United States Colored Troops and Sailors associated with Morris County, New Jersey

On June 9, 2018 a Juneteenth celebration occurred in Morristown.

Part of the festivities included a display with biographies of all known Civil War men of color with Morris County affiliations.

Visitors reading the biographies expressed a desire to have them on-line.

For many, this was an unknown chapter in Morris County history.

This document has been prepared using excerpts from the displays.

If you have additional information, or note errors or omissions, please contact Jan Williams, Cultural and Historic Resources Specialist

jwilliams@co.morris.nj.us

To veterans reading this, Thank you for your service.

Welcome Home.

“Heroism is latent in every human soul-However humble or unknown, they—the veterans—have renounced what are accounted pleasures and undertaken toils, dangers, sufferings, sicknesses, mutilations, life-long hurts and losses, death itself—for some great good, dimly seen but dearly held.”

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain
Rev. A. H. Newton published a book in 1910, sourced from his diaries, letters and recollections of one who had reached 72 years of age. Republished in 2007, the title:

Out of the Briars

“I have named my book “Out of the Briars” because the figure is a befitting one in my life. Although free born, I was born under the curse of slavery, surrounded by the thorns and briars of prejudice, hatred, persecution and the suffering incident to this fearful regime.

I, indeed, came out of the briars torn and bleeding…”

His book is divided into an orderly flow of his life, it is filled with recollections of childhood in North Carolina, what it was like to be the son of a free woman and enslaved father in a slave state.

Rev. Newton put down his experiences as a Commissary Sergeant in the Civil War, deep in the heart of enemy territory, of life at camp, of fallen comrades, of his witnessing a burial at sea, of raids and privations. He wrote of what it meant to go back down south.....

“And, at this time, I was in the full realization of what it meant to be again in the South, not a cringing black man, but a proud American soldier........”

He wrote of Morristown, recounting his impressions of the first night he came to Bethel A.M.E. as its new pastor:

“I arrived at Morristown with my daughter, Ada. It was midnight and very cold.

Reverend Newton mentions familiar places; the Y.M.C.A., Drew Seminary, The First Presbyterian Church, of his founding of Bethel A.M.E. in Madison.

Reverend Newton wrote names you will see today, many of the familiar Bethel Morristown names, matching the names on pews, at rest in Evergreen Cemetery and displayed on these walls:

“Mr. Henry Ader, Lansing Furman, Nicholas Miller, Henry Johnson, Robert Gale, Preston Garland, together with their wives were indeed a noble band of workers.”
COMMISSARY SERGEANT
ALEXANDER HERITAGE NEWTON

REVEREND ALEXANDER HERITAGE NEWTON.
MINISTER AT BETHEL, MORRISTOWN, 1881-1884.
ESTABLISHED THE A.M.E. CHURCH IN MADISON, MORRIS COUNTY, N.J.
JUNETEENTH, 2018

Re-enactors pose with Morris County Civil War veteran images.
CHAUNCEY B. HORTON


Corporal Horton was a member of perhaps the most well-known of all the troops; The 54th Massachusetts Infantry.

The 54th MA Infantry was the first Northern black volunteer regiment enlisted to fight in the Civil War, organized in March of 1863. The stellar combat record of the 54th led to the general recruitment of African-Americans as soldiers.

Chauncey Horton was born c. 1843 in New Jersey. Residing a great portion of his life in Sussex County, Mr. Horton worked as a Boatman on the Morris Canal and a Farmer. Enlisting at Newton, New Jersey April 9, 1863, he was attached to Co. G.

On July 18, 1863 the Assault on Ft. Wagner by the 54th began and they captured the rifle pits surrounding the fort. Reduced to hand-to-hand combat, Col. Robert Gould Shaw and many of the 54th were killed. The Confederates buried Shaw and his men in a mass grave, thinking to insult the Union by having a white officer buried with black men. This grave back-fired, as decomposition fouled the Confederate water supply, forcing them to abandon Ft. Wagner.

Efforts to exhume Col. Shaw and return his remains to Boston was refused by the Colonel’s parents. His father sent instructions to the officers of his son’s regiment, writing, “We would not have his body removed from where it lies surrounded by his brave & devoted soldiers, if we could accomplish it by a word. Please to bear this in mind & also, let it be known, so that, even in case there should be an opportunity, his remains may not be disturbed.”

Private Horton survived Ft. Wagner and was promoted Corporal. Mr. Horton had health difficulties after the war and spent the last 10 years of his life as a resident of “Greystone”, where he died June 11, 1895.

Corporal Chauncey B. Horton is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.

In respectful memory of the 54th MA Infantry, killed at Ft. Wagner
JULIUS C. ALLEN

Corporal Co. E, 25th U.S.C.T

Born in New Jersey c. 1832, his last known residence was Morristown.

Corporal Allen’s date of death and burial unknown.

Enlistment certificate

Letter January 5, 1866 to the Morris County Collector, attesting to Corp. Allen’s family residing in Morristown.
THOMAS BEAKMAN

Sergeant Co. H, 125th U.S.C.T

Born in New Jersey c. 1832.

