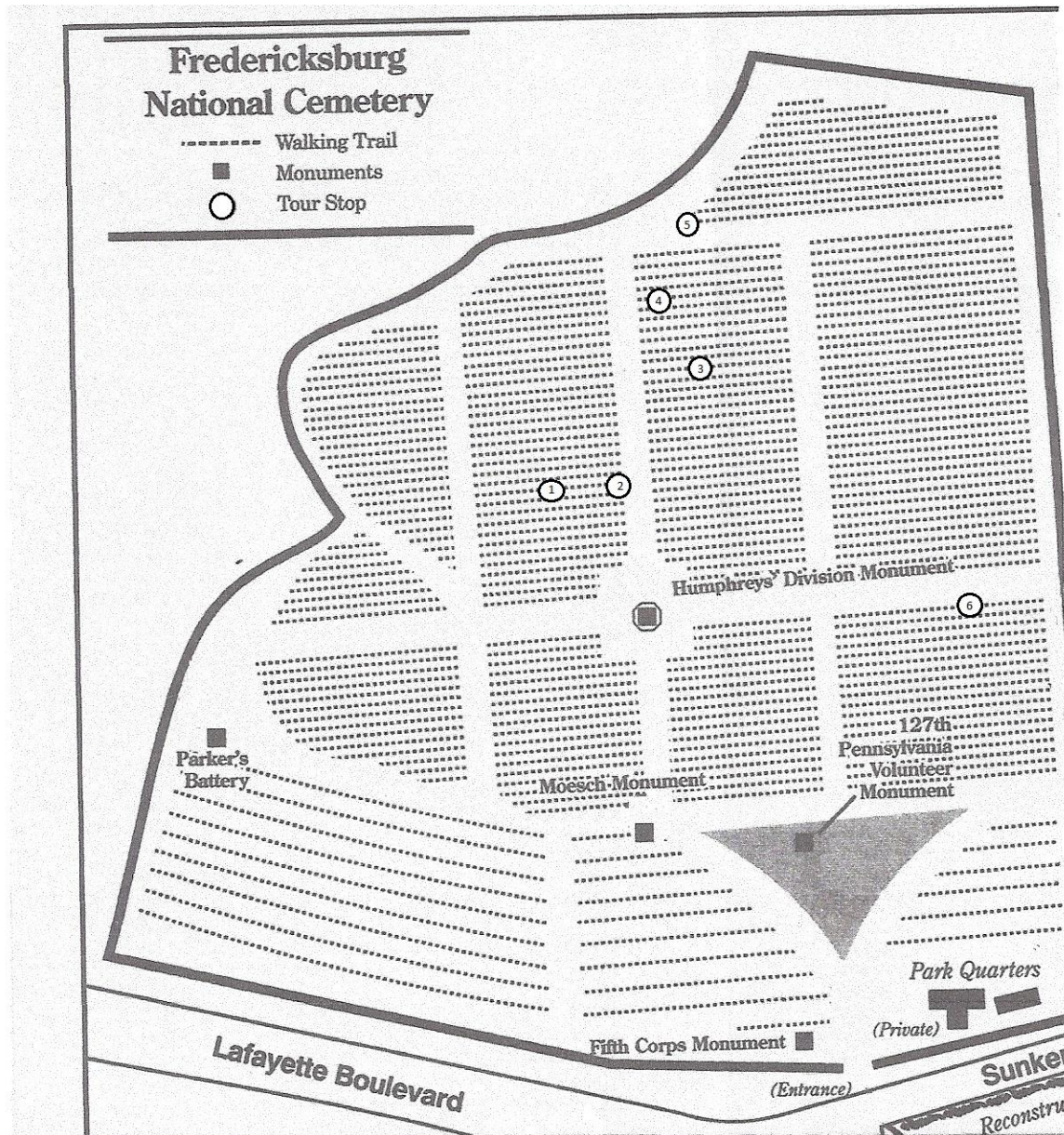


# 1863 Burials Tour

After spending the early months of the year in winter encampment near Fredericksburg, the Union and Confederate armies clashed in the Battle of Chancellorsville, a few miles west of the city. After that battle, both armies would move north in the Gettysburg Campaign and return to northern Virginia in the fall. After a short engagement at Mine Run, the armies once again settled into winter encampments in preparation for 1864.



Stop 1: William Showers  
Grave #4084

Following the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, the Confederate and Union armies moved back into Virginia. While the 1864 Overland Campaign, beginning with the Battle of the Wilderness, in May is the next major engagement between the opponents, there were smaller engagements and campaigns in between. One such campaign is the Mine Run Campaign, which occurred just past the Wilderness Battlefield in Orange County. Casualties of this lesser known engagement, and others like it, were also included here in the national cemetery.

