

AUSTIN GROVES CEMETERY, 67 - 2

Summary Report

The only inscribed tombstone in this large cemetery is shown below:



Groves Cemetery, E/2 of S14-4S-2W,
Redstone Arsenal, Madison County AL, March 4, 2003

The cemetery is large enough to hold several hundred graves, if full. There are several grave depressions, but little indication of a full graveyard. Considering the location in the “saddle” between two hills or small mountains, the site may have been associated with a settlement and / or church in the area in the distant past. Obviously, the have a cemetery of this size, the immediate area had to have enjoyed a significant population. Since the confluence of two creeks is nearby, there would have been an ample water supply to support a large community. It is even possible that the cemetery was for the early black citizens (and slaves) of the Triana area.



Groves Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal TA6, Madison Co. AL, March 4, 2003

At the time that the cemetery was visited, storms had toppled some trees onto the surrounding fence. The arsenal staff periodically repairs and maintains the fence, so it has probably been repaired now.



Groves Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal TA6, Madison Co. AL, March 4, 2003

While the Austin Groves military tombstone is the only inscribed marker in the cemetery, there are a few graves set off by fieldstones. Some of them are shown in the photos below.



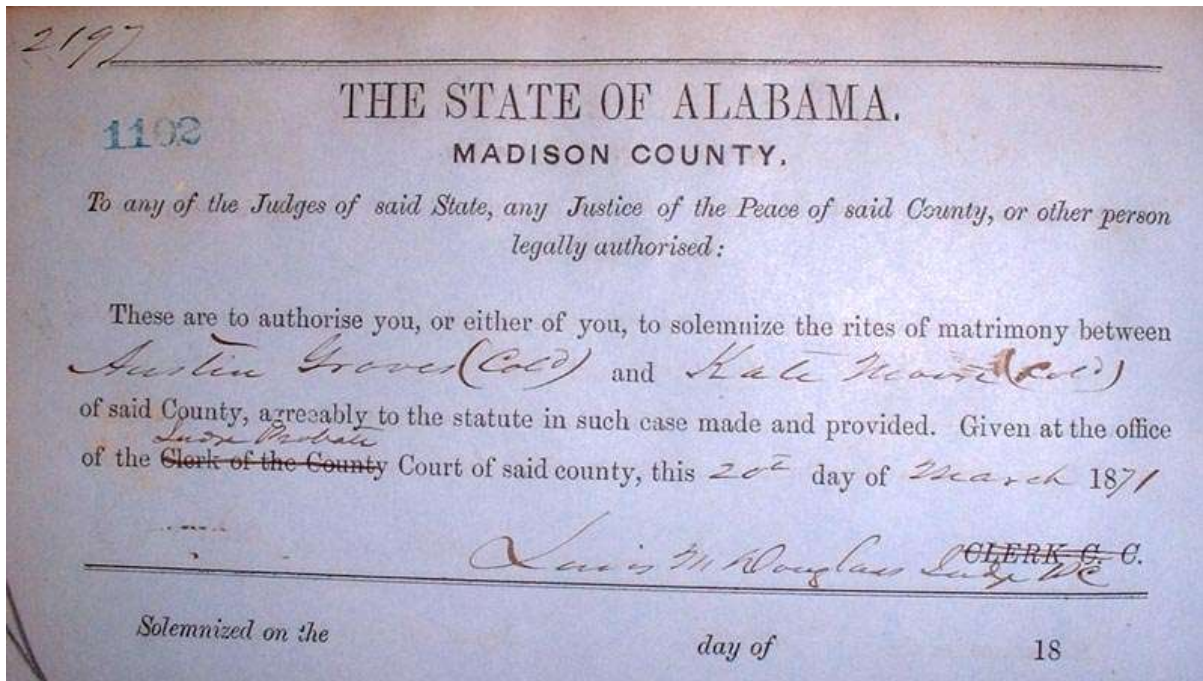
Groves Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal TA6, Madison Co. AL, March 4, 2003

The above photo shows a stone used for the headstone (the larger one at right) and another used for a footstone (at left). The “stick” between them is an ordinary garden hoe handle with the blade removed. It is used as a tool for indicating lengths in photos and for finding and flipping stones that are buried beneath leaves or soil. The same hoe handle is shown in the photo below, where more stones were found piled near the base of a tree. It is not known whether or not these stones indicate another burial at the spot.



Groves Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal TA6, Madison Co. AL, March 4, 2003

The marriage license for Austin Groves to Kate Moore is shown below. It is dated 20 March 1871, but there was no return for its solemnization. That should not be taken as an indication that they never actually married, as often the older records were never completed and filed, especially for “colored” of the time, as indicated on this license.



Marriage Book 5, License # 1102: Austin Groves & Kate Moore

As research was undertaken into the public records of Austin Groves, it became apparent that the name was often misunderstood by the clerks, who probably phonetically spelled what they thought they heard in the rural black pronunciations. There was no Groves family as such in the 1880 census of Madison County. However, the entry for “**Austin Groors**” (as seen below) is almost certainly the record for Austin Groves. First of all, the given name “Austin” was rarely used during the period. Secondly, the census entry is on a page that contains many of the families known to have inhabited the area around the cemetery that became arsenal lands.

1880 Family History Resource disk contents, produced by the Latter Day Saints church:

Census Place: Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 136B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Wesley J. LANDMAN	Self	M	M	W	43	AL
Marian LANDMAN	Wife	F	M	W	31	AL
Mattie LANDMAN	Dau	F	S	W	8	AL
Virginia LANDMAN	Dau	F	S	W	6	AL

Nancy LANDMAN	Dau	F	S	W	4	AL
Refave LANDMAN	Son	M	S	W	2	AL
Lucinda TIMMONS	Other	F	M	B	45	AL
Frank TIMMONS	Other	M	M	B	61	AL
Marian TIMMONS	Other	F	S	B	9	AL
Joseph TIMMONS	Other	M	S	B	8	AL
Mark GUNNAL	Other	M	S	B	25	AL

Census Place: Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 136B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Alen CASH	Self	M	M	B	35	AL
Betsie CASH	Wife	F	M	B	35	AL
Sallie CASH	Dau	F	S	B	10	AL
Mariah CASH	Dau	F	S	B	8	AL
Sandy CASH	Son	M	S	B	7	AL
Mary CASH	Dau	F	S	B	5	AL
Alberta CASH	Dau	F	S	B	3	AL
Alen CASH	Son	M	S	B	1	AL

Census Place: Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 136B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Frank JACOBS	Self	M	M	MU	25	AL
Liza JACOBS	Wife	F	M	B	25	TN
Madora JACOBS	Dau	F	S	B	8	AL
Francis JACOBS	Dau	F	S	B	1	AL

Census Place: Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 136B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Robert GREY	Self	M	M	B	28	AL
Fannie GREY	Wife	F	M	B	22	AL
Laura GREY	Dau	F	S	B	6	AL
Lucilla GREY	Dau	F	S	B	3	AL
Lillie GREY	Dau	F	S	B	5M	AL
Margaret GREY	Sister	F	W	B	52	AL
Lee GREY	Nephew	M	S	B	18	AL

Census Place: Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 136B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
William LOWE	Self	M	M	B	40	AL
Margaret LOWE	Wife	F	M	B	50	AL
P LOWE	Son	M	S	B	10	AL
LOWE	Dau	F	S	B	8	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Nancy LEWIS	Self	F	W	B	45	AL
Sam LEWIS	Son	M	S	B	15	AL
Ruben LEWIS	Son	M	S	B	3	AL
Malinda LEWIS	Mother	F	W	B	...	VA
Addie LEWIS	Niece	F	S	B	18	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
John THORMTON	Self	M	M	B	50	AL
Virginia THORMTON	Wife	F	M	B	38	AL
Celtia THORMTON	Dau	F	S	B	14	AL
Mahala THORMTON	Dau	F	S	B	12	AL
Lucy THORMTON	Dau	F	S	B	11	AL
Thornton THORMTON	Son	M	S	B	10	AL
Earnest THORMTON	Son	M	S	B	8	AL
Coleman THORMTON	Son	M	S	B	6	AL
Siam THORMTON	Son	M	S	B	2	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Austin GROORS	Self	M	M	B	32	AL
Parilia GROORS	Wife	F	M	B	28	AL
Hendesson CAMEL	Other	M	S	B	10	AL
Hayes BANUT	Nephew	M	S	B	3	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Davis CAMBELL	Self	M	M	B	53	AL
Daisie CAMBELL	Wife	F	M	B	28	AL
Alls CAMBELL	Son	M	S	B	9	AL
David CAMBELL	Son	M	S	B	7	AL
Zackaus CAMBELL	Son	M	S	B	5	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Zeb. JOINER	Self	M	M	MU	23	AL
Lizzie JOINER	Wife	F	M	MU	22	AL
Arthor JOINER	Son	M	S	MU	7M	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Solomon LEMORE	Self	M	M	MU	28	AL
Rodie LEMORE	Wife	F	M	MU	26	AL
James LEMORE	Son	M	S	MU	1	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Joseph NICKOLS	Self	M	M	MU	59	AL
Nancy NICKOLS	Wife	F	M	MU	58	AL
Walker NICKOLS	Son	M	S	MU	13	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
James LACY	Self	M	M	MU	40	AL
Prissilla LACY	Wife	F	M	MU	39	AL
Nellie LACY	Dau	F	S	MU	18	AL
Wyatt LACY	Son	M	S	MU	14	AL
Amanda LACY	Dau	F	S	MU	12	AL
Margaret LACY	Dau	F	S	MU	10	AL
Francis LACY	Dau	F	S	MU	8	AL
Thomas LACY	Son	M	S	MU	6	AL
Edith LACY	Dau	F	S	MU	4	AL
Russel LOWE	Other	M	M	B	41	AL
Flora LOWE	Other	F	M	B	29	AL
Anna LOWE	Other	F	S	B	8	AL
Sophia LOWE	Other	F	S	B	6	AL
Matilda LACY	Mother	F	W	MU	60	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Will T. WILLIAMS	Self	M	M	B	35	AL
Nancy WILLIAMS	Wife	F	M	B	24	AL
Trustie WILLIAMS	Son	M	S	B	4	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137D

