

JUNETEENTH JUBILEE ©

History and Handbook

A Celebration



Freedom from Slavery

African Cemetery No. 2, Inc.
PO Box 54874
Lexington KY 40555-4874
www.africancemeteryno2.org

Contributions for ongoing maintenance and continued restoration are welcome and appreciated. African Cemetery No. 2, Inc. is a tax-exempt nonprofit 501(c)(13) corporation.

Saturday, June 19, 2021

7:30 ~ 8:30pm

African Cemetery No.2
419 East Seventh Street
Lexington, Kentucky

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SPECIAL THANKS

Mr. Bruce Mundy, sound system and music
Ms. Jessica Bush, singer
Dr. Mark Coyne, landscape maintenance
Mr. Allan Hetzel, treasurer
Mrs. Phaon Patton, secretary
Ms. Teddy Salazar, website manager
Mr. Charles Washington, landscape maintenance
Mrs. Laurella Lederer, cleaning and repairing of markers
Mr. Michael Jones, Military Historian
Mr. Michael Niklarz, Camp Nelson National Monument (U.S. Park Service)
Mr. Thomas Tolliver, community advocate
Mr. Phil Maxson, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Landscape Enhancement

Hoe 'n Hope Garden Club
Mrs. Beverly Fortune
Mr. Phillip Cherry, Louisville, KY
Mr. Paul Holman, Louisville, KY
Trees Lexington!
Fusion Students, UK
Pharmacy Assisting the Commonwealth (PAC) UK Students
Wildcat Wranglers, Spring into Service, Ag Equine Program, UK
MANRRS, Minorities in Ag, Natural Resources & Related Sciences, UK

Program Support

VisitLex
First African Baptist Church
Universalist Unitarian Church
Phoenix Rising Lexington
Office of Student Organizations and Activities, UK
Community Engagement, UK
Donovan Scholarship/Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, UK
12th United States Colored Troop Heavy Artillery, Reactivated
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Elijah P. Marrs, Camp #5

16th JUNETEENTH JUBILEE ©

African Cemetery No. 2
June 19, 2021
7:30 to 8:30 pm

Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Mark Coyne, Chair

Master of Ceremony
Mr. Michael Jones
Historic Preservation Program Administrator
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Posting of American and Regimental Flags

Pledge of Allegiance

Songs
Ms. Jessica Bush

History of Regimental Formations, United States Colored Troops
Sgt. Robert Bell. 12th USCHA, Reactivated

Muster-In of Soldiers, United States Colored Troops

116th Infantry Regiment History
Phil Maxson
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Reading of General Order #3
Bernard O'Bryan, III, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
Nelson-Garfield Memorial Camp #3, Covington, Kentucky

Laying of Wreath

Gun Salute

TAPS

FREEDOM CAME IN STAGES

January 1, 1863 - The Emancipation Proclamation

During the Civil War, those states and parts of states that had severed their ties to the Union were given notice that they had one hundred days to cease their rebellion. The consequence after January 1, 1863, would be loss of enslaved laborers. As the Union army advanced, enslaved men became contraband and allowed to join the United States military. The proclamation did not impact men held in bondage in Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and Missouri - states that had not seceded. Those in Maryland and Missouri were allowed to enlist in late 1863. Those enslaved in Delaware joined regiments in Philadelphia also in 1863. Kentucky was the last to enlist enslaved in 1864.

April and June 1864 - Organization of USCT Regiments in Kentucky

General Order #20 was issued allowing the recruitment of free men of color and slaves with their owners' permission. Open recruitment of enslaved men began June 1864 with General Order #34. They were multiple enlistment sites across Kentucky. Camp Nelson, about thirty miles south of Lexington, became the largest of the training centers. Almost 24,000 African Americans, nearly 1/3 of the 75,760 Kentucky men who served, left estates, farms, and cities to join the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War.

