

**CONNECTICUT AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS
IN THE
CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865**

Research Report

Project Historian
DIANA ROSS McCAIN

Project Director and Editor
MARY M. DONOHUE

Sponsor

State of Connecticut

JOHN G. ROWLAND
Governor

Connecticut Historical Commission

JOHN W. SHANNAHAN
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

DAWN MADDOX, Ph.D.
Preservation Programs Supervisor

CORA MURRAY
Minority and Women's History Coordinator
Connecticut Freedom Trail

2000

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations.....	3
Acknowledgements.....	5
Introduction.....	6
Timeline.....	7
CONNECTICUT AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865	
Winning the Right to Fight:	
The Twenty-ninth (Colored) and Thirtieth (Colored) Regiments Connecticut Volunteer Infantry	10
Into Battle:	
The Twenty-ninth (Colored) and Thirtieth (Colored) Regiments Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, and The Thirty-first Regiment United States Colored Troops.....	18
The High Price of Freedom.....	23
African American Civil War Veterans, Old North Cemetery, Hartford	26
Other Theme-Related Cemeteries and Monuments in Connecticut	37
Bibliography.....	40
Recommendations for Projects and Further Study	42

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Front Cover: Alexander H. Newton, in uniform, Commissary Sergeant, Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Taken from the book *Out of the Briars* by Newton, published by the A.M.E. Book Concern, 1910. Courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

Back Cover: Kevin Johnson, staff member at the Connecticut State Library, presents a “living history” lesson in which he portrays one of Hartford’s African American soldiers of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment, an all-black Civil War unit. Mr. Johnson, in uniform, visits classrooms to acquaint schoolchildren with African Americans’ patriotism and valor during the Civil War. More than 20 veterans of the Twenty-ninth are buried in Old North Cemetery, Hartford, Connecticut.

1. Reverend I.J. Hill. Courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.....	44
2. Alexander H. Newton. Courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.....	45
3. Amster C. Dingle. Courtesy of the Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Connecticut.....	46
4. James Powers. Courtesy of the Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Connecticut.....	47
5. Steel engraving of Crater from <i>Harper’s Weekly</i> , August 27, 1864, p. 548	48
6. Mansfield Guards Post #53. Courtesy of the Middlesex County Historical Society.....	49

Illustrations #7-40

African American Veterans Grave Markers in Old North Cemetery, Hartford, Connecticut. Photographs by Mary M. Donohue for the Connecticut Historical Commission. Originals on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, Connecticut.

7. General Views of Old North Cemetery.....	50
8. David Branch.....	51
9. Merrick Brewster.....	52
10. William C. Dewey.....	53
11. Henry W. Edwards.....	54
12. Henry Glazier.....	55
13. David Hasbrook.....	56
14. Joseph Johnson.....	57
15. Daniel W. Oliver.....	58
16. Isaac A. Scott.....	59
17. Cornelius Strong.....	60
18. Sidney R. Taylor.....	61
19. William H. Thompson.....	62
20. Henry H. Williams.....	63
21. Orrin J. Williams.....	64
22. Orrin J. Williams.....	65
23. William A. Williams.....	66
24. Charles S. Jackson.....	67
25. George Carter.....	68
26. John Christian.....	69
27. Mark Collins.....	70
28. Frederick Slater.....	71
29. Andrew Thomas.....	72
30. John Johnson.....	73
31. Alexander Butler.....	74
32. William Franklin.....	75

33. Theodore Pomey Brindley.....	76
34. William A. Jackins.....	77
35. William A. Jackins.....	78
36. Geraldo DeMars	79
37. James P. Randall.....	80
38. William Smith	81
39. Lewis Ledyard Weld.....	82
40. Lewis Ledyard Weld.....	83

Illustrations 41-58

Civil War monument photographs taken by David F. Ransom for the Connecticut Historical Commission unless otherwise noted. Originals are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, Connecticut.

41. Bridgeport-SOLDIERS MONUMENT	84
42. Bridgeport-SOLDIERS MONUMENT	85
43. East Hartford-SOLDIERS' MONUMENT	86
44. East Lyme-SMITH GATEWAY	87
45. Granby-SOLDIER'S MONUMENT.....	88
46. Hartford-SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL ARCH.....	89
47. Hartford-SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL ARCH-Postcard View	90
48. Hartford-SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL ARCH-Postcard View	90
49. Isaac B. Truitt. Courtesy of Wesleyan University Library, Special Collections and Archives Department, Middletown, Connecticut.	91
50. Vine Street Houses, <i>Beer's Atlas of Middlesex County, 1874.</i>	92
51. Middletown-MANSFIELD POST CIVIL WAR MONUMENT	93
52. Simsbury-SOLDIERS' MONUMENT	94
53. Stratford-John Benson Gravestone	95
54. Waterbury-SOLDIERS MONUMENT	96
55. Waterbury-SOLDIERS MONUMENT	97
56. Watertown-SOLDIERS' MONUMENT	98
57. Watertown-SOLDIER'S MONUMENT	99
58. Map, Towns in which Theme-related Cemeteries and Monuments are Located, 2000, Diana Ross McCain.....	100

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost the author is indebted to Mary M. Donohue, Survey and Grants Director at the Connecticut Historical Commission, for her guidance and advice throughout this project, and in particular for her assistance with the major task of photographing dozens of veterans' gravestones in Old North Cemetery. Cora Murray, Historian/Minority and Women's History Coordinator at the Connecticut Historical Commission, provided valuable input during review of an earlier draft. Dr. Dawn Maddox, Preservation and Programs Supervisor at the Connecticut Historical Commission, read the manuscript with an experienced editor's sharp eye, and made a number of suggestions to improve the text, as well as catching an assortment of typographical errors.

Helpful advice was also forthcoming from Dean Nelson, Administrator, and David Corrigan, Curator, of the Raymond Baldwin Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library, and from Rene Provost, Historical Section of the Connecticut Military Department.

Thanks are due in addition to Dione Longley, Director, Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Connecticut; Nancy Finlay, Curator of Graphics, the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford; Amy Olson, National Endowment for the Humanities Project Assistant, Connecticut Historical Society Library; Melba Griffin, volunteer, Salmon Brook Historical Society, Granby, Connecticut; Kazmira Kozlowski, Curator, Prudence Crandall House Museum, Canterbury, Connecticut; and Leslie Starr, Library Assistant, Special Collections and Archives, Olin Library, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

INTRODUCTION

Connecticut is increasingly celebrating its African American heritage throughout the state. Recognizing the importance to Connecticut of numerous sites associated over time with the history and movement towards freedom of African American citizens, the General Assembly in 1995 authorized development of a thematic trail entitled the Connecticut Freedom Trail. Included are buildings reputedly used as stops on the Underground Railroad, sites associated with the *Amistad* human rights case of 1839-1842, and gravesites, monuments, homes, and other structures representative of the concept of freedom so cherished in the American mind.

The Connecticut Historical Commission has compiled professional research materials to enroll sites on the Connecticut Freedom Trail, to list them on the National Register of Historic Places, to publish educational booklets and guides about them, and to install historic markers to (1) the Underground Railroad in Connecticut, (2) the role of African Americans in the state's military history from colonial times to the present, and (3) the African American experience during Connecticut's participation in the Civil War.

I am pleased to present the research report entitled *CONNECTICUT AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865*, researched and written by Project Historian Diana Ross McCain. Ms. McCain, who holds graduate degrees in library science and history with a specialization in Connecticut history, has more than two decades of experience in the use of such essential sources for this project as census records, vital records, and city directories. Her report contains a general overview, as well as detailed information on more than 30 African American Civil War veterans buried in Hartford's Old North Cemetery. Many of these men served in Connecticut's two all-black regiments: The Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry and the Thirtieth Regiment (Colored) Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, the latter of which became part of the Thirty-first Regiment United States Colored Troops. Additional Old North gravesites memorialize Connecticut men who served in all-black regiments from Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as well as in eight of the many African American regiments established by the federal government whose recruits were drawn from states both in the North and the South.

Heritage sites are also documented in Bridgeport, East Hartford, East Lyme, Granby, Hartford, Middletown, North Canaan, Putnam, Simsbury, Stratford, Waterbury, and Watertown. It is anticipated this report will be the basis for a tour brochure or booklet.

I commend Ms. McCain on an outstanding project which makes a strong contribution to the scholarship of Connecticut's African American past. Devotion to the Union and battlefield achievements characteristic of the state's black soldiers are rendered particularly poignant by the prejudice they encountered not only from the Confederate enemy, but at times from their fellow Union soldiers; the legacy of patriotism and sacrifice will ever endure.

John W. Shannahan, Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
June 30, 2000

TIMELINE

September 18, 1861	William Henry Johnson, African American resident, enlisted in Eighth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.
Summer 1863	African Americans were included in Connecticut town recruitment quotas. Connecticut Governor William A. Buckingham dispatched recruiters to warfront to sign up newly liberated slaves.
August 1863	Recruiting began for Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.
November 1863	Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation authorizing creation of black state regiments, commanded by white officers.
January 1864	Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment was filled.
January 12, 1864	Governor William A. Buckingham authorized organization of Thirtieth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry to accept volunteers turned away from Twenty-ninth Regiment after its ranks were filled.
March 8, 1864	Twenty-Ninth (Colored) Regiment CVI was mustered in at Fair Haven, Connecticut.
March 12, 1864	Colonel William B. Wooster of Derby, Connecticut, assumed command of Twenty-Ninth Regiment
June 4, 1864	Four companies of Thirtieth (Colored) Regiment CVI were sent to Virginia, where they were combined with African American units from other states to create Thirty-first Regiment United States Colored Troops.
July 30, 1864	Thirty-first Regiment USCT fought at Crater in Siege of Petersburg, Virginia. Four companies from Connecticut suffered 136 casualties.
August 12 – September 24, 1864	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI fought at Siege of Petersburg, Virginia.

September 29, 1864	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI fought in engagement at Chapin's Farm, Virginia.
September 29 – October 1, 1864	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI fought in engagement at Richmond, Virginia.
October 1864	Thirty-first Regiment USCT fought in engagement at Fort Sedgwick, Virginia.
October 13, 1864	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI fought in engagement at Darbytown, Virginia.
October 27-28, 1864	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI fought in engagement near Fair Oaks, Virginia. Troops of Twenty-ninth Regiment were among Union soldiers who advanced on Confederate lines at Kell House, south of Darbytown Road. Twenty-ninth Regiment casualties were 11 dead, 69 wounded.
November 6, 1864	Colonel Henry C. Ward of Hartford assumed command of Thirty-first Regiment USCT, which was approaching full enlistment.
November 18 – December 30, 1864	Thirty-first Regiment USCT fought in engagement at Bermuda Hundred front, Virginia.
March 29 – April 2, 1865	Thirty-first Regiment USCT fought in engagement before Petersburg, Virginia.
April 3, 1865	Skirmishers from Companies C and G of Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI were first Union Army infantry troops to enter Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, after its evacuation by enemy troops.
April 3, 1865	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI witnessed President Abraham Lincoln's visit to Richmond.
April 9, 1865	Thirty-first Regiment USCT, after marching 60 miles in 30 hours, witnessed Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender of Army of Northern Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.
June 10, 1865	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI and Thirty-first Regiment USCT sailed from Virginia for garrison duty in Brownsville, Texas.

October 24, 1865	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI was mustered out in Texas.
November 7, 1865	Thirty-first Regiment USCT was mustered out in Texas.
November 11, 1865	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI boarded ship at New Orleans bound for Hartford.
November 24, 1865	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI returned to Hartford.
November 25, 1865	Twenty-ninth Regiment CVI was discharged in Hartford.
December 1, 1865	Thirty-first Regiment USCT was discharged in Hartford.

**CONNECTICUT AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS
IN THE
CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865**

**Winning the Right to Fight:
The Twenty-ninth (Colored) and Thirtieth (Colored) Regiments
Connecticut Volunteer Infantry**

Enlistment of African Americans in the Union Army during the Civil War was a controversial, even incendiary, issue throughout the North. Widespread racism, along with the popularly held opinion that the war's purpose was to preserve the Union, not to liberate Southern slaves, accounted for this state of affairs.¹ A few African Americans did manage to serve in white regiments. One was William Henry Johnson, who enlisted in the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in 1861. Not long after the Eighth Regiment saw combat at New Bern, North Carolina, on March 14, 1862, Johnson was given a medical discharge.²

Some African Americans from Connecticut served in the all-black Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment, which was recruited in early 1863.³ Connecticut would take longer than her neighbor to the north to accept the idea of recruiting blacks. When in the summer of 1862 a proposal to allow large numbers of African Americans to serve in the military was presented to Connecticut Governor William A. Buckingham, a Republican and one of President Abraham Lincoln's staunchest supporters, Buckingham responded with caution. "It seems to me that the time may yet come when a regiment of colored men may be profitably employed," Buckingham conceded. "But now, if a company . . .

¹ Noah Andre Trudeau, *Like Men of War: Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865* (Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1998), 18-20; John Niven, *Connecticut for the Union: The Role of the State in the Civil War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965), 268, 278, 285.

² Trudeau, *Like Men of War*, 11.

³ Luis F. Emilio, *A Brave Black Regiment: History of the Fifty-fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1863-1865*, 2d ed., rev. and corr. (Boston: Boston Book Company, 1894; reprint, New York: Arno Press and the *New York Times*, 1969), 340, 341, 357, 358, 362.

should be introduced into a regiment, a regiment into a brigade, it would create so much unpleasant feeling and irritation that more evil than good would result.”⁴

Within little more than a year, the situation had changed dramatically. The Union Army’s seemingly insatiable need for manpower had led to the institution by the federal government of a highly unpopular military draft, in the light of which allowing blacks to enter the ranks seemed less objectionable.⁵ President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, which declared slaves in parts of the United States still in rebellion on January 1, 1863, to be free, transformed the war, if only indirectly, into a crusade toward the ultimate goal of liberty for all African Americans. It seemed to many people that blacks should be allowed to fight in the conflict that would free all members of their race.⁶ In addition to these considerations, the courage and sacrifice demonstrated by the men of the all-black Fifty-fourth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry at the assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina, on July 18, 1863, had provided irrefutable evidence that the ability, courage, and patriotism of the African American soldier were equal to those of any white man.⁷

In November 1863 Governor Buckingham persuaded the Connecticut General Assembly to authorize creation of state regiments of black soldiers, with the first to be the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.⁸ Recruitment in anticipation of Connecticut’s formation of an African American regiment had begun as early as August 1863,⁹ but most of its members enlisted between October 1863 and January of 1864. By the latter month the Twenty-ninth Regiment was filled.¹⁰ On January 12, 1864, Governor Buckingham authorized establishment of the Thirtieth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry to accommodate men who had to be

⁴ Governor William A. Buckingham, *Norwich Bulletin*, 27 August 186; quoted in Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 87.

⁵ Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 85-87.