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Lucy BILLUPS	Self	F	W	B	47	AL
Peggie BILLUPS	Dau	F	S	B	27	AL
Amanda BILLUPS	Dau	F	S	B	17	AL
Fannie BILLUPS	Dau	F	S	B	12	AL
Moses BILLUPS	Son	M	S	B	8	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137D

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Stephen QUAIM	Self	M	M	B	39	VA
Prissilla QUAIM	Wife	F	M	B	37	AL
Adaline QUAIM	Dau	F	S	B	16	AL
Liza QUAIM	Dau	F	S	B	14	AL
Margaret QUAIM	Dau	F	S	B	12	AL
Perks BEARD	Other	M	S	B	26	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137D

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Richie TIMIS	Self	M	M	B	23	VA
Sarah TIMIS	Wife	F	M	B	21	AL
Angeline TIMIS	Dau	F	S	B	4	AL
Francis CULP	MotherL	F	W	B	45	AL
Marthy CULP	SisterL	F	S	B	5	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137D

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Munro BELL	Self	M	M	B	48	AL
Sarah BELL	Wife	F	M	B	35	AL
William BELL	Son	M	S	B	6	AL
Munro BELL	Son	M	S	B	1	AL
Francis LIGHTFOOT	Niece	F	W	B	28	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 137D

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
John MARLIN	Self	M	M	B	35	AL
Laura MARLIN	Wife	F	M	B	32	VA
Susan MARLIN	Dau	F	S	B	15	AL
William MARLIN	Son	M	S	B	8	AL
Julia MARLIN	Dau	F	S	B	7	AL
Mary MARLIN	Dau	F	S	B	5	AL
Ida MARLIN	Dau	F	S	B	2	AL
Sallie MARLIN	Aunt	F	W	B	80	NC

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Thomas DAVIDSON	Self	M	M	B	20	AL
Mary DAVIDSON	Wife	F	M	B	18	AL
Julia DAVIDSON	Sister	F	S	B	18	AL
Matilda DAVIDSON	Mother	F	W	B	55	AL
Alfred BLACK	Cousin	M	S	B	21	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Andrew COWAN	Self	M	M	B	25	AL
Berry COWAN	Brother	M	M	B	28	AL
Mahala COWAN	Wife	F	M	B	23	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Berta COWAN	Self	F	M	B	23	AL
Rosa COWAN	Dau	F	S	B	1	AL
Green COWAN	Brother	M	S	B	15	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Samuel CABBELL	Self	M	M	B	31	AL
Virginia CABBELL	Wife	F	M	B	23	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
John POLLARD	Self	M	M	B	36	GA
Mary POLLARD	Wife	F	M	B	25	AL
John POLLARD	Son	M	S	B	10	AL
James POLLARD	Son	M	S	B	5	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Charles A. BELL	Self	M	M	W	35	AL
Rebecca BELL	Wife	F	M	W	25	AL
Deward BELL	Son	M	S	W	8	AL
Claud BELL	Son	M	S	W	6	AL
Ewing BELL	Son	M	S	W	5	AL
Minnie BELL	Dau	F	S	W	2	AL
Arthur BELL	Son	M	S	W	3M	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Charles COWAN	Self	M	M	B	45	AL
Harriett COWAN	Wife	F	M	B	40	AL
Rella COWAN	Dau	F	S	B	20	AL
Scott COWAN	Son	M	S	B	15	AL
Lizzie COWAN	Dau	F	S	B	12	AL
Charles COWAN	Son	M	S	B	9	AL

Wesley COWAN	Son M	S	B	4	AL
Henderson CAULIMORE	Other M	M	B	26	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Munroe TIMMONS	Self	M	M	B	36	AL
Harriet TIMMONS	Wife	F	M	B	23	AL
Gracie TIMMONS	Dau	F	S	B	2	AL
Charles HOGAN	Other	M	S	B	22	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Margaret CLEMENT	Self	F	W	B	45	AL
Felix CLEMENT	Son	M	S	B	12	AL
Lottie CLEMENT	Dau	F	S	B	8	AL
King GUIMEL	Other	M	W	B	44	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Sallie BELL	Self	F	W	W	55	AL
Stanhope BELL	Son	M	S	W	27	AL
Zera BELL	Dau	F	S	W	18	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Fannie BELL	Self	F	W	B	28	AL
Houston BELL	Son	M	S	B	8	AL
Rosa BELL	Dau	F	S	B	4	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 138A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Frank BELL	Self	M	W	B	65	AL
Frank BELL	Son	M	S	B	12	AL
Charles BELL	Son	M	S	B	10	AL
Samuel BAILIE	Other	M	S	B	25	AL

Of course, the “Austin Groors” listed above had a wife recorded as “Parilia”, not “Kate” per the marriage license. It may be that her name was actually Kate Parilia Moore, but that is only conjecture. Kate may have also died and Parilia may be a second wife. At this stage of research, only guesswork prevails in this matter.

The 1880 census for Madison County AL does not have any listings for a GROVES family, per a search of the Ancestry.com database. There are a few GROVER families listed, but only one that is headed by a black male old enough to have served in the Civil War. That one is **Henry GROVER**, age 50 in 1880 (see page 4 of the census excerpts below). Since it is often difficult to ascertain whether the census enumerator's writing was spelling GROVES or GROVER, it is possible that Henry "Grover" was either an older brother or the father of Austin Groves. The entry for Henry Grover shows that he lived among many other known residents of the pre-arsenal lands in 1880. The 1880 wife named Jane may be a second wife, considering the age difference from Henry. The excerpted census records for Henry Grover and his near neighbors are provided here in case some future information may confirm the connection to **AUSTIN GROVES**.

1880 Census records from Family History Resource disks produced by the Latter Day Saints church:

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama						
Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 132A						
	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Jerry HORTON	Self	M	S	B	25	AL
Mattie HORTON	Sister	F	S	B	18	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama						
Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 132A						
	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
I. A. LANIER	Self	M	S	W	63	TN
Mary LANIER	Other	F	W	B	75	TN

Census Place:Madison, Alabama						
Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 132A						
	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Ann TONEY	Self	F	W	B	48	GA
Percy TONEY	Son	M	M	B	24	AL
Olie TONEY	Dau	F	S	MU	18	AL
Alexander TONEY	Son	M	S	MU	11	AL
Charity TONEY	Dau	F	S	MU	8	AL
William TONEY	Son	M	S	MU	6	AL
Sallie TONEY	Dau	L	F	M	MU	18
Late TONEY	Other	M	S	B	22	AL
Look HORTON	Other	M	S	B	15	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 132A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
W. H. LANIER	Self	M	M	W	60	TN
Rena J. LANIER	Wife	F	M	W	47	AL
Mollie D. LANIER	Dau	F	S	W	22	AL
Rena S. LANIER	Dau	F	S	W	19	AL
Lucy LANIER	Dau	F	S	W	13	AL
Birdie LANIER	Dau	F	S	W	17	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 132B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Milton LANIER	Self	M	M	B	36	AL
Rebecca LANIER	Wife	F	M	B	32	AL
James LANIER	Son	M	S	B	15	AL
Emily LANIER	Dau	F	S	B	12	AL
Mary LANIER	Dau	F	S	B	8	AL
Mattie LANIER	Dau	F	S	B	6	AL
Ida LANIER	Dau	F	S	B	1	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 132B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Jarret JONES	Self	M	M	B	80	NC
Violette JONES	Wife	F	M	B	69	NC

