

# Vicksburg

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Vicksburg National Military Park



**"...they gave the last full measure of devotion..."**

**- Lincoln's Gettysburg Address**



## U.S. National Cemeteries

"Show me the manner in which a nation or a community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals."

## The National Cemetery System



War Dead at Gettysburg



Burial detail at Fredericksburg, VA, after the Wilderness Campaign, May 1864.

Over three million of the United States' honored dead are buried in the hallowed grounds of National Military Cemeteries. These grounds are, by law, national shrines to the men and women who fought the nation's wars. The beginning of the Civil War caused Abraham Lincoln and the American people to recognize that casualties of battle must be properly memorialized, and initial legislation leading to the establishment of the National Cemetery System was enacted by the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress in 1862. On July 17, President Lincoln signed an Omnibus Act covering legislation on a variety of subjects.

Section 18 of the act provided,

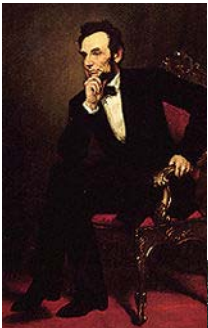
"That the President of the United States shall have power, whenever in his opinion it is expedient, to purchase cemetery grounds and cause them to be securely enclosed, to be used as a national

cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service of this country."

This Act was the necessary final step in assuring a proper burial for military dead - an effort the War Department had begun over a year earlier.

Location of early cemeteries was said to be an accident of geography -- battlefields and central points where remains of those who fell in remote battles and skirmishes could be brought for proper burial. Originally National Cemeteries were established to bury the dead from general hospitals and battlefield dead. National Cemeteries established in 1862 included an encampment site in Alexandria near Washington, D.C., and the military outposts of Forts Leavenworth and Scott, KS. Two battlefield cemeteries, Antietam, MD, and Mill Springs, KY, were the first in which the dead were buried almost where they fell.

## Gettysburg Address



Gettysburg National Cemetery



On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln dedicated Gettysburg National Cemetery with these immortal words:

*"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on 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 battle-field 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 cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot 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 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."*

## Searching for the Fallen



San Francisco National Cemetery



Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial, France



Eagle Point National Cemetery, Oregon



Arlington National Cemetery

When the Civil War ended, a massive search was ordered of every battlefield, isolated churchyard, farm, plantation, railroad siding, or any other place combat operations had occurred and Union dead might lie in temporary graves. This effort covered five years and brought nearly 300,000 remains to National Cemeteries, with 58 percent identified. By 1870, it was believed that all Union dead, whether killed in action or having died of wounds or illness in hospitals during the war, had been interred in private or National Cemeteries, the number of which had grown from 14 in 1862 to 73 in 1870.

In 1873, Congress extended the right of burial in National Cemeteries to all honorably discharged Union Civil War veterans. Cemeteries were established beyond battlefield and hospital sites to accommodate the newly eligible. In 1884, San Francisco National Cemetery became the first located on the Pacific Coast.

Originally established for burial of Union dead only, Confederate veterans became eligible for interment in National Cemeteries only if they later served the U.S. in the Indian Wars or Spanish-American War. Exceptions include Confederate prisoners interred in Arlington National Cemetery, originally given civilian burials, and two Confederate soldiers known to be mistakenly buried in Vicksburg National Cemetery in the 1860's.

The Spanish-American War in 1898 and the Philippine Insurrection in 1900-1901, marked a new era in the history of American burial policy. For one of the first times in history, a country at war with a foreign power disinterred its soldiers who died on foreign soil and brought them home to family and friends. After disinterment and identification of a decedent, the next of kin was given the option of having the remains returned home for burial or having the deceased interred in a permanent American military cemetery overseas. The United States is the only nation to give such an option to the fallen soldier's next of kin.

Over the years, Congress passed legislation that extended burial privileges to a larger portion of the population. World War II added approximately 51 million veterans eligible for burial in a National Cemetery, and Congress debated numerous proposals for expanding the system. An outcry from private cemetery owners and associations against the Army's proposal to establish 79 new National Cemeteries, led to the decision that establishment of new cemeteries was a civilian issue and Congress should determine

where and when new National Cemeteries would be established. After pressure from local political groups and veterans service organizations, Congress mandated five new cemeteries during the 1950s.