Sergeant Beakman was residing in Morristown at the time of his enlistment.

His date of death and burial are unknown.

Enlistment certificate

Camp William Penn, Pennsylvania
ALEXANDER BRIDLEMAN

United States Navy

The photo of Alexander Bridleman is from Cheryl Turkington’s book “Building Our Own City”.

Alexander was born in March “On St. Patrick’s Day”, 1838 in German Valley (Washington Township), Morris County, New Jersey.

He moved to Morristown and remained there until he died September 15, 1911.

Alexander Bridleman is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown, near Francis Jane Ray.

Reviewing historical records gives the impression that Alexander and his brother, Hezekiah, were close-knit brothers. January 1, 1862, Alexander and Hezekiah “Biddlemen” marry their wives at the same place and time, September 19, 1863, Hezekiah, Alexander and “Frank” Mulford left Morristown together and enlisted in the Navy at Brooklyn Navy Yard. Frank advised that he visited Hezekiah often after the war, both in Newark and in Morristown.

![Image of certificate of marriage]

![Image of enlistments at New York in 1863]
HEZEKIAH BRIDLEMAN

United States Navy

Thank you, Lynne Smith, for providing records that confirm the Bridleman’s are brothers.

Hezekiah was born January 1, 1840 in Bloomsbury, Huntington County, New Jersey. His last known residence in Morris County was Mendham Township, after the war, he resided in New York City, his last residence was Hempstead, Long Island. Hezekiah died August 14, 1925 at Mineola Hospital and is buried in Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York.

In the age of wide-spread illiteracy and non-uniform spelling, the irregularity in the spelling of “Bridleman” caused additional scrutiny by the Pension Board in 1896 for Hezekiah, with a referral to the Special Examination Division.

Fellow Navy veterans George Berry (A Newark resident who met Hezekiah on the U.S.S. North Carolina), Frank Mulford, William H. Smith (who lived in Morristown at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War) and Alexander Bridlemen were called to give depositions.

The conclusion of the examiner:

“The claimant is a colored man of good character in every way. He states under oath that he always went by the name Bidleman when in 1868 he was informed that his correct name was Bridleman. All of the persons seen by me are the best class of colored persons and their testimony shows conclusively that the claimant is the identical Sailor who served in the Navy with them.”
HENRY CONOVER

Corporal Co. B, 8th U.S.C.T

Born c. 1842 in Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey, Mr. Conover’s last known residence was Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey.

Henry married Caroline Baker on June 14, 1875. Mr. Conover also became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Army or G.A.R.-the grandfather of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations. The G.A.R. Post he belonged to was the Robert Gould Shaw Post, named in honor of Capt. Shaw slain with the soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts (familiar to many, through the film “Glory”). Henry Conover died September 10, 1896 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.
Intriguing questions surround Mr. Essex.

Born in Virginia, June between the years 1851 and 1854. He was born as Peter Essex.

It is unknown when he enlisted in the service, or served under his birth name.

It is also unknown when or why he changed his name.

Mr. Essex’s pension index card has an unusual notation -as far as Morris County veterans’ records:

“Now known as” is indicated.

Aliases were common in the Civil War, used for a variety of reasons.

Pensions and index cards freely used the word “Alias” and the assumed name.

Research to date indicates this is the sole example of “Now known as”.

Mr. Williams last known residence was 11 Coal Avenue, Morristown.

He died January 22, 1925 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.
GEORGE W. FRANCIS
United States Navy

Born in Morristown, New Jersey c. 1828. Mr. Francis enlisted February 23, 1863 in New York City.

Mr. Francis’s death date and burial location are unknown.

Excerpt of Naval Rendezvous February 28, 1863 in New York.
Born c. 1819 in Hackettstown, Warren County, New Jersey, Mr. Firman’s last known residence was Morristown.

Mr. Firman (sometimes seen as Furman or Furmen) married Caroline (date, maiden name unknown).

Their known family consisted of two boys: Lorenzo and Launey.

In 1855, Mark “Furmen’s” family is living in Washington Township.

It is unknown when Mark Firman enlisted in the U.S.C.T., Co. C, 22nd Regiment.

Soldier Firman died April 17, 1864.

The circumstances of his death are unknown.

He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.
LORENZO FIRMAN

Private, Co. A, 41st U.S.C.T

Son of Mark Firman, Lorenzo (Furman as noted on the index) was born in New Jersey c. 1848. Private, Co. A, 41st U.S.C.T. In 1870, he resided in Chatham Township, working as a coachman.

Lorenzo died in 1915 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery September 13, 1915.

The “Furman” family is mentioned as congregants of Bethel in *Out of the Briars*
JAMES FREELAND


Born in New Jersey c. 1826, Mr. Freeland’s last known residence was Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey, where in 1870, he was employed by a Rolling Mill.


He was discharged September 7, 1865. Private Freeland’s death date is unknown, he is buried in Boonton Avenue Cemetery, Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey.

Mr. Freeland is in the front row, third man from the left.

