

Charles H. Love

A Short Biography

By Gail Aistle
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Charles Henry Love was born December 20, 1844 in Maryland according to his death certificate.¹ However, in the military records, he listed his birth place as Burlington or Mount Holly, New Jersey. He enlisted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 29, 1863 and was mustered into Co. F, 22nd Regiment USCI (United States Colored Infantry) at Camp William Penn, near Philadelphia for a three-year enlistment. He was described in 1863 as a 5 foot 3-inch-tall, 19-year-old farmer with black eyes, black hair, and a black complexion. When he enlisted into the Regular Army in 1867, he was listed as 5 feet 5 1/2 inches tall.

Charles served in the 22nd regiment as a private without any injury or hospitalization. His duty as an infantry soldier continued until August of 1865 when he was detached to work as a guard at the Portsmouth, Virginia hospital. He was honorably discharged on October 16, 1865 in Brownsville, Texas and returned to New Jersey.

In November 1865 he purchased a lot of land situated in Timbuctoo from Frisbee Parker, David Parker's son, for \$125. In trust, permission was granted to Jacob Love (father) and Mary Eliza Love (Jacob's daughter and Charles's sister) to enjoy the property as may seem fit for and during the natural life of Jacob with conditions for sister Mary Eliza.²

Charles married free-born Henrietta Wilson from Maryland on August 27, 1866., who at this time was living in Timbuctoo with her aunt and uncle, Susan and William Nolan. Henrietta, daughter of free slave-born Nathan and Maria Wilson, and Charles, son of Jacob Love, traveled to Cecilton, Maryland for their wedding that was officiated by a white minister.

Charles and Henrietta returned to New Jersey and lived near Mount Holly for one year, when perhaps Charles's lust for soldiering and adventure or his desire to prove himself as a soldier and a man, caused him to run off and join the Regular Army.

He enlisted in Troop G of the 10th United States Cavalry in the fall of 1867. It took the 10th Cavalry a long time to recruit and organize since their Colonel, Benjamin Grierson, had very high standards and wanted to enlist only superior men. It was this 10th Cavalry unit that first gained fame as the Buffalo Soldiers, whom the Indians dubbed the "Wild Buffaloes", perhaps in reference not only to the appearance of the soldiers, but also to their courage and fighting spirit. It was later that the all black 9th Cavalry also assumed this nick-name as well as all other African American regiments formed in 1866³ ⁴.

Soldiers had the option to re-enlist every five years. In Troop G, Charles Love was a wagoner and served near Fort Dodge, Kansas. In 1872, Charles re-enlisted into Troop E as a private and remained with this troop for the next 22 years. These disciplined frontier recruits, protected mail

and travel routes and guarded the construction of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. Not only did they build and maintain military posts on the hostile and desolate Southwest Front, but they also protected the white settlers and cattle ranchers from Indian raiders. By 1875, the 10th U.S. Cavalry had moved into Texas where it continued to protect the mail and travel routes, as well as string telegraph lines and establish new frontier outposts^{5,6}.

Charles served his last five-year appointment with excellent character and was finally promoted to a sergeant. The 10th Cavalry brought his last campaigns into Texas and Arizona where it fought outlaws, Mexican revolutionaries, and hostile Native Americans. He later received a medal for his Indian Wars Campaign service.⁷ (Figure 2) He was able to retire on June 13, 1894, and unannounced, returned home to Timbuctoo to live out his years as Henrietta's husband.

She had not heard from him for 27 years since he left in 1867. Amazingly, she took him back and they resumed living as husband and wife. He still had on his soldier's clothes when he returned and wore them for a long time after. He was remembered in the neighborhood for this reason.

Charles's father was Maryland born Jacob Love, who had moved to New Jersey with his family: a female (most probably his wife), two sons, two daughters and another young child. In later years, family members lived in Timbuctoo. Charles had a brother, John J. Love, who had resided near Mount Holly, but relocated to Belle Mead, Somerset County, New Jersey.

Charles and Henrietta had a daughter, Mary Ann, who was born about 1866 and reportedly had died young. After Charles left, Henrietta and her four-year-old daughter, Mary Ann, lived with Charles's sister, Mary Eliza Love, Samuel Thompson and Samuel Jones, according to the *1870 Westhampton* [Timbuctoo], *Burlington County Federal Census*.