In February 1962, it was announced there would be no more National Cemeteries established, and no more lands acquired for expansion of existing cemeteries, with the exception of Arlington National Cemetery. This announcement was the result of a mutual agreement by the Army, White House, and Congress. In August 1962, the Army Office of the Chief of Support Services, and later, the U.S. Army Memorial Affairs Agency, assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the 85 National Cemeteries still assigned to the Department of Defense. The Army continued to oppose any expansion of existing National Cemeteries, and after several rebuffs, veterans' supporters in Congress took a different approach.

Succeeding in getting legislative oversight responsibility transferred from the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, they then set about introducing bills to transfer the National Cemetery System from the Department of the Army to the Veterans Administration -- in the judgment of veterans, where it properly belonged. On June 18, 1973, President Nixon signed Public Law 93-43, The National Cemeteries Act of 1973. Under provisions of the Act, 82 of the 84 National Cemeteries, 21 soldiers' lots, 7 Confederate Cemeteries, 3 monument sites and 1 special installation under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Memorial Affairs Agency were transferred to the Veterans Administration. The Army retained operation of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' Home National Cemetery.

Today, more than 130 years after the first National Cemeteries were established, the National Cemetery Administration is responsible for 120 National Cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than two million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict - from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War - are honored by burial in Veterans Administration National Cemeteries. Nearly 14,000 acres of land from Hawaii to Maine, and from Alaska to Puerto Rico are devoted to the memorialization of those who served this grateful Nation.



## Vicksburg National Cemetery



Shallow graves were often ravaged by nature or desecrated by man...



...and some were not even afforded a burial.



Site of the Vicksburg National Cemetery, along the loess bluffs of the Mississippi River.



Vicksburg National Cemetery, late 1800's

Traditionally, those who survive the horrors and holocaust of war have borne the sacred responsibility of properly caring for the burial of their deceased comrades, but occasionally, due to the adversity of battle or through neglect, the dead are left to be desecrated upon the field. When hostilities ceased, inspection of the area in and around Vicksburg tragically revealed that the hastily buried dead lay in a lamentable state. Making an early inspection of the battlefield of Vicksburg in February 1866, Colonel James F. Rushing reported:

*"I regret to say, that I found very little had been done here in the way of looking after our dead. Their condition is more deplorable, than any post I have visited, while inspector."*

Rushing was appalled to find that only a few chief burial places existed, with the majority of the dead "stuck about" in many places among the hills at Vicksburg. The few large burial locations consisted of long trenches into which hundreds of bodies had been strewn. No attempt had been made to mark each grave so that the dead could later be identified. Furthermore, many other bodies were scattered in shallow graves over wide circuits of country, and were, therefore, in danger of disappearing. Colonel Rushing could not but ask,

*"Is not this wrong, not to say hideous, after those brave men have given their lives for the Union?"*

It was estimated that at least eight thousand Union dead lay on the Vicksburg side of the Mississippi River and another two thousand on the Louisiana side. Those on the Louisiana shore were chiefly buried in the levee from Milliken's Bend to Disharoon's Plantation, opposite Grand Gulf. High water on the river was constantly washing away the levee, and consequently, many graves were disappearing. An additional five thousand dead were believed buried at the Yazoo River, Chickasaw Bayou, Big Black River, and Grand Gulf. The recommendation was put forth to employ the five thousand idle troops at Vicksburg to collect the scattered remains in and near these chief burial grounds.

