



Camp Communicator

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

Frederick H. Hackeman CAMP 85 October 2021

Commander's Ramblings

Brothers,

Well, we had our first meeting of the 2021-2022 year last month and nominated and elected the same officers to continue to lead the Camp. As such these officers who are returning to their roles will not need to be inducted per direction passed on via the Department Secretary from National.

Thus, the next meeting in November will take place on November 18th as the usual meeting date would be November 11th - Veterans Day. Please send Rex any agenda items for consideration at the meeting.

JVC Chuck Pfauth will be working with a prospective member who sat in for a few minutes of the meeting. This serendipitous happening occurred when the library employee greeted the members arriving for the meeting. It looks like a fairly easy application to fill out. Chuck should let us know how it is progressing at the November meeting,

Until then, have a fun October - Octoberfest and then Halloween.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty
Steve Williams,
Frederick H. Hackemann, Camp 85 Commander



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Next Camp Meeting
November 18, 2021 -6:30 p.m.

In person Meeting

CAMP TRAINING AIDS

As located on the Department of Michigan web site. It is recommended that Camp members visit these URLs and familiarize themselves with the information contained within these documents.

Handbook of Instruction for the Department Patriotic Instructor
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Department%20PI%20Handbook.pdf>

Handbook of Instruction for the Camp Patriotic Instructor
Missing link

Handbook of Instruction for the Civil War Memorials Officer
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Michigan%20CWM%20Handbook.pdf>

Department Membership Initiative
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/DeptMemInitiative.pdf>

Department of Michigan Member Recruitment & Retention Report
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Dept%20of%20Michigan%20Member%20Recruitment%20&%20Retention.pdf>

National Chaplain's Handbook
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Dept%20of%20Michigan%20Member%20Recruitment%20&%20Retention.pdf>

Recommended Education & Additional Department Officer Duties
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Department%20Orders/Series%202017-18/Recommended%20Ed%20&%20Add%20Dept%20Officer%20Duties.pdf>



African-Americans collect the bones of soldiers killed in battle at Cold Harbor, Virginia, June 1864.
John Reekie/Library of Congress



Meeting Schedule

Our meeting schedule is Alternate months between September through May meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month except as noted. At 6:00 PM.

Location -

Currently -
Lincoln Twp
Public Library



7th corps Kepi patch

Burial Squads - Burying the Dead

From Necessity to Honor: The Evolution of National Cemeteries in the United States

Originally created to honor Union soldiers killed during the Civil War, national cemeteries have become national memorials to all United States veterans. About a dozen national cemeteries and numerous soldiers' lots were established in 1862, more than a year after the war began with Confederate troops firing on Fort Sumter. By 1870, almost 300,000 Union soldiers and sailors lay buried in 73 national cemeteries. These cemeteries were first set aside for burial of those who died during the conflict, but by 1873, any Union veteran of the Civil War could receive burial in a national cemetery. Today, the nation has more than 175 national cemeteries, soldiers' lots, government lots, and Confederate cemeteries. Three federal agencies manage them: the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); the Department of the Army of the Department of Defense; and the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

The burial practices for soldiers and sailors in the United States evolved over time. Soldiers killed in the American Revolution and the War of 1812 were usually buried in churchyards or family cemeteries. The U.S. Army established many forts to protect the frontier, as people moved westward. Post cemeteries, such as the one at Fort Sam Houston, in



San Antonio, Texas, were established for soldiers and family members. At the same time, the growing urban population and concerns about sanitation caused many churches and cities to establish new cemeteries on the undeveloped outskirts of cities. The first of these rural cemeteries was Mount Auburn, created in 1831 outside of Boston, which was laid out like a park, so that families could spend their leisure time with their deceased relatives.

At the beginning of 1861, neither the post cemeteries nor the rural cemeteries were prepared for the burial of ultimately more than 600,000 men who died during the Civil War. The nation needed new burial practices to deal with the changing realities of war. Weapon accuracy and fighting techniques led to more casualties than in previous wars; railroads and steamships carried soldiers to battles farther and farther from their homes; disease caused a high percentage of the deaths on battlefields, in prisoner-of-war camps, and in hospitals.

Prior to the Civil War, burial of the war dead was the responsibility of the Army's Office of the Quartermaster General, which also provided food, shelter, and supplies to the soldiers. This changed in September 1861, when the United States War Department issued General Orders No. 75, which designated Union commanding officers responsible for burial of the dead from their units. This order presented many challenges. Fighting often killed a large number of soldiers, including the commanding officer. Of the survivors, after a long and arduous battle, few were capable of moving bodies and digging graves due to fatigue, hunger, and injury. In addition, materials and information for grave markers were often non-existent. Given that many battles occurred on farm fields, soldiers often received hasty burials in shallow graves where they fell. Commanding officers were also required to keep records of deceased soldiers and burial site locations. This proved difficult because few soldiers had any form of identification on them. Some soldiers pinned a piece of paper to their clothing with their name and address, but dog tags did not become standard issue until the 20th century. While some wealthy families paid to have their sons' bodies sent home by train, the long distances and high costs made this impossible for the majority of families. Stories of family members and friends searching for the body of a deceased soldier were common to the history of the Civil War.

