

Civil War Figures Interred at Spring Grove Cemetery

Established in 1845 (Cincinnati attorney and future cabinet member in the Lincoln Administration Salmon Chase helped prepare the Articles of Incorporation), Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum is a 733-acre National Historic Landmark and the final resting place of many Civil War figures.

999 Civil War veterans, 40 of whom were general officers, are interred at Spring Grove.

Notables include:

Joseph Hooker. Originally from Massachusetts, Hooker attended West Point and served in the Seminole Wars and the Mexican War before resigning from the army. Returning to the Army as a brigadier general at the start of the Civil War, he performed well at the Battles of Williamsburg, Antietam, and Fredericksburg, was promoted to major general, and later given command of the Army of the Potomac. He led that army at the Battle of Chancellorsville, a Union defeat, and stepped down from command of that army shortly before the Battle of Gettysburg. He later served as a corps commander in the Western Theater around Chattanooga and in the Atlanta Campaign but resigned from that position when he was not selected to lead the Union Army of the Tennessee after its commander, Major General James McPherson, was killed in the Battle of Atlanta. From October 1864 until the end of the war, he commanded the Northern Department (states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois), which was headquartered in Cincinnati. While in Cincinnati he married Olivia Groesbeck, who buried her husband at Spring Grove after his death in 1879.



Godfrey Weitzel. Born in Germany, Weitzel moved to Cincinnati with his family when he was two years old. He graduated 2nd in the West Point Class of 1855 and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers. When the war began, he was assigned to construct defensive fortifications in Washington, D.C. and Cincinnati. He was Chief Engineer on Major General Benjamin Butler's staff and served as acting mayor of New Orleans when union troops captured that city in 1862. He commanded a brigade in operations in Louisiana in 1863 and was assigned as chief engineer of the Army of the James in 1864. General Ulysses Grant named Weitzel, then a Major General, to command all Union troops north of the Appomattox River during the final operations



against General Robert E Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. In that capacity, he was the ranking Union officer who took possession of Richmond in April 1865. After the war, Weitzel served in Texas, built light houses on the Great Lakes, and completed the 515-foot lock at the Soo Canal at Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. He died from typhoid fever at the age of 48 while serving on an engineer board in Philadelphia. His remains were returned to Spring Grove.

Jacob Cox. Cox had a multifaceted career. At various times he was a lawyer, politician, Union general during the Civil War, educator, and author. While serving in the Ohio legislature, Cox accepted a commission in the Ohio militia in 1860 and was later appointed a brigadier general in the Union Army at the start of the Civil War. He commanded a brigade in operations in western Virginia (now West Virginia) and commanded a division in the Antietam Campaign and battle. He was promoted to major general in 1864 and commanded a division at the Battle of Franklin, where he was credited with saving the center of the federal line. He was elected Governor of Ohio in October 1865. He did not run for reelection but in 1869 was appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Ulysses Grant, where he advocated civil service reform and the merit system. Subsequently, he was President of the Toledo and Wabash Railroad, served a single term in the U.S House of Representatives, and was Dean of the Cincinnati Law School and later President of the University of Cincinnati. He wrote several well-regarded books on various battles and campaigns of the Civil War, including *Military Reminiscences of the Civil War*, *Atlanta*, and *The Battle of Franklin*. He died in 1900 while on vacation in Gloucester, Massachusetts and was returned to Spring Grove for burial.



William Haines Lytle. Lytle was a lawyer, a politician, a poet, and an officer in the U.S. Army during the Mexican and Civil Wars. After graduating from Cincinnati College (now known as the University of Cincinnati), he began the practice of law in the city. He interrupted that career to serve in the Mexican War but returned to the law after that war and was also elected to the Ohio legislature. He was celebrated as an American poet before the Civil War; his most famous work, "Antony and Cleopatra" was published in 1857 and was beloved by both North and South in antebellum America. At the start of the Civil War, he was commissioned as colonel of the 10th Ohio Infantry. He was wounded at the Battle of Carnifex Ferry in September 1861 and wounded again at the Battle of Perryville in October 1862. Subsequently, he was promoted to brigadier general



and led a brigade in numerous engagements with the Union Army of the Cumberland. He was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia in September 1863. After his identity became known, Confederate authorities placed guards around his body and recited his poetry. The knoll on which he died is now known as "Lytle Hill." Lytle Park and One Lytle Place in Cincinnati are also named after him, as is Lytle Street in Chicago.

The **McCooks**. The "Fighting McCooks" were members of an Ohio family who became prominent as Union Army soldiers in the Civil War. Brothers Daniel and John McCook both served as did 13 of their sons. Six achieved general officer rank, and several McCooks were killed in action or died of wounds. Those interred at Spring Grove include:

Major Daniel McCook (one of the brothers), killed in 1863 at the Battle of Buffington Island during Morgan's raid.

Brigadier General Robert Latimer McCook (son of Daniel), killed in 1862 by one of John Hunt Morgan's cavalymen while he was in an ambulance after being wounded.

Major General Edwin Stanton McCook (son of Daniel), a Colonel during the Civil War and Brevet Major General after the conflict. He later served as Governor of the Dakota Territory and was assassinated in 1873 while in that office.

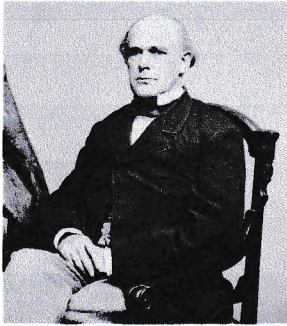
Private Charles Morris McCook (son of Daniel), 2nd Ohio Infantry Regiment, killed in 1861 at the Battle of First Bull Run.

Major General Alexander McDowell McCook (son of Daniel). Commissioned as Colonel of the 1st Ohio Infantry Regiment, he rose to the rank of Major General and command of XX Corps. He was blamed, in part, for the Union disaster at Chickamauga and was court-martialed for his conduct in that battle. Although acquitted at his trial, he was removed from command but later served in the defense of Washington, D.C. during Early's raid in 1864. He retired from the army in 1895 as a regular army Major General. He died in 1903 in Dayton and was buried at Spring Grove.



In addition to Union Army veterans, **Salmon Chase** is also buried at Spring Grove. Born in Cornish, New Hampshire in 1808, Chase studied law under U.S. Attorney General William Wirt in Washington D.C. and was admitted to the bar in 1829. Subsequently, he moved to a country home near Loveland, Ohio and practiced law in Cincinnati, starting in 1830. He became an anti-slavery advocate and, despite the risk to his livelihood (his anti-slavery views were not universally popular), he defended fugitive slaves and those who

were tried for assisting them. He was dubbed the “Attorney General for Fugitive Slaves” for this legal work and for his efforts in attacking the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave Act. In 1849 he became a U.S. senator and while in Congress opposed the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. As a Republican, he was elected Ohio Governor in 1856, and he unsuccessfully sought that party’s nomination for the Presidency in 1860. He was appointed Treasury Secretary by President Lincoln in 1861 and served in that office until June 1864. He, again, unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination for the



Presidency in 1864. Lincoln submitted his name for the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court later in 1864, however, after the death of the previous Chief Justice, Roger Taney. While on the Court, he presided over the impeachment proceedings of President Andrew Johnson in 1864, and his quest for the Presidency continued. He unsuccessfully sought the Democratic Party nomination in 1868 and the Liberal Republican nomination in 1872. Chase served as Chief Justice until his death. He died of a stroke in New York City in 1873. His remains were first interred in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, D.C. but then reinterred in Spring Grove in 1886.