

Civil War Veterans Buried in the Locust Grove Cemetery

John Barnetts, 3rd Regt., USCT
John Boles, 43rd Regt., USCT
Cyrus Bushrod, 127th Regt., USCT
Wilson Carmichael, U.S. Marines
William Carter, 25th Regt., USCT
Samuel Cotton, 2nd Cavalry USCT
Marshall Dixon (Sgt.) , 32nd Regt., USCT
Henry Galloway, 55th Mass. Inf.
Robert Green, 127th Regt., USCT
James Holliday, 127th Regt., USCT
John Hinton, 127th Regt., USCT
Philip Lewis Holmes, 127th Regt., USCT
George Landey (Cpl.), 22nd Regt., USCT
Joseph Lane, 22nd Regt., USCT
Levi Richardson, 127th Regt., USCT
Joseph Rideout, 22nd Regt., USCT
Joseph Robinson, 25th Regt., USCT
Washington Robinson, 24th Regt., USCT
James H. Shirk, 55th Mass. Inf.
John Shirk, 54th Mass. Inf.
John Y. Smith, 25th Regt., USCT
Joseph Stephenson, 22nd Regt., USCT
Michael Wilson, 45th Regt., USCT
Paris Jacob Wilson, USCT
Daniel Wright (Sgt), 24th Regt., USCT
Samuel Wright (Sgt)., 127th Regt., USCT



The Locust Grove Cemetery is maintained by the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee, 124 West Orange Street, Shippensburg, PA, (717) 532-5642. Tax-deductible donations for the cemetery's perpetual care may be sent to:

Locust Grove Restoration Fund
c/o Shippensburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 532
Shippensburg, PA 17257

The Final Resting Place of 26 African American Civil War Soldiers.

"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship."

—Frederick Douglass

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, authorized Northern states to begin enlisting African Americans to fight for the Union army. Many African American men saw military service as an opportunity to strengthen their claim to equal rights and as a way to help end slavery. By the war's end, almost 180,000 African-American soldiers, including 8,612 Pennsylvania men, would join the ranks of the war-weary North, helping to turn the tide of the Civil War.

The lives of the twenty-six men buried in the Locust Grove Cemetery reflect the diverse backgrounds of the African-American men who enlisted with the Union Army between 1863 and 1865: old and young, single and married, tradesmen and laborers, educated and uneducated, born slave and born free. Some saw extensive combat, others served their time with picks and shovels, watching over prisoners, or patrolling the Texas border.

These soldiers served with segregated units, under the command of white officers, and often encountered discrimination and injustice. Like white soldiers, they faced danger and privation in the field. Many left behind mothers, wives, and children who feared for their safe return. However, unlike white soldiers, they faced the added threat of death or enslavement if they were captured by Confederate troops who refused to recognize their rights as soldiers and prisoners of war. This danger motivated black troops to fight fiercely. The Rebels quickly learned on the battlefield that the "black soldiers in blue" fought with courage, bravery, and determination.

Come discover the stories of these men who sacrificed so much to end slavery and to bring about "a new birth of freedom" for themselves and our nation.



*Heroes in Life:
Honored in
Death*

Shippensburg's African American Civil War Veterans



A Walking Tour of Shippensburg's Locust Grove Cemetery

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The Civil War Veterans in the Locust Grove Cemetery (USCT = United States Colored Troops)

1) **John Barnetts** was a veteran of the 3rd USCT that fought at the Battle of Fort Wagner, S.C., and in the Olustee Campaign in Florida. The campaign intended to provide a base for Florida Reconstruction, but failed miserably. After his death on March 9, 1925, the *Shippensburg News* called John Barnetts "one of the community's best known and respected citizens."

2) **John Boles**—Born in Franklin County, PA, March 1834, he served with the 43rd USCT. While at Camp William Penn, Boles deserted on March 23, 1864, but voluntarily returned on March 28 and then served out the war with his unit in Virginia and Texas. After the war, he worked as a mason's helper and at Funk's Mill on Middle Spring Avenue until his death in 1882.