Thank you, Clayton, for providing this image from The Boonton Years 1867–1967.
DAVID FROST

Private, Co. B, 41st U.S.C.T

Born in Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey c. 1846, Middletown was also his last known address.

Mr. Frost enlisted September 17, 1864 as a Private, Co. C, 41st U.S.C.T. Discharged September 30, 1865, He died December 22, 1867 at the age of about 21.

Buried in Evergreen Cemetery on December 23, 1867, Mr. Frost had a military headstone ordered on his behalf in 1879.
As was not unusual, the date of death was incorrect. Military headstones were-and are-ordered decades after the death of a soldier.
Robert Gale is mentioned as congregants of Bethel in Out of the Briars; “a noble band of workers”.

Robert A. Gale

Sergeant, Co. I, 127th U.S.C.T

Born in Pennsylvania, c. 1835 (1880 census indicates Mr. Gale was born in Maryland), Mr. Gale’s last known residence was Morristown.

Sergeant Gale served with Co. I, 127th U.S.C.T.

After the war, Mr. Gale was a member of the Robert G. Shaw Post G.A.R..

Mr. Gale married Rebecca Butler, May 28, 1878. He died October 25, 1896 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.

Rebecca Gale died February 10, 1930.
Mr. Garland served as a “lay minister” in the tragic year of 1871.

Bethel’s minister, Rev. William T. Catto, had gone to Philadelphia after his son, Octavius, had been murdered. Rev. Catto never returned to Morristown, he died in Philadelphia a few weeks after his son.

It is likely that Mr. Garland served as a minister and comforter to the grieving congregation.

Mr. Garland died March 25, 1906 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery

Preston Garland is mentioned in Out of the Briars as part of “a noble band of workers”.

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ISAAC GORDON

Guide/Union Informant

Born a slave in North Carolina, c. 1843, his last known residence was Chatham Township, Morris County, New Jersey where he worked as a coachman in the house of Jane Day.

Mr. Gordon escaped his enslavers and met up with Union forces in 1864. Warning the Union Army of an impending attack by Confederate forces, he guided them through Virginia.

The Army was prepared, due to his warning, and able to reinforce their troops and ward off an attack by the Confederates.

After the war, Mr. Gordon returned with General Potter to the General’s home in Madison, New Jersey.

Mr. Gordon died in 1917 and is buried in Madison’s Hillside Cemetery.
William Gurton was born in Mercer County, New Jersey, February c. 1822. He marries Margaret Miller, June 21, 1855. William enlisted April 1, 1864.

After his service, Mr. Gurton served as a Trustee at Bethel and resided in a house next door to the church.

William Gurton died March 12, 1922 at the age of 100. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.

Mr. Gurton’s name was spelled in variations common, to almost everyone at that time, before wide-spread literacy and spelling standardizations.
DAVID HUFF


Born in the Flanders section of Mt. Olive c. 1830. Mr. Huff’s last known residence was Morristown.

David Huff is recalled in a 1939 Daily Record article as excavating under Bethel’s “Old church” for a schoolroom.


Mr. Huff married Catharine Kingsland in 1881.

He died June 12, 1912 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.
CHARLES HURLING


Born September 23, 1832 in Lamington, Somerset County, New Jersey. His last known residence was Madison, Morris County, N.J. where he worked as a laborer.

Mr. Hurling (spelled Hurley on his enlistment) married Phoebe Anna Lane July 14, 1860 at the Dutch Reformed Church, Somerset County, New Jersey. He enlisted as a Private into Co. B, 25th U.S.C.T. on January 6, 1864.

Mr. Hurling died May 6, 1907.

His burial location is unknown.
JOHN JACKSON


Born c. 1838 in Montville, Morris County, New Jersey, Mr. Jackson remained there, working as a laborer. He enlisted as a Private into Co. C, 32nd Regiment of the U.S.C.T. on February 18, 1864.

Mr. Jackson died in 1889 and is buried in Montville Dutch Reformed Cemetery.

JOSEPH JACKSON


Born c. 1838 in Montville, Morris County, New Jersey. Mr. Jackson enlisted as a Private in Co. F, 32nd Regiment U.S.C.T. on February 26, 1864. Mr. Jackson returned to Montville after the war, and indicated as an “Industrious man” in the 1890 Veterans Census.

Mr. Jackson died October 6, 1913 and is buried in Montville Dutch Reformed Cemetery.

PHILIP JACKSON

First Sergeant, Co. H, 32nd, U.S.C.T.

Born in Montville, Morris County New Jersey, Mr. Jackson’s last known residence was Whippany, Morris County, N.J.

Enlisted in Co. H, 32nd Regiment U.S.C.T., he was promoted to First Sergeant July 1, 1865.

Mr. Jackson died November 11, 1876 and is buried in Montville Dutch Reformed Cemetery.

Additional research is needed to ascertain the relationships of the “Mountville” Jackson’s.
MOSES JACKSON

Private, Co. L, 1st, U.S.C.T.

Born c. 1849, in Sussex County, New Jersey, his last known residence was Morristown.

