designation as Memorial Day and the date changed to the fourth Monday of May. Born out of the Civil War, Memorial Day remains a uniquely American tradition rooted in the early history of Arlington National Cemetery.

HONOR

As part of Arlington's 150th anniversary commemoration in 2014, this original amphitheater was renamed as 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.



Tanner, ca. 1895. (Public domain)

Corporal James R. Tanner, U.S. Army (1844-1927) — James Tanner served as a corporal in the 87th New York Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. At the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1892, he suffered a gruesome wound that resulted in the loss of both legs. In the year that followed his amputation, Tanner learned how to walk using prosthetic limbs, taught himself stenography, and took a job within the War Department as a clerk. At 1:30 a.m. on April 14, 1865, as Lincoln lay dying from an assassin's bullet, Tanner was the War Department stenographer summoned to the president's deathbed to record the testimony of witnesses. In that capacity, he recorded President Abraham Lincoln's eyewitness testimony of his own assassination. Tanner also became a prominent advocate for veterans' rights. He served for a time as the U.S. commissioner of pensions and later became commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. After his resignation in September 1889, Tanner continued his life's work as a private pension attorney for veterans. (Section 2, Grave 877)

MAJOR GENERAL MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 9
Section 1, Grave 1-EH

BIRTH: May 3, 1816, Augusta, GA

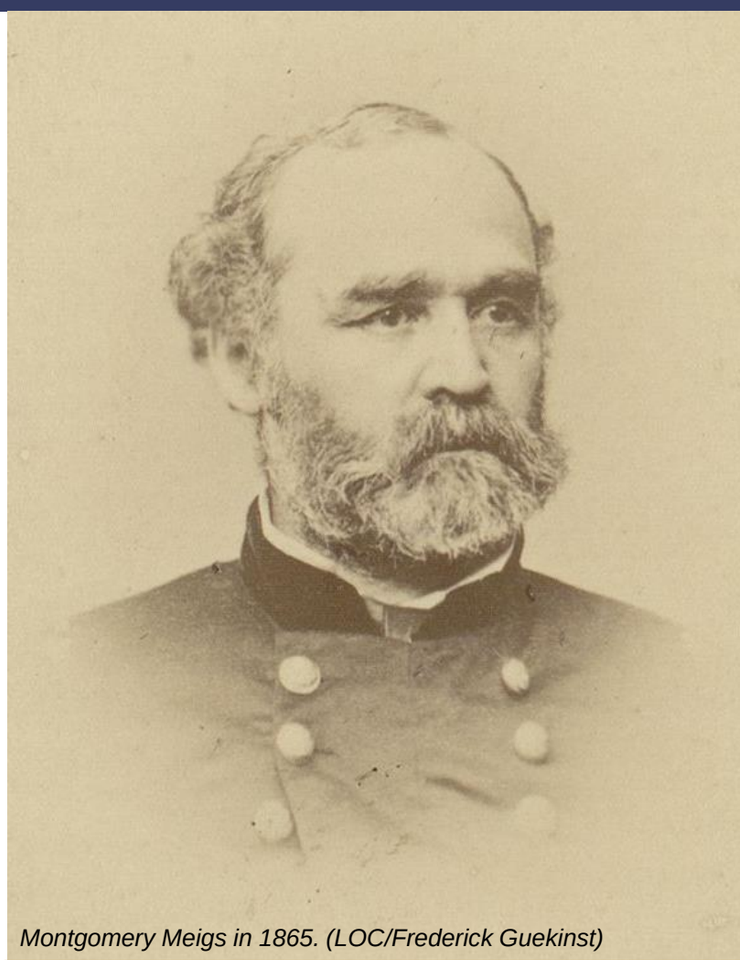
DEATH: January 2, 1892, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: Montgomery C. Meigs, an engineer and career Army officer, directed and led the establishment of Arlington National Cemetery. In 1836, Montgomery Meigs graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As a young lieutenant, he served under fellow West Point graduate and U.S. Army Colonel Robert E. Lee. Before the outbreak of the Civil War, Meigs supervised several major federal projects, including the construction of the Washington Aqueduct and the wings and dome of the U.S. Capitol.

CAREER: After the start of the Civil War in 1861, Meigs was appointed quartermaster general of the Army. In this capacity, he was responsible for managing Army logistics, ensuring that supplies and troops moved efficiently and accurately. Under Meigs' direction, the Army built or bought hundreds of miles of railroad track, thousands of horses and mules, nearly 600 boats and ships, and dozens of hospitals. He also ensured that soldiers received the food, weapons, uniforms, tents, blankets, pans, and other supplies that they needed to survive.

Secretary of State William Seward was so impressed with Meigs' wartime work that he stated, "without the services of this eminent Soldier the national cause must have been lost or deeply imperiled."