In 1861, the Board of Governors of the Soldiers' Home in Washington, D.C. permitted the Army to bury soldiers who died in and around the capital city in a section of its

cemetery, but this land quickly filled up. Faced with the growing number of Union dead, the U.S. Congress passed legislation in July 1862, which among other actions, including pay, contracts, and rations, authorized the President to purchase land for the establishment of cemeteries for burial of those fighting on behalf of the United States, not the Confederate States. The first cemeteries were established near key locations: battlefields, including Mill Springs National Cemetery in Nancy, Kentucky; hospitals, including Keokuk, Iowa; and other troop concentration points such as Alexandria, Virginia. By the end of the Civil War in spring 1865, there were approximately 30 national cemeteries and seven soldiers' lots in private cemeteries. Despite this, many soldiers still were lying in farm fields due to hastily conducted wartime burials, often having their remains exposed over time.

BURIAL SQUADS to Page 7

Upcoming Events

National

- *August 11-14, 2022* 141st National Encampment

Department News

- *November 11th* (10 AM - 5 PM) - Veterans Day
- *November 16th* (7 PM) - No one scheduled yet
- *December 4th* (Noon - 8 p.m.) Hometown Christmas
- *May 14, 2022* Department Encampment will be held at the same venue
- *August 11-14, 2022* The Department of Michigan is proud to host the 141st National Encampment of our Order in Grand Rapids.



Comrades sharing stories at the 1927 National Encampment in Grand Rapids

Camp

- *November 11 2021* Camp **In-person** meeting Location Lincoln Twp Library
- *January 13, 2022* Camp **In-person** meeting Location Lincoln Twp Library
- *March 10, 2022* Camp **In-person** meeting Location Lincoln Twp Library



Officers 2020 - 2021

Camp Commander:
Steven Williams

SVC: Rex Dillman

JVC: Charles L Pfauth Sr

Secretary :Ray Truhn

Treasurer : Ray Truhn

Council 1: Charles L Pfauth Jr

Council 2: Keith Chapman

Council 3: Charles L Pfauth Sr

Patriotic Instructor: Open

Chaplain : Steven Williams

Graves & Memorials:
Rex Dillman

Historian: Rex Dillman

Signals Officer:
Steven Williams

Guide: Jeff Chubb

Guard: Jeff Chubb

Color Bearer: Rex Dillman

JROTC contact: Unassigned

Editor
Steve Williams
sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of **Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85** of activities and events related to the mission of the SUVCW and its interests.

If you wish to place a civil war article or SUVCW item please submit to the Editor at sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to censor and/or edit all material submitted for publication to the Camp Communicator newsletter without notice to the submitter.

Camp Website

Be sure and visit our Camp Website at <http://www.suvcwmi.org/camps/camp85.php>.

Sutler Links

Link to list of vendors for any items to fill out your uniform and re-enactor accessories.

<http://www.fighting69th.org/sutler.html>

<http://www.ccsutlery.com/>

<http://www.crescentcitysutler.com/index.html>

<http://www.regtdm.com/>

<http://www.cjdaley.com/research.htm>

<http://www.fcsutler.com/>

<https://www.militaryuniformsupply.com/civil-war-reenactment-clothing-gear>

Department of Michigan Officers

Commander -	Nathan Smith, CC
Senior VC -	Gary L. Swain
Junior VC -	David Kimble, CC
Members of the Council -	
	Robert R. Payne, PDC
	Steven S Martin, CC
	David S. Smith
Secretary -	Dick Denney, CC
Treasurer -	Bruce S.A. Gosling
Chief of Staff	David S. Smith
Counselor -	Paul T. Davis
Chaplain -	Rev. Charles Buckhahn
Patriotic Instructor -	Nathan Tingley
Color Bearer -	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
Signals Officer -	Robert R. Payne, PCC
Editor, "Michigan's Messenger" -	
	Richard E. Danes, PCC
Historian -	Keith G Harrison, PCinC
Guide -	Alex Tingley
Guard -	Lloyd Lamphere, Sr.
Graves Registration Officer-	Richard E. Danes, PCC
GAR Records Officer-	Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Civil War Memorials Officer-	John H. McGill
Eagle Scout Coordinator -	Nathan Tingley
Camp-At-Large Coordinator -	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., PDC
Camp Organizer	James B. Pahl, PCinC
Military Affairs Officer -	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
Aide-de-camp	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., PDC

Civil War Time line:

October in the Civil War

1861

Oct 21 - Battle of Ball's Bluff or Leesburg VA A stunning defeat of the Federal forces. **Oct 24** Transcontinental Telegraph Completed. Completed by Western Union from Denver to California. The people of western Virginia voted to form a new state.