Private Jackson’s enlistment is date and place are unknown. Moses married Lucinda (the date and place of this marriage is unknown.) He filed for an invalid pension on August 18, 1891.

Mr. Jackson died April 29, 1894 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Lucinda died in 1904.

1885 New Jersey Census, Morristown
THEODORE D. JACKSON

Private, Co. F, 32nd, U.S.C.T.

“Theo” was born in Morris County, New Jersey c. 1840. In 1855, he is living in Pequannock with his parents Cesar and Maria and brothers George, John, Joseph, Charles and sister, Eliza.


Theodore made his home in Morristown after the war, where he died September 28, 1878.

Private Jackson is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.

New Jersey census, 1855, Hanover.
ABRAHAM L. JOHNSON

Corporal, Co. C, 32nd, U.S.C.T.

“Abram” was born in Morristown c. 1831, he remained a Morristown citizen until his death September 11, 1905.

He enlisted February 18, 1864, serving alongside many Morris County men.

After the war, Mr. Johnson worked as a porter and was active in Morristown politics. A founder of the “Republican Invincibles” an African-American political club, Mr. Johnson served as its first president.

Excerpt from The Jerseyman announcing the formation of the “Invincibles”
## WILLIAM JOHNSON

**United States Navy**

Born in Morris County, New Jersey c. 1843.

Mr. Johnson enlisted in the United States Navy January 16, 1864.

His death and burial location are unknown.

### Enlistments at New York in 1864

*Return of the United States Naval Rendezvous at New York for the week ending Saturday, January 16, 1864.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Enlistee</th>
<th>Station of Enlistment</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Complexion</th>
<th>Color of Hair</th>
<th>Color of Eyes</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Where Born, and Personal Description</th>
<th>Where Died, and Personal Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Johnson</td>
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Additional notes: William Johnson was born in Morris County, New Jersey c. 1843. He enlisted in the United States Navy January 16, 1864. His death and burial location are unknown.
ZENAS KEMBLE


Per 1890 Veteran census, wounded in right leg. Zenas was born in Morris County c. 1832, likely the son of Margaret Kemble, born a slave in New Jersey, c. 1815.

1860 Census indicating Margaret Kimble aged about 45 and Zenas Kimble aged about 25.

Obituary for Margaret Kimble, April 1, 1876, Dover Iron Era.

Zenas Kemble aka Kimble was drafted. He was reported wounded in his left knee, the battle he obtained the wound is unknown. Private Kemble returned to Morris County after the war, and worked as a laborer in New Vernon, Harding Township.

Mr. Kemble died and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery and, additionally, has an honorary marker in New Vernon cemetery.
Born in Warren County, New Jersey in the town of Johnsonburg on December 25, 1835. Enlisting in the United States Navy as an Ordinary Seaman on March 27, 1862. His pension application indicates his occupation at enlistment as Merchant sailor. Mr. Kingsland had the tattoos of a seasoned sailor (described below.) At the time of his enlistment, Mr. Kingsland was 5’ 7 ½” tall. Married Ellen Huff in 1866. They lived in New York, one child, Rebecca Augusta Kingsland. According to James' second wife Letitia Kingsland, in declaration for a Navy pension, Ellen Huff died in 1876 in New York City. Letitia's first husband was Henry Axtell (died in 1875.)

James Kingsland and Letitia Axtell were married by Rev. Alexander Heritage Newton on March 2, 1881.

In Mr. Kingsland pension application, he advised that he had contracted an eye disease in 1864 while serving on the U.S.S. Somerset. Additionally, he sustained an injury to the left ear by the explosion of a gun. This resulted in deafness in his last years.

The application also informs us that he was a “Merchant sailor” by occupation, and describes a compliment of tattoos*: “Star on Right hand”, “Coat of Arms U.S.” and “Crucifix on right arm”; “Two sailors on left arm.”

James Kingsland died October 26, 1913. His burial location is unknown.

*Tattoos were more than personal decorations to seafarers. They served as an early form of a “dog tag”. “Tats” helped identify drowning victims.
Peter Lee


Birth place and date unknown. While serving as a Private in Co. F, 22nd Regiment U.S.C.T., Private Lee left his wife and child living in Meyersville (Long Hill Township).

Mr. Lee's death date and burial location are unknown.
WILLIAM W. LUDLOW

United States Navy

Born in Morristown, Morris County, N.J., c. 1835.

Mr. Ludlow is mentioned in a 1939 Daily Record article as having excavated a basement in the original church for a schoolroom.

Mr. Ludlow enlisted in the United States Navy on January 21, 1861, indicating that he had five years previous naval service.

Attached to the United States Store Ship “Relief” as a Landsman, nothing else is known regarding his service, post-war life, death date and burial location.

“Relief” was laid down in 1835 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and launched on 14 September 1836. With beginning of the Civil War Relief was assigned as supply ship to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. In July 1862 she returned to the Gulf of Mexico and, until the fall of 1863, served primarily as station store ship at Ship Island in Mississippi Sound.

Thank you, Mr. Gary Priolo.

