

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS:

Bounders and Quartz Stone

Kearny and Stevens Monuments

Kearney's Stump

Female narrator:

At the top of the hill, along Monument Drive and behind the bench, are two cast aluminum Virginia state historic markers and a Virginia Civil War Trails sign.

Standing by those signs and looking into the park, you can get a perspective that would be similar to what the Confederates saw as they looked through the woods toward the Union lines.

Male narrator:

As you walk around the top of the hill, the path curves around a stretch of fencing on your left. At the end of that fence line, near the sign titled "Bounders and Quartz Stone," is a mound of rocks and a quartz stone standing a little over two feet high. They were placed there after General Stevens' son, Hazard Stevens, who was at the

battle, returned to the site. Hazard Stevens joined Captain Charles Walcott of the 21st Massachusetts and identified the spot where his father had fallen.

A Confederate veteran named John Ballard owned the land at the time, and it was Ballard who marked the spot with the stones.

Female narrator:

In 1874, 12 years after the Battle of Ox Hill, John Ballard married Mary Reid Thrift, who had inherited the land. In 1915, John and Mary Ballard deeded a small plot of land to commemorate the Ox Hill battle.

That land is here, by the sign titled "Kearny and Stevens Monuments." Two granite memorials are surrounded by a low iron rail. The monuments were dedicated in 1915 by the First New Jersey Brigade Society. The memorials honor the two Union generals who died here. These are not headstones. There is no evidence of any burial sites in the park.

Though Kearny's stone says he was killed on this spot, he actually died in the cornfield, about 100 yards west of here. That's to the right, if you're looking straight at the monuments – and outside of the current park boundaries.

Male narrator:

The history of the small, granite marker a few yards down the path past the monuments is uncertain. It's marked "Kearny's stump." Tradition says there was a tree here and that this was either the place where Kearny was killed or where his body lay after the battle.

However, we know that Kearny was killed in the cornfield west of here, and that the Confederates took his body to the Chantilly House, which was the Confederate field hospital.

The stump became the origin point for the deeded land and the survey of the monument lot. It was replaced by this granite surveyor's stone in the shape of a tree stump. Because it is close to the place where General

Stevens fell, some have speculated that it might mark the spot of Stevens' death. No one knows for certain.