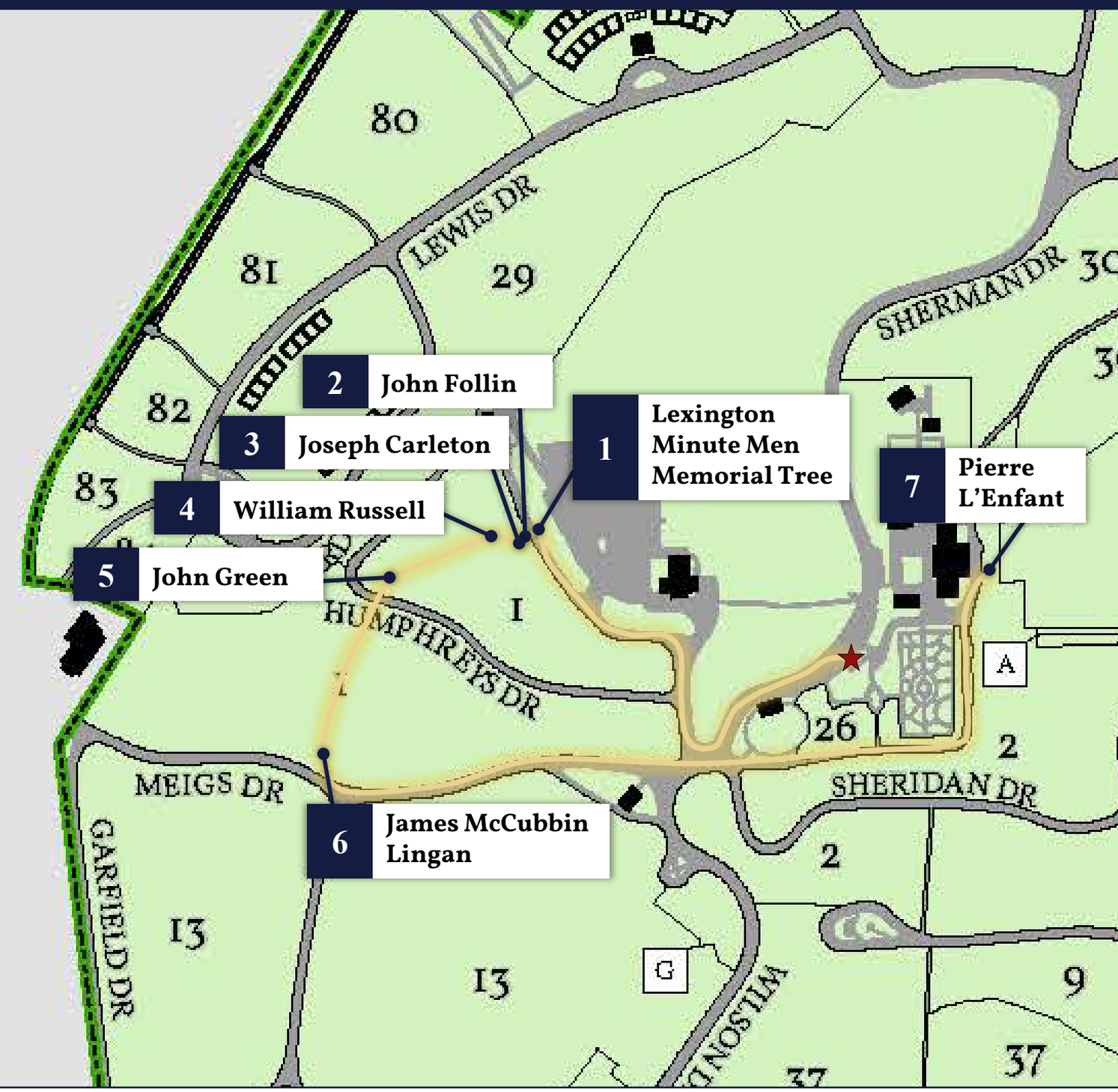
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

THE LEGACY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AT ANC



Tip: *Shorten your walk by taking the tram. Tickets may be purchased inside the Welcome Center at the box office and outside in the tram circle at the marked podium. They may also be purchased online at www.arlingtontours.com.*

★ **Tram stop**

ENGAGE

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

@ArlingtonNatl #ANCEducation

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

THE LEGACY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AT ANC

Length: <1 mile | **Starting Point: Arlington House Tram Stop (0.7 miles from Welcome Center)** | **Exertion Level: Low**

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	Lexington Minutemen Memorial Tree	*Section 1*	REMEMBER
2	John Follin	*Section 1, Grave 295-1-2*	HONOR
3	Joseph Carleton	*Section 1, Grave 299-WS*	HONOR, EXPLORE
4	William Russell	*Section 1, Grave 314-A*	HONOR
5	John Green	*Section 1, Grave 503*	HONOR
6	James McCubbin Lingan	*Section 1, Grave 89-1*	HONOR, EXPLORE
7	Pierre L'Enfant	*Section 2, Grave S-3*	HONOR, EXPLORE

TOUR INTRODUCTION

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) is the final resting place for eleven veterans of the American Revolution. Many of these individuals were initially laid to rest in family cemeteries, churchyards, or small burial grounds that later deteriorated or were displaced by urban development. Years later, their remains were moved to Arlington through the efforts of family members, patriotic groups, and the federal government. These reburials reflect Arlington's emergence as a national place of honor and remembrance that commemorates the entire history of the American military.

This walking tour will guide you to seven graves and memorials connected to the American Revolution. Each stop shares the story of an individual's or a group's service during and/or after the war, and explains how they came to be honored at Arlington. In addition to the six individuals featured in this tour, five other Revolutionary War veterans are buried at Arlington National Cemetery: Hugh Auld (Section 2, Grave 4801), William Ward Burrows (Section 1, Grave 301-B), Caleb Swan (Section 1, Grave 301-C), James House (Section 1, Grave 297-A), and Thomas Meason (Section 1, Grave 297-B). Together, these stories demonstrate the nation's long-standing commitment to honoring its earliest service members and remembering those who helped secure American independence.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775, by William Barns Wollen, 1910. (National Army Museum)

Surrender of Lord Cornwallis by John Trumbell, circa 1819-1820. (Architect of the Capitol)

On September 3, 1783, after six years of fighting and two years of negotiations, the American Revolutionary War officially concluded, and the new United States gained its independence from Great Britain. The origins of the American Revolution trace back to the French and Indian War (1754-1763), in which Great Britian fought France over control of land in North America. Great Britain ultimately defeated France and gained control of most France's territory in North America. However, the war left Britain in debt. To help recover the costs, the British government imposed new taxes and laws on the American colonies, which angered many colonists. Tensions escalated, and in April 1775, fighting broke out at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, where colonial militia confronted British troops, marking the start of the Revolutionary War.

The war lasted for eight years and included both victories and defeats for the American cause of independence. A major turning point came in 1777, when American forces defeated the British at Saratoga, New York, encouraging France to join the war as an official ally. With French military and financial support, patriot forces eventually gained momentum. In 1781, combined American and French troops forced a British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia. Two years later, Great Britain officially recognized the independence of the United States with the Treaty of Paris. The American Revolution created a new nation and helped establish ideas about freedom, citizenship, equality, and self-government that continue to shape the United States and the world today.

The American Revolution lasted eight years and impacted the lives of thousands of individuals. Given its breadth and complexity, this tour does not offer a comprehensive exploration of the war or any battle. For those who wish to dive deeper, this tour links to reputable web pages that offer in-depth explanations of individual battles and events.

