

54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment Trail

DALTON



1 The **Hoose House**, on the corner of High St. and Gulf Rd., was the childhood home of Edward Hoose, a member of the Hoose family, which first settled in Dalton in the late 1700s. The family's home is probably the oldest built by African Americans in the county. Hoose joined the 54th in December 1863, at age 21. After the war he moved to Vermont, where he is buried.



2 **Center Cemetery** on Main St. holds the grave of Henry Jones, who was a farmer. A stone placed by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) marks his grave. Next to his grave is that of N. Barnes, who served in the 55th Massachusetts Infantry. The graves are at the rear of the first section of the cemetery near the distinctive anvil-shaped stone for George W. Hoose.

HINSDALE



3 **Veteran's Memorial** on the lawn of the town library lists town men who served in the Civil War, including 54th members Lorenzo Duncan, John T. Grant, Frank Hamilton, Frank Hamilton II, Henry Hamilton, Charles W. Potter, and Freeman Thompson. Potter was a barber; the others were farmers. Frank Hamilton died of consumption on Morris Island, S.C. All the other men returned from the war.

PITTSFIELD



4 The **Civil War Statue** at the west end of Park Square lists men who died in the Civil War, including four members of the 54th; Eli Franklin died of wounds received at Ft. Wagner, S.C., while Levi Bird, Henry Wilson, and John Van Blake died of disease in South Carolina.



5 **Reverend Samuel Harrison House** at 82 Third St. was the home of Congregational pastor, civil rights activist, and essayist Rev. Samuel Harrison. Harrison built the house in 1859 and lived there with his wife and children. Restored by the Samuel Harrison

Society, the house is on the National Register of Historic Places. Harrison served as chaplain of the 54th from November 12, 1863, to March 14, 1864, when he resigned, owing to illness. While in service and after his discharge, Harrison strongly supported the men's effort to win equal pay. He recalled that he agreed to serve because *having urged others to enlist [I] thought it my duty to set the example believing [sic] that the war would ultimately be a war of emancipation, and bring freedom to millions in bondage.*



The United States agreed to pay the colored troops the same as white troops, but when pay day came the men of the 54th were offered ten dollars per month which they refused (the white troops were getting \$13). On the 4th of June Col. Hallowell wrote to Gov. Andrew about the matter and the Gov. wrote the Sec. of War demanding full pay for the men of the 54th, or their return to Mass. On the 28th day of Sept. 1864 the men rec'd full pay, \$13 a month after waiting 18 months.

PITTSFIELD continued



7 The **blacksmith shop and home of Henry S. Jackson** was located in the Stearnsville section of Pittsfield. The shop and house are gone, but a brick building then owned by the Hancock Shakers is still on the site, on the north side of Lebanon Ave. near the Melbourne Rd. intersection. Jackson was a slave in Washington, D.C., who escaped to freedom in Chatham, N.Y., before moving to Pittsfield in 1858. He headed the 54th recruitment office in Pittsfield and recruited several dozen men himself. His actions were lauded in the local newspaper:

With such examples before one's eyes as Rev. Mr. Harrison, Festus Campbell, and Henry S. Jackson, it is hard to conceive the blindness of bigotry which denies the capacity of the colored man for freedom. The story of Mr. Jackson, being that of a man in the ordinary walk of life, is particularly interesting.

LENOX



8 **Site of Vent Fort.** Vent Fort was the summer home of the Haggerty family, where Anna Kneeland Haggerty and Robert Gould Shaw honeymooned in May 1863, before he departed to the South with the 54th. It was moved across the road in the 1890s to make way for Ventfort Hall, which now stands on the site. The earlier Vent Fort burned down in 1965. Shaw wrote his fiancée on March 17, 1863:

To-night we received quite a large squad of men from Pittsfield. They seem to be very patriotic up there.



9 **Cemetery at the Church on the Hill** holds the grave and stone of Anna Kneeland Haggerty Shaw, the widow of Col. Robert Gould Shaw. Col. Shaw died with many of his men in the assault on Ft. Wagner, S.C., on July 18, 1863, and Anna never remarried. Also buried here are four veterans of the 54th—Jeremiah Bradley, Samuel Weaver, Jacob Adams, and George M. Brown. GAR stones mark their graves.

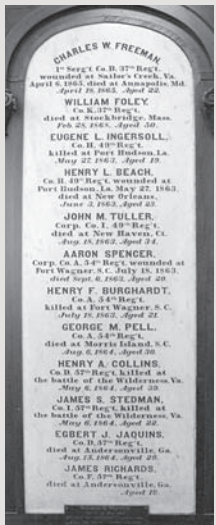


10 **Pleasant Valley House**, 472 West Mountain Rd., is now the superintendent's office at the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. It was the home of Wellington and Henrietta Crockett. Henrietta was the niece of 54th veteran Charles

T. Way. Way lived there from 1906 until his death in 1922. In 1929 Mrs. Crockett sold the house and land to the Sanctuary, and the house was later renovated. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote about the Crockett wedding in 1884:

The wedding bells of Berkshire were again awakened from their long silence on Thanksgiving night, to celebrate the marriage of Miss Henrietta, niece to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Way of Stockbridge, to Mr. Wellington Crockett of Lenox. Throughout the evening carriages kept arriving at the spacious residence of Mr. Way until the house was literally filled with the elite of Berkshire, both white and colored.