⁶ Trudeau, *Like Men of War*, 18-20; Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 265.

⁷ Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 286; James M. McPherson, foreword to Emilio, *Brave Black Regiment*, [v].

⁸ David F. Ransom, “Connecticut’s Monumental Epoch: A Survey of Civil War Memorials,” *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 58 (1993): 15.

⁹ I. J. Hill, *A Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment Connecticut Colored Troops* (Baltimore: Daugherty, Maguire & Co., 1867), 7.

¹⁰ Henry G. Marshall, “History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry,” in *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion* (Hartford: Adjutants-General, 1889), 859.

turned away after the Twenty-ninth Regiment reached its limit.¹¹ By June of 1864 four companies - B, C, D, and F - of the Thirtieth Regiment had been recruited. Company K, also credited to Connecticut, was recruited in late 1864 and early 1865.¹² Between the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth regiments, Connecticut provided approximately 1,600 black men to the war to preserve the Union.¹³

The Twenty-ninth Regiment, although it joined forces with other black units to create corps or battalions of the Union Army, maintained its identity as a distinct state regiment throughout the war.¹⁴ The Thirtieth Regiment was eventually absorbed into the Thirty-first United States Regiment Colored Infantry.¹⁵

The great majority of men in the Twenty-ninth enlisted voluntarily. Fifty-two members of the Twenty-ninth had either been hired as substitutes for other men or had been drafted.¹⁶ Twenty-five members of Companies B, C, D, and F of the Thirtieth Regiment were substitutes or drafted. Of the 63 Connecticut men in Company K, most of whom enlisted in late 1864 or early in 1865, when the regiment was serving on the front lines in Virginia, all but two of the privates (53 out of 55), all three corporals, and four of the five sergeants were substitutes or draftees. Of those substitutes or draftees, 23 - more than a third of the company - deserted.¹⁷ These extraordinarily high rates both of substitutes/draftees and of desertion suggest that the men of Company K had been recruited specifically to fill enlistment quotas and fled the ranks as soon as they had received whatever incentives they had been promised to sign up.

Connecticut African Americans also enlisted in at least half a dozen, and probably many more, of the more than 150 United States Colored Troops regiments. Ultimately, approximately 180,000 blacks from throughout the country would serve in the Union ranks.¹⁸

¹¹ "History of the Thirty-first Regiment U.S.C. Infantry. Originally known as the Thirtieth (Colored) Regiment C.V. Infantry," in *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 882.

¹² *Record of Service*, 882-891.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 861-880, 884-891.

¹⁴ Marshall, "History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment," in *Record of Service*, 859-860.

¹⁵ "History of the Thirty-first Regiment," in *Record of Service*, 882.

¹⁶ *Record of Service*, 861-880.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 884-891.

¹⁸ Inscriptions on tombstones in Old North Cemetery, Hartford; Washington Street Cemetery, Middletown; and Indian Hill Cemetery, Middletown; Mark R. Salsler, *Black Americans in Defense of Their Nation* (Portland, Oregon: National Book Company, 1992), 31.

A few served in the United States Navy.¹⁹ Like their white counterparts, black men enlisted for a variety of reasons. For joining the Twenty-Ninth Regiment, men were offered a bounty of \$310 from the State of Connecticut, \$75 from the county from which they enlisted, and \$300 from the federal government.²⁰ Towns also offered bounties to attract men to fill their quotas of recruits.²¹

However, recruits never received much of what they had been promised. Dishonest recruiting agents cheated the majority out of at least part of the money due them. Most enlistees never saw the state bounty money, which was stolen by unscrupulous agents who had obtained their positions because Governor Buckingham, burdened with multiple wartime responsibilities, had been unable to closely monitor the character of the candidates.²²

The men of the Twenty-ninth also apparently never received the bounty owed them by the counties. The soldiers made a public expression of their displeasure on March 19, 1864, the day the Twenty-ninth Regiment embarked from its encampment at Fair Haven, Connecticut, for Maryland. A minister sought to give the departing unit a flag, but, recalled I.J. Hill, a member of the Twenty-ninth, “on account of the Regiment not receiving the \$75 which was promised them at their enlistment they made no response to the presentation, and the Colonel [William B. Wooster of the Twenty-ninth] gave them no command to do so.”²³ Some recruits who did get their state bounties were defrauded of their federal²⁴ or town bounties.²⁵ A number probably received nothing at all.

A thirst for novelty and adventure likely motivated men of all races to enlist in the Union Army. Patriotism was a strong incentive as well. For many African Americans, love of country was combined with a desire to help eradicate slavery from the United States and to demonstrate the black individual’s equality and right to full citizenship. Many of Connecticut’s African American soldiers were illiterate, and as a result they left

¹⁹ Salser, *Black Americans in Defense*, 34; *Connecticut Freedom Trail* (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, [1998?]).

²⁰ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 7.

²¹ Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 89.

²² *Ibid.*.

²³ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 8.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 7.

²⁵ Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 89.

relatively few documents attesting to their motives for volunteering for military service. Three members of the Twenty-ninth Regiment did leave written records of their thoughts and experiences.

In a letter to his wife, Joseph Orin Cross, a free-born native of Griswold, Connecticut, who joined the Twenty-ninth Regiment as a private and rose to the rank of sergeant,²⁶ stated with eloquent simplicity a conviction any Union soldier might have voiced; “It is war times now and Some Body has got to do some thing For their Country,” Cross wrote on December 31, 1864.²⁷ I. J. Hill (Ill. 1), an African American minister who had been born free in 1826 in Pennsylvania, went into battle in 1861 with the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry. But news that black units were being formed inspired Hill to leave his Pennsylvania regiment and to enlist in 1863 in the Twenty-ninth Connecticut. He was, Hill declared, willing to “peril my life and die for my country.”²⁸

Alexander Newton (Ill. 2) expressed more fully the glorious goals he and his comrades-in-arms in the Twenty-ninth Regiment hoped to achieve through military service. In his autobiography Newton wrote that

While it had always been said that this was a white man’s country, we were determined that the black man should share in this honor of ownership. And the best way that this ownership could be established was through the loyalty of the black man on the battlefield. For surely it will be conceded that when a man has bought his adopted country by his blood, it is his own. While, as a race, the Negro race, this is our adopted land, yet as individuals, it is our native land, our fatherland.²⁹

Newton also recalled that “All the soldiers of the Twenty-ninth Regiment, although dark-skinned, felt the full responsibility of their mission. They were in the South to do, to dare, and to die.”³⁰ Connecticut’s black volunteers were determined to

²⁶ Kelly Nolin, “The Civil War Letters of J.O. Cross, Twenty-ninth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (Colored),” *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 60 (summer/fall 1995): 211, 219.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 223, 224.

²⁸ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 3.

²⁹ A [lexander] H [erritage] Newton, *Out of the Briars. An Autobiography and Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers* (Philadelphia: African Methodist Episcopal Book Concern, 1910), 48.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 39.

“contend in this conflict until the sound of clanking slave chains shall be heard no more in the length and breadth of this fair and goodly land.”³¹

Not just freedom from bondage, but the desire for equal rights inspired Connecticut blacks to enlist. Leonard Percy, an African American resident of Granby, overheard a conversation between two white men before the war in which one of the men predicted that eventually blacks would be granted the vote. “At this,” remembered William Case, one of the white men, Leonard Percy “stood up and said, ‘Do you believe that? I would die to have that day come.’”³² Percy, although by then in his mid-50s,³³ volunteered as a private in the Thirtieth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. And he would prove true to his word, dying while in the service.³⁴

Where all the men of the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth regiments came from has yet to be determined. Joseph Orin Cross was Connecticut-born, while I. J. Hill was a native of Pennsylvania. Alexander Newton, born the free son of a free black mother and a slave father in the South, had come north as an adult.³⁵ An unscientifically random examination of several dozen enlistment papers for members of the Twenty-ninth Regiment revealed that the largest number of recruits were from Connecticut, from its large cities and small towns alike.³⁶ Six black men from Canaan enlisted in the Twenty-ninth Regiment; only three lived to return.³⁷ A dozen African Americans enlisted from Granby, which in 1860 had a total black male population of just 14. Eight of the twelve enlistees died in service.³⁸

Some soldiers of the Twenty-ninth Regiment had been born in New York, Massachusetts, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and Louisiana. A few hailed from as far away as Hawaii, France, and Spain. Their occupations were

³¹ Ibid., 34.

³² Mark Williams, *A Tempest in a Small Town: The Myth and Reality of Country Life, Granby, Connecticut, 1680-1940* (Granby, CT: Salmon Brook Historical Society, 1996), 369-370.

³³ Carol Laun, “Glory in Granby: Local black soldiers in the Civil War,” *Farmington Valley Herald*, March 1990, 46.

³⁴ *Record of Service*, 887.

³⁵ Newton, *Out of the Briars*, 31.

³⁶ Connecticut National Guard Twenty-ninth, 30th, and 31st Colored Volunteer Regiments, Civil War, Enlistment Papers, 1863-1864, Connecticut State Archives, Record Group 13, Series 169A, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

³⁷ Geoffrey Rossano, *Historic and Architectural Resource Survey of the Town of Canaan, Connecticut*, 2000, Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford.

³⁸ Williams, *Tempest in a Small Town*, 369.

typically manual labor such as farmer, waiter, porter, and hostler, although one man identified himself as a photographer. Most but not all were young, in their early twenties. Some of the soldiers were married, and a few had families.³⁹ There were several instances of close blood relatives enlisting in the regiment, including brothers Earl, Alfred, and Charles Percy of Granby, sons of Leonard Percy, and brothers Thomas and James Jackson of East Granby.⁴⁰ From Hebron Leverett Peters, 40, his son George E. Peters, about 20, and a cousin, George Sylvester Peters, 30, all volunteered.⁴¹

When it came to the issue of pay, the men of the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth regiments experienced discrimination because of their race. Alexander Newton recalled that on a day in late May 1864, when the paymaster arrived at the Twenty-ninth Regiment's camp:

...our spirits were greatly lifted up when we saw him, for as yet we had received no pay for our services. But when we were told by him that we could receive only \$7 per month each, for our services our spirits fell. So I, together with the rest of my comrades, was really disgusted with this failure on the part of the Government to give us a decent compensation for our work as soldiers. The officers advised us to take it and assured us that at the next payment we should receive our full compensation. We decided to follow their advice. We quieted our passions and went to work like good soldiers.⁴²

I. J. Hill reported that the paymaster's announcement of \$7 per month pay for black troops was greeted by the men of the Twenty-ninth with "indignation." Hill recalled that

Their spirits fell when they learned they would receive only \$7 per month. Company A took the lead in the dissatisfaction, it being the first company, and company B next, company K next, company C next, and so on till company D, it being the last company and the one to which I belonged. After the companies all expressed their indignation at the small sum of \$7 per month, the officers called them in line and told them they would receive \$16 the next pay day, and they had better take this – at the same time promising them, that in the future they should receive full pay. They did as he wished.⁴³

³⁹ Connecticut National Guard, Twenty-ninth, 30th, and 31st Colored Volunteer Regiments, Civil War, Enlistment Papers, 1863-1864.

⁴⁰ Laun, "Glory in Granby," 46.

⁴¹ Diana Ross McCain, "Hebron family paid a high price in fight for equal rights for all blacks," *Manchester Journal-Inquirer*, 14 February 1999.

⁴² Newton, *Out of the Briars*, 36.

⁴³ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 11-12.

Hill was the lone holdout from the general acceptance of the above terms. "I would not and did not accept of the \$7 per month, and I stood entirely alone," he recalled.

All in my company took that sum but myself, and when I was called up my response was, if the government could not afford to pay me a soldier's wages I would peril my life and die for my country without it. When I consider the sacrifice I have made of my beloved family, and think that the general government does nothing for them, and then to insult me with the sum of \$7 per month! No, as I have given my life I will become a martyr and die before I will accept that sum. But I am happy to relate that when they found there were some that felt the dignity of their manhood, the Paymaster Major endeavored to make apology to me in reference to the affair, but there was no compromise in me. I would accept nothing but \$16 per month.⁴⁴

Two days later, Hill continued, "my mind was very much relieved at 6 P.M. While at dress parade . . . General Saxton . . . [said] Boys, I have come to greet you with an order I have received that you are to be considered soldiers of the United States and receive your pay as white soldiers, and I hope you will consider yourselves men. Although your skins are dark, you have the same muscle as white men, and the same courage to fight.' "⁴⁵ The State of Connecticut had decided to make up the shortfall in federal pay for its black troops.⁴⁶

Apart from the insulting disparity in pay, the men of the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth regiments seem to have been treated, at least officially, no differently from white soldiers. However, from many of the latter they did face discrimination. Despite the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts' gallant performance at Fort Wagner, South Carolina, "There were enough incidents where the poorly trained Negro troops had proved unsteady under fire to promote the myth of white superiority among the Connecticut regiments," noted Connecticut Civil War historian John Niven.⁴⁷ I. J. Hill recalled that a white general advised the soldiers of the Twenty-ninth, "Boys, if you ever want to make good soldiers you must look a white man straight in the face, and let him know that you are a man."⁴⁸

The black soldier endured the same hardships and challenges of military life as any other man in uniform. Payday was unpredictable, as Joseph Orin Cross reported to

⁴⁴ Ibid., 12.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ransom, "Connecticut's Monumental Epoch," 15.

⁴⁷ Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 286.

⁴⁸ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 13.

his wife: "Wee have Just got Musterd to day For pay but I do not know when wee shal get the money but I suppose wee get it some time next week but as soon as I do i will send you the money."⁴⁹ Rations were sometimes insufficient, forcing men to desperate measures. "I know what it is to go hungry, but I have Learnt how to steal for living," Cross wrote in a letter home. Discipline was harsh for all, with Cross writing to his wife that "the sergeants & Corporales do as they please here with the privates they do not take any Back talk at all Jus knock a man down o[r] kick his behind & if he should turn upon you wee can have him arrested. Military Law is different here from that at home."⁵⁰

Into Battle:

The Twenty-ninth (Colored) and Thirtieth (Colored) Regiments Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, and The Thirty-first Regiment United States Colored Troops

The men of the Twenty-ninth Regiment were mustered into service at Fair Haven, Connecticut, on March 8, 1864. The delay between filling the ranks with volunteers in January 1864 and mustering in was due to difficulty in securing white officers for the regiment.⁵¹ The regiment's commander was Colonel William B. Wooster of Derby, Connecticut, a combat-tested veteran. Wooster had been captured at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, while serving as lieutenant colonel of the Twentieth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. After being released, Wooster led his regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.⁵²

The Twenty-ninth Regiment sailed from New Haven for Maryland on March 19, 1864.⁵³ The unit suffered its first casualties even before it left Connecticut soil. Private Amster C. Dingle (Ill. 3) of Middletown, who had enlisted in Company F on December 18, 1863, died on January 1, 1864, in Fair Haven.⁵⁴ Austin Goodman, 59, of Granby enlisted in Company B on December 1, 1863, but was never mustered in, dying on May

⁴⁹ Nolin, "Civil War Letters of J.O. Cross," 224.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Marshall, "History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment," in *Record of Service*, 859.