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 132B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Albert LANIER	Self	M	M	B	49	AL
Veiny LANIER	Wife	F	M	B	40	AL
Jerry LANIER	Son	M	S	B	12	AL
Julia LANIER	Dau	F	S	B	10	AL
Charity LANIER	Dau	F	S	B	8	AL
Ben Anna LANIER	Dau	F	S	B	6	AL
James TONEY	SSon	M	S	MU	20	AL
Virginia TONEY	SDau	F	S	MU	16	AL
Thomas CAVER	Other	M	S	B	22	AL
Jerry HORTON	Other	M	S	B	19	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 132B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Frank HORTON	Self	M	M	B	46	AL
Margaret HORTON	Wife	F	M	MU	37	AL
Alice HORTON	Dau	F	S	MU	18	AL
Lacy LIGHTFOOT	Other	F	S	B	18	AL
Sophiah HORTON	Mother	F	W	B	65	AL

John KING	Other M	S	B	15	AL
Claricy ALLEN	Aunt F	W	B	70	AL
Leneya JORDAN	Nephew M	S	B	3	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 134A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Barret JACOBS	Self M	M	MU	28	AL	
Kittie JACOBS	Wife F	M	MU	20	AL	
Kittie JACOBS	Dau F	S	MU	5M	AL	

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 134A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
William SIMPSON	Self M	M	B	45	AL	
Caroline SIMPSON	Wife F	M	B	45	AL	
Ada SIMPSON	Dau F	S	B	8	AL	
Nancy SIMPSON	Dau F	S	B	5	AL	
Margarett SIMPSON	Dau F	S	B	3	AL	
Cora SIMPSON	Dau F	S	B	1	AL	
Sallie MURPHEY	Niece F	W	B	19	AL	

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 134A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Isaac RIGHT	Self M	M	B	32	AL	
Louisa RIGHT	Wife F	M	B	45	AL	
John RIGHT	SSon M	S	B	16	AL	
Mary RIGHT	Dau F	S	B	9	AL	

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 134A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Ephram LYNCH	Self M	M	B	26	AL	
Caroline LYNCH	Wife F	M	B	18	AL	

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 134A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Henry GROVER	Self M	M	B	50	AL	
Jane GROVER	Wife F	M	B	35	AL	
Willie GROVER	Son M	S	B	10	AL	
Sarah GROVER	Dau F	S	B	8	AL	
Rufus GROVER	Son M	S	B	7	AL	
Aen GROVER	Son M	S	B	5	AL	
Teesh GROVER	Son M	S	B	3	AL	
Berry GROVER	Son M	S	B	1	AL	

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 134A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Prince FENNEL	Self	M	M	B	28	AL
Emma FENNEL	Wife	F	M	B	28	AL
Susan FENNEL	Dau	F	S	B	4	AL
Leila FENNEL	Dau	F	S	B	1	AL

Census Place:Township 5, Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 134B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Claricy HORTON	Self	F	W	B	40	AL
Malinda HORTON	Mother	F	W	B	63	AL
Henry HORTON	Son	M	S	B	20	AL
Percy HORTON	Son	M	S	B	13	AL
Walter HORTON	Son	M	S	B	5	AL
George HORTON	Son	M	S	B	3	AL
John HORTON	Son	M	S	B	1M	AL

Census Place:Madison, Alabama

Source: FHL Film 1254021 National Archives Film T9-0021 Page 134B

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Willie LYNCH	Self	M	M	B	45	AL
Francis LYNCH	Wife	F	M	B	30	AL

The 1900 Madison County census image for Triana Precinct 7 shows **Henry Groves** on Line 24 (in the middle of the page) as a widowed uncle in the household of Mose Patton:

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in La B C, in the County of Jackson, State of Ala, enumerated by me on the 9 day of July, 1870.

Post Office: Scottsboro

Charles C. McPherson, Asst. Marshal.

123
 124
 125
 126
 127
 128
 129
 130
 131
 132
 133
 134
 135
 136
 137
 138
 139
 140

1	2	3	4			7	8		10	11			14	15	16	17	18	19	
			Age	Sex	Color		Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female	Value of Real Estate owned		Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic						Color of eyes	Color of hair
			5	M					Alabama										
			12	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			23	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			25	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			22	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			6	M					Ala										
126	126		16	M		Ham Laborer	100		Via										
			21	M		Keeps house			Ala										
			17	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			14	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			11	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			9	M					Ala										
			6	M					Ala										
			5	M					Ala										
			1	M					Ala										
127	127		30	M		Farmer			Ala										
			21	M		Keeps house			Ala										
			3	M					Ala										
			2	M					Ala										
			7	M					Ala										
128	128		70	M		Ham Laborer			Via										
			36	M		Keeps house			Ala										
			8	M					Ala										
			4	M					Ala										
			8	M					Ala										
			1/2	M					Ala										
			35	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			7/2	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			26	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
			26	M		Keeps house			Ala										
			29	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
130	130		23	M		Farmer			Ala										
			24	M		Keeps house			Ala										
			2	M					Ala										
			35	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										
131	131		31	M		Farmer			Ala										
			35	M		Keeps house			Ala										
132	132		22	M		Farmer			Via										
			20	M		Keeps house			Ala										
			2	M					Ala										
			24	M		Ham Laborer			Ala										

In the mortgage instrument below, Austin Groves and his wife on February 25 of 1875 borrow \$75 from Thomas Jamar against all of the cotton and corn crops and other personal property that Austin has on the "Lewis Plantation". That would be the land of Meriwether Anderson Lewis, which was located at the south end of the International Airport runways today.

MAY 6. AL
 I and Book ZZ
 page 111-2 (1875)

Austin Groves
 & wife
Thomas Jamar

State of Alabama Madison County
 Whereas Austin Groves of Madison County, Alabama
 is justly indebted to Thomas Jamar of Madison
 County, Alabama, in the sum of seventy five
 Dollars payable on the first day of November A.D. 1875, as is evi-
 denced by the promissory note of said Austin Groves of even date, here-
 with. And whereas the said Austin Groves desires of assuming
 the prompt payment of said indebtedness, when it falls due, then
 therefore the said Austin Groves in consideration of the prom-
 ises and the further sum of One Dollar, to in hand paid, by the
 said Thomas Jamar the receipt whereof is hereby acknowl-
 edged, do, by their presents, Grant, bargain, sell and convey abso-
 lutely to the said Thomas Jamar, the following personal prop-
erty, belonging to the said Austin Groves, all of my cotton
and my corn crop and all other crops that I may raise on
the Lewis plantation, in the year 1875, wife of said
 joins him in this mortgage of said homestead
 for the purpose of making it valid, in accordance with
 an Act of the Legislature of the State of Alabama, ap-
 proved March 17, 1873, and entitled An Act to regulate
 property exempted from sale for the payment of debts, To
 have and to hold said property to the said Thomas Jamar
 his heirs and assigns forever, In trust however, that the
 said Thomas Jamar, if the said indebtedness, or any part
 thereof remains due and unpaid after the same falls
 due, is hereby authorized to take possession of said prop-
 erty and make sale thereof at public outcry to the highest
 bidder, for cash at Gretna Groves in said Madison County,
 Alabama, within the legal house of sale, having first given
 ten days notice of the time, place and terms of sale of
 said personal property, by written or printed posters, posted
 up in three conspicuous places in said County, Ala-
 bama, and having first given thirty days notice of the
 time, place and terms of sale of said real estate,

by previous advertisement in some newspaper printed in said county Alabama, or in the city of Huntsville, Alabama and upon said sale shall deliver to the purchaser of said personal property, possession thereof, and shall make execute, and deliver to the purchaser of said real estate a good and sufficient deed of conveyance of all the right, title, and interest hereby conveyed to said Thomas James. And out of the proceeds of said sale, shall pay first, The costs and charges of this trust, second - The debt and interest remaining due and payable to the said Thomas James or his assigns, and third, should any balance remain shall pay the same to the said Austin Groves or his legal representatives; But if the said Austin Groves shall will and truly pay or cause to be paid said debt, interest, costs and charges of this trust, then this deed shall cease determining, and be utterly void & of no force or effect, the said Austin Groves, hereunto set his hand and seal, this 25th day of February A.D. 1875,

J. D. Thompson
T. S. James

Austin Groves
 mark

The foregoing Mortgage was delivered into the office of the Probate Court of Madison County Ala. for registration on the 24th day of March 1875, and was duly recorded on the 29th day of March 1875.