1862

Oct 3 - Battle of Corinth MS. Oct 4 - Battle of Corinth Second day. Confederates withdraw. **Oct 8 Battle of Perryville or Chaplin Hills, KY** Confederates withdraw. **Oct 24 Rosecrans replaces Buell. Oct 25 -** President Lincoln, piqued at McClellan's delays after Antietam, wired the commander of the Army of the Potomac. "I have just read your despatch about sore tongued and fatigued [sic] horses. Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the battle of Antietam that fatigue anything?" **Oct 30 -** Emperor Napoleon III of France proposed to Russia and Great Britain that they should unite in making overtures of mediation in the American Civil War.

1863

Oct 2 - The Augusta GA., *Constitutionalist* defined a major problem of the Confederate citizen of Mississippi and elsewhere: "If he takes refuge further East, he is censured for leaving home; and if he remains home to raise another crop in the Confederate lines, as soon as the Union enemy again presses forward, his supplies will once more be taken by the Confederate cavalry, and his cotton committed to the flames again!" **Oct 5 - Torpedo Boat attack on New Ironsides. Oct 9 - Bristoe VA, Campaign to October 22. Oct 13 - Union Candidates Successful.** In Ohio voter decisively defeated Democrat Clement Vallandigham from his exile in Canada for Governor; elected Democrat John Brough running on Republican ticket for Ohio governor. Gov. Andre Curtin was reelected in Pennsylvania; Union candidates also won in Indian and Iowa. **Oct 14 - Engagement at Bristoe Station, VA. Oct 16 - Grant to Command Division of the Mississippi. Oct 27. - Chattanooga Relieved, Charleston Bombardment Renewed.**

1864

Oct 5 - Engagement at Allatoona GA. Oct 7 - Capture of CSS Florida. Oct 9 - Engagement at Tom's Brook, VA. Oct 11 Elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana

showed the Republicans and Lincoln Supporters stronger than had been supposed. **Oct 13** - Maryland voters adopted a new state constitution which included abolition of slavery. **Oct 19** - **Battle of Cedar Creek or Belle Grove, VA / Confederate raid on St. Albans VT.** Confederate Lieut. Bennet Young and about 25 Confederate soldier attacked St. Albans robbing three banks of over \$200,00.00. Pursued back across US-Canadian border they were arrested with \$75,000.00 recovered. **Oct 3** - **Battle of Westport MO.** **Oct 27** - **Engagement of Burgess' Mill or Boydton Plank Road VA / Sinking of CSS Albemarle, Plymouth NC**



Source: *The Civil War Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865*, E B Long, 1971, Doubleday.

Death and Dying

In the middle of the 19th century, the United States entered into a civil war that proved bloodier than any other conflict in American history, a war that would presage the slaughter of World War I's Western Front and the global carnage of the 20th century. The number of soldiers who died between 1861 and 1865, generally estimated at 620,000, is approximately equal to the total of American fatalities in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War, combined. The Civil War's rate of death, its incidence in comparison with the size of the American population, was six times that of World War II. A similar rate, about two percent, in the United States today would mean six million fatalities. As the new southern nation struggled for survival against a wealthier and more populous enemy, its death toll reflected the disproportionate strains on its human capital. Confederate men died at a rate three times that of their Yankee counterparts; one in five white southern men of military age did not survive the Civil War. Twice as many Civil War soldiers died from disease as from battle wounds, the result in considerable measure of poor sanitation in an era that created mass armies that did not yet understand the transmission of infectious diseases like typhoid, typhus, and dysentery.

These military statistics, however, tell only a part of the story. The war also killed a significant number of civilians; battles raged across farm and field, encampments of troops spread epidemic disease, guerrillas ensnared women and children in violence and reprisals, draft rioters targeted innocent citizens, and shortages of food in parts of the South brought starvation. No one sought to document these deaths systematically, and no one has devised a method of undertaking a retrospective count. The distinguished Civil War historian James McPherson has estimated that there were 50,000 civilian deaths during the war, and has concluded that the overall mortality rate for the South exceeded that of any country in World War I and all but the region between the Rhine and the Volga in World War II. The American Civil War produced carnage that was often thought to be reserved for the combination of technological proficiency and inhumanity characteristic of a later time.