Becoming a National Shrine

In Arlington's early years during and immediately after the Civil War, national cemeteries were primarily considered an option for service members whose families could not afford to bring their remains home for burial. By the early 20th century, however, it had become an honor to be interred at Arlington — in part due to the annual tradition of Memorial Day (initially called Decoration Day), which had first been observed at Arlington National Cemetery in May 1868. The graves of Revolutionary War veterans later brought here confirmed Arlington's status as a national shrine representing all of the United States' major wars.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

FROM SCATTERED BURIALS TO NATIONAL HONOR

During the American Revolution, the United States did not systematically care for its war dead or create national military cemeteries. After a battle, the victorious army, which controlled the battlefield, would usually bury the dead from both armies. Often, only officers would receive special care or ceremonies from their comrades after their deaths, reflecting the importance of social hierarchy in early America. It was not until the Civil War that the United States began to take responsibility for its military dead in terms of identification, burial, and the creation of national cemeteries. As a result, the remains of many soldiers from the American Revolution were scattered, lost, unidentified, or buried without any commemorative marker. Many decades later, without national cemeteries dedicated to the American Revolution, Arlington National Cemetery came to be seen as a suitable location for the reinterment of some veterans of the Revolution.

As the United States developed over the course of the 19th century and gained a deeper sense of its own national identity, Americans started to look back on the American Revolution with a sense of nostalgia and pride. Many Americans became invested in commemorating those who served and celebrating the nation's founding conflict.

The Spirit of '76. (Library of Congress/Willard)

The American Centennial Festival at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1876. (Free Library of Philadelphia)

Several key milestones generated more interest in the American Revolution. The French Revolutionary War veteran the Marquis de Lafayette made a triumphant return to the United States in 1824 and embarked on a national tour that feted and honored him across the country, bringing the American Revolution into the spotlight. During the Civil War, both the United States and the rebelling states claimed to be the inheritors of the Revolution, complicating public memory of the nation's founding conflict. A key turning point occurred after the Civil War: the 1876 centennial of the United States, which centered on the Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia. The centennial drew new attention to the American Revolution and contributed to the creation of memorials, such as the erection of the long-planned Yorktown Victory Monument between 1880 and1884. Interest in the American Revolution continued in the years after the centennial. People who could trace their ancestry to American patriots who fought in the war created patriotic hereditary societies such as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), founded in 1890, and the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), founded in 1889.

All of these factors coalesced as the public began to understand Arlington National Cemetery as a site that honored American military history writ large, not just the Civil War. Starting in 1892, a series of veterans of the American Revolution were reinterred at Arlington, positioning the cemetery as a commemorative landscape connected to Americans' renewed appreciation of the Revolution. Arlington may not have been a battle site during the Revolution, but it remains a significant part of that war's ever-evolving commemorative legacy.

LEXINGTON MINUTE MEN MEMORIAL TREE

REMEMBER

WALKING TOUR STOP 1
Section 1

When British soldiers marched to Lexington, Massachusetts, on the morning of April 19, 1775, they were faced by local militiamen sworn to be "ready in a minute" to resist British rule. A shot was fired — questions still remain about which side fired it — and the first battle of the American Revolution had begun.

The Lexington Minute Men, a reenactment organization dedicated to preserving the history of the battle, donated a tree and memorial plaque to Arlington National Cemetery in 2000. This memorial tree honors the eight American "minutemen" who lost their lives on Lexington Green:

- John Brown (1751–1775)
- Samuel Hadley (1746–1775)
- Caleb Harrington (1751–1775)
- Jonathan Harrington, Jr. (1744 or 1745–1775)
- Robert Munroe (1712–1775)
- Isaac Muzzy (1744–1775)
- Jonas Parker (1722–1775)
- Asahel Porter (1752–1775)

AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WALKING TOUR

From Sherman Drive in front of Tanner Amphitheater, make a hard right onto Humphreys Drive. Follow Humphreys Drive along the right perimeter of Section 1, passing two entrances to a parking lot. The flowering dogwood tree and memorial plaque are located on the right, about 140 feet past the second parking lot entrance. Follin's grave marker is directly opposite.

The Lexington Minute Men memorial tree honors these men not simply as casualties of a single morning, but as participants in a turning point that shaped history. What began as a local act of resistance quickly became a national struggle over political authority, individual rights, and self-governance. Over time, the men who answered Lexington's alarm came to represent more than a single moment of resistance to the British — they became symbols of the willingness of ordinary people to defend shared principles at great personal risk.

Living memorials such as this tree and the dozens of other memorial trees at Arlington underscore that remembrance is an active process. By commemorating the first fallen of the American Revolution at Arlington, later generations linked the nation's founding conflict to the long continuum of military service remembered throughout this cemetery. As you stand here, you can reflect not only on how the Revolution began, but also on the many sacrifices required for the United States to gain its independence.

About Memorial Trees

As you walk through the cemetery, you'll notice trees with memorial plaques beneath them. These Memorial Trees are living memorials that commemorate military units and battles, veterans, families, and others. Many were dedicated by U.S. presidents, visiting dignitaries, or representatives from service organizations. There are more than 140 Memorial Trees throughout the cemetery, mostly along prominent walkways.

Lexington Minute Men Medal of Honor Tree

Arlington National Cemetery also has a second tree that honors the Lexington Minutemen: a red maple in Section 23 that descends from a tree at Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Massachusetts. The Battle of Concord took place on April 19, 1775, when colonial militia confronted British troops who had marched from Boston to seize military supplies stored by the colonists. The fighting at Concord, following the earlier clash at Lexington, forced the British to retreat to Boston and marked the beginning of organized armed resistance in the American Revolution.

This tree is part of the cemetery's Medal of Honor tree collection. Medal of Honor trees are descendants of trees that have witnessed significant moments in American history. They were planted to recognize Medal of Honor recipients from the state accompanying the historical event, place or person. Visit this web page to learn about each of Arlington's 26 Medal of Honor Trees.

SEAMAN JOHN FOLLIN

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 2

Section 1, Grave 295-1-2

AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WALKING TOUR

Follin's grave marker is across Humphreys Drive from the Minute Men Memorial Tree.

BIRTH: September 5, 1761, Fairfax County, VA

DEATH: 1841, Fairfax County, VA

ANC INTERMENT: 1911

BACKGROUND: John Follin is the only Continental Navy sailor buried at Arlington. From his early military service and prolonged captivity as a prisoner of war to his civilian life in the new republic, Follin demonstrated a lifelong dedication to the ideals of the nation that he helped to establish. At the request of his family, Follin's remains were reinterred at Arlington in 1911, enabling the history of the Continental Navy to be included in the cemetery's story.

Follin was one of approximately ten children born to William Follin and Bathsheba Hurst Follin near Falls Church, Virginia. He later had 17 children with his first wife Catherine "Kitty" Sandford (married in 1787), and another nine with his second wife Mary Barker (married in 1816).

CAREER: At around 17 years old, John Follin enlisted as a sailor in the Continental Navy. Only a short time later, a British warship destroyed his ship, and British sailors captured the young seaman as a prisoner of war. Follin was held captive for three years: first in England, then in Gibraltar, and, finally, on a British warship. Follin and his fellow prisoners faced harsh treatment while imprisoned, including whippings and minimal food. Close to the end of the American Revolution, Follin was freed in a prisoner exchange. According to his son, Follin landed in Philadelphia and walked home to Virginia, begging for food along the way. Writing about his father's long walk home, Follin's son noted, "He said he craved milk all the time and got plenty of it."

