

# Ephraim Marshall

## A Short Biography

By Gail Astle  
Updated March 2018

**Ephraim Marshall** was born free about 1840 in Mount Holly, 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 service. He was a 5 foot 7-inch-tall, 23-year-old waiter with brown eyes, black hair, and a mulatto complexion.

He was mustered into service as Pvt. Ephraim Marshall in late December of 1863, promoted to a corporal in January, but was then reduced back to a private on February 6, 1864. He served in the Ambulance Corps from May 1864 to September 1865 and was in the same division, stationed in the same places as Pvt. Lewis B. Armstrong, Co D, 22nd Regiment of the USCI. In 1864, he served from May to June “in the field near Petersburg, VA”, from July to August “in a Camp in a field in VA”, from September to October “before Richmond, VA”, from November to December “in Bermuda Hundred, VA”. In 1865, he served from January to February “in Bermuda Hundred, VA”, from March to April “near Goldsboro, NC”, and from May to June “in New Berne, NC”. In 1865 from July to September, he remained in the Ambulance Corps until he was mustered out in October 1865. Medical records in his pension file suggested an absence due to an unstated treatment from September 29 to October 2, 1865. He was sent to a New Orleans hospital on October 2, 1865 and returned to his regiment where he was honorably discharged on October 16, 1865 in Brownsville, Texas. He died after the war before he collected his \$100 bounty and back pay.

According to the *1850, Evesham Township, Burlington County Federal Census*, there was a black Ephraim Marshall, age eight, who lived on the farm of white Allen Jones (a Quaker). Besides the Jones family of nine, six other farmers and laborers, all older than Ephraim, lived on the same farm. Four of them were white. Born in New Jersey, Ephraim was a very young black farm laborer who might have been bound out to farmer Jones.

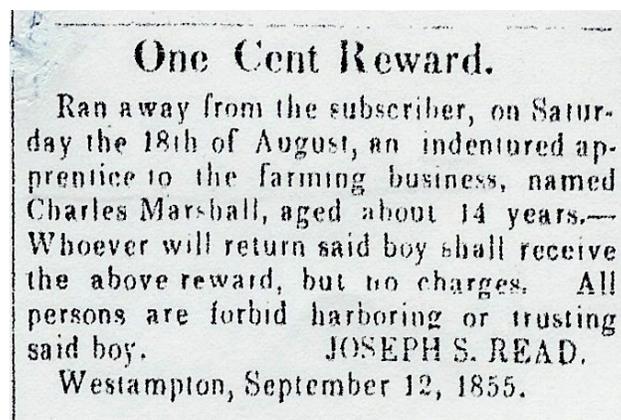
He was, perhaps, an indentured apprentice to the farming business as was a Westampton, New Jersey runaway named Charles Marshall, age 14, who had a one cent reward offer for his return in September 1855 (Figure 2).

From the pension file, it was revealed that Ephraim had a sister and a brother named Charles. Ephraim and Charles Marshall may have both been indentured apprentices bound out to farmers. It was known from the pension information and the census record that Ephraim was involved with farm labor. Indentured apprentices during this time were free bonded laborers who worked for a designated amount of time in exchange for food, clothing and accommodation. If Ephraim’s family had been too destitute to care for him and his brother, or if the Marshalls had been

orphaned, this would have been a practical means of support. Apprentices would be at the mercy of their surrogate masters, who in all possibility, might subject them to cruelty. Perhaps this was why Charles Marshall had run away.

Eph, as he was nicknamed, lived in Timbuctoo in 1870 with his family. His only wife was Charlotte Cole, the daughter of Samuel and Charlotte Cole. Charlotte and Eph had two children. Ephraim Marshall Jr (1866-1904) died from tuberculosis in 1904 in New Brunswick, New Jersey and was buried in the Baptist Cemetery in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Daughter, Harriet Marshall, was born about 1868. Because older acquaintances did not remember her, she must have died young and was probably buried in the Timbuctoo Cemetery. Ephraim died after the war, sometime between 1870 and 1876, probably in Timbuctoo. It is likely that his headstone was placed much later in the Timbuctoo Cemetery (Figure 3). In 1877, widow Charlotte Marshall married Anthony Kennard. Charlotte died in Cranbury, New Jersey from diabetes in 1904, the same year as her son Ephraim Marshall Jr. She was buried in Allentown, New Jersey.

In 1910, widower Anthony Kennard began to assume Ephraim Marshall's identity as a Civil War veteran and cunningly tried to procure a pension. He was similar in stature and complexion and was slick enough to fool old veteran witnesses, a doctor, and the Pension Bureau into believing that he belonged to the 22nd USCT and was wounded at Petersburg, Virginia in the ankle and knee. He succeeded in collecting a pension from 1918 to 1924, until Charlotte's nephew finally exposed him as an imposter. He was quite old, and authorities did not prosecute because of his age.



**Figure 1. Reward for Runaway Indentured Apprentice Charles Marshall  
(The New Jersey Mirror Newspaper, September 13, 1855, Burlington County Library)**

Ephraim Marshall had a brother named Charlie Marshall who most probably was the same runaway as described in Figure 2.

*New Jersey*  
*Place name of residence not shown*

**CHECK TYPE REQUIRED**  
(See instructions attached)

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

*D.R. not shown*

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

Enlistment dates December 31st, 1863  
Discharge dates October 16th, 1865  
Pension number \_\_\_\_\_  
Serial number \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Rank	Company	U. S. Regiment, State Organization, or Vessel	Date of Death
<u>MARSHALL, Ephraim</u>	<u>Corporal</u> <u>Pvt.</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>U.S. Colored</u> <u>22nd Regt. Inf.</u>	<u>unknown</u>

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

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

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

DO NOT WRITE HERE

For verification GREEN MOUNTAIN FEB 1 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.

*D-R-HB-12 Jan 45*

16-11453-1 GPO

IMPORTANT—COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE

**Figure 2. Application for Headstone or Marker for Pvt. Ephraim Marshall With Rank of Corporal Substituted for Private. (Ancestry: U.S. Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963)**

The application for a headstone of an unmarked grave in Figure 3 was initiated in 1944 by WWII veteran Samuel A. French, who was the Burlington County superintendent of Soldiers and Sailors Burials. The Ephraim Marshall headstone shows CPL (Corporal) as a rank even though Ephraim mustered out of service as a private; there is no mention of company G, only 22nd Colored Regiment Infantry.

### General References

*Ephraim Marshall Pension File application #1388998 (imposter), pp. copies, Compiled Military Records, microfilm (National Archives, Washington, D.C.)*

*1850, Evesham Township, Burlington County Federal Census and other Burlington County Federal Censuses (Ancestry.com)*