The impact and meaning of the war's death toll went beyond the sheer numbers who died. Death's significance for the Civil War generation changed dramatically from its previous prevailing assumptions about life's proper end—about who should die, when and where, and under what circumstances. Death was familiar to mid-19th-century Americans, but by the beginning of the 1860s, the rate of death in the United States had begun to decline, although dramatic improvements in longevity would not appear until late in the century. The patterns to which they were accustomed, however, were in many ways different from those introduced by the war. Although mid-19th-century Americans endured a high rate of infant mortality, they expected that most individuals who had reached young adulthood would survive into middle age. Yet, the Civil War took young, healthy men's lives rapidly, often instantly, and destroyed them with disease, injury, or both. This marked a sharp and alarming departure from existing preconceptions about who should die. Both Civil War soldiers and civilians distinguished between what many referred to as "ordinary death," as it had occurred in prewar years, from the manner and frequency of death in Civil War battlefields, hospitals, and camps, and from the war's interruptions of civilian lives.

The scale and duration of the conflict, the size of its battles and the number of casualties were also unanticipated and unprecedented. Both the Union and the Confederacy reaped what many described as a "harvest of death." By the midpoint of the conflict, it seemed that in the

Military Order of
the Loyal Legion
of the
United States

Hereditary membership in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) is open to men who are descendants (e.g., great great grandson, great grand nephew, etc.) of commissioned officers of the Union forces during the Civil War. Web site - <http://suvew.org/mollus/mbrfrm.htm>

Please Note: Non-hereditary membership (Associate Companion) may be available in some (but not all) of the Commanderies. Associate affiliation is based on a percentage of the number of hereditary members in each Commandery. Consequently, movement to elect Associates may be delayed until such time as there are enough hereditary Companions present in the particular Commandery.



South, “Nearly every household mourns some loved one lost.” Loss became commonplace; death was no longer encountered individually. Death’s threat, proximity, and its actuality became the most widely shared experience of the war’s duration. Americans were unprepared for the impact of these deaths; what to do with the bodies that covered fields of battle, how to mourn so many lost, how to remember, and how to understand.

The most immediate of death’s challenges was a logistical one, the burial of soldiers in the aftermath of battle. Armies were not ready for the enormity of the task that confronted them, particularly in the aftermath of engagements that left thousands of bodies carpeting battlegrounds like Antietam or Gettysburg. After a single day of fighting at Antietam, for example, 23,000 men and untold numbers of horses and mules lay killed or wounded. Neither side’s army had grave registration units; soldiers were not issued official badges of identification, there was no formal policy of notification for the families of the slain, and neither side had an ambulance service. Makeshift crews of soldiers were detailed after battles to dispose of the dead and often found themselves lacking basic necessities such as carts or shovels. These failures of capacity were made evident in the length of time it took to attend to casualties. A week after Antietam, a Union surgeon reported that, “the dead were almost wholly unburied, and the stench arising from it was such as to breed a pestilence.” As a result, bodies were often thrown into unidentified mass trench graves.

Few tasks could make a Civil War soldier tremble as much as burial detail in the aftermath of a major battle.

One soldier wrote of his experience on a burial detail after Gettysburg in July 1863:

The sights and smells that assailed us were simply indescribable – corpses swollen to twice their original size, some of them actually burst asunder with the pressure of foul gases and vapors... The odors were nauseating and so deadly that in a short time we all sickened and were lying with our mouths close to the ground, most of us vomiting profusely.

In such circumstances, tens of thousands of soldiers died unknown, and tens of thousands of families were left without any consoling knowledge of their loved ones’ fates, circumstances of death, or place of burial. At least half of the Civil War dead were never identified. As the war continued, these realities became increasingly intolerable, and Americans worked in both official and informal ways to combat such dehumanization and loss. Soldiers endeavored to locate, inter, and honor slain comrades; merchants created and marketed identity disks for soldiers; the men themselves pinned their scribbled names to their uniforms before especially dangerous encounters. Voluntary organizations like the U.S. Sanitary Commission emerged and devoted their energies to compiling lists of killed and wounded from hundreds of Union hospitals, creating records of battlefield burials, and offering aid to families in locating the lost and, for those with means, shipping embalmed bodies home. Families swarmed to battle sites in the aftermath of engagements to search for dead or wounded relatives, actively seeking information otherwise unavailable to them, hoping to fill what one northern observer called the “dread void of uncertainty.”

Mourning necessarily took on new forms

Death & Dying TO PG 8

By 1867, the growing concern about the conditions of these wartime interments led to a new effort to provide a proper burial for every Union soldier and sailor who died during the war. The Office of the U.S. Quartermaster General established national cemeteries in central locations such as Memphis, Tennessee, where they assembled remains from around the region for burial. Among the reinterments were soldiers from the United States Colored Troops.

