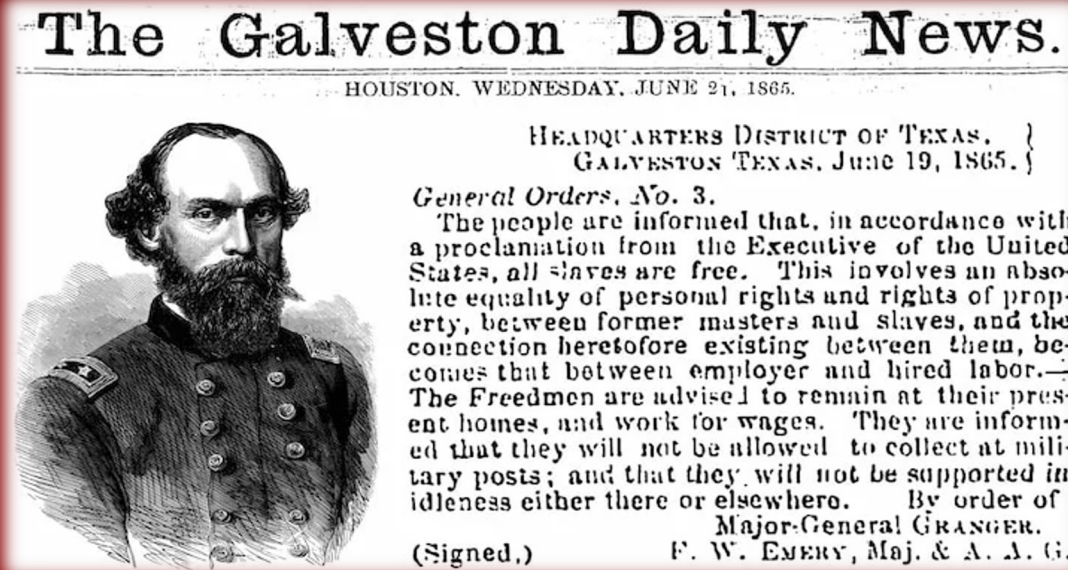


RootsTech Juneteenth 2023

JUNETEENTH
UNDERSTANDING THIS HISTORY AND
WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

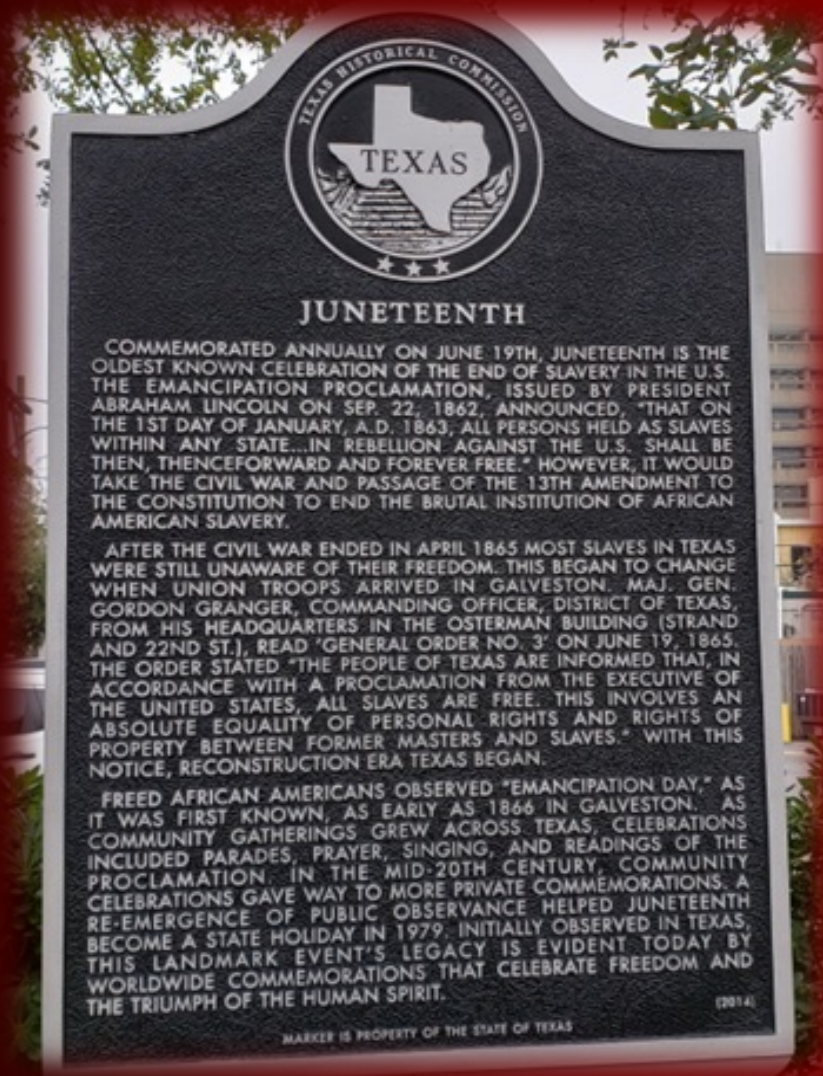
Janice Cross Gilyard

JUNETEENTH



- The name is a combination of **June** and **nineteenth** and it is celebrated on the anniversary of the order by **Major General Gordon Granger** proclaiming freedom for the enslaved in Texas on June 19, 1865.
- Two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free.
- Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under **Confederate** control.
- As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later.

Juneteenth



- Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas.
- The army announced that the more than **250,000 enslaved black people** in the state, were free by executive decree.
- This day came to be known as "**Juneteenth**," by the newly freed people in Texas.

Please note: Large numbers of Enslavers did not “quickly” free their enslaved people.

In most instances, the stories are extremely sad. One woman was enslaved **six** more years. Read the Slave Narrative for **Katie Darling**.

It's available online: Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/>



Katie Darling

Also, read some of the **Labor Contracts** that were prepared after slavery.

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2475025>

Labor Contract for Doe Hendley

State of Georgia } Articles of agreement made
Bullock County } concluded and entered into this
January 1st 1866 eighteen hundred and sixty six Between S. J.
Hendley of the first part and Doe Hendley his wife Minder
and Elya and Doe and Ben and Flora Tom and Carter ~~and~~
and Caroline all of which of are his children and his
Mother Flora 95 years old Freedman of the second
part witnesseth that the said S. J. Hendley for and in
consideration of the labor and service of the said man, re-
dman for and during the year 1866 viz. five hundred and
sixty six close hereby Covenant agree to furnish the said
named freedman with a sufficiency of good and wholesome food
