

August 16, 2017

Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Executive
3430 Courthouse Drive
George Howard Bldg.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Mr. Kittleman:

We read that you and the County Council are considering the possibility of removing the Confederate monument from outside the County's Circuit Court House. The removal is long overdue and should be done immediately since the memorial sends a harmful message to Howard County residents that is antithetical to the values that our community represents. It is particularly inappropriate for it to be present in a place of honor at the Court House where residents come expecting to receive equal justice under law.

Judge Sweeney has looked into the history of the memorial and the background of those named on the plaque. Attached to this letter is a more detailed recital of the history based on Judge Sweeney's research.

It appears that those mentioned on the plaque were members of the Howard Dragoons, a militia force known as the First Maryland Cavalry. These were all volunteers who left Maryland as a unit and joined the Confederate Army in Virginia after Maryland decided not to secede from the Union. All of these men were volunteers and many were from slave holding families in Howard County.

It is not a memorial that dates to the time of the Civil War and in fact was not placed at the Courthouse until 1948 when the then judge of the Circuit Court decided to place it there. It appears that the judge and his predecessor who was also instrumental in the funding and creation of the memorial were descendants of persons named on the memorial. At the dedication ceremony, the then Maryland Attorney General described one of the judges as an "unreconstructed Rebel."

Unlike battlefields or similar landmarks, there is no historical significance to the siting of this memorial on the courthouse grounds. Far from preserving an historic artifact, one of the monument's chief sponsors, the Howard County Confederate Monument Association, noted their intent to honor "the brave men who fought so courageously in the Confederate Army." We should no longer host on public grounds a tribute to armed forces that fought not for liberty or freedom, but to preserve the system of human trafficking and slavery.

It should also be recognized that there is no corresponding memorial on the grounds to the many Howard County residents who fought on the Union side during the Civil War. Of particular note were the members of the Patapsco Guard under Captain Thomas McGowan, Jr. that guarded the rail line in Ellicott City throughout the war and Decatur Dorsey, a soldier who was born a slave in Howard County, but served in the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War and won the Medal of Honor.

It is particularly striking that this memorial is opposite the memorial honoring the veterans of World Wars I and II and the Korean War suggesting that the service of all those memorialized on the grounds is of equal worth, merit and honor.

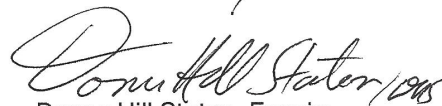
As we know you appreciate, Howard County and its government has much to answer for in its past treatment of African Americans. In 1860, 21% of the Howard County population were slaves. In the attached materials, you will see a flyer advertising in 1861 a sale under the order of the Orphans Court of Howard County of “Five Negroes-Two Women and Three Boys”. The Circuit Court and Howard County government were part and parcel of the machinery that allowed slavery to exist and prosper. Having a memorial on the grounds of the Courthouse to those who fought to preserve that evil system is a stain that should be remedied at once.

As an attached article from the *Sun* in 1998 demonstrates, the Howard County African American community has long been concerned about this memorial and the message it sends. It is long overdue for action to be taken to have our local government send a message we all can be proud of.

Sincerely,



Senior Circuit Court Judge Dennis M. Sweeney



Donna Hill Staton, Esquire
Former Howard County Circuit Court Judge

Cc: Jon Weinstein
Dr. Calvin Bell
Jen Terrasa
Mary Kay Sigtay
Greg Fox

EXHIBITS

1. A Brief History of the Confederate Monument at the Courthouse
2. Text on the Plaque
3. Photo of the Plaque
4. Sunpapers article about 1998 rededication of monument
5. Flyer for Howard County Slave Sale
6. Biography of Decatur Dorsey

EXHIBIT 1

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT AT THE COURTHOUSE**Howard County's Contribution to the Confederacy**

Howard County's military contribution to the Confederacy seems to arise primarily from the leadership of George R. Gaither. Gaither, who resided at the estate we now know as Oakland Manor, formed a local militia group known as the Howard Dragoons in 1860 shortly before the Civil War. It was said to be composed of nearly 100 horsemen mostly from the wealthier families, many of which were slave owners.