Also in 1867, the “Act to Establish and Protect National Cemeteries” required the Secretary of War to enclose every national cemetery with a stone or iron fence, to mark every gravesite with a headstone, appoint a su-



perintendent to each cemetery, and construct a lodge for the superintendent to occupy. Despite these requirements, a permanent stone marker design was not adopted until 1873. Several years later, in 1879, Congress authorized the furnishing of headstones for the unmarked graves of veterans in private cemeteries.

In 1873, national cemetery interment eligibility expanded to include all Union veterans, as a final benefit of service to the country. Eligibility requirements for national cemeteries continued to expand in the 20th century to include most honorably discharged veterans, their spouses, and dependent children.

Confederate soldiers could not be buried in national cemeteries, nor were they afforded any benefits from the United States Government for many decades after the end of the Civil War. When the reburial corps in the late 1860s found the remains of Confederate soldiers lying near those of Union soldiers, they removed the Union soldiers but left the Confederates’ bodies. Because identification of remains was difficult at best, many Confederate soldiers were reburied in national cemeteries, unintentionally as Union soldiers. Confederate prisoners of war were often interred in “Confederate sections” within the national cemeteries. Generally, within national cemeteries and at other cemeteries under the care of the Federal Government, Confederate graves were marked first with wooden headboards (as had been Union graves) and later with marble

markers with just the name of the soldier engraved on the stone, so that they were indistinguishable from civilians buried in the national cemeteries. Private organizations, especially women's organizations established in former Confederate states after the war, assumed responsibility for Confederate reburials. One of the more prominent groups was the Hollywood Memorial Association, which raised funds to move the bodies of Confederate soldiers from the battlefields of Gettysburg and Drewry's Bluff to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. The appearance of grave markers varied in these Confederate cemeteries depending on the preferences of the supervising organization.

The Federal Government first became involved in permanently marking Confederate graves in 1906. That year, Congress authorized the furnishing of headstones for Confederate soldiers who died in Federal prisons and military hospitals in the North, and were buried near their places of confinement. The act also established the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead, whose job it was to ensure that the graves of Confederate soldiers in the North received markers. The design for these grave markers was to be more or less identical to that approved in 1901 for marking Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery.



The headstone was the same size and material as those for Union soldiers, except the top was pointed instead of rounded, and the U.S. shield was omitted. Individual graves were marked at places such as Rock Island Confederate Cemetery, Illinois, and Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, Ohio,

both sites of large prisoner of war camps. Confederate graves within national cemeteries in the North, such as Woodlawn National Cemetery, New York, were also remarked with the new headstones at this time. In places where the Commission was unable to mark individual graves, such as Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery, Maryland, and Finn's Point National Cemetery, New Jersey, a single monument was erected that featured bronze plaques bearing the names of those who died at the associated prisoner of war camps. Finally, an Act of January 20, 1914, authorized the furnishing of headstones for the unmarked graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers, sailors, and marines in national, post, city, town, and village cemeteries. This provision allowed graves of Confederate soldiers buried in national cemeteries in the South, such as Fort Smith and Little Rock National Cemeteries in Arkansas, to be marked with the distinctive Confederate-style headstone.

Today, three Federal agencies manage 157 national cemeteries. The Veterans Administration, precursor to the Department of Veterans Affairs, originally had responsibility for 21 cemeteries, some of them associated with the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. To these were added 82 cemeteries and 33 related soldiers' lots transferred from the Department of the Army to the VA in 1973. Today, the Army retains control of two national cemeteries, Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, and Soldiers' Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. The National Park Service manages 14 national cemeteries, the majority of which the War Depart-

ment transferred to the National Park Service in 1933 along with the national military parks. The Department of Veterans Affairs continues to establish new cemeteries to provide burial benefits to veterans who served, as well as their families, as close to home as possible. All three agencies maintain the national cemeteries as memorials to honor those who served and sacrificed their lives for the United States.



Death & Dying FROM PG 7

under such circumstances. Mid-19th-century America was overwhelmingly Protestant, and death was understood within the context of Christian faith in salvation and immortality. The ancient traditions of *ars moriendi*, the art of dying, had deep roots in both northern and southern culture. A Good Death, which ultimately defined the life that had preceded it and forecast the life to come, occurred amidst one's family and required a readiness to die and to embrace salvation. Soldiers' distance from home and kin and the circumstances of war made such deaths all but impossible, but men struggled to create conditions in hospitals and camps or with comrades on the field that affirmed these fundamental principles of how to die, even as the realities of wartime assaulted the very foundations of belief. Civilian mourning was difficult as well when the fate of missing soldiers remained uncertain, when bodies were not available for ritual burial, when funerals occurred so frequently as to become commonplace, when mourning goods, especially in the hard pressed South, were difficult, if not impossible, to procure.

