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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**First Civil War Trails Marker in the City of York To Remember Black Veterans**  
*Lebanon Cemetery becomes the first Civil War Trails site in the City of York, PA*

**YORK, PA** – On Tuesday, April 2, Lebanon Cemetery became the first Civil War Trails site in North York Borough, PA. The multi-state Civil War Trails program offers more than 1,500 sites for travelers, enabling them to stand in the footsteps of historic events and people. Lebanon Cemetery, located at 1412 N. George St., is administered by the Friends of Lebanon Cemetery who work to honor the early African American community members from York County.

Samantha Dorm, Advisor for the Friends of Lebanon Cemetery, said, “The Cemetery's inclusion in the Civil War Trails program not only honors the memory of those laid to rest here, but also serves as a gathering place of inspiration and learning for current and future generations.” The Friends of Lebanon Cemetery together with the Lebanon Cemetery Company unveiled this new marker during a dedication of headstones for five veterans on Saturday, April 13. The Friends worked with the National Cemetery Association and local office of Veterans Affairs on this notable event. More than 100 visitors & volunteers were present for the Military Headstone Dedication.

The new marker was made possible thanks to a partnership between the Friends of Lebanon Cemetery, Lebanon Cemetery Company, Explore York, and Civil War Trails, Inc. The Friends provided a wealth of information to help create the new interpretive sign now located just inside the Cemetery gates. A grant offered by Explore York covered the initial costs. Explore York will also cover the annual membership fee associated with the Civil War Trails program. This ensures ongoing sign maintenance and promotion of the program to not only history-loving travelers, but all travelers.

The Civil War Trails program has been expanding its footprint into Pennsylvania, the sixth state to join the initiative. There are twelve new sites under development in York County, but this is the first to be added to North York Borough. “We’re thrilled to have this program in York County,” said Melissa Beaverson, Director of Destination Marketing for Explore York. “Travelers from around the world seek out these historical sites, and as they do they experience our local restaurants, shops, and all things that make York County unique.”



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To find out more about Lebanon Cemetery, visit [FriendsOfLebanonCemetery.com](https://www.FriendsOfLebanonCemetery.com). To begin planning your trip, visit [YorkPA.org](https://www.YorkPA.org) and request our 2024 travel guide today. For more information about Civil War Trails, visit [CivilWarTrails.org](https://www.CivilWarTrails.org). Be sure to snap a #signselfie during your visit and post it with hashtags #civilwartrails and #ExploreYorkPA.

The Explore York Tourism Grant Program provides all applicants equal opportunity for funding consideration and does not discriminate based on race, gender, religion, caste, or creed.

Explore York's mission is to maximize tourism expenditures and their economic impact in York County, PA, through comprehensive tourism sales and marketing programs. Explore York's vision is for a York County where tourism is recognized for the value of its economic impact and its role in raising the profile of York County as a sought-after destination. For more information on Explore York and the entire destination, call 1-888-858-9675 or visit [YorkPA.org](https://www.YorkPA.org).

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### **Attached Media:**

CWT Image 1. Caption: Joseph Richburg, Operations Manager for Lebanon Cemetery, reads the new Civil War Trails sign which recounts the story of Reverend Jesse S. Cowles and helps visitors find the other graves of African American Civil War veterans. Located at 1412 N. George St., York, PA. Photo courtesy of Civil War Trails, Inc.

CWT Image 2. Caption: Samantha Dorm (left) and Joseph Richburg from the Friends of Lebanon Cemetery joined Melissa Beaverson (right) from Explore York on April 2 for sign installation. Photo courtesy of Civil War Trails, Inc.

CWT Image 3. Caption: Jamaal Lampkin (left) and Director Daniel Devine from the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, visiting from Washington D.C. The Friends hosted the official unveiling on April 13.



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