

Kentucky Historical Highway

Marker #2283

"HORRIBLE MASSACRE"

On January 25, 1865, Co. E, 5th United States Colored Cavalry (USCC) attacked by Confederate guerillas while driving herd of 900 cattle to Louisville. About 22 men killed and at least eight severely wounded. Based at Camp Nelson, nearly all of the recruits were former slaves. The 5th also fought in 1864 Saltville battles.

Given by Camp Nelson Restoration & Preservation Foundation and the 12th USCHA, Reactivated

AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY

The 5th USCC troopers killed in 1865 Simpsonville slaughter were buried in a mass grave by local residents. Area used as African American cemetery. Members of the Trim #2 United Brothers of Friendship Lodge operated the cemetery until the last member died in 1965. Lodge hall located in Simpsonville.

Given by Shelby County Historical Society

Location: 1/2 mile west of Simpsonville, US 60, Shelby County, Kentucky.

Program

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| <i>Choral Presentation</i> | "The Brotherhood"
Clay St. Baptist Church |
| <i>Introduction</i> | J. T. Miller
Master of Ceremonies |
| <i>Invocation</i> | Rev. Ron Holder
Clay Street Baptist Church |
| <i>Presentation of Colors</i> | Honor Guard from 12th USCHA-Reactivated |
| <i>Welcoming Speeches</i> | Ian Crump, Director
Whitney M. Young Job Corps Center |
| <i>Remarks</i> | Steve Eden
Mayor of Simpsonville
Rob Rothenberger
Judge Executive Shelby County
Brad Montrell, Representative
58th District (Shelby and Spencer Counties)
Charles Long, Outgoing President
Shelby County Historical Society
Dr. J. Blaine Hudson, Chairman
Ky. African American Heritage Commission
Kent Whitworth, Executive Director
Kentucky Historical Society
Interpreted by Erma J. Bush of
the Kentucky Chautauqua |
| <i>Miss Dinnie Thompson
Sisters of the Mysterious Ten</i> | "The Brotherhood" |
| <i>Battle Hymn of the Republic</i> | Interpreted by Mike Crutcher, Pres., Camp
Nelson Restoration & Preservation Fdn. |
| <i>Frederick Douglass</i> | |
| <i>Private Newton Bush, a survivor
of the attack</i> | Interpreted by Robert L. Bell, member of 12th
U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery-Reactivated |
| <i>David E. Brown</i> | Great great grandson of Private
Samuel Truchart, Co. E—5th USCC |
| <i>Keynote Address</i> | W. Stephen McBride, Ph.D., Director
Interpretation and Archaeology
Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park |
| <i>Final Roll Call of the Troopers
killed at Simpsonville.</i> | David E. Brown |
| <i>Playing of Taps</i> | Lee Rowland |
| <i>Closing Remarks</i> | J. T. Miller |
| <i>Unveiling of Historical Marker</i> | Kent Whitworth, Blaine Hudson, and the
Project Volunteers |

Our Gratitude To:

Ulley Washburn, Juanita White, LaVerne Shumake Dunning, and others who contributed research material.

J. T. Miller and the Shelby County Historical Society

Robert L. Bell and the 12th U.S.C.H.A.—Reactivated

Camp Nelson Restoration & Preservation Foundation

Kentucky Archaeological Survey

Whitney M. Young Job Corps Center

Kentucky Humanities Council for providing

“Miss Dinmie Thompson” - a Kentucky Chautauqua characterization.

Joe Prather, Cabinet Secretary

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Kent Whitworth, Executive Director

Kentucky Historical Society

Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet

The Kentucky Historical Highway Marker Program is administered by the Kentucky Historical Society in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet.

For information about the program, contact:

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Kentucky Historical Society

Highway Marker Program



Dedication of
Historical Marker
for

“HORRIBLE MASSACRE” AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY

Sunday, January 25, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

