





FOREST HILL SOLDIERS' LOT

Civil War Dead
 The Forest Hill Soldiers' Lot is the final resting place for over 1,000 Civil War soldiers. The lot was established in 1864 and is one of the largest and best-preserved Civil War soldiers' lots in the country. The soldiers buried here were primarily from the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Massachusetts Regiments of the Union Army.

Harvey U.S. General Hospital
 The Harvey U.S. General Hospital was a major medical facility during the Civil War. It was located on the site of the present-day Forest Hill Cemetery and was one of the largest and best-equipped hospitals of its time. The hospital was named in honor of Dr. Harvey, who was the first Surgeon General of the United States Army.

Soldiers' Lot
 The Soldiers' Lot is a large, rectangular area of the cemetery that is dedicated to the burial of Civil War soldiers. The lot is divided into several sections, each representing a different regiment or unit. The soldiers buried here were primarily from the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Massachusetts Regiments of the Union Army.

OF THE REPUBLIC.

FOREST HILL SOLDIERS' LOT



Mourners at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1865. After 1873, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, *Photographic History of the Civil War* (1910).

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

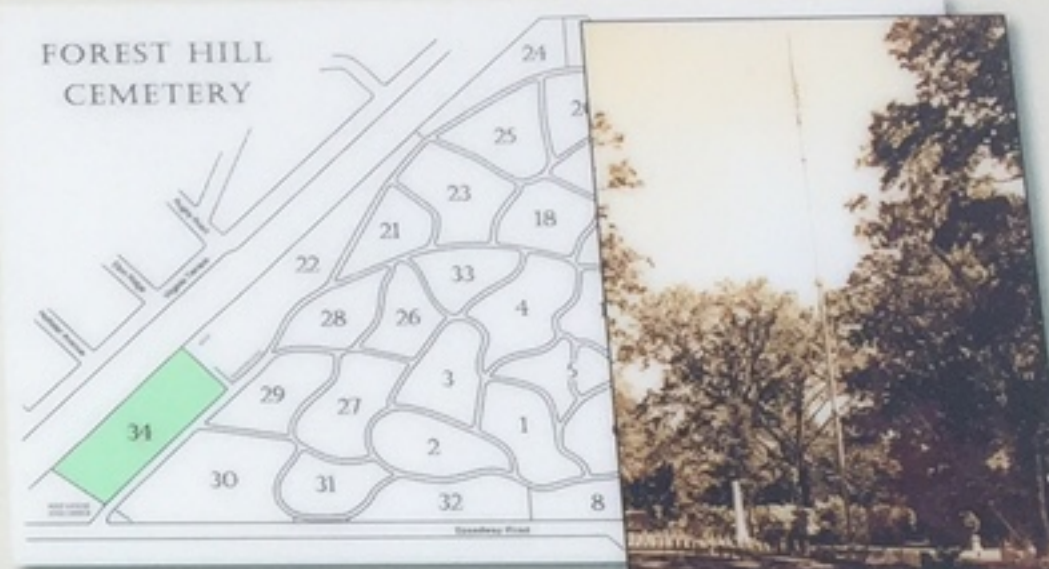
Harvey U.S. General Hospital

In spring 1862, Wisconsin Gov. Louis P. Harvey traveled south to visit the state's volunteer soldiers who were being treated in hospitals near the fighting. On April 19, while crossing from one boat to another at Savannah, Tennessee, Harvey fell in the river and drowned. After his death, Harvey's widow, Cordelia, was appointed the state sanitary agent. Mrs. Harvey worked tirelessly to provide for Wisconsin's troops during the Civil War.

She toured hospitals in the South and saw the appalling conditions soldiers endured. In 1863, she persuaded President Abraham Lincoln to establish a general hospital in Madison. Harvey U.S. General Hospital opened in a three-story octagonal house built for former Gov. Leonard Farwell. A branch hospital at nearby Camp Randall was also set up. In December 1864, the complex reported that it was treating 587 patients. After the war, the general hospital became the Wisconsin Soldiers' Orphans' Home.



Orphans' Home, 1870. It closed in 1874, after the last children had aged out of care. Wisconsin Historical Society, WHS-2690.



Forest Hill Cemetery plan, soldiers' lot shaded green. Undated photograph of "Soldiers' Rest." National Archives and Records Administration.

Soldiers' Lot

The City of Madison purchased land in 1857 to establish Forest Hill Cemetery. Section 34 of this 140-acre cemetery, set aside for Union dead in 1862, was initially known as "Soldiers' Rest." Its 240 interments include troops who died while training at Camp Randall. The remainder died at Harvey U.S. General Hospital. The city deeded the 0.36-acre lot to the federal government in 1866. The government acquired a second, smaller parcel in Forest Hill Cemetery in 1908.

The soldiers' lot contains two Civil War memorials. The Wisconsin Soldiers' Orphans' Home Monument was erected in 1873. The marble obelisk is inscribed with the names of eight orphans who died at the home. Flanking it are the children's graves marked with headstones bearing their initials.

In 1891, the Woman's Relief Corps No. 37 erected a large boulder inscribed "To the Unknown Dead." The corps—an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization—was founded in 1883 to perpetuate the memory of the men who saved the Union.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
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