

Redeemer's A.M.E. Zion Church

110 Whiting Street

The Redeemer's African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church represents a movement also evident elsewhere in Connecticut: the joining together of African Americans, who were members of various denominations in town, to establish a church which nurtured black leadership and generated community support.

Organized in 1903, the congregation built its church structure a year later. Throughout this century, members have been leaders in Plainville and have provided a voice for the black community.



West Cemetery

Route 177

Located in West Cemetery are the graves of five African American soldiers who fought in the Civil War with the all-black Connecticut 29th Regiment and the Massachusetts 54th Regiment. They are James Halsted, Leven Harris, Chauncey Naaman, Charles White, and William Homer.

West Cemetery also contains the graves of John and Harriet Norton. They hid escaping slaves in their house, which was demolished in the 1960s, but is commemorated by a marker at on East Main Street. *Etched in Memory* by Charles Norton contains recollections of the family's antislavery activities.



*James Halsted,
active
community
member
and
Civil War veteran
1845-1930*

Site of the Norton Home

East Main Street

As indicated under West Cemetery, there is also a marker at the site of the Norton home which no longer stands. It was located on East Main Street. The marker is near the (former) Ideal Machinery. Photographs of the Nortons and their home, a stop on the Underground Railroad, are shown below. The Norton photograph was taken at the time of their marriage in 1849.