In addition, Colonel Rushing stated,

*"...for the future I recommend that steps be taken to secure sufficient ground at or near Vicksburg, to accommodate all the Union dead in the state of Mississippi, and that all our dead in said state be concentrated in this, the same to be held as a National Cemetery forever. What more appropriate monument to "Liberty and Union," and what fitter place for it, than here at the "Gibraltar of Rebellion in the South-west?"*

The bodies removed for re-interment in the Vicksburg National Cemetery came from

the Union lines of Vicksburg, Jackson, Meridian, Grand Gulf, Chickasaw Bayou, and other locations in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Compiling records of the dead was slow due to the fact the approximately 15,000 graves were scattered across areas where the army was stationed during the siege. Because of the graves' state of disrepair, identification was difficult, if not impossible. It was felt that matters could be expedited if all remains were removed to the same locality, and the recommendation was made that 75 to one 100 acres be bought in the vicinity of the monument erected on the surrender interview site. A memorandum from Quartermaster General M.C. Meigs was issued in early 1866 stating,

*"The suggestion that those who fell in the operations before Vicksburg should be buried at or near that point rather than at New Orleans is approved. The planned purchasing of ground for a Cemetery is approved."*

Cost of the first site (\$30,000 for 56 acres) was deemed prohibitive, and a search for a second location was begun. Approximately one mile north of Vicksburg, along the riverbank, a suitable spot was found. The property to be used as a National Cemetery at Vicksburg, described in the original plat and field survey was situated:

*"...immediately on the north side of Mint Spring Bayou about one and a half miles north of the city of Vicksburg -- and between the Yazoo Valley Road and Mississippi River, on the west side of said road, ...part of Secs. 12 & 13 of Township 16 Range 3 East."*

This tract contained a fraction less than 40 acres, and was deeded to the United States Government on August 27, 1866, by Alney H. Jaynes and his wife for the sum of \$9,000.

After alleviating major problems involving transportation and treatment of the dead, attention was focused on preparing the ground for proper disposition of the estimated 30,000 interments to be made at the cemetery. By June 1867, an average of 16 interments were being made per day. By late August of 1868, a total of 15,595 interments had been made. By 1875, the graves numbered 16,588, and all remains of the Civil War dead, except for a few scattered skeletons to be exhumed many years later, had been removed to the National Cemetery.

# Administration



Vicksburg National Cemetery Arch



Superintendent's Lodge, 1920's



Superintendent's Lodge, present-day



Surrender Monument



Decorative Cannon

The first permanent superintendent, Alexander Henry, was appointed in August 1868, and reported for duty in September. By the end of December 1868, a lodge for the superintendent and his family had been constructed within the Cemetery boundaries. This structure served as home to several superintendents until December 1927, when fire erupted in the center room of the Lodge, destroying everything except the cemetery records. Construction of a new Lodge was begun in April 1928, this time with the inclusion of electricity, and is still currently in use as a private residence by park staff.

In addition to ten cannon, placed throughout the Cemetery as decorative monuments, the only other monument in the Cemetery, and by far the most significant, was the Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument. This adorned an area in the southwest corner, referred to as the "Indian Mound," an area reported to be the ancient ceremonial burial site of indigenous Indian tribes. Erected by Federal troops on July 4, 1864, on the site of the historic interview between Generals Grant and Pemberton, the monument was moved to a safer location in the cemetery in 1868, after vandals had chipped and defaced its marble surface. It was moved back to the historic interview site in August 1940, then finally placed on display in the present-day Visitor Center.

### Vicksburg National Cemetery Superintendents:

|     |      |   |     |      |   |                           |
|-----|------|---|-----|------|---|---------------------------|
| Aug | 1868 | - | Oct | 1874 | - | Alexander Henry           |
| Oct | 1874 | - | Mar | 1882 | - | John Trindle              |
| Mar | 1882 | - | Nov | 1883 | - | Henry Ward                |
| Nov | 1883 | - | Dec | 1883 | - | A. Waldie (Acting)        |
| Dec | 1883 | - | Apr | 1886 | - | George Haverfield         |
| Jun | 1886 | - | Jul | 1890 | - | Thomas Godman             |
| Jul | 1890 | - | Jun | 1894 | - | Thomas France             |
| Jun | 1894 | - | Dec | 1905 | - | Thomas Shea (also O'Shea) |
| Dec | 1905 | - | Jul | 1923 | - | G.P. Thorton              |
| Jul | 1923 | - | Jun | 1933 | - | William E. Sullivan       |
| Jun | 1933 | - | Jun | 1942 | - | John F. Steffy            |
| Jun | 1942 | - | Mar | 1947 | - | Randolph G. Anderson      |

On August 10, 1933, administration of the Vicksburg National Cemetery, as well as ten other National Cemeteries around the country, was transferred to the Department of the Interior from the War Department. On the retirement of Cemetery Superintendent Randolph G. Anderson, supervision of the Cemetery became the added responsibility of the Superintendent of the Vicksburg National Military Park.