Follin returned to farming after the war and remained a devoted patriot. He instilled the importance of defending American liberties and independence in his children. Five of his sons defended these freedoms in the War of 1812, and one of his sons died as a result. According to his son Samuel, Follin also refused a pension on account of his patriotism, stating, "No, I don't need it; my Government is poor and I can get along without it."

Follin died at age 80 in his home. He was initially buried in the graveyard on his family's property in Fairfax County, Virginia. In 1911, at the request of his descendants, he was reinterred at Arlington, 48 years after the land was first designated for military burials.

LEGACY: Follin never wavered in his commitment to his nation — neither as a prisoner of war, nor in his old age. He consistently put the nation's interests and needs above his own, both through his and his sons' military service and, economically, through his refusal to accept a pension. A letter he wrote to one of his sons in 1814, during the War of 1812, demonstrates his dedication to protecting the nation's hard-won liberties:

> "True it is while you in arms stand ready to repel an invading foe I your Father are frequently engaged in a political warfare with the factious and disaffected in my neighborhood, those malcontents would if possible (and as far as they are able) parry the blow you have prepared to punish that despot who shall dare presume to tread the sacred soil of Columbia with his polluted feet.
>
> But my son let virtuous principles ever actuate your breast and warm with indignant feelings my Republican blood which flows in the veins of you my son against the disaffected in our land. You have often heard me Recount my sufferings by those despots you now oppose in our long and arduous struggle for those liberties you are now in arms to defend. Then shall my youthful efforts add to the many sufferings and hardships I then endured to obtain the independence of our happy country and convey it as the best inheritance to future generations be wantonly or traitorously resigned unto the hands of those from whom we wrested it. No my son I hope you will stand firm in the Liberties of your Courage and defend them against external or internal foes."

JOSEPH CARLETON

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 3

Section 1, Grave 299-WS

BIRTH: 1754, Cumbria, England

DEATH: May 11, 1812

ANC INTERMENT: November 13, 1907

BACKGROUND: During the American Revolution, Joseph Carleton served the Continental Army, but not in combat. Rather, he carried out essential administrative work that kept the Army organized, supplied, and functioning. After the Georgetown cemetery where he was originally buried fell into disrepair, Carleton's remains were moved to Arlington National Cemetery in 1907. His reinterment highlighted the important but often overlooked type of wartime service performed by military members who served in non-combat roles.

Carleton was born in England and immigrated to America sometime before the start of the American Revolution. Little is known of him other the engravings on his headstone and documents related to his career with the Board of War and the War Department from 1778 to 1785.

CAREER: Carleton's headstone states that he was a merchant and served as an officer in the Army. In 1778, he was appointed to the Board of War and Ordnance. This board was created by the Continental Congress to provide civilian oversight and administration of the Army. This included managing rosters, recruiting, supplies, weapons production, relaying correspondence between the military and Congress, and caring for prisoners of war.

Carleton was elected Secretary to the Board of War in February 1781, just as Congress was phasing out the Board following the creation of the War Department. The War Department, headed by Secretary at War Major General Benjamin Lincoln, consolidated military operations and administration. By December 1781, the Board of War had been dissolved, and Joseph Carleton became a secretary on Lincoln's staff. Once the war formally ended in 1783, the main War Department officials, including General Lincoln, resigned, leaving Carleton as "Secretary in the War Office." Carleton managed the War Department through this transition period. He handled the difficult task of disbanding the Continental Army and paying off wartime debts while also organizing a peacetime military system for a brand-new nation. He held this position until 1785, when Congress formally reorganized the War Department with General Henry Knox at its head.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WALKING TOUR

Carleton's grave marker is directly behind Follin's.

Headstone Transcription

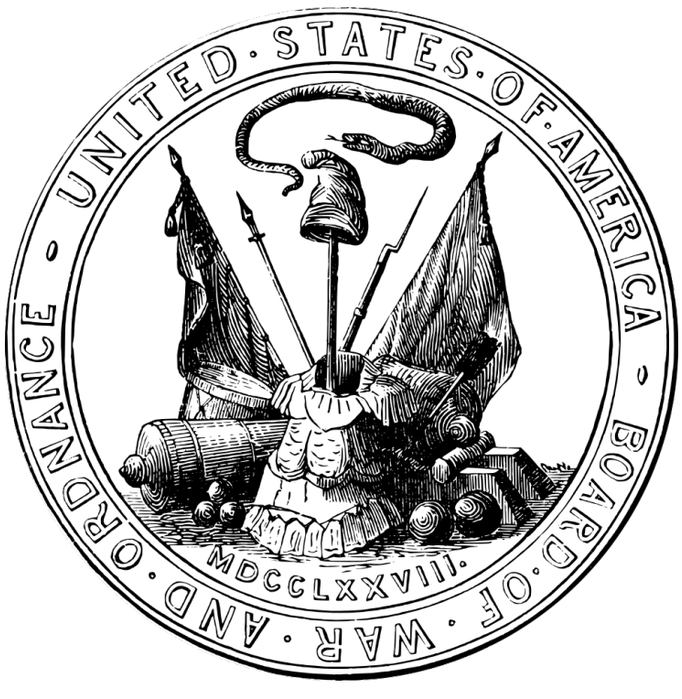
In Memory of Joseph Carleton

who departed this Life on the 11 day of May 1812, aged 58 Years. He was a Native of England, from Langwathby in the County of Cumberland, but many Years, a resident in the United States; and a Officer in the American Armey during the Revolution in which Station he acquitted himself with credit & honor and after the War he resumed in Georgetown his business of a Marcand [merchant].

He lived and died an Honest man.

What's that? In the word "business," you'll see what looks like a lowercase cursive "f." This is a "long s." This letter was sometimes used in the 18th century if an "s" was at the beginning or middle of a word, or as the first "s" in a double "s" at the end of a word. It fell out of use in the 19th century.

Seal of the Board of War, circa 1778. (Harper's Encyclopedia)



JOSEPH CARLETON

Joseph Carleton was only 24 when he was appointed to the Board of War and Ordnance, and he was 30 when the Revolutionary War ended. Despite his youth, Carleton carried out his enormous responsibilities conscientiously. In 1784, he reported to Congress that of the $66 million (about $1.5 billion today) of transactions he managed on behalf of the American military, he could account for all but $320. Congress recognized his exemplary work, reporting in 1785: "That in all these different offices the said Joseph Carleton conducted himself as an able diligent upright and faithful servant of the United States, and has given the most entire satisfaction as well to Congress as to all those under whose immediate direction he acted."

LEGACY: Carleton's career highlights the challenges faced by early American leaders, who had to fight a war for independence while also creating a new system of government. Today, the Department of War is a large bureaucratic organization with systems and resources for recruiting troops, procuring and transporting supplies, maintaining records, issuing pay, and more. During the Revolutionary War, however, all of these systems needed to be built from scratch, and many of them were personally administered by Joseph Carleton.

REINTERMENT AT ARLINGTON: Joseph Carleton was originally buried in the Presbyterian Burying Ground in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. In 1891, cemetery trustees announced that the cemetery was officially closed and requested that families remove their loved ones' remains. It is not clear whether Joseph Carleton had any family in the United States, and because the cemetery's burial records were destroyed in a fire in 1860, it is possible that no one knew where he was buried. In 1907, while developing the cemetery's land into a park and playground, a worker plowed over Carleton's headstone. His remains were then moved to Arlington National Cemetery, ensuring that his service would receive permanent recognition and honor.

