

Civil War
soldiers of the
United States
Colored Troops

*"They were heroes in
ebony"*

-Colonel Henry Thomas,
28th U S Colored Troops
chaplain

BLACK CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS
Company D, 28th U.S. Colored Troops

Corporal Abraham Richy
1865

Crawfordsville

Jan. 15, 1864 - Nov. 8,

Unassigned Recruits
28th U.S. Colored Troops

Charles Thompson
1865

Montgomery County

April 4, 1865 - May 24,

Recruits
8th Reg. Infantry U.S. Colored Troops

Bartlett Bridges
William Cook

Montgomery County

Montgomery County

October 19, 1864

March 24, 1865

Various Regiments

Jere Bias
John Bias
Daniel Boone
Samuel Calloway (alias Fred Stewart)
Austin Carpenter
Harmon Churchill
Benjamin Cline
Wesley Foster
Robert T. Hopkins
George Johnson
Isaac A. Jones
Joseph Jones

Co. B, 124th U.S.C.T.
U.S.C.T.
Co. C, 28th U.S.C.T.
28th U.S.C.T.
Co. D, 28th U.S.C.T.
U.S.C.T.
Co. C, 28th U.S.C.T.
Co. C, 28th U.S.C.T.
Co. C, 118th U.S.C.T.
Co. B, 47th U.S.C.T.
Mass. Inf. U.S.C.T.
U.S.C.T.

William H. Jordan
James Upton Keene
Aaron McCrea
Jackson Newkirk
Nelson Patterson
William Walker Robb
Harvey Smith
William D. Taylor
Monroe Vick
Henry Warren
Charles Wickliffe
Zack Williams

Co. D, 28th U.S.C.T.
Co. H, 124th U.S.C.T.
Co. E, 14th U.S.C.T.
2nd Colored Cavalry
Co. G, 28th U.S.C.T.
U.S.C.T.
Co. E, 109th U.S.C.T.
Co. D, 28th U.S.C.T.
8th U.S.C.V.
Co. C, 28th U.S.C.T.
Co. D, 28th U.S.C.T.
U.S.C.T.

This list was compiled by using Adjutant General Terrell's report of the State of Indiana during the Civil War, Volume 7, printed in 1867. Also used were:
Montgomery County Soldier and Sailor Dead, 9154 Memorial Edition.
Montgomery County Grave Registration Cards located in the Indiana State Archives in Indianapolis. Enlistment records of the 28th U.S Colored Troops. Submitted by: Andrew Keith Houk, Jr., Jamestown, Indiana

July 1862

- Lincoln declared Black men could enlist in the Union forces via the Militia Act.
- Blacks rushed to join the conflict.
- United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) comprised over ten percent of the Union Army
- Wearing a target on their backs, these brave men fought in some of the fiercest, deadliest, and most terrifying battles of the war including Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, and Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.
- Confederates vowed to mete out extra violence to any member of the U.S.C.T. captured behind enemy lines and to single them out for mistreatment based on nothing else except skin color.
- In the Confederate's opinion, these men were rebellious slave insurrectionists. In December 1862, President Jefferson Davis issued a proclamation announcing that any White or Black officers leading Black units would be killed upon capture.

Montgomery County

- Many Blacks and Mulattoes from Montgomery County served in the U.S.C.T. during the Civil War.
- Most served in the infantry and retained the rank of private. Only three were documented as receiving a higher rank.
- Most of the documented Black soldiers from the Montgomery County area fell into three categories; they survived the war and returned home at the end of hostilities, they returned to local families wounded, or they moved here after their discharge. The details of their journeys here or reasons why they chose this area remained mysteries in most cases; in other situations, the soldiers told their stories after the fighting ceased.
- Two places in Montgomery County remind us to honor their sacrifices; The Old Town Cemetery and the Black Civil War Soldiers research piece in the book Family Histories, Montgomery County.

Old Town Cemetery

- Old Town Cemetery was located on Covington Street, between Lafayette Avenue and Harrison Street.
- The monument in the center was built in 1933 by the Women's Relief Corps, McPherson Post #74.
- The large stone commemorates veterans of the Revolutionary, War of 1812, Black Hawk War, and the Civil War.