In 1934, concern over the lack of burial space in the Cemetery prompted inquiry into acquisition of properties for expansion. By March 1935, a War Department appropriation bill allotted \$82,000 for extension of the Vicksburg National Cemetery, and options were obtained on land surrounding the Cemetery, with a total of 42 deeds and abstracts of title received by October 1936. Due to the unusually large number of abstracts received, however, final acquisition of land, totaling 80 acres, was not completed until the close of 1939. Even with this additional acreage, no attempt was made to extend the cemetery, and in May of 1961 it was closed to further burials.

Vicksburg National Cemetery encompasses 117.85 acres and includes over 18,000 interments. At the time of the National Cemetery's closing, Civil War interments totaled 17,077, of which 12,909 were unknown. An additional 1,280 graves are occupied by soldiers who had participated in the Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean Conflict. Also interred are 36 peace-time servicemen, 129 soldiers' wives, 9 children, 4 park superintendents, 27 government workers, and 4 civilians.

May 1934, saw a National Memorial Day exercise held at Vicksburg National Cemetery for the first time in many years. At the second observance in 1935, Governor Sennett Conner of Mississippi addressed an audience of 3,430 visitors. He spoke of the origins of Memorial Day in Columbus, MS on April 26, 1866, where *"the gracious women of the community had decorated the graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers."* Governor Connor observed that, *"in more recent years we of the South have joined in the 'national observance of Memorial Day for the purpose of paying tribute to the dead of all wars."* Sharing the speaker's stand with the Governor that day, was J.W. Hazlett, the sole remaining Warren County Confederate veteran.



Trindle Family Graves

Memorial Day





## Disinterment Sites



Vicksburg Campaign Area



Locating the hastily buried war dead for reinterment in the National Cemetery was a time-consuming process, with identification of the remains almost next to impossible.