Henrietta may have believed that Charles either died or was never coming back, because on April 9, 1871, she married Samuel Jones in Mount Holly, New Jersey. There had been no divorce from Charles; not uncommon, perhaps because divorces were too expensive. In 1873, Samuel and Henrietta Jones were the parents of a two-day old son who died on May 22, 1874 and was buried in the Timbuctoo Cemetery.^{8,9}

Henrietta would marry a third time. It was not known if Samuel Jones died or deserted Henrietta. He was never mentioned in the pension inquiry. In researching the records, the name Samuel Jones was too common to definitively discover his whereabouts. In this vicinity alone, there were three possible African American candidates for her husband; two were born in Virginia that included her housemate in 1870, the most likely groom. Another candidate showed up in Timbuctoo in 1880 but was born in Kentucky and was married to someone else. Therefore, it is not known if Samuel Jones was deceased, having found no records to confirm his death.

On April 9, 1882 there was a marriage between "colored" couple Henrietta Love and Alexander Anderson in Mount Holly, New Jersey, officiated in the parsonage of the First United Methodist Church by Minister A. Lawrence (Figure 3).¹⁰ However, Henrietta Love, as the widow of veteran Charles Love in her pension file documents, denied going through any marriage ceremony with Alexander Anderson. He was the father of two of her children, an infant that died young and Clarence Anderson, but she claimed to never have lived with him. There was yet another older

daughter of Alexander and Henrietta Anderson named Elizabeth Anderson, who when 12 years old died on January 18, 1896 from acute phthisis pulmonary disease (tuberculosis) and then was buried in the Timbuctoo Cemetery.¹¹ Elizabeth would have been living in the household when Charles returned to Timbuctoo in 1894. Stepson Clarence Anderson continued to live with the family in 1900, 1910 and 1915 according to censuses.

Charles Love died from a stroke on July 16, 1922 at age 77 in Timbuctoo.

Immediately after his death, Henrietta, without the assistance of an attorney, applied for a pension with the United States Law Division as the widow of a Civil War soldier. In September of the same year, she learned that her claim filed under the General Law or General Pension Act of 1862 was invalid, since her husband's death was not the result of wounds or injury received or disease contracted in the military service of the United States. However, the Law Division advised Madame Love that in the event she should desire to present a claim under the more applicable Act of May 1, 1920, where the cause of death was immaterial, she should fill out the enclosed blank form for that purpose.

This Act stated that the widow of any soldier, who had served in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States during the Civil War for ninety days or more and who had been honorably discharged from such service, would be entitled to and would be paid a pension of \$30 per month, if she had been married to the soldier in question, prior to June 27, 1905.

Following the advice, she first applied for the pension under this Act on November 11, 1922. Finally, in May of 1924 after several months of documentation, interrogation, scrutinization, and often embarrassing examination, she received a war widow's pension for \$30 per month under the Act of May 1, 1920. Subsequently, the Pension Bureau issued a monetary compensation in back pay to widow Henrietta. The special case examiner was instructed to deliver the first payment of pension in a check written in the large amount of \$523 and to assist and protect the claimant with her transactions.

Special Examiner: "The Pensioner selected the Farmers Trust Co., of Mt. Holly, N. J., as her depository and the proceeds of the check were placed at her disposal in that institution. The officers of this company are gentlemen of most excellent standing and I feel that the claimant will be fully protected in the enjoyment of this grant. In compliance with instructions, the pensioner and her advisers were cautioned against payment to any persons of any further money as fees or compensation for services in the prosecution of this claim." For example, she was told that her attorney was certified a fee of ten dollars for working the claim. He was owed no further payment.

From the interviews, the Pension Bureau knew about Henrietta's children and their different fathers, but never discovered the marriages. With the rules on remarriage easing, it was not clear if that information would have disqualified her for pension benefits. Interestingly, in 1923 Samuel Thompson was a witness before the Pension Bureau in behalf of widow Henrietta Love. He was the same man who had lived in Henrietta's household in 1870 along with boarder and likely husband, Samuel Jones. Thompson claimed to have known Charles Love for 60 years and

said that Charles and Henrietta had lived continuously as man and wife since their marriage in 1866. No other marriages were acknowledged.

Sadly, Henrietta died April 2, 1927 in the Burlington County Hospital for the insane.



Figure 1. The Indian Wars Campaign Medal (Front & Back) Replica

Charles H. Love was a Sergeant in the Regular Army and received this medal (replica in Figure 2) for service as a “Buffalo Soldier” (10th Cavalry) in the Indian Campaigns (fought 1865 to 1891).