W. Richardson J. P.

MAP Co. AL
 Dead Book Z E
 page 111-2 (1875)

Austin's wife was not named in the mortgage instrument, but she was shown in the 1880 census image given below. Her name has already been shown to be "Parilia" in the 1880 census data of the Family History Resource disks produced by the Latter Day Saints church. While this image is faint, it shows that Austin was born in Alabama, as opposed to the 1870 census record that gave his birthplace as Georgia. Variations of birthplaces for the same person between censuses is not unusual, however.

Register's Dist. No. 1
Enumeration Dist. No. 217

Persons should persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Deaths of Persons who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
Small Children under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Township of Hayes, Mead, in the County of Madison, State of Alaska, enumerated by me on the 5th day of June, 1880.

W. H. Sawyer Jr.

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Place of Birth		
									Ala	Me	Vir
<u>Lucy A. Sawyer</u>	F	44	W	Farming					Ala	Me	Vir
<u>Paul A. Sawyer</u>	M	41	W	Farming					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	11	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	10	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	9	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	8	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	7	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	6	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	5	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	4	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	3	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	2	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	1	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala
<u>William A. Sawyer</u>	M	0	W	"					Ala	Ala	Ala

As part of the quest to learn more about Austin Groves, local Civil War historian Brian Hogan of the Sons of Union Veterans organization was contacted for help with learning about his military marker:

(Communication to John P. Rankin by Brian Hogan, March 5, 2003)

John,

I cannot verify that Austin Groves was in the 42nd USCT!

The only Austin Groves I can find was in the 66th Ohio Infantry, Co.A I've looked at every source I could think of, including Freedman's Bank lists and the Slave Genealogy book, without success.

Perhaps this is a case where one needs to request a service record from the National Archives.

I just don't know where else to go!

Brian

On March 9, 2003, John P. Rankin wrote back to Brian Hogan:

Brian --

Have you considered trying to locate this guy under the name of Groves Austin or G. Austin? There were some Austin families on living on the arsenal lands before the Civil War (plantation owner and slaveholder Pleasant Austin was the first of the name there), but I never noticed any Groves families there. Maybe the name was incorrectly put on the stone, from a military form that required last name first.

Thanks for checking.....

John

(Subsequent communication from Brian Hogan, dated March 10, 2003)

John,

I went back and re-checked my data. Still no Austin Groves or Graves or Roves or Raves, and vice-versa.

I then looked at the roster of the 42nd USCT (1071 names) for anyone whose 1st name was Austin, an uncommon name.

I found 3 men with that 1st name, a Satywhite, a Kemp, and a Grose.

If its anyone, its Austin Grose, Co.A, enlisted as a Private, discharged as a Corporal.

These rosters are found on the NPS website, or search for "Civil War Soldiers and Sailors", or just "CWSS" on Google. The names are taken from the General Index Cards in the National Archives so its not unusual to find errors due to difficulties in translating sometimes atrocious handwriting.

In this case I suspect that the headstone spelling is probably correct, and the Index card is wrong.

A surer test would be to order service records under both names, then see what they find!

Brian

With this information, some of the Civil War experiences of Austin Groves can be approximated by a study of his unit's history, as documented in the "**Official Records of the War of the Rebellion**", basically a Union account of correspondences during the war. Pertinent pages from these accounts are presented below.

LOUISVILLE, KY., June 15, 1864.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

SIR: Altogether six regiments of colored troops have been raised in Missouri and distributed—one at Memphis, two at Helena, two at Port Hudson, and one at Baton Rouge.

There are eighty-three recruits at Saint Louis toward the formation of the seventh regiment. The number of able-bodied slaves in Missouri is less than 3,000, and General Pile is of opinion that not more than 1,000 can be recruited, as many of them are employed by their owners at fair wages. After the organization of the seventh regiment I shall take the recruits to fill up the regiments from Missouri in the field. I propose to send General Pile into the field, as he will have little further to do, and the senior field officer of the seventh regiment can superintend the service. General Thomas Ewing, jr., is raising a regiment in Missouri at large; has about 200 men. I am decidedly of opinion that but one regiment should be in process of formation at the same time. Either give all the recruits to General Ewing or transfer his men to the seventh regiment.

In Middle and East Tennessee we have the following colored troops: At Nashville there are the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Regiments, fully organized, reporting to the chief quartermaster for labor in his department. Also the One hundredth Regiment, organized from Kentucky recruits, fully; also two companies of the Fortieth Regiment, which will probably be ordered to East Tennessee to fill the regiment there. Also Meigs' Light Battery A, Second U. S. Colored Artillery. Also two companies of an organized regiment in the Tenth U. S. Colored Troops. Upon the line of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad are the Twelfth and Thirteenth Regiments, fully organized and doing guard duty. Upon the line of railroad from Nashville to Decatur are three regiments and a fraction of a fourth, raised by General Dodge, doing guard duty. At Chattanooga, Tenn., are the Fourteenth and Sixteenth Regiments, fully organized, and doing duty on the fortifications. There are also at Chattanooga four companies of the Forty-fourth Regiment organizing, and three or four companies of the Forty-second Regiment (laboring regiment); organization going on. At Knoxville, Tenn., the First Regiment U. S. Colored Artillery (heavy) is organizing. This regiment has about 1,100 men mustered in. The above regiments, from the Twelfth to the Seventeenth, inclusive, were originally filled to 900 and 1,000, reduced by casualties to about 700 each.

I have just been shown the inclosed order of Major-General Sherman, which, in its practical working, I conceive, will stop enlistments from the colored men coming to his army. I consider the threat of imprisonment to recruiting officers especially harsh. Far better to

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enlist the negroes, and let them perform their fair share of labor and fatigue duty, than keep them at hard labor—in many instances greater than they were subjected to by their former owners. I have always been satisfied that too many able-bodied men were permitted to follow our regiments. I shall go to Nashville to-morrow morning for a few days.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
L. THOMAS,
Adjutant-General.

[Inclosure.]

WAR OF THE REBELLION, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES,
 published by The National Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA, 1892, Series III, Vol. IV, Serial No. 125, page 434

HDQRS. COMR. FOR ORGANIZATION U. S. COLORED TROOPS,
Nashville, Tenn., October 10, 1864.

Maj. C. W. FOSTER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Chief of the Colored Bureau,
Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, D. C.:

MAJOR: In obedience to instructions from your office dated September 29, ultimo, I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this office during the past year. In so doing I shall, for the sake of unity and to facilitate my work, commence with the

WAR OF THE REBELLION, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES,
 published by The National Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA, 1892, Series III, Vol. IV, Serial No. 125, page 762

arrival of my predecessor, Maj. G. L. Stearns, assistant adjutant-general, commissioner for organization U. S. colored troops in the Department of the Cumberland:

ARRIVAL.

Pursuant to orders from the War Department Major Stearns reported at the headquarters Department of the Cumberland in person to Major-General Rosecrans, commanding the department, near Trenton, Ga., on the 6th of September, 1863. General Rosecrans thereupon issued orders recognizing Major Stearns' position and work and assigning him to duty. (See Ext. VII, Special Field Orders, 243, headquarters Department of the Cumberland, 1863.) Major Stearns took post at Nashville, and upon the 20th of September, 1863, I was detailed to duty as mustering officer for colored troops, and directed to co-operate with Major Stearns in the organization of U. S. colored troops.

AT THE OUTSET.

Major Stearns, on reporting at Nashville to Governor Johnson, with whom he was ordered to co-operate, found that the raising of colored troops was, if not opposed, regarded with distrust and suspicion by influential loyal Tennesseans, and some time elapsed before harmonious relations were established between Major Stearns and these gentlemen. By the last of the month, however, the work began.

WHAT HAD BEEN DONE.

In July, 1863, General Rosecrans announced his policy of raising regiments of colored laborers and also made provisions for the proper treatment and payment of colored employes in the staff departments of the army and of officers' servants. (See General Orders, No. 172, headquarters Department of the Cumberland.) Under this policy an examining board had been constituted, before which had appeared a large number of officers and enlisted men. A tabular result of this board's examination is annexed.

One regiment had been raised—the present Twelfth U. S. Colored Troops, then named the Second Alabama. This regiment was largely composed of laborers upon fortifications about Nashville, the remnants of the large force impressed in the summer of 1862 for the service. It does not come within the province of this report to comment upon the treatment which this body of men while laborers received. Special reports upon this matter have been made to the War Department. It is sufficient to say that the change from the irregular and irresponsible treatment they received as laborers to that they had as soldiers was very grateful to them.