- Baker's, Warren Co., MS
- Baldwin's Ferry, Warren Co., MS
- Ballard's, Madison Parish, LA
- Bayou Vidal, Madison Parish, LA
- Bigg's, Madison Parish, LA
- Blake's, near Vicksburg, Warren Co., MS
- Bolton, Hinds Co., MS
- Bolton & Raymond, Hinds Co., MS
- Bonney's Place, Madison Parish, LA
- Brookhaven, MS
- Brownsville, MS
- Brown's Place
- Bovina, Warren Co., MS
- Brushy Bayou, Madison Parish, LA
- Butler's Woods, MS
- Cameron's, MS
- Carolina Ldg., MS
- Carroll Co., MS
- Carroll Parish, LA
- Champion Hill, Hinds Co., MS
- Chickasaw Bayou, Warren Co., MS
- Chico Co., AR
- Claiborne Co., MS
- Clarke's Graveyard, MS
- Clinton, Hinds Co., MS
- Cook's Dr., Warren Co., MS
- Columbia, AR
- Cole's House, MS
- Davis Bend, MS
- DeSoto Ldg., Madison Parish, LA
- Deeson's Place, LA
- Donner's, LA
- Duckport, Madison Parish, LA
- Duncan's, Madison Parish, LA
- Eagle Lake, MS
- Flowers, MS
- Fort Arkansas Post
- Fox, Widow
- Goodrich, Carroll Parish, LA
- Grand Gulf, MS
- Graveyard Hill, 12 mi E, Vicksburg, MS
- Graveyard Hill, 10 mi N, Vicksburg, MS
- Grenada, MS
- Groves, Madison Parish, LA
- Hall's Widow, Hinds Co., MS
- Hanna's and Ballard's (Between)
- Harper's, Hinds Co., MS
- Haynes Bluff, Warren Co., MS
- Hebron's, Warren Co., MS
- Hinds County, MS
- Illawara Ldg., LA
- Island 63, AR
- Island 82, MS
- Jackson and Vicinity, MS (In with the number of remains removed from Jackson, MS, were 38 of US regulars, mostly the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Removed March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1901.)
- Jackson & N.O. Great N.R.R.
- James Place, Madison Parish, LA
- Knight's and Casy's, MS
- Lafayette Parish, LA
- Lake Providence, LA
- Lake Providence & Milliken's Bend, LA
- Levee, 9 mi north of DeSoto, Madison Parish, LA
- Madison Parish, LA
- Madison County, MS
- Marble's, Warren Co., MS
- Markham's, Warren CO., MS
- Matthews & Champion's, Hinds Co., MS
- McLain's, MS
- Meridian, MS
- Messenger's, MS
- Milldale, Warren Co., MS
- Milliken's Bend, Madison Parish, LA
- Milliken's Bend, Morancey's Place, Madison Parish, LA
- Moody's Woods, MS
- Mouth of White River, AR
- Mullitt's, AR
- Napoleon, AR
- National Cemetery, Vicksburg, MS (original interments)
- Neshoba Co., Vicinity of Philadelphia, MS
- New Carthage, Madison Parish, LA
- Newman's, Warren Co., MS
- Oktibbeha Co., MS
- Omega, Madison Parish, LA
- Parker's, LA
- Pass Christian, MS
- Philippine Islands, Manilla, U.S.
- Pittman's, MS
- Port Gibson, Claiborne Co., MS
- Prentiss, MS
- Raymond & Raymond Battle Ground, Hinds Co., MS
- Rocky Springs, Claiborne Co., MS
- Roundaway Bayou, Madison Parish, LA
- Skipwith's, LA
- Smedes, MS
- Stewart's, Madison Parish, LA
- Snyder's Bluff, Warren Co., MS
- Spar's, Big Black, Warren Co., MS
- Stones' Hagaman Bayou, Carroll Parish, LA
- Sunflower Co., MS
- Sunny Side, AR
- Suzett's, LA
- Taper's Woods, MS
- Templeton, Warren Co., MS
- Tensas Parish, LA
- Transylvania, LA
- Tribles, MS
- Townsend's, Warren Co., MS
- Towns' Madison Parish, LA
- Union, Newton Co., MS
- Vicksburg Cemetery, MS
- Vicksburg and vicinity, MS
- Wair's Woods, MS
- Warren Co., MS
- Warrenton, MS
- Waxhaw Ldg., AR
- Wayne Co., MS
- Whatley's, Warren Co., MS
- Willow Bayou, Madison Parish, LA
- Winchester, MS
- Worthington, MS
- Yazoo City, MS, and vicinity
- Young's Point, Madison Parish, LA

## The Bivouac of the Dead

Stanzas from Theodore O'Hara's elegiac poem, "*Bivouac of the Dead*," are inscribed on tablets, gates, and walls throughout the country's National Cemeteries.

### THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD

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

No rumor of the foe's advance  
Now swells upon the wind;  
Nor troubled thought of midnight haunts  
Of loved ones left behind;  
No vision of the morrow's strife  
The warrior's dreams alarms;  
No braying horn or screaming fife  
At dawn shall call to arms.

Their shivered swords are red with rust,  
Their plumed heads are bowed,  
Their haughty banner, trailed in dust,  
Is now their martial shroud.  
And plenteous funeral tears have washed  
The red stains from each brow,  
And the proud forms, by battle gashed,  
Are free from anguish now.

The neighing troop, the flashing blade,  
The bugle's stirring blast,  
The charge, the dreadful cannonade,  
The din and shout, are past;  
Nor war's wild notes, nor glory's peal  
Shall thrill with fierce delight  
Those breasts that nevermore shall feel  
The rapture of the fight.