As the bereaved found changed ways to mourn, the nation worked to give loss meaning. North and South governments recognized the necessity of assuming previously unacknowledged responsibility for the care of the dead. In 1862, the U.S. Congress passed a measure allocating to the President power to purchase grounds and "cause them to be securely enclosed, to be used as a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country." Without any appropriation or formal policy with which to implement this legislative action, the War Department established cemeteries as emergency circumstance demanded, primarily near concentrations of military hospitals where many dead required burial. But under the terms of this law, five cemeteries of a rather different character were created in the course of the war. These were burial grounds for the dead of a particular battle, usually established when a lull in active operations made such an effort possible. Three of these cemeteries, Chattanooga, Stones River, and Knoxville, were created by Union Generals, and two, Antietam and Gettysburg, by joint actions of northern states whose citizens had participated in the battles. In each case, the purpose of the effort extended well beyond the need for simply disposing of the dead. These cemeteries were intended to memorialize the slain and celebrate the nation's fallen heroes. Gettysburg represented a particularly important turning point. The large numbers of casualties in that bloody battle were obviously an important factor in generating action, but it was not insignificant that the carnage had occurred in the North, in a town that had not had the opportunity to grow accustomed to the horrors of the constant warfare that had battered Virginia for two long years. Gettysburg made the dead—and the problem they represented—starkly visible to northern citizens, so many of whom flocked to the small Pennsylvania town after the battle.

The dedication of the Union cemetery at Gettysburg marked a new departure in the assumption of national responsibility for the dead and a new acknowledgement of their importance to the nation as well as to their individual families.

The end of combat in spring 1865 offered an opportunity to attend to the dead in ways the war had made impossible. Moved by the same humanitarian purposes that had drawn her to nursing during the conflict, Clara Barton was among the first to take advantage of the cessation of battle, establishing an office of Missing Men of the United States Army in Washington, D.C. to serve as an information clearing house. By the time she closed its doors in 1868, she had received more than 68,000 letters and secured information about 22,000 soldiers.

Many of the missing soldiers of the Union Army lay in graves scattered across the South, often unmarked and unrecorded. In the fall of 1865, U.S. Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs ordered an assessment of the condition and location of graves to ensure their protection, an increasingly urgent issue in face of growing bitterness and defiance in the defeated South. Units of northern soldiers searched across the battle fronts of the war for slain Yankees, inaugurating what became over the next six years a massive federally supported reburial program. Ultimately, 303,536 Union soldiers were reinterred in 74 new national cemeteries, and Congress officially established the national cemetery system. Careful attention to the content of graves and to the documentation that poured in from families and former comrades permitted the identification of 54 percent of the reburied soldiers. Some thirty thousand of the reinterred were black soldiers. Just as they were segregated into the U.S. Colored Troops in life, so in death they were buried in areas designated “colored” on the drawings that mapped the new national cemeteries.

This federal effort included only Union soldiers. Outraged at the official neglect of their dead, white southern civilians, largely women, mobilized private means to accomplish what federal resources would not. In Petersburg, Virginia, for example, the Ladies Memorial Association oversaw the reinterment of 30,000 dead Confederates in the city’s Blanford Cemetery. What was to become the cult of the Lost Cause in the latter decades of the century found an origin in the rituals of Confederate reburials.

The federal reburial program represented an extraordinary departure for the United States Government, an indication of the very different sort of nation that had emerged from civil war. The program’s extensiveness, its cost, and its location in the Federal Government would have been unimaginable before the war created its legions of dead, a constituency of the slain and their mourners, who would change the very definition of the nation and its obligations. The memory of the Civil War dead would remain a force in American politics and American life well into the 20th

Designing the First National Cemeteries

Visitors to a national cemetery toward the end of the 19th century had a very different experience than travelers have today. Then, visitors arrived by horse-drawn carriage or on foot from nearby railroad stations and steamboat piers. Located on the edge of towns or adjacent to rural battle sites, the isolated cemeteries were enclosed by masonry walls and planted with trees, shrubs, and flower beds among the uniform white marble headstones marking the graves. To the visitor, this was an austere landscape compared to the typical picturesque Victorian burial grounds characterized by meandering paths and ornate headstones, mausoleums and sculpture. For the nation, however, it represented a solemn display of appreciation for what Brevet Major Edmund E. Whitman called “the heroic sacrifice to teach to succeeding generations. . . lessons of undying patriotism.”

Although several cemeteries were established during the Civil War, the War Department had done only limited long-term planning until the passage of the National Cemeteries Act in 1867, which specified the construction of permanent lodges for the cemetery superintendents, masonry walls, and marble headstones. Over the course of the next 20 years, the U.S. Army oversaw the acquisition of land, the design of the cemetery, the reinterment of the dead from shallow battlefield burials or hospital cemeteries, the construction of roads, walls, lodges and utility buildings, the planting of trees and plants, and the acquisition and installation of permanent headstones.



