



## Colchester Historical Society

P.O. Box 13  
24 Linwood Avenue  
Colchester, CT 06415

October 26, 2023

Mr. Todd Levine  
**Architectural Historian**  
**Connecticut Freedom Trail Coordinator**  
*State Historic Preservation Office*  
*Department of Economic and*  
*Community Development*  
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5  
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Mr. Levine:

This is a Letter of Intent from the Colchester Historical Society in regard to the Connecticut Freedom Trail, as per my conversation with you on October 26, 2023. Our community contains the graves of seven African-American men from who served during the Civil War, and two of those men also have their names engraved on the Civil War Soldiers Monument that is on our Town Green.

We are proud of the historical contributions of these men of Colchester who deserve to be recognized as a part of Connecticut history as pertains to the Freedom Trail.

The historical significance of these African-American men is that they all served in the military during the American Civil War. Although they were enlisted to preserve the Union, they fought for the larger issue of freedom for all African Americans.

Ten African-American men from Colchester, Connecticut served in the Civil War. Three moved out of Colchester after they returned from the war, leaving seven with markers in two of our local cemeteries.

Two of the seven men are buried in the *Colchester Burying Ground*, (Elias Apes and George Evans). Five of the men (Lyman Hyde, Sherry Jackson, Charles Quash, Augustus Ransom, and Sanford Stewart) are buried in *Linwood Cemetery*.

In addition, two of the men, George Evans and Sanford E. Stewart, have their names inscribed on the west side of the Civil War Statue/Monument on the Colchester Town Green.

### **African-American soldiers in the Colchester Burying Ground:**

**Elias G. Apes** of Colchester enlisted in Providence, Rhode Island on August 24, 1863, as a Private in the Rhode Island 14th Regiment, Heavy Artillery, Company B (Colored). The 14th Regiment was remanded to the 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) in April of 1864. He served in the Department of the Gulf and on garrison duty in New Orleans, Louisiana and mustered out on October 2, 1865. He died on March 27, 1872, and is buried in the Colchester Burying Ground.

**George Evans** enlisted in Company B, of the 30th Colored Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry on January 4, 1864. In May 1864, this company was combined with the 31st U.S. Army Colored Infantry Regiment. He was discharged due to disease contracted while encamped in Connecticut and sent back to Colchester on April 9, 1864. He died on September 19, 1864, and is buried in the Colchester Burying Ground.

#### **African-American soldiers in Linwood Cemetery**

**Lyman Hyde** joined the U.S. on August 10, 1863, as a seaman assigned to the *USS Grand Gulf* which was decommissioned on November 10, 1865. He also served on the *USS North Carolina*. His discharge date is unknown. He died on May 23, 1894, and died as a veteran.

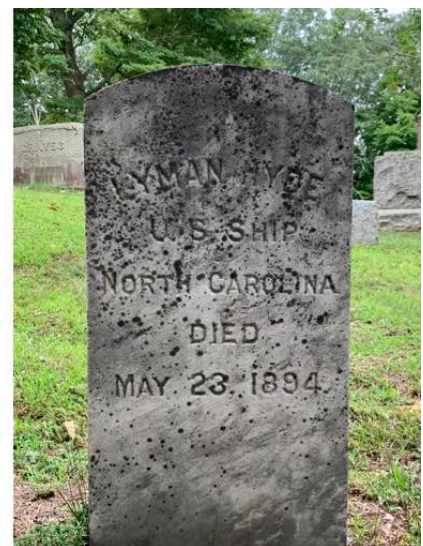
**Sherry Jackson** enlisted on January 4, 1864, in Company B, of the 30th Colored Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry on January 4, 1864. In May 1864, this company was combined with the 31st U.S. Army Colored Infantry Regiment. He did garrison duty in Brownsville, Texas, at the end of the war, and mustered out on November 7, 1865. He died on September 9, 1885.

