

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS (USCT)

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ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND - USCT MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Medal of Honor

HARRIS, JAMES H.

Rank and Organization: Sergeant, Company B, 38th U.S. Colored Troops.

Place and Date: At New Market Heights, Va., 29 September 1864.

Birth: St. Mary's County, Md.

Date of Issue: 18 February 1874.

Citation: Gallantry in the assault.



James H. Harris entered the service at Great Mills, Maryland on February 14, 1864. He was born in St. Mary's County in 1828 and was a farmer before he joined the U.S. Army. According to official records, Sgt. "Harris spent nine months in the hospital after being wounded at New Market Heights. He was mustered out of service on January 25, 1867 at Indianola, Texas. Although

no reason is given in his records, he left the army as a private. He spent his later years as a carpenter in Washington D.C., receiving an army pension of \$12.00 a month at the time of his death on January 28, 1898. He is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia (Section 27, Grave 985-H)." Harris was not presented the Medal of Honor until February 18, 1874. An order from General Benjamin Butler, dated 11 October 1864, had this to say: "Sergeant Harris, Company B, Thirty-eighth U.S. Colored Troops, has a medal for gallant conduct in the assault of the 29th instant."



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Medal of Honor

BARNES, WILLIAM H.

Rank and Organization: Private, Company C, 38th U.S. Colored Troops.

Place and Date: At Chapin's Farm, Va., 29 September 1864.

Birth: St. Mary's County, Md.

Date of Issue: 6 April 1865.

Citation: Among the first to enter the enemy's works; although wounded.



William H. Barnes, a Private in Company C, 38th U.S. Colored Troops, according to official records was, "Among the first to enter the enemy's works, although wounded, and has a medal for his gallantry." The medal was presented on April 6, 1865. Barnes was born in St. Mary's County in 1830 or 1831 and enlisted in the U.S. Colored Troops in Ridge, Maryland on February 11, 1864. He is described in the records as "a 33-year-old farmer when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He stood 5'11" tall." Barnes was promoted to Sergeant in January 1865, but never left the service alive. He died of tuberculosis at Indianola, Texas on Christmas Eve 1866 and is buried there.





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More Information about the USCT:

- [Battle of New Market Heights: USCT Soldiers Proved Their Heroism](#)
- [USCT Medal of Honor Recipients](#) - In the early morning hours of September 29, 1864, black troops, or United States Colored Troops (USCTs for short) charged the Rebel works at New Market Heights, VA. For their valor in this engagement, 14 USCTs received the Medal of Honor. This is the story of these men and the fateful morning of September 29, 1864.
- [National Archives](#) - Teaching With Documents: The Fight for Equal Rights: Black Soldiers in the Civil War Preserving the Legacy of the United States Colored Troops - By Budge Weidman
- [How Many Black Union Soldiers Won the Medal of Honor?](#)
- [African American Civil War Memorial and Museum](#)
- [USCT and Commissioned Officers of African American Descent](#)
- [www.USCT.org](#)
- [8th United States Colored Troops](#)
- [102nd USCT Co. B - Black History Group](#)
- [Pennsylvania Grand Review](#) - As the nation marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Pennsylvania invited travelers to Harrisburg last November to participate in a story largely unknown to most Americans – the Pennsylvania Grand Review. The Grand Review served as a commemoration to the November 1865 event of the same name, organized by the women of Harrisburg. It was meant to honor the United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) from 25 states who were not permitted to participate in the Grand Review of the Armies, a military procession and celebration held May 23-24, 1865 in Washington, D.C., following the end of the Civil War.
- [List of Monuments to the United States Colored Troops](#)
- [USCT Network](#)
- [History of 73rd USCT - First Black Troop to be Mustered into the Union Army](#)
- [22nd USCT New Jersey Brigade](#)
- [13th United States Colored Troops Living History Association](#)
- [North Carolina USCT](#)
- [Pennsylvania USCT](#)
- [Missouri State Archives](#) - History of United States Colored Troops
- [3rd US Colored Infantry](#)
- [6th Regiment Infantry USCT](#)
- [Co. F 29th Regiment USCT](#)
- [South Carolina USCT](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)