One such casualty is Private William Showers of the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Sharpshooters. The nineteen year old was killed at Locust Grove on November 27, 1863 when he was shot through the head. His burial here in the cemetery is unique because it is one of the few graves in which more than one identified soldier are buried together. Showers is buried in a single grave with three identified comrades of the 1<sup>st</sup> USSS, and an early register of the cemetery shows that there may also be two unidentified soldiers of the same unit buried there as well.

Stop 2: Francis Lombard  
Grave #4100

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Francis O. Lombard of the 1<sup>st</sup> MA Cavalry was killed at New Hope Church the same day as William Showers (previous stop). The twenty-six year old was killed as he and another man tried to bring a badly wounded man of the 1<sup>st</sup> NJ Cavalry off the field. Both men had volunteered to try and get to him after the man's own regiment had abandoned him. Lombard was shot through the head as he was carrying the wounded man in his arms, attempting to get him to safety.

Stop 3: Otis Pinkham  
Grave #5144

Otis Pinkham died days after the Battle of Chancellorsville, but was not a casualty of the battle. The 18 year old member of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Massachusetts fell ill at Brooks Station and entered a Division Hospital on April 27, dying of chronic diarrhea on May 15, 1863. Capt. James Chipman of Co. D, wrote Pinkham's parents about his death saying he planned on marking the grave with a tablet so the remains could be located later if they wished, and sought to make arrangements for sending his effects. He also wrote to comfort the grieving parents:

*I am very happy to inform you that your son was a promising young man and an excellent soldier and was beloved by his officers and comrades, and whether he died on the battlefield or in camp, his friends can have the satisfaction of knowing that he died an honorable death and was doing his humble part towards restoring the Union to its former position.*

Stop 4: Tilghman Jacoby  
Grave #5830

Tilghman Jacoby of the 128<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry died just after midnight on February 20, 1863. The eighteen year old had been unwell with dysentery for months before it suddenly turned into typhoid fever right before his death. Comrades and hospital staff prepared his body to send it home to the wife Jacoby had married only a few weeks before enlisting. Catherine did not collect the body from its temporary burial at Aquia Landing because she gave birth to their only son, Charles Tilghman Jacoby, just five days before Tilghman died. Catherine received a widow's pension of \$8 per month until she remarried to her late husband's younger brother, Milton, who had served with the 209<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry in the Petersburg Campaign.

Stop 5: Alexander Allison  
Grave #6145A

Between Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville stands a battle-scarred brick church. Salem Church became the center of the storm on May 3-4, 1863 as part of the Chancellorsville campaign. The Union troops who had attacked Marye's Heights and taken them, were headed west to reinforce Hooker's main force, but they were intercepted by Confederates near the church grounds. Twenty-three year old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Alexander Allison of the 96<sup>th</sup> PA was shot in the stomach on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, was transported to a hospital at Aquia Creek on May 5th, and died just hours after arriving. His younger brother, nineteen year old John, served under Alexander as a corporal in the same regiment. He was also killed at Salem Church but he body was never recovered; he may lie in the cemetery under an unknown marker.

Stop 6: James Crowther  
Grave #2897

Colonel James E. Crowther is the highest ranking officer buried in the cemetery, although you would hardly know it based off of his simple headstone. His regiment, the 110 PA Infantry, fought at Hazel Grove on the morning of May 3<sup>rd</sup> during the Battle of Chancellorsville, and was ordered to hold their position at all hazards until it became impossible. Unfortunately, the regiment was not aware that the rest of the line had broken, leaving them vulnerable to a flanking attack. Called upon by the Confederate force to surrender, the 110PA responded with hand-to-hand fighting. The regiment lost almost half their strength in this fighting, included their colonel. Perhaps knowing his possible fate, Crowther had written to his wife Sarah a few days before the campaign, his last letter home. "I hope we will get through safe." he concluded, "Don't forget me my dear wife. My love to the children." When the men returned the following year during the 1864 campaign, they found that the Confederates had carefully buried Crowther and marked the grave with his name and rank on a piece of cracker box, allowing him to be reburied under an identified marker here at the cemetery.

The burials from 1863 represent a wide variety of engagements: Chancellorsville and Salem Church, the Mine Run Campaign, and the ever-present threat of disease. Many casualties from the Battle of Chancellorsville were reinterred into the cemetery under "unknown" markers because the Confederates were largely responsible for burying the dead after the Union retreated. Because of this many Union dead were buried in unidentified graves or left unburied as the armies moved towards Gettysburg.