

Edward Chapman

A Short Biography

By Gail Astle
Updated March 2018

Edward B. Chapman was born free about 1834 in Burlington County, New Jersey. He enlisted in Northampton, Burlington County, New Jersey on December 31, 1863 and on the same day was mustered into Co. G, 22nd Regiment of the USCI (United States Colored Infantry) at Camp William Penn near Philadelphia for a three-year enlistment. He was a 5 foot 5-inch-tall, 30-year-old laborer with brown eyes, curly hair and a dark complexion.

Initially appointed as a sergeant, he was reduced to a private on February 6, 1864. In October of that year, he became ill and was hospitalized for several months with no recorded diagnosis. According to fellow soldier affidavits in his pension file, he contracted pleurisy and rheumatism during duty near Richmond, Virginia. Even when released from the hospital, he remained unfit for duty. He was honorably discharged on October 16, 1865 in Brownsville, Texas.

His health was always poor due to the ill effects of exposure and sickness contracted during the war. His wife claimed that he lost sight in his right eye from powder in the Battle of Chaffin's Farm (New Market Heights), Virginia. He repeatedly fought bouts of rheumatism, and he continued to suffer from pulmonary ailments that eventually led to his death from tuberculosis.

After his return home, he worked as a hotel waiter to support his family. He was perhaps the same Edward Chapman that earlier lived and worked in the household/ hotel of manager or proprietor Quaker Jonathan N. Woolman, where he would have apprenticed in this business. This information came from the *1850 Pemberton Township, Burlington, New Jersey Federal Census* where another likely brother, Thomas Chapman, lived in the next house and worked as a laborer. Two other brothers were Joseph Chapman and a possible William Chapman. Herbert Chapman, who first appeared in the *1830 Springfield, Burlington, New Jersey Federal Census* as a "free colored person", was probably the father of these Chapman brothers.

Martha Lopeman and Edward B. Chapman were married by Rev. Joshua B. Woodland on January 12, 1860 at the home of Henry H. William in Mount Holly. Araminta (Aramintie) Hopkins, future wife of Timbuctoo Lewis Armstrong, was a bridesmaid and witness. The Chapmans had six children: Joseph D., (born August 31, 1860), Mary Ellen (born November 28, 1862; died before 1870), Charles Henry (born October 27, 1866; died before 1890), Sarah or Sallie V. (born January 17, 1867), Walter W. (born July 25, 1874), and Anna May (born November 24, 1877). (Names and dates from Joseph D. Chapman's Bible)

The Timbuctoo headstone for Sgt. Edward Chapman was placed there most likely in 1945 by the efforts of Mount Holly resident Samuel A. French. He was the Burlington County superintendent of Soldiers and Sailors Burials as well as a service officer in both the local American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts (Figures 1 and 2). He was also responsible for the Ephraim Marshall monument placement in the same cemetery. It would appear from the military

headstone applications that the graves were unmarked. Samuel was a WWII veteran who honored these soldiers allowing for their highest achieved rank in service to be inscribed on their markers. Sadly, his only son and soldier, Orrell H. French, was killed overseas in February of 1945, just after the application was verified for these monuments.¹

Interestingly, there is another headstone honoring this veteran soldier in Mount Moriah Cemetery in nearby Hainesport, New Jersey with a death date of August 2, 1882 (Figure 3). The pension file gives Edward's death date as May 2, 1882, but there was and is no vital statistic record to confirm the date. This headstone rests in the same cemetery where Edward's wife, Martha Chapman, who died on June 2, 1901, is buried and may have been the first one erected by his family members with Samuel French unaware of the existence of this monument. It is not clear where Edward Chapman would have been buried. It is a mystery why there are two memorials.

After Edward's death, Martha applied for a war pension as a widow with a dependent child, under the Act of June 27, 1890. She had no other means of support other than her daily job, which was a condition that had to be met to obtain a monetary benefit. In fact, at times she was unable to do any work due to "Rheumatism in her limbs". She collected \$8 a month with an additional \$2 per month for her youngest daughter, Anna May, who was under 16 years of age at the time.



Figure 1. Government Headstone SGT.[Sergeant] Edward Chapman 22nd [Regiment] U. S. [United States] CLD. [Colored] INF. [Infantry] Buried in Timbuctoo Cemetery

Figure 1 honors SGT Edward Chapman, but does not give his death date of May 2, 1882 that is only found in his widow's pension file.