⁵² *Commemorative Biographical Record of New Haven County, Connecticut* (Chicago: J.H. Beers and Company, 1902), 47.

⁵³ Marshall, "History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment," in *Record of Service*, 859.

⁵⁴ *Record of Service*, 872.

24, 1864.⁵⁵ Both very probably were killed by disease, which would account for far more deaths on both the Union and Confederate sides during the war than wounds sustained in battle (Ill. 4).

After four months spent encamped in South Carolina, the Twenty-ninth Regiment was sent to Virginia to join several United States Colored Infantry and other African American regiments in the Siege of Petersburg.⁵⁶ On August 14, near Malvern Hill, the unit had its first taste of combat. "All was quiet until one P.M., when the rebels attacked the pickets that were stationed on the outposts," recalled I. J. Hill. "The Colonel gave the order 'Fall in.' For the first time the boys put on their equipments and fell in; and when the order was given 'Forward,' they rushed to the battle in good order. Quite a battle took place, at which time a number were killed and wounded on both sides, and we took a number of prisoners." None of the day's fatalities were from the Twenty-ninth Regiment.⁵⁷

The Twenty-ninth Regiment remained at the Siege of Petersburg, which Hill called "the land of Destruction,"⁵⁸ until September 24, 1864.⁵⁹ Hill remembered overhearing a white soldier, upon seeing the men of the Twenty-ninth being dispatched to the front-line trenches on August 24, remark, "Well, they are taking those colored men to their slaughter pen in front of Petersburg."⁶⁰

It proved an all-too-accurate, almost literal prediction. Before the day was over two privates from the Twenty-ninth were killed.⁶¹ That was just the beginning. The Twenty-ninth Regiment suffered 178 casualties during the siege of Petersburg.⁶² Following a fierce six-hour engagement with Confederates on September 2, Alexander Newton described the "fearful sight that met my eyes" at the military surgeon's station. "It was indeed sickening. There were arms and legs piled up like hogs' feet in a butcher shop. The dead and dying were strewn over the battlefield for five miles."⁶³

⁵⁵ Ibid., 864.

⁵⁶ Marshall, "History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment," in *Record of Service*, 859-60.

⁵⁷ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 15.

⁵⁸ Ibid., 17.

⁵⁹ Marshall, "History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment," in *Record of Service*, 860.

⁶⁰ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 17.

⁶¹ Newton, *Out of the Briars*, 46.

⁶² Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 255.

⁶³ Newton, *Out of the Briars*, 50.

Newton invoked the same grisly imagery when describing the Twenty-ninth Regiment's encounter with Confederates on September 29 at Chapin's Farm, Virginia. "The battle was indeed a slaughter pen," he wrote. "The prayers and groans and cries of the wounded, the explosion of bombs, the whizzing of bullets, the cracking of rifles ... it was a hell, the horrors of which no one could ever forget. ... The colored troops were the first to enter the field and the last to fall back. ... our record was to be made and we were making it."⁶⁴

The carnage continued on October 13 at Darbytown Road, Virginia, where 13 members of the Twenty-ninth Regiment were killed or wounded.⁶⁵ But the regiment's greatest sacrifice came in fighting on October 27 and 28 at Kell House, Virginia, which was part of a larger engagement near Fair Oaks, Virginia. I. J. Hill called it "one of the most desperate battles of the campaign."⁶⁶ Alexander Newton wrote, "We charged, firing, yelling, using our bayonets and our arms in the most cruel manner, but still in accordance with the tactics of warfare. We were there to kill in every manner possible. We held the pits for twenty-four hours This regiment fought most bravely, gaining great praise, and receiving many compliments from the officers high up in rank."⁶⁷ Eleven soldiers of the Twenty-ninth Regiment were killed at Kell House; 69 were wounded.⁶⁸

The motivation of black soldiers for fighting with the ferocity Newton described was unique. Newton recalled that as a boy in the South before the war, he had heard whites say "that there would be a war and that, if any of the colored people aided the North in it, they would catch them and cut out their tongues and make them drink their mother's blood."⁶⁹ Following the outbreak of the war, "We were told by the enemy that if we were captured our tongues would be cut out, or we would be starved to death; that there would be no exchange of prisoners in our case," Newton wrote, adding, "this was a rather fearful inspiration, but it served its purpose, of causing us to fight to the best of our

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 55-57.

⁶⁵ *Record of Service*, 861-880.

⁶⁶ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 21.

⁶⁷ Newton, *Out of the Briars*, 57-58.

⁶⁸ Trudeau, *Like Men of War*, 305.

⁶⁹ Newton, *Out of the Briars*, 38-39.

ability, for we really feared that in case we were captured such barbarities might be administered to us.”⁷⁰

The fears Newton described proved to be fully justified by the time the Twenty-ninth Regiment fought at Kell House. At the Battle of Petersburg Mine, also called the Crater (Ill. 5), in front of Petersburg on July 30, 1864, black soldiers who sought to surrender were killed by Confederates without mercy, and unarmed prisoners were brutally murdered. Many who were captured alive died in prisoner of war camps.⁷¹

The Twenty-ninth Regiment spent the five months following Kell House performing construction duty in Virginia, being dispatched to Fort Harrison, Virginia, at the end of March 1865. “Here they witnessed the last rebel dress-parade on the afternoon of Sunday, April 2,” according to unit historian the Reverend Henry G. Marshall. The very next day it became evident that the Confederates were abandoning Richmond, capital of the Confederacy. The men of Companies C and G of the Twenty-ninth Regiment were the first Union infantry to enter the fallen Rebel capital on April 3, 1865.⁷²

Alexander Newton observed President Lincoln’s “triumphal entry into the city” on April 3. “There were multitudes of Colored people to greet him on every hand. They received him with many demonstrations that came from the heart, thanking God that they had seen the day of their salvation, that freedom was theirs, that now they could live in this country, like men and women, and go on their way rejoicing.”⁷³

Only four companies had been raised for the Thirtieth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry when the desperate need for manpower resulted in their being sent to Virginia on June 4. There they were combined with other black units to form the Thirty-first United States Regiment Colored Troops.

The men of the Thirty-first Regiment had their baptism under fire at the bloody Battle of the Crater, on July 30, 1864.⁷⁴ Men of the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania, many of whom were coal miners by trade, and their lieutenant colonel, a mining engineer, had concocted a scheme to secretly dig a tunnel from Union earthworks in front of Petersburg

⁷⁰ Ibid., 46-47.

⁷¹ Trudeau, *Like Men of War*, 247-249.

⁷² Marshall, “History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment,” in *Record of Service*, 859-860.

⁷³ Newton, *Out of the Briars*, 65.

⁷⁴ “History of the Thirty-first Regiment,” in *Record of Service*, 882.

approximately 500 feet to a point beneath a key Confederate defensive position. Four tons of explosives placed at the end of the tunnel would be detonated, blowing up the Confederate fort and creating a gap in Rebel fortifications through which Union troops, among them a number of black units including the Thirty-first Regiment United States Colored Infantry, could attack. Their goal would be an eminence behind Rebel lines, known as Cemetery Hill, from which Union troops could rain firepower upon Petersburg. The tunnel was completed on July 23 and the explosion occurred at 4:44 a.m. on July 30, gouging out a crater 60 feet wide, more than 150 feet long, and 30 feet deep.⁷⁵

“The exploitation by Federal infantry failed, however, and the reaction of Confederate troops was exemplary,” wrote Mark Mayo Boatner III in *The Civil War Dictionary*. Union soldiers did not move ahead quickly enough to take advantage of the chaos caused by the explosion. “Federal troops then herded into the crater where they were pounded by Confederate artillery.”⁷⁶ Finally the Confederates swarmed furiously into the pit. They viciously butchered any black soldiers, even those who sought to surrender or who had already been taken prisoner.⁷⁷

The toll on men of the Thirty-first Regiment who had originally enlisted in the Thirtieth Connecticut Regiment was horrific. “In the crater fiasco Connecticut’s little battalion of colored troops, with the 31st United States infantry, lost over half its effectives; all its officers were either killed or wounded,”⁷⁸ according to Niven. The Thirty-first Regiment’s casualties totaled 136.⁷⁹ In an official report a white officer praised the soldiers of the Thirty-first: “I cannot speak too highly of both officers and men in this engagement. More bravery and enthusiasm I never witnessed. Besides their patriotic ardor, they went into that action with a determination to command the respect of white troops, which they knew could be obtained only by hard fighting.”⁸⁰

The men of the Thirtieth Regiment next fought as part of the Thirty-first United States Colored Troops, at Fort Sedgwick, Virginia, in October 1864. There the unit suffered 21 casualties. The Thirty-first Regiment was at last filled on November 6, 1864,

⁷⁵ Trudeau, *Like Men of War*, 230-236.

⁷⁶ Mark Mayo Boatner III, *The Civil War Dictionary*, rev. ed. (New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1989), 648.

⁷⁷ Trudeau, *Like Men of War*, 246-247.

⁷⁸ Niven, *Connecticut for the Union*, 255.

⁷⁹ “History of the Thirty-first Regiment,” in *Record of Service*, 882.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

and Colonel Henry C. Ward of Hartford, who had served as lieutenant colonel of the Twenty-ninth Connecticut, took command. Less than two weeks later, on November 18, the unit was sent to the Bermuda Hundred front, between the James and Appomattox rivers in Virginia, where it remained until the end of 1864.⁸¹ On March 29 it was back besieging Petersburg, which, along with Richmond, was evacuated by the Confederates on April 2.⁸²

The Thirty-first Regiment spent six days as part of the Union troops chasing remnants of the Confederate Army under General Robert E. Lee. “During the thirty hours ending 11 p.m., April 8th – the day before Lee’s surrender [at Appomattox Court House] – it covered a distance of sixty miles, showing an invincible determination to be ‘in at the death’ of the Southern Confederacy.”⁸³

Of the soldiers of the Thirty-first, Colonel Henry Ward said, “I am convinced that, in all the essential qualities of good soldiers, they fully meet all requirements, and are equal to the standard of any service I ever saw.”⁸⁴

The High Price of Freedom

With fighting at long last over, the Twenty-ninth Regiment spent several weeks helping to guard 20,000 Confederate prisoners of war in Maryland. On June 10 the unit sailed for Texas, arriving on July 3. There they spent three months on garrison duty. In Texas, Alexander Newton reported, the African American soldiers experienced literally homicidal racism, in the person of a white officer. Captain Clarence M. Clarke of Company D of the Twenty-ninth Regiment “ought to have been with the Greys instead of the Blues, he had so little use for the Colored troops,” Newton recalled bitterly.⁸⁵ Captain Clarke forced the regiment to make a difficult march in the oppressive heat of Texas in mid-July, resulting in the death of one private and the hospitalization of many other men.⁸⁶

⁸¹ Ibid., 882-883.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid., 882.

⁸⁴ Ibid., 883.

⁸⁵ Newton, *Out of the Briars*, 82.

⁸⁶ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 38.

The Twenty-ninth Regiment was mustered out on October 24, 1865, and on November 11 the men set sail from New Orleans, reaching New York on November 23.⁸⁷ On November 24 they sailed up the Connecticut River, along which the “villages were illuminated,” Hill recalled,⁸⁸ reaching Hartford that day.

Of the black soldiers’ homecoming, Civil War historian Noah Andre Trudeau noted:

Units originally organized by Northern states frequently held formal ceremonies to mark the end of their service, as did the Twenty-ninth Connecticut (Colored), discharged in Hartford on November 24, 1865. After enjoying a “fine repast, which had been prepared by the white and colored citizens” of the town, the men marched into City Hall beneath a large banner listing their military engagements. There followed a good deal of speechmaking, including a tribute by Brevet Major General Joseph Hawley, who had nothing but praise for the men, “for I have seen what you can do.” The next day the soldiers were “paid off, disbanded, and everybody advised by the paymaster to take care of their money, and return to their homes and live the life of peaceable citizens.”⁸⁹

In all, the Twenty-ninth Regiment suffered 470 casualties. Twenty-four men were killed in battle, with 18 fatally wounded. Six men died from accidents, and 178 from disease. The wounded totaled 135, with an additional four being accidentally wounded. Disability discharges were given to 103 men. Only one man was captured, not surprising in light of Alexander Newton’s account of what black soldiers had been led to believe awaited them if taken prisoner. One man was unaccounted for at the time the regiment was mustered out.⁹⁰

The Thirty-first Regiment accompanied the Twenty-ninth and other African American units to Texas. The Connecticut men of the Thirty-first mustered out on December 1, 1865, in Hartford.⁹¹ The five companies of Connecticut men lost 18 killed, 14 missing in action and presumed killed, and six fatally wounded. Forty-four soldiers were wounded, and an additional two had suffered accidental injuries. Fifty-one men died of disease, and one from an accident. Seven men were taken prisoner by the enemy, and

⁸⁷ Marshall, “History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment,” in *Record of Service*, 860.

⁸⁸ Hill, *Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment*, 42.

⁸⁹ Trudeau, *Like Men of War*, 461-462.

⁹⁰ *Record of Service*, 881.

⁹¹ “History of the Thirty-first Regiment,” in *Record of Service*, 882-883.

three died in captivity. Ten men were unaccounted for at muster out, and 26 received disability discharges..⁹²

A number of African Americans who were originally from Connecticut or who took up residence in the state after the war served in other units. These included the Fifty-fifth Massachusetts, the First, Eighth, Twentieth, Twenty-third, Twenty-sixth, Thirty-eighth, Forty-ninth, and 127th United States Colored Troops, and the Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, which last was formed at approximately the same time as the Twenty-ninth Connecticut.⁹³

There is evidence to indicate that African Americans who had worn Union blue were welcomed into predominantly white posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal and patriotic organization of Union veterans formed after the war. Mansfield Post #53 of the GAR in Middletown in 1884 erected in Indian Hill Cemetery a handsome granite monument “as the centerpiece of a burying place for Civil War veterans,” noted architectural historian David Ransom.⁹⁴ Several black veterans are interred in the GAR plot.⁹⁵ In addition, a photograph (Ill.6) of the Mansfield Post taken around 1880 shows a group of several dozen veterans, a few of them African Americans.⁹⁶

⁹² *Record of Service*, 891.

⁹³ Inscriptions on gravestones of veterans of these regiments in Old North Cemetery, Hartford; Washington Street Cemetery, Middletown; and Indian Hill Cemetery, Middletown.

⁹⁴ David F. Ransom, “Connecticut’s Monumental Epoch: A Survey of Civil War Memorials,” *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 59 (1994): 31-32.