3) **Cyrus Bushrod** was born in Shippensburg and enlisted at age 18 with the 127th USCT. He used his enlistment bonus to purchase a house for his mother near Bull's Eye Rock on West King Street. He served with the 127th in Virginia where he sustained an injury to his leg and foot in a wagon accident. After the war, he worked in an Atlantic City hotel before returning to retire to the house he had bought his mother in 1864.

4) **Wilson Carmichael**—Little is known about Wilson Carmichael, though he probably served in the U.S. Merchant Marine (since the Marine Corps was not integrated until World War II). Unlike other services, the Union Merchant Marine allowed African Americans to serve from the war's outset on integrated ships.

5) **William Carter**—In 1861, he left the Virginia plantation where he was born a slave and arrived in Shippensburg the following year. In 1863, he enlisted with the 25th USCT. After the war, Carter returned to Shippensburg, married his wife Sarah, and worked as a laborer until his death in 1918.

6) **Samuel Cotton**—was born in New York in 1846 and enlisted in Easton, PA, as a substitute for Levi J. Middaugh of Soliola, PA. He served with the 2nd U.S. Colored Cavalry that saw combat throughout Northern Virginia. After the war, he worked for the Montgomery family who built a mansion on the corner of West King Street and Morris Street, including a house for Cotton on the property. He lived there until his death in 1901. Shippensburg's Cotton Alley is named for him.

7) **Marshall Dixon**—born in Greencastle, PA in 1846, Dixon enlisted at the age of 18 with the 32nd USCT where he rose to the rank of sergeant. After training at Camp William Penn, his unit supported General Sherman's attack on Charleston, S.C., and battled for control of the Charleston and Savannah railroad. After he was mustered out on August 22, 1865, he moved to Harrisburg where he worked as a barber in the 8th Ward before retiring to Shippensburg where he died in 1915.

8) **Henry Galloway**—born in Williamsport, MD, he enlisted in 1863 in the 55th Massachusetts, one of the earliest African-American volunteer combat regiments. His unit saw service throughout the South, including at the Battle of Olustee.

9) **Robert Green** was born in Shippensburg. In August of 1864 at the age of 20, Robert Green enlisted in the 127th USCT. Robert Green served as a substitute—a man paid to fight in place of another man who had been drafted. Green trained at Camp William Penn in Philadelphia, PA. After the war, Green returned home to Shippensburg where he lived with his wife Catherine until his death on April 25, 1894.

10) **John W. Hinton** was born a slave in Maryland in 1843 and ran away to Pennsylvania. He served with the 127th USCT. After the war, he lived in town until his death in 1932. His obituary noted he was the "last of Shippensburg's colored Civil War veterans."

11) **James Holliday** volunteered in 1864 for service with the 127th USCT. His unit saw service at the Battle of Deep Bottom, VA, where they suffered a single casualty. Otherwise, Holliday spent most of the war in the trenches outside Richmond and Petersburg and as part of the Appomattox Campaign. During the war, he contracted an intestinal illness that continued to plague him with chronic pain and diarrhea after the war's end. He returned to Shippensburg where he remained sick until his death in 1881.

12) **Phillip Lewis Holmes** was an ex-slave who came to Shippensburg around 1860. He did masonry work until August 1864, when he enlisted into the 127th Regiment USCT and participated in the sieges at Petersburg and Richmond. After the war Holmes continued his former occupation in Shippensburg until his death in 1914.

13) **George Landey**, also known as "Uncle George" was a member of the 22nd USCT. He was born in Shippensburg and enlisted at the age of 40 in 1864. Landey fought in the trenches during the Siege of Richmond, was present at Lee's surrender, and marched in Lincoln's funeral. He was mustered out in 1865 and remained in Shippensburg for the rest of his life living on North Queen Street and farming until his death in 1895.

14) **Joseph Lane** was eighteen when he enlisted in the Union Army on Christmas Day of 1863. He served honorably with the 22nd USCT until May 1865, when he was charged with mutiny following a heated argument with his Captain. Lane received a sentence of 6 months attached to a ball and chain at Norfolk Hard Labor Prison in Virginia. He was discharged November 27, 1865.