Edw. Chapman - Jersey
Birthplace only given. Residence not shown

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED
 (See instructions attached)

UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE
 UPRIGHT GRANITE HEADSTONE
 FLAT MARBLE MARKER
 FLAT GRANITE MARKER

P.R. not shown

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER
 (PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE) ORIGINAL

Enlistment dates December 31, 1863
 Discharge dates October 16th, 1865
 Pension number _____
 Serial number _____

Name	Rank	Company	U. S. Regiment, State Organization, or Vessel	Date of Death
CHAPMAN, Edward	<i>Sergeant</i> Pvt.	G	<i>22nd Colored</i> 22nd Regt. Inf.	unknown

Must be given for 0

Name of Cemetery	Located in or near—		If World War Veteran		EMBLEM Christian Hebrew None
	City	State	Division	State	
Timbuctoo	E. Hampton Twp	N. J.			

To be shipped to Samuel A. French *P.R.R.* at Mt. Holly, Burl. Co., N.J.
 (Name of consignee) (Give R. R., NAME OF TOWN, county, and State)

Whose post-office address is 31 Bispham St., Mt. Holly, N.J.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

For verification: 8 JAN 1945
 GREEN MOUNTAIN FEB 10 1945

Ordered _____
 B/L 5962870
 Shipped _____

This application is for a headstone or marker for the UNMARKED grave of a veteran. The Government STONE will be furnished and shipped freight prepaid at Government expense to you direct, where "Delivery Service" by the railroad is indicated; otherwise to the nearest railroad station or steamboat landing above indicated. I hereby agree to accept promptly the headstone or marker at destination, remove it, and properly place it at decedent's grave at my expense.

Samuel A. French Applicant.
 (Signature of Applicant)

Address Mt. Holly, N.J. Date Dec. 1, 1944.

WAR DEPARTMENT O. Q. M. G. Form No. 623 Approved Aug. 12, 1913; May 18, 1931; Feb. 15, 1937; May 1, 1939; July 1, 1940; July 1, 1942.

RD-R-AB-126-75

IMPORTANT—COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE 16-11453-1 GPO

Figure 2. Application for Headstone of Pvt. Edward Chapman with Rank of Sergeant Substituted for Private. (U.S, Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963, Ancestry. com)

Figure 2 shows the application for a headstone of an unmarked grave for the Timbuctoo Cemetery that was initiated in 1944 by WWII veteran Samuel A. French, the Burlington County superintendent of Soldiers and Sailors Burials. This Edward Chapman headstone shows SGT.(Sergeant) as a rank even though Edward mustered out of service as a private. On the headstone there is no mention of company G, only 22nd Colored Regiment Infantry, and there is no death date because it was unknown.

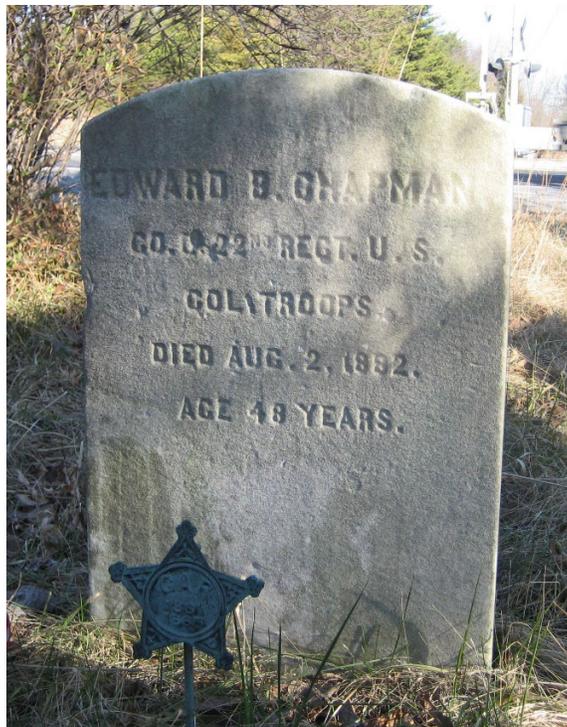


Figure 3. Headstone Edward B. Chapman Co. G 22nd Regt. U.S. Col. [Colored] Troops Died Aug. 2, 1882 Age 48 Years. Buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery

Figure 3 shows the headstone of Edward B. Chapman that was placed in the Mount Moriah Cemetery. This headstone gives more information about the veteran and lists a death date of August 2, 1882, but the month is different from the pension file death date of May 2, 1882.

General References

Edward B. Chapman Pension File application # 356,689 (widow), pp. copies, Compiled Military Records, microfilm (National Archives, Washington, D.C.)

U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963 (Ancestry.com)

1850 Pemberton Township, Burlington, New Jersey Federal Census, 1830 Springfield, Burlington, New Jersey Federal Census and other Burlington County Federal Censuses (Ancestry.com)

Citations

¹ “Battle Deaths List Six from South Jersey: Camden and Gloucester Men Lose Lives; 17 Reported Wounded”, *Courier Post* (Camden, New Jersey), March 10, 1945, pp.1,4 (Newspaper.com)