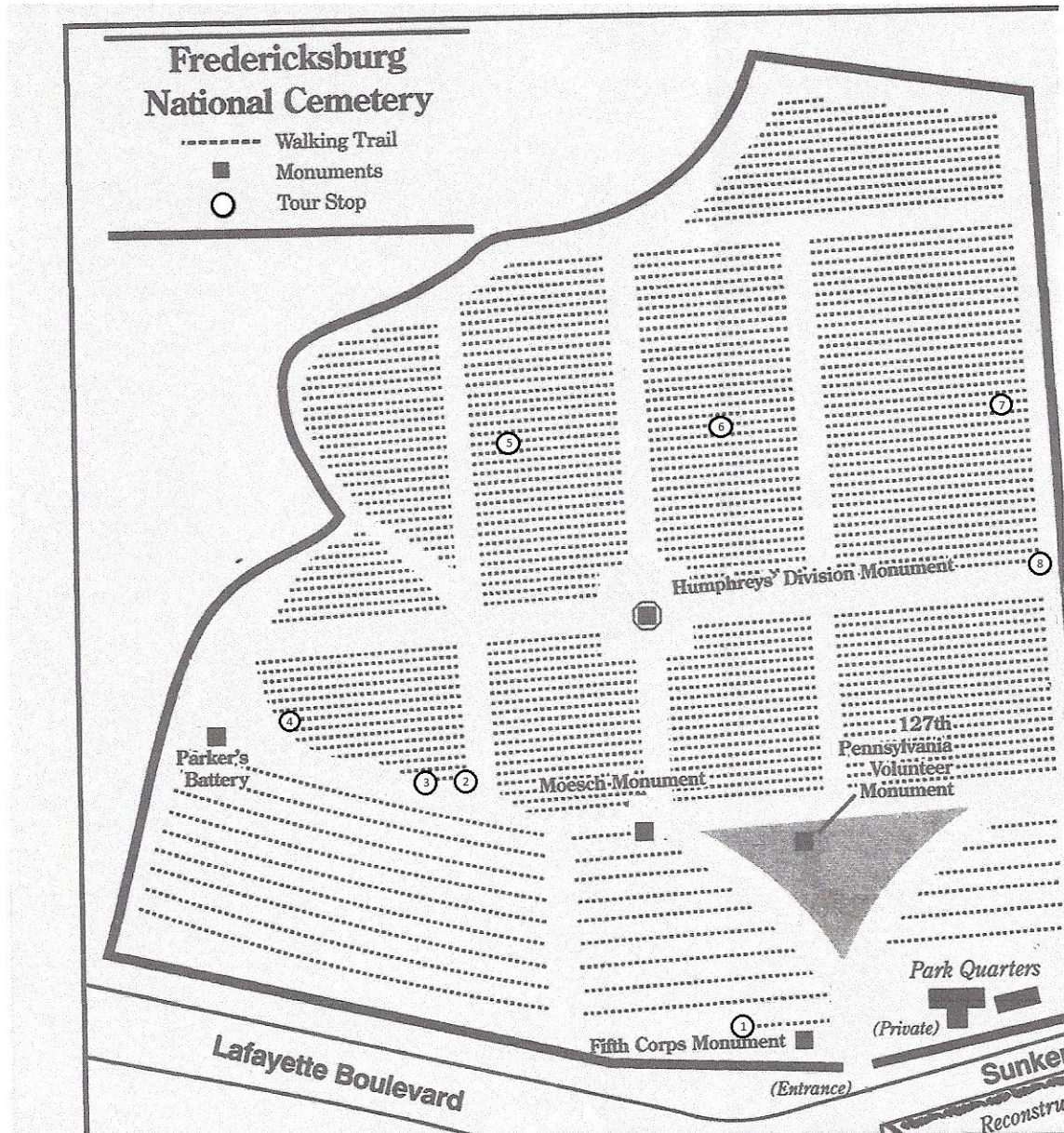


Veterans of Other Wars Tour

While the majority of burials in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery are Civil War soldiers, the cemetery remained open and active until after the World Wars. In addition to the Civil War, there are burials from the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II.



Stop 1: Urbane Bass
Grave #10, Officer Row

Urbane Bass, buried at the end of what is named Officers Row, was the first African-American commissioned officer buried in the National Cemetery. A graduate of the Leonard Medical School of Shaw University in Raleigh, NC, Bass moved to Fredericksburg in 1909 and served as its first black physician until the outbreak of World War I. Despite the continued segregation of the army, Urbane offered his services for the Army Medical Corps in an April 1917 letter to the secretary of war. He served in France as a lieutenant in the 372 US 93 Division. He would earn the Distinguished Service Cross for the October 1918 action which cost him his life. Attending to the wounded under severe shell fire, he was struck by a shell which severed both of his legs. Despite the aid of his hospital attendants, Urbane died a few minutes later. Only 36 when he died, Bass left behind a wife and four children. Maude, who is buried beside her husband, stayed in Fredericksburg until 1922, then moved to Raliegh, NC where she taught music to the blind for thirty years at the North Carolina State School for the Blind. Thirty-two when Urbane died, she never remarried and lived to the age of 100, dying in October 1986.