⁹⁵ Inscriptions on gravestones of veterans in black regiments in Mansfield GAR Post plot at Indian Hill Cemetery, Middletown.

⁹⁶ Photograph of Mansfield Post #53, Grand Army of the Republic, Middletown, Connecticut, ca. 1880, Graphics Department, The Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR VETERANS OLD NORTH CEMETERY, HARTFORD

TWENTY-NINTH (COLORED) REGIMENT CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEER INFANTRY (ILL. 7)

According to the Hale Index at the Connecticut State Library, at least 26 veterans of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry were represented by headstones in Old North Cemetery in the 1930s. For each of these veterans some basic biographical information has been compiled, derived primarily from their tombstone inscriptions; their enlistment papers, when available, at the Connecticut State Library; the published *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion*; selected Hartford city directories; and selected U.S. federal census population schedules, in particular those for 1870 and 1900. The veterans are listed in alphabetical order.

Bassey, Sidney

Sidney Bassey enlisted from Wethersfield as a private in Company F of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 22, 1863. Mustered in on March 8, 1864, he served until the Twenty-ninth regiment was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed Sidney S. Basey, occupation gardener, race not indicated, living at the rear of 46 Morgan Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Sidney Basey, 22, mulatto, laborer, born in Virginia, living in Hartford with Martha Basey 19, black, also born in Virginia, and Louisa E. Basey, one month old, black, born in Connecticut. Also residing in the same household were Margaret Dorsey, 23, black, born in Maryland, and Rebecca Dickinson, 21, black, born in Georgia. In 1896 a Sidney S. Basey, race not indicated, was employed as a cook at 400 Main Street in Hartford, and lived at 141 Bellevue in the same city.

Branch, David (Ill. 8)

David Branch enlisted from North Stonington as a private in Company D of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 16, 1863. He was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and was promoted to corporal of Company D on February 13, 1865. Branch was mustered out with the rest of the survivors of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on October 24, 1865.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed David Branch, occupation ostler [*sic*], race not indicated, boarding at the rear of 217 Commerce Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed David Branch, 35, mulatto, laborer, born in Connecticut, living in Hartford with Maria Branch, 30, mulatto, also born in Connecticut.

In 1896 a David Branch, occupation jobber, race not indicated, boarded above 16 Gold Street in Hartford. David Branch died July 27, 1896.

Brewster, Merrick (Ill. 9)

Merrick Brewster enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 11, 1863. A native of Winchester, Connecticut, he was 21 years, three months old at the time of his enlistment. He was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and served until the Twenty-ninth Regiment was mustered out on October 24, 1865. An unmarried farmer, Brewster was five feet, six and a half inches tall. He signed his enlistment paper with his mark.

In 1850 Merrick Brewster, age five, was living in Winchester, Connecticut, in the household of his father, also named Merrick. Merrick Brewster, Sr., was a 28-year-old Connecticut-born laborer who had a record as a convict, apparently having served several years in the Connecticut State Prison at Wethersfield on a burglary conviction for which he had been sentenced in 1844.

The U.S. federal census for 1870 listed Merrick Brewster, 24, black, occupation laborer, born in Connecticut, living in the Hartford household of John Simpson, an Irish-born gardener. The 1870 Hartford city directory listed Mrs. Merrick Brewster, occupation cook, race not indicated, living at 217 Main Street. Whether she was the wife or mother of the Civil War soldier is unknown.

In 1900 Merrick Brewster, occupation laborer, race not indicated, lived at the rear of 213 Pearl Street in Hartford. Merrick Brewster died June 16, 1913, age 67.

Brewster, Worthy H. E.

Worthy H. E. Brewster enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company A of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on November 19, 1863. Although he claimed at the time of his enlistment to be a 44-year-old native of Granby, Connecticut, the date of birth recorded on his tombstone is January 23, 1812, which would have made Brewster 51 when he joined the Twenty-ninth Regiment. Mustered in on March 8, 1864, he served until his discharge for disability on February 11, 1865. A chair seater by occupation, Brewster was married. He was five feet, eight and a half inches tall, and signed his enlistment paper with his name.

In 1850 Worthy Brewster, a 39-year-old black native of Connecticut, was an inmate at the Connecticut State Prison in Wethersfield, having been sentenced there for burglary in 1844. In 1863 W. H. E. Brewster, black, occupation chair bottomer, lived at 45 Pine Street in Hartford.

The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Worthy H. E. Brewster, 59, black, occupation chair seater, born in Connecticut and owning real estate valued at \$3,000, living in Hartford. With him resided Emelia M. Brewster, 56, black, born in Connecticut. Also residing in the same household were Miranda Nichols, 20, mulatto, born in Connecticut, and Carry Saunders, 3, mulatto, born in Connecticut.

Worthy Brewster died on April 14, 1881, at the age of 69.

Dewey, William C. (Ill. 10)

William C. Dewey enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company F of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 22, 1863. A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he was 18 years, nine months old at the time of his enlistment. Edwin Cornish signed Dewey's enlistment paper as Dewey's guardian, giving his consent for him to enlist as a minor. Dewey, a farmer, was five feet, two and a half inches tall, and signed his enlistment paper with his name. Dewey was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and served until the Twenty-ninth Regiment was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed a William Dewey, porter, race not indicated, living at the rear of 259 Main Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed William C. Dewey, 23, black, born in Louisiana and employed as a porter at a drug store, living in Hartford with Louisa C. Dewey, 19, black, born in Connecticut.

In 1892 a William C. Dewey, occupation driver, race not indicated, lived above 113 Front Street in Hartford. William Dewey died on January 22, 1893, age 48. An obituary in an unidentified newspaper reported that,

William C. Dewey, a colored man well known in Hartford, died suddenly at his home, 105 Front Street, yesterday afternoon. He was in the Twenty-ninth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, and had a pension for heart trouble. He had a cold, but nothing serious was apprehended till he was taken with convulsions in the middle of the afternoon. About 5 o'clock Dr. J. E. Root was sent for, but the patient died before he arrived. Medical Examiner Fuller was notified and gave a verdict of death from heart failure. Mr. Dewey was 48 years old. He leaves a son and a daughter in this city.

Douglass, Chauncey

Chauncey Douglass enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 9, 1863. A native of Norwich, Connecticut, Douglass was 30 years, seven months old at the time of his enlistment. Douglass, a hostler by occupation, was married. He was five feet, five and a half inches tall, and signed his enlistment paper with his name. Douglass was mustered into the Twenty-ninth Regiment on March 8, 1864 and was wounded in battle on October 27, 1864, at Kell House, Virginia. Douglass was taken very ill while the Twenty-ninth Regiment was stationed in Texas, just as it was preparing to set sail for home, but improved sufficiently in time to board the ship. He was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

In 1860 Chauncey Douglass, 28, was residing in Hartford with Susan Douglass, 23, and Georgiana Douglass, 1. Both had been born in Connecticut. In 1863 Chauncey Douglass, black, occupation coachman, lived at 7 Franklin Avenue in Hartford.

In the 1870 Hartford city directory a Chauncey Douglass, race not indicated, lived at 7 Franklin Avenue in Hartford. In the 1870 U.S. federal census Chauncey Douglass, 36, black, occupation coachman, born in Connecticut, lived in Hartford with Susan Douglass, 30, black, also born in Connecticut. Also residing with them was Daniel S. Douglass, 3, black, and Susan Douglass, 1, black, both born in Connecticut. The household also included Mary Taylor, 16, black, a native of Connecticut, and George Thompson, 20, black, occupation coachman, born in New York.

The 1900 Hartford City directory listed Chauncey Douglass, occupation coachman, race not indicated, living at the rear of 35 Willard Street. In the 1900 census, Chauncey Douglas, black, born in May 1838 in Connecticut, lived at the rear of 35 Willard Street in Hartford. His wife, Clara, age 42, born in Virginia, lived with him. Chauncey Douglass died on May 23, 1912.

Edwards, Henry W. (Ill. 11)

Henry W. Edwards enlisted from New Haven as a private in Company A of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on November 23, 1863. Edwards, 25 years old at the time of his enlistment, was born in Hartford. A barber by occupation, he was five feet, five inches tall, and signed his enlistment paper with his name. Edwards was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and served until his discharge from the Twenty-ninth Regiment on November 21, 1865.

In 1892 a Henry W. Edwards, occupation bookbinder at 35 Asylum Street, Hartford, race not indicated, was living in the town of Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Edwards died on April 24, 1892, at the age of 53.

Francis, Justin

Justin Francis enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 14, 1863. Francis, a native of Hartford, was a 19-year-old unmarried laborer at the time of his enlistment. His mother, Clara Francis, signed her mark to give her consent for his enlistment as a minor. Francis was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed a Justin Francis, occupation electrotyper, race not indicated, boarding at the rear of 3 Franklin Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Justin Francis, 25, black, occupation electrotyper, born in Connecticut, residing in Hartford in the same dwelling house as Samuel Mason, who was also black. With Francis were living Anna A. Francis, 21, black; Stella Francis, 5, black; Alice J. Francis, 2, black; and Ellen L. Francis, six months old, black. All four had been born in Connecticut.

The 1890 Hartford city directory listed a Justin Francis, race not indicated, employed as an electrotyper at William H. Lockwood, 41 Trumbull Street, residing above 6 Squire Street. He died October 24, 1891, at the age of 47.

Glazier, Henry (Ill. 12)

Henry Glazier enlisted from Bloomfield as a private in Company G of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 24, 1863. A 25-year-old native of Kinderhook, New York, Glazier was a farmer by occupation and married. He was five feet, ten and one half inches tall, and signed his enlistment papers with his mark.

Glazier was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He died while in service on June 4, 1864.

Hasbrook, David (Ill. 13)

David Hasbrook enlisted from Canton, Connecticut, as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 4, 1863. A native of Burlingham, New York, Hasbrook at the time of his enlistment was 28 years, two months old. A shoemaker by occupation, he was married. Five feet, five inches tall, Hasbrook signed his enlistment papers with his mark. Hasbrook was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865. He died June 20, 1890, at the age of 55.

Hendrick, George

George Hendrick enlisted from Hartford as a corporal in Company E of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 15, 1863. A native of Simsbury, Connecticut, Hendrick was, according to his enlistment paper, 21 years, five months old at the time he joined the Twenty-ninth Regiment. However, in the 1900 U.S. federal census his birth date was given as June 1833, and his age as 66, which would have made him 30 years old at the time of his enlistment. According to his tombstone inscription he was 78 when he died on February 16, 1912, indicating he was born in 1833 or 1834. Hendrick's parents were born in Connecticut.

A coachman by occupation, Hendrick was not married when he enlisted in the Twenty-ninth Regiment. He was five feet, seven inches tall.

Hendrick was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and reduced to the ranks on September 20, 1864. He served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

In 1863 George Hendrick, black, occupation laborer, boarded at 16 High Street in Hartford. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed George Hendrick, 33, black, occupation coachman, born in Connecticut, residing in the Hartford household of John B. Burr, a prosperous book publisher.

In 1900 George Hendrick, occupation teamster, boarded at 139 Martin Street in Hartford. A native of Connecticut whose parents had also been born in Connecticut, he was a single man who could read and write.

Hendrick died on February 16, 1912, at the age of 78. The inscription on his tombstone identifies him as a corporal in the Twenty-ninth Regiment.

Johnson, Charles H.

Charles H. Johnson enlisted from Norwich, Connecticut, as a private in Company I of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on January 2, 1864. He was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

In 1850 Charles Johnson, 30, mulatto, employed as porter, born in Connecticut, lived in Hartford. Also in the household were Ellen Johnson, 20, mulatto; William M. Johnson, 2, mulatto, and Caroline Stedman, 32, black. In 1860 Charles Johnson, 38, black, occupation cook, born in Massachusetts, lived in Hartford. With him there resided Ellen Johnson, 36, and William M. Johnson, 12. Both Ellen and William were black, and had been born in Connecticut. In 1863 Charles Johnson, black, employed at a restaurant at 621 Main Street, lived at 11 Green Street in Hartford.

The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Charles Johnson, 49, black, occupation cook in a restaurant, born in Massachusetts and owning personal property valued at \$500, living in Hartford. Living with him was Ellen Johnson, 45, black, born in Connecticut, and Elizabeth A. Johnson, 13, black, born in Connecticut.

Johnson, Joseph (Ill. 14)

Joseph Johnson enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company F of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 22, 1863. He was mustered in on March 8, 1864; was wounded on September 30, 1864, at Petersburg, Virginia; and was discharged on May 30, 1865.

The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Joseph Johnson, 44, black, occupation butcher, born in Connecticut, living in Hartford. With him lived Eliza Johnson, 36, black; Wilbur W. Johnson, 14, black; Frederick H. Johnson, 4, black; and Ellen L. Johnson, 1, black. All four had been born in Connecticut.

Joseph Johnson died on March 1, 1879.

Latimer, George

George Latimer enlisted from Hartford as a corporal in Company E of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 15, 1863. A native of Lowell, Massachusetts, Latimer was 19 years, two months old when he signed up, according to his enlistment papers, although the 1900 U.S. federal census says he was born in June 1843, which would have made him 20 years old when he enlisted. A single man who worked as a waiter, Latimer was five feet, four and a half inches tall. His parents had been born in Virginia.

Latimer was mustered in on March 8, 1864; reduced to the ranks on June 30, 1864; and mustered out on October 24, 1865.

In 1900 George A. Latimer, employed as a janitor at 91 Trumbull Street, lived at 90 Mather Street in Hartford, with his wife of 19 years, Janie, age 48, and his 33-year-old sister-in-law, Frances Hart. Latimer could read and write. He died on January 4, 1927, at the age of 84.

Murray, Charles Henry

Charles Henry Murray enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on January 8, 1864. A native of Hartford, he was 21 years, five months old at the time of his enlistment. An unmarried farmer, he was five feet, six and a half inches tall. He signed his enlistment paper with his name. Murray was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed Charles Murray, occupation porter, race not indicated, boarding at the rear of 46 Morgan Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Charles Murry [*sic*], 30, black, occupation waiter, born in Connecticut, living in Hartford.

In 1917 a Charles Murray, race not indicated, lived on Spruce Street in Hartford. Charles Murray died March 6, 1917, at the age of 75.

Oliver, Daniel W. (Ill. 15)

Daniel W. Oliver enlisted from Middletown as a private in Company G of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on February 29, 1864. Oliver was 23 years old when he signed up, according to his enlistment papers, but his tombstone in Old North Cemetery records that he died in 1901 at the age of 64, which would have made him 26 at the time of his enlistment. He was a waiter by occupation.

Oliver was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He was promoted to the rank of corporal on April 30, 1864, and to sergeant on October 28, 1864. He served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

In 1900 Daniel W. Oliver, black, born in 1839 in Connecticut, resided in Windsor. With him lived his wife, Barbara, 54, who had been born in Washington, D.C.

Daniel Oliver died May 19, 1901, at the age of 64.

