

## SOLDIERS OF THE 29TH ALL BLACK CIVIL WAR REGIMENT

In November of 1863, after President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation and the United States Department of War had issued an order establishing a Bureau of Colored Troops. Prior to this a federal law passed in 1792 prohibited blacks from being able to serve in the military. As soon as the war began black men attempted to enlist but couldn't serve until the Department of War took action. Subsequently, in Connecticut, Governor Buckingham authorized the bill, passed by the legislature, calling for black volunteers to form the 29th regiment.

Ten of the thirteen black men from Glastonbury, known to have fought in the Civil War, were part of the 29th regiment. Other New England states, including Massachusetts and Rhode Island, had already formed all black volunteer regiments. While receiving the same wages and enlistment bonuses as white volunteers, it was still less than what they were earning at their regular jobs. However 78 percent of eligible men still enlisted. Of those who enlisted, 15 percent died serving in the war.

At the end of January, 1864, the 29th Regiment was encamped near Fair Haven, CT. Under the command of white officers, they participated in daily drills and training. In March, the regiments were mustered into service where they performed guard duties, among other services, in South Carolina. They participated in many battles, culminating in the fall of the Confederate capital of Richmond in April, 1865. After the war, the regiment went to Texas and remained on duty until October 24th when they were mustered out of service. Upon their return, Governor Buckingham met them and honored their patriotism and service in the war.

The following is a list of the Soldiers in the 29th Regiment who are known to have been residents of the Town of Glastonbury at the time of their enlistment or who were born in Glastonbury:

Henry S. Best  
William H. Bristol  
John Brown  
John Bryant  
George W. Burr  
Frank Butler  
Philip Fatty  
Henry Freeman  
Lewis Hazzard

Thomas Hyman  
Franklin Peters  
Cornelius Russell  
Ralph Russell  
William Russell  
Robert A. Stewart  
General Lafayette Storms  
Wyatt Wilson

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