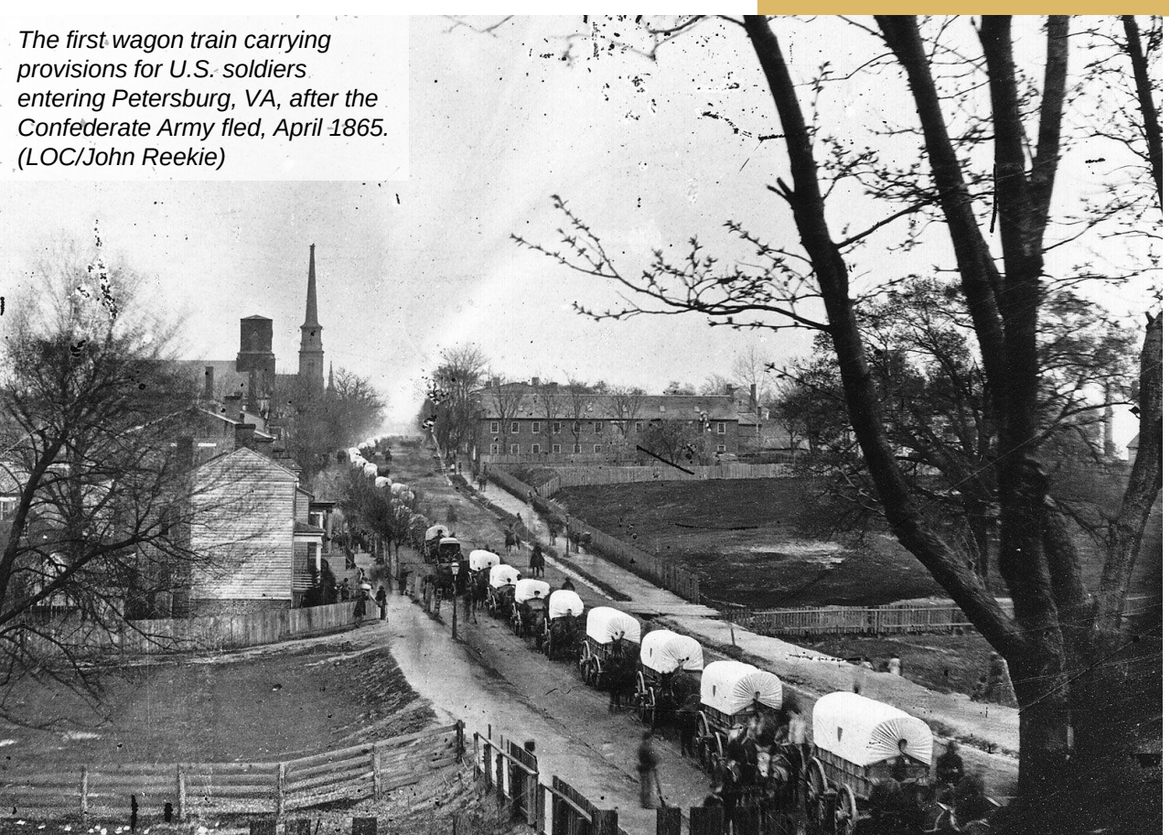


Montgomery Meigs in 1865. (LOC/Frederick Guekinst)

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.

The first wagon train carrying provisions for U.S. soldiers entering Petersburg, VA, after the Confederate Army fled, April 1865. (LOC/John Reekie)



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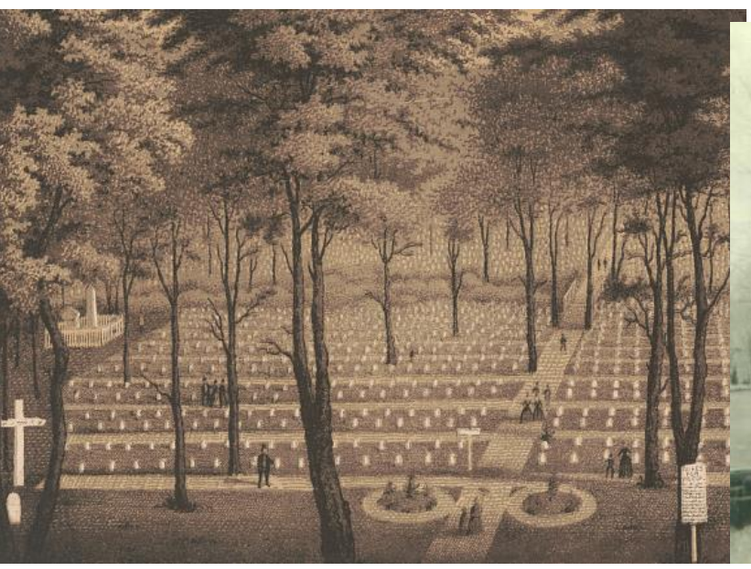
MAJOR GENERAL MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS

In addition to managing the Army's vast logistical network, Meigs was responsible for managing the new national cemetery system. By the spring of 1864, many of the new military cemeteries in the Washington, D.C. area had reached capacity, but the death toll continued to rise. In May 1864, Meigs authorized the burial of soldiers on the Arlington property.

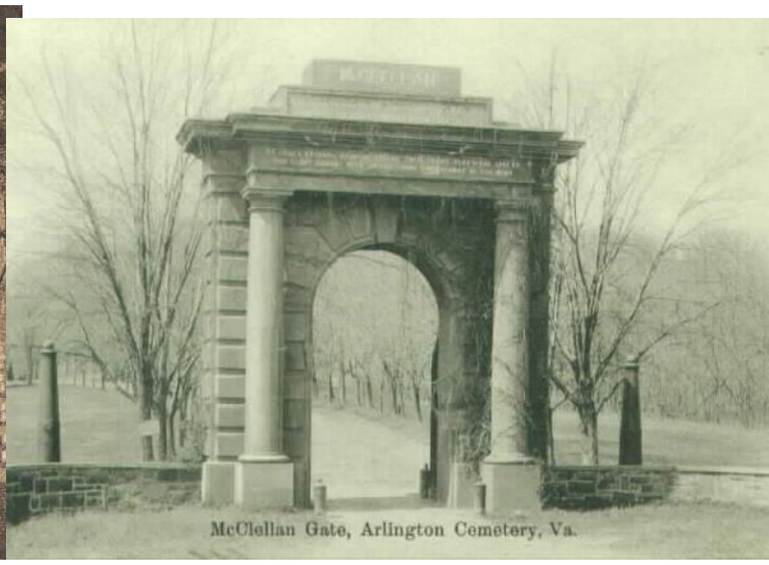
The first burials on the Arlington property began in May 1864, far away from the house, in what is known today as Section 27 (STOP 1). When Meigs learned that the burials had taken place at this northern edge of the property, he personally ensured that the next burials were within view of Arlington House. This included the interment of several Army officers along the perimeter of the rose garden (STOP 4) and the creation of what became known as the "Field of the Dead" in today's Section 13 (STOP 11). Meigs believed that these burials would ensure that the property would remain in the hands of the U.S. government after the war.

Meigs directed much of the early development of the cemetery, including the construction of Tanner Amphitheater (STOP 7), McClellan Gate, and the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns (STOP 6). After Meigs died 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, was killed in 1864 while serving as aide to General Phillip Sheridan (STOP 4). His son's headstone depicts the scene of his death. John Rodgers Meigs was originally buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, D.C., but Meigs moved his son and other family members here in November 1880.

LEGACY: Montgomery Meigs created the cemetery where you stand today, and Arlington National Cemetery would not be what it is today without his efforts. Upon Meigs' death in 1892, the Army published an obituary order in tribute to Meigs. The order stated: "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."



"View of the National Cemetery at Arlington," ca. 1870. (LOC)



McClellan Gate on a postcard, ca. 1905. (Public domain)

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 in their creation would not be forgotten. His name has also been found on the U.S. Capitol and the Union Arch Bridge in Cabin John, Maryland.