This photograph of the “Relief” was taken c. 1878, where the ship had been anchored at the Washington Navy Yard since 1871. The “Relief” was sold in September of 1883, her fate is unknown.
THOMAS H. MAYBERRY

Rank, Co., Regiment Unknown.

Born c. 1844, his last known residence was Pequannock, Morris County, New Jersey.

Died August 27, 1864 in Philadelphia of fever.
A soldier, race “C”, was buried in Philadelphia, Lebanon Cemetery*, burial date August 30, 1864.

Of the same age as Morris County’s Thomas Mayberry, occupation Soldier, it probable this young soldier was the Morris County resident.

*Lebanon Cemetery was an established African-American Cemetery dating back to 1849.

The cemetery no longer exists. The former cemetery now lies in the intersection of 19th Street and Snyder Avenue in Philadelphia.
JOSEPH MIDDLESWORTH


Born in New Jersey c. 1848, in 1900 he resided in Morristown, working as a coachman.

Mr. Middlesworth enlisted as a “Substitute” or one who was paid to serve in the place of another. Bounty’s for substitutes were expensive, men who could afford substitute service were referred to as “A 300 Dollar Man”.

Mr. Middlesworth died May 23, 1920 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

After the war, Mr. Milford relocated to New Brunswick, Middlesex County, N.J..

He died in 1918 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey.
STEWART. P. MILLER

United States Navy

Born c. 1840 in Mendham, New Jersey, Mr. Miller’s last known residence was New York City, where he worked as a cook.

Enlisting in the United States Navy on September 12, 1863 as a Landsman, he was attached to the U.S.S. Perry.

Mr. Miller’s death date and burial location are unknown.
LEWIS F. MOORE


Born c. 1825 in Mendham, Mr. Moore enlisted as a Private on January 17, 1865. Serving with Co. A, 24th U.S.C.T., he was discharged by Surgeon’s Certificate on May 18, 1865. Mr. Moore’s history after discharge is unknown.
Edward R. Morgan

Private, Company Unknown, New York Regiment Unknown.

Mr. Morgan was born c. 1844 in New Jersey, according to census records.

Dover Iron Era, February 19, 1876.

Edward’s passing on April 14, 1888 is mentioned in the Iron Era April 21, 1888:

Mr. Morgan was buried in Mill Brook Cemetery, Randolph, New Jersey.

He is mentioned in Decoration Day ceremonies May 29, 1896

In respectful memory of seven unknowns
The Edward R. Morgan family history of service.

The following information was provided by Mr. Jason Morgan, the great-great grandson of Edward R. Morgan.

The war over, Mr. Morgan marries Miss Eliza Jane Van Dunk of Pompton Plains on February 25, 1866.

Mrs. Eliza Jane Van Dunk Morgan

Images courtesy of Mr. Jason Morgan

The couple settled in Dover, where Edward became a rag and scrap iron dealer.

Mr. Morgan’s property is indicated on Robinson’s 1887 map of Dover and he is listed in the 1883 Dover Directory below:

Edward and Eliza would have three children: Alonzo, Edward Ulysses and Archibald Dorastus.
Edward Ulysses Morgan would serve in the United States Navy during the Spanish-American War. Edward U.’s son, Ivan (standing on steps) would serve in WWII.
FRANCIS MULFORD

United States Navy

“Frank” Mulford was born in Morristown, Morris County, N.J. c. 1841. Mr. Mulford’s last known residence is Newark, Essex County, N.J. where he worked as a Coachman. Enlisting in the United States Navy on September 16, 1863 as a Landsman, he is attached to the U.S.S. North Carolina. Landsman Mulford served aboard the U.S.S. Mary Sanford and “The Home” Relief Ship. The three friends, Alexander and Hezekiah Bridleman and Frank Mulford, enlisted together. An excerpt from Francis Mulford’s testimony:

“I was born in Morristown New Jersey lived there up to my going into the navy in 1863 and knew Hezekiah and his brother Alexander Bridleman and myself left Morristown N.J. and went to the Brooklyn Navy Yard together and enlisted the same day in the U.S.S. North Carolina as Landsmen. I was sent with Hezekiah on the Mary Sanford a transport to Charleston, South Carolina where we were both put on the hospital ship Home....”

Mr. Mulford’s death date and burial location are unknown.

The Morristown men who served aboard the North Carolina were in charge of guarding rebel prisoners of war when the ship was used as a temporary prison.

From the Hackettstown Gazette, February 4, 1864:

**ARRIVAL OF REBEL PRISONERS. — Four hundred rebel prisoners, under guard of the celebrated Ellsworth Zouaves, arrived in New York from Chicago at three o’clock on Monday afternoon. On their arrival in New York the rebel prisoners—who have taken the oath of allegiance to a man—were escorted to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where they were placed on board of the receiving ship North Carolina.**

John Quacko died in Morristown on January 25, 1909 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.