Surprisingly enough, the Howard Dragoons first came to public attention beyond Howard County when one week after the start of the Civil War they went into Baltimore on April 19, 1861 to assist the authorities in restoring order after the infamous Baltimore riots when citizens attacked the Sixth Massachusetts militia unit that was traveling through Baltimore to join the Union cause in Washington.

After peace was restored in Baltimore and the Dragoons returned to Howard County, the members weighed the role that the Dragoons would play in the war.

Given that their sympathies were with the South and that Maryland was not going to join the Confederacy (although there was much feeling among many Marylanders to do so), the Dragoons decided to go to Virginia as a unit and enlist in the Confederate forces. They became known as the First Maryland Cavalry which I believe was the first full unit of Marylanders to join the Confederate cause. Over time probably as a result of a diminution of the numbers the force was absorbed into the First Virginia Cavalry and those members of the Dragoons who stayed on engaged in many battles until the conclusion of the war.

I can't verify that all the 92 persons on the plaque are members of the Dragoons or that they all indeed are from Howard County, but you will note many prominent names from Howard County history including Carroll, Clark, Dorsey, Hammond, Ridgely, Thompson, Warfield and Willis to name a few.

It is noteworthy that all of the individuals honored on this plaque were volunteers. None of them were drafted or impressed into service. Each of them made a personal decision to leave Maryland and fight for the Southern cause and by necessary implication the continuation of slavery.

Howard County residents who supported the Union joined the Union Army or local militias such as one known as the Patapsco Guard which was led by Captain Thomas McGowan, Jr. whose father owned the hotel on Main Street across from the railroad station. It lasted throughout the war and was most notable for guarding the railline that was a critical source of transportation for the Union cause.

The Installation of the Plaque

The plaque was installed on the front of the courthouse on September 23, 1948. The process for the plaque began in 1898 when 40 veterans of the First Maryland Cavalry met at the home of Edwin Warfield whose two older brothers had served in the Confederate forces. They wanted to erect a monument to their service for the Confederacy and began a process of fundraising. While some funds were collected, the project did not progress quickly to completion. The funds were in the custody of Howard County Judge William Henry Forsythe who was the treasurer of the group and the son of one of the veterans of the First Maryland Cavalry. Judge Forsythe had been appointed to the Circuit Court for Howard County in 1907 by Edwin Warfield who had then become Governor.

In 1928, in responding to an inquiry from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, a confederate women's group, Judge Forsythe said that he was not able to complete the project because a proposal submitted by Hans Schuler a famous Maryland sculptor was too expensive and Judge Forsythe said he had not had time to devote to finding a cheaper alternative. Judge Forsythe offered to turn over the project and the funds on deposit at the Fidelity Trust Company to the group if they wished to take over the project. At the time, the account had \$500.00 in cash and \$400.00 in Liberty Bonds (apparently acquired during the First World War).

It was not clear why the matter did not progress from that point, but there was speculation in one account that the depression and then World War II prevented the monument project from coming to fruition.

In any event, on September 23, 1948 (50 years from the beginning of the process), the plaque was finally installed at a ceremony presided over by Judge Forsythe, then retired from the Court of Appeals, and with late Governor Warfield's son also named Edwin, as the main speaker.

Rededication of the Plaque

Fifty years later on September 28, 1998, the Sons of Confederate Veterans held a ceremony at the courthouse to "rededicate" the monument. According to a picture of the event from an article in the Sunpapers, the men present at the ceremony wore Confederate uniforms and there was a counter demonstration organized by Howard County African-American churches and groups which protested that the memorial was celebrating slavery and racism. The Confederate group denied to reporters any such intent and instead said the memorial was about "states rights". John Willis, the Maryland Secretary of State refused to issue a requested proclamation from Governor Glendening honoring the rededication ceremony saying that to do so would be divisive and would "unnecessarily inflame emotions".