and also with two suits of clothing and one pair of shoes each and
quarters during the year aforesaid also one portion of the whole crop
made upon my plantation during the year 1866 and we the a-
bove named Freedman for the consideration above offered do
bind ourselves to obey all Reasonable Commands and to per-
form all Reasonable labor which we are ordered to do by the
said S. J. Hendley and we the said Freedman further
agree to leave all sick time and pay our own doctor bi-
lls and we further agree that that if we leave the premises of
S. J. Hendley contrary to these articles we forfeit what we
have done. The said S. J. Hendley agree only to furnish Flora the
Mother of Doe with quarters and provisions for the year 1866
in testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and affixed
our seals

S. J. Hendley

S. J. Hendley
Doe Hendley
his wife
Minder

Celebrations

Early celebrations date back to **1866**, involving church-centered community gatherings in Texas.



They spread across the South and became more commercialized in the 1920s and 1930s, often centering on a food festival.

Participants in the Great Migration brought these celebrations to the rest of the country.

I'm reminded of the many cookouts after service in South Carolina (as a child) which took place once a year. I wonder now if that's what they were celebrating....

Celebrations



Celebratory traditions often include public readings of the **Emancipation Proclamation**, singing traditional songs such as "**Swing Low, Sweet Chariot**" and "**Lift Every Voice and Sing**", and the reading of works by noted African-American writers, such as Ralph Ellison and Maya Angelou.

Juneteenth celebrations may also include **rodeos, street fairs, cookouts, family reunions, parties, historical reenactments, and Miss Juneteenth contests**. Family reunions initially were intended to share stories/the journey of our ancestors.

In 2021, Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was adopted in 1983.



I believe that celebrations should always include the historical significance of the Juneteenth holiday, including educational components, and honoring our ancestors.