These men were mustered in by Capt. Howard E. Stansbury, U. S. Army, assistant commissary of musters for the department, who to a certain degree superintended the organization. A second regiment had been begun at Murfreesborough. Almost all of these men were, or had been, laborers in the staff departments at Clarksville, Gallatin, Murfreesborough, or other points.

SYSTEM OF RECRUITING.

Major Stearns brought with him several experienced recruiting agents, whose expenses, as well as those of an extraordinary character not allowed from the Government recruiting funds in raising troops,

were defrayed from a private fund raised chiefly in Massachusetts. Major Stearns stationed these agents at various eligible points and directed recruits to be brought to Nashville, to which place the fragment of the second regiment (now the Thirteenth U. S. Colored Troops) was ordered. His agents, by public meetings, by personal appeals, and by the employment of colored assistants, procured recruits freely. It was upon the 24th of September, 1863, that recruiting began; upon the — of — the Thirteenth U. S. Colored Regiment was filled.

All officers of these regiments had up to the battle of Chickamauga been appointed by General Rosecrans.

The derangement of travel following that battle and the pressing demands of the army prevented prompt replies to Major Stearns' requests for officers; consequently permission was granted to Governor Johnson and Major Stearns to appoint officers. (See letter from the Secretary of War dated —.)

Recruits came in so freely that Major Stearns decided to raise four other regiments of infantry—respectively designated the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth. The Fourteenth was organized at Gallatin, the Fifteenth was started at Shelbyville, the Sixteenth at Clarksville, and the Seventeenth at Murfreesborough.

It was a part of Major Stearns' plan to have the officer who was to command the regiment appointed first, that he might shape and tone the regiment from the beginning. The persons so appointed were in all cases commissioned officers, and though they did not draw pay as of the grade to which appointed, their local rank sufficed to give them command and the pay of their old grade to support them till entitled to muster in. Captains were to stay with their companies; the subalterns to recruit, if thought best.

His plan is developed in General Orders, No. 1, headquarters Commissioner for Organization U. S. Colored Troops, appended.* Frequent scouts were ordered to be made by the nascent regiments. Upon these scouts all who desired, of the negroes found on the way, were recruited; none were pressed.

Troops, as soon as organized, were generally assigned to some duty at the post where raised, and their practical acquaintance with the duties of soldiers began at once.

LABOR.

The Twelfth and Thirteenth regiments were stationed on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad as laborers, and as guards to other laborers.

About November 20, 1863, General Meigs, Quartermaster-General, then at Chattanooga, requested of Major Stearns what colored men could be spared for fatigue duty at Bridgeport, Ala. In accordance with this request four companies of the Fourteenth U. S. Colored Infantry were sent from Gallatin. They remained at Bridgeport engaged in fatigue duty till about the 1st of February, 1864, when the regiment was reunited at Chattanooga. At Chattanooga the regiment was set to work upon fortifications.

The Sixteenth Regiment U. S. Colored Infantry was ordered to Chattanooga about the 1st of April, 1864, and also set at work upon the fortifications. The Fifteenth U. S. Colored Infantry late in

* Omitted

March, 1864, reported to Lieut. Col. J. L. Donaldson, chief quartermaster, for duty at this place. The Seventeenth U. S. Colored Infantry reported to him for the same duty early in April of the same year. I subjoin a report from Brevet Brigadier-General Donaldson, showing the amount of duty performed by these men and the manner in which it was done.*

In February, 1864, Adjutant-General Thomas authorized the formation of an invalid or laboring regiment at this post, to be composed of men unfit for field duty, but fit for ordinary garrison duty. This regiment, the One hundred and first, has done fatigue duty, and some of the so-to-speak business duties of soldiers.

The Adjutant-General also authorized the formation of such a regiment at Chattanooga about the same time. This regiment (the Forty-second) has been engaged chiefly the last summer in the hospital gardens. The Forty-second U. S. Colored Infantry did considerable fatigue duty at Chattanooga during its organization.

OTHER REGIMENTS.

The Forty-second and One hundred and first are invalid or laboring regiments, composed of men unfit for field duty but fit for ordinary garrison duty, either enlisted as such or transferred to these from other regiments. The Forty-second Regiment was organized at Chattanooga, the One hundred and first Regiment at Nashville. There are in the Forty-second Regiment about 400 men, and in the One hundred and first about 600. The One hundred and first furnishes guards for the contraband camp at this place and Clarksville.

The Forty-fourth Regiment was authorized to be raised by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, commanding Department of the Cumberland, under date of March 2, 1864. It was at Chattanooga for some time, but about the middle of July moved to Rome, Ga., where it was rapidly recruited to the minimum. It is now garrisoning Dalton, Ga.

The One hundredth Regiment is composed of the first colored men openly recruited in Kentucky. It was organized in June last. It was ordered to report to me for recruiting duty by the Adjutant-General, but there being a demand for more troops on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad, on the 9th of August last it was turned over to Brigadier-General Webster, chief of staff to Major-General Sherman, and now nine companies are on that road. The other company is doing duty at Camp Foster, at this place.

The Fortieth Infantry have their history prior to Major Stearns reporting here. Governor Johnson had begun to raise a regiment of Tennessee troops (colored); one or two companies were formed. These were turned over to me by the adjutant-general of the State, General Gillem. I proposed to use them as the nucleus of the Ninth U. S. Colored Artillery, to be raised under orders from the Adjutant-General, but circumstances induced me to request that the regiment be retained as an infantry regiment. This was ordered by the Adjutant-General upon the recommendation of the chief of the Colored Bureau. Two companies of the Fortieth are on duty on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. A detachment is doing duty upon the Louisville and Nashville Railroad near Gallatin. The regiment has about 400 men.

When Major-General Grant was at Knoxville last winter General Davis Tillson applied for permission to raise a regiment of colored

* Omitted.

artillery (heavy) for the defense of Knoxville. General T. wished a regiment of artillery, that he might retain control of it more readily than if it were an infantry regiment. General Tillson was referred to this office by Major-General Grant, and the requisite authority and designation obtained from the Colored Bureau.

Recruiting has been conducted there as here, and assisted by the money of the Boston committee. The regiment now numbers about 1,700 men. A roster of officers is appended.* The Ninth U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) was authorized by the Adjutant-General last February. Desires to fill up regiments already organized prevented recruiting for this until recently. A company has been recruited at Clarksville, Tenn., and some 380 recruits sent from Ohio have been assigned to this command, filling the battalion now which is under the command of Major Grosskopff.

There are some men for the second battalion. Josiah V. Meigs, a native Tennessean, received permission in January last to raise a battery of light artillery at this place. This is Battery A, Second U. S. Colored Artillery (Light). The battery is full and has been stationed here. It has but recently gotten horses. The men are pretty well advanced in the school of the piece and have had a few mounted drills.

RECRUITING.

I stated before that no impressment had been allowed in recruiting. In February last Adjutant-General Thomas authorized the impressment of negroes for military purposes. This, however, was soon countermanded.

The present rules governing recruiting are that any loyal owner resident in Kentucky and Tennessee may put his slave into service, and that any slave desiring to enlist may be recruited. Certificates, Forms No. 1 (Colored Bureau), are awarded whenever the owner desires. Frequent inquiries, by the way, are made as to the payment of the \$300 compensation.

EXAMINING BOARD.

As already stated, upon Major Stearns reporting here he found that an examining board had been in session at Stevenson. A tabular statement annexed shows their operations.*

The examining board at Nashville was originally organized in August, 1863, by General Gordon Granger, commanding District of the Cumberland, under orders from Major-General Rosecrans, commanding Department of the Cumberland. Subsequently the department commander assumed the control of it.

Brig. Gen. R. S. Granger; Colonel Lum, Tenth Michigan Foot Volunteers; Colonel Stoughton, Eleventh Michigan Foot Volunteers; Colonel Hull, Thirty-seventh Indiana Foot Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel Crane, Eighty-fifth Indiana Foot Volunteers; Major Dutton, One hundred and fifth Illinois Foot Volunteers; Major Grosskopff, Ninth U. S. Colored Artillery; Captain Kramer, Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry Volunteers, and Capt. John O'Neil, Seventeenth U. S. Colored Infantry, have been, respectively, connected with the Board. Of these Colonel Lum, Lieutenant-Colonel Crane, and Major Dutton were for the longest time members of the Board.

* Omitted.

At present Colonel Hull, Major Grosskopff, and Capt. O'Neil constitute the Board. Attention is invited to Major Grosskopff's report hereto attached.*

This Board, though not definitely under my orders, has reported weekly to me the results of its examinations, and persons desiring to appear before it make application to this office. A board for the examination of applicants for commissions in colored troops was organized last winter at Chattanooga. The names of the members of the Board and their action are but imperfectly known to me, no direct reports having been made. I believe, however, that Colonel Mindil, Thirty-third New Jersey Foot Volunteers, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn, of an Indiana regiment, have presided over the Board. From the imperfect reports made to me I have compiled a table.