THIS MEMORIAL ERECTED IN MEMORY
OF THE FOLLOWING SOLDIERS WHO ARE
BURIED IN THIS CEMETERY. THE EXACT
LOCATION OF SOME ARE UNKNOWN-

REVOLUTIONARY WAR
THOMAS MASON - JAMES McARTHUR
WAR OF 1812
JANSON CORY
BLACK HAWK WAR
ELIJAH MILLS



SAMUEL B. BENNETT Co. C. 120TH IND.
HENRY BREWER 16TH IND. BAT.
J. J. CARTER Co. B. 22ND IND.
GEORGE A. FOSTER Co. K. 154TH IND.
DANIEL KERNOODLE Co. A. 124TH IND.
JAMES McCABE Co. E. 150TH IND.
JAMES McLAUGHLIN Co. A. 63RD IND.
JOSEPH MOUNT Co. C. 135TH IND.
HENRY E. REED Co. E. 72ND IND.
AUSTIN CARPENTER Co. D. 28TH U.S.C.T.
ISAAC JONES MASS. INF. U.S.C.T.
NELSON PATTERSON Co. G. 28TH U.S.C.T.
HARVEY SMITH Co. E. 100TH U.S.C.T.
MONROE VICK 8TH U.S.C.T.
CHAS. WICKLIFF Co. D. 28TH U.S.C.T.

ERECTED BY THE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS
McPHERSON POST No. 74

1933

Where they served

- Not all the Black and Mulatto Montgomery County soldiers served with regiments from Indiana.
- While politically complicated, the issue leads back to Indiana delaying recruitment a full year after the 1862 Militia Act that allowed mobilization of Black troops.
- Governor Oliver P. Morton calculated that the strength of the Copperhead/Knights of the Golden Circle movement and a weak Abolitionist movement in Indiana might derail his efforts to raise his quota of Black troops and tarnish his reputation with President Lincoln. But his hesitance allowed other states' recruiters to take advantage, come to Indiana, and enlist Black Hoosiers. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, and the District of Columbia were particularly active in Hoosier Black soldier enlistment.

Units in Which Hoosiers Served

2nd Colorado Cavalry

5th Regiment Infantry

8th Regiment Infantry

14th Regiment Infantry

28th Regiment Infantry- the only all Black regiment from Indiana

29th Regiment Infantry

47th Regiment Infantry

49th Regiment Infantry

101st Regiment Infantry

108th Indiana Infantry (Minute Men)

109th Regiment Infantry

118th Regiment Infantry

124th Regiment Infantry

Select Montgomery County U.S.C.T. Members

Nelson Patterson II

- Born a Kentucky slave around 1828. H
- He and his parents, Nelson I and Martha, came to Montgomery County with the Thomas Fry I caravan of 1833/1834.
- He became the yardman and cook for the Isaac Elston family.
- He married Mariah Gates, also a member of the Fry caravan, and had four children born between 1851 and 1861 (sons George Francis, John Nelson, William and daughter Lucy).
- After choosing to settle in the Northend, they built their home across the street from John Speed and near the Bethel AME Church, which became the focus for the family.
- In the 1850 census, Nelson was listed as living with his parents and identified himself as Black. In the 1860 census, he identified himself as Mulatto, able to read and write, and employed as a bartender. By the 1870 census, after his return from his service in the Civil War, he identified as Black and worked as a cook.

Nelson Patterson II

- Nelson enlisted as a private in Company G of the 28th Regiment United States Colored Troops on 7 February 1865 mustering out on 8 November 1865. His enlistment records stated he stood 5' 8 ½" tall.
- Bethel AME Church legends identified him as an instrumental guide, watchman, and creator of plots to help escaping slaves. He worked in tandem with John Speed and other local Abolitionists/Activists.
- His military records indicated Nelson died on 3 April 1873. His daughter Lucy applied for a headstone on 10 September 1932. A memorial to Nelson and the other local members of the United States Colored Troops stands in the Old Town Cemetery on Covington Hill where he was thought to be buried.

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF *Indiana* TOWN OF *Lafayette*



I, *Abelson Patterson*, born in *Montgomery Co.* the State of *Kentucky*, aged *25* years, and by occupation a *Cook*, do hereby acknowledge to have administered this *7th* day of *February*, 186*2*.

I serve as a *Soldier* in the Army of the United States of America, for a period of ~~three~~ *three* YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority; I also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, established by law for volunteers. And *Abelson Patterson* do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the *United States of America*, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Witness my hand and subscribed to, at *Lafayette, Ind.* this *7th* day of *February*, 186*2*. *Abelson Patterson* *cook*

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above-named Volunteer, especially the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and moral infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

J. B. Sanby
EXAMINING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer *Abelson Patterson* personally to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service. This soldier has *black eyes* *black hair* *black complexion* is *5* *8 1/2* inches high.

Darius Rask
Capt. & Prov. Mars. 8th Ind. Inf.

REG'T NO. 72831 EXAMINING OFFICER.

Certificates for the signature of the Recruiting Officer, Commissary, or Assistant Commissary of Muster, on the same may be obtained from the offices of the United States, for three years or longer. He will find lists of enlistments by Co. Regiments of *Volunteers*, on the *7th* day of *February*, 186*2*, at *Lafayette, Ind.* and received to *Ward*, (for publication) in the Town of *Lafayette*, in the County of *Montgomery*. At Congressional District, in the State of *Indiana*. Bounty paid at time of Muster is *U. S. Bounty* *Local Bounty*. *Darius Rask* *Examining Officer* *John W. S. Cochran* *Commissary of Muster*

DECLARATION OF RECRUIT.