Confederacy

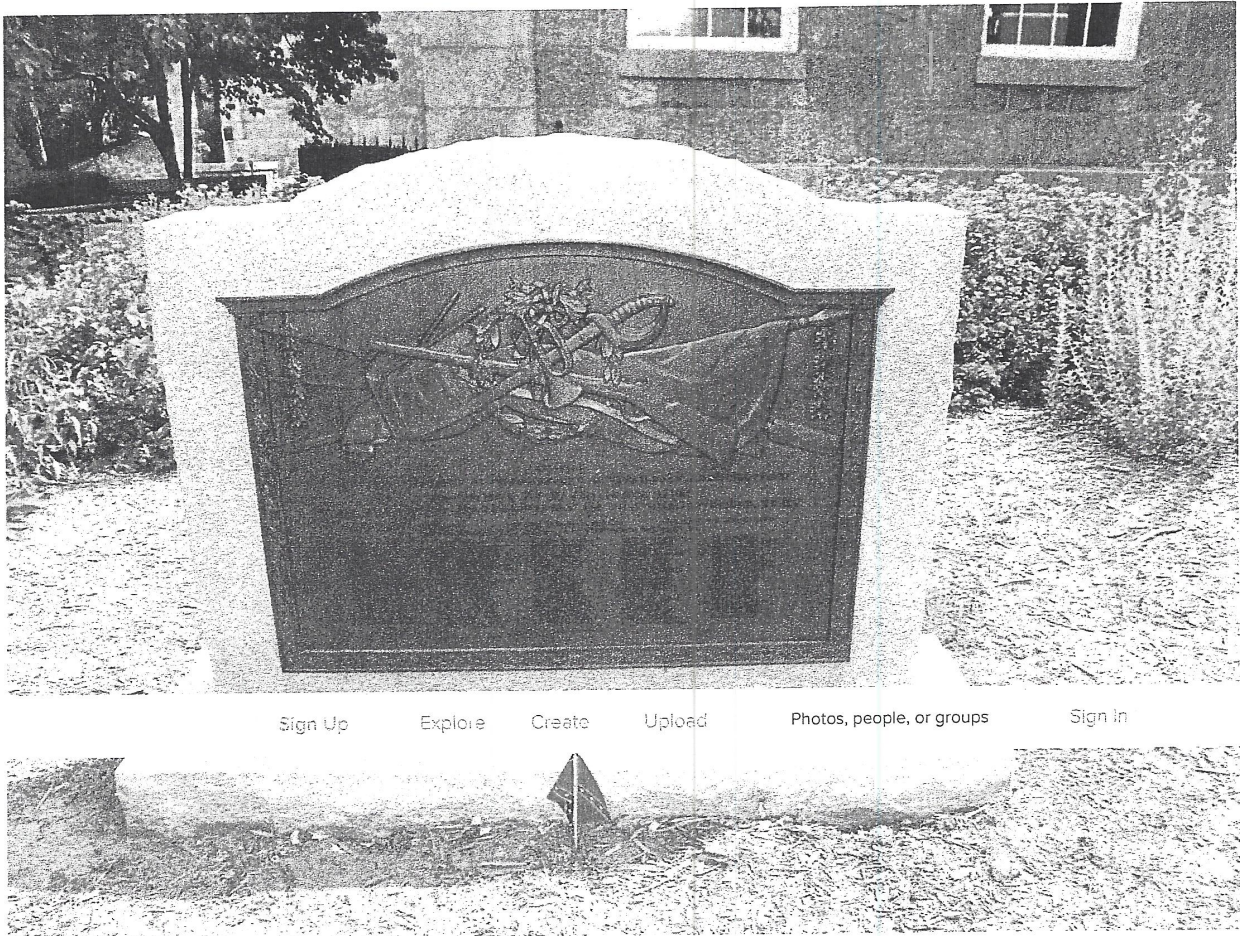
12/1/10

By The
Howard County Confederate Monument Association
In Honor Of These Brave Men
Who Fought So Courageously In The Confederate Army