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD.

A medical examining board was organized here by the army medical director Department of the Cumberland last fall. Upon the request of Major Stearns, Surgeons Lawton and Taylor, U. S. Volunteers; Farquharson, Fourth Tennessee Volunteers; James, Fourth Ohio Cavalry Volunteers; Assistant Surgeons Gray and Bodine, U. S. Army, have been connected herewith. I have upon their recommendations appointed six surgeons, seven assistant surgeons, and one or two hospital stewards.

APPOINTMENTS.

A full list of appointments to regiments of colored troops made at this office is annexed.* The total number made of all grades is 359. Besides these, between fifty and sixty names have been furnished to the Adjutant-General of the Army for appointment into Kentucky and other regiments, and also a few names to Brig. Gen. A. L. Chetlain, commanding U. S. colored troops in Tennessee, for appointments into regiments in West Tennessee.

By far the largest portions of these appointments have been of men who have passed an examining board.

A number are of men deserving, according to their commanders, a higher rank than that originally given to them.

REMAINING UNAPPOINTED.

There now remain unappointed of passed applicants before the Board in this place:

Recommended for—		Recommended for—	
Colonels	3	Regimental quartermasters	20
Lieutenant-colonels	2	First lieutenants	39
Majors	9	Second lieutenants	63
Captains	0		

Our great want is captains. These are needed to complete the organizations of regiments forming in the Department of the Cumberland. Eight captains for heavy artillery, eight captains of infantry, and lieutenants in proportion. The lieutenants, as will be seen by the above list, can be easily had.

* Omitted.

RECRUITING IN ADJACENT STATES—

And more especially detailed to superintend the recruiting in East and Middle Tennessee. I have recruited somewhat in Georgia, considerably in Northern Alabama, and slightly in North Carolina.

Prior to the advance of the armies of the Military Division of the Mississippi last spring we were able to get a few recruits from inside the enemy's lines by means of negroes employed for that purpose. Some were also obtained for the First U. S. Colored Artillery from North Carolina. Recruiting in Northern Alabama, or the pocket, was chiefly done by our agents, who accompanied cavalry expeditions. Some 300 were obtained for the Seventeenth U. S. Colored Infantry. One of our agents with General W. Sooy Smith, upon his expedition into Northern Mississippi, brought back about 800 men, who were put into regiments in Memphis.

When recruiting stations were opened at Gallatin and Clarksville slaves ran away from their owners in Kentucky—some came as far as from Louisville—to enlist. Eventually the Kentuckians saw that this losing of men to their quota did not pay. In March and April last I consulted with the acting assistant provost-marshal-general of Kentucky as to enlisting slaves there openly, and suggested that if under the new enrollment act negroes were drafted or volunteered they might be organized here, inasmuch as the people of Kentucky did not seem to be willing there should be armed negroes in their State. This was acceded to, and the recruiting was begun there in April.

By the time the One hundredth U. S. Colored Infantry was organized I had received numerous letters from loyal Kentuckians praying for the formation of colored regiments in their State.

A telegram of mine to the chief of the Colored Bureau requesting permission to recruit in that State, dated June 7, 1864, was answered by a direction to consult with the Adjutant-General at Louisville, Ky. Pursuant to that order I visited General Thomas and General Burbridge. General Burbridge did me the honor to request that I might be sent into Kentucky to superintend the organization of colored troops there. But General Thomas preferred that I should remain in Tennessee. General Burbridge also declined the services of recruiting agents supported by the Boston committee military fund, upon the ground that their labors were superfluous, as recruiting was progressing so rapidly, and were calculated to awaken opposition from Kentuckians.

From that time to this, beyond an occasional answer to letters from Kentucky asking my opinion, &c., on certain matters connected with recruiting, and the furnishing of names of passed applicants to the Adjutant-General for appointment into Kentucky regiments, I have had nothing to do with recruiting colored troops in Kentucky.

RECRUITING FOR LOYAL STATES.

Last winter a gentleman in Boston asked my opinion as to the propriety of Northern States filling their quotas by recruiting in the disloyal States.

Strong objections to the plan presented themselves to me, which I urged. The objections I presented have proven practically to be greater than I stated them.

About 400 recruits have been obtained from Georgia and Alabama for Northern States under the system and presented at the rendezvous here, Camp Foster.

The exceedingly competent surgeons detailed to examining duty there (by order of Clendenin, assistant medical director, and at my request), Dr. J. C. Elliott, One hundredth U. S. Colored Infantry, had rejected for disability about one-fourth of these men recruited. The number of agents registered with me is 237; this is a meager showing. I attribute it to—

First. The disinclination of General Sherman to aid a system which enabled men to avoid personal military service, a disinclination common to ninety-nine of every hundred of the officers and soldiers of his army.

Second. The scarcity of material.

Third. The difficulty of obtaining transportation from the front to this point of men enrolled. The system (if I may be permitted to criticise a measure passed by Congress) has this radical defect: The inequality of the bounties offered; consequent to this are bounty jumping, trafficking among agents, unfair measures in recruiting.

I believe desertions to have been induced by the system. I know that the honor of several officers has been compromised by it. Of the agents were men who cared nothing for the negro, had no interest in colored troops, and were only interested in making money for themselves, for very few of the many dollars of the bounties ever found their way into the recruits' pockets; the agents fattened upon them.

Practically, however, the system here is at an end, General Webster, General Sherman's chief of staff, declining to grant any more passes to agents going South or substitute brokers going North.

THE PROSPECTS IN GEORGIA.

I regard the prospects for recruiting in Georgia favorable. When our army resumes the offensive and penetrates into the Empire State of the South, the horde of negroes driven before Hood's army will be reached and made available. Some 5,000 laborers are wanted for the staff department in the field of General Sherman's armies, but when these are obtained (as I understand General Sherman's assurance and those of his subordinates) we shall be permitted to recruit.

Pursuant to authority given me last spring to recruit in Georgia and Northern Alabama, I kept till near the fall of Atlanta an agent in the front. Not so many negroes came into Sherman's army as were needed to supply the natural decrease of teamsters, &c.

THE PROSPECTS IN TENNESSEE.

I do not think it advisable after the regiments now authorized here are completed to begin others. There can still be recruiting here, but not in such numbers as to warrant the formation of new regiments.

My plan for such recruiting, and it is sanctioned by Brig. Gen. A. Johnson, Military Governor of Tennessee, is:

First. To have all colored recruiting in this State placed under the control of one person. As it is, there are recruiting parties from the old regiments of whose whereabouts, operations, and success I know nothing, unless they stumble into some place where I have parties recruiting for the new regiments.

Second. To have all recruits obtained sent to the general rendezvous here for examination, enlistment, and some drill before they are sent to the commands for which they are enlisted.

Third. To make recruiting successful here an armed force of one regiment or more is necessary. When Major Stearns came here his agents could recruit at the posts where troops were stationed. That source of supply has been exhausted, and the garrisons of the majority of the posts are too small to warrant them in making scouts for recruits. Wherever we have been able to send a force of, say, 80 or 100 men for a few days into the country, we have always got men, and the good conduct of the men upon such scouts has left a favorable impression on the people.

Fourth. Recruits should have some assurance that their families will not suffer from the abuse of disloyal owners whom they have left to enlist. I respectfully invite attention to the point here suggested.

MILITARY EFFICIENCY OF THE TROOPS.

Of the efficiency of these troops in action we have had but few opportunities to judge.

The Fourteenth Infantry charged Wheeler's line at Dalton, Ga., handsomely upon his last raid and marched after him well.

During the present raid of Forrest the Fourteenth and Sixteenth Infantry have been in one fight to my knowledge where they behaved well, and at Lebanon during Wheeler's raid a detachment of the Fortieth U. S. Colored Infantry showed pluck.

For the appearance, drill, discipline, &c., of these regiments reference is respectfully made to the inspection reports of General Chetlain. The general sentiments of the people and those of the army with whom these regiments have been brought in contact is favorable to them. The material has been found plastic to a degree, the men all appear eager to learn and willing to do their duty, and, as a rule, the officers have been good; many have been weeded out, however, and there is still room for change for the better.

My experience in this work convinces me that these regiments can be made for many duties superior to white regiments. As guards they are remarkably faithful.

A regiment of colored troops did interior duty as guards in this town. When they were relieved by white troops the change was regretted by the officers in charge of the public stores where these men had stood sentries. For raiders in the enemy's country these colored troops will prove superior. They are good riders, have quicker eyes at night than white, and know all the byways.

CONTRABAND CAMP.