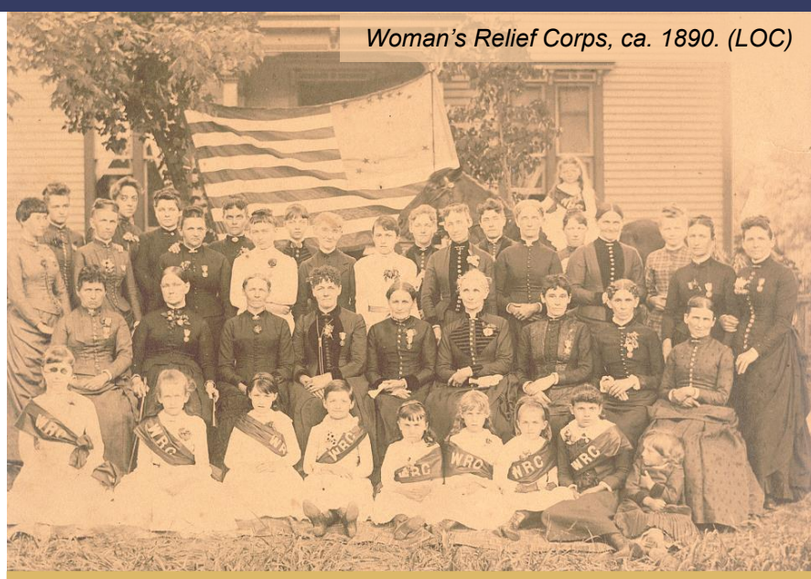
McClellan Gate between Sections 12 & 33, April 2018. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)

JEANNETTE WAITE VAN DEUSEN

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 10

Section 1, Grave 177



Woman's Relief Corps, ca. 1890. (LOC)

BIRTH: March 25, 1846, Washington, D.C.

DEATH: April 5, 1891, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: The wife of Civil War veteran Albert Harrison Van Deusen, Jeannette's story highlights the important role of women in memorialization and veterans' affairs during the Civil War era. Born in Ontario, Canada, in 1846, Jeannette Waite worked as a local teacher, one of the few paid professions open to women at the time.

CAREER: After the Civil War, Jeannette joined the Women's Relief Corps in Washington, D.C., eventually holding office. The Woman's Relief Corps served as the women's auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic (the GAR), the largest and most politically powerful U.S. Civil War veterans' organization.

CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR

From Meigs' grave, Van Deusen's headstone is diagonally across Humphreys Drive, to the left.

The Woman's Relief Corps derived its name from the type of support that women provided to the U.S. military during the Civil War: relief — on the battlefields, in hospitals, and in homes; for the wounded, the sick, their wives, and their children. Such relief work ranged from nursing to fundraising, and included many forms of support. After the war, women saw the need arise again for such aid, this time for orphans, veterans, widows, and others.

Chartered in 1883, the Woman's Relief Corps, attached to the GAR, gave women an organized outlet to lead service projects and perpetuate the memory of those who served in the Civil War; it still exists today. Through organizations like the Woman's Relief Corps, women were able to play a role in civic life without threatening the gender norms of the time. They could take leading roles in community service projects and commemorations, often alongside their Civil War veteran spouses.

LEGACY: If you look on Jeannette's headstone, you will see the emblem of the Woman's Relief Corps. After her death in 1891, Albert chose to memorialize her service in that organization right on her headstone, just like a male veteran's marker might have an image of the Medal of Honor or another award.

Woman's Relief Corps badge. (WRC)

EXPLORE

Albert purposefully identified his beloved first wife as a woman who served her nation and its veterans, and he even claimed she was among the first women buried at Arlington. Yet, her headstone also notes that she died "without issue," meaning without children.

- Why did her husband choose to also include these words on her grave?
- Was it because of his keen interest in his family genealogy, so as to make sure the family tree would remain clear for future generations?
- Was it out of sadness for the children he and Jeannette never had?
- Why define her life's worth as both lacking in motherhood but full of service, illustrated in the Woman's Relief Corps emblem?

We can never know, but her headstone certainly gives us much to think about when it comes to women's roles in American society during and after the Civil War.

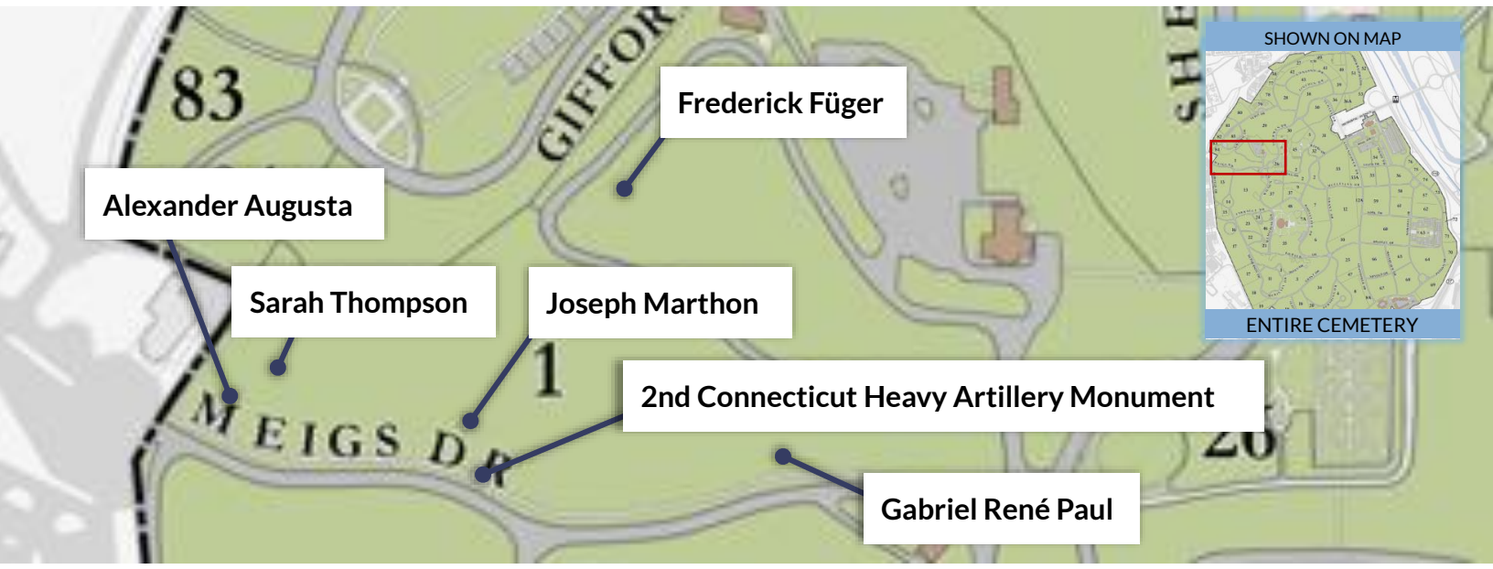
HONOR

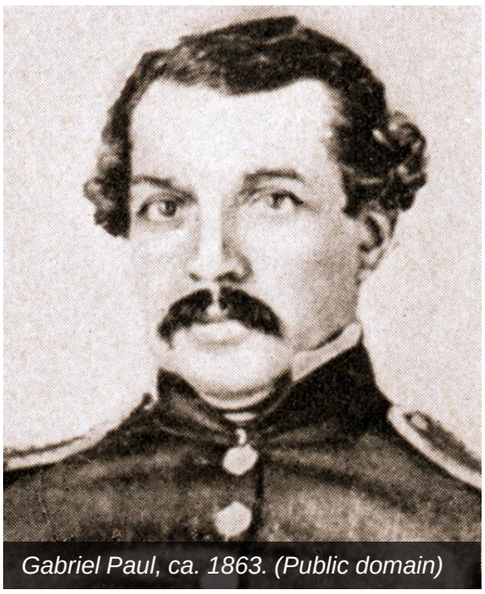
WALKING TOUR STOP 10

Section 1

One of the oldest sections in the cemetery, Section 1 functioned as one of the first "officer" sections. After Decoration Day celebrations increased the prominence of Arlington National Cemetery, Civil War officers who had survived the war began requesting burial at the cemetery. In response, Arlington created three new officer-only sections — today's Sections 1, 2, and 3.

