Erastus M. Cravath, Private Chaplain, F&S, 101 OH Infantry U.S.

1833  July 1: Cravath was born in Homer, NY to Orin and Betsy Cravath.

1850  August 22: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Homer, Cortland County, NY showed 17-year-old Erastus living with his parents and siblings. His father, Orin, was a farmer. Erastus' parents were active members of the Abolition Party in Cortland County, NY. They operated a stop on of the Underground Railroad and soon after the 1850 census was enumerated, they moved their family to Oberlin, OH.

1857  Erastus graduated from Oberlin College.

1860  Erastus earned a master's degree in divinity.

    November 18: Married Ruth Anna Jackson in Kennett, Chester County, PA. Ruth was a fellow graduate of Oberlin College. She was a school teacher and a Quaker.

1864  January 2: Enlisted in the U.S. Army. He mustered into Co. G 101 OH Infantry and was promoted on January 7th to Chaplain.

    November 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin.

1865  June 12: Mustered out of the U.S. Army at Camp Harker, TN. He was almost immediately commissioned by the American Missionary Association to aid in the Freedman's cause. His mission was to establish schools for freedmen in Georgia and Tennessee.

1866  November 22: *The Summit County Beacon*, Akron, OH.
1875  June 1: The New York State Census enumerated in Brooklyn, NY showed Erastus, a minister, living with Ruth and their children. Erastus became the first president of Fisk University in Nashville, TN. Fisk University was initially a Freedman’s school for children, evolving very quickly into a university. Cravath named Fisk University after the General who assisted in the acquisition of the school’s property. The first few years of his presidency were filled with travel, as Erastus traveled through Europe with the Fisk Jubilee singers raising money for Fisk University.

1895  Cravath toured Europe, visiting Egypt, Palestine, Turkey, Greece and Italy over a four month period.

1900  June 6: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Nashville, Davidson County, TN showed E. M., an educator, living with his wife Ruth.

   September 4: Erastus Milo Cravath died at his northern home in Saint Charles, MN. He was buried at the Nashville National Cemetery.
1909 January 14: Ruth Cravath applied for and was awarded a widow’s pension for her husband’s service in the U.S. Army.