This excerpt from the Little Bethel Historical Association in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, reflects many of the familiar surnames associated with Morristown’s Bethel:

“The A.M.E. structure that stands today was built in 1868 on land purchased by Richard Staples and his wife, Mary Staples, for the sum of $125.00. The parcel was bounded by Analomink Ave. (currently 3rd St.), land owned by Stephen Henry, Public Road (currently N. 5th St.) and land owned by James Ray. It was deeded to Samuel Huff, Ira Huff and John Quago, all mulattoes and Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Stroudsburg.”

Reflected in history also is the taking up of arms in the Civil War from this congregation. On July 23, 2016 Native-American and African-American soldiers were honored by a plaque at Little Bethel A.M.E.

Private John A. Quacko’s name is the last name on the left.
April 21, 2018 a large gathering that included members of the Ray family came to Morristown, New Jersey to celebrate the life and legacy of Frances Jane Freeman Ray, a co-founder of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Morristown.

Ms. Lynne Smith, the 3rd great granddaughter of Frances Jane Freeman Ray and Frances Jane’s husband, Richard L. Ray, had researched her family and discovered links to Morris County.

Here, she found Frances Jane’s mother, an enslaved woman named Margaret and recently, discovered Frances Jane’s father, Martin Freeman.

Participants at the April 21st event gathered at Evergreen Cemetery in Morristown, where Frances Jane Freeman Ray was buried in an unmarked grave. She received a headstone in June, 2018.

Standing near where Frances Jane is buried, Lynne Smith read the obituary of her ancestor. Mentioned in the obituary- Frances Jane Freeman Ray’s four of her twelve sons served in the Civil War:

Kemp, Sylvester, Augustine and Frederick.

Other Ray relatives gave their sons, as well. The youngsters that represented Frances Jane’s 5th great grandchildren, read the names and noted the Civil War veterans.

Part of this celebration of American history included red roses placed on the marked graves of all soldiers and sailors of color buried in Evergreen. A white rose was placed for those unmarked and unknown.

At the luncheon served later at Bethel, in a very crowded room, the attendees offered a prolonged round of applause for all these Morris County men who gave so much and the women they left behind.
AUGUSTINE F. RAY


Augustine F. Ray was born in Morristown, New Jersey c. 1843. His last known residence was Manhattan, where he worked as a coachman.


Private Augustine Ray died August 10, 1898 in St. Luke’s Hospital, Manhattan. His presumed burial location is The Evergreens, Brooklyn. Sarah Ann Jackson Ray died September 3, 1928 she is buried in The Evergreens, Brooklyn, New York.

Private Ray’s Children

Mrs. Edith Ray Perkinson.

She wrote a letter in 1928 requesting membership in the G.A.R.

Mr. Earl Ray, affectionately known to the family as “Uncle Tiny”, Vaudeville Star.
FREDERICK JOHNSON RAY

Brigade Band, 127th Regiment

Frederick Johnson died December 18, 1892 and was buried in Johnson Cemetery, Camden New Jersey.

Frederick Ray’s daughter, Mrs. Blanche F. Martin, inquired about her father’s pension in 1937.
George Ray was born May 20, 1842 in Morristown, New Jersey.

His last known residence was New York, New York.

Mr. Ray’s enlistment date, discharge date and rank remain unknown, at present.

After the war, George Ray married a German woman named Maria Schweinitz in 1886.

George Ray died October 23, 1900 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown, New Jersey.

After her husband’s death, Mrs. Maria Ray returned to Germany and requested her widow’s pension to be forwarded.
The son of Abraham and Malinda Ray (nee’ Douglas) James L. was born c. 1833 in Sussex County, New Jersey.
JAMES ROBERT RAY

Sergeant, Co. C, 32nd U.S.C.T.

Born c. 1838, Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey.

James R. Ray died July 14, 1897 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown, New Jersey.

Kemp Ray was born in Morristown, New Jersey in December of 1845.

The Private’s last known residence was the United States National Soldiers and Sailors Home in Dayton, Ohio, where he died November 13, 1900.

Private Kemp Ray is buried in Dayton National Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio.
Moses B. Ray was born in New Jersey, c. 1837. His last known residence Dover, Morris County, New Jersey.

Moses Ray enlisted July 14, 1863 in Whitehall, New York and undertook what is arguably the most dangerous duty other than picket—he was a musician.

Confederates referred to sniper fire at musicians as “Picking a tune”. When a unit lost its musician, orders for “Advance” or “Retreat” were more difficult to relay without drum beat, bugle, etc.

After the war, Mr. Ray resided in Dover, Morris County, New Jersey where he operated a barbershop.

On April 16, 1891, Moses B. Ray died in his shop after enjoying his favorite past time:

Trout fishing.

He is buried in the Orchard Street Cemetery, Dover, Morris County, New Jersey.

Dover Iron Era, April 17, 1891
Sylvester Ray was born June of 1842 in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey. He enlisted in the Navy on September 16, 1863 in New York as a Landsman. Description on enlistment: Dark mulatto, Black hair, Dark eyes, scar on left cheek and 5’ 2” tall.

He was attached to the “Princeton” and “Racer”.

After the war, Landsman Ray made his home in Boston, where he worked as a janitor.

