Through 2020, 160 military veterans have been identified in African Cemetery No. 2. Military and non-military markers can be found throughout sections A to F.

Station #1: Section A
Clay Ballard
Civil War
Co. G USCT 116th
Ballard mustered in at Camp Nelson in 1864. The regiment was on duty in Appomattox when General Lee surrendered, ending the Civil War.

Station #2: Section A
Wyatt Huffman
Buffalo Soldier
Spanish Am. War
Huffman, stationed in Texas, Montana, and the Philippines, served 32 years. He retired in 1904 at the rank of Sergeant Major, Co. M 25th Infantry. Sgt Wyatt Huffman Camp #20, Spanish American War veterans organized in the 1920s.

Station #3: Section B
Nathan Caulder
Spanish Am. War, WWI
Sgt. Co. A 351 Machine Gun Battalion
Caulder enlisted as soon as he turned eighteen into Co. A 24th Infantry, Fort Russell, Wyoming and later to Troop K, 9th Cavalry, serving in the Philippines. In 1918 Caulder re-enlisted for overseas duty in the 92nd Division; he was promoted to Mess Sergeant. He died in France, June 1, 1919. American Legion Nathan Caulder Post #132 organized June 1920.

Station #4: Section B
Arthur Black
WWI
CPL 814 Pioneer Infantry
Black, born in Indiana, served July 1918 to January 1919.

Station #5: Section B
Clarence B. Espy
WWI
Co. L 369th Infantry
Harlem Hell Fighters
Espy, a brick mason, enlisted June 1918 in the 801 Pioneer Infantry, but was reassigned to the 93rd Division in August for overseas duty under French command. The regiment fought 191 days without losing ground or man taken prisoner. “Hell Fighters” was the name given them by German soldiers. Espy died 1942, not the year shown on his marker.

Station #6: Section B
William Carpenter
Spanish Am. War
Troop M 9th Cavalry
Carpenter from 1898 to 1901 was a private stationed at Legaspi, Albay, Philippine Islands. Prior to service he worked with trotting horses in Boyle County.

Station #7: Section B
Robert L. McCoy
WWII
Engineer Aviation Battalion
McCoy enlisted July 1943, serving in Guam building and maintaining airplane taxi strips. Following his 1946 discharge, he resumed his career as a racehorse exerciser. He died of injuries sustained from a fall from the horse he was exercising at Churchill Downs.

Station #8: Section C
G.T. Prosser
Civil War
Co. D 54th Infantry MASS
Prosser, a free Black, mustered in March 1863. In July his regiment was at the forefront of the battle to retake Fort Wagner, SC. He was reported as missing in action but had been captured and imprisoned for nineteen months at Andersonville. Prosser, a native of Columbia, PA, became a Methodist minister. He was buried July 4, 1904.

Station #9: Section C
Stephen Dunn
Civil War
Co. A 55th Infantry MASS
Dunn, a free Black of Garrard County, Kentucky, served in South Carolina from May 1863 to August 1865. He died at Dayton in the veteran’s hospital; he was buried June 16, 1904. This marker is a replacement for his missing stone.
Station #10: Section E
Joseph Byrd - Civil War
Co. G USCT 5th Cavalry
Byrd, enslaved by George Ogden, earned his freedom by joining the United States Colored Troops in 1864. The regiment engaged in Saltville and Marion, Virginia. They transferred for duty to Texas; the regiment mustered out April 1866.

Station #11: Section F
James Dyke - Civil War
Co. H 46th Infantry, AR
A native of Tennessee, Dyke was 23 when he mustered into the 1st Regiment of African Descent that became the 46th Infantry, Arkansas. He was promoted to Sergeant and Orderly Sergeant. His regiment engaged in battles in Louisiana and Mississippi. Reassigned to Texas in 1865, they mustered out in 1866. He and Sophia, his wife, lived in Lexington.

Station #12: Section E
Leslie Bohannon - Spanish Am. War
Co. C 24th Infantry
In 1898, at age 20, Bohannon became a private stationed at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming. He was a member of the Sgt. Wyatt Huffman Camp #20 veterans’ group.

Why Are Irises Planted by Military Graves?

In African Cemetery No. 2 irises are planted beside the graves of all military veterans. This is an old tradition from the Middle East in which irises were planted for fallen comrades (Berry, 1992).

Contributions for ongoing maintenance and continued restoration are welcome and appreciated. African Cemetery No. 2, Inc. is a tax-exempt non profit 501 (c)(13) corporation.

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This is a 900-step Tour

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