Old Presbyterian Burying Ground, Georgetown, Washington, D.C., 1893. (Historical Society of Washington D.C.)

SERVING THE NATION

EXPLORE

When many people speak of honoring service to the nation, they focus on members of the military. However, while military members make extraordinary sacrifices, they are not the only ones who work in service to the American people.

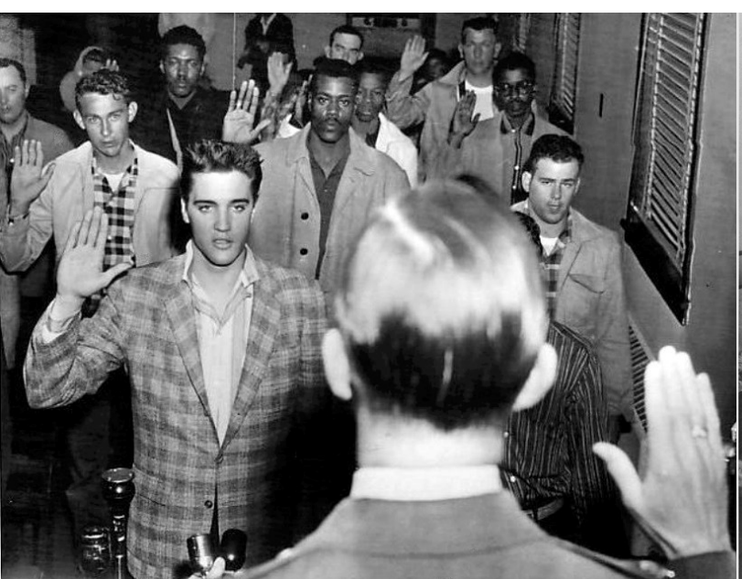
This understanding of service can be traced to the American Revolution. Many individuals contributed to the fight for independence without serving as soldiers. Joseph Carleton's administrative work with the Board of War allowed military leaders like George Washington to focus on strategy and operations. Several Founding Fathers never served in the military, yet their political leadership, diplomacy, writing, and organizational skills were essential to the Revolution's success. Civilian leaders drafted laws, negotiated foreign alliances, secured funding and supplies, and helped unite the colonies around a shared vision of independence. Military victory alone could not have created a new nation without this vital civilian work.

This work continues today, as civilians throughout the federal government serve the American people. In many cases, their duties, responsibilities, and sacrifices closely mirror those of the military, demonstrating that service to the nation has always taken many forms.

OATH TO SERVE

Today, all military members, federal employees, judges, political appointees, U.S. representatives, U.S. senators, the vice president, and president are expected to serve the people of the United States ahead of their personal interests and are required to take an oath of office promising to defend the Constitution. The Constitution specifies language of the presidential oath; Congress determines oaths for other government representatives and employees. Congress has changed this oath over time to reflect national concerns (for instance, for a period after the Civil War, the oath required swearing that one had not participated in armed hostility against the United States). As of 2026, the oath of office for government representatives and employees is:

> *I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.*



Clockwise from bottom: Sandra Day O'Connor being sworn in as a Supreme Court justice, September 25, 1981 (National Archives); A group of young men, including Elvis Presley, take the oath of enlistment, March 24, 1958 (Associated Press); Lyndon B. Johnson takes the oath of office aboard Air Force One, following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963 (National Archives/Cecil Stoughton)

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

SERVING THE NATION

UNIFORMED SERVICE

The United States currently has eight uniformed services:

- The five traditional armed services — Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force — are administered under the Department of War (formerly the Department of Defense).
- The Coast Guard is administered by the Department of Homeland Security but may be transferred to the Department of War during times of war. The Coast Guard is responsible for maritime security and law enforcement as well as search and rescue missions at sea.
- The Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHSCC), administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, provides healthcare and public-health services and can be deployed to address public-health emergencies and natural disasters.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps), administered by the Department of Commerce, conducts environmental monitoring and scientific research, including hazardous missions such as flying into hurricanes or operating deep-sea expeditions.

Members of the U.S. Public Health Service arrive in Liberia to address an Ebola outbreak, October 27, 2014. (U.S. Air Force/Gustavo Gonzalez)

NOAA Corps pilots fly into a hurricane, undated. (NOAA)

SERVING AWAY FROM HOME

Like military personnel, some civilian government employees serve overseas. For example, members of the Foreign Service receive assignments around the world and may be required to live in challenging or high-risk conditions. Members of the intelligence community often deploy alongside the military in both peace and war. Merchant Mariners crew commercial vessels, and their lives at sea resemble those of Navy sailors, involving long periods away from home. Many civilians also serve communities in need through roles that require relocation, including AmeriCorps volunteers, rural public-health specialists, and FEMA disaster-response teams.

A search and rescue team from Virginia, working with FEMA, responds to flooding in Kentucky, April 8, 2025. (FEMA/Patsy Lynch)

REFLECT

- How do the examples of Joseph Carleton and other civilian leaders during the American Revolution change the way we think about “service”?
- How does serving the nation in a democracy differ from serving a ruler like a king or other single authority?
- Why is it important in a democracy for so many kinds of people and professions to participate in national service?
- How might serving your community or country shape how you see yourself as a citizen?

COLONEL WILLIAM RUSSELL

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 4

Section 1, Grave 314-A

AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WALKING TOUR

Russell's grave marker is seven plots to the right of Carleton's.

BIRTH: 1735, Orange County, VA

DEATH: January 14, 1793, Front Royal, VA

ANC INTERMENT: July 17, 1943

BACKGROUND: William Russell is one of two Revolutionary War veterans at ANC whose grave is marked with a standard government headstone. When Russell died in 1793 while traveling to visit family, he was buried quietly in a small private cemetery near Front Royal, Virginia. His grave bore no marker nor anything that identified him as a Revolutionary War officer. For more than 150 years, his resting place remained unmarked and largely forgotten — a powerful reminder that even those who risked their lives to win American independence could fade from public memory without deliberate acts of commemoration. It wasn't until one of Russell's descendants began trying to find his gravesite in the 1930s that his service was remembered, recognized, and ultimately honored at Arlington National Cemetery.

Russell grew up near Culpepper, Virginia, and attended the College of William and Mary. He married twice: first to Tabitha Adams in 1755, and then, after her death in December 1776, to Elizabeth Henry Campbell in 1783. Neither of Russell's wives are buried alongside him at Arlington. Tabitha's burial site is unknown, and Elizabeth is buried in Saltville, Virginia, where she lived with Russell.

CAREER: Russell entered the military service of the new United States on December 19, 1776, as colonel of the 13th Virginia Regiment. Throughout the war, Russell commanded several Virginia regiments, leading troops at Brandywine (September 1777), Germantown (October 1777) and Monmouth (June 1778). After the battle of Germantown, Major General Adam Stephens wrote to George Washington to praise Russell for fighting "gallantly during the action." During the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina, in May 1780, Russell, along with the rest of his garrison, surrendered to the British, who took them to the West Indies as prisoners of war. Later, after being freed due to a prisoner exchange, he rejoined the Continental Army and witnessed the British surrender at Yorktown in October 1781.