Marriage					Record.			
Date	Names of Parties	Residence	Place of Birth	Occupation of Male	Age	Officiating Minister	Remarks	
1882 Mar 29	F. Howard Affrigate Valerie B. Kocimund	Mount Holly	Mount Holly Burlington N.J.	Farmer	23 17	A. Lawrence	At the residence of bride's parents John C. & Susan B. Kocimund, in their presence	
" Mar 30	George J. Haines Ella R. Haines	West Hampton Beach, N.J.	West Hampton Beach, N.J.	Farmer	29 22	A. Lawrence	At residence of bride's parents Benjamin & Sarah H. Haines	
" Apr 2	Henry Hagan Henrietta Kent	Chamberburg, N.J.	England Chamberburg, N.J.	Chain Maker	21 20	A. Lawrence	At the residence of Mr. B. Hagan, 207 1/2 St.	
" Apr 4	Alexander Anderson Henrietta Love	Mount Holly, N.J.	Delaware Maryland	Labourer	24 23	A. Lawrence	Colored At the parsonage.	
" Apr 12	Erasmus O. Haddad Emma Haddad	Mount Holly, N.J.	Virginia Towson, Md., N.J.	Carrage Mkr	23 20	A. Lawrence		
" Apr 27	Josephus S. Siskin Henrietta E. Siskin	Lawrenceville, N.J.	Lawrenceville, N.J. Lawrenceville, N.J.	Shoemaker	21 21	A. Lawrence		
" Apr 28	Samuel B. Watson Nancy S. Kirby	Burlington, N.J.	Burlington, N.J. Burlington, N.J.	Shoemaker	23 21	A. Lawrence		
" June 15	John Brown Emma H. Goodwin	Mount Holly, N.J.	"	Labourer	24	A. Lawrence	At the residence of bride's parents	
" July 2	Horace Buchanan Ella Virginia Campbell	Lawrenceville, N.J.	Pennsylvania Mount Holly, N.J.	Black	25 25	A. Lawrence		
" July 2	Charles C. Goff Leanna Taylor	Mount Holly	New York State New Jersey	Engineer	27 20	A. Lawrence		
" July 12	George W. Taylor Sarah Jane Weston	Medford, N.J.	Burlington, N.J.	Farmer	26 18	A. Lawrence		
" Aug 15	Charles E. Davis Leona Clement	Mount Holly	Delaware Penn. Pa. Pa. Pa.	Merchant	25 28	A. Lawrence		

Figure 2. Marriage Record April 9, 1882 for colored Henrietta Love and Alexander Anderson from the First United Methodist Church of Mount Holly, N.J. Records (Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1669-2013, Ancestry.com)

Figure 3 shows that African American couples were sometimes married in white churches. There were several other such couples who were married in this Methodist church parsonage. For example, on November 2, 1879, colored Adam Gibson Jr. of Timbuctoo (son of Adam & Sarah Barton Gibson) married colored Sarah A. Still of Mount Holly (daughter of William & Henrietta Still); on April 20, 1885, David Parker [Jr.] of "Tumbucto" married Julia A. Potts of Mount Holly (with no notation of color).

There is another marriage record for Henrietta Wilson (maiden name) and Alexander Anderson from the *New Jersey, Marriage Records, 1670-1965* on-line (Ancestry.com). This record gives the date of April 9, 1891 with the same place of Mount Holly, New Jersey.

General References

Charles H. Love Pension File application # 1192,488 (widow) pp. copies, *Compiled Military Records*, microfilm (National Archives, Washington, D.C.)

1870 Westhampton [Timbuctoo], Burlington County Federal Census, other Federal and New Jersey State Censuses (Ancestry.com)

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Citations

¹ *State of NJ Bureau of Vital Statistics-Certificate and Record of Death* (New Jersey Archives, Trenton, NJ)

² Burlington County, *Deed Book C-8*, pp. 463-464 (Burlington County Courthouse)

³ Leckie 1967, pp. 12-18, 25-26

⁴ Banks Jan 1995, pp. 35-37

⁵ Leckie 1967, pp. 18, 68,78, 135, 258-259

⁶ Banks Jan 1995, pp. 35-36

⁷ Carrol 1992, p. 71

⁸ *New Jersey Marriage Records, 1670-1965* (Ancestry.com)

⁹ *Return of Deaths in Westampton, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey* (Burlington County Historical Society Library)

¹⁰ *Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Record, 1669-2013* (Ancestry.com)

¹¹ *Whitmore's Complete Funeral Record (M.H. Keeler Funeral Records for Mount Holly, Burlington County, 1894-1905)* (Burlington County Library)