Yesterday (6/18/23), Dr. Wanda Lundy (Pastor of Siloam Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey) along with several local organizations unveiled a monument to give voice and a presence to the lives of 313+ enslaved and free African ancestors buried on the grounds of the church.

We are called to be a voice for our ancestors! We are also responsible for researching, documenting, sharing and preserving our family history.



WHY IS THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH IMPORTANT?

BECAUSE IT IS



- It is a major part of American History
- Provides and opportunity to convey the shared history of our ancestors
- Many were never taught about it in school – including me
- Over commercialization – Education of this holiday must not be lost
- **Note:** I have had several conversation with people over the past few days who didn't have a clue about the historical significance of Juneteenth
- We can't be afraid to have conversations based on the truth of our history. We are all entitled to our opinions but not the facts. The foundation of historical facts must be based on truth.

HAVE YOU DONE RESEARCH TO DETERMINE IF YOUR ANCESTORS FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR?

It's worth it to check. When I began my genealogy journey over 28 years ago, I thought it would be impossible. I learned that I was **WRONG** and have discovered several ancestors who fought in the USCT.

You can begin your search using **FamilySearch.org** and **Fold3.com**.

FamilySearch.org

Fold3.com

Afroamcivilwar.org

- Enlistment Dates/End of Service
- Battles they fought in
- Life after the war
- You ancestor's life is more than dates. Create a narrative based on the historical records and history

The African American Civil War Museum

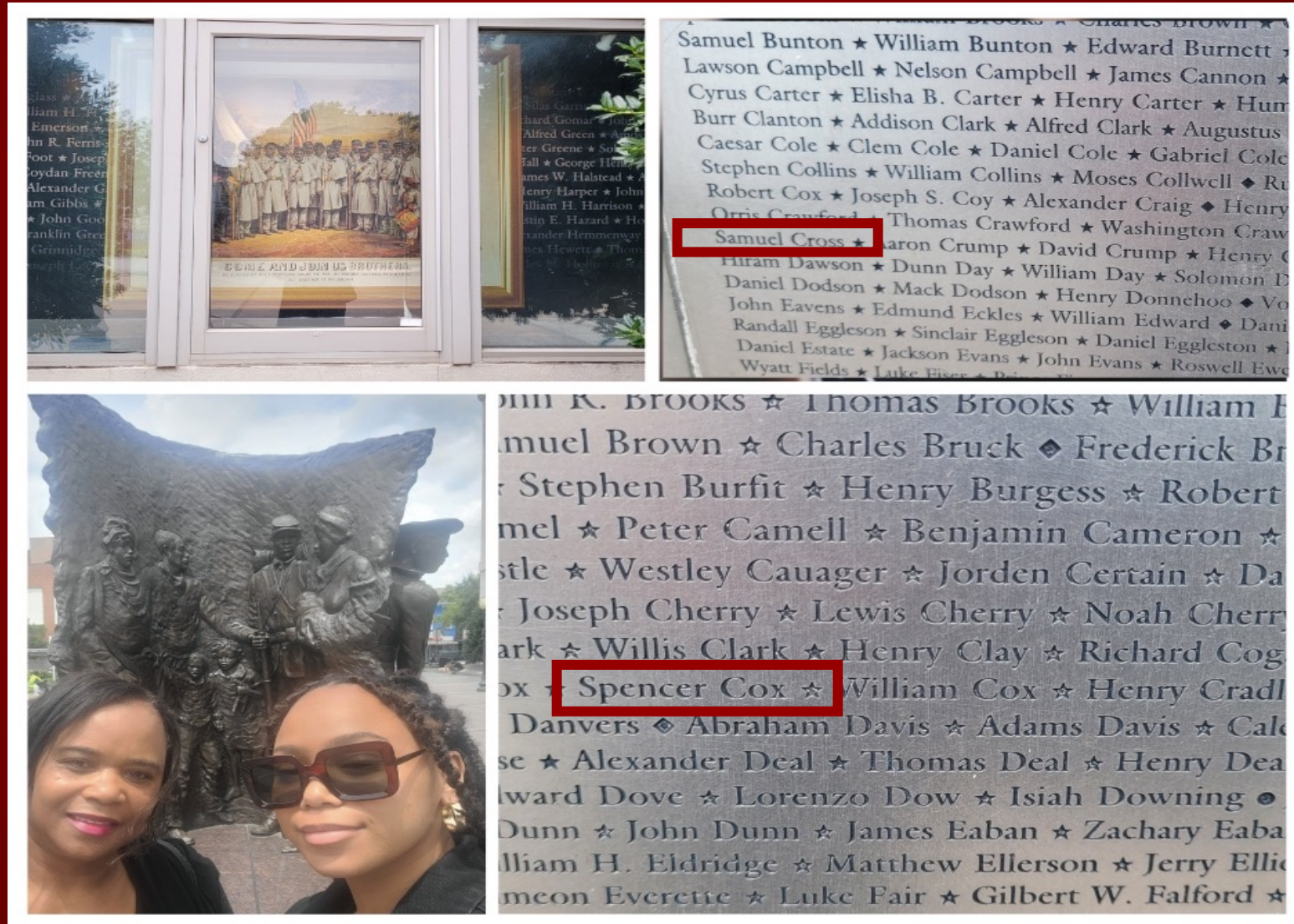
The mission of the African American Civil War Museum is to correct a great wrong in history that largely ignored the enormous contributions of the 209,145 members of the United States Colored Troops. It tells the stories and preserves for posterity the historic roles these brave men of African, European, and Hispanic descent played in ending slavery and keeping America united under one flag.