March 3, 1865 - Congressional Order Emancipating Women & Children

The families of men who had joined the military, followed them to camps, believing that they too would become free. Legally that was not the case. Four hundred women and children were evicted from Camp Nelson November 22 to 25, 1864. One hundred two lost their lives due to exposure and lack of food. Following this tragic loss of life, Congress approved an act which granted freedom to the wives and children of those men who had enlisted and provided housing and services through the duration of the War.

June 19, 1865 - General Order #3 - General Gordon Granger

After the Civil War ended in April 1865, some African Americans were still being held enslaved. General Gordon Granger was dispatched to Texas in June 1865. On the nineteenth, he read the order that slavery was no longer legal. Within six weeks he had traveled throughout the state reading the order that freed enslaved.

December 18, 1865 - Thirteenth Amendment - Abolition of Slavery

The Ratification of the 13th Amendment by twenty-seven of the thirty-six states was signed into law by Secretary of State Seward, forever abolishing involuntary servitude - slavery - in the United States. Kentucky Legislators rejected the amendment in February 1865. State representative Mae Street Kidd pushed for its ratification along with that of the 14th and 15th Amendments in 1976.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

2005

Michael Crutcher, Sr.
as Frederick Douglass



2006

Dr. Marvin Kimbrough
of Texas

Kimbrough tagged to be
keynote speaker at
Juneteenth celebration



Dr. Marvin Kimbrough
Cemetery Number 2, Inc., Satur-

2008

Hari Jones



Former Curator
African American
Civil War
Memorial
Washington, D.C.

2014

Dr. W. Stephen McBride

*Saturday, June 14, 2014
This month and year mark the 150th Anniversary of
the formation of the United States Colored Troops in
Kentucky. We honor African American soldiers
who fought for our freedom from slavery.*

*They are buried in
African Cemetery No. 2,
Cove Haven Cemetery,
Highland Memorial Cemetery
and Lexington Cemetery.*

Dr. W. Stephen McBride
Director of Interpretation at
Camp Nelson Park

Sgt. Robert Bell
and the
12th Heavy Artillery Regiment

Civil War Enlistment Reenactment
Mrs. Ridgeway and youth of Main Street
Baptist Church

Director
of Interpretation
Camp Nelson

2012

12th Heavy Artillery Encampment



African Cemetery No. 2 held its first Juneteenth Celebration in 1999. Since 2005, we honor the veterans who fought to ensure our freedom. Over the years, the annual event has featured keynote speakers.

15th JUNETEENTH JUBILEE © 2020



Dr. Mark Coyne, Chair, African Cemetery No. 2

Sgt. Robert Bell, 12th USCHA, Reactivated

Jack Mills, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Photos courtesy: J.Janali Mundy & April Williams; Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



HISTORY OF THE 12th U.S. COLORED TROOP HEAVY ARTILLERY

July 15, 1864 -The 12th Regiment of Heavy Artillery was organized at Camp Nelson. They were assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, Department of Ohio.

The regiment operated at Bowling Green and other points in Kentucky to defend cities and forts during siege operations. Because of the weight of their guns, this regiment was assigned to fixed locations. The size of the guns they manned determined their classification as heavy or light artillery. The barrel of the #32 version of their armament weighed 7,200 pounds.

April 24, 1866 - The regiment mustered out – discharged - at Louisville, Kentucky.

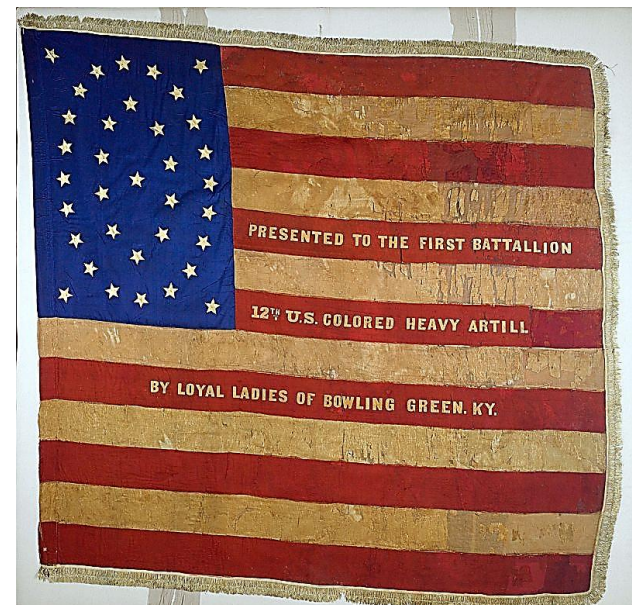


Photo courtesy of the National Museum of American History

While the First Battalion of the original 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery was stationed in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Loyal Ladies- an African American women's group - presented them with a national standard flag. Note that the stars are arranged in an oval manner. This was acceptable with the regulations.