Section 1 contains the gravesites of many Civil War officers, and you could spend days exploring the stories of the people laid to rest here. Here is a small sampling:





Gabriel Paul, ca. 1863. (Public domain)

Brigadier General Gabriel René Paul, U.S. Army (1813-1886) — The son of an officer in Napoleon Bonaparte's army, Gabriel René Paul began his military career at age 16 when he earned a commission to the United States Military Academy. After graduating, Paul served in the Second Seminole War (1835-1842) and the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). During the Civil War, Paul commanded forces in three major battles: at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville in 1862 and at Gettysburg 1863. At Gettysburg, a bullet tore through Paul's head, leaving him blind in both eyes. Due to his disability, he retired from active-duty service in February 1865.

In 1886, Paul died during an epileptic seizure. In his final months, he had suffered near-daily seizures because of his head injury. A few days after his death, Paul's wife, Louise Paul, applied to Congress for a pension. In her application, she argued that she was entitled to a pension because her husband's Gettysburg wound ultimately caused his death. The Senate Pension Committee agreed, and Louise Paul received a pension until her death in 1898. The case called attention to the fact that battle wounds could cause deaths even after a war's end

Paul was the first general rank officer buried at Arlington and the first to receive what we would today consider military funeral honors. (Grave 16)

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

SECTION 1 OFFICERS

2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Monument — The 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Monument is one of only two regimental memorials at Arlington National Cemetery. (The other is the Rough Riders Memorial in Section 22.) The 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Monument honors the 2nd Connecticut forces who helped man Washington, D.C.'s defenses against Confederate forces from 1862 to 1864.

Lt. Com. Joseph Marthon, U.S. Navy (1839-1891) — Marthon served aboard Admiral David Farragut's USS Hartford during the U.S. naval victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864. Mobile Bay (on the Gulf Coast shore of Alabama) was one of the Confederacy's last open ports, and it was protected by a series of forts, ships, and mines. During the battle, Marthon commanded the Hartford's crow's nest gunnery (the platform at the top of a ship's mast, depicted on his headstone). The top of Marthon's headstone features a memorial mainmast. Marthon included the mainmast in honor of Admiral Farragut, whose 1870 headstone featured the first memorial mainmast. In addition to the mainmast, Marthon's headstone depicts his actions during the Battle of Mobile Bay and includes a written account of his naval career. (Grave 103-A)


Frederick Füger, 1913. (LOC)

Lt. Col. Frederick Füger, U.S. Army (1836-1913) — Born in Germany, Frederick Füger immigrated to the United States at the age of 17. Three years later, in 1856, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Füger served in approximately 63 battles during the Civil War and earned the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863. On the third day of the battle, Füger was stationed on Cemetery Ridge — where Confederate General Robert E. Lee was trying to break through the U.S. Army line, in what became known as Pickett's Charge. D

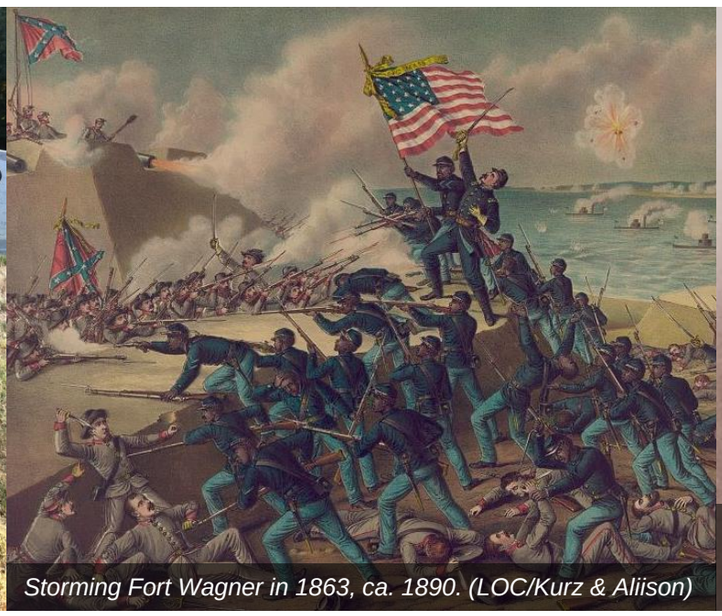
uring the battle, Confederate forces destroyed five of the battery's six cannons and mortally wounded Füger's commander, Lt. Alonzo Cushing. With Confederate forces charging forward and only one cannon remaining, Füger assumed command. Under his leadership, the battery held its position. This helped the U.S. Army repel Pickett's Charge and defeat the Confederates in battle that day. In 1888, 34 years after he emigrated from Germany, Füger became a U.S. citizen. He served over 44 years in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1900. (Grave 511)

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

SECTION 1 OFFICERS

Lt. Frank M. Welch, U.S. Army (1841-1907) — Born in Philadelphia, Welch served in the Civil War with Company F of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, a famed African American unit. On July 18, 1863, the 54th, commanded by white officer Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, led an assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina, as depicted in the 1989 film Glory. This battle was one of the first opportunities for Black soldiers like Welch to prove their mettle in combat. Welch and the 54th fought gallantly but ultimately suffered defeat. Welch received a neck wound and was transferred to a local hospital.