General James R. Herbert	Captain Nathan Chew Hobbs	Captain George R. Gaither	Lieutenant Ventress Pue	Captain George Howard
Robert T. Baker Frank A. Bond William Bond Henry Brown John R. Brown George Buckingham William Burgess Albert Carroll R.G. Harper Carroll Byron Cauthorn N. Soper Childs Basil C. Clark David I. Clark James Clark John O. Clark Nicholas W. Clark John T. Crawford	John Debow B. Harrison Dorsey Charles R. Dorsey Charles W. Dorsey Gustavus Dorsey Hammond Dorsey Harry C. Dorsey John C. Dorsey John T.B. Dorsey John W. Dorsey Pulaski Dorsey Samuel Dorsey of B. Samuel W. Dorsey Upton W. Dorsey William Dorsey Alexander Fahey Wm. Henry Forsythe George W. Gaither	Charles Gibbons Richard Griffin Charles Hammond John Harding Gaither Henderson Resin D. Hewitt John Hill Jarrett Hobbs Townsen Hobbs Evan R. Hughes John R. Kenley Robert Leyman Edwin Linthicum John W. Linthicum Stephen McNulty George W. Mercer William H. Miller	John N. O'Brien John H. Owings L.I.G. Owings Bascum Peddicord Trusten Polk Ferdinand Pue Charles H. Ridgely John T. Ridgely Samuel Ridgely Thomas Ridgely Robert Scaggs George Scott Cornelius Shafer John Shakers Elmond Shipley Samuel C. Shipley Dorsey Thompson Edward L. Thompson	L.G. Thompson Tompkins Thompson Albert Treakle Emmett Treakle Louis J. Watkins Albert G. Warfield Gassaway W. Warfield William A. Webb John W. Whalen Albert Willis Beale Willis Carver Willis Frank Willis William B. Willis William Wright Henry E. Wooten Charles T. Zepp

EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 3



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Howard County Confederate Monument

This Confederate Memorial, prominently placed in front of the Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City, Maryland, was dedicated on September 23, 1948. It honors the brave men of Howard County who defended their sovereign state of Maryland from Abraham Lincoln's invading Yankee army during his illegal War to Prevent Southern Independence, 1861-1865.

The embellished bronze relief plaque on a gray granite tablet makes for an outstanding example of a tablet style monument. Three edges of the plaque are embellished with a border of twining foliage. The plaque is decorated with a low relief composition of overlapping elements: laurel wreath, drum, bugle, saber, rifle with bayonet, and flag.

Below the design the inscription reads:

BY THE
HOWARD COUNTY CONFEDERATE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION
IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE MEN
WHO FOUGHT SO COURAGEOUSLY IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

Beneath the inscription is a listing of 92 names of the Confederate

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Z980

f/4 4.8 mm Ellicott City, Maryland, United States
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 Confederate States of America
1,231 items

EXHIBIT 4

Home — Collections — Racism



The New U.S. Currency Laws Stun Many

First look at the new currency laws (part of HR Bill #2847) that are now in effect. This could cause big problems for U.S. dollar holders soon.

[Read about it here](#)

Peaceful protest at Howard ceremony Confederate group's rededication draws 100 demonstrators

September 28, 1998 | By Alice Lukens | Alice Lukens,SUN STAFF

A ceremony to honor Howard County Confederate war dead went peacefully yesterday afternoon, despite about 100 protesters who felt that the event promoted racism and hatred.

About 200 people attended the rededication of a 50-year-old Confederate monument outside the Howard County Circuit Courthouse in Ellicott City at 2 p.m. yesterday. They sang "Dixie," saluted the Confederate flag -- and listened to a speech that accused Maryland's secretary of state, John T. Willis, and Gov. Parris N. Glendening of trying to erase Maryland's Southern heritage.

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"There is a lingering cloud of political correctness in this state that impairs Gov. Glendening's vision," said Patrick J. Griffin III, commander in chief for the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"Grab a rail, a bucket of hot tar and some feathers, and head for Annapolis," he said, eliciting applause from the crowd.

Willis had refused Friday to issue a proclamation endorsing the Sons of Confederate Veterans ceremony on the grounds that an official statement would unnecessarily inflame emotions. Howard County Executive Charles I. Ecker, however, issued a proclamation endorsing the event last week, adding to the ire of activists who felt the county should not be taking sides.

As the rededication ceremony unfolded behind the courthouse, another gathering took place in front. Demonstrators sang "We Shall Overcome," listened to a Martin Luther King Jr. speech, and criticized the Sons of Confederate Veterans for perpetuating racism. While Griffin gave his speech, demonstrators walked down the hill to the back of the courthouse and stood silently in protest before walking back up the hill.

One activist, the Rev. John L. Wright, of the Guilford Community Church in Columbia, wore an "Auction For Sale" sign to remind people, he said, of the brutalities of slavery.

After their march down the hill, the Rev. Stephen W. Williams of True Life Church in Columbia gave a speech accusing rededication participants of racism.