I, Abner Patterson ^{being}
 VOLUNTEER as a soldier in the Army of the United States, for the term of one ^{year} YEARS,
 Do Declare, That I am 23 years and 00 months
 of age; that I have never been discharged from the United States service on account of disability or by
 sentence of a court martial, or by order before the expiration of a term of enlistment; and I know of no
 impediment to my serving honorably and lawfully by a soldier for one years.

Gives at Lafayette, Ind.
 the 7th day of February, 1865
Abner Patterson
 Witness: A. M. Wilson

No. 101
Abner Patterson
 Enlisted at Lafayette, Ind.
February 7th, 1865.
 by Capt James Part
 Regiment of _____

 _____ enlistment; last served in Company () _____
 _____ Regt of _____
 Discharged _____, 18 _____

THIS IS THE ORIGINAL COPY

CONSENT IN CASE OF MINOR.

I, _____, Do certify, That I am _____, that the
 the _____ of _____ years of age; and I
 said _____ is _____ years of age; and I
 do hereby freely give my consent to his volunteering as a Soldier in the Army of the United States
 for the period of _____ years.
 Gives at _____ the _____ day of _____
 Witness: _____

(A. G. O. No. 71 & 72.)

NOTE 1.—This Book will be used for both enlistments and re-enlistments—enlistment of soldiers, &c., &c., in the volunteer service. They will be made out in duplicate in all cases—one to accompany the recruiting service of the enlistment (not the recruiting office) to the Adjutant General, and one to accompany the records of the office who pays bounty, &c. The Regiment and Company to which the soldier last served should be given on the back.
 NOTE 2.—An enlistment book is given. A recruit will meet, in all cases, precise payment of pay, bounty, passage, &c. A recruit will meet, in all cases, to find in the Adjutant General's Office at entrance of recruit. The recruiting office, company, or recruit company of recruit, as the case may be, will accompany both enlistments or having received the soldier, under name of the United States Army, to the recruiting office.

Wesley Foster

- Born in Kentucky about 1842.
- As a private, he served as a waggoneer with Company C, 28th Regiment U.S.C.T. He mustered in on 2 July 1864 and was discharged 8 November 1865.
- The *Crawfordsville Weekly Journal*, 28 June 1890, chronicled an event involving Wesley. While quite intoxicated, he took a club and pounded the head of Silas Misner of Smartsburg. This incident caused Silas to drive into town, curse and abuse his wife and mother, threaten to take their lives, and destroy furniture. Silas then marched up and down the street, firing his revolver while bellowing nonsensically. Silas then walked into a store and set fire to the match boxes. Officers brought Silas to jail by swearing out insanity papers. Silas was officially declared insane and sent to an asylum in Indianapolis, all, apparently, consequences of the whack on the head delivered by Wesley Foster.

Wesley Foster

- The week prior to his death, Wesley had some sort of fit, magnified by whiskey, and he wandered off into the country. Alan Robinson found him, brought him back to town, and placed him in jail. Wesley's condition continued to grow worse until he died 11 March 1894 while in jail.
- Wesley's obituary stated, that at his death, he was married. His occupation was a well-known colored cook. His death records indicated over 20 years of alcoholism caused his demise. His funeral was held at the Bethel AME Church, attended by numerous White and Black people. General Lew Wallace provided cabs and carriages for those who needed transportation to the viewing and burial. At the cemetery, a firing squad provided military honors. Loved ones remembered him as a simple, kindly spirit and, when sober, a hardworking and cooperative man.
- He was buried at the Masonic Cemetery.

Charles Wickliffe

- Born about 1830 on a plantation owned by William B. Wickliffe of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky.
- His owner, born 1808, was the eighth of five boys and five girls. His parents hailed from Prince William County, Virginia. His father was a Revolutionary War soldier who came to Kentucky in 1801 to purchase 400 acres of land near South Carrollton. William was reared on a farm, and lived with his parents until their death. William matured in the Kentucky wilderness, and as a young man, made several trips on flat-boats to New Orleans.
- No records indicated if Charles accompanied William on any of these trips. When the war broke out, William owned 500 acres of land, and sixteen slaves, one of whom was Charles. William was listed as Charles's owner on Charles' enlistment papers. William died 7 December 1892 in Greenville, Muhlenberg.

Charles Wickliffe

- No indication was found if William approved of Charles' enlistment, but Charles registered in Company D, 28th Regiment, U.S.C.T. and saw action at the Sieges of Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia in 1864, and later in July 1865 at points along the Rio Grande, Texas. His regiment disbanded and all members mustered out on 6 February 1866.
- While living in Crawfordsville, Charles was a member of the Bethel AME Church. He died on 3 February 1868 of consumption he contracted during the war. He was just 39 years of age. He left behind a wife. His obituary recalled Charles was well respected and liked in the community.