Despite their loss on the battlefield, the 54th won a symbolic victory by proving that Black men could and would fight bravely. Their actions at Fort Wagner inspired the U.S. military to increase its recruitment and mobilization of Black soldiers. Ultimately, over 180,000 Black soldiers enlisted in the U.S. military by the end of the war. (Grave 123-A)



Storming Fort Wagner in 1863, ca. 1890. (LOC/Kurz & Aliison)

Frank M. Welch, ca. 1863. (Massachusetts Historical Society)

Lt. Col. Alexander T. Augusta, U.S. Army (1825–1890) — Augusta was a pioneering doctor and the highest-ranking African American officer of the Civil War, promoted to brevet lieutenant colonel in 1865. He was also the Army's first Black physician, the United States' first Black hospital administrator (Freedman's Hospital, Washington, D.C.), and its first Black professor of medicine (Howard University). Commissioned as a major, Augusta served as regimental surgeon of the 7th Infantry, U.S. Colored Troops. Although he held an officer's rank, during much of his service he received the same wages as a Black enlisted soldier. After the war, Dr. Augusta became one of the founding faculty members of the nearly all-White Howard University Medical Department. (Grave 124-C)

Augusta, ca. 1863. (Oblate Sisters of Providence Archives)

Augusta while he taught at Howard University (Howard University)

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

SECTION 1 OFFICERS

Sarah Thompson, U.S. Army (1838-1909) — During the Civil War, Thompson served as a U.S. Army spy and scout in Greenville, Tennessee. Tennessee was the last state to secede from the United States, and its citizenry had divided loyalties. Thompson's husband, Private Sylvanius Thompson, served as a recruiter for the U.S. Army, and she often assisted him in his efforts. In early 1864, a Confederate supporter likely killed Sylvanius for his loyalty to the U.S. Nonetheless, Sarah Thompson persevered in her own work for the U.S. Army, which included delivering dispatches and recruiting information to Army officers in the region.

In the fall of 1864, as Confederate Army General John Morgan traveled through Greenville, Thompson managed to sneak away and alert U.S. forces of Morgan's location. With her help, U.S. forces ambushed the Confederate troops and killed Morgan. For her action, she received letters of commendation from General Ulysses S. Grant, General William Tecumseh Sherman, and others. For the remainder of the war, Thompson served as a U.S. Army nurse in Knoxville, Tennessee and Cleveland, Ohio. In 1897, Congress granted her a military pension. Thompson was the only woman entered into the Army rolls as a soldier during the Civil War. She was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on April 24, 1909. (Grave 1261-WH)

Sarah Thompson, undated. (Public domain)

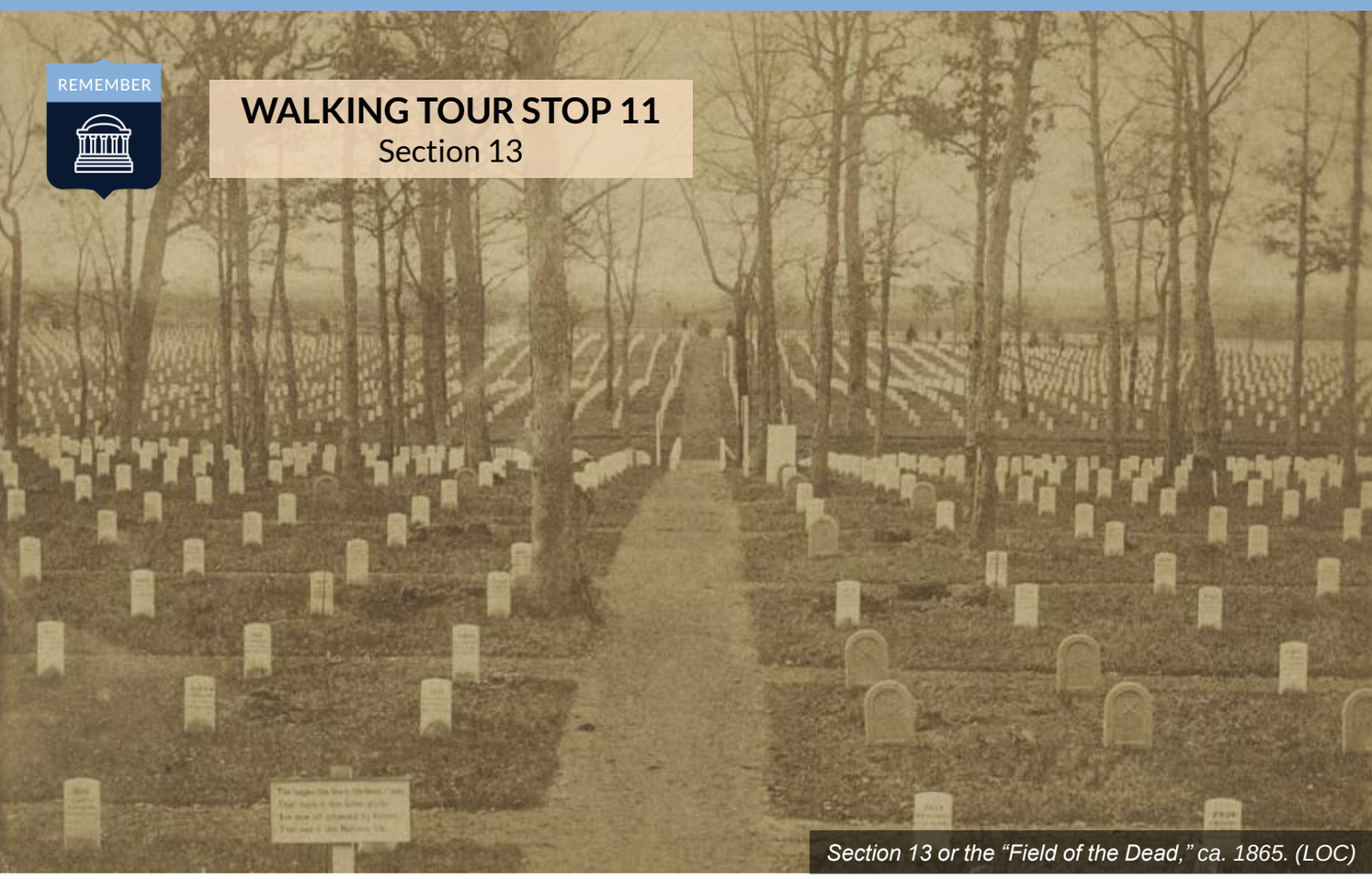
Unknowns in Millennium Expansion

On September 6, 2018, Arlington buried two unidentified Civil War service members in Section 81— north of Section 1, on the western edge of the cemetery. Their burial was part of the ceremony to dedicate ANC's new "Millennium" expansion site, which added 27 acres and more than 27,000 interment spaces. The unknowns' journey to ANC began in 2014, when staff at Manassas Battlefield National Park in Manassas, Virginia discovered a shallow pit with the remains of two soldiers and other soldiers' amputated limbs. Over the next few years, the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution collaborated to excavate and identify the remains. Using forensic testing and historical research, the investigators determined that the remains were U.S. Army soldiers, likely from New England or New York, who had fought during the Second Battle of Manassas in 1862. Just over 150 years after they fell in battle, these two unknown soldiers joined more than 16,000 Civil War soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery. As the first burials in this new section, they symbolically maintained ANC's connection with the Civil War. (Section 81, Grave 5)

SECTION 13

REMEMBER

WALKING TOUR STOP 11
Section 13



Section 13 or the "Field of the Dead," ca. 1865. (LOC)

Section 13 was once 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) mostly 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.