"We cannot tolerate this kind of attitude in Howard County," he said, while members of the crowd shouted "Right, brother" and "Amen" and the sound of bagpipes drifted from the celebrations down the hill. "We don't want Howard County to be a gated community."

"They, to us, are still fighting the Civil War," said Sherman Howell, vice president of the African American Coalition of Howard County. "In essence, they are saying that the culture that existed during that time is still a relevant culture for today. So that means they want to maintain this whole thing of white privilege and that means that you're excluding blacks."

After the event, Howard County Sheriff Michael Chiuchiolo said he sensed the possibility of violence when the protesters marched down the hill.

"There was potential for emotions to get inflamed," he said. "If you listened to some of those speeches, they were totally out of the realm of honoring the dead," he added. "That was way out of line for the permit that was issued."

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The protesters, unlike the ceremony participants, did not get a permit from the county. Chiuchiolo told them they had the right to gather and sing freedom songs, but only where it would not disturb the rededication.

At least one ceremony participant -- Carolyn S. Billups, a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy from Mechanicsville -- did not know a demonstration was taking place until after the ceremony, despite the presence of about 10 law enforcement officers. She was dressed in a purple period dress and her petticoats were decorated with Confederate flags.

Although she did not know about the controversy that has been brewing in Howard County, she said she has heard protesters' arguments before and doesn't buy any of them.

"The war wasn't fought over slavery," she said. "It was fought over states' rights." She added, shaking her hands, "You want to shake them, saying, 'Look, read it. It is there in your library.'"

Saundra Jordan of McLean, Va., said after the ceremony that the activists didn't understand "history as it happened."

"We are not celebrating slavery," she said. "We are honoring our ancestors, brave individuals who fought for their country. They fought for what they believed in. They fought because their homes were being invaded by foreigners."

Bryan Green, a Sons of Confederate Veterans member from Columbia and the re-dedication's organizer, also said he hardly noticed the demonstrators.

"I noticed some people standing off to the side, but that's it," he said. During the ceremony, he was awarded the Sons of Confederate Veterans Heritage Award -- given to one or two members a year -- for organizing the rededication and becoming its media spokesman.

"It's a free country," he said. "The First Amendment gives them that right [to protest]. It also gives us the right to be here."

That, said Stan Jordan, Saundra Jordan's husband, was the beauty of the scene at the courthouse yesterday -- protesters and all.

"This is really in my judgment a celebration of democracy," he said. "It's like buttresses on opposing ends of the cathedral. They keep each other from falling in."

Pub Date: 9/28/98

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EXHIBIT 5

POSTPONED ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE!

By virtue of an order of the Orphans' Court of Howard County, the
Subscriber, as Administrator *de bonis non* of the Estate of the late

GEORGE FOX,

Of Howard County, will sell, at the late residence of the said deceased

ON

 **WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6, 1861,**

AT TEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

The following Property of said George Fox, deceased—to wit:—

Five Negroes!

TWO WOMEN AND THREE BOYS.

 **FARMING UTENSILS**

Of various descriptions Also, the

HOUSEHOLD & KITCHEN

FURNITURE!

And many articles too tedious to enumerate.

TERMS OF SALE.

The terms of sale, as prescribed by the Court, are: all sums of \$20 and under, cash; on all sums above \$20 a credit of six months, the purchaser giving notes, with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale.

WASHINGTON FOX

ADMINISTRATOR DE BONIS NON.

Feb. 6th, 1861.

F. A. HANZSCHE, Cheap Job Printer, 212 Baltimore St., near Charles St, Baltimore.

Public notice of an estate sale. Maryland was a slave state in 1861.

Decatur Dorsey

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Decatur Dorsey (1836–July 11, 1891) was a Union Army soldier in the American Civil War and a recipient of the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions at the Battle of the Crater. Born into slavery, Dorsey enlisted in the United States Colored Troops and served through the last year of the war.

Contents

- 1 Biography
- 2 Medal of Honor citation
- 3 See also
- 4 References
- 5 External links

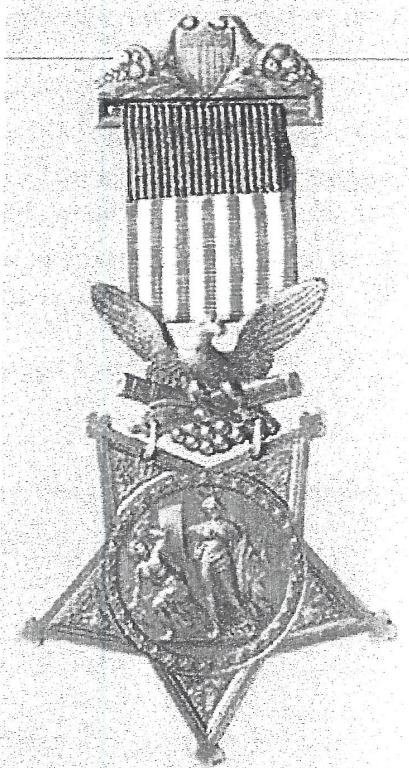
Biography

Dorsey was born a slave in 1836 in The Howard district of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, now Howard County. The Dorsey family held many large tobacco plantations in the region with many of their slave laborers taking on the name Dorsey. Decatur worked as a laborer at a time when the Enrollment Act allowed slaves to go in their place.^[1] Accounts differ and list him as an escaped slave, and freeman when he enlisted in the Union Army from Baltimore on March 22, 1864, at age twenty-five. He joined Company B of the 39th United States Colored Infantry Regiment as a private, but was promoted to corporal less than two months later, on May 17.^[2]

On July 30, 1864, Dorsey took part in the Battle of the Crater in Petersburg, Virginia. With the Siege of Petersburg at a stalemate, Union forces hoped to break the city's defenses by detonating explosives in a tunnel dug beneath the Confederate lines and charging the enemy positions in the aftermath of the explosion. The blast blew a huge crater in the Confederate defenses, and white Union soldiers rushed in to attack. Men who entered the crater became trapped as the Confederates regrouped and began firing down at them.^[2]

EXHIBIT 6

Decatur Dorsey



Medal of Honor, 1862-1895 Army version

Born	1836 Howard County, Maryland
Died	July 11, 1891 (aged 54–55) Hoboken, New Jersey
Place of burial	Flower Hill Cemetery, North Bergen, New Jersey
Allegiance	United States of America Union
Service/branch	United States Army Union Army
Years of service	1864–1865
Rank	First Sergeant
Unit	39th U.S. Colored Infantry
Battles/wars	American Civil War

Dorsey's division, which had been held in reserve, was then ordered to reinforce the attack. Dorsey, serving as the 39th Regiment's color bearer, moved ahead of his unit during the advance and planted the flag on the Confederate fortifications. When the regiment was forced to pull back, he retrieved the flag and rallied his fellow soldiers for a second attack. In this second assault, the men of the 39th breached the Confederate works and engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the defenders. They captured two hundred prisoners and two flags before being pushed back again and ordered to withdraw.^[2]

Awards	• Battle of the Crater
	Medal of Honor

Dorsey was promoted to sergeant on August 1, two days after the battle, and again to first sergeant on January 1, 1865.^[2] He was awarded the Medal of Honor on November 8, 1865,^[3] for his actions at the Battle of the Crater and was discharged from the Army a month later, on December 4, while in Wilmington, North Carolina. After the war he married and lived in Hoboken, New Jersey.^[2] He died there on July 11, 1891 at the approximate age of fifty-five. He was buried at Flower Hill Cemetery in North Bergen, New Jersey.^[2]


Medal of Honor citation

Planted his colors on the Confederate works in advance of his regiment, and when the regiment was driven back to the Union works he carried the colors there and bravely rallied the men.^[3]

See also

- List of African American Medal of Honor recipients
- List of American Civil War Medal of Honor recipients: A–F

References

 This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

1. Michael Hait. *The Civil War Draft in Maryland - Lists of Drafted Men*.
2. Hanna, pp 29–30
3. "Civil War Medal of Honor recipients (A–L)" (<http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/civwaral.html>). *Medal of Honor citations*. United States Army Center of Military History. January 27, 2009. Retrieved 2009-02-10.

- Hanna, Charles W. (2002). *African American recipients of the Medal of Honor: a biographical dictionary, Civil War through Vietnam War*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers. pp. 29–30. ISBN 0-7864-1355-7.

External links

- "Home of Heroes: Decatur Dorsey" (http://www.homeofheroes.com/gravesites/states/pages_af/dorsey_decatur.html). Retrieved September 24, 2010.