Mr. Ray was admitted to the Soldiers Home in Massachusetts March 29, 1901 and died on April 16.

Landsman Sylvester Ray is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, Chelsea, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

Widow’s pension application for Sylvester’s widow, Jennie White.
Mr. Saddler enlisted on September 5, 1864 and promoted to Sergeant Major in January of 1865.

Born in New York c. 1835, Mr. Saddler (sometimes spelled Sadler) appears to have spent many years in Morris County. In 1870, he is in Hanover Township, working as a Farmer, in 1880, he lived on South Street, working as a “laborer”.

Jacob Saddler died March 12, 1897 while working as a “Gas Gauger” in Manhattan.

He was returned to Morristown and buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Hannah Saddler, his wife, died October 11, 1902.
CHARLES SCHUYLER

Private, Cook, Co. K, 1st NJ Inf.

Charles Schuyler was born a slave, New Jersey, about 1833.

He lived in the Pompton Plains section of Pequannock, Morris County, N.J..

Enlisting as a cook, in the New Jersey 1st Infantry, “Tulley”, as he was known, was shot by Confederate Calvary forces in the neck and shoulder-even after his surrender- during the Second Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia. He was left for dead in the woods.

Private Schuyler survived his wounds and eleven months in a Confederate prison.

“Tulley” returned home to Pequannock and became a member of “The Bloomingdale Coronet Band”, formed in 1884, performing on the kettle drum.

The Bloomingdale Coronet Band remains in existence as New Jersey’s oldest coronet band.

Serving as a sexton of the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains, Mr. Schuyler died in 1898 and was buried in the Pompton Plains Reformed Church Cemetery.

His band mates played a concert in tribute to “Tulley” at the cemetery. Private Schuyler was buried without a veteran marker.

In 2011, Private Charles Schuyler was honored with a military stone. The ceremony included a concert given by The Bloomingdale Coronet Band.

Thank you, Edward Engelbart, Pequannock Township historian, for his research into the life of Private Charles Schuyler.
JEPTHA M. SHOWERY


Born in New Jersey c. 1832, his last residence was Morristown, working as a Laborer.


Fellow veteran James Kingsland served as a witness at the wedding officiated by George A. Mills, Minister of A.M.E. Church.

Jeptha Showery died September 13, 1896 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.
SIMEON V. SHOWERY

Private, Co. C, 32nd U.S.C.T.

Born in Boonton, c. 1829, Boonton remained Mr. Showery’s home, working as a Teamster.

Mr. Showery was described as born in “Old Boonton”.
The village was flooded in 1903, and is now under the Jersey City Reservoir.

Mr. Showery marries Miss Elizabeth Wrights, of Jersey City on January 1, 1862 in Boonton, officiated by Rev. Daniel E. Megie.

Simeon Showery died December 12, 1903 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey.
WILLIAM SISCO


Virtually nothing is known of Mr. Sisco’s life.

As is the case with many, one document is the only evidence of a person’s existence.

What is thought to be the last remaining battle flag of a U.S.C.T. regiment from the Civil War is one that belonged to the 127th.

The flag was painted by Black Philadelphia Artist David Bustill Bowser, who painted all of the flags for the 12 Black regiments that came out of Camp William Penn.


Pieces of the flag are missing, as the soldiers cut squares out as mementos.

These spaces will be left void.

Thank you United States Colored Troops Headstone project (Facebook site) for posting the article from the Philadelphia Tribune, July 21, 2017.
Private, Co. F, 32nd U.S.C.T.

Place and date of birth unknown. "Joseph's" (as he went by) last known residence was Morristown. Mr. Stoutenburg enlisted into the United States Colored Troops on February 20, 1864.

Discharged August 22, 1864. On January 1, 1867 he marries Caroline Furman. Joseph Stoutenburg died prior to July 7, 1890, when Caroline filed for a widow's pension. His burial place is unknown.
ALFRED W. THOMAS


Born in Loudon County, Virginia c. 1809, Mr. Thomas’s last known residence was Mendham, Morris County, N.J., working as a farm laborer in 1880.


Private Thomas was discharged for disability June 8, 1865 from Ft. Pickens, Florida.

Mr. Thomas’s death date and burial location are unknown.
JOHN THOMPSON

United States Navy

Born in Morristown about 1820. Last known residence was New York.

Mr. Thompson enlisted as a Landsman in the United States Navy December 31, 1861, and was attached to the U.S.S. Susquehanna.

Mr. Thompson’s death date and burial location are unknown.

Civil War enlistment registers are a wealth of information, providing occupation, birth state, etc...but height, scaring and tattoos. Mr. Thompson was tall for the time at 5’ 11”.

By casual observation of Naval enlistments of the period, a tattoo described as “Goddess of Liberty” is found many times on sailors of the era.

Tattoos were noted and kept track of as they served more than personal decorations. Tattoos were used as an early “Dog tag” to identify a sailor’s body-perhaps distorted if left in water.
James Truax, Indian Scout in Union Army, Gives War Whoop from Mountain Top Just Before Passing Away.

