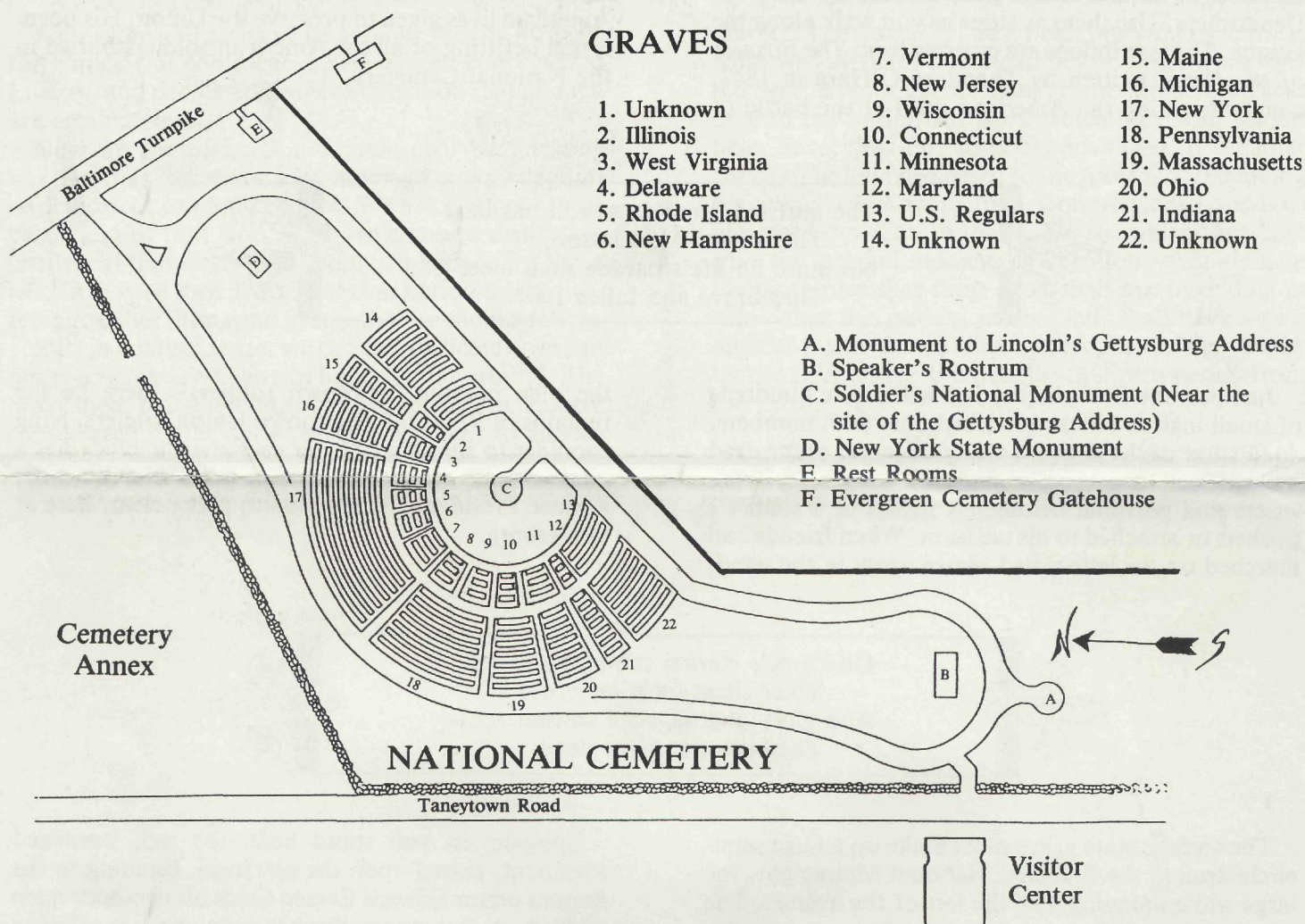


# NATIONAL CEMETERY

## Walking Tour



### GRAVES

- |                  |                   |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Unknown       | 7. Vermont        | 15. Maine         |
| 2. Illinois      | 8. New Jersey     | 16. Michigan      |
| 3. West Virginia | 9. Wisconsin      | 17. New York      |
| 4. Delaware      | 10. Connecticut   | 18. Pennsylvania  |
| 5. Rhode Island  | 11. Minnesota     | 19. Massachusetts |
| 6. New Hampshire | 12. Maryland      | 20. Ohio          |
|                  | 13. U.S. Regulars | 21. Indiana       |
|                  | 14. Unknown       | 22. Unknown       |

- A. Monument to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address  
 B. Speaker's Rostrum  
 C. Soldier's National Monument (Near the site of the Gettysburg Address)  
 D. New York State Monument  
 E. Rest Rooms  
 F. Evergreen Cemetery Gatehouse

## TO BEGIN YOUR WALK

Enter the National Cemetery through the gate across the street from the National Park Service Visitor Center. This circuit walk of 1/2 mile follows along a gradually sloped, smoothly paved avenue. You should follow the avenue in a counter-clockwise direction on your walk through the National Cemetery. Please be wary of vehicular traffic on portions of the avenue. Your walk should take about twenty-five minutes.