Paull, Thomas H.

Thomas H. Paull enlisted from Hartford as a sergeant in Company E of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 15, 1863. A native of Redhook, New York, Paull was 43 years, 11 months old at the time of his enlistment. A jobber by occupation, he was married. He was five feet, ten and one-quarter inches tall. He signed his enlistment paper with his name.

Thomas Paull was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He was reduced to ranks on October 31, 1864. He served until he was discharged for disability on December 9, 1864.

In 1863 T. H. Paul, black, occupation porter, lived at 18 Wadsworth Street in Hartford. The 1870 Hartford city directory listed a Thomas Paul, occupation porter, race not indicated, living at 872 Main Street in Hartford. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Thomas H. Paul, 53, black, occupation gardener, born in New York and possessing personal property valued at \$400, living in Hartford. With him lived Jane A. Paul, 44, black, born in Connecticut, and Hagar Johnson, 70, male, black, born in Connecticut.

Thomas Paull died June 28, 1889.

Place, Edward

Edward Place enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 7, 1863. A native of Greenport, Long Island, Place was 25 years, 10 months old at the time of his enlistment, and was married. He was five feet, nine and a half inches tall, and signed his enlistment paper with his name.

Place was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He served until his discharge for disability on June 1, 1865. Place died on July 9, 1875, at the age of 36.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed an Edward Place, occupation whitewasher, race not indicated, living at 19 Pine Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Edward Place, 32, black, occupation laborer, born in New York, living in Hartford. Residing with him were Mary Place, 38, black, born in New York, and Ida E. Place, 10, black; James E. Place, 8, black; Anna A. Place, 6, black; Wm. A. Place, 3, black; and Chas. H. Place, five months old, black. All five children had been born in Connecticut.

Russell, Ralph

Ralph Russell enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 1, 1863. He was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Ralph Russell, 40, black, occupation servant, born in Connecticut, living in the Hartford household of harness maker John L. Wilder.

Ralph Russell died March 23, 1878, at the age of 46.

Scott, Isaac A. (Ill 16)

Isaac A. Scott enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company E of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 15, 1863. A native of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, he was 35 years, five months old when he joined up, according to his enlistment papers, which would place his birth in June 1828. His tombstone in Old North Cemetery recorded that he died in 1919 at the age of 99, which would have made him 43 years old at the time of his enlistment, and his year of birth 1820. In the 1900 U.S. federal census, Scott's birth was listed as June 1823, and his age as 76, which would have made him 40 at the time of his enlistment. Scott, married and a seaman by occupation, was six feet, one inch tall, and signed his enlistment paper with his name. Scott's parents had been born in Massachusetts.

Scott was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

In 1900 Isaac Scott lived at 20 Martin Street in Hartford. In the U.S. federal census his age was given as 76, and his birth as occurring in June 1823. He was a widower, and could read and write. He died July 15, 1919, at, according to the epitaph on his tombstone, the age of 99. His enlistment paper suggests he was in fact 88 when he died, while the 1900 U.S. federal census suggests he was actually 96.

Strong, Cornelius (Ill. 17)

Cornelius Strong enlisted from Hartford as a sergeant in Company G of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 23, 1863. Born in Connecticut, Strong was 22 years, seven months old at the time of his enlistment. A single man who worked as a waiter, Strong was five feet, four and one-quarter inches tall. He signed his enlistment paper with his name.

Strong was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He was reduced to the ranks on September 1, 1864. He served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865. Strong died on December 23, 1878, age 37.

Taylor, Sidney R. (Ill. 18)

Sidney R. Taylor enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company E of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 15, 1863. He was mustered in on March 8, 1864, and promoted to the rank of corporal on September 20, 1864. He served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

The 1850 U.S. federal census listed Sidney Taylor, mulatto, 22, occupation farmer, born in Connecticut, living in the household of Adonijah Brainard of Marlborough, Connecticut. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Sidney R. Taylor, 40, black, born in Connecticut, living in Hartford. Taylor died on February 11, 1898, at the age of 62.

Thompson, William H. (Ill. 19)

William H. Thompson enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 9, 1863. A native of Chatham [New York?] he was 32 years, six months old at the time of his enlistment. A farmer by occupation, Thompson was married. He was five feet, seven inches tall, and signed his enlistment paper with his name.

Thompson was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He was wounded on September 30, 1864, at Richmond, Virginia, and was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed a William H. Thompson, race not indicated, occupation farmer, living on Rifle Avenue. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed William H. Thompson, 36, mulatto, occupation "works on farm," born in New York, living in Hartford. With him lived Harriet Thompson, 28, black, born in Connecticut; William H. Thompson, Jr., 13, black, born in Connecticut; Alice Gobel, 10, black; Arthur J. Gobel, 7, mulatto; Harriet A. Gobel, 1½, mulatto; and Mary J. Gobel, seven months old, mulatto. All of the Gobel children had been born in Connecticut.

William H. Thompson died on July 9, 1877, at the age of 45.

Williams, Henry H. (Ill. 20)

Henry H. Williams enlisted from Avon as a sergeant in Company E of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 8, 1863. Williams, a native of Canton, Connecticut, was 20 years, 11 months old at the time of his enlistment. His father, Joseph Williams, signed his consent for his son's enlistment as a minor. Henry Williams was single, and a farmer by occupation.

Williams was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He was promoted to the rank of first sergeant on April 1, 1865, and served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865. He died on February 9, 1888, at the age of 45.

In 1850 Henry Williams, age seven, mulatto, born in Connecticut, lived in Canton, Connecticut. He lived with Joseph Williams, his father, a 50-year-old black laborer who had been born in Connecticut; Roberta [?] Williams, 47, apparently a white woman; and three other mulatto children, Lewis Williams, 16; Harriet Williams, 13; and Francis Williams, 10. All were born in Connecticut. All of the children had attended school within the past year.

Williams, Orrin J. (Ill. 21 & 22)

Orrin J. Williams enlisted from Madison, Connecticut, as a private in Company K of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 15, 1863. A native of Hartford, Williams was 18 years old at the time of his

enlistment, according to his enlistment papers. His tombstone in Old North Cemetery recorded he was 29 when he died in 1872, which would have made him 20 at the time of his enlistment. A photographer by occupation, Williams was five feet, one and three-eighths inches tall. He signed his enlistment paper with his name.

Williams was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865. The 1870 Hartford city directory listed Orrin Williams, race not indicated, living at 15 Wells Street in Hartford. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Orrin J. Williams, 21, black, occupation photographer, born in Connecticut, living in Hartford. With him lived Selinda Williams, 22, black; Christina Williams, 2, black; and Orrin J. Williams, 1, black, all born in Connecticut.

Orrin Williams died on September 29, 1872, at the age of 29.

Williams, William A. (Ill. 23)

William A. Williams enlisted from Hartford as a private in Company C of the Twenty-ninth Regiment on December 7, 1863. A native of Hartford, Williams was 21 years, eight months old at the time of his enlistment. A hostler by occupation, he was not married. He was five feet, seven and a half inches tall.

Williams was mustered in on March 8, 1864. He served until he was mustered out on October 24, 1865.

The 1900 Hartford city directory listed a William A. Williams, race not indicated, occupation laborer, boarding at 139 Martin Street in Hartford. William A. Williams died on July 15, 1910, at the age of 65.

THIRTIETH REGIMENT (COLORED) CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

According to the Hale Index at the Connecticut State Library, at least two veterans of the Thirtieth Regiment (Colored) Connecticut Volunteer Infantry were represented by headstones in Old North Cemetery in the 1930s. For each of these veterans some basic biographical information has been compiled, derived primarily from their tombstone inscriptions; the published *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion*; selected Hartford city directories; and selected U.S. federal census population schedules, in particular those for 1870 and 1900.

Freeman, Thomas H.

Thomas H. Freeman enlisted from Bridgeport as a sergeant in Company D of the Thirtieth Regiment on January 29, 1864, approximately 24 years old. He was mustered in on January 29, 1864. Freeman was wounded on July 30, 1864, at Petersburg, Virginia, and served until his discharge on November 7, 1865.

The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Thomas Freeman, 34, mulatto, occupation laborer, born in New Jersey, living in Hartford with Julia A. Freeman, 29, black, born in Massachusetts.

The 1890 Hartford city directory listed Thomas H. Freeman, race not indicated, employed as a cook at 269 Main Street and living at 19 Pine Street in Hartford. Thomas H. Freeman died June 11, 1890, at the age of 50.

Jackson, Charles S. (Ill. 24)

Charles S. Jackson enlisted from Waterbury as a sergeant in Company C of the Thirtieth Regiment on January 23, 1864, at the age of approximately 23 years. He was mustered in on January 23, 1864, and promoted to commissary sergeant on November 3, 1864. He served until he was mustered out on November 7, 1865.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed Charles S. Jackson, race not indicated, occupation hairdresser, boarding at 31 Gold Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Charles Jackson, 23, black, occupation servant, born in Pennsylvania, living in the household of wealthy retired businessman Henry L. Welch in Hartford. The 1900 U.S. federal census listed Charles Jackson, black, born in 1844 in Philadelphia, living on Front Street in Hartford, with his wife and a boarder. The 1900 Hartford city directory listed Charles S. Jackson, race not indicated, occupation cook, boarding at 7 Front Street.

Also listed in the 1900 U.S. federal census was Charles S. Jackson, black, born in 1841 in the District of Columbia, residing at the Fitch Home for Soldiers in Darien. Which of these men is the Charles

Jackson who served in the Thirtieth Regiment remains to be determined. Charles S. Jackson died October 1, 1913, age 72. His tombstone identified him as sergeant in Company C of the Thirty-first Regiment.

THIRTY-FIRST REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

According to the Hale Index at the Connecticut State Library, at least four veterans of the Thirty-first Regiment United States Colored Troops were represented by headstones in Old North Cemetery in the 1930s. For each of these veterans some basic biographical information has been compiled, derived from their tombstone inscriptions; the published *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion*; selected Hartford city directories; and selected U.S. federal census population schedules in particular those for 1870 and 1900. The veterans are listed in alphabetical order.

Carter, George (Ill. 25)

George Carter enlisted from Ellington as a private in Company B of the Thirtieth Regiment (Colored) Connecticut Volunteer Infantry on February 17, 1864. He was mustered in on February 17, and served until he was mustered out on November 7, 1865.

The 1870 U.S. federal census listed George Carter, 23, black, occupation farm laborer, born in Pennsylvania, living in Bloomfield, Connecticut. Residing with him was Laura Carter, 23, black, born in Rhode Island; George Carter, 3, black, born in Connecticut; and Fredk. Carter, 1, black, born in Connecticut.

The 1900 U.S. federal census listed George Carter, black, born in December 1837 in Spain, residing in Windsor. Living with him were his wife, Norah, age 29; three daughters and a son, all under the age of 15. His wife and children all had been born in Connecticut. Carter was a naturalized citizen of the United States.

The 1900 U.S. federal census also listed George Carter, black, born in March of 1847 in Virginia, residing on Wheeler Avenue in Bridgeport. Living with him were his wife, who had been born in Virginia, and two sons and two daughters, all born in Connecticut. Which, if either of these, is the George Carter who served in the Thirty-first Regiment United States Colored Troops remains to be determined.

George Carter died on November 15, 1914, at the age of 74, making him approximately 24 at the time of his enlistment. His tombstone in Old North identifies him as a veteran of Company B of the "31 U.S. INF."

Christian, John (Ill. 26)

John Christian served in Co. F, Thirty-first United States Colored Troops. The 1900 Hartford city directory listed a John Christian, occupation janitor, race not indicated, boarding above the rear of 24 South Prospect Street. John Christian died January 13, 1907, age 67.

Collins, Mark (Ill. 27)

Mark Collins served in Company A of the Thirty-first United States Colored Troops.

The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Mark Collins, 35, black, occupation laborer, born in Tennessee, living in Hartford.

The 1900 U.S. federal census listed Mark Collins, 56, black, living in Hartford with his wife of 16 years, Sophia, age 50. Collins had been born in Kentucky in March 1844, suggesting that he was about 20 years old when he enlisted. His parents had been born in Kentucky as well. His wife had been born in June of 1849 in Virginia, where her parents had been born as well. Mark Collins was a stat[ion?] engineer by occupation, and could read and write. In 1900 Collins, employed as an engineer at 56 Comm.[?], resided at 342 Albany Avenue in Hartford. Collins died January 18, 1905, at the age of 62.

Edwards, William

William Edwards enlisted from East Lyme as a private in Company B of the Thirtieth Regiment (Colored) Connecticut Volunteer Infantry on January 4, 1864. He was mustered in on January 4, 1864, and served until he was mustered out on November 7, 1865.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed two men named William Edwards, race not indicated for either. One, a joiner by occupation, lived at 45 Windsor Street. The other, a porter by occupation, lived at 23 Pine Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed William Edwards, 18, black, occupation coachman,

born in Maryland and owning personal property valued at \$100, living in the household of wealthy Hartford commission merchant Erastus Collins.

William Edwards died on November 24, 1884, at the age of 38, which would have made him approximately 18 when he enlisted. His tombstone identifies him as a veteran of Company B of the "31st U.S.C.T."

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS REGIMENTS (IN ORDER BY REGIMENT NUMBER)

According to the Hale Index at the Connecticut State Library, at least 14 veterans of United States Colored Troops regiments other than the Thirty-first were represented by headstones in Old North Cemetery in the 1930s. For each of these veterans some basic biographical information has been compiled, derived primarily from their tombstone inscriptions; selected Hartford city directories; and selected U.S. federal census population schedules, in particular those for 1870 and 1900. The regiments are listed in numerical order, and under each regiment the veterans are listed alphabetically.

FIRST REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Douglass, Daniel

Daniel Douglass served in Company B. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Daniel Douglas, 25, black, occupation waiter, born in Virginia, living in Hartford. The 1900 Hartford city directory listed a Daniel Douglass, occupation jobber, no race indicated, boarding above 51 Sanford Street in Hartford.

Daniel Douglass died August 8, 1911, age 67.

Snyder, Charles L.

Charles L. Snyder served in Company I.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed a Charles H. Sneider [*sic*], servant, race not indicated, living at 25 Main Street. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Chas. M. Snyder, 30, mulatto, born in Georgia, living in Hartford. Residing with him were Sophia Snyder, 29, mulatto, born in Maryland; Robert Snyder, 2, mulatto, born in Connecticut; and Chas. Snyder, four months, mulatto, born in Connecticut.

Charles L. Snyder died May 9, 1898, age 61.

EIGHTH REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Hawkins, James

James Hawkins served in Company K.

The 1900 Hartford city directory listed a James W. Hawkins, occupation motorman, race not indicated, boarding at 343 Main Street in Hartford.

James Hawkins died December 30, 1916, age 81.

TWENTIETH REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Slater, Frederick (Ill. 28)

Frederick Slater served in Company E. He died April 6, 1910, age 65.

TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Thomas, Andrew (Ill. 29)

Andrew Thomas served in Company C.

The 1870 Hartford city directory listed an Andrew Thomas, occupation jobber, race not indicated, living at 174 Asylum Avenue. The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Andrew Thomas, 24, black, occupation laborer, born in Virginia, living in Hartford with Mary Thomas, 19, black, born in Maryland.

Andrew Thomas died February 3, 1885.

TWENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Johnson, John (Ill. 30)

John Johnson served in Company H. He died October 3, 1900, age 57, suggesting he was approximately 20 years old when he enlisted.

In 1870(?) a Joseph Johnston, occupation bootmaker, race not indicated, boarded above 37 Washington Street in Hartford. Mrs. John Johnson lived above 37 Washington Street.

THIRTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Butler, Alexander (Ill. 31)

Alexander Butler served in Company E. He died February 15, 1893, at the age of 48, suggesting he was approximately 19 years old when he enlisted.

FORTY-NINTH REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Franklin, William (Ill. 32)

William Franklin served in Company E. He died February 9, 1910, at the age of 70, suggesting that he was approximately 24 years old when he enlisted. The 1900 Hartford city directory listed a William Franklin, occupation cook, race not indicated, living at 38 Village Street.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS.

Brindley, Theodore Pompey (Ill. 33)

Theodore Pompey Brindley served in Company I. He died May 26, 1897, at the age of 55, suggesting he was approximately 22 when he enlisted.

The 1870 U.S. federal census listed Theodore Brinley, 28, black, occupation cook, born in New Jersey, living in Hartford.

Jackins, William A. (Ill. 34 & 35)

William A. Jackins served in Company B. He died March 1, 1887.

NO REGIMENT SPECIFIED

Chapin, George

George Chapin served in the United States Colored Troops. The 1870 Hartford city directory listed a George Chapin, occupation clerk, race not indicated, boarding at St. John's Hotel.

FIFTY-FOURTH MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY

According to the Hale Index at the Connecticut State Library, a gravestone represented at least one black veteran of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry in the 1930s. Biographical information about him and his service comes from his tombstone and from Luis Emilio, *A Brave Black Regiment*.

Demry, Francis

Francis Demry, enlisted from New Bedford, Massachusetts, in Company C of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts on February 21, 1863. At the time of his enlistment Demry was 35, married, and a waiter by occupation. He was wounded in February 1865 while scouting near Salkehatchie, South Carolina. He was mustered out on August 20, 1865. Demry died November 24, 1884.

FOURTEENTH RHODE ISLAND VOLUNTEER HEAVY ARTILLERY

Several veterans of the Fourteenth Rhode Island Volunteer Heavy Artillery, a black unit, are buried in Old North. They include:

DeMars, Geraldo (Ill.36)

Geraldo DeMars served in Company E. He died November 24, 1864.

Randall, James P. (Ill. 37)

James P. Randall served in Company E. He died November 8, 1872, age 28.

Smith, William (Ill. 38)

William Smith served in Company A. He died June 2, 1904.

WHITE OFFICERS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN REGIMENTS

FORTY-FIRST REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Weld, Lewis Ledyard (Ill. 39 & 40)

Lewis Ledyard Weld of Hartford enlisted in 1863 as a captain of the Seventh Regiment United States Colored Troops. In December 1864 Weld was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Forty-first Regiment United States Colored Troops. He died of disease on January 10, 1865, at the age of 31.

FIFTY-FOURTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY

Smith, Orrin E.

Orrin E. Smith enlisted at Webster, Massachusetts, as a first sergeant in Company H of the Second Massachusetts on May 25, 1861. He had been born in late December 1839 or early January 1840, the son of Cornelia (Bull) and Ebenezer Smith. He was severely wounded at Fort Wagner, South Carolina. He was promoted to the rank of captain of Company G of the Fifty-fourth Regiment. He was discharged for disability on January 25, 1864. Smith died on March 23, 1914, age 74 years, two months, 25 days.

OTHER THEME-RELATED CEMETERIES AND MONUMENTS AROUND THE STATE

All sites are open or visible to the public.

BRIDGEPORT

Soldiers Monument (Ill. 41 & 42)
Seaside Park
Monument Drive
Includes name of men of Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth regiments who died in war.

EAST HARTFORD

Soldiers Monument (Ill. 43)
Center Cemetery
948 Main Street
Includes name of Samuel W. Francis, African American soldier, who died in 1863.

EAST LYME

Smith Gateway (Ill. 44)
Union Cemetery
33 East Pattagansett Road (opposite)
Names of African American soldiers are identified.

GRANBY

Soldier's Monument (Ill. 45)
The Green
3 East Granby Road
Names of men who died in war include seven African Americans.

HARTFORD

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch (Ill. 46, 47, & 48)
Bushnell Park
Ford Street
Plaque placed on Arch in 1980s notes that more than 100 African American soldiers served from Hartford during the war.

Connecticut Militia Heritage Gallery Exhibition
Connecticut State Armory and Arsenal
360 Broad Street
Exhibition covers Connecticut black soldiers in military service.

MIDDLETOWN

Soldier's Monument (Ill. 3 & 4)
Union Park
14 Old Church Street (opposite)
Monument includes names of black veterans Amster Dingle, who died during the war, and James Powers, who died after mustering out.

Washington Street Cemetery (Ill. 4 & 49)
Washington and Vine Streets
Site of graves of six African American Civil War veterans, including Isaac B. Truitt, James Powers, Alfred Powers, Rufus Addison, Christian Gordon, and James K. Caples

Vine Street Houses (Ill. 3, 49 & 50)
Vine Street
Small, apparently nineteenth-century houses standing on land shown in 1874 *Beer's Atlas of Middlesex County* as belonging to Mrs. Dingle [widow of Amster Dingle, who died after enlisting in the Twenty-ninth Regiment], and to I. B. Truitt, a veteran of the Thirty-first United States Colored Troops. Among these houses are possibly included the actual structures in which Dingle and Truitt lived.

Mansfield Post Civil War Monument (Ill. 51)
Indian Hill Cemetery
383 Washington Street
Monument is in plot set aside by Mansfield Post #53 of Grand Army of the Republic for burial of veterans. Graves of five African American veterans are located there, including Jerome B. Ray, Albert Butler, George Purdy, Moses Hill, and Henry A. Rand.

NORTH CANAAN

Milo Freeland Grave
Hillside Cemetery
Route 44,
Grave of veteran of Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry, one of the first blacks to volunteer to serve in the Union Army.

PUTNAM

Thomas Taylor Grave
Grove Street Cemetery
Grave of Thomas L. Taylor, black sailor who served with U.S. Navy on the Union ship *Monitor* when it fought the Confederate *Merrimac* during Civil War. Taylor was the last survivor of that battle. He died March 7, 1932, at age of 84.

SIMSBURY

Soldiers' Monument (Ill. 52)
343 Hopmeadow Street
Lists the names of seven African American veterans.

STRATFORD

John Benson Marker (Ill. 53)
Putney-Oronoque Cemetery
5695 Main Street (opposite)
Zinc grave marker for veteran of the Twenty-ninth Connecticut Regiment, with raised figure of Civil War soldier on back.

WATERBURY

Soldiers' Monument (Ill. 54 & 55)
West End of Green
156 West Main Street (opposite)
Freed slaves depicted on monument.

WATERTOWN

Soldiers' Monument (Ill. 56 & 57)
Manon A. Munson Park
20 DeForest Street
Twenty-ninth Regiment acknowledged on monument.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS

- Boatner, Mark Mayo III. *The Civil War Dictionary*, rev. ed. New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1989.
- Commemorative Biographical Record of New Haven County, Connecticut*. Chicago: J. H. Beers and Company, 1902.
- Emilio, Luis F. *A Brave Black Regiment: History of the Fifty-fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1863-1865*, 2^d ed., rev. and corr. Boston: Boston Book Company, 1894; reprint, New York: Arno Press and the *New York Times*, 1969.
- Hill, I. J. *A Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment Connecticut Colored Troops*. Baltimore: Daugherty, Maguire & Co., 1867.
- “History of the Thirty-first Regiment U.S.C. Infantry. Originally known as the Thirtieth (Colored) Regiment C.V. Infantry.” In *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion, 1862-1865*. Hartford: Adjutants-General, 1889.
- Marshall, Henry G. “History of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.” In *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion, 1862-1865*. Hartford: Adjutants-General, 1889.
- Newton, A[lexander] H[erritage]. *Out of the Briars: An Autobiography and Sketch of the Twenty-ninth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers*. Philadelphia: African Methodist Episcopal Book Concern, 1910.
- Niven, John. *Connecticut for the Union: The Role of the State in the Civil War*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965.
- Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion*. Hartford: Adjutants-General, 1889.
- Salser, Mark R. *Black Americans in Defense of Their Nation*. Portland, Oregon: National Book Company, 1992.
- Trudeau, Noah Andre. *Like Men of War: Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865*. Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1998.

Williams, Mark. *A Tempest in a Small Town: The Myth and Reality of Country Life, Granby, Connecticut, 1680-1940*. Granby, Connecticut: Salmon Brook Historical Society, 1996.

BROCHURE

Connecticut Freedom Trail. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, [1998].

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Nolin, Kelly. "The Civil War Letters of J. O. Cross, Twenty-ninth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (Colored)." *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 60 (summer/fall 1995): 211-235.

Ransom, David F. "Connecticut's Monumental Epoch: A Survey of Civil War Memorials." *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 58 (1993): 1-280.

Ransom, David F. "Connecticut's Monumental Epoch: A Survey of Civil War Memorials." *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 59 (1994): 1-288.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Laun, Carol. "Glory in Granby: Local black soldiers in the Civil War." *Farmington Valley Herald*, March 1990: 46.

McCain, Diana Ross. "Hebron family paid a high price in fight for equal rights for all blacks." *Manchester Journal-Inquirer*, 14 February 1999.

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

Connecticut National Guard. Twenty-ninth, 30th, and 31st Colored Volunteer Regiments, Civil War, Enlistment Papers, 1863-1864. Record Group 13, Series 169A, Connecticut State Archives, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

Rossano, Geoffrey. *Historic and Architectural Survey of the Town of Canaan, Connecticut*, 2000. Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH OR PROJECTS

- ❖ Research project to abstract information from the enlistment papers, muster rolls, and other records of the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth regiments at the Connecticut State Library, from which would be created a statistical profile of the soldiers of those units
- ❖ Research project to compile fuller biographies of the African American Civil War soldiers interred in Old North Cemetery in Hartford, Washington Street Cemetery in Middletown, and Indian Hill Cemetery in Middletown. Resources to be investigated for information would include U.S. federal census records, city directories for Hartford and other communities, vital records, probate records, obituaries, land records, tax records, military service and pension records. Since many of these men were born in other states, or in some cases even other countries, this project would require research into records of states and countries outside Connecticut and the United States.
- ❖ Create a middle school/high school curriculum package/teacher materials. These materials could be incorporated into a school's curriculum on the Civil War, perhaps on the high school level with a showing of the video of the movie *Glory*.
- ❖ Research the houses on Vine Street in Middletown to determine if they in fact date from 1874, the year in which Mrs. Dingle, the widow of black Civil War veteran Amster Dingle, and I. B. Truitt, also a black Civil War veteran, are shown on the atlas as owning property there, and if so attempt to identify which structures might have been the homes of Dingle and Truitt, based in part on comparison of the existing structures with images on the 1877 bird's-eye view of Middletown. (Ill. 3, 49 & 50)
- ❖ Create and offer guided walking tours of the graves of African American Civil War veterans in Old North Cemetery in Hartford, and perhaps also Washington Street Cemetery in Middletown.
- ❖ Produce a scholarly book about the men of the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth regiments, focusing on the volunteers as individuals, in particular their experiences as civilians, soldiers, and veterans.
- ❖ Publish an illustrated booklet about the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth regiments, based primarily on the project historian's report, targeted at a general audience, that would recount the compelling stories of the men who served and the wartime experiences of the regiments as a whole.
- ❖ List Connecticut African American soldiers in the Civil War on History Day guidelines, and provide supporting materials to teachers involved in the annual History Day projects.

- ❖ Place informational markers at Old North Cemetery and Washington Street Cemetery recounting in brief the story of the African American Civil War veterans interred there.
- ❖ Collaborate with groups such as the descendants of the veterans of the Twenty-ninth Regiment, Civil War re-enactment groups, Civil War enthusiasts and scholars, and African American historical organizations to create programming about Connecticut's black Civil War soldiers.



REV. I. J. HILL

Orderly 29th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers

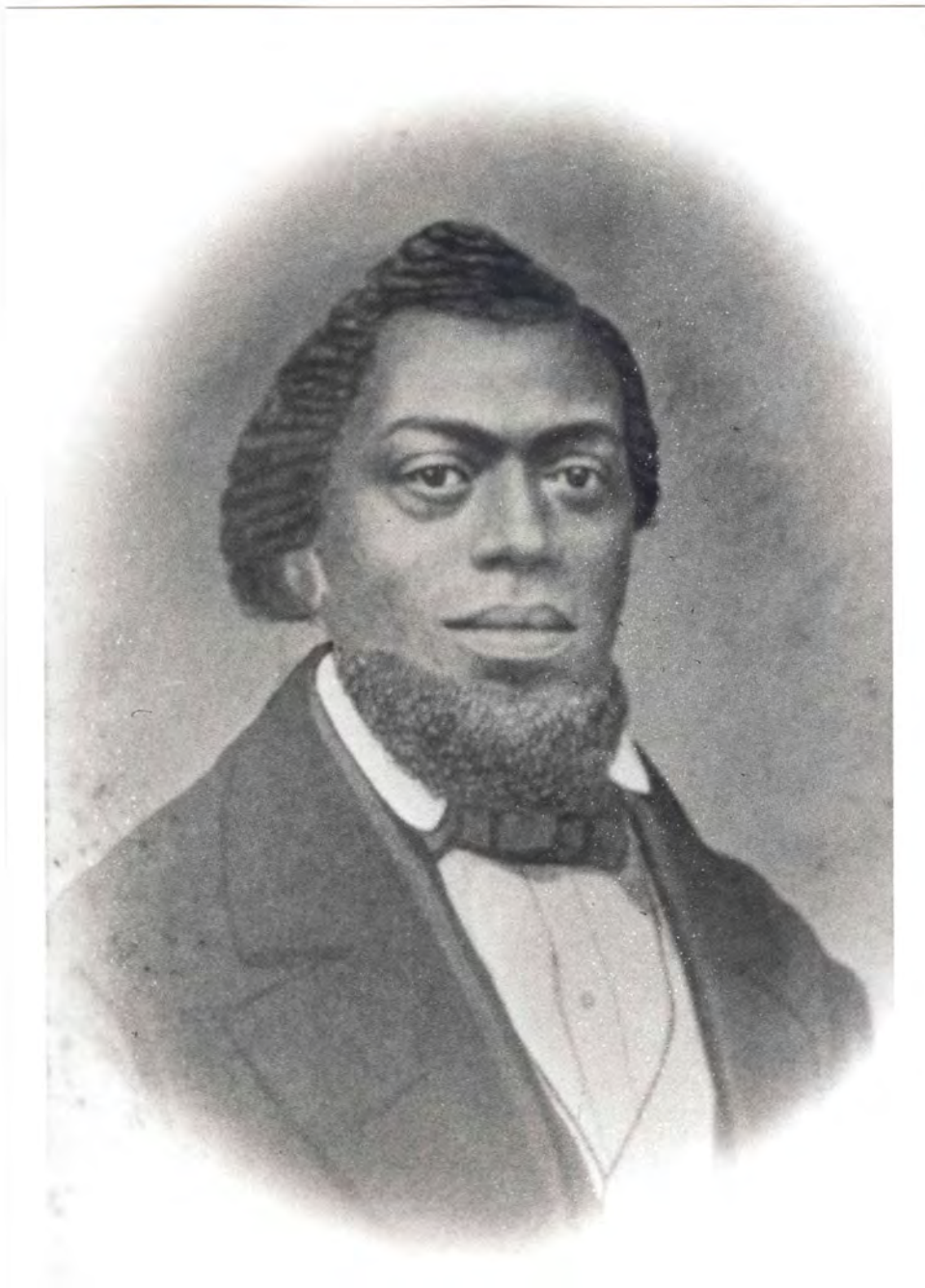
Reverend I.J. Hill in civilian clothes, Orderly, Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Taken from the book *Out of the Briars* by Rev. Alexander H. Newton, published by the A.M.E. Book Concern, 1910. Courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.



ALEXANDER H. NEWTON

In Military Uniform
Commissary Sergeant 29th Regiment
Connecticut Volunteers

Alexander H. Newton in uniform, Commissary Sergeant, Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Taken from the book *Out of the Briars* by Rev. Alexander H. Newton, published by the A.M.E. Book Concern, 1910. Courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.



**Amster C. Dingle, veteran of Company F, Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment
Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Original at Middlesex County Historical Society,
151 Main Street, Middletown, CT**



**James Powers, veteran of Company I, Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment
Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Original at Middlesex County Historical Society,
151 Main Street, Middletown, CT**



GENERAL GRANT'S CAMPAIGN—THE CHARGE ON CEMETERY RIDGE, AFTER THE EXPLOSION, JULY 30, 1864.—SKETCHED BY A. R. WARD.—[SEE PAGE 550.]



Mansfield Guards Post #53 Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), Middletown, circa 1880. The GAR in Middletown erected a Civil War monument in 1884 in Indian Hill Cemetery. Several African Americans are interred in the GAR plot and are shown in the group photo. Black and white photograph. Courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of David Branch, veteran of Company D of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Merrick Brewster, veteran of Company C of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



Gravestone of William C. Dewey, veteran of Company F, Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Henry W. Edwards, veteran of Company A of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Henry Glazier, veteran of Company G of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of David Hasbrook, veteran of Company C of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Joseph Johnson, veteran of Company F of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Daniel W. Oliver, veteran of Company G of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Isaac A. Scott, veteran of Company E of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



Gravestone of Cornelius Strong, veteran of Company G of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Sidney R. Taylor, veteran of Company E of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of William H. Thompson , veteran of Company C of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



Gravestone of Henry H. Williams, veteran of Company E of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Orrin J. Williams, veteran of Company K of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.



**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of William A. Williams, veteran of Company C of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Charles S. Jackson, veteran of Company C of the Thirtieth Regiment (Colored) Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



**Gravestone of George Carter, veteran of Company B of the Thirty-First Regiment
United States Colored Troops.**

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



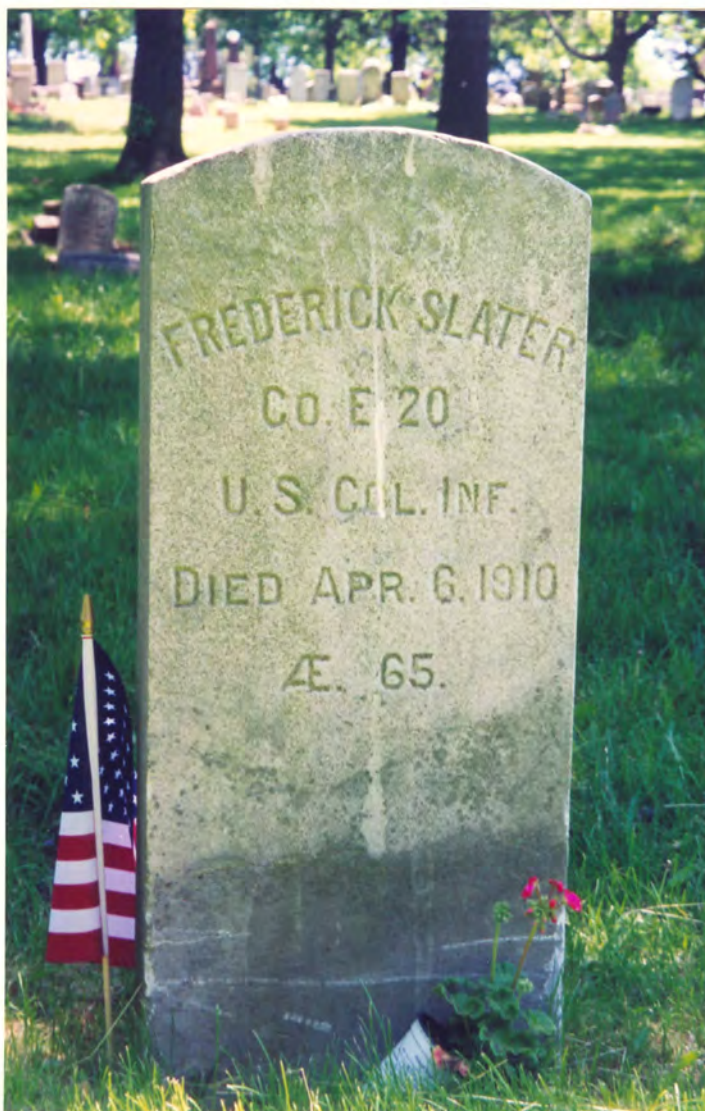
**Gravestone of John Christian, veteran of Company F of the Thirty-First Regiment
United States Colored Troops.**

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



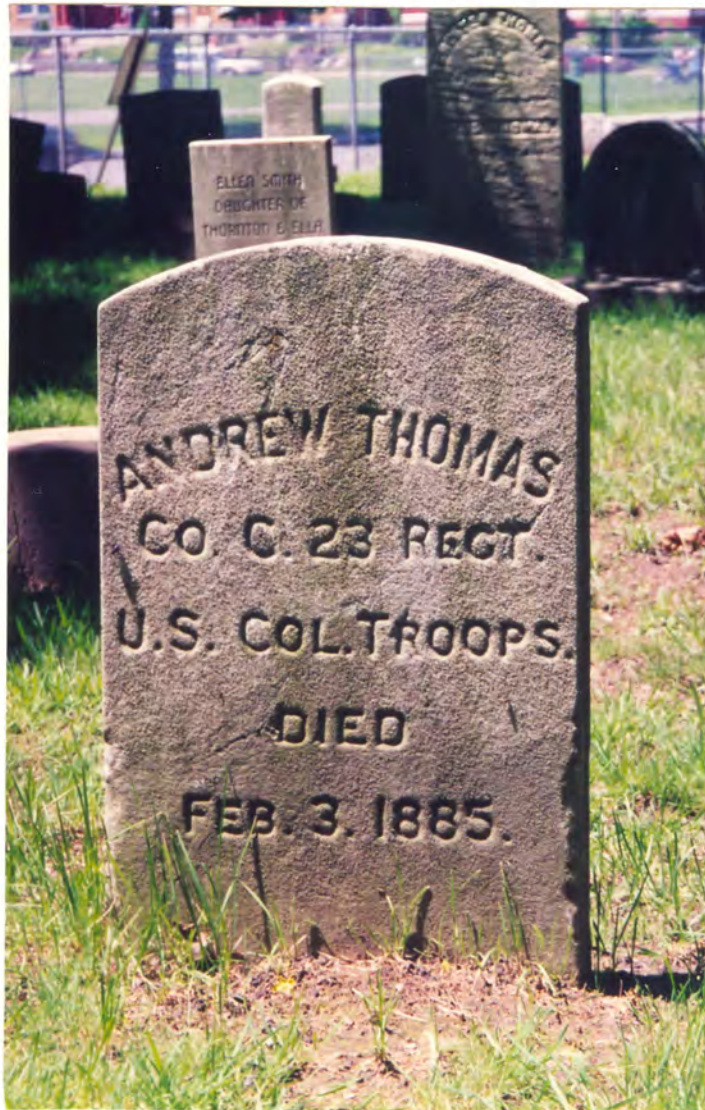
**Gravestone of Mark Collins, veteran of Company A of the Thirty-First Regiment
United States Colored Troops.**

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



**Gravestone of Frederick Slater, veteran of Company E of the Twentieth Regiment
United States Colored Troops.**

OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



Gravestone of Andrew Thomas, veteran of Company C of the Twenty-Third Regiment United States Colored Troops.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



**Gravestone of John Johnson, veteran of Company H of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment
United States Colored Troops.**

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Alexander Butler, veteran of Company E of the Thirty-Eighth Regiment United States Colored Troops.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of William Franklin, veteran of Company E of the Forty-Ninth Regiment United States Colored Troops.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of Theodore Pompey Brindley, veteran of Company I of the One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Regiment United States Colored Troops.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of William A. Jackins, veteran of Company B., 127th Regiment United States Colored Troops.



WILLIAM A. JACKINS
CO. B 127. REGT.
U.S. GOLD VOL.
DIED
MAR. 1. 1887.

OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



Gravestone of Geraldo DeMars, veteran of Company E of the Fourteenth Rhode Island Volunteer Heavy Artillery

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Gravestone of James P. Randall, veteran of Company E of the Fourteenth Rhode Island Volunteer Heavy Artillery.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

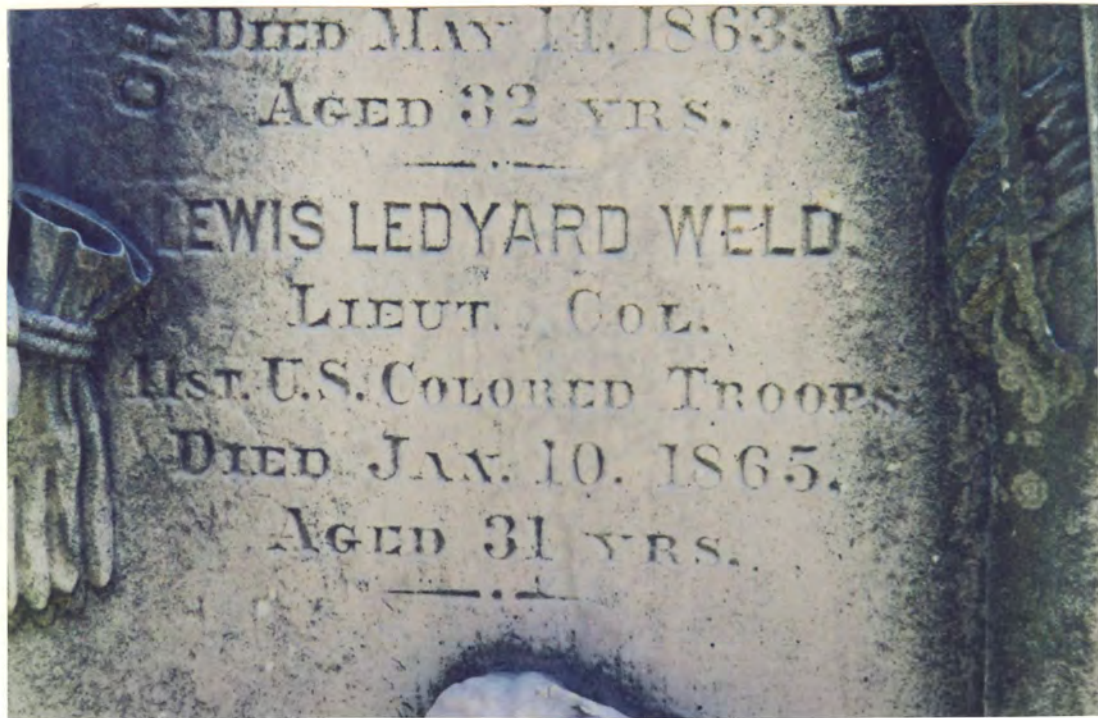


Gravestone of William Smith, veteran of Company A of the Fourteenth Rhode Island Volunteer Heavy Artillery.

**OLD NORTH CEMETERY
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**



Monument to Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Ledyard Weld, Lieutenant Colonel of the Forty-first United States Colored Troops.



Bridgeport, CT
Seaside Park
SOLDIERS MONUMENT

1 9 8 7 P H O T O S

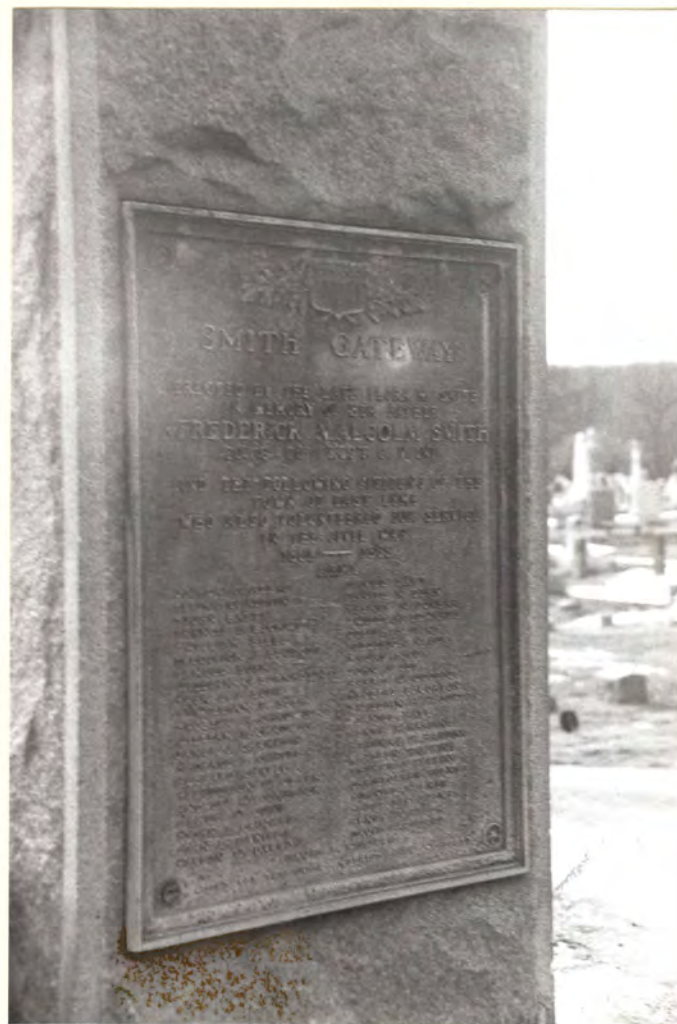




East Hartford, CT
948 Main Street, Center Cemetery
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT



East Lyme, CT
33 East Pattagansett Road (oppos.), Niantic
SMITH GATEWAY

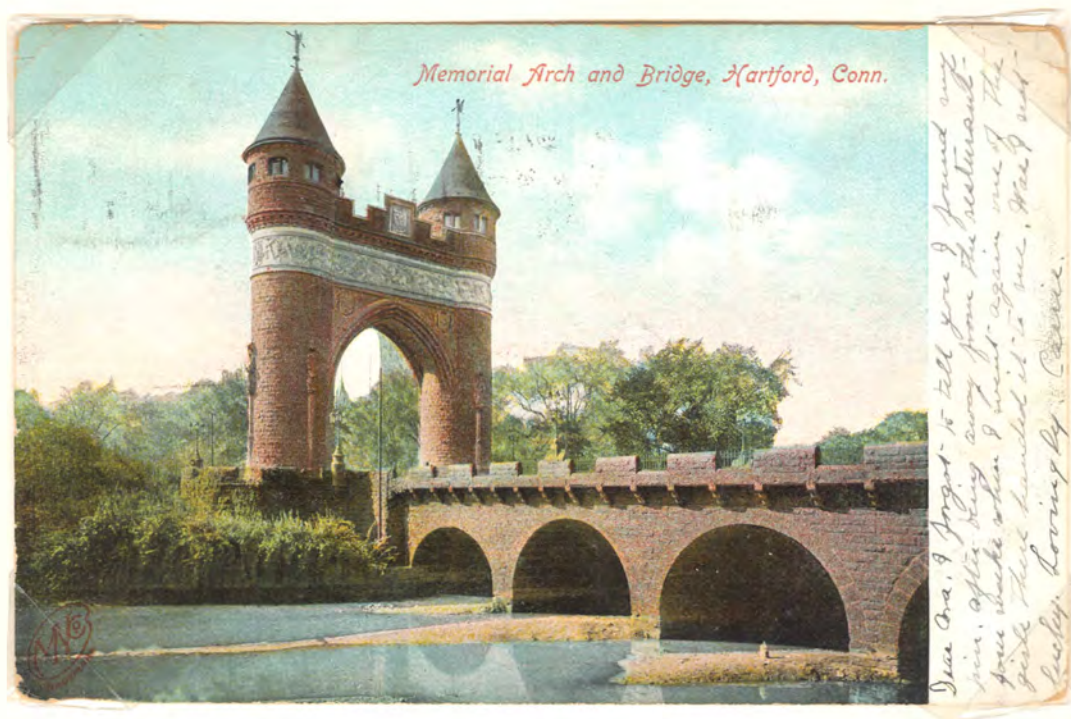


Granby, CT
3 East Granby Road, The Green
SOLDIER'S MONUMENT



Hartford, CT
Ford Street, Bushnell Park
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL ARCH





SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL ARCH, Bushnell Park, Ford Street, Hartford, Connecticut. Top: Postcard, The Albertype Company, Brooklyn, New York, circa 1915. Bottom: Postcard, The Metropolitan News Company, Boston, Massachusetts, circa 1915.

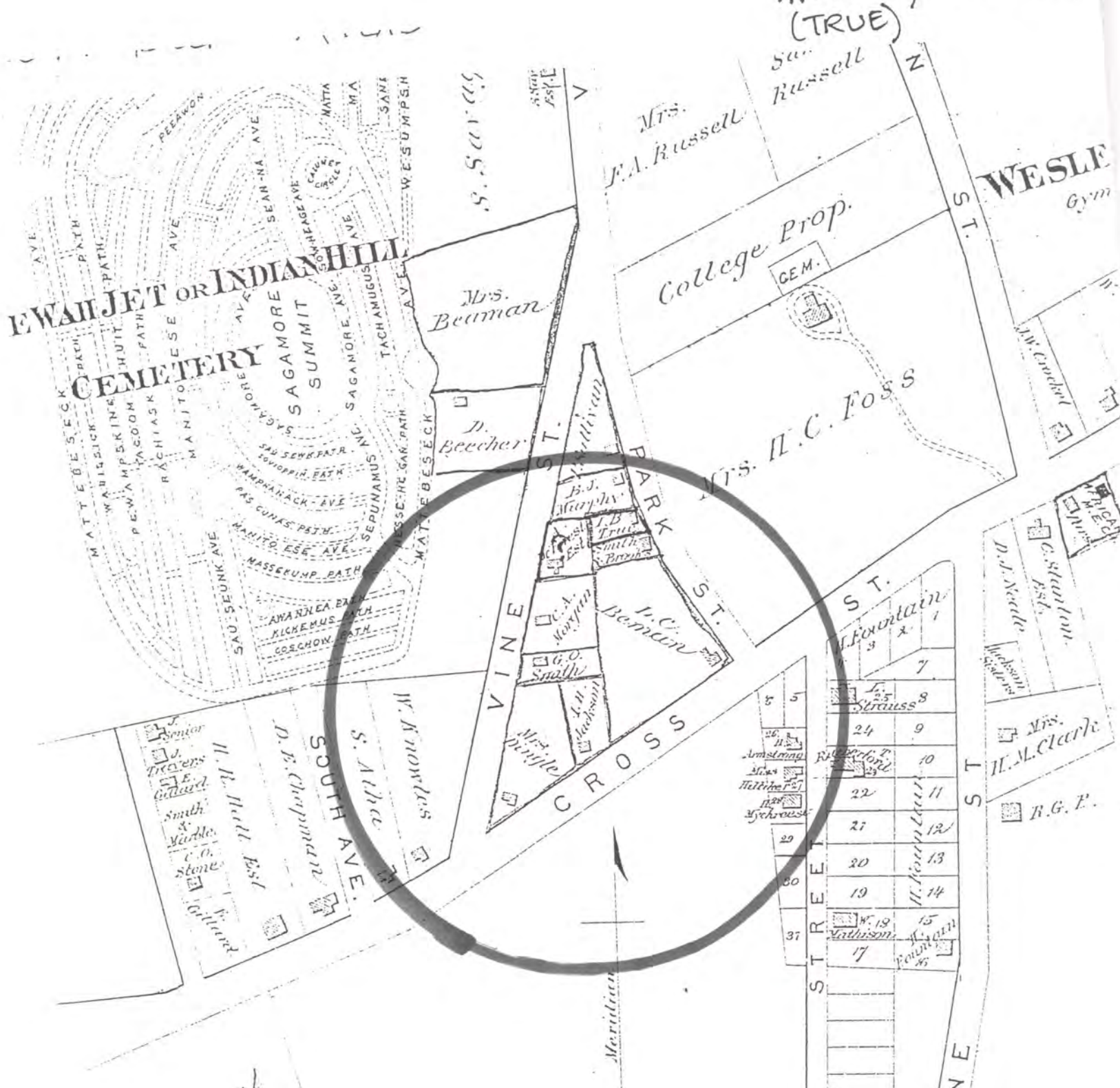


The College Sweep.

Isaac B. Truitt

Photograph of Isaac Truitt in civilian clothes. Truitt lived on Vine Street in Middletown and was employed as a chimney sweep for Wesleyan University during the 1870's. Courtesy of Wesleyan University Library, Special Collections and Archives.

**EWAIJET OR INDIAN HILL
CEMETERY**



Part of
THE CITY OF
MIDDLETOWN

Scale 15 Rods to the inch
Corporation.

Middletown, CT
383 Washington Street, Indian Hill Cemetery
MANSFIELD POST SOLDIERS MONUMENT



Simsbury, CT
343 Hopmeadow Street, Weatogue
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT



Stratford, CT
5695 Main Street (oppos.), Putney-Oronoque Cemetery
JOHN BENSON MARKER



Waterbury, CT
158 West Main Street (oppos.)
SOLDIERS MONUMENT



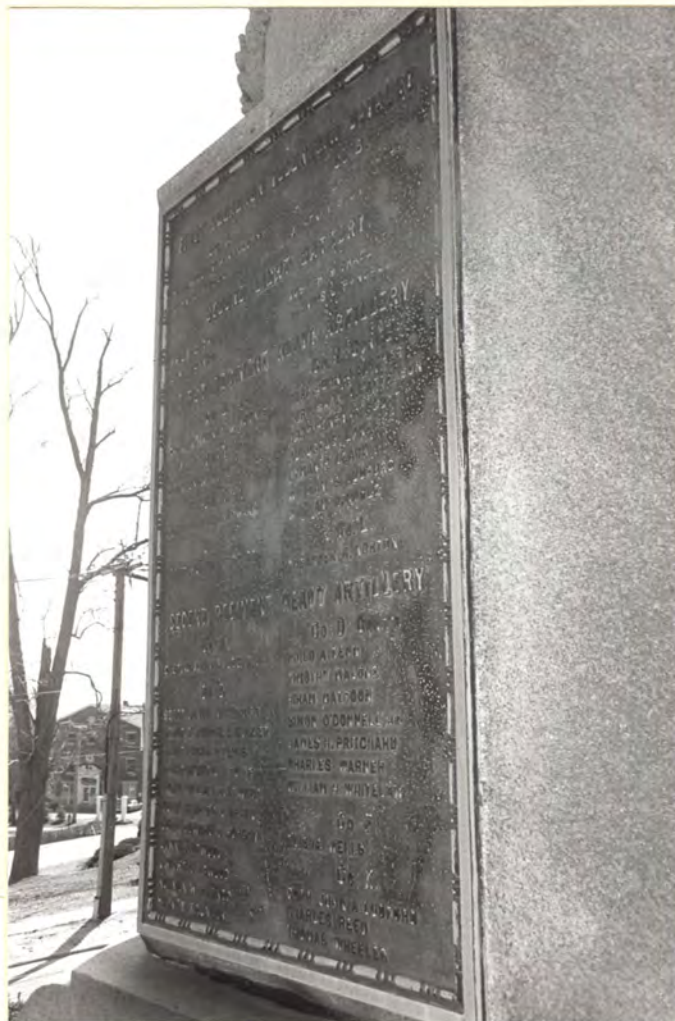
Waterbury, CT
158 West Main Street (oppos.)
SOLDIERS MONUMENT



Watertown, CT
27 DeForest Street, Munson
Park
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT



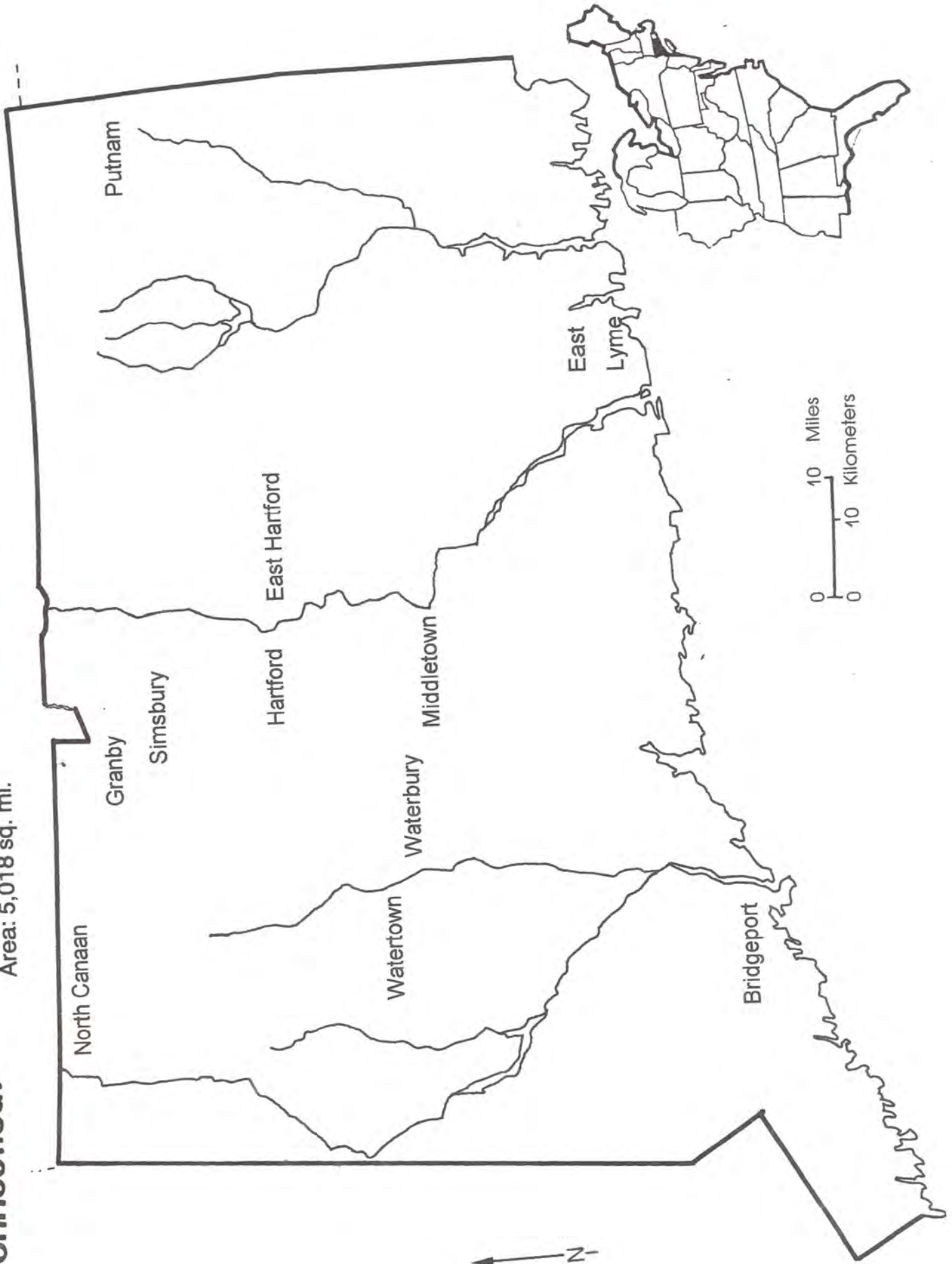
Watertown, CT
27 DeForest Street, Murson Park
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT



Connecticut

Towns in Which Theme-Related Cemeteries and Monuments are Located

Area: 5,018 sq. mi.





Research Report ❁ Diana Ross McCain ❁ Connecticut Historical Commission ❁ State of Connecticut ❁ 2000