It was a remarkable undertaking by the Army, which was committed to ensuring that the remains of an estimated 300,000 Union dead were buried with dignity and honored in perpetuity by placement in a national cemetery.

While the War Department developed designs for permanent features, it erected temporary wooden structures through the early 1870s to support daily operations in the cemetery. These included picket fences and wood-framed entrance arches bearing the cemetery’s name, “cabins” for the superintendent to occupy, and decay-prone headboards. Woefully inadequate, this first generation of construction was gradually replaced by permanent features starting in the early 1870s and continuing through the 1880s.

Permanent features made of brick or stone became the norm as national cemetery designs became more standardized. Almost all of the national cemeteries contained a lodge that served as a residence and office for the superintendent, as well as a few utilitarian buildings; a perimeter wall lined on the interior with the prickly Osage-orange (*Maclura pomifera*) bush and with both formal and service entries; and a centrally located flagpole. Over the years, cast-metal signs with the number of dead (known and unknown), rules of behavior, and lines from the popular poem “Bivouac of the Dead” were in-

stalled at each cemetery. Covered octagonal or rectangular rostrums were built for speakers at ceremonies on Decoration Day, the original name for Memorial Day, celebrated on May 30th since 1868. Memorials and landscape features of all sizes, materials and forms, including inverted cannons, pyramids of cannon balls, obelisks, and statues were dedicated in honor of the dead. By 1920, approximately 125 memorials had been erected within the 80 national cemeteries established by that time.

In April 1869, Brevet Major Whitman, the Army's Superintendent of National Cemeteries, offered four "principles which should govern the selection of national cemetery sites" that would reinforce the potential for them to become historic attractions as well as shrines. These principles included localities of historical interest, convenient access, placement on the great thoroughfares of the nation, and places presenting favorable conditions for ornamentation – so that surviving comrades, loving friends, and grateful states might be encouraged to expend liberally for such purposes.

Perhaps the most memorable national cemetery feature are the rows of standardized white marble headstones. In 1873, the Secretary of War designated a cambered or slightly arched marble rectangular headstone set upright for identified remains, with the individual's name and military unit inscribed on the front side. Burials of unidentified remains were marked by a low marble block. The Army created these homogenized designs at the same time it was standardizing its design of military buildings, barracks, and quarters for all its posts. For the cemetery's superintendent's lodge, the office of the U.S. Quartermaster General under the supervision of Montgomery C. Meigs prepared standardized plans. Designed in an elegant French Second Empire style with a mansard roof, the small lodges were a prominent element at the main entrance of more than 50 cemeteries.

The pattern of burials in a large number of cemeteries followed a geometric plan suitable for level ground, despite often-undulating topography. The view of the regular rows of headstones recalled the layout of the tents in many Army camps and caused an immediate evocation as a "bivouac of the dead." Geometric layouts featured squares, rectangles, circular, and orthogonal patterns defined by roads and footpaths. Graves were arranged in concentric circles around the central flagstaff mound, as seen at the Knoxville, TN, and Glendale and Poplar Grove, VA, cemeteries. The Beaufort, SC, cemetery features a "half-wagon-wheel" layout. More complicated was the elaborate compass-rose plan seen at Fayetteville, AR. Although most national cemeteries averaged ten acres or less, they were still able to evoke the precision and patterns associated with the military in their layout.

In contrast, early cemeteries established under Brevet Major Whitman's principles in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Georgia had plans that met more aesthetic objectives. They contain four of the five monumental gates built in the national cemeteries starting in 1879. As reported in a local newspaper, the 32-foot tall Chattanooga archway, "by its immensity, Roman in character, in its architecture, military, conveys the very idea in itself that it stands as a monument over the country's dead." Besides the monumental arched gateways, the cemeteries at Chattanooga and Nashville, TN, and at Marietta, GA, also featured picturesque layouts that adhered to the natural, gentle contour of the slopes; this contrasted sharply with the rigid geometric layouts found in other cemeteries. Hardwood trees were planted or preserved to assure shade from the hot southern sun. At Corinth National Cemetery, although the more traditional geometric layout of burials was fol-

lowed, a 16-foot wide serpentine avenue was planned for the perimeter. Paths in many cemeteries were allowed to green over, or become grassy, for the visual effect, as well as for the comfort of its visitors and the easy maintenance of the grounds.

