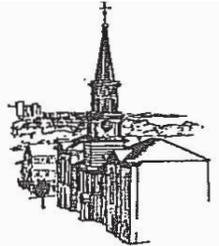




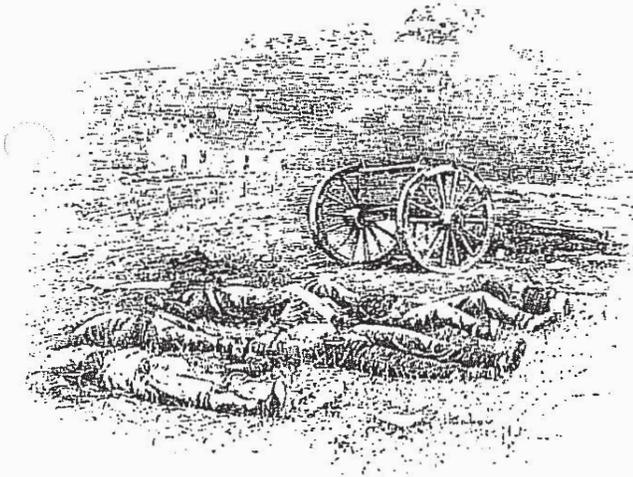
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Volunteers for Freedom: Black Civil War Soldiers in Alexandria National Cemetery, Part II

by
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The Casualties

Thirty-nine regiments are represented among the black soldiers in the National Cemetery. Two of these units were not organizations of U.S. Colored Troops but white regiments in each of which a

soldier of color served and later died in Alexandria. Pvt. James Davis, a member of the Twenty-fourth New York Volunteer Cavalry, enlisted at Buffalo in mid-January 1864. Ordered south six months later, the regiment was part of General Grant's offensive against Richmond. Davis was wounded on the first day, (18 August 1864), of the Union advance on the Petersburg and Weldon Rail Road. His injury was a gunshot wound in the right foot. Evacuated to L'Overture hospital a few days later, Davis died of infection or loss of blood on 7 September. The hospital ordered that he be buried in "No. 1 Colored Row" of presumably the Freedmen's Cemetery. Davis was not a black man but rather a Native American; the record of his interment is marked "Indian." Pvt. Henry Morton, Fifty-sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, enlisted at Boston in December 1863. In April 1864, the regiment joined Grant's offensive, but Morton was marked as a deserter from that month on. He may, however, have been a patient in the army's hospital system for the entire time, finally being admitted to L'Overture hospital in mid-December 1864 for treatment of an intermittent fever. He died on 9 January 1865, the autopsy revealing that a congested lung was the cause of death. He was buried in the Military Cemetery in the area reserved for black troops, but there is no indication in his records that Morton was an

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