

Beverly National Cemetery
RD#1 Bridgeboro Road
Beverly, New Jersey 08010

Description

The Beverly National Cemetery, established in 1864, is located near the intersection of Mt. Holly and Bridgeboro Roads in Burlington County. The main entrance is situated on Bridgeboro Road and is protected by a double wrought iron gate supported by granite piers, with a pedestrian gate on each side. The main entrance gate was constructed in 1949, typical of that period when new entries at many national cemeteries replaced original gates that were too narrow to accommodate modern automobiles. There are two service gates located along Green Street and a pedestrian gate is located on the north side near the rostrum. The flagpole is located just east of the main entrance. Wrought-iron fencing encloses the area along Bridgeboro Road, and black aluminum fencing encloses the area along Green Street. The remainder of the cemetery is enclosed by chain link fencing. The lodge is situated near the northwest corner of the cemetery along with a storage building that was the former maintenance building. The service building is located in the south central portion of the cemetery, and the rostrum is on the north side. The administration building is located just to the right as one enters the main entrance, and a committal service tent is located to the south of the administration building. Graves are marked with upright marble headstones.



The superintendent's lodge was constructed in 1879 and was designed by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs from the original standard plan for Civil War era national cemeteries. It is a one and one-half story brick structure, Second Empire Victorian design. The mansard roof has octagonal slate shingles with lighter-colored slate forming rosettes. The foundation is articulated with a three-foot rough stone water table. There are two porches; an entry porch typical of the standard Meigs lodge, and a side porch unique to this lodge. There are seven rooms and an unfinished basement. A one-story brick tin roof kitchen was added in 1907. It is

one of only two original Meigs lodges with the original slate roof. The exterior of the building was restored in 1999. The lodge is used by the cemetery director as a residence.

An administration building was constructed in 1957 on the south side of the main entry road. This building is a one-story brick veneer structure with an asphalt shingle roof. It is a 1950's version of "modern Colonial," and its overall size is 40 feet by 26 feet.

A brick and concrete garage with a slate roof was constructed in 1941. The building is now used for equipment storage.

A combination brick and concrete service building with a garage and comfort station with an asphalt shingle roof, was constructed in 1936. Additions were completed in 1950 and in 1959.

The rostrum was constructed in 1937. It is a classic interpretation with modified Tuscan columns and entablature, with a copper roof. The structure is made of limestone with an exposed brick foundation and a centrally-located speaker's podium. The rostrum is the focus of a small amphitheater with limestone benches forming a slight arc.



Noted Burials

Seven unknown Revolutionary War soldiers who were initially interred in the rear of the fire station at 5th and Arch Streets in Camden, New Jersey, were reinterred in the national cemetery in July 1955. Their remains are located in Section F, Grave 1879-H.

Seven group burials of soldiers of World War II contain 22 remains, and one group burial of soldiers of the Vietnam Conflict contains three remains.

The remains of two soldiers and two civilians killed in a Nike missile explosion on May 28, 1958, are interred in Section J, Graves 2912, 2913, and 2914.

There are four Medal of Honor recipients buried in the Beverly National Cemetery. Their graves are marked with special markers inscribed with an enlarged gold-leafed replica of the medal of the awarding service and the words "MEDAL OF HONOR." The names and grave locations are as follows:

Bernard A. Strausbaugh, First Sergeant, Company A, 3d Maryland Infantry - Section G, Grave 102.

John W. Dutko, Private First Class, U. S. Army, 3d Infantry Division - Section DS, Grave 1.

Nelson Vogel Brittin, Sergeant First Class, U. S. Army, Company I, 19th Infantry Regiment - Section DS, Grave 2.

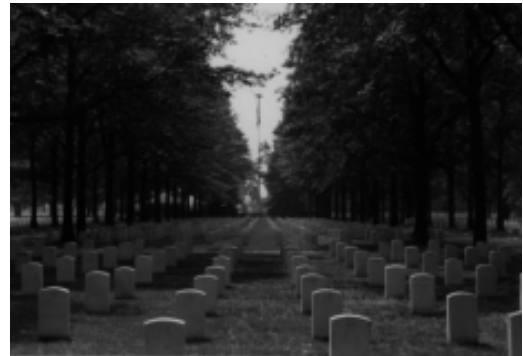
Edward Claude Benford, Hospital Corpsman Third Class, U. S. Navy (attached to a company of the 1st Marine Division) - Section DS, Grave 804.

Civil War Activity in Area

Although there were no battles fought in the Beverly area during the Civil War, the city served as a support area for providing hospital facilities. In 1864, hospitals were so crowded that many of the less permanent type of patients had to be moved elsewhere to make room for

the steady stream of incoming war veterans. Those to be transferred were still not well enough to return to active duty with their former commands or to go to their own homes to await complete recovery. Accordingly, convalescent hospitals were established in various parts of the country. One of these was in Beverly. A brick building, the "lower" of several that had been or were then used as a rope factory, was taken over by the War Department and was used as a convalescent hospital until the end of the Civil War. This building was located at the intersection of Broad Street and the railroad, then known as the Camden and Amboy Railroad, one of the first in the country.

Local tradition tells many interesting stories of the hospital and its patients, who were brought from Philadelphia via the Delaware River. An old river steamer, the "John A. Warner" was used for this purpose exclusively, except when it was used to carry troops up and down the river. The "John A. Warner" docked at the town wharf and always gave advance notice of its arrival with a blast of the whistle. Many of the residents of Beverly assembled at the wharf with wagons of all kinds to carry patients to the hospital, a distance of about a mile. Some of the patients were stretcher cases; others were able to walk. As the journey to the hospital started, it was heralded by the ringing of all the church bells.



It was the custom of many of the people of the town to line Broad Street with coffee and rolls for all who wanted something to eat. The women of Beverly were constantly engaged in various forms of charitable work for the patients, including the collection of linen for bandages and the making of "lint" to be used in dressing wounds.

Although this hospital in Beverly was always referred to as "convalescent," many operations and amputations were, of necessity, performed there. Again, according to local tradition, amputated limbs were taken to and buried at the present site of the national cemetery, which was then simply a vacant plot of ground owned by Mr. Christian Weyman. Bodies of those who died in this hospital were also given temporary burial in this field. The plot, located in the northwest corner of the village cemetery, consisted of 1.2 acres. It was conveyed to the United States from Mr. Weyman by deed dated August 25, 1864.