

# A Survey of Veterans' Markers at East End Cemetery

By Erin Hollaway Palmer | Photographs by Brian Palmer 19 February 2019 ast End Cemetery is a historic African American burial ground in Henrico County and the city of Richmond, Virginia. Established in 1897, it is the final resting place of an estimated 15,000 people, among them some of the most prominent black Richmonders of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Over the years, lack of regular maintenance allowed tangles of ivy, weeds, and vines to envelop the cemetery. As East End became impassable, trash dumping and other illicit activity flourished. Since June 2013, the all-volunteer Friends of East End Cemetery, along with thousands of students and Richmond-area residents, have worked to reverse decades of neglect. In the process, we have revealed upwards of 3,200 long-buried markers and assembled a vast archive of documents related to the cemetery and the community at rest there. This will soon be publicly accessible online.

The cemetery's decline can be traced directly to Jim Crow laws and customs and the burdens they placed on African Americans. The black community—families, churches, burial and mutual aid societies—maintained East End to the best of its ability for decades, but legal discrimination, extralegal intimidation, and in some cases violence drove some families away from the city. Many of those who stayed were forced to direct their limited financial resources to immediate needs, not to burial plots. Moreover, while public officials earmarked money for some cemeteries, including private ones such as Hollywood (which was granted funding in 1914 by the General Assembly to establish a perpetual care fund for Confederate graves), East End and other black cemeteries received no such allocations.

We undertook this survey to provide information and photographs that could form the basis of an effort to repair, clean, and (re)set veterans' headstones and markers, particularly those approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and its precursor. (Research has revealed several veterans buried at East End who have no headstone at all, only temporary "courtesy" markers. We believe that they meet the eligibility requirements to receive Veterans Affairs stones.)

Only a few veterans' markers appear to be in good condition. (This report uses the condition of veterans' markers at Richmond National Cemetery, a United States National Cemetery, as our baseline for comparison.) Currently, volunteers do their best to keep veterans' plots and markers foliage-free. We have managed to reset a couple of stones ourselves, but we do not have the resources or expertise to repair or reset all of the stones and markers that are in poor condition.

There are no extant burial records for the cemetery. As of this writing, research conducted by the Friends of East End and others shows that at least 120 veterans are buried at the cemetery, including men who served in the Civil War, the Spanish–American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam. Markers have been found for all but nine of these. However, because several acres of the cemetery remain covered in dense overgrowth, we can say with near certainty that there are more veterans interred at East End. We will keep searching for them.

\*\*Updated 13 May 2020\*\*



JAMES CLAYTON ALLEN

Military service PVT | US Army | WWII

Marker condition Heavily stained; tilting



#### **LLOYD ANDERSON**

1894-1936

## Military service

PFC | Headquarters Co. | 802nd Pioneer Infantry | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** 

Stained; falling forward



#### JAMES ALTON BELL SR.

1921-1979

# Military service

PVT | US Army | WWII

# Marker condition



# **ROBERT BERNARD BELL**

1896-1985

## Military service

PFC | 28th Depot Service Co. | ASC | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Stained



#### **WILLIE BOLLING**

1903-1964

## Military service

TEC4 | 927th Engineer Aviation Regiment | US Army | WWII

#### Marker condition

Stained; not set



#### **NOAH THOMPSON BRAXTON**

1890-1941

# Military service

PVT | Co. B | 407th Reserve Labor Battalion | QMC | US Army | WWI

# **Marker condition**

Poorly set



#### **AUSE BROWN**

ca. 1894-1942

#### Military service

PFC | 820th Transportation Corps | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Stained; never set; no longer buried as pictured



# **WILLIAM HENRY BURCHETT**

1933-1973

# Military service

PVT | US Army | Peacetime

#### **Marker condition**

Stained



# **LOUIS BURTON**

1896-1979

#### Military service

PVT | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Stained; not set originally; later buried beneath layers of trash; reset by volunteers but tilting and needs resetting



# **CHARLES ARTHUR CALLAHAM**

1929-1979

Military service
US Air Force | Korea

**Marker condition**No damage



# HORACE CALVIN SR.

1920-1977

Military service CPL | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition** Stained



#### **RUDOLPH HENRY CAREY**

1927-1949

# Military service

STM1 | V6 | USNR | US Navy | WWII

Marker condition



**JAMES H. CARTER JR.** 1905–1967

Military service PFC | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition**Poorly set; rusty