15) **Levi Richardson** was born into slavery in Berkeley County, VA (now West Virginia). He arrived in Mainsville, PA, before the war. Richardson enlisted in the 127th USCT in 1864. During the war, he contracted scurvy, a condition that worsened when he was sent to Texas for garrison duty after the war. The scurvy crippled his right leg, and after being hospitalized, the army declared him "unfit for service." He returned to Shippensburg but never regained use of his leg. He died in 1904.

16) **Joseph Rideout**—born in Shippensburg on March 22, 1844, he enlisted at age 20 with the 22nd USCT. He served four months in the trenches outside of Richmond before Lee's surrender. His unit was the only black unit to march in Lincoln's funeral on "account of its excellent discipline and good soldierly qualities." Rideout was discharged on October 16, 1865. He returned to Shippensburg where he lived in a house next to the cemetery at 109 North Queen street. In the 1870s, he lost his hearing and an eye in a black powder explosion. Several years later, he was struck by a train on Earl Street. He died of natural causes in 1920.

17) **Joseph Robinson** was born in 1843 and raised in Shippensburg. At age 21, he enlisted into the Union army in Co B, 25th USCT and served a one year term. After the war, he and his wife, Catherine, lived on Gettel Avenue and he worked as a caretaker and porter. He died October 22, 1899.

18) **Washington Robinson** enlisted in Chambersburg on March 3, 1865 for one year of service with the 24th USCT. He served in Washington, D.C. and performed guard duty at Camp Casey and Point Lookout, VA. He was mustered out October 1, 1865, and returned to Shippensburg where he lived until his death on November 5, 1893.

19 & 20) **John Shirk and James Shirk**: These two brothers were born in Mainsville, PA, outside of Shippensburg. In 1863, they traveled with their brother, Casper, to Readville, Massachusetts to enlist with Massachusetts regiments, the first Union combat units open to African Americans. John was injured during the July 1863 attack on Fort Wagner. James also saw combat in South Carolina and Florida, though his unit also performed manual labor throughout the South. Their brother Casper died of dysentery on his way home from border duty in Texas. John and James returned to Shippensburg where they lived until their deaths within weeks of each other in 1913.

21) **John Y. Smith** (no grave marker) was the last black Civil War veteran buried in the Locust Grove Cemetery. He served in the 25th USCT and performed garrison duty at Fort Barrancas and Fort Pickens, Florida. He lived in Shippensburg following the war, then moved to Pittsburgh around 1900 where he lived until his death in 1935.

22) **Joseph Stevenson** born in 1844 in Franklin County, PA. Served with the 22nd USCT from December 1863 to October 1865. His regiment fought in the Siege of Petersburg, and he marched in President Lincoln's funeral on April 19, 1865. He also searched in Maryland for John Wilkes Booth. The 22nd USCT then performed border duty in Texas until October 1865. After the war, Stevenson returned to Franklin County where he lived with his wife and two daughters until his death in 1873.

23) **Michael Wilson** was born in Westmoreland County, PA, in 1845 and enlisted with the 45th USCT. His unit served in Northern Virginia, including trench duty during the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond. He participated in the Appomattox campaign and then served garrison duty in Texas before being mustered out November 4, 1865.

24) **Paris Jacob Wilson** (no grave marker) Little is known about Wilson other than he was a former slave who escaped to Shippensburg and then enlisted with the Union army. After the war, he lived on South Penn Street.

25) **Samuel A. Wright**—a Shippensburg native, he rose to the rank of sergeant in the 127th USCT and served at the sieges of Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia. Wright's unit was present at General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Palm Sunday 1865, a proud moment Wright cherished for the rest of his life. Wright died on November 3, 1920.

26) **Daniel Wright** was born in 1842, and one month after marrying Sally Rideout, he enlisted in the 24th USCT. Like his older brother Samuel, he rose to the rank of sergeant. He served as a Prison Guard at Point Lookout. Sadly, nine months after returning home in October 1865, he lost his wife in childbirth and his baby son a few days later. Wright worked as a barber and supported his aged parents until his death in 1878.