LEE



11 **Memorial Hall** displays a War Memorial Plaque that lists the three 54th soldiers who died in the war—Henry F. Burghardt, Aaron Spencer, and George M. Pell. All three died and are buried in South Carolina. Burghardt died in the assault on Ft. Wagner, and Spencer died from friendly fire during the siege of the fort later that year. Pell died of typhoid fever on Morris Island. Many newspapers hailed the men's bravery in the Ft. Wagner assault, including the *New York Times*:

They expressed their readiness to meet the enemy again, and they keep asking if Wagner is yet taken. Could any one from the North see these brave fellows as they lie here, their prejudice against them, if he had any, would all pass away. They grieve greatly at the loss of Col. SHAW, who seems to have acquired a strong hold on their affections.

WEST STOCKBRIDGE



12 **West Stockbridge Cemetery** at the north end of town on Rt. 41 contains the grave and stone of Charles T. Way. He was the grandson of Revolutionary War veteran Agrippa Hull and is related to the Gunn family of Great Barrington and Sheffield, Mass. Way was active in the GAR, serving as a sentinel in the Scott Bradley Post, No. 177, in Lee, and GAR members performed the honors at his funeral. His grave is along the cemetery road on the right side of the cemetery.

STOCKBRIDGE



13 A plaque in the Jackson Wing of the **Stockbridge Library** lists town men who served in the Civil War, including the six Black men in the 54th—John Clough, Charles Piper, Charles T. Way, John Q. Williams, Valorous Williams, and Luther Willard.



14 **Stockbridge Cemetery** on Main St. holds the graves and GAR stones for Valorous Williams of Stockbridge and David H. Van Allen of Great Barrington. They are buried in the old section of the cemetery.



15 **Chesterwood**, just off of Rt. 183 in the Glendale section, was the country home, studio, and gardens of sculptor of public monuments Daniel Chester French (1850–1931). French sculpted the statue of Abraham

Lincoln for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.



16 The **Civil War Memorial** at the triangle of Pine and Main streets lists Stockbridge men who died in the Civil War, including Luther Willard of the 54th.

GREAT BARRINGTON



and Private Levi Jackson, of the same company [C] wounded that day [April 16, 1865] while foraging. Jackson died of wounds 12 May 65 Post Hos. Charleston, S.C.

SHEFFIELD



18 The **Bear's Den Rd. neighborhood** (formerly known as New Guinea) was settled about 1800 by Blacks fleeing slavery in New York. Two Mass. 54th veterans, Edward Augustus Croslear and Edward Moore, owned property in the neighborhood. Croslear established a six-acre farm there in the 1850s and 1860s on land on the north side of Berkshire

School Rd. His home was on the northeast corner of the intersection with Bear's Den Rd., and three of his children had homes nearby. Croslear helped found the first Black church in the community and let the local newspaper know of his plans:

Berkshire Courier: Dear Sir I wish to inform you of the festable that our Colard lady held her on thursday of last Week for the benefit of our Colard Minister Mr. Thompson there was a very good attendance.

SHEFFIELD continued



19 **Sheffield Center Cemetery** on Berkshire School Rd. holds the graves of Croslear and his wife, Lucy; Moore; and another veteran, William Jones. Jones's stone is at the extreme northwest corner of the cemetery; the Croslears', directly to the south of Jones's in the next section; and Moore's, a bit south of Croslears'.

NORTH CANAAN, CONNECTICUT



20 **Hillside Cemetery** on Rt. 44 contains the grave and stone of Milo Freeland, recognized as the second man to enlist and the first to serve his full term in the 54th. The stone is a new one, placed at a public ceremony in 1996 to replace the deteriorated original stone. It is at the rear of the cemetery, to the right of the central road.

NORFOLK, CONNECTICUT



21 The **Civil War Monument** on the village green lists names of Norfolk men killed in the Civil War, including Edward Hines, who died in the assault on Ft. Wagner.



22 **Center Cemetery**, on Connecticut's Freedom Trail, holds the grave and stone of Chauncey Crossley, at the back of the cemetery to the left of the center road.

SHARON, CONNECTICUT



Write often and quick as pay day comes I will send home all the money I can spare. And oblige me, since Monday I have made 7 dollars and if nothing happens I will make 25 or 50 dollars if I can get 6 or 7 dollars for a pint of liquor which I can get for 50 cents if I have good luck. Write Directly, Love William.



24 The **Revolutionary and Civil War Memorial** on Rt. 44 lists the names of men who died during the two wars. William Parret is listed on the west side of the monument.