afroamcivilwar.org



Last year I visited the African American Civil War Museum

It was very moving to be there with my daughter and viewing the names of our ancestors



6	35	U.S.C.T.
Spencer Cox		
Pvt., Co. C, 35 Regt U. S. Colored Inf.		
Appears on Returns as follows:		
Apr. 1864. About sick at Jacksonville Fla.		
May 1864. About sick at Moultrie Creek		
Nov 1864 to Feb 1865 - About sick at Jacksonville Fla. since Nov. 26. 64.		
Aug. 1865. About sick in Hosp at Charleston S.C. since Aug 20. 65.		
Feb. 1866. About sick in Post Hosp Charleston S.C. since Feb. 1866.		
Book mark:		
Wm. Ballade		
(646)		Oppinst.

MY ANCESTORS AND THE CIVIL WAR UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Spencer Cox

35th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry

Organized February 8, 1864, from 1st North Carolina Colored Infantry.

The 35th United States Colored Infantry was an infantry regiment that served in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

The regiment was composed of African American enlisted men commanded by white officers and was authorized by the **Bureau of Colored Troops** which was created by the United States War Department on May 22, 1863.

Page No. _____

Supervisor's District No. 3Enumeration District No. 42

Eleventh Census of the United States.

SPECIAL SCHEDULE.

SURVIVING SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES, AND WIDOWS, ETC.

Persons who served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps of the United States during the war of the rebellion (who are survivors), and widows of such persons, in Burg Hill Township, County of Columbus, State of North Carolina, enumerated in June, 1890.

John J. to Gore
 Enumerator.

From Schedule No. 1.		NAMES OF SURVIVING SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES, AND WIDOWS.	Rank.	Company.	Name of Regiment or Vessel.	Date of Enlistment.	Date of Discharge.	Length of Service.		
House No.	Family No.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
								Yrs.	Mos.	Days.
① 18 18		Dixon Abner	Private A	2	Mc Intosh	1863 Aug	1866 2			
② 33 33		Gray Spencer	Private C	35	Mc Intosh	1863 June	1866			

6. | 29 (Col'd.) | Conn.

Joseph O. Cross
 , Co. H, 29 Reg't Conn. Inf. (Col'd).