Flags were large so that soldiers would know where their lines were during a battle. The size also helped soldiers follow the direction of the army when on the march or maneuvering during a battle.

Information provided by Sgt. Robert Bell, 12th USCHA, Reactivated.

REGIMENTAL FLAG

12th United States Colored Troop Heavy Artillery, Reactivated



This regimental flag is based on the Revised Regulations for the Army of the United States 1861. ARTICLE L provides the regulations for flags, colors, standards, and guidons. Specifically, paragraph 1437 states that each regiment of artillery shall have two silken colors.

The regimental flag is to be the same size as the national. The color is to be yellow with two cannons crossing in the center and above them should be the letters U.S. and the name of the regiment below. The fringe on the flag is to also be yellow and the cords and tassels are red and yellow silk intermixed.

The flag carried by the 12th USCHA, reactivated is hand painted silk, as was originally done. The regimental and national standard were made by Piedmont Flag Company.

Information provided by
Sgt. Robert Bell, 12th USCHA



In recognition of the research conducted on United States Colored Troops buried in African Cemetery No. 2, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sgt. Elijah P. Marrs Cap #5, gifted these commemorative medals, November 2020.

They were commissioned by the Allied Order of the Grand Army of the Republic National Encampment.

We are honored to have received them.

Thank You.





**The Department of Kentucky
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Sgt. Elijah P. Marrs Camp #5**

The National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of heroes who fought and worked to save the Union. Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, it is the legal successor to the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Elijah P. Marrs Camp #5 of the Department of Kentucky was organized August 1999.

Members wear replicas of military uniforms representing the nationalities who joined the Union to fight during the Civil War.

This medal commemorates the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sgt. Elijah P. Marrs, Camp #5.

It was presented to African Cemetery No. 2 Juneteenth Jubilee©, 2013.



HISTORY OF THE 116th INFANTRY REGIMENT

June 6 to July 12, 1864 - The regiment was organized at Camp Nelson and attached to the Military District of Kentucky, Department of the Ohio. Soldiers were on duty at Camp Nelson to September 1864. During the time, they defended Camp Nelson and Hickman's Bridge against Nathan Bedford Forrest's attack.

September 27 until October 28 - The regiment was ordered to join the **Army of the James** in Virginia, reporting to General Butler for duty at City Point, Virginia.

October 23, 1864, they were moved to Deep Bottom for siege operations against Petersburg and Richmond.

October 27-28, 1864, soldiers operated on the north side of the James River before Richmond, Virginia.

March 1865 - The infantry soldiers took fatigue duty at Deep Bottom, Dutch Gap and in trenches before Richmond, Virginia. They were moved to Hatcher's Run, Virginia, March 27-28 in preparation for their next campaign.

March 28-April 8, 1865 - Appomattox Campaign

Boydton Road, Hatcher's Run, March 29-31

Fall of Petersburg April 2

Pursuit of Lee April 3-9

Appomattox Court House April 9 and the surrender of Lee and his army
Duty at Petersburg till May 24

May 1865 to January 1867

May 24, the 116th embarked at City Point, Virginia for assignment to the **Department of Texas.**

June 22 - soldiers arrived at Brazos Santiago and marched to White's Ranch on the 24th. They were on duty at Rome, Texas until February 1866.

Their next duty assignment was in Sub-District, Lower Rio Grande until September 1866 when they were transferred to New Orleans, Louisiana to serve until January 1867.