# **THOMAS CARTER**

1889-1936

Military service CPL | Co. F | 811th Pioneer Infantry | US Army | WWI

Marker condition Heavily stained; never set



# **RAYMOND C. CHAPMAN**

1918-1979

**Military service** US Army | Korea

Marker condition Heavily stained



# WILLIE C. CHRISTIAN SR.

1919-1979

Military service TEC5 | US Army | WWII

Marker condition

No damage



# **ALEXANDER COLES**

1896-1953

#### Military service

PVT | 1st Co. | 1st Development Battalion | 155th Depot Brigade | US Army | WWI

## **Marker condition**

Stained; tilting



#### HAROLD BELL COLES SR.

1925-1985

#### Military service

SSGT | US Air Force | Vietnam

# **Marker condition**



**ALLEN COMMANDER** 

Military service TEC5 | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition** 

Heavily stained; poorly set



# **NEWTON LANZY COOPER**

1893-1951

#### Military service

PVT | 154th Depot Brigade; also Co. D, 417th Reserve Labor Battalion | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** 

Stained; never set



#### **ZEPHANINAH COOPER**

1888-1950

#### Military service

PFC | Co. C | 543rd Engineer Service Battalion | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** 



SAMMIE COUSAR

#### Military service

TEC5 | 774th Engineer Dump Truck Co. | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Stained; tilting slightly



# **WILLIAM A. DABNEY**

1921-1959

# Military service

PVT | 167th Port Co. | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained



#### **JAMES JESSIE DAVIS**

1918-1972

#### Military service

Virginia | MA2 [MATT2] | US Navy | Peacetime

#### **Marker condition**



**JAMES T. DICKERSON** 

# Military service

PVT | Co. C | 550th Engineer Service Battalion | QMC | US Army | WWI

Marker condition

Heavily stained



#### **WALTER ALLEN DIXON**

1880-1959

#### Military service

US Army | Co. G | 24th Infantry Regiment | US Army | Peacetime

#### Marker condition

Heavily stained; poorly set



#### **WILBUR ROSS DIXON SR.**

1927-1976

#### Military service

STM2 | V6 | USNR | US Navy | WWII

# **Marker condition**

No permanent marker



**HOWARD EASLEY** 

Military service WWII

Marker condition

No permanent marker



#### MATT LISVELL FARRAR

1908-1950

#### Military service

PFC | Squadron H | 4000th AAF | Base Unit Wright Field, Ohio | US Army | WWII

\*Awarded Good Conduct Medal

Marker condition Stained



#### HAROLD LEE FLEMING

1910-1946

# Military service

TEC5 | 3053rd Quartermaster Salvage Collection Company | QMC | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting



# **BEVERLY THOMAS FORD**

1888-1959

# Military service

PFC | Co. A | 524th Engineer Service Battalion | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained



# **JAMES REGINALD FORD**

1921-1973

# Military service US Army | WWII

# Marker condition

Heavily stained; poorly set



#### **PURCELL FRANK GRAY**

1916-1957

#### Military service

PVT | Co. A | 67th Infantry Training Battalion | US Army | WWII

# **Marker condition**

Stained; painted and peeling



THOMAS ROBERT HARRIS

Military service

Virginia | PVT | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition** 

Heavily stained; tilting



# **EUGENE EDWARD HARVEY**

1953-1977

Military service

PVT | US Army | Vietnam

Marker condition

Heavily stained; tilting



#### SPENCER C. HICKS

1897-1959

# Military service

PFC | Co. B | 407th Reserve Labor Battalion | QMC | US Army | WWI

# **Marker condition**

Stained; poorly set



# JOSEPH IRVIN HILL SR.

1916-1977

Military service PFC | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition** 

Stained; never set



# **CLARENCE HUBBARD**

1913-1956

Military service

CPL | US Marine Corps | WWII

\*Montford Point Marine

Marker condition

Stained; tilting



#### **MACK MCKINLEY HUDSON**

1897-1946

Military service

PVT | Co. L | 369th Infantry | 93rd

Div. | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** 

Heavily stained; tilting



#### **CHARLES HUNT**

?-1937

Military service 1SGT | Co. L | 815th Pioneer

Infantry | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** 

Stained



#### **ANDREW V. JACKSON**

1899-1940

Military service

PVT | Troop I | 10th Cavalry | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** 

Heavily stained; tilting



#### **FLOYD JACKSON**

1896-1952

# Military service

PFC | Co. A | 545th Engineer Service Battalion | US Army | WWI

# **Marker condition**

Stained; poorly set



# GEORGE WASHINGTON JOHNSON

1914-1978

Military service PVT | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition** 