As early as 1870, U.S. Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs contacted the noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, for advice on plantings. Olmsted and his partner, Calvert Vaux, had designed Central Park in New York City in 1858 and following the war were working on the landscape plan for Prospect Park in Brooklyn. During the Civil War, Olmsted had seen firsthand the wounded and the dying as the executive secretary of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, a private organization that was the precursor of the Red Cross. Olmsted recommended that the cemetery designs "establish permanent dignity and tranquility . . . a sacred grove, sacredness and protection being expressed in the enclosing wall and in the perfect tranquility of the trees within." Within a few years, when funds became available for landscape improvements, Meigs issued his "Instructions Relative to the Cultivation and Care of Trees in the National Cemeteries." He recommended the planting of "cherries and pears, walnuts and hickory-nut trees" for their "well-proportioned and graceful sizes and shapes." Meigs' instructions also called for "climbers about the lodge" and "ornamental shrubbery." Visual evidence confirms that many national cemeteries were densely planted and achieved Olmsted's "sacred grove" concept. Some cemeteries, including those in Chattanooga, TN and Alexandria, VA, planted flowerbeds depicting both the patriotic initials "US" and the Army Corps badges, but these ephemeral features have not survived.

Throughout the remainder of the 19th century and up to World War I, national cemeteries saw a number of improvements to the roadways approaching and within the cemeteries, as well as with the construction of rostrums and service buildings on the cemeteries' grounds.

Between the two World Wars, the Army established seven new cemeteries, some at existing facilities and others in new locations, to serve large populations of veterans. These properties were substantially larger than the Civil War-era cemeteries and three—Golden Gate, CA; Fort Snelling, MN; and Long Island, NY—reflected grand classical symmetry in their plans. The Fort Rosecrans, CA, and Forts Sam Houston and Bliss, TX, national cemeteries invoked local Spanish architectural traditions in their buildings' designs. The pressure on active sites to remain open and accommodate additional burials was so great that any viable open area, such as buffer strips along walls, road curbs, and paths, had to be utilized. The filling of these open spaces eroded the integrity of the original 19th-century historic landscapes. During the next two decades, the Army had limited interest in operating the aging cemetery system. Only after 1973, with the transfer of most of the national cemeteries to the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs), were new properties acquired and older sites reactivated through expansion. Today, our national cemeteries reflect both our attitude toward proper burial and our belief that all national cemeteries are hallowed grounds in which veterans' sacrifices should be revered.

Source -
National Park Service

We are always looking for content suggestions, comments, Book Reports, Family Civil War stories, advice.

Send your contributions to the Editor at sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

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Member Ancestors

Compiled from current and past member information.

Red Text indicates publication of a biography in the *Camp Communicator*

Current Members		Ancestor		Unit
Theodore J	Chamberlain	Chamberlain	Jeremiah M	Pvt, Co B 176 th OH Vol Inf
Keith Alan	Chapman	Stillman	Samuel	Pvt, Co B 94 th IL Inf
Steven	Chapman	Stillman	Samuel	Pvt, Co B 94 th IL Inf
Jeffrey L	Chubb	Brownell	(William) Henry	Pvt., Merrill's Horse, MO
Harold L	Cray	Bassett	George W	Pvt., Co F 54th Reg Ohio Inf
Rex	Dillman	Yaw	Benjamin Franklin	Pvt, Co G 26 th MI Inf Reg,
Richard	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Rodney Samuel	Krieger	Krieger	Jacob	Pvt, Co I, 19th MI Inf
Glenn	Palen	Palen	Charles	Pvt Co E 128 th IN Inf
Charles L	Pfauth Jr	Shopbach	Henry	Pvt, Co F 52 nd PA Vol Inf
Charles L	Pfauth Sr	Shopbach	Henry	Pvt, Co F 52 nd PA Vol Inf
Ray	Truhn	Goodenough	Alonzo	Sgt, Pvt, Co A 2 nd VT Inf
Steven Allen	Williams	Carter Mountjoy/Munjoy Wetmore Wetmore Wetmore	Oren George W Abiather Joy/JA Gilbert Helon/Hellen	Pvt, Co B 186 th NY Vol Inf Pvt, 11 th MI Vol Cavalry & 1 st MI Sharpshooters Pvt 66 th IL Inf Pvt 2 nd Reg NE Cavalry Pvt 13 th Reg IA Inf
Matthew Carter	Williams	Carter	Oren	Pvt, Co B 186 th NY Vol Inf
Past Members		Ancestor		Unit
Roger C	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Kenneth A	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Dennis L	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Michael	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Irving	Hackeman	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Richard	Horton	Horton, Jr	William	
Virlin	Dillman	Mason	Daniel W	
Daniel	Stice	Pegg	Henry Riley	Co E 17 IN
Amasa	Stice	Pegg	Henry Riley	Co E 17 IN
Douglas	Christopher Morales	Terwilliger	Albert Eugene	Co B Batt 9 NY HA

Camp Communicator

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE

None

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