## Gettysburg, November 19, 1863 . . .

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or

detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here, have, thus far, so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that, government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

*Abraham Lincoln*

Over 120 years have passed since the gaunt, care-worn President stood among the fresh graves and spoke to the crowd of approximately 15,000 dignitaries, soldiers, war-weary and grieving civilians. They listened to the words that would linger forever in the minds of Americans. Use your imagination on this quiet walk through the National Cemetery. Perhaps you will hear faint echoes of those words spoken on that solemn November day.

The first monument to your right as you enter the National Cemetery is the Lincoln Speech Memorial. It is unique: it commemorates the speech Lincoln gave and not the man who gave it. Inscribed in bronze on the right is the Gettysburg Address. On the left is the letter from Gettysburg attorney David Wills, inviting Lincoln to speak at the dedication. The letter contains perhaps the key to the brevity of the Gettysburg Address: that the President would come to deliver, “. . . a few appropriate remarks.” From the bust of Lincoln, by Henry Bush-Brown, we can see Lincoln's hard gaze contemplating the task before him at Gettysburg.

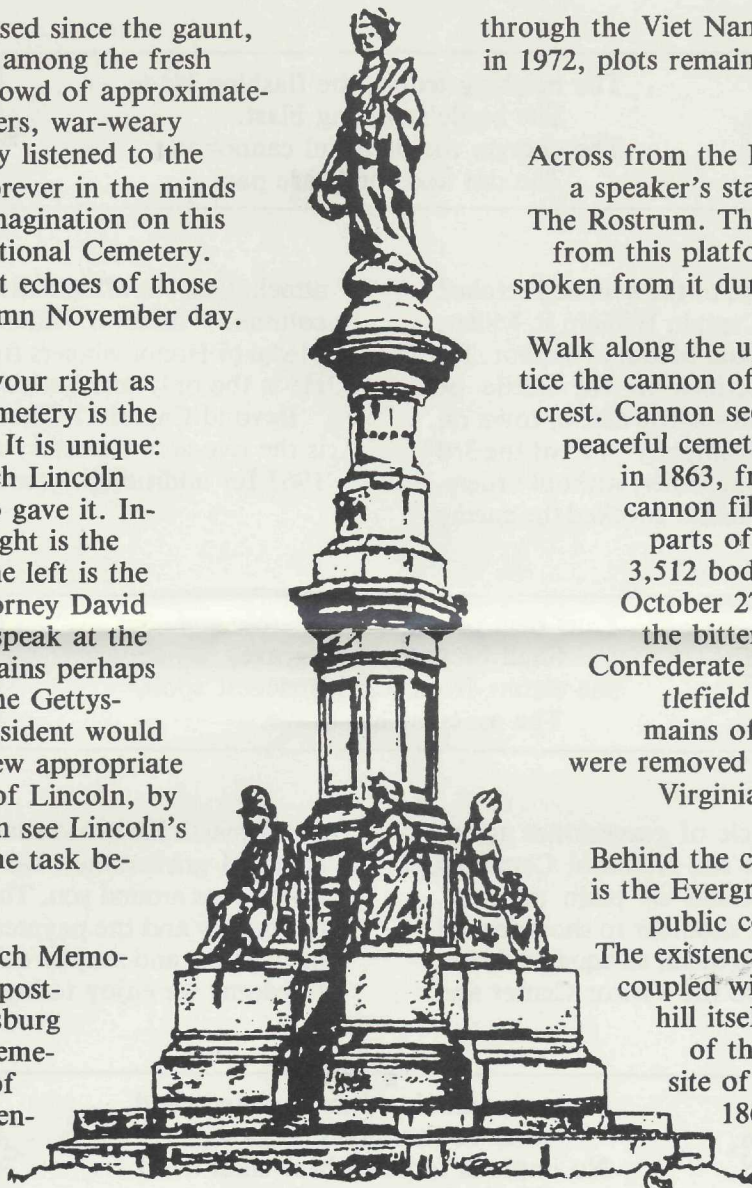
Behind the Lincoln Speech Memorial are some of the 3,307 post-Civil War burials in Gettysburg National Cemetery. The Cemetery contains the remains of American soldiers and dependents, from the Civil War

through the Viet Nam Conflict. Officially closed in 1972, plots remain for dependents of veterans already interred.

Across from the Lincoln Speech Memorial is a speaker's stand built in 1879, known as The Rostrum. Though Lincoln did not speak from this platform, several Presidents have spoken from it during Memorial Day services.

Walk along the upper Cemetery avenue. Notice the cannon of the Union Army along the crest. Cannon seem out of place in this now peaceful cemetery, but for three July days in 1863, from this almost treeless hill, cannon filled temporary graves on all parts of the battlefield. Reburial of 3,512 bodies of Union soldiers began October 27, and took five months. In the bitterness sown by civil war, the Confederate dead lay buried on the battlefield. Following the war, the remains of 3,320 Confederate soldiers were removed to cemeteries in Richmond, Virginia, and other southern cities.