Stop 2: Leighton and Jesse Forsythe
Graves #6632 and #6633

Lying side-by-side are the graves of Leighton G. Forsythe and Jesse H. Forsythe, the only known pair of brothers interred here at the National Cemetery. Both were privates in the 4th US Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American War. Older brother Leighton had enlisted under his real name, but twenty-two years old Jesse enlisted under the name Charles Dunn. This was probably because the brothers wanted to stay together and military policy forbade brothers from serving in the same regiment. They managed to serve together, they would also die together. The brothers were killed on August 7, 1898 when they were struck near Potomac Run, six miles north of Fredericksburg, by a train on the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad. Why they were there is unclear. They may have been walking toward Brooke, VA to catch a train to Washington DC where their unit was camped.

Stop 3: Charles Henry Wissner
Grave #6669

Charles Henry Wissner served in the Spanish-American War, enlisting in the 8th PA in June 1899. Prior to the war Charles pursued academic degrees at Hampden-Sydney College, Yale, and the University of Leipzig (Germany), and attended the Union Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in his 20s and served as pastor of several churches before joining the army. During the war, he was stationed in the Philippines, returning to Fredericksburg in 1902 to open the Wissner School, a private college and business prep school. He ran this school until he died of a heart attack on January 16, 1919.

Stop 4: Harry Bankard
Grave #6765

The last soldier buried in a separate grave was Harry Bankard. He served in Company K, 2nd Virginia Infantry National Guard and was discharged in July 1916. After his service he was a watchman for the Janney-Marshall Company until he left Fredericksburg to move to

Maryland. He died while walking down Princess Anne Street on June 19, 1945 on a visit back to his hometown.

Stop 5: Jack Butler
Grave #6698

You will notice that many non-Civil War veterans are buried on the edge of sections; the Civil War graves were planned in orderly sections, but once new graves were needed for later wars the cemetery caretakers placed new burials wherever there were empty plots available. Here you will notice an odd-row among the Civil War graves. This is known as the "fill row." When more graves were needed in the early 1900s, the cemetery caretakers began filling in some of the avenues originally meant for visitor use. In this row lies the only soldier who did not serve in the United States military.

Born in Portsmouth, England in 1894, Jack Butler immigrated to the United States in 1907 and eventually moved to the Fredericksburg area. At the age of 19 Butler sailed back to England to serve in the 2nd Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps during World War I. He was wounded in August 1916 when his plane was shot down during a raid on German lines and during his convalescence he married Doris Tucker. After Jack was honorably discharged, the family moved back to Fredericksburg where Butler opened a garage. Jack died young, at the age of 35, of appendicitis. At the time of his death approval of his application for United States citizenship was expected shortly, which possibly explains his burial here in the National Cemetery. The ashes of his son, Roy Gordon Butler, a corporal in the US Air Force during WWII, were scattered over the grave after his death in 1986.

Stop 6: Annie Florance Lockhart
Grave #6715

There are twenty women buried in this cemetery, mostly the spouses of servicemen. There are two women who are buried here on their own right for service in World War I.

Annie Florance Lockhart immigrated from Canada in 1902. She was called into active service April 6, 1918 and served as a US Army Corps Nurse until June 1919. She came to Fredericksburg in 1931 and served as superintendent of Mary Washington Hospital for three years before her early death from pneumonia in January 1935.

Stop 7: Amdol L. Jett and Amdol G. Jett
Grave #6742

If you look at grave #6742 you will notice that it is double sided; each side of the headstone contains the information of a different soldier. This is because Amdol L. Jett and his son, Amdol Glorial Jett, are buried in the same grave. Amdol L. Jett served as private first class in Co. K of the 318 Infantry, 80 Division in the United States Marine Corps. He survived his service and lived until 1940. His son, Amdol Glorial Jett, served with the 21 Marines, 3rd Division during World War II. He died March 1, 1945 on Iwo Jima when he deliberately exposed himself to draw enemy fire in order to locate the enemy gun positions. The directions he called back before

his death enabled Marine gunners to score a direct hit on an enemy position. His mother and two sisters lost both their husband and father, son and brother within five years of each other.

Stop 8: Edith Rose Tench

Edith Rose Tench was the first woman ever buried in the National Cemetery. She served as a “yeomanette,” third class in the United States Naval Reserve Force at the Norfolk Navy Yards during World War I. By the time the war ended more than 11,000 women had served with the US Naval Reserve Force. “Yeomanettes” performed tasks such as clerical duties, designing camouflage for battleships, and acting as translators, draftsmen, fingerprint experts, and recruiting agents. Tench graduated with the 1928 class of Mary Washington Hospital, but died in November 1929 at the age of 36 after battling Bright’s Disease.

The cemetery closed to new burials in the 1940s. The last soldier buried in a separate grave was Harry Bankard in 1945. Bankard was not the last soldier buried here; that honor goes to Admol Jett who was buried four years later in the same plot as his father. The final burials in the cemetery would be the spouses of soldiers already buried here who had reserved their spots while still living. Today if a soldier is found buried within the park, they are not reinterred into the National Cemetery. Instead their grave is marked and the remains not disturbed. You can find a few of these marked graves at Chatham and outside the Chancellorsville Visitor Center.