

Fort Scott National Cemetery  
900 East National Avenue  
Fort Scott, Kansas 66701

## Description

The Fort Scott National Cemetery, established in 1862, is located in Bourbon County. The cemetery is about two miles from the post office and business section of the town. The site is in the shape of an oblong square. The main entrance is situated at the center of the west side and is enclosed by a double ornamental wrought iron gate and flanked by stone pillars which were coursed to resemble block. A road leads from this gate to the center of the grounds and there branches to the north and the south, to create a somewhat heart-shaped section before joining at the east of the cemetery to form the east exit drive, where there is also a wrought iron gate supported by stone pillars. This exit drive is used as a service entrance. Two iron pedestrian gates are located on the east side of the cemetery, one at the service entrance and one near the utility building. In 1873, a rough cut rock wall laid in cement with a coping of flag rock was installed and encloses 10.5 acres. This wall is 3,200 feet long and four and one-half feet high. The lodge and utility building are located near the northeast corner of the cemetery, and a rostrum is located to the north of the service entrance. The flagpole is situated to the west of the service entrance between the lodge and the rostrum. Graves are marked with upright marble headstones, except for Section 8, which is marked with flat granite markers.



The lodge, constructed in 1876, is based upon the standard design by Brigadier General Montgomery C. Meigs. The Second Empire design is a reverse L-shaped structure, with a one-story enclosed porch giving a generally rectangular plan. The lodge was executed in brick with bold self-quoining over a stone rubble foundation. The mansard roof, executed in an ornamental design, is slate. The first floor contains the office, a meeting room, and a kitchen. Bedrooms and a bath are located on the upper story. In 1929, a summer kitchen was constructed and was removed in 1935, when a modern kitchen addition of brick (13 feet, 6 inches by 15 feet, 6 inches and 10 feet high) to match the main building was added to the rear of the lodge. The front porch has been raised slightly and enclosed with glass over wainscoting. The roof is asphalt, and the roof over the kitchen and porch is metal. There is an unfinished basement which is used for storage. The lodge is used as the office for the cemetery representative.



The utility building (originally constructed in 1901 as the stable and tool house and enlarged in 1934) is a one-story brick and stone structure with three service bays behind double garage doors. The roof is slate. A pedestrian entrance door with 12 lights was inserted where a fourth garage door was originally located. A six-over-six double-hung window provides light to

the original staff area. This main section is topped by an asphalt shingle pitched roof. A flat roof, single-story public toilet (14 feet 2 inches by 18 feet 4 inches) was added to the west end of the building in 1934. An extension to the building was completed in 1957, and steel replacement windows were installed in 1958.

The brick rostrum, constructed in 1882, is rectangular in shape and formerly had twelve square brick columns (each 1 foot 6 inches by 1 foot 6 inches by 11 feet 8 inches) supporting a metal pitch roof. The structure was rebuilt in 1931, and a new galvanized iron roof was installed in 1934. Iron rail ran around the edge of the columns, and the height of the structure was three feet from the concrete floor. In 1961, the roof was removed and the short pillars rebuilt.



### Noted Burials

Interred in the cemetery are 17 Indian soldiers, some of whose colorful, vividly descriptive names belie the importance of the service they rendered the United States. Stick-Out-Belly, Set-Them-Up, Deer-In-Water, Young Chicken, and Coming Deer were all privates in the Indian Home Guard Regiments of the Union Army during the Civil War. Ongoing research indicates that the identified Indian soldiers were not scouts, but private soldiers from the ranks of the three Indian Home Guard Regiments. These regiments were organized from Indian Refugees who escaped from the Indian Territory to Kansas between September of 1861 and September of 1862. During the Civil War the U. S. Army normally did not acquire scouts from the ranks of enlisted personnel. Scouts were civilians hired by the Quartermaster Department and were paid for the number of days that they provided service to the U. S. Government.

During the Civil War, soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiments were recruited, trained, and supplied in Fort Scott, Kansas. The 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment was the first African-American Regiment from a northern state to join the United States Army. That occurred at Fort Scott on January 13, 1863. It was also the first African-American Regiment from a northern state to engage the Confederate forces in combat which occurred at the Battle of Island Mound, Missouri, on October 28 and 29, 1862. In March of 1864, during a major reorganization of the Volunteer Forces of the United States Army, the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment was designated as the 79th United States Colored Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment was designated as the 83rd United States Colored Infantry Regiment. There are 88 African-American soldiers interred in the Fort Scott National Cemetery who died during the Civil War including 47 from the 79th United States Colored Troops (USCT), 13 from the 83rd USCT, and 28 unknowns. All are buried in Section 5.