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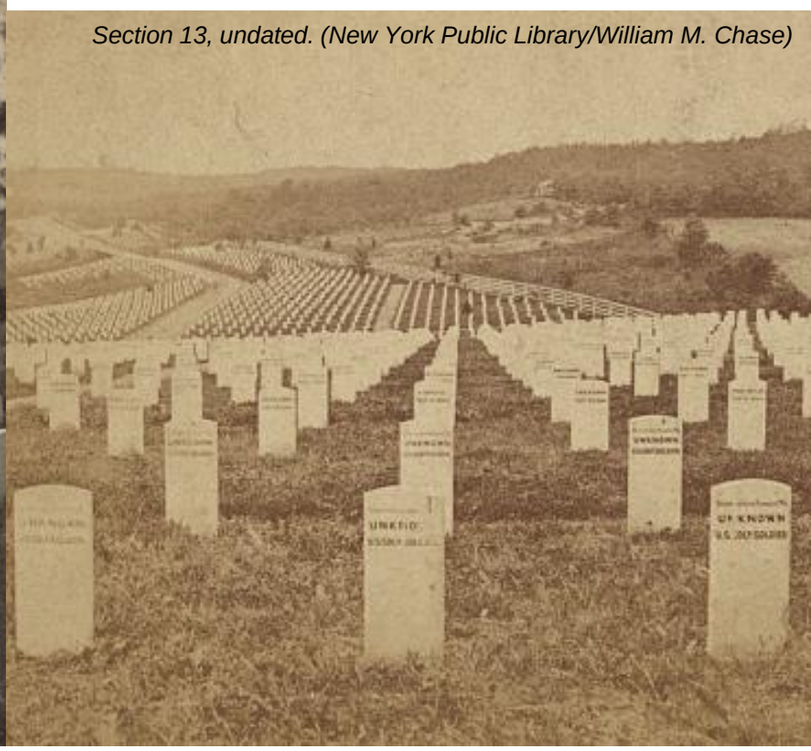
Section 13, ca. 1865. (LOC/G.O. Brown)

Section 13, undated. (New York Public Library/William M. Chase)



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

SECTION 13

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

McCullough brothers, U.S. Army — Suggesting the impact of the Civil War on individual families, this grave contains 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. (Grave 13724)

Captain Daniel Keys, U.S. Army (d. 1883) — Civil War veteran Captain Daniel Keys has Arlington National Cemetery'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 proved costly to replace. Two alternatives were chosen: marble and galvanized iron coated with zinc, although marble soon became the standard. Army Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs championed the use of iron headstones — hence their nickname. (Grave 13615)

EXPLORE

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?

JAMES PARKS

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 12

Section 15E, Grave 2

BIRTH: 1843, Arlington, VA

DEATH: August 21, 1929, Arlington, VA

BACKGROUND: James Parks was born into slavery in 1843 at Arlington Plantation, the home of the Custis-Lee family. Parks was 18 when the Civil War broke out. By May of 1861, the Lees had moved to Richmond, leaving behind their enslaved workers and overseer at Arlington. The will of George Washington Parke Custis, Parks' former enslaver, officially freed him from slavery in 1862. During Parks' lifetime, he married twice and fathered 22 children, five of whom served in World War I.

CAREER: After the U.S. Army took over Arlington House and its grounds, Parks began working for the Army to help construct Forts McPherson and Whipple (today's Fort Myer). In 1864, when 200 acres of the Arlington property were set aside to form Arlington National Cemetery, Parks began working as a gravedigger and groundskeeper. He continued this work until June 1925, when he was in his 80s.

Parks spent his entire life living and working on the land that had been the Arlington Plantation. He grew up in the Arlington House slave quarters, lived at the Arlington Freedman's Village (Walking Tour Stop 12) until 1888, and then moved into a cabin near the cemetery's south entrance.

LEGACY: In 1925, Congress approved the restoration of Arlington House to the way it had appeared when the Lees lived there. As restoration on the exterior began in 1928, Parks became a crucial source of information on the house and property. Despite his age, Parks' memory was, by all accounts, sharp and detailed. His recollections, recorded by journalists and military officials, have provided some of the most important firsthand accounts of the history of Arlington House and Arlington National Cemetery. His testimony also offered valuable insights into the Custis-Lee family, slavery at Arlington, and life in Freedman's Village.

James Parks died on August 21, 1929, at age 86. Prior to his death, the secretary of war authorized his burial at Arlington National Cemetery, even though he was a civilian. On August 23, 1929, Parks' long service to Arlington, in both slavery and freedom, was honored with a full military honors funeral. The American Legion erected his headstone; the inscription represents Parks as a "faithful" servant. Parks is the only person buried at the cemetery who was born on the property.

Parks, undated. (NPS)

CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR

At the intersection of McPherson Drive and Garfield Drive, turn right and continue along Garfield Drive towards the brick wall. The grave of James Parks is in Section 15E to the left. It is in the second to last row from the brick wall, about fourteen graves down.

ANNA ETHERIDGE HOOKS

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 13

Section 15C, Grave 709-710

Etheridge wearing her Kearny Cross medal, ca. 1863. (LOC)

Etheridge in battle, 1871. (John Sartain)

BIRTH: May 3, 1839, Wayne County, MI

DEATH: January 23, 1913, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: Lorinda Anna Blair "Annie" Etheridge spent much of her youth caring for her unwell father. She later worked as a nurse at a nearby hospital. In 1860, she married James Etheridge.

CAREER: On May 10, 1861, just weeks after the Civil War began, Annie and James Etheridge enlisted in the Second Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment — Annie as a "vivandiere" and James as a soldier. Vivandieres, or Daughters of the Regiment, were women attached to a regiment who provided support for its soldiers, most importantly by braving battles to care for the wounded. They wore uniforms, were often armed (Etheridge had a pair of pistols, though records indicate that she never fired them), and could earn military honors like any other member of the regiment. However, they received no wages for their services. Beyond the battlefield, vivandieres also cooked and washed soldiers' clothing.

Etheridge first saw combat on July 18, 1861, during the Battle of Blackburn's Ford in Virginia. She ran through the battlefield offering water and medical care to U.S. soldiers, proving her courage in combat situations. However, the distress of war was too much for her husband, who deserted the Army, and Etheridge, after the Battle of Antietam in September 1862. His desertion did not stop Etheridge, who remained with the Army of the Potomac and served in every major campaign, including Gettysburg.

