

Henry Vanderver: Civil War Veteran

As was true of many other veterans, Henry Vanderver chose to make his home in Cranford in the years after the Civil War. But Vanderver was different. He was a veteran, but he was also an African-American, one of the nearly 180,000 who served in the Union Army during the war.

Born in Pluckennin, he enlisted in Company C, 129th Regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry in 1864 when he was 22. After the war, he moved first to Newark and later to Cranford.

Along with the other Union veterans in the town, he was made an honorary member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and he regularly marched with the Civil War contingent in Cranford's Memorial Day parade.

Vanderver died on March 3, 1932, at the age 91. The funeral was held at his home, and the Rev. Mr. Hutchings of the First Baptist Church officiated at the service. A large delegation of VFW members attended, and Vanderver was buried with full military honors. His grave is in the veteran's section of Fairview Cemetery.

Cranford's sole surviving Civil War veteran, John Tripp, died in 1935.