### Significant Monuments/Memorials

Ware Monument - A large native sandstone boulder, located at Grave No. 1 at the west end of the heart section, marking the grave of Eugene Fitch Ware, one of the most famous poets from Kansas, and his wife, Jeannette. The date of construction is unknown. Ware enlisted as a private in the 1st Iowa Volunteer Infantry and re-enlisted and served in the 4th Iowa Cavalry and

the 7th Iowa Cavalry. He was mustered out with the latter regiment in June 1866, having served throughout the entire war and for more than a year afterwards. In 1867, he came to Fort Scott and opened a harness and saddle shop and farmed in Cherokee County. He studied law and on June 19, 1871, was admitted to the bar. He then sold his interest in the shop, rented the farm, and worked as an assistant in a law office. In February 1873, he opened his own law office. Throughout the years he lived in Kansas, he composed many poems. His first poem to attract attention was "Neutralia." He died on July 1, 1911, and one of his final requests was that the boulder be used as his grave marker, as its natural beauty appealed to him. Through the combined efforts of his family and government officials, his wish was fulfilled.



First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Monument - A gray granite monument, 40 1/4 inches high and 24 inches wide, which rests on a granite base measuring 30 1/4 inches by 18 1/4 inches. The date of construction is unknown. The monument is located along the roadway between the lodge and the utility building.

On the porch of the lodge is affixed a bronze plaque, which is historically significant and was made shortly after the cemetery was established. It is inscribed as follows:

UNITED STATES  
 NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY  
 FORT SCOTT  
 ESTABLISHED NOV. 15<sup>TH</sup>, 1862  
 INTERMENTS 407  
 KNOWN 306  
 UNKNOWN 101



### Civil War Activity in Area

Fort Scott was erected in 1842 on the route known as the military road on the Marmaton River, a confluent of the Osage, about eight miles west of the Missouri line. It was established for the protection of the Permanent Indian Frontier and trade routes from the East to the Southwest. The post was first called Camp Scott, named for General Winfield Scott, then general-in-chief of the Army, and was designated Fort Scott when the erection of permanent buildings began in 1843. The post was eventually abandoned in 1853, when the garrison was transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas, and other western posts. The buildings were sold at public auction by the U.S. Government on April 16, 1855. They became the nucleus of the town of Fort Scott, Kansas Territory. The original Post Cemetery was used as the town or public graveyard from 1855-1867.

Troops were sent to the town of Fort Scott on various occasions during the troubled period prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. The outbreak of the Civil War caused Fort Scott to again assume military importance and the fort was re-established on March 29, 1862, when it was occupied by a force of the 2nd Ohio Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Charles Doubleday. Fort Scott became a concentration center for troops as well as the storage place for large quantities of supplies intended for the use of troops stationed as far south as the Red River, hundreds of miles away. Blockhouses, lunettes, and other fortifications were erected at strategic locations about the town. Lieutenant Colonel Lewis R. Lewell, commanding the 6th Kansas Cavalry, was appointed post commander in 1862. General James H. Lane, who was appointed Union commander for recruiting in the Department of Kansas in July 1862, also established his headquarters at the fort. Fort Scott also served as a military supply depot for the area. During the war, a two-story U. S. Army Prison was located in Fort Scott which housed Confederate soldiers, Union soldiers who violated the Articles of War, and civilians who violated martial law. The Prisoner Plot/Rebel Line in the national cemetery in 1867 contained 16 graves which included 13 Confederate soldiers and 3 Union soldiers. Nine of the Confederate soldiers who were buried between November 4, 1864, and November 22, 1864, died of wounds received in action or illness contracted during General Sterling Price's campaign in Eastern Kansas from October 25-26, 1864.

Between 1842 and 1853, the Fort Scott Post Cemetery was located on the open prairie approximately 500 yards west-southwest of the fort. In 1853, the U. S. Army abandoned Fort Scott and did not disinter the remains of the soldiers and possible dependents who were buried in the Post Cemetery. The Post Surgeon's reports indicate that 17 soldiers (16 enlisted personnel and one officer) died at Fort Scott between 1842 and 1853. The enlisted soldiers were probably buried in the Post Cemetery; however, no documentation has been discovered to confirm the disposition of their remains. The first recorded death at Fort Scott indicates that Private Henry Genter of the First United States Dragoons died on September 9, 1842. The last documented soldier to die at Fort Scott between 1842 and 1853 was Private John Remington of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment who died on February 15, 1852. The only officer buried in the original Post Cemetery was Captain Alexander Morrow of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment who died at Fort Scott on January 7, 1851.