When Major Stearns came into this department there was no organized provision for contrabands. Some were collected at Decherd, some at Stevenson, and about every army depot a crowd of blacks were congregated. The policy of the Governor and of army officers was to repress their coming into our lines. As we enlisted the able-bodied men, the women and children required care, and contrabands came upon our hands. Major Stearns procured a deserted chapel a mile from the city, into which he put a few women and children, soldiers' families, for whom no other provisions could be made. Rations were drawn for them, and as fast as possible they were hired out. This was a mere makeshift.

Telegraphic orders from the Secretary of the War Department upon the 19th of December, 1863, directed Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas to

receive destitute women and children at Stevenson and Nashville and supply their necessities. Some rude provision was made at Stevenson by the post commandant. On January 26 last about a hundred infirm men and women and children were sent by rail from Stevenson to this place. They were dumped at the Chattanooga depot and left for hours between the tracks. I called at General Grant's headquarters and stated the fact. An order was issued directing the post commandant to provide for them. Capt. Ralph Hurst, then in charge of the convalescent camp, was charged by General Granger with the execution of the order. While the location, &c., of a contraband camp were being discussed the Adjutant-General visited this place and issued Order No. 2, placing Captain Hurst in charge of the contrabands in the Department of the Cumberland. It was the intention to have the camp properly located somewhere near Gallatin, and to have here only a camp of reception and distribution, but Captain Hurst established the permanent camp here.

The management, &c., of this and other camps having been made the subject of investigation by the Hon. Messrs. Hood and Bostwick, special commissioners of the War Department, their report will show, I think, that the terms of General Thomas' order as to the erection of huts and the detail of inspecting lieutenants were never complied with. When Captain Hurst's term of service expired in June last Captain Barnard, Nineteenth U. S. Infantry, was appointed his successor and was also appointed colonel of the One hundred and first infantry. I subjoin reports of his, showing the number of camps now under his charge, &c.* Legitimately and of detail I have never had anything to do with these camps. But as Colonel Barnard's regiment is not organized yet and still reports to me, I have had a quasi control of the matter, which I have endeavored to use to the best interest of the poor people.

The Treasury agents have in but one or two cases attempted to control or regulate contraband camps in this department. Military control seems the most appropriate for them.

I have endeavored to select for officers of the One hundred and first U. S. Colored Infantry, from whom chiefly came the superintendents of these camps, men who have had experience in their old regiments as quartermaster and commissary sergeants, as possessing a better knowledge of business than other applicants.

SCHOOLS.

Major Stearns' policy was wise and large. He deemed the question of colored troops to involve the question of the elevation and improvement of the race, and accordingly he endeavored to establish and foster a desire for education among the colored troops and among the colored people.

Accordingly, efforts were made to procure teachers for colored schools here; money was also raised through Major Stearns' exertions to establish on a permanent basis a school for colored girls in this city. The chaplains of the various regiments were also directed to make the instruction of the regiment a part and the principal part of their duty. Mr. W. F. Mitchels, a competent and hard-working gentleman, has been appointed by the Pennsylvania Freedman's Aid Association to superintend the establishment of schools in East and Middle Tennessee and in Northern Georgia and Alabama. The association employs

* Omitted.

able teachers, has ample funds, and will do, I trust, very much good. I have endeavored to aid it as well as all other similar organizations, though there are about this Pennsylvania association elements of moneyed security and of practicability which in my judgment render it superior to others. One of the teachers whom they have sent here, by the way, is the widow of the late Colonel Fribley, U. S. colored troops.

PUBLIC OPINION.

I have stated that when Major Stearns first began his work here he encountered opposition from prominent loyal Tennesseans. Major Stearns, however, received assistance and encouragement from some citizens of standing, and with the assistance of these he endeavored to influence public opinion in the State.

By personal appeals, by public meetings, by publications in the papers, he presented this subject to the people of this city and State. Major Stearns' office was full of slave-owners, representing some \$200,000 worth of slave property that requested the President to decree full, immediate, and uncompensated emancipation in Tennessee. Two of Major Stearns' agents were chiefly employed in influencing public opinion. I know these are slight causes, but I cannot but think they had an effect, and were to some extent instrumental in causing the great revolution in public opinion, patent in the last year. Whereas some then opposed, I know of no prominent loyal Tennessean who does not now believe in, advocate, and encourage the raising of colored troops.

A few days since a State convention was held here by persons supposed (as Governor Johnson says in an official proclamation) to reflect the will of the Union men in their respective counties. This convention called on the Governor to enroll and call out the black militia of the State.

The Governor has ordered their enrollment, and recently has ordered that in all cases coming before the courts the blacks shall be held to be free, a most sweeping and thorough edict of emancipation, for any slave has only to get before a court to be pronounced judicially free, and so go upon the records.

LABOR.

Incidentally to the operations of this office it may be mentioned that last fall impressment of negroes to labor on fortifications, &c., was frequent. Major Stearns procured volunteer laborers, and from these and from rejected recruits prior to the formation of labor regiments we furnished the Government about 10,000 days' labor, besides procuring several volunteers for the gun-boats.

RECRUITS FROM THE NORTH.

In the last two months I have received from Ohio some 700 recruits to fill up regiments in service here. These have been assigned to the Ninth U. S. Colored Artillery, as before stated, and to the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Regiments U. S. Colored Infantry.

HOSPITAL.

When we came here there was a contraband hospital in this place under the charge of Doctor Ronayne, in which, despite the doctor's exertions, and he worked faithfully, the rate of mortality was large. Into

along with contrabands of all sorts, colored soldiers were put. A new general hospital for colored troops is now building here. It will be completed in a few weeks. It is fully equal to any of the hospitals here. When completed I will forward a full description of it. The thanks of the colored soldiers who shall be inmates of this building are due to Doctor W. Clendenin, surgeon, U. S. Volunteers, assistant medical director of this department, for his exertions to procure this hospital, and the interest he has shown in their welfare and that of their race. Until Doctor Clendenin came here the colored nurses in the hospitals had never received any pay. He remedied that evil.

WORK OF OFFICE.

I find by reference to my books that up to the 1st instant there have been sent from this office 1,062 official letters and 1,224 indorsements, besides references of applications to the examining board.

MUSTERING.

The mustering of these troops and officers has been done chiefly by Lieutenant Ernest, Thirteenth U. S. Colored Infantry, under my supervision. He has not had clerical force enough to keep his records and returns up with the work done.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I desire to put upon record my appreciation of the courtesy and assistance extended to me by the general commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi and the departments thereof and their respective staffs.

I also desire to make special recognition of the valuable assistance given to this organization by Brigadier-General Webster, chief of staff to General Sherman; Lieutenant-Colonel Bowers, assistant adjutant-general on the staff of (then Major, now Lieutenant) General Grant, commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi; Capt. J. Bates Dickson, assistant adjutant-general on the staff of Major-Generals Rosecrans and Thomas, successively commanding the Department of the Cumberland; Lieutenant-Colonel (now Brevet Brigadier-General) Donaldson, chief quartermaster of this department, and his chief assistant, Capt. J. F. Rusling; Surgeon Clendenin, U. S. Volunteers; Mr. J. C. Mercer, editor of the Nashville Times, and Mr. Fowler, comptroller of the State. These gentlemen have personally aided my predecessor and myself with advice and sympathy, and officially with all the resources at their command, and have been constant and true friends to the colored troops.

My assistant, Captain Cochrane, has been invaluable. While an enlisted man he was detailed to Major Stearns as secretary and was familiar with Major Stearns' operations in the East, and has been connected with the operations here from their inception. Faithful, intelligent, energetic, and interested in the work, he has done much to make the work here the success which I think it has been.

PERSONAL.

Originally coming here as Major Stearns' mustering officer, when he left for Washington in November last, appointed temporarily, and

upon his resignation, fully his successor, I have endeavored to carry out the work he so well began. I have striven to do so with as great freedom from personal motives and as much singleness of purpose as I could, and I feel very grateful for the confidence with which the Adjutant-General and yourself have honored me.

I regard and have regarded the organization of colored troops as a very important social, humanitarian, as well as military measure, and as a providential means of fitting the race freed by this war for their liberty.

I have endeavored to impress this view upon the officers appointed to these organizations, and upon the men themselves, showing them that their recognition as men would follow the soldier, and I have now, after a year's labor in this department, more hope and more faith than ever in the capability of the negro to make a good soldier and a good citizen.