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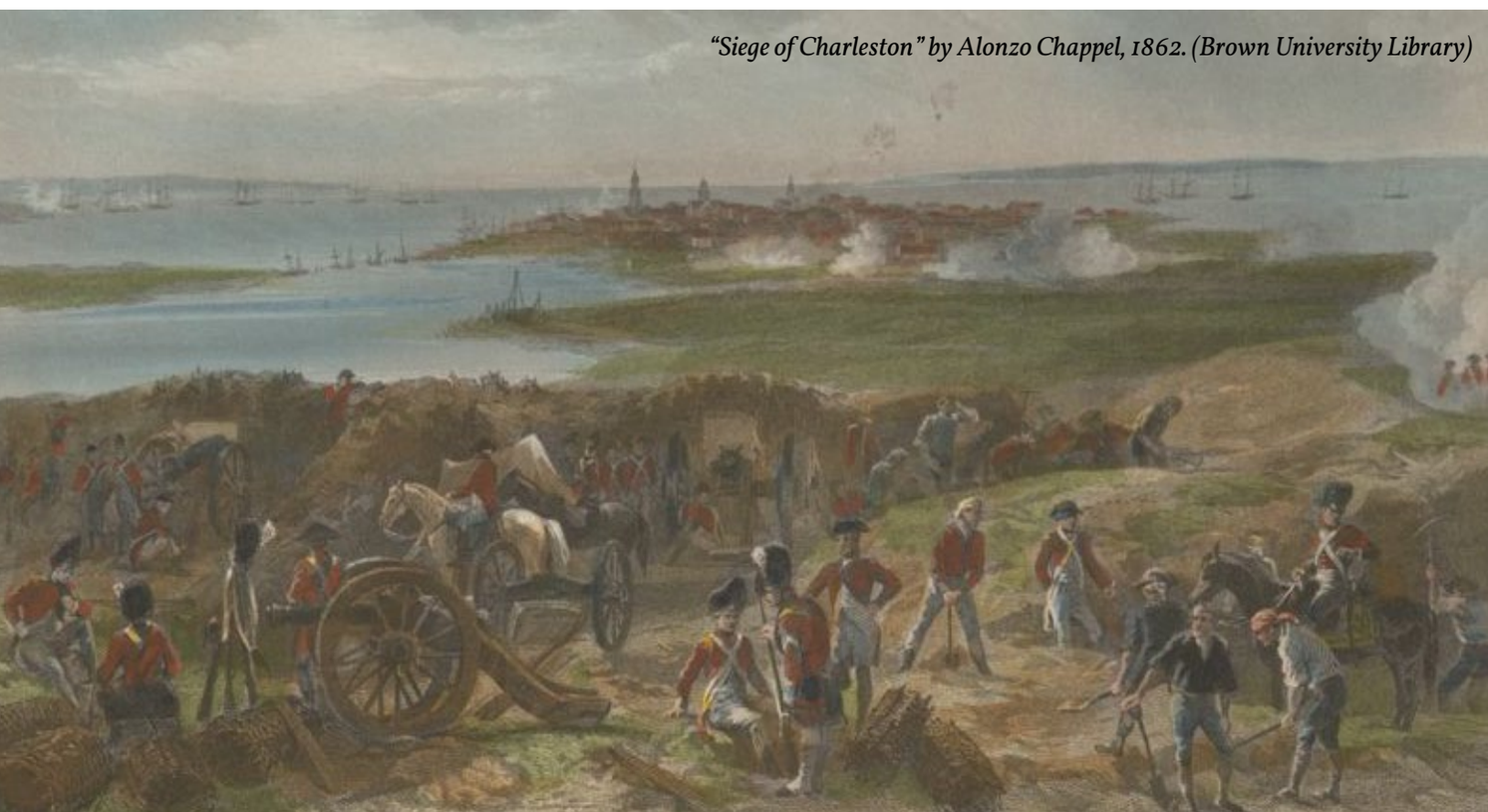


"Siege of Charleston" by Alonzo Chappel, 1862. (Brown University Library)

COLONEL WILLIAM RUSSELL

When Russell returned home, his neighbors celebrated his service by renaming Russell County, Virginia, in his honor. In 1783, the Continental Army brevetted Russell to brigadier general. He was an original member of the Society of Cincinnati and served in the Virginia Senate from 1788 to 1789 and in 1791. Russell died in 1793 at the home of his friend, Colonel Thomas Allen, while traveling to visit his son. The Allens buried him in the Millar-Allen Family Cemetery near Front Royal, Virginia. He remained there until 1943, when one of his descendants identified his gravesite and arranged for his reinterment at Arlington.

The Society of the Cincinnati, a prestigious Revolutionary War veterans' organization, was founded in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army. They aimed to create bonds among the war's veterans and ensure that the achievements of American independence would be remembered. Four individuals featured in this tour were members: Russell, Green, Lingan, and L'Enfant. Today, the Society continues to exist as a nonprofit educational organization based in Washington, D.C.

Badge of the Cincinnati Medal designed by Pierre L'Enfant, circa 1783. (The Met)

A brevet rank is a temporary or honorary promotion to a higher rank.

LEGACY: William Russell's legacy reflects not only his steadfast wartime service, but also how later generations chose to remember him.

In the 1930s, Russell's descendant Elizabeth Yarrington Russell began searching for her ancestor's grave. After years of research, she discovered that Russell's remains lay in the Millar-Allen Family Cemetery, marked only by two small stones. By the time she reached the site in 1941, the land had been sold, the cemetery abandoned, and most graves removed.

Elizabeth initially sought permission simply to mark the grave. When that was denied, she made a consequential decision: to request that William Russell be reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery. With the support of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Society of the Cincinnati, she documented his Revolutionary War service and petitioned the federal government. The U.S. Army accepted responsibility for his exhumation and reburial — an acknowledgment that Revolutionary War service still merited national recognition, even 160 years later.

When the Army exhumed Russell's remains in 1943, they found little beyond bone fragments, decayed coffin wood, and handmade nails. Yet Arlington's staff treated those remains with dignity, reverence, and honor. On July 17, 1943, William Russell was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery. He was the last Revolutionary War veteran buried here and one of only two from that war commemorated with a standard government headstone.

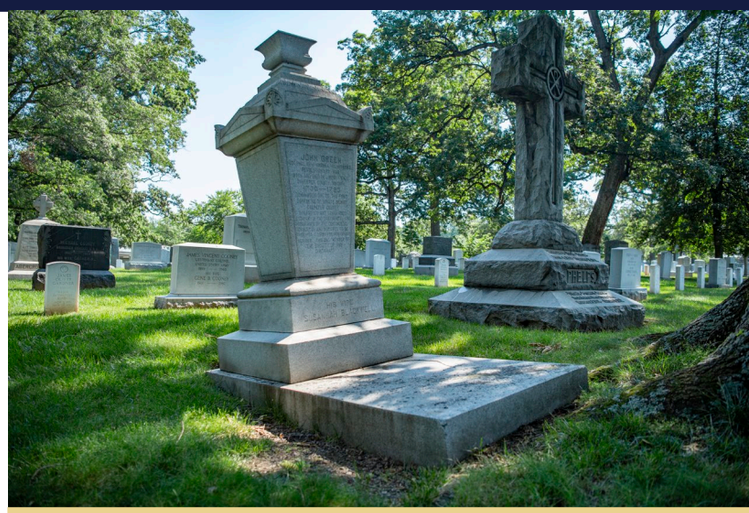
Russell's grave at Arlington represents a powerful act of remembrance by descendants who refused to let service fade into obscurity. Elizabeth Yarrington Russell's extraordinary effort to preserve his memory and secure his final resting place at Arlington exemplified enduring respect for those who helped shape the nation. Today, his grave stands as a symbol of the nation's earliest soldiers' sacrifices and steadfast patriotism— and as a reminder that the foundations of freedom were built by individuals whose dedication spanned both war and peace.