Like the fierce Northern hurricane  
That sweeps the great plateau,  
Flushed with the triumph, yet to gain,  
Come down the serried foe,  
Who heard the thunder of the fray  
Break o'er the field beneath,  
Knew the watchword of the day  
Was "Victory or death!"

Long had the doubtful conflict raged  
O'er all that stricken plain,  
For never fiercer fight had waged  
The vengeful blood of Spain;  
And still the storm of battle blew,  
Still swelled the glory tide;  
Not long, our stout old Chieftain knew,  
Such odds his strength could bide.

'Twas in that hour his stern command  
Called to a martyr's grave  
The flower of his beloved land,  
The nation's flag to save.  
By rivers of their father's gore  
His first-born laurels grew,  
And well he deemed the sons would pour  
Their lives for glory too.

For many a mother's breath has swept  
O'er Angostura's plain --  
And long the pitying sky has wept  
Above its moldered slain.  
The raven's scream, or eagle's flight,  
Or shepherd's pensive lay,  
Alone awakes each sullen height  
That frowned o'er that dread fray.

Sons of the Dark and Bloody Ground  
Ye must not slumber there,  
Where stranger steps and tongues resound  
Along the heedless air.  
Your own proud land's heroic soil  
Shall be your fitter grave;  
She claims from war his richest spoil --  
The ashes of her brave.

Thus 'neath their parent turf they rest,  
Far from the gory field,  
Borne to a Spartan mother's breast  
On many a bloody shield;  
The sunshine of their native sky  
Smiles sadly on them here,  
And kindred eyes and hearts watch by  
The heroes sepulcher.

Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead!  
Dear is the blood ye gave;  
No impious footstep here shall tread  
The herbage of your grave;  
Nor shall your glory be forgot  
While Fame her record keeps,  
For honor points the hallowed spot  
Where valor proudly sleeps.

Yon marble minstrel's voiceless stone  
In deathless song shall tell,  
When many a vanquished ago has flown,  
The story how ye fell;  
Nor wreck, nor change, nor winter's blight,  
Nor time's remorseless doom,  
Can dim one ray of glory's light  
That gilds your deathless tomb.



## Memorial Day



The "Weeping Angel" Monument, Friendship Cemetery, Columbus, MS

It was at Friendship Cemetery in Columbus, MS, in April 1866, that four women decorated the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers with spring flowers. The impartiality of these women was honored in a poem by New England poet Francis Miles Finch, "*The Blue and the Gray*," first published in *The Atlantic Monthly* in 1867.

### *The Blue and the Gray*

By the flow of the inland river,  
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,  
Where the blades of the grave-grass  
quiver  
Asleep in the ranks of the dead;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement day;  
Under the one, the Blue,  
Under the other, the Gray.

These in the robings of glory  
Those in the gloom of defeat,  
All with battle-blood glory  
In the dusk of eternity meet;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement day;  
Under the laurel, the Blue,  
Under the willow, the Gray.

From the silence of sorrowful hours  
The desolate mourners go,  
Lovingly laden with flowers  
Alike for the friend and the foe;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting for judgement day;  
Under the roses, the Blue,  
Under the lilies, the Gray.

So, with an equal splendor  
The morning sun-rays fall,  
With a touch impartially tender  
On the blossoms blooming for all;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement day;  
Broided with gold, the Blue,  
Mellowed with gold, the Gray.

So, when the summer calleth  
On forest and field of grain,  
With an equal murmur falleth  
The cooling drip of the rain;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement day;  
Wet with the rain, the Blue,  
Wet with the rain, the Gray.

Sadly, but not with upbraiding  
The generous deed was done,  
In the storm of the years that are fading  
No braver battle was won;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement day;  
Under the blossoms, the Blue,  
Under the garlands, the Gray.

No more shall the war cry sever,  
Or the winding rivers be red;  
They banish our anger for ever  
When they laurel the graves of our  
dead;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement day;  
Love and tears for the Blue,  
Tears and love for the Gray.



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