Heavily stained; never set



# WILLIAM I. JOHNSON

1840-1938

## Military service

Rank unknown | QMC | U.S. Colored Troops | U.S. Army | Civil War

**Marker condition** 

No damage



#### **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN JONES**

1898-1950

#### Military service

PFC | Co. H | 807th Pioneer Infantry | US Army | WWI

# **Marker condition**

Stained; poorly set



# **BERNARD LEE JONES**

1923-1972

# Military service

TEC4 | Headquarters and Supply Co. | 362nd Engineer Battalion | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

No damage



# **CHARLES JONES**

1933-1972

Military service

PFC | US Army | Korea

# Marker condition

Heavily stained; tilting backward



# **DAVID WINSTON JONES**

1910-1978

# Military service

PVT | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; never set



# **GEORGE OTTIS JONES JR.**

1937-1979

Military service PVT | US Army | Korea

Marker condition Stained; tilting; chipped



# **ELMORE ROBERT KNIGHT**

1915-1963

Military service MM2 | USNR | US Navy | WWII

**Marker condition**No damage



#### **GEORGE F. KNIGHT**

1929-1990

# Military service

PVT | US Army | Korea

#### **Marker condition**

Top left front corner chipped



**EARL W. LANCASTER** 

Military service TEC5 | US Army | WWII

Marker condition Stained



# **ROBERT E. LEE**

1889-1964

## Military service

PVT | 13th Co. | 155th Depot Brigade | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting



#### THADDEUS F. LEFTENANT SR.

1895-1974

#### Military service

PVT | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

No damage



# **MILLEDGE LEGGS**

1895-1936

#### Military service

Cook | Co. E | Chemical Warfare Service | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; poorly set



# JOHN A. LEWIS SR.

1917-1966

# Military service

TEC4 | US Army | WWII

## Marker condition

Heavily stained; tilting



# **WELTON LEWIS**

1918-1973

# Military service

PVT | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting slightly



JAMES IZEAR LYONS

**Military service** US Army | WWII

**Marker condition**No damage



# **JAMES A. MALONE** 1925–1972

Military service

PFC | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition**Stained; falling backward



#### **HEZEKIAH MARSHALL**

1887-1935

# Military service

PVT | Co. E | 810th Pioneer Infantry | US Army | WWI

# **Marker condition**

Falling forward



# THEODORE ROOSEVELT MCCLURE JR.

1925-1950

#### Military service

PFC | Co. B | 184th Engineer Combat Battalion | US Army | WWII

#### Marker condition

Stained; poorly set



# **EDWARD G. MEREDITH JR.**

1922-1985

# Military service

US Army | WWII

# Marker condition

No damage



#### **ARTHUR C. MONDAY**

1897-1947

#### Military service

PVT | Co. A | 304th Stevedore Regiment | QMC | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Stained; never set



#### **ARTHUR MOORE**

1890-1953

# Military service

CPL | Co. B | 535th Engineer Service Battalion | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Stained; tilting



# **PAUL WALLACE MORDECAI**

1899-1953

## Military service

PFC | 3rd Billeting and Supply Detachment; also 15th Depot Service Co., ASC | WWI

## **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting



# **JUNIUS A. NASH**

1893-1976

# Military service

PVT | US Army | WWI

# Marker condition

Slightly rusty



#### LOUIS PARKER JR.

1915-1954

#### Military service

CPL | 4013th Quartermaster Truck Co. | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Stained



# **LOUIS HAROLD PAYNE**

1899-1941

## Military service

PVT | Medical Department | 317th Sanitary Train | 92nd Div. | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting



#### **JAMES PETTUS**

1895-1967

# Military service

PVT | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Roughly set; rusty



LYNWOOD PRICE

Military service WWI

**Marker condition**No permanent marker



# **JOHN PULLIAM**

1895-1937

Military service PVT | QMC | US Army | WWI

Marker condition Stained; never set



# CARLTON EDWARD RANDOLPH

1920-1957

#### Military service

PFC | 1077th AAF | Base Unit F | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Stained; poorly set



#### **ARNIE ROANE**

?-1936

#### Military service

PVT | Co. D | 429th Reserve Labor Battalion | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting



# **IRVIN W. ROBINSON**

1911-1979

# Military service US Army | WWII

Marker condition

No damage



#### **JAMES EDWARD ROBINSON**

1896-1949

# Military service

PVT | Dining Troop Train | Meal Service | QMC | WWI

# **Marker condition**

Stained; tilting



#### **LOUIS ROBINSON**

1893-1968

Military service PVT | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition**Roughly set; slightly rusty