January 17, 1867 - The 116th Infantry was transferred to Louisville, Kentucky where they mustered out- discharged from service.

BROTHERS WHO SERVED

Charles J. Braxton, Merritt Braxton, and Cary W. Braxton

These sons of Reverend Frederick and Keziah Braxton joined the United States Colored Troops in 1864.

Charles (1844-1922) and Merritt (1842-1901) mustered into Co. K 116th Infantry in July. Their regiment would be engaged in critical campaigns in Virginia and Texas. Cary (1840-1913) mustered in October and was an unassigned infantryman.

The brothers returned to Lexington, married, had families and pursued careers. Charles J. attended Berea College and became a teacher. Merritt was employed in general labor and Cary was a gardener.

All three were buried in African Cemetery No. 2. Charles J. and Cary have nonmilitary grave markers, but Merritt's burial location is unmarked.

Henry C. Marrs and Elijah P. Marrs

In 1864, Henry (1838-1890) and his brother, Elijah (1840-1910), were among twenty enslaved from Shelby County, who walked twenty-two miles to Louisville, Kentucky to enlist during the Civil War. Henry was assigned to Co. C 5th Cavalry Regiment and Elijah was assigned to Co. L 12th Heavy Artillery Regiment. Both were promoted from private to sergeant and transferred for training and service to Camp Nelson.

Henry and Elijah were sons of Andrew and Frances Marrs. Their father, Andrew had been granted emancipation before 1840, but their mother Frances was still a slave when she gave birth to Elijah and Henry. The family was enslaved to Jesse Robinson of Shelby County, Kentucky. The brothers received a basic education under the tutelage of Ham Graves, who was a literate Black.

Following the Civil War, the brothers leased twenty-five acres to farm and established a livery business. Henry Marrs became a teacher in Lexington at Independent Baptist Church, now Main Street Baptist. Reverend Frederick Braxton announced the opening of a school in 1867. Henry also became an officer of a veterans' group. On May 27, 1868, *The Kentucky Statesman*, a Lexington newspaper, advertised "A Colored Soldier's Meeting." The purpose was to meet at the Presbyterian Burying Grounds to decorate the graves of deceased comrades. Henry Marrs was Commanding officer and G.B. Thomas was Secretary of Post No. 5. By 1870 Henry had relocated to Frankfort where he taught school.

Eventually, Henry and Elijah would move to Louisville. They founded the Baptist Normal and Theological Institute that became Simmons Bible College.

VETERANS' SERVICE AND BURIALS

From 1882 to 1929, one hundred twenty-seven Civil War veterans were buried in African Cemetery No. 2 and the adjacent Ladies Auxiliary Cemetery. Most of them enlisted in regiments organized at Camp Nelson Military Post just south of Lexington. The Infantry Regiments were: 100, 107, 108 109, 111, 114, 116, 117, 118, 119, 122, 123, 124. The Cavalry Regiments were 5th and 6th and the Heavy Artillery Regiments were 12th and 13th. One veteran served in the 31st Infantry, New York; one in the 46th Infantry, Arkansas and one in the 1st Heavy Artillery, Tennessee. The cemetery holds the remains of a free Black who was a native of Pennsylvania and veteran of the famed 54th Infantry, Massachusetts. Two free Blacks from Kentucky served in the 55th Infantry, Massachusetts. The new marker for Stephen Dunn of Garrard County, Kentucky and veteran of the 55th Infantry, Massachusetts, was dedicated during our Honoring Veterans program, November 8, 2020.



Replacement of Military Grave Markers

Following our Juneteenth Jubilee© program in 2020, volunteer Laurella Lederer took on the task of requesting replacement of military grave markers that no longer stand on site. The Veterans Administration has requirements that must be met prior to replacement.

Those veterans' markers are for:

Thomas Gant, Sgt. Co. D 119th Infantry
Michael Jackson, Pvt. Co. D 114th Infantry
Isaiah Mason, Pvt. Co. A 12th Heavy Artillery
Squire Stout, Corp'l. Co. C 123rd Infantry
A program will be held to dedicate the replacement markers.