Etheridge faced many dangers while caring for soldiers on the battlefield. Confederate soldiers almost captured her during the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1862; during the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, a bullet grazed her hand after a U.S. soldier tried to hide behind her horse. Yet Etheridge continued providing medical care to those around her, even after her hand injury.

The soldiers Etheridge cared for nicknamed her "Gentle Annie" in honor of her dedicated care — yet she was far from docile. She reportedly "shamed" multiple retreating men to return to the battlefield and fulfill their sworn duty as soldiers.

After the war ended, Etheridge returned to Detroit, remarried, and took a job at the Patent Office and Treasury Department. In 1887, Congress granted Etheridge a pension for her military service. She passed passed away on January 23, 1913 and was buried at Arlington with full military honors.

CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR

From Parks' gravesite, turn so that your back is to the brick wall and walk diagonally to the right. Hooks' gravesite is eleven rows from the brick wall and about twenty graves from Garfield Dr.

LEGACY: During the Civil War, Etheridge served during 32 battles, saving hundreds of lives. For her service and bravery, she was awarded the Kearny Cross in 1863, after the Battle of Chancellorsville. Etheridge is one of only two women decorated with this honor.

★ NURSING IN THE CIVIL WAR ★

EXPLORE

The battlefield wasn't the only place that female nurses were needed. While some women, like Anna Etheridge Hooks, provided care on the front lines, others, like Louisa May Alcott, nursed at temporary field hospitals or in hospitals farther from the fighting. There were also variations in other aspects of women's nursing service. Some nurses, such as Etheridge or Susie King Taylor, received no wages or compensation. While others, such as Ann Bradford Stokes, were paid at the time of their service and later drew a military pension. Some women pursued employment in the medical field before or after their service while others returned to non-medical pursuits.

However, some experiences were more universal, starting with the fact that female nurses were generally unwanted at the beginning of the war. When fighting began, both the Union and Confederate medical departments expected to rely on male nurses. But, as convalescing soldiers were ordered to act as nurses to their fellow patients, it quickly became clear that the demand for nurses far outstripped the male nurse supply.

Staff nurses at Chesapeake Hospital, Hampton, VA, ca. 1861-1865. (LOC/Frank Edsall)

"In the hospital, the nurses are convalescent soldiers, so nearly sick themselves that they ought to be in the wards, and from their very feebleness they are selfish and sometimes inhuman in their treatment of patients. If we could be sure of being half-way well cared for when we get sick or wounded, it would take away immensely from the horrors of army life."

— An unnamed soldier, circa 1861

By June 1861, the Army was recruiting female nurses. Nurses served through the nursing corps or were hired as contract nurses hired based on a hospital's need. Roughly 3,300 women served as nurses for the Union Army during the war.

Most female nurses had no formal medical training. At that time, few doctors used nurses in regular practice and there were no formal nurse training programs. Without medical credentials, Dorothea Dix, who was appointed Superintendent of Nurses for the Union Army, created other qualification standards.

Nurses had to be:

- Between ages 35-50
- In good health
- Of decent character and not too attractive
- Committed to at least 3 months of service
- Willing to follow regulations and the directions of supervisors
- Dressed plainly

Earning $12 per month, nurses:

- Changed bandages
- Administered medicine
- Fed, dressed, and washed patients
- Wrote letters for patients to their families
- Read to patients
- Prayed with patients
- Emptied bedpans and chamber pots
- Helped manage hospital supplies
- Operated the hospital kitchen and/or laundry

"Woman's Mission" painting, 1865. (LOC/Christian Schussele)

★ NURSING IN THE CIVIL WAR ★

Task assignment often varied by race and class, with Black women, immigrants, and lower-class women typically assigned more menial roles. For instance, African American women were more likely to serve as cooks, laundresses, and chambermaids. They were also often restricted to only nursing other Black people, including soldiers, contrabands (freed slaves), and fellow nurses. In Confederate hospitals, some nurses were enslaved women who were hired out by their enslavers.

The types of cases nurses treated also varied depending on where the hospital was located. Nurses in hospitals near the frontlines treated battle wounds and more critically ill soldiers. Further from the frontlines, nurses treated minor injuries and illnesses or soldiers who were further along in their recovery. And throughout it all, with germ theory not well understood at the time, the nurses were in danger of contracting diseases from the soldiers.

Nurse Anna Bell Stubbs caring for wounded soldiers at No. 1 Nashville Hospital, ca. 1864-1865. (LOC)

When the war ended, many female nurses returned to their former lives. However, some forged ahead in creating new opportunities for themselves and other women. In Boston in 1872, the first nurse training program was established at the New England Hospital for Women and Children.

SERGEANT MAJOR MILTON HOLLAND

WALKING TOUR STOP 14
Section 23, Grave 21713

BIRTH: August 1, 1844, Carthage, TX

DEATH: May 15, 1910, Silver Spring, MD

BACKGROUND: Milton Holland was born into slavery in Texas in 1844. His mother was an enslaved woman owned by his father, Bird Holland, a White slaveholder and later the secretary of state for Texas. The elder Holland freed Milton and his two brothers, James and William H. Holland, and sent the three boys to Ohio (a free state) sometime during the 1850s.

CAREER: When the Civil War began, Holland attempted to enlist in the U.S. Army. At this time, the federal government barred African Americans from serving in the military. After the War Department established United States Colored Troop (USCT) regiments in 1863, Holland enlisted in the Fifth USCT Infantry Regiment. By 1864, had risen to the rank of sergeant major.

During the Battle of New Market Heights on September 29, 1864, 20-year-old Holland assumed command of the regiment after all of its white commanding officers were killed or wounded in battle. He gallantly led his men as they routed the Confederate Army's attack, and with the 36th and 38th USCT regiments, took control of New Market Heights. In 1865, Holland received the Medal of Honor for the bravery he displayed during the battle.

After mustering out of the Army in September 1865, Holland married Virginia W. Dickey. In 1870, they moved to Washington, D.C., where Holland studied law at Howard University and worked in the U.S. Treasury Department. He went on to found Alpha Insurance Company, the first Black-owned insurance company in Washington, D.C.

LEGACY: In September 1864, Holland's bravery helped ensure a U.S. victory during the Battle of New Market Heights. The leadership he displayed proved that African American soldiers were highly capable and willing to risk their lives to fight for their freedom.

Milton M. Holland, ca. 1863-1864. (NARA)

Milton M. Holland, ca. 1890-1910. (LOC)

CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR

From Hooks' headstone, turn so that your back is to the brick wall and walk down the row to the right towards Farragut Dr. Turn left on Farragut and walk through the intersection of McPherson and Farragut. Holland's headstone is on the right, 19 rows from the intersection and six graves from Farragut Dr.