# **WILLIAM ROSE**

1894-1953

# Military service

PVT | Co. A | 338th Service Battalion | QMC | WWI

Marker condition

Stained; poorly set



#### **CLEO RICHARD SMITH**

1917-1977

# Military service

PVT | US Army | WWII

# Marker condition

Heavily stained



# **JAMES C. SMITH**

1867-1918

# Military service

LT | Co. A | 6th Virginia Infantry | US Army | Spanish-American War

#### **Marker condition**

No damage



#### JOSEPH SMITH JR.

1899-1968

## Military service

PVT | 3rd Co. | 155th Depot Brigade | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting slightly



#### JULIUS EDWARD SMITH

1888-1956

#### Military service

PVT | 22nd Depot Service Co. | Army Service Corps | WWI

# **Marker condition**

Stained; tilting



LINWOOD H. SMITH

Military service PVT | Co. E | 813th Pioneer

**Marker condition** 

No damage



**HERBERT SPAIN** 

1899-1965

Military service PVT | US Army | WWI

Marker condition

Stained; poorly set



FRANK JESSIE STEVENSON

1919-1979

Military service

US Army | WWII

Marker condition



# **CHARLES EDWARD SULLIVAN**

1896-1960

#### Military service

PVT | Co. B | 428th Service Battalion | QMC | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; falling backward



# LINWOOD ALLEN TABB JR.

1927-1979

# Military service

STM1 | US Navy | WWII | Korea

## Marker condition

Heavily stained



#### **HENRY TALIAFERRO JR.**

1919-1967

#### Military service

PVT | 506th Port Battalion | Transportation Corps | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**



#### **EDWARD TAYLOR JR.**

1893-1941

## Military service

PVT | Headquarters Depot Service Co. 15; also 3rd Billeting and Supply Detachment, Demobilization Group | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Marker had fallen facedown and been buried; now improperly set



# **HIRAM TAYLOR**

1894-1987

Military service PVT | US Army | WWI

#### Marker condition

Heavily stained



#### **WILLIAM JAMES TEMPLE**

1895-1947

#### Military service

PFC | 338th Service Battalion | QMC | US Army | WWI

# **Marker condition**



# **SAMUEL A. THOMAS** 1911–1972

Military service

**Marker condition**No permanent marker



# ROBERT THOMPSON

1913-1973

**Military service** PVT | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition** Stained



# **WINSTON L. THORNE**

1905-1977

Military service US Army | WWII

**Marker condition**No damage



#### **ROBERT TUCKER**

1892-1956

Military service

PVT | 51st Co. | 153rd Depot Brigade | WWI

**Marker condition** 

Heavily stained; tilting



# GEORGE WASHINGTON TURNER

1907-1958

Military service

CK2 | (T) V6 SV | USNR | US Navy | WWII

**Marker condition** 

Heavily stained; falling forward



#### **RICHARD HENRY WALKER**

1892-1973

Military service

CPL | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** 

Roughly set



# ROBERT RICHARD WASHINGTON

1924-1979

Military service PFC | US Army | Korea

**Marker condition** Stained



# **CHARLES WATKINS**

1895-1957

## Military service

PVT | Medical Detachment | 811th Pioneer Infantry | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** 

Heavily stained; tilting



# **CHARLES H. WHITE**

1897-1968

# Military service

PVT | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition** Stained



# **HENRY WILLIAMS**

(aka James Henry Ferguson) ca. 1832–1915

#### Military service

PVT | Co. G | 51st U.S. Colored Infantry | U.S. Army | Civil War

#### Marker condition

No marker; Williams is known to be buried in the Ferguson plot



# JESSE WILLIAMS

1893-1978

# Military service

PVT | US Army | WWI

## **Marker condition**

No damage



#### **VIRGIL WILLIAMS**

ca. 1893-1936

#### Military service

PVT | 36th Construction Co. | Signal Corps | US Army | WWI

# **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting slightly



# **JOHN HAROLD WILLINGHAM** 1910–1977

Military service US Army | WWII

**Marker condition**No permanent marker



# MORRELL E. WINSTON

1906-1973

Military service PVT | US Army | WWII

**Marker condition** Stained



#### ANDREA A. WOOD

1931-1952

#### Military service

PFC | Co. G | 15th Infantry Regiment | US Army | Korea | Died in service

# **Marker condition**

Heavily stained; tilting



# **ROBERT LOUIS WOODY**

1926-1980

Military service PVT | US Army | WWII

Marker condition Stained; not set



# EDGAR RICHARD WOOLDRIDGE

1894-1964

Military service PVT | US Army | WWI

**Marker condition**Stained; embedded in a tree



#### **JOHN A. WOOLDRIDGE**

1913-1984

Military service US Army | WWII

Marker condition Heavily stained; tilting

# **ADDENDUM** (13 May 2020)

Since this report was first released in early 2019, the Friends of East End have found several more veterans at the cemetery. Only one of the three, WWI vet John W. Johnson, appears to have a headstone issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Buried facedown, his marker was located by probing the ground. We then dug carefully beneath it and were able to slide one of our phones into the crevice to photograph the inscription (see inset below); a series of photographs confirmed the name and service information that we'd transcribed from his headstone application.



