

# Petersburg National Battlefield VirtualCache Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Site 23: Poplar Grove National Cemetery USCT Stone

N 37° 09.52  
W 077° 25.75



Of approximately 330 United States Colored Troops (USCT) buried here at Poplar Grove National Cemetery L. Hugwood is one of the few graves to have a name carved on it. Unlike most of the African-American soldiers buried here, he was not killed at the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864. Hugwood served with Company D of the 117<sup>th</sup> USCT and died in Petersburg after the war on November 6, 1865. What he does have in common with his fellow USCTs is that very little is known about these men who played an important part for the Union army during the Siege of Petersburg.

Ironically, forced to serve in segregated units while alive and fighting for equality, it was in death they were buried here as equals interspersed among their white counterparts.

Poplar Grove is one of 14 National Cemeteries administered by the National Park Service. It is closed for burials but visitors are invited to walk the grounds, which are open daily.

**Visit Instructions:** What is the significance of the burials of USCT troops in Poplar Gove Cemetery? How many USCT troops are buried within 10 feet in any direction of this stone?