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF



TOWN OF

South Carolina *North*

I, *Charles McKeliffe* born in *North Carolina*

in the State of *South Carolina* aged *17* years

and by occupation a *laborer* Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to

have volunteered *on the 26th* day of *September* 186*4*

to serve as a **Soldier** in the **Army of the United States of America**, for the period of **THREE YEARS**, unless sooner discharged by proper authority; Do also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, established by law for the U. S. colored troops.

And I, *Charles McKeliffe*

do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the **United States of America**, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at *Catawba*

this *10th* day of *Sept* 186*4* *Charles McKeliffe*

Before *John P. Harrison*

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer agreeable to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and moral infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

J. M. Compton
Proprietor of *Catawba*
Examining Officer

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer, *Charles McKeliffe* previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of law full age; and that, in accepting him, as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the regulations for governing the recruiting service. This soldier has *no* eyes, *that* *has* *been* *examined* *at* *the* *recruiting* *office* *at* *Catawba* *on* *the* *10th* *day* *of* *Sept* *1864* *at* *the* *recruiting* *office* *at* *Catawba* *South Carolina*

John P. Harrison
Recruiting Officer or Agent

Mustered into the United States Service *10th* day of *Sept* 186*4*

Catawba
John P. Harrison
Master of *South Carolina* *Catawba*

Mustered into the service of the United States, for three years or during the war, from date of enlistment, in Company _____ Regiment of _____ Volunteers on the _____ day of _____ 186*4* at _____

NOTE 1.—This blank will be used for enlistments of United States colored troops. They will be made out in duplicate in all cases—one to accompany the recruiting notice of the superintendent (not the recruiting officer) to the Adjutant General, and one to accompany the accounts of the officer who pays bounty, &c.

NOTE 2.—An enlistment binds to service. A man in such, in all cases, proceeds payment of pay, bounty, &c. A man in such, must, in all cases, be fit to be placed in the military service of the United States as evidence of fitness. The recruiting officer, commissary, or assistant commissary of numbers, as the case may be, will answer for both or either as having considered the soldier in the service of the United States before either of them is given to the recruiting officer.

DECLARATION OF RECRUIT.

I, Charles Wickliffe desiring to volunteer as a soldier in the ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, for the term of Three Years, DO DECLARE That I am Free Born State and _____ months of age; that I have never been discharged from the United States service on account of disability or by sentence of a court-martial, or by order before the expiration of a term of enlistment; and I know of no impediment to my serving honestly and faithfully as a soldier for three years.

GIVEN at Chatham, Ga. the 10th day of September 1862

Witness: J. R. Smith

Charles Wickliffe



M. A. ...

Volunteer of Chatham, Ga. No. 1000

Charles Wickliffe

Consent of Parent or Guardian in case of a Minor, if a Free Man, or in the case of a Slave, of the Person to whom he goes to Service:

I, _____ Do Certify, That I am the _____ of _____ that the said _____ is _____ years of age; and I do freely give my consent to his volunteering as a Soldier in the Army of the United States, for the period of THREE YEARS, under the conditions of the laws of the United States.

GIVEN at _____ the _____ day of _____

Witness:

Harvey Smith

- Nothing is known about his life before the Civil War
- Served company E, 109th U.S.C.T during the Civil War.
- The *Crawfordsville Journal*, 19 May 1870, reported that Harvey Smith was killed in a brawl with Zach Williams.

The abbreviated story.....

- About 4:30 am Zach Williams shot and killed Harvey Smith, both colored, near the Wasson Corner.

Harvey Smith

- Harvey was standing near Kelly's Saloon on Washington Street when Zach came out of the National Bank where he slept
- Harvey rushed to meet Zach and followed Zach as he walked away
- Harvey caught up to Zach and attacked him "vigorously with his fists", Zach crying for quarters.
- They went their separate ways; Harvey made the mistake of turning around and Zach shot him.
- Harvey came back to attack Zach but fell down in the street. Zach approached and shot Harvey a second time and then beat Harvey with a brickbat (piece of brick).
- Harvey got up, tried to walk and promptly dropped dead

Harvey Smith

- Reason? A remark which Harvey was heard to make a short time previous to the shooting, to the effect that “he had just paid \$8.10 in fines and intended to pay \$10 again that day – would seem to indicate that Harvey’s attack was the execution of a threat which Zach had probably heard”.
- Zach waived an examination, paid \$2000 bail to appear for trial at the next term of Circuit Court
- Results of the trial were not located
- It was assumed Harvey was buried in Old Town Cemetery.