Appears on
Company Descriptive Book
 of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION
 Age 3 years; height 6 feet inches.
 Complexion Light.
 Eyes Blue; hair Dark.
 Where born Enfield, Conn.
 Occupation Carpenter

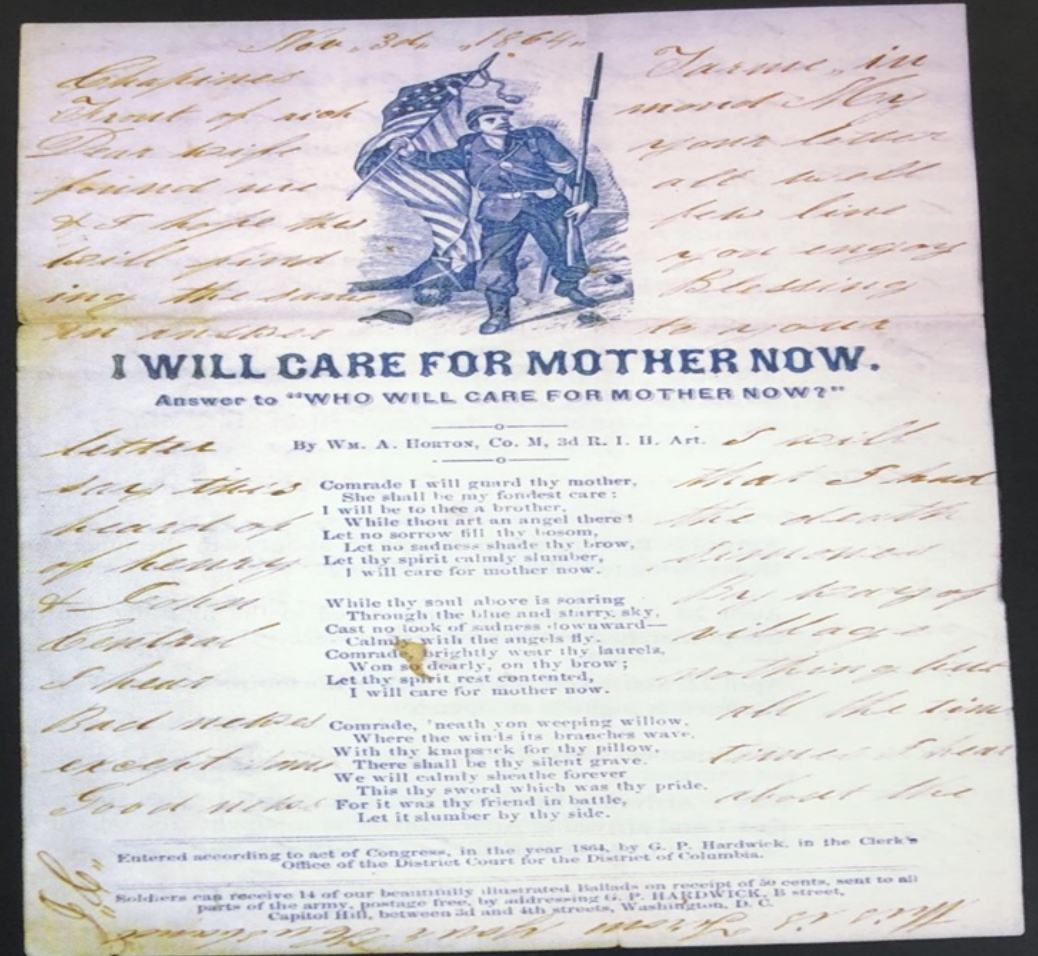
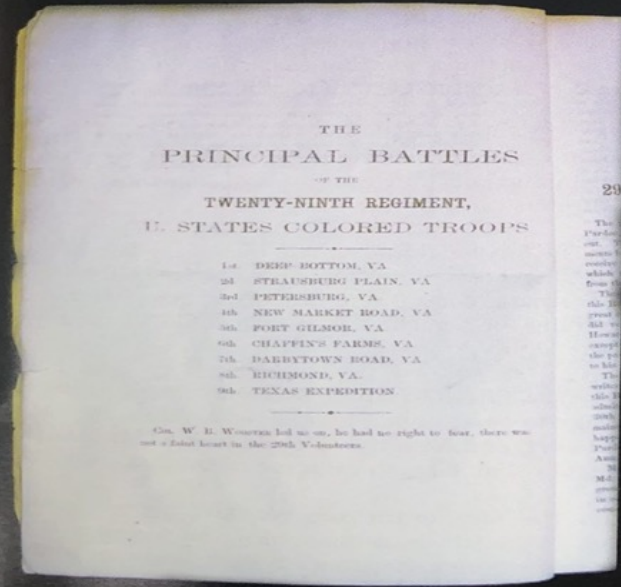
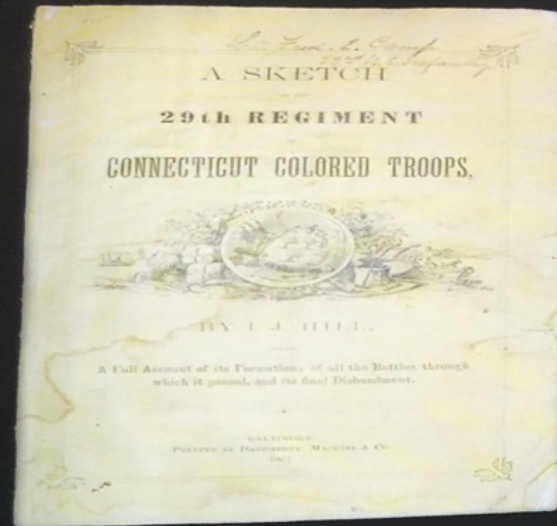
ENLISTMENT.
 When Dec 31, 186 3.
 Where Stonish
 By whom J. H. Brandy; term 3 yrs.
 Remarks:

Joseph O. Cross
 (Sgt.) (Adj't.)

Joseph O. Cross

- Midway through the Civil War, **Connecticut created the state's first African American regiment, the 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers.**
- Fighting bravely for the final year of the war, the regiment won many important battles and became **one of the first Union regiments to march through the Confederate capital of Richmond.**
- With its respectable service, the 29th Connecticut demonstrated the merits and justification for racial equality and freedom in Connecticut.
- The regiment, established late in 1863, was honorably disbanded in November 1865.

- Joseph wrote letters to his wife.
- A Sketch of the 29th Regiment
- First person narrative of the activities of the regiment
- Listing of major battles of the 29th



above: Joseph O. Cross's letter to his wife Abby, November 3, 1864. Collection of John Motley.

upper left: A first-person narrative on the activities of the Twenty-ninth: I. J. Hill's *A Sketch of the 29th Regiment of Connecticut Colored Troops*, published in 1867. Collection of John Motley.

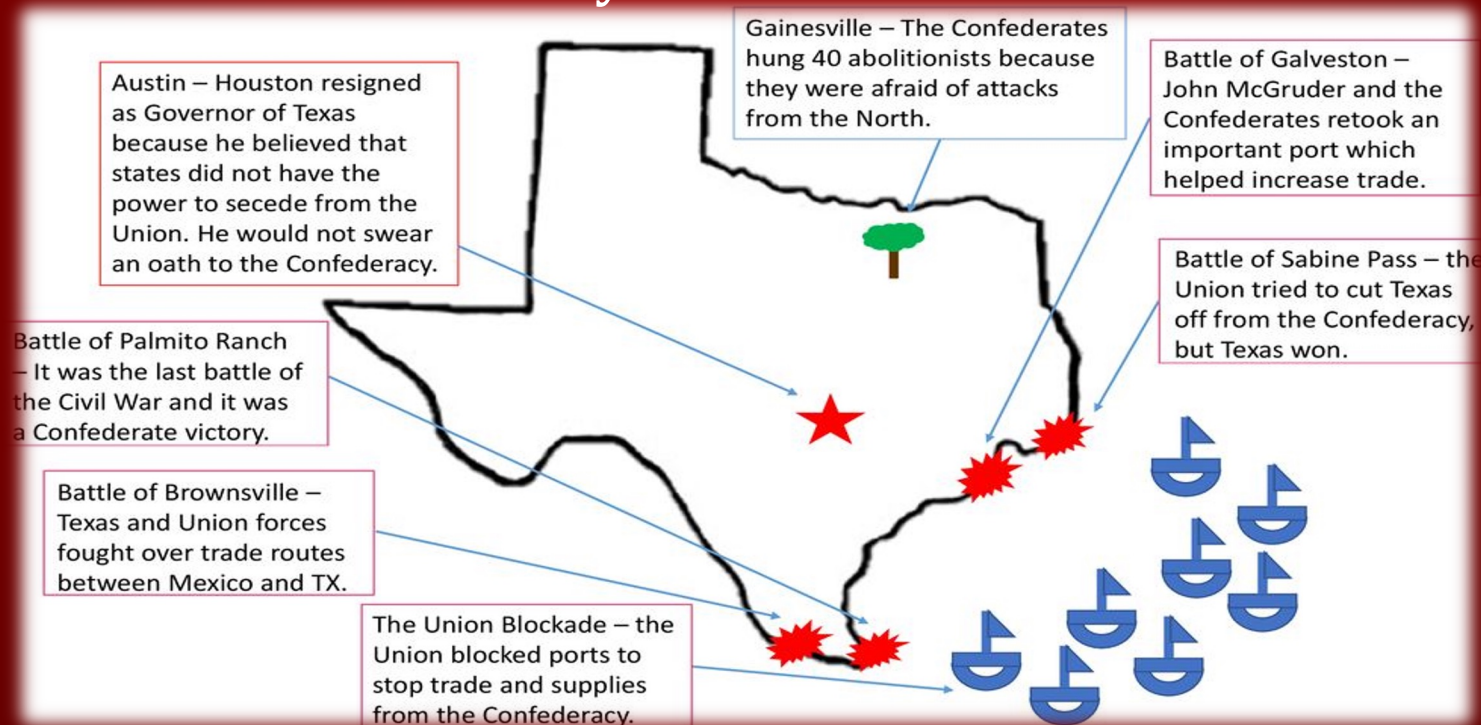
left: Listing of the principal battles of the Twenty-ninth (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, I. J. Hill's *A Sketch of the 29th Regiment of Connecticut Colored Troops*, published in 1867. Collection of John Motley.

