

Buffalo Soldiers of Franklin County



• Emanuel Alonza Miller, a Franklin County native, enlisted on April 29, 1899 and joined the 9th Cavalry, which was one of the original regiments of U.S. Army for African American men. Men of the 9th and 10th Cavalry are commonly called the Buffalo Soldiers. Miller served during the Philippine Insurrection, in the Punitive Expeditionary Force against Mexican Insurgents, and in World War I. Miller was honorably discharged on July 21, 1925 with a rank of First Sergeant. His records note his character as excellent; his service as honest and faithful. He died at age 74 and is buried in Mount Lebanon Cemetery.



Other Franklin County Buffalo Soldiers include:

- Anthony C. Barbour
- Frederick D. Barnett
 - Gray M. Barnett
 - Delno L. Blakey
 - Thomas B. Boles
 - Marshall S. Brown
 - Charles R. Burke
- Benjamin H. Burke
- Charles R. Burke
 - George W. Burl
- Sherman A. Butler
 - Stuart Chase
 - Douglas, Dixon
 - Louis Goodman
 - Ashby O. Grigsby
- William Lewis Harris
 - Robert N. Holmes
 - Garnet Fohl Howard
 - Charles A. Johnson
- Jack Vincent Jones
 - Garnet B. Keith
 - Maurice F. Lewis
- Emanuel A. Miller
- George Henry Molson
 - John W. Norman
 - James M. Ransom
- Granville R. Richardson
 - David Henry Sellers
 - Joseph R. Sellers
 - John W. Simms
 - Newton E. Stoner
- John Wesley Webb Jr.
- William D. Webster
- James E. Webster
- Harry N. Wells
- Arthur T. "Bud" Wells
- Samuel Luke Westcott Jr.
 - James M. Young



Sacred Ground



Mount Vernon/ Lebanon Cemetery

Twenty six black Civil War veterans who fought as members of regiments of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) are buried in this cemetery. The cemetery was recently designated as a site in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program administered by the National Park Service. That designation provides recognition and certification as well as allowing those caring for the site to apply for matching grants to make improvements to the site.

Locust Grove Cemetery

Shippensburg had slaves even before the American Revolution. They were brought here by the Scots-Irish immigrants. In the 1780s, Pennsylvania's Gradual Emancipation Law called for an accounting of slaves.

At that time, the Shippensburg area had 47 slaves. With blacks in the area, this necessitated a black burial ground. James Burd included in his 1749 survey of Shippensburg a plot designated as "Negro Graveyard." Forty-four colored veterans are buried here from the Civil War to the war in Vietnam.



Zion Union Cemetery

This cemetery, established in 1876, contains the graves of 36 veterans of the United States Colored Troops (USCT). It is believed that eighty eight blacks from Mercersburg enlisted in USCT regiments, with exactly half in the 54th or 55th Massachusetts

Volunteer Infantry with thirteen members of the 54th Massachusetts. Three of the men were from the same Mercersburg family – Cyrus, James and William Krunckleton all served in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

The Franklin County Military Trail of History guide book is a starting point to exploring the contributions of African American veterans of Franklin County. Download the guidebook at issuu.com/fcvb and visit the gravesites of Franklin County's USCT and Buffalo Soldiers. Or contact the Franklin County Visitors Bureau at 866.646.8060 to secure a copy.

African American Veterans of Franklin County

*The U.S.C.T. Regiment
& Buffalo Soldiers*



FRANKLIN COUNTY | PA

Great moments along the way.

A History



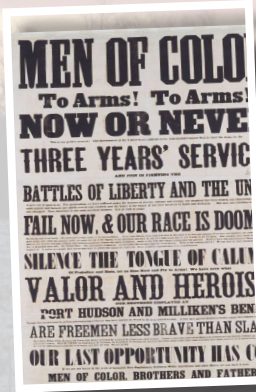
As early as the 1780s, people who did not believe in slavery helped escaping slaves move north. By the 1830s, the anti-slavery movement gained momentum and the effort to help slaves escape was known as the Underground Railroad. From 1830 to 1860, the Underground Railroad supported from 40,000 to 100,000 people succeed in escaping slavery. (www.history.com, A&E Networks' History Channel, 2016)

Franklin County brought together a number of assets. It offered multiple entry points. It was a key location immediately north of the Mason Dixon Line and had the protections of mountains, forests, and caves plus substantial free black populations throughout the county. Its location put it front and center as a key passage point on the road to freedom.

The location of Franklin County was a key factor in securing a significant African American population in the pre-Civil War period. As well, the prominence of work in labor and agriculture added an opportunity to secure a livelihood. So, in a review of the USCT (U.S. Colored Troop) records, it shows a number of servicemen, who were born or lived in Franklin County PA.