# WAVERLY W. CARTER

1899-1924

#### Military service

Co. G | 24th Infantry | US Army | Mexican Expedition, 1916–17?

#### **Marker condition**

Stained but undamaged; no military marker



#### **JOHN W. JOHNSON**

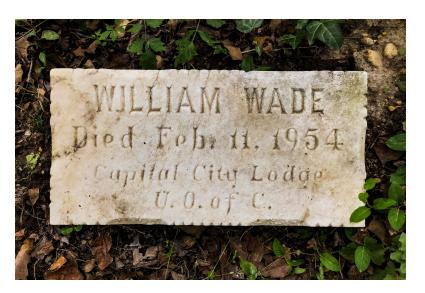
1895-1951

#### Military service

PVT | Co. L | 811th Pioneer Infantry | US Army | WWI

## **Marker condition**

Toppled from base and buried facedown



#### **WILLIAM WADE**

1895-1954

## Military service

PVT | Co. D | 545th Engineer Service Battalion | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Unknown. Two nonmilitary markers were found 9/14/2019, but the upright marble marker for which there is a record has not been uncovered.

#### MARKERS NOT YET FOUND

#### **MAY WOODROW BLACKWELL**

1917-1952

#### Military service

SGT | Co. C | 24th Infantry | US Army | WWII

\*Recipient of Bronze Star

#### Marker condition

Unknown

#### **ARCHIE BOLDING**

1876-1955

#### Military service

PVT | Co. K | 25th Infantry | US Army | Served 1898-1899, after Spanish-American War

#### Marker condition

Unknown

#### **JEROME R. JOHNSON**

1913-1949

#### Military service

PFC | Co. F | 98th Engineers | US Army | WWII

\*Recipient of Good Conduct Medal

#### Marker condition

Unknown

#### **FRED LIGHTFOOT**

1916-1950

#### Military service

SGT | 318th AAF | Base Unit | US Army | 1945-1947 (also WWII, 1941-1945)

\*Recipient of Good Conduct Medal

#### Marker condition

Unknown

#### **JAMES ALLEN MANN**

1917-1947

#### Military service

STM1 | USNR | US Navy | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Unknown

#### **LAWRENCE R. RICHARDSON**

1895-1958

# Military service

PVT | Co. A | 407th Service Battalion | US Army | WWI

#### Marker condition

Unknown

# **EDWARD SMITH**

1918-1958

#### Military service

PVT | US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Unknown

#### **WILLIAM B. WALKER**

1913-1949

#### Military service

PVT | Headquarters | Army Service Forces Training Center (Fort Lewis, Washington) | US Army | WWI

#### **Marker condition**

Unknown

#### **JOHN R. WILLIAMS**

1906-1968

#### Military service

US Army | WWII

#### **Marker condition**

Unknown

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

#### **Air Force**

SSGT Staff Sergeant

Source: https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/docs/abbreviations/Ranks\_Air\_Force.pdf

#### **Army**

AAF Army Air Forces

ASC Army Service Corps (WWI)

CPL Corporal

LT Lieutenant

PFC Private First Class

PVT Private

QMC Quartermaster Corps

1SGT First Sergeant

SGT Sergeant

TEC4 Technician Fourth Grade (WWII)

TEC5 Technician Fifth Grade (WWII)

Sources: https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/docs/abbreviations/Ranks\_Army.pdf; https://ncarchives.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/ncwwiservicecards\_abbrvlist.pdf

#### Navy

CK2 Cook Petty Officer Second Class

MATT2 Mess Attendant 2nd Class

MM2 Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Petty Officer

STM1 Steward's Mate 1st Class Petty Officer

STM2 Steward's Mate 2nd Class Petty Officer

SV Selective Volunteer

USNR United States Naval Reserve

V6 General Service and Specialists

Source: https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/docs/abbreviations/Ranks\_Navy.pdf;

https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/u/us-navy-abbreviations-of-ww2/s.html



We are an all-volunteer nonprofit working to reclaim
East End Cemetery, a historic African American
burial ground, from nature and neglect. With the help
of thousands of other volunteers, we seek to
transform East End into a site of memory,
contemplation, and beauty that honors Richmond's
black community and history.

For more information, please visit **friendsofeastend.com** and **eastendcemeteryrva.com** 

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