



Chalmette National Cemetery Audio Tour

“Though Silent, Still Let Them Be Heard”

When “Monument Cemetery” (now Chalmette National Cemetery) was established in May 1864, it served as a final resting place for Union and Confederate troops as well as African American civilians. Federal policy soon declared that only troops who had served the Union should be buried in national cemeteries. A cemetery for the African American civilians, known as Freedmen’s Cemetery, was established just upriver of the national cemetery. The Confederate troops were moved to Greenwood Cemetery No. 2 in New Orleans. Meanwhile, the remains of as many as 7,000 Union troops were moved to Monument Cemetery.

Chalmette National Cemetery now holds nearly 16,000 service members and civilians (the rules were revised as the years passed) whose graves are marked with over 14,000 markers and monuments. Nearly 200 of the fallen are listed as unknown, and we may never know their names. But many have names, and all have a story to tell.



In 1882, a monument was built at the national cemetery’s river end by the Grand Army of the Republic, the best-known and largest of the associations of former Union troops. The monument bears the Latin phrase “Dum Tacent Clament”---”Though Silent, Still Let Them Be Heard.” Through this audio tour, the stories of the past will be heard once more.

The Audio Tour

To hear a story, call 504-799-0803 (long distance or cell phone charges may apply). Enter the stop number for the story you want to hear; for example, press 2 to hear the story at stop 2. Press *0 to leave a comment.

To find a stop on the tour, see the map on the other side. Note that additional tour stops will be added in the future.

If you have questions or need assistance, go to the visitor center on the battlefield or call 504-281-0510. Visitor center hours are 9:00 a.m.-4:00 pm. Tuesday-Saturday, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day.

Headstone listings and other information about Chalmette National Cemetery is available at www.nps.gov/jela/chalmette-national-cemetery.htm.

Do You Know A Story?

If you have information about service members or civilians buried at Chalmette National Cemetery and would like to share their story, please email the park at jela_interpretation@nps.gov or call Jean Lafitte’s headquarters at 504-589-3882 ext. 114.



Volunteer projects at Chalmette National Cemetery include putting a flag at each headstone for Memorial Day. Other special volunteer projects are scheduled throughout the year. For more information, email jela_interpretation@nps.gov or call the Chalmette Battlefield Visitor Center at 504-281-0510.

Cemetery Map and Tour Stops

The cemetery is organized by section numbers; they are the numbers shown on the map. The section numbers are on square stone markers at the front of each section of headstones.

The tour stops are the boxed numbers on the map. The location descriptions show section number, row number (rows run parallel to Cemetery Road and are counted beginning with row 1 where the section marker is), and grave number. Grave numbers are on the front or back side of headstones.

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Mississippi River & Levee