I have the honor, major, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

R. D. MUSSEY,
*Colonel 100th U. S. Colored Infantry,
Commissioner for Organization U. S. Colored Troops.*

In regard to Iowa men in regiments from other States, I would refer to the correspondence heretofore had with your headquarters on the subject, and in which the principle was enunciated that no such credits could be allowed, except on an adjustment between the Governors of the States concerned. All troops regularly reported from October 1, 1864, to May 20, 1865, have been duly credited, and the records of the acting assistant provost-marshal-general of the State should bear evidence of the fact. Your letter of August 9, with a copy of this, has been referred to the Provost-Marshal-General of the United States for his action.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOMAS M. VINCENT,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

List of volunteer organizations which have been, or are ordered to be, mustered out of service, not included in previous circulars.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 Washington, *October 24, 1865.*

Connecticut.—Infantry: Twenty-ninth (Colored).

District of Columbia.—Cavalry: First.

Florida.—Cavalry: First. Second and First East, consolidated with First Cavalry.

Illinois.—Infantry: Fifty-fourth. Cavalry: Sixth, Seventh, Ninth. Men of Ninety-fifth Infantry remaining in service, transferred to Forty-seventh Infantry—latter still in service.

Indiana.—Cavalry: Thirteenth.

Kansas.—Cavalry: Companies L and M, Fifth. This completes the muster out of the regiment.

Missouri.—Cavalry: Fourth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth.

Michigan.—Cavalry: Tenth.

Massachusetts.—Cavalry: Fourth, Fifth (Colored).

New York.—Infantry: One hundred and fifty-sixth, One hundred and sixtieth, One hundred and sixty-first, and One hundred and seventy-third. Cavalry: Second Veteran, Fourth Provisional.

New Jersey.—Cavalry: Second.

Ohio.—Infantry: One hundred and ninety-fourth. Cavalry: Fifth and Twelfth.

Pennsylvania.—Artillery: Third Heavy. Cavalry: Third Provisional.

Rhode Island.—Cavalry: Third.

U. S. Colored Troops.—Infantry: Second, Third, Eighth, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirty-first, Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fifth, Seventy-third, Seventy-fourth, Seventy-seventh, One hundred and sixth, One hundred and twenty-third, One hundred and twenty-fourth, One hundred and twenty-seventh, One hundred and thirty-fifth. One company Pioneers. Artillery: Thirteenth Heavy.

NOTE.—Seventy-third Infantry has been heretofore reported consolidated with Ninety-sixth U. S. Colored Troops. Seventy-seventh Infantry has been heretofore reported consolidated with the Tenth U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery. One hundred and sixth Infantry has been heretofore reported consolidated with Fortieth U. S. Colored Troops.

REFERENCE

SUPPLEMENT

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TO THE
OFFICIAL RECORDS
OF THE
UNION AND
CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

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PART II - RECORD OF EVENTS

Volume 78

Serial No. 90

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*Record of Events for
Forty-second United States Colored Infantry,
May 1864-June 1865.*

Field and Staff

Station not stated, not dated.

WAR DEPARTMENT, RECORD AND PENSION DIVISION,
Washington,
November 11, 1892.

This regiment was organized under orders of the Adjutant-General of the Army, dated February 19, 1864, which directed that it be composed of all classes of colored men capable of performing the ordinary fatigue duties of a military depot.

The foregoing will be embodied in every statement of service.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, May-June 1864.

The regiment remained in camp at Chattanooga, Tennessee, since its organization, in the daily performance of fatigue duty in the Quartermaster's Department and Sanitary Gardens.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, July-August 1864.

The regiment remained in camp in the performance of camp guard and fatigue duties in Sanitary Gardens and Quartermaster's Department.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, September-October 1864.

During the last two months the regiment has been engaged in doing fatigue duty in the Staff Departments and in the Sanitary Gardens.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, November-December 1864.

During the last two months this regiment has been doing picket duty and labor on the fortifications of the post.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, January-February 1865.

During the last two months this regiment has been doing duty in the Quartermaster Department and labor on the fortifications of this post.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, March-April 1865.

The regiment has been in camp for the past two months doing picket and train guard duty and working on the fortifications of this post.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, May-June 1865.

Regiment

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 1864-January 1865.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, except Company K at Nashville, Tennessee, February 1865.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, except Companies F and K at Nashville, Tennessee, and Company G at National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee, March 1865.

Company F on detached service at United States General Hospital No. 6 (Colored), Nashville, Tennessee since March 31, 1865.

Company G on detached service at National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee since March 15, 1865.

Company K on detached service at United States General Hospital No. 6 (Colored), Nashville, Tennessee since February 14, 1865.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, except Company A at Sanitary Garden, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Companies F and K at Nashville, Tennessee; and Company G at National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee, April 1865.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, except Company A at Sanitary Garden, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Company F at Nashville, Tennessee; and Companies E and G at National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 1865.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, except Company A at Sanitary Garden, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Companies E and G at National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Company F at Nashville, Tennessee; and Company K at Camp Foster, Nashville, Tennessee, June 1865.

Company A

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, from enlistment to October [31], 1864.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, November-December 1864.

This command has been stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee during the months of November and December 1864. They have been engaged at work upon the fortifications of Chattanooga and picket duty, taking almost all the men for duty daily. I have commanded the company since December 1, 1864 as per Special Orders No. 33, Headquarters, Forty-second United States Colored Infantry, Chattanooga, Tennessee, dated December 1, 1864.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, January-February 1865.

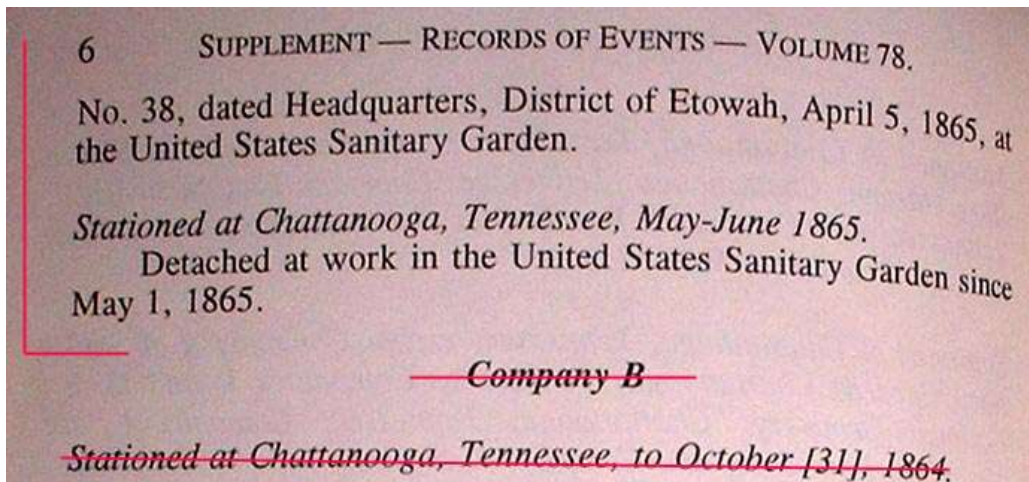
The history of Company A, Forty-second United States Colored Infantry, is as follows: two-thirds of the [men] for duty have been at work upon the fortifications of Chattanooga, except on the following occasions, viz.:

January 4.— The company marched to Gordon's Mills and returned.

January 6.— Marched to Gordon's Mills and returned, distance fifteen miles, total distance sixty miles.

Stationed at Chattanooga, Tennessee, March-April 1865.

April 5.— Company A, Forty-second United States Colored Infantry, has been engaged in garrison duty at Chattanooga, Tennessee until this date, when it was detached per Special Orders



SUPPLEMENT TO THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES, Part II
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These last two pages specifically address Company A of the 42nd United States Colored Infantry (“US Colored Troops – USCT, per the tombstone). This company was enlisted at Chattanooga and remained there throughout the war – at least for the time that the company existed, from October of 1864 to June of 1865. The only exception was two 15-mile marches to “Gordon’s Mill” and back, giving a total march of 30 miles twice. The remainder of the time was given to “garrison duty” or “fatigue duty”, maintaining the “Sanitary Gardens” (latrines?) and other labor on fortifications of the post. As the Union correspondence showed, the company consisted of black men considered to be invalids or otherwise unfit for regular combat field duties. These men were generally recruited in northern Alabama and Georgia, according to the Union notes. Austin Groves is not specifically mentioned in the correspondences, but anyone who may be sufficiently concerned with the details of his personal activities and any particular health problems or handicaps that he may have had can acquire his service records. At least the Union accounts provide some insights not commonly known regarding the fact that (stated “in Missouri”) some of the slave owners actually paid their slaves “fair wages”, treating them almost as indentured servants until they accumulated sufficient funds to buy their freedom. That was noted as a reason for slow recruitment for the black units among Southern slaves. Austin Groves now rests in a very peaceful setting, with the war and old plantation system long gone.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, September 11, 2005