COLONEL JOHN GREEN

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 5

Section 1, Grave 503



AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WALKING TOUR

Walk diagonally to the right across the section to the other side of Humphreys Drive. Green's grave marker is under a large tree near the bend in the road.

BIRTH: 1730, Culpeper County, VA

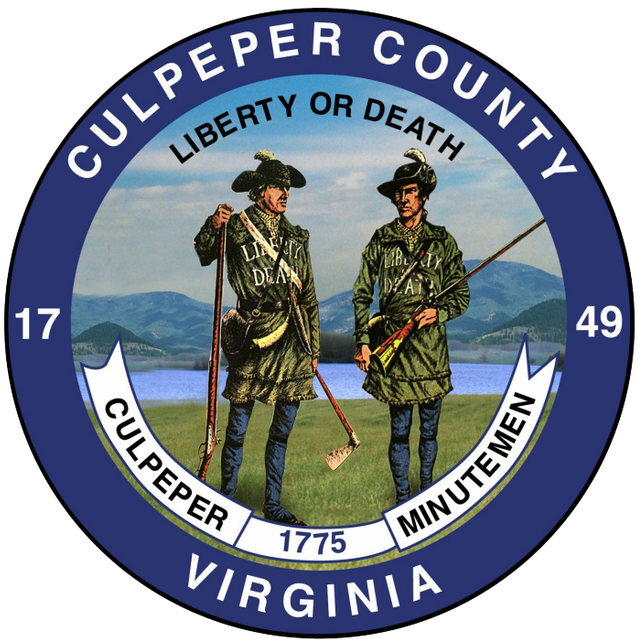
DEATH: 1793, Culpeper County, VA

ANC INTERMENT: Early 20th Century

BACKGROUND: John Green led Virginia regiments in the Continental Army for nearly the entirety of the Revolutionary War. Green's descendants arranged for his remains to be moved from their family cemetery to Arlington in 1911. His reburial reflected both family pride and Arlington's role as a national shrine to service.

Green was born at Liberty Hall Plantation, in what is now Culpeper County, Virginia, as one of seven sons of Robert Green and Eleanor Dunn. According to family lore, the boys all had red hair and were known as "The Red Greens of Culpeper." John married Susannah Blackwell, and they had eight children.

CAREER: In July 1775, the Continental Congress directed the colonies to prepare for war by organizing military units. John Green led efforts to recruit men from Culpeper County and surrounding areas in Virginia, who formed a 68-man rifle company and a 500-man Minute Man battalion. Green served as captain of the rifle company, which was incorporated into the 1st Virginia Regiment. President of the Virginia Committee of Safety Edmund Pendleton lauded Green's company in a November 1775 letter to Thomas Jefferson about operations in Virginia: "The life and Soul of this Corps is Capt. Green's Company of Riflemen from Culpeper, who in three Reliefs of about 22 at a time, scour the Rivers, and have in various Attempts, prevented a landing of the enemy."



Culpeper County, Virginia, official logo, 2026.

Green was shot through the shoulder during the Battle of Mamaroneck (New York) in October 1776. Despite his injury, he continued serving until the end of the Revolutionary War, eventually reaching the rank of colonel. His assignments included reinforcing the besieged and soon-to-be-abandoned Fort Mifflin in November 1777 and covering the American retreat at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in March 1781. Proud of his service, Green was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

LEGACY: John Green joined the Continental Army early during the war and served until its end, despite being wounded in combat. He helped organize the Culpeper Minute Men, who Green, who fiercely defended Virginia during the early days of the war. The seals of both the county and town of Culpeper, Virginia, feature an illustration of them.

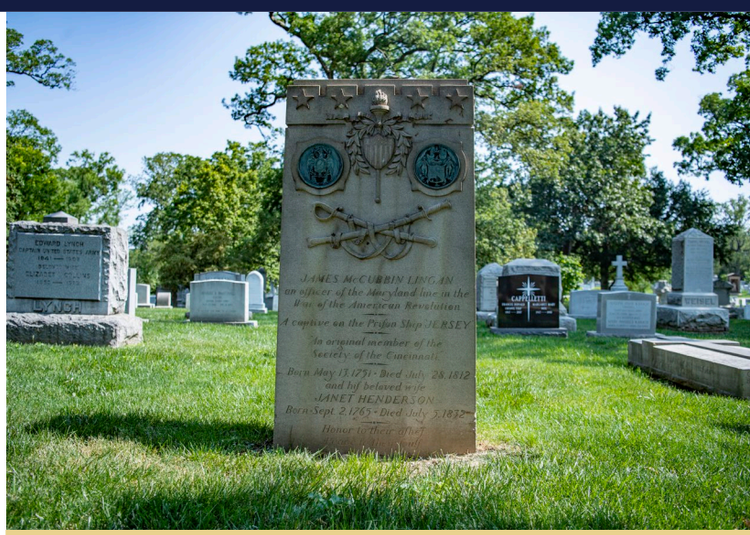
REINTERMENT AT ANC: John Green and his wife Susannah were originally buried at Liberty Hall Plantation in the Green family cemetery. At the request of the Green family, they were reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery in the early 20th century. Descendants of the Green family provided the large private marker that stands atop the grave.

CAPTAIN JAMES McCUBBIN LINGAN

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 7

Section 1, Grave 89-1



AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WALKING TOUR

Walk directly across the next part of Section 1 to the intersection of Meigs Drive and McPherson Drive. Lingan's grave marker is in the second row back from Meigs Drive.

BIRTH: May 31, 1751, Harford County, MD

DEATH: July 28, 1812, Baltimore, MD

ANC INTERMENT: November 5, 1908

BACKGROUND: James McCubbin Lingan, a Continental Army officer during the Revolutionary War, died after the war while defending the freedoms of speech and press for which he had fought. During the early twentieth century, as urban growth encroached upon his original burial ground in Georgetown, Washington, D.C., his granddaughters sought permission to have his remains reinterred at Arlington. With assistance from patriotic organizations, his relocation in 1908 ensured that both his Revolutionary War service and his later defense of civil liberties would be honored in this national setting.

Lingan spent his childhood on family land in Maryland and at his father's store in Georgetown, which was then part of Maryland. Lingan married Janet Henderson in 1791, with whom he had several children.

Janet Henderson Lingan, undated. (Records of the Columbia Historical Society/James House)

James McCubbin Lingan, undated. (Records of the Columbia Historical Society/Charles Peale)

CAREER: During the American Revolution, James McCubbin Lingan served as a 2nd lieutenant in the Maryland and Virginia Rifle Regiment. Established by the Continental Congress on June 29, 1776, this was one of the nation's first multi-state regiments, and it reported directly to the Continental Congress.

In November 1776, Lingan fought with the Maryland and Virginia Rifle Regiment in the Battle of Fort Washington in Manhattan, New York. The regiment faced devastating losses. A bayonet pierced Lingan in his chest, and the British captured him, along with 22 other officers and 214 privates. He endured three and a half years as a prisoner of war. Like many American officers, he received parole ashore Long Island, where he would have had some freedom of movement. The regiment's enlisted prisoners fared worse; they suffered, and many likely died, aboard the Whitby prison ship. Lingan was promoted to captain during his time as a prisoner. After a prisoner exchange granted his freedom on October 25, 1780, he served in Rawling's Additional Continental Regiment. Lingan retired from service on January 1, 1783.