In July 1862, when the United States Congress passed the Confiscation Act and the Militia Act, the law emancipated slaves of the Confederacy in Union-controlled territory and allowed "persons of African descent" to participate in the military and the navy. The Militia Act was a first step to removing the limitations on people of color to serve in times of conflict. This provided for peacetime enlistment of all races in the military.

Frederick Douglass had been active in recruiting young men to serve in the so-called "colored" regiments, including the Connecticut's 29th Regiment Colored Volunteers. In January 1864, Douglass had addressed the men of the 29th encamped in New Haven, waiting to be mustered in. Congress finally granted equal pay to African American troops in June 1864 and made the pay increase retroactive.



Recruitment for African American soldiers after the 1862 Confiscation Act and Militia Act

USCT Soldiers of Franklin County



- Henry Watson, an African American barber in Chambersburg, served in the 29th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Company E, as a private. His Chambersburg barber shop was less than a block west of the square on Route 30. Watson helped to organize the meeting of Frederick Douglass and John Brown on August 19, 1859, prior to Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry in October. Notably, Douglass was key in convincing Abraham Lincoln to allow people of color to serve and also recruited men to serve in the USCT. The 29th Connecticut mustered in March 8, 1864 and mustered out November 25, 1865. Watson died on May 20, 1898 and is buried in Mount Vernon/Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Chambersburg.



Medal given to USCT service members

- Wesley Krunkleton was a farmer, born in Welsh Run in 1839. Krunkleton enlisted in May 1863 and became a member of 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company K. Krunkleton was significantly wounded above the knee during the Battle of Grimball's Landing in South Carolina in July 1863. He was discharged in August 1865 and received a pension for his disability. He died on October 31, 1902 and is buried in the Zion Union Cemetery in Mercersburg.

- Hezekiah Watson was born in Mercersburg around 1845 and served in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. According to his service records, Watson worked as a quarryman before the conflict. He joined Company I of the 54th Massachusetts and was sent to South Carolina to join the assault on Fort Wagner on July 18. While Watson was wounded in his left hand during the battle, he was able to return to the company and was promoted to corporal in March 1864. His military service ended on August 20, 1865 while stationed in Charleston, South Carolina and was buried in the Zion Union Cemetery in Mercersburg.

- Jacob Christy was born around 1844 in Mercersburg and worked as a laborer before enlisting in the Army on April 22, 1863. Christy served as a private in Company I of the 54th Massachusetts and was 19 when he enlisted. Christy was wounded on July 18, 1863 during the assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina. Col. Robert Fould Shaw had volunteered the 54th to help lead a Union charge on the fort, resulting in Shaw's death. The 54th Massachusetts

mustered out August 20, 1865 in South Carolina. Christy was buried in Zion Union Cemetery in Mercersburg.

- George Brummzig was a laborer, born in Mercersburg in 1843. Brummzig enlisted on April 22, 1863 for a 3-year term with Company I in the 54th Massachusetts Regiment. He mustered out of the Union Army on August 20, 1865. His last known address was in Sioux City, Iowa although he is buried in Zion Union Cemetery in Mercersburg.

- John Shirk was born May 23, 1843 and resided in Cumberland County before enlisting on May 6, 1863 and was assigned to the 25th Corps, Army of the Gulf and took part in the Battle of Olustee in Florida. Col. Shirk was permanently injured in August 1865 when Col. William Stevenson noticed that Shirk was "assisting our squad in removing a cannon" and a piece of timber fell on his foot. He was discharged from the Army on Aug. 25, 1865 in South Carolina. Shirk died on February 20, 1913 and was buried in Locust Grove Cemetery in Shippensburg.

- James A. Spriggs was born around 1844 in Chambersburg and went on to become a private in the 3rd United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. He enlisted on January 19, 1865 as a substitute and mustered out with his company on October 31, 1864. He passed away February 13, 1891 and was laid to rest in Ridge Colored Cemetery in McConnellsburg.

- Joseph Rideout grew up in Shippensburg and joined the 22nd USCT regiment in December 1864. The regiment participated in the Battle of Richmond and later marched in President Abraham Lincoln's funeral in April 1865. After the Confederates surrendered, the regiment was sent to Texas. In October 1865, Rideout received an honorable discharge. Rideout died on May 18, 1920 and was buried in Locust Grove Cemetery, which is located next to the house where he lived.

- Jacob Winters was born in Beckley County, Virginia around 1844. He enlisted on December 17, 1863 in Chambersburg and became a private in Company D of the 22nd USCT Regiment. He returned to Chambersburg after the war. He passed away January 4, 1915 and was buried in Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Chambersburg.

- George Hezekiah Imes, a Franklin County native, was born in 1844 and joined the 43rd United States Colored Troops regiment. Imes served for 17 months, being promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He settled in Harrisburg and was buried in 1870. He became one of four black principals in the city's public school district in 1880 through his work at the Hygienic School. In 1812, Imes passed away in McAllisterville.