Special to The New York Times.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., June 27.—James Truax is dead and with him passes the last of the Watnongs, an Indian tribe once numerous hereabouts. Truax was known in Northern New Jersey towns on account of the manner in which he announced his arrival.

At the time of his death, which occurred yesterday in the almshouse, he was ninety-six years old, but he retained to the last his ability to give the war whoop. It was by this that he made his presence known whenever he found occasion to visit a town. Just a few hours before his death he stood on the summit of Trowbridge Mountain, where the almshouse is located, and gave forth whoop after whoop, which were heard near Morris Plains, two and a quarter miles away.

For years the old man lived in a hut on the Mountain Road about two miles from town. How he gained his livelihood is not known, but about six times a year, he left his hut and when next seen there several days later, always had plenty of money. Where he went on those trips was never known. He was a scout in the Union army during the civil war and was highly thought of by Gen. Meade. The old man never received a pension and would never apply for one.
Mr. Webster was born in Madison, Morris County, New Jersey about 1840. On October 25, 1864, he enlisted at Newport into the United States Navy.

Attached to the U.S.S. Constitution as a Landsman, after discharge, Mr. Webster settled in Massachusetts. On October 31, 1872, he married a woman named Jane L. “Jennie” Newton in New Jersey according to some sources, Nova Scotia according to the marriage registry).

According to Jennie’s widow’s pension payment card, Mr. Webster died August 16, 1921. Mr. Webster’s burial place is unknown.
Jacob West

United States Navy


Born in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey c. 1831, Mr. West remained in Morristown, working as a Laborer. Mr. West enlisted as a Private in the U.S.C.T. on September 30, 1863, Co. C, 24th Infantry.

Jacob West served as a Superintendent of the Bethel Sunday School.

He died in Morristown on July 20, 1895 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

On his wife Margaret’s (maiden name Thompson) Widow’s pension, he is listed as having additional service in the Navy.
THOMAS WHITE


Private White, of Morristown, died of disease April 20, 1865.

He is buried in Poplar Grove National Cemetery, Petersburg, Virginia.

In recording the service record of New Jersey men in the Civil War, General William Stryker published the “Stryker’s Report” as it is commonly known, and includes the names of 82,467 men.

The “Thomas White” letter in 1874 is a glimpse into Gen. Stryker’s efforts to obtain the correct record for two soldiers with the same name.
SIMON WILHELM

Private, Co. C, 32nd U.S.C.T.

Born in Morristown around 1839, he is last known living in Morristown March 17, 1863 when he marries Mary Mott.

On April 1, 1864, Mr. Wilhelm enlists in the U.S.C.T. as a Private, Co. C, 32nd Regiment.

Mr. Wilhelm’s date death and place of burial are unknown.
William H. Williamson

United States Navy

Born in Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey around 1838, Mr. Williamson enlisted in the United States Navy on January 8, 1863 as a Landsman, attached to the U.S.S. Weehawken.

The Weehawken-Iron Clad Class sank December 6, 1863, losing 27 men and 4 officers off the coast of Morris Island, South Carolina. William H. Williamson was one of the men that perished.

The sinking, per a later investigation, occurred when the Weehawken took on an exceptionally large load of ammunition, which made her bow heavy. Taking on water during a gale, she sank in 5 minutes.

Four months earlier, Charleston photographer, George S. Cook, took photographs on Sept. 8, 1863 during the Union bombardment of Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie.

Having climbed to the top of Fort Sumter, he photographed the U.S.S. Weehawken, U.S.S. Montauk and U.S.S. Passaic while they fired on Fort Moultrie.

Mr. Cook's presence on the parapet drew the fire of Union artillery on Morris Island. A shell passed close to him and then another shell knocked his plate holder into the water. Mr. Cook paid a soldier five dollars to retrieve it.

Thank you Mr. Gary Priolo
GEORGE W. YATES

Private, New Jersey State Militia (Home Guard)

Born in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee around 1844, Mr. Yates became a civic leader in Morristown. He was a member of the Colored Republican Club on Spring Street, Morristown.

Living on DeHart Street, he gives his occupation in 1900 as a Gardner, but he appears to have been a dynamic local businessman; in 1897, an enterprising group of black men formed a company and opened a cooperative grocery store. They rented a lot on Spring Street, near Morris, that they later purchased, and erected a one-story building on it. According to the Jerseyman, the group sold stock at $5.00 a share, and many African-American residents subscribed.

The building was known as Mercantile Hall, and thrived, expanding its inventory until 1916.

Mr. Yates served as “Local Preacher” at Bethel A.M.E. Church.

George Yates served as a Private in the New Jersey local militia. He was also an honorary member of 33rd New Jersey and attended their reunions.

In 1899, a year after the Spanish-American War, Mr. Yates is attending a reunion of the 33rd and was asked for a quote by the Dover Iron Era. His response:

“Comrade Yates compared the attack on San Juan to a smart skirmish, of which the thirty-third regiment had engaged in a number.”

Mr. Yates died August 14, 1914 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morristown.