After the war, George Washington, with whom Lingan was friends, appointed Lingan as collector of customs at the port of Georgetown. Lingan also served in Congress from 1800 to1804. Like William Russell, he was a founding member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

CAPTAIN JAMES McCUBBIN LINGAN

The attack on Fort Washington, New York, on November 16, 1776. (New York Public Library/Thomas Davies)

Interior of the HMS Jersey during the Revolutionary War, 1885. (Library of Congress/Bookhout and Darley)

LINGAN AND THE HMS JERSEY

You may have noticed that Lingan's headstone states that he was imprisoned on the HMS Jersey. This is extremely unlikely. Lingan was exchanged in 1780, the year that the HMS Jersey became a prison ship. The HMS Jersey also typically only housed prisoners taken by the Royal Navy at sea.

When the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) created and placed Lingan's current headstone at Arlington in 1908, Americans were taking a renewed interest in the American Revolution, prison ships, and the treatment of American prisoners during the Revolutionary War. Popular narratives about the war may have led to the most likely false claim engraved on his headstone. This error was probably not made with any malicious intent, but rather resulted from the zeal with which some Americans commemorated the War for Independence during the early twentieth century.

Why Did Errors Occur?

The Continental Army had no centralized system for tracking military service, births, or deaths. Records (if any existed) were handwritten, scattered across colonies and states, and often destroyed by fire, war, or neglect. When descendants or patriotic organizations later tried to reconstruct a veteran's story, they usually had to rely on fragments—family memories, pension applications, or secondhand accounts—which could contain inaccuracies or conflict with one another.

The **Daughters of the American Revolution** (DAR), founded in 1890, is a national lineage organization for women who can trace their ancestry to individuals who supported the American Revolution. From its earliest years, the DAR has played a significant role in commemorating Revolutionary War service by researching veterans' records, preserving burial sites, and marking graves that had long gone unrecognized. Through memorials, headstones, ceremonies, and historical education, the organization helps ensure that the sacrifices of the Revolutionary War generation remain visible and honored.

DEATH: On July 28, 1812, Lingan died while defending a Baltimore newspaper's right to publish editorials opposing the War of 1812. When the United States declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812, many Americans, including Lingan, opposed the war. Some, including Lingan's friend Alexander Contee, expressed their opposition in the press. On June 20, the Baltimore "Federal Republican" published Contee's article opposing the war. In response, a populist mob attacked the newspaper's offices, destroying the building and the printing press and driving the editors out of Baltimore. For about a month, the newspaper staff retreated to Georgetown.

On the night of July 27, several of the newspaper's editors, along with their defenders such as Lingan, returned to Baltimore. According to contemporary reports, the men fortified and armed their new offices in preparation for defending it when they resumed publishing the next morning. By the end of the following day, another mob had gathered outside the new offices. Soon, the mob and the men within the house began exchanging fire. Several men were wounded, and one person in the street was killed. At this point, the civil authorities and military responded, and the next morning they escorted the newspaper men to a local jail for their protection and to prevent further violence. That night, however, a pro-war mob again assembled and attacked the jail while chanting anti-British songs. They beat Lingan to death, permanently injured another man, and left the remaining men seriously wounded.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

CAPTAIN JAMES McCUBBIN LINGAN

On August 15, 1812, citizens of Montgomery County, Maryland, from across the political spectrum, met to discuss what they called “the Late Outrageous Proceedings of the Mob in Baltimore.” The attendees wrote and adopted a resolution, later published in local newspapers, to condemn the mob’s violence and honor Lingan. The resolution proclaimed that Lingan would “ever be remembered as the tender husband, the indulgent father, the honored and beloved neighbor, the brave revolutionary hero, the magnanimous patriot, who loved his country better than his own life.”

George Washington Parke Custis, the owner of Arlington Plantation, delivered the eulogy at Lingan's funeral in Georgetown, which hundreds reportedly attended. As George Washington’s step-grandson and a prominent steward of the first president’s legacy, Custis’s role in the ceremony connected Lingan to the Revolutionary War generation and highlighted his importance in the early republic. Nearly 100 years later, Lingan was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery on land that had previously been owned by Custis.

REINTERMENT AT ANC: In 1871, after Washington, D.C. annexed Georgetown, the city began to encroach upon the land that was once the Lingan family estate, where Lingan and his wife were laid to rest. In 1908, two of Lingan’s granddaughters requested permission from the War Department to reinter Lingan at Arlington National Cemetery. The War Department approved the request, and the DAR helped facilitate the reinterment. On November 5, 1908, Lingan and his wife were reinterred at Arlington. The military honors service included a caisson, a rifle salute, and the sounding of Taps.

LEGACY: James McCubbin Lingan was an American patriot who believed deeply in the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. He fought for those principles twice in his life — first as a young officer in the Revolutionary War and, later, at the cost of his life while defending freedom of speech and the press in 1812.

Lingan’s reburial reflects Arlington National Cemetery’s growing importance as a national shrine. Nearly a century after his death, changes to the Georgetown landscape forced his descendants to decide how his service should be remembered. By requesting Lingan’s reinterment at Arlington, they ensured that his legacy would be preserved not only among family members or locals, but also as part of the national story. His grave reminds us that Arlington is a place where Americans have consciously chosen to honor those whose service and sacrifices helped define the nation’s founding ideals.

HISTORY IN STONE

EXPLORE

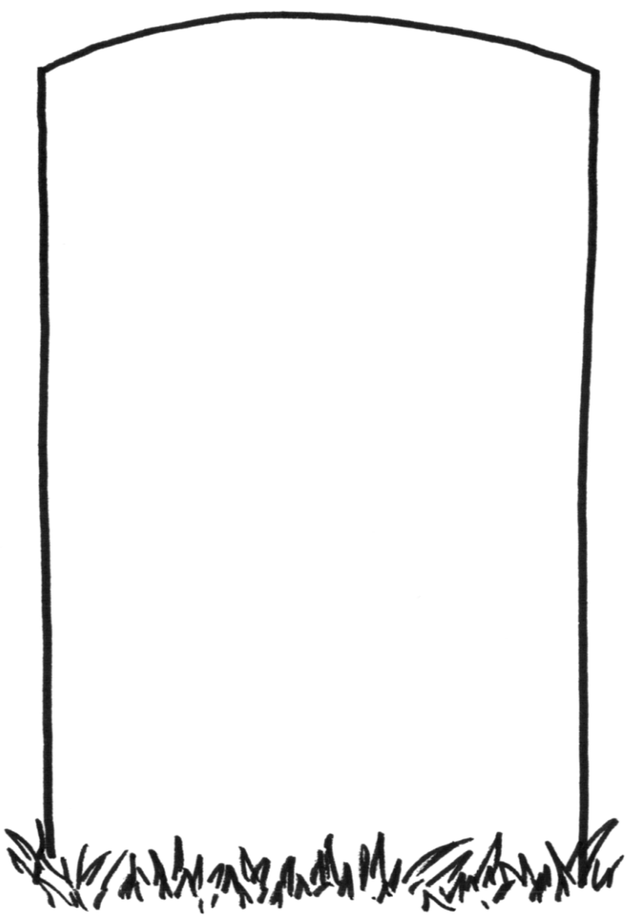
No headstone offers a complete picture of someone's life and service. Each one contains only a handful of details: a name, dates of birth, death, and/or military service, rank, and perhaps a brief phrase or symbol. A life that spanned decades must often be reduced to a few carefully chosen lines.

Consider the individuals featured on this tour. James McCubbin Lingan's headstone emphasizes his military service and inaccurately names the ship on which he was imprisoned—but it does not mention that he died while defending the freedom of the press. Joseph Carleton's marker tells us he was an officer and an "Honest man," but it does not include the important administrative work he performed for the young nation. Each headstone captures something about a person's life, but not everything.