Behind the cannon and black iron fence is the Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg's public cemetery established in 1853. The existence of this adjacent cemetery, coupled with the predominance of the hill itself, prompted representatives of the Union states to select this site of 17 acres, in the summer of 1863, as the Soldiers National Cemetery.



Soldier's National Monument



Continue along the avenue and you will come upon the first of several metal plaques cast by the War Department. Use them as stops as you walk along the avenue. The inscriptions are excerpts from *The Bivouac of the Dead*, written by Theodore O'Hara in 1847, commemorating the American dead at the battle of

Buena Vista in the Mexican War. Theodore O'Hara could not foresee the tremendous future sacrifice of American lives given to preserve the Union. His poem is still befitting of all the American soldiers buried in the National Cemetery.



The muffled drum's sad roll has beat  
The soldier's last tattoo,  
No more on life's parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.



Just past the first plaque, you will notice hundreds of small marble blocks inscribed only with numbers. At the time of the Civil War, identification of the dead was difficult and usually made by friends, or from letters and personal belongings found in a soldier's pockets or attached to his uniform. When friends had marched on, or letters had blown away in the wind,

the men became 'unknown soldiers'. Here lie the remains of 979 totally unknown Union soldiers, lying shoulder to shoulder. Under each marble block lies a man who gave not only his life, but his identity, for a cause President Lincoln was to make clear, here at Gettysburg.



On Fame's eternal camping-ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards, with solemn round,  
The bivouac of the dead.



The various state grave plots make up a huge semi-circle around the Soldiers' National Monument, the large white monument to the left of the avenue. The monument stands near the site of the temporary wooden speaker's platform from which Lincoln spoke. He faced out over the still unfinished gravesites, over this former cornfield and apple orchard, toward the distant fields that still, four months after the battle, were giving up the remains of fallen soldiers.

Imagine, as you stand here, the sad, burdened President, seated upon the platform, listening to the famous orator Edward Everett finish his two-hour main address. A five stanza dirge is sung, a short offering of poetry follows, then the President is introduced. Lincoln rises to speak and in his high tenor voice he begins, "Four score and seven years ago . . .". About two minutes later he finishes the ten sentences.



No rumour of the foe's advance  
Now swells upon the wind,  
No troubled thought at midnight haunts  
Of loved ones left behind.



About 100 feet to your right, within the Evergreen Cemetery, is a grave that flies the American flag. Atop the gravestone is a statue of a woman. Nineteen year old, Mary Virginia "Jennie" Wade was killed during the fighting. Remarkably, she was the only civilian death reported at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Farther down the avenue, toward the curve, you will notice the imposing New York State Monument. It is the only state monument in the National Cemetery. More New York soldiers lost their lives during the fighting at Gettysburg than any other northern state.



No vision of the morrow's strife  
The warriors dream alarms.  
No braying horn, nor screaming fife  
At dawn shall call to arms.



Rounding the curve on the lower part of the Cemetery Avenue, you will pass the Statue of Major General John Fulton Reynolds of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was the highest ranking Union officer killed in the battle. The statue is made of melted, captured bronze cannon—a fitting tribute to one of the most able and

popular commanders in the Union Army from the officers and men of his First Corps.

Continue along the avenue and notice, on the right, the taller headstones of American soldiers who served in other wars.



The neighing troop, the flashing blade,  
The bugle's stirring blast,  
The charge, the dreadful cannonade,  
The din and shout are past.



One of the headstones close to the avenue is etched in gold. This is the grave of Captain William E. Miller, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. He won the Medal for his actions in the battle of Gettysburg. During the cavalry battle east of town on the third day, commanding Company "H" of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry, Captain Miller, without orders, led a charge upon the enemy flank, checked the enemy

attack, then cut off and dispersed the rear of the enemy column. William E. Miller is one of 53 Congressional Medal of Honor winners from the Battle of Gettysburg. He is the only one buried in the National Cemetery.

Beyond Captain Miller's grave and the stone wall, is the five-acre Cemetery Annex. It was purchased in 1963 for additional interments. Now, it too is filled.



Your own proud land's heroic soil  
Shall be your fitter grave,  
She claims from war his richest spoil,  
The ashes of her brave.



Passing the huge semi-circle of gravestones again, observe the simple elegance the National Cemetery planners had hoped for. Ranks of plain markers, enlisted men and officers, lie shoulder to shoulder, all equal in the honor bestowed to them; all equal in death.

As you finish your walk to the Visitor Center and

pass beneath the broad shade trees and along the neatly trimmed gravestones, take time to reflect upon the inscriptions around you. They remind us of the devotion to country and the payment in human life Americans have given, and may be called on to give, to insure the freedoms we enjoy today.



Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,  
Dear as the blood ye gave.  
No impious footstep here shall tread  
The herbage of your grave.