Joseph O. Cross

June 10 Sailed for Texas

July 3 Arrived at Brazos de Santiago and assigned to 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 25th Army Corps, Dept. of Texas

July March to Brownsville and duty there



Frederick O. Cross.

Frederick O. Cross, the new deputy in this city, is a native of Hartford, a son of Isaac Cross, who for many years was a well known colored man at the

north end of the city. carrying on the shoe-cobbling business on North Main street. Mr. Cross is about 54 years old and still carries on the cobbling business left by his father. He enlisted as a servant in Company D, Third Regiment, C. V., and served Captain Edward Harland, now General Harland of Norwich. At the end of the three months' term of that regiment he joined the Eighth Regiment, C. V., and was servant for Captain John E. Ward, afterwards colonel of the regiment. After a year's service in that regiment he engaged as steward of the transport Parthenia, which aided in moving the troops down the Potomac and back, prior and after the disastrous Chickahominy campaign of General McClellan. After the war he went West and was porter on the Lake Shore and other railroads for seven years. He then returned to this city and has been in business here since. His home is at No. 181 Capen street.



Frederick O. Cross

The 3rd Connecticut Infantry Regiment was organized at New Haven, Connecticut and mustered in for three-months service on May 14, 1861, under the command of Colonel John L. Chatfield.

The regiment was attached to Mansfield's command, Department of Washington, to June 1861. Key's 1st Brigade, Tyler's 1st Division, McDowell's Army of Northeastern Virginia to August 1861. The 3rd Connecticut Infantry mustered out of service on August 12, 1861.

The 8th Connecticut Infantry Regiment was organized at Camp Buckingham, **Hartford**, in September 1861. It was first commanded by Colonel Edward Harland of Norwich.

Most enlisted men were from northern **Hartford** and Litchfield counties and was composed mostly of merchants and farmers from the Housatonic River and Connecticut River Valleys south to near New Milford and north to the Massachusetts state line and west to present day **Hartford**.

SAMUEL G. CROSS

2nd Great Grandfather



Notified 7-28-87
ME. Oct. 1887, Ad. called
Com. app. reg. Serv. of
Cost. Finance
N. H. in connection with
the Civil War and the
17/18 T. Ad. for cons. serv.
June 13/88 Exp. to change L.L.B.
Jan. 9. 88 Ad. returned S.T.B.
V.T.

MASS.
R. I.
CONN.
N. Y.
N. J.
DEL.

3-216.]
Hudson Ext. INVALID.
No. 616,510
Acts of July 14, 1862, and March 3, 1873.
ABANDONED.