USS MONITOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 15
USS Monitor

"The Monitor and Merrimac: The First Fight Between Ironclads" 1886 (The Mariners' Museum/Julian O. Davidson)

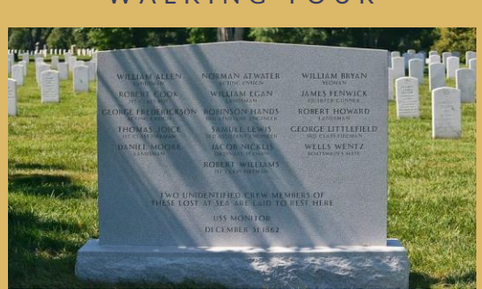
While most Civil War battles took place on land, some were waged at sea on naval ships — such as the USS Monitor, one of the United States' first ironclad ships. The U.S. Navy built it at the start of the war in response to the threat of a Confederate ironclad, the CSS Virginia.

The USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia met for battle on March 9, 1862, off the shore of Hampton Roads, Virginia. This engagement marked the start of a new naval era — an era defined by iron, steam, and engineering prowess. The battle ended in a draw and the Monitor withdrew to Washington Navy Yard for repairs.

By December 1862, the Monitor was back in action. On Christmas Eve, its crew received orders to travel to Beaufort, North Carolina and await further instruction. Although the passage was initially calm, conditions deteriorated dramatically as the Monitor proceeded south. Just past midnight on December 31, 1862, approximately 16 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, the ironclad succumbed to the waves and sank – taking four officers and twelve crew members to the bottom of the Atlantic as survivors watched in horror.

"The Wreck of the Iron-clad 'Monitor'" line engraving originally published in Harper's Weekly, 1863. (Naval History and Heritage Command)

CIVIL WAR
WALKING TOUR

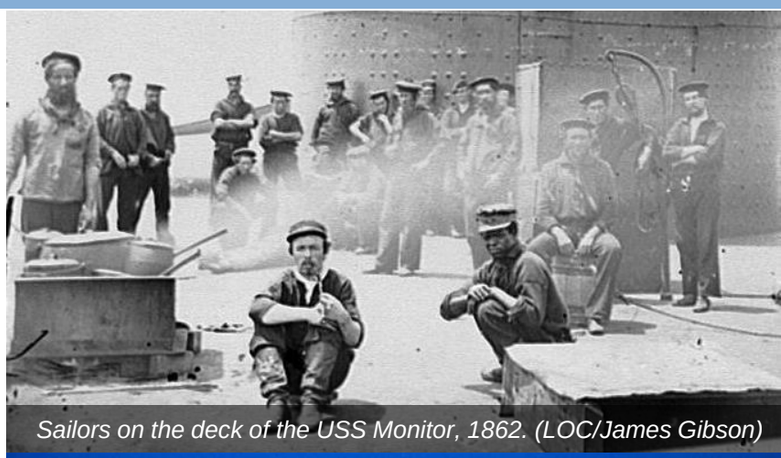


Return to Farragut Drive and follow it to the right. Turn right at Sigsbee Drive and walk around the Mast of the Maine Memorial to a set of steps. Follow the steps down and to the left toward the Challenger, Columbia, and Iran Rescue memorials. The USS Monitor memorial grave is to the left of the other memorials.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

This stop was adapted from a guest blog article on ANC's website written by Naval History and Heritage Command historian Anna Gibson Holloway. Read more about the USS Monitor recovery efforts and the two unknown sailors buried here in her guest blog article.

USS MONITOR



Sailors on the deck of the USS Monitor, 1862. (LOC/James Gibson)

A diver exploring the wreckage, undated. (NOAA)

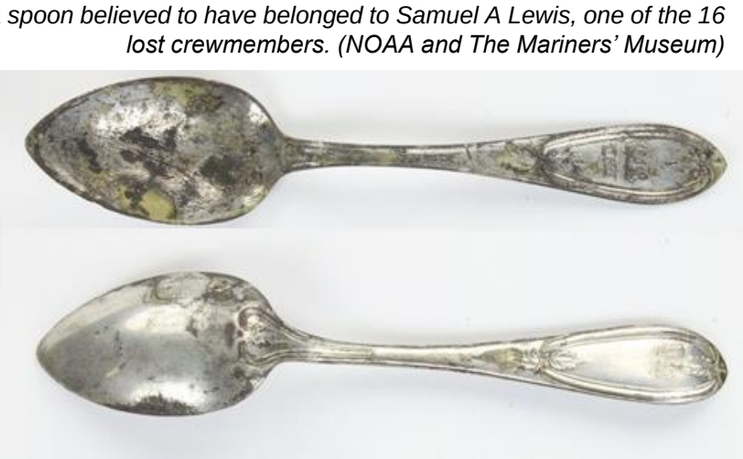
There the Monitor lay, undisturbed for over a century until discovered in 1973 by a team of researchers from the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, North Carolina. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Navy, and The Mariners' Museum (Newport News, VA) soon began recovery efforts. Throughout the recovery missions, team members remained keenly aware that the Monitor remained a war grave.

Ultimately, archaeologists recovered two sets of human remains from the sunken ship. Artifacts found nearby hinted at possible identities — initials on silverware, boots, shoes, and more. But the two remained unknown. At the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (now the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA), scientists performed forensic analysis to try to determine their identities. NOAA and the U.S. Navy sought out living descendants of the sixteen men who went down with the Monitor; many provided DNA samples. No positive matches were made, however.

All of those working on the multi-agency Monitor team agreed that these men should be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Since the remains were unknown, the Navy chose to list the names of all sixteen men on the gravesite marker, thus ensuring that the names of the two would be included. On March 8, 2013, relatives of Monitor officers and crew — as well as the ad hoc family that had been created by NOAA, Navy divers, archaeologists, historians, curators, and conservators — gathered at the Fort Myer Memorial Chapel for a private funeral service.

The memorial honors 16 men who volunteered to serve in an experimental vessel at a time when the very fabric of the nation was in peril. They were part of a crew that was as multicultural as the nation. Over the course of Monitor's brief career, 108 men and boys served in it — the youngest was 18, the oldest 43. The men hailed from New York, Rhode Island, Maine, and Virginia, among other states. Seventeen crew members came from Ireland, four each from England and Sweden, two each from Germany and Wales, and others from Austria, Scotland, Canada, and Norway. Eight were African American — some had escaped from slavery, while others were already free. All of them were heroes, and this monument at Arlington National Cemetery highlights the sacrifice that sixteen U.S. Navy sailors made in the defense of our nation.

Artifacts recovered from the wreck of the USS Monitor, including a spoon believed to have belonged to Samuel A Lewis, one of the 16 lost crewmembers. (NOAA and The Mariners' Museum)



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