A grave marker's purpose is to memorialize and document a person's resting place, not to offer a full account of someone's life. When families or organizations choose a headstone's inscription, they decide how to interpret that person's life: what details to include, what aspects of their life to prioritize. Inscriptions on the headstones of most individuals on this tour were written long after their deaths and—further complicating interpretation—by distant descendants and organizations. When you encounter a marker, consider asking:

- What story is this marker trying to tell?
- Which parts of this person's life might be missing from the inscriptions?
- How might those missing pieces change our understanding of this person?

A grave marker can only say so much. The rest of the story lives in records, scholarship, family memory, and the questions we continue to ask, some of which may remain unanswered.



Since December 2017, Arlington National Cemetery has authorized only government-provided markers (headstones or columbarium niche covers). A government-provided marker has certain inscription restrictions but still allows for personalization.

In addition to the decedent's legal name, branch of service, year of birth, year of death, and a pre-approved emblem of belief (if requested), applicants can include war service, highest rank, awards, appropriate terms of endearment, nicknames, military or civilian credentials, or accomplishments such as doctor or special unit designations.

Learn more on the National Cemetery Administration's website.

REFLECT

- If you were designing a headstone for someone you loved, what would you include?
- Which parts of a life are hardest to capture in just a few words?
- How should we balance historical accuracy with the desire to honor and remember?
- How do memorials shape the way we remember history?

CAPTAIN PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

HONOR

WALKING TOUR STOP 8

Section 2, Grave S-3

AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WALKING TOUR

L'Enfant's gravesite is in front of Arlington House.

BIRTH: August 2, 1754, Paris, France

DEATH: June 14, 1825, Prince George's County, MD

ANC INTERMENT: April 22, 1909

BACKGROUND: Pierre Charles L'Enfant was an engineer, architect, and city planner who served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution and later designed the spatial plan for Washington, D.C. In 1908, Congress appropriated funds to pay for L'Enfant's remains to be transferred to Arlington, a fitting national resting place for the designer of the nation's capital. His reinterment connected his military service to his vision for Washington, D.C. within the landscape he helped shape.

Born in Paris in 1754, L'Enfant was the son of painter Pierre L'Enfant. He studied under his father at the Academie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture (Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture), one of France's most prestigious art institutions.

CAREER: In September 1776, L'Enfant left France to join the American Revolution, serving first with the French Colonial Troops and then as an officer in the Continental Army Corps of Engineers. He served on George Washington's staff at Valley Forge, suffered a serious injury at the Siege of Savannah (1779), and spent six months as a prisoner of war after being captured by the British during the battle for Charleston (1780). Following his release, he continued serving in the Continental Army Engineers Corps.

Pierre L'Enfant silhouette by Sarah DeHart, circa 1785. (Diplomatic Reception Rooms, United States Department of State)

Discharged when the Continental Army disbanded in 1784, L'Enfant established his reputation as an architect, receiving major commissions in Philadelphia and New York. He also designed the insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati, an organization of Continental Army officers. In 1789, he wrote to President George Washington with a proposal to design the "federal city" that would be the new nation's capital. Less than a year later, Washington appointed him to design what would become Washington, D.C. The L'Enfant Plan (the original copy of which resides at the Library of Congress) envisioned Washington, D.C. as a four-quadrant grid, with north-south and east-west streets crossed by grand diagonal avenues. In conceptualizing the city plan, L'Enfant drew upon traditional European urban planning elements, along with neoclassical designs to emphasize the democratic character of the United States. However, L'Enfant's vision was not fully instituted during his lifetime. L'Enfant was dismissed from his position in 1792, and the city was slow to develop. Later commissions and plans, such as the McMillan Commission (1901), also shaped the city and took inspiration from his original plan and vision.

L'Enfant died in poverty on June 14, 1825. He was originally buried on a farm in Prince George's County, Maryland, owned by his friend and benefactor William Dudley Digges.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

CAPTAIN PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

REINTERMENT AT ARLINGTON: During the late 19th century, L'Enfant's public reputation gradually underwent rehabilitation. Three main factors influenced this shift in public perceptions of him. First, a loose coalition of influential architects, city planners, and businessmen, concerned about Washington D.C.'s seemingly disorganized development, led efforts to revive L'Enfant's records and work. Second, in 1887, the Library of Congress published a copy of his plan for the nation's capital, making it easier for people to access. Finally, in the early 20th century, French Ambassador Jules Jusserand, a friend of President Theodore Roosevelt, advocated for the United States to honor French citizens' contributions to the American Revolution.

In May 1908, Congress appropriated $1,000 for a more suitable burial site in Arlington National Cemetery. In December 1908, the secretary of war approved a site at ANC selected by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Washington. On April 22, 1909, L'Enfant's remains were exhumed from the Digges farm, placed in a casket draped with the American flag, and temporarily transferred to vault at a nearby cemetery. Six days later, on the morning of April 28, L'Enfant's casket arrived in Washington, D.C. and lay in state at the U.S. Capitol — making him the first foreign national accorded this honor. Later that day, his casket was transported with military escort to Arlington National Cemetery, where L'Enfant received a full military honors funeral. His remains were reinterred on a hillside overlooking the city that he had designed.

LEGACY: Pierre L'Enfant died with little to his name, but nearly 100 years after his death, his adopted nation finally acknowledged his military service and the legacy of his design: a capital worthy of national aspirations. On May 22, 1911, President William Howard Taft presided over the ceremony to dedicate a monument at L'Enfant's gravesite. Hundreds of guests attended the ceremony, including Ambassador Jusserand, members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, and high-ranking military, diplomatic, and city officials.

His reinterment here, overlooking the city he mapped out on paper more than two centuries ago, offers a reminder that Revolutionary War service did not always bring rewards. Yet L'Enfant's vision for the nation's capital endures, as does the legacy of his service to help secure American independence.

Notice the details of the monument. On its east end (facing Arlington House), an engraving depicts L'Enfant's plan for Washington, D.C.

L'ENFANT AND DESIGNING A CAPITAL CITY

L'Enfant's plan of Washington, D.C. (Library of Congress)

At 36 years old, Pierre L'Enfant mapped out an ambitious plan for the capital city of a young nation. His plan's design elements reflected the new nation's values and aspirations.

LOCATION OF THE LEGISLATURE: L'Enfant placed the Capitol Building on the most prominent hill in D.C. In a 1791 letter to George Washington, he described the hill as "a pedestal waiting for a monument." In Europe, a prominent location like this may have been used for a monarch's palace. By placing the elected legislature there, L'Enfant made an architectural statement about republican government and the importance of Congress.

HONORING STATES: The Declaration of Independence declared the American colonies to be free and independent states, separate from Great Britian yet united with each other. L'Enfant's design for the nation's capital acknowledged both the freedom and independence of the states as well as their unity under one national government. L'Enfant named D.C.'s connecting, diagonal streets after states, and he included 15 public squares to enable states to contribute statues, columns, or obelisks.

PUBLIC SPACE: The open green space that became the National Mall allowed citizens from all social classes to gather.

REFLECT

- How does Washington, D.C. currently reflect the values, history, and aspirations of our nation 250 years after its founding?
- Think about other capital cities you've visited. Which architectural features stood out? How did those features contribute to your experience and understanding of a city's culture and history?
- If you could design a new U.S. capital city, what would you include? How would you design the city so that it reflects the nation's values, history, and aspirations?

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IMAGES, continued

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