Samuel G. Cross
P. O. Bluffton
Beaufort Co. S.C.
Service: 1st Co. 3rd Conn. Inf.
" Co. 5th Conn. Inf.
Enlisted: May, 1861
Discharged: July 23, 1861
Application filed: July 16, 1887
Alleges: J. W. Walker & Cashin
at his
Re-enlisted: 1/17 '86
Attorney: J. W. Tallmadge
P. O. Wash. D.C.
Recognized. Contract.
Cert. of Dis. Searched for, 18
(7011-15 M.)

3rd Connecticut Infantry

5th Connecticut Infantry

- Attended **Howard University**, Pastor, Barber, Abolitionist
- Teacher – American Freedmen's Union/Bureau
- Recruited Teachers to teach the formerly enslaved and started a school in Washington, DC
- Received recommendations from General Otis Howard (**Howard University**), Governor Holden of North Carolina, and other prominent men
- Mr. Cross has information concerning opportunities for northern enterprise in North Carolina (Real Estate)
- Ran Presidential Campaign for Horace Greeley in North Carolina

L | 33 | U.S.C.T.

Samuel Lewis
 , Co. 4 , 33 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on
Company Descriptive Book
 of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.
 Age 34 years; height 5 feet 8 inches.
 Complexion blk
 Eyes blk ; hair blk
 Where born Tallahassee Fla
 Occupation Yeoman

ENLISTMENT.
 When Nov 11 , 1862.
 Where Port Royal S.C.
 By whom Capt Miteelf ; term 1 y'rs.
 Remarks: died at Genl Hospital
Bayfort S.C. Feby 16/65 - of
typhoid fever caused by a
common recease in a prison
Jan 7/65. Effects in the hands
of John Green, Jan Surgeon
at Hospital. Final statements
sent

S. P. York
 (1862) Oppid.



Smart Lewis

The 33rd United States Colored Infantry Regiment was a U.S.C.T. infantry regiment of the Union Army during the American Civil War.

It was re-organized from the colored 1st South Carolina Infantry in February 1864. It served with the Department of the South in South Carolina until it was mustered out on January 31, 1866.

Enlistment: Port Royal, SC

Occupation: Yeoman

Note: Only Ancestor born in Florida that I know of

Special Note: Susie King Taylor, teacher and nurse, achieved many firsts in a lifetime of overcoming adversity and helping elevate others out of slavery.

As the author of *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33rd United States Colored Troops, Late 1st S.C. Volunteers*, she was the only African American woman to publish a memoir of her wartime experiences.

W | **104** | **U.S.C.T.**

Prince Woodberry
Pr, Co. *G*, 104 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster-in and Descriptive Roll
of the organization named above. Roll dated
Beaufort S.C., June 25, 1865.

Where born *Williamburg S.C.*

Age *20* y'rs; occupation *Farmer*

When enlisted *May 5, 1865*.

Where enlisted *Georgetown S.C.*

For what period enlisted *3* years.

Eyes *Black*; hair *Black*

Complexion *Black*; height *5* ft. *6* in.

When mustered in *to date from enlistment June 25, 1865*.

Where mustered in *Beaufort S.C.*

Bounty paid ~~\$700~~ *none* 100; due \$ *100*

Where credited

Company to which assigned *G*

Remarks: *Bounty stopped Apr 27/65*

Prince Woodberry

104th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry

Organized at Beaufort, South Carolina April 28, to June 25, 1865.

Attached to Dept. of the South.

Garrison and guard duty at various points in South Carolina until February 1866.

Mustered out February 5, 1866.

WHAT IS YOUR JUNETEENTH STORY?

- ❑ After preparing this presentation, I am compelled to continue researching, documenting, sharing, AND preserving the stories of my ancestors.
- ❑ Their stories must be shared and included in the historical narratives. Again, it is a shared history.
- ❑ It is astonishing to even think of how many untold stories there are.
- ❑ I challenge you to do this important work and please share your stories. It will make a difference. **Family Search** has excellent resources available. Check out the link below to discover more:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/info/juneteenth>

Thank you for joining me today!

Janice Cross Gilyard

myancestorsspeak@gmail.com

www.jcg-genealogycl collective.com