**Charles Quash** enlisted on August 24, 1863, along with his older cousin Elias Apes in Providence, Rhode Island on August 24, 1863, as a Private in the Rhode Island 14th Regiment, Heavy Artillery, Company B (Colored). The 14th Regiment was remanded to the 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) in April of 1864, mustering out on October 2, 1865. He died on Nov. 30, 1922, and his name is inscribed on the back side of the family obelisk.

**Augustus I. Ransom** enlisted in Company D, 29th Colored Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry on December 16, 1863, and was discharged on October 24, 1865. He died on May 10, 1881.

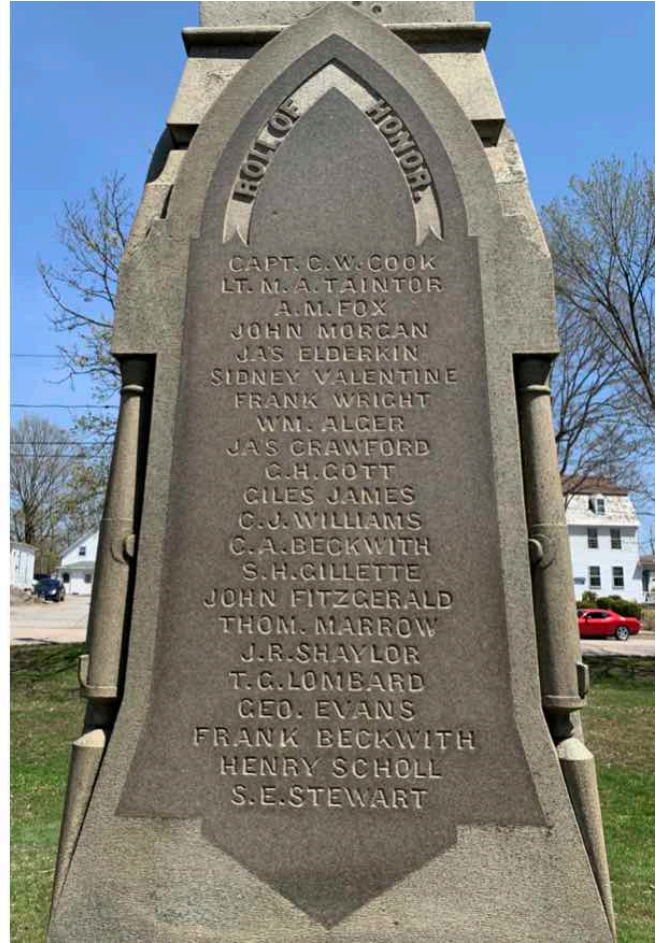
**Sanford E. Stewart** enlisted on January 23, 1864, in Company C, of the 30th Colored Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry which was combined with the 31st U.S. Army Colored Infantry Regiment in May 1864. He was wounded on July 30, 1864, with a severe wound in his right leg. The leg was amputated, resulting in a disease of the heart and causing him to be mustered out on August 15, 1864. Sanford Stewart died at a Regimental Hospital on October 12, 1864.

#### **Photographs:**



*Above: Cemetery markers for George Evans, Sanford Stewart and Lyman Hyde.*





***On the left:*** The Colchester Civil War Soldiers Monument on the Colchester Town Green.

***On the right:*** The honor roll listing names of men who died during the war. Sanford (S.E.) Stewart is the last name at the bottom, and George (Geo.) Evans is three names above him.

This letter provides basic information as to why Colchester feels it should be included on the Freedom Trail. However, there is more detailed information in the application that was submitted in August 30, 2023.

If you need to get in touch with me as the person who completed the application, my personal contact information is:

Irene Watson  
147 Standish Road  
Colchester, CT 06415

Email: [irenenorm@comcast.net](mailto:irenenorm@comcast.net)

Cell phone: 860-303-9823

I would be happy to answer any questions in regard to the seven men who have grave markers in our town and thank you for considering our application.

Sincerely,

*Irene A. Watson*

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