

# Why the Civil War Still Matters:

## *The United States Colored Troops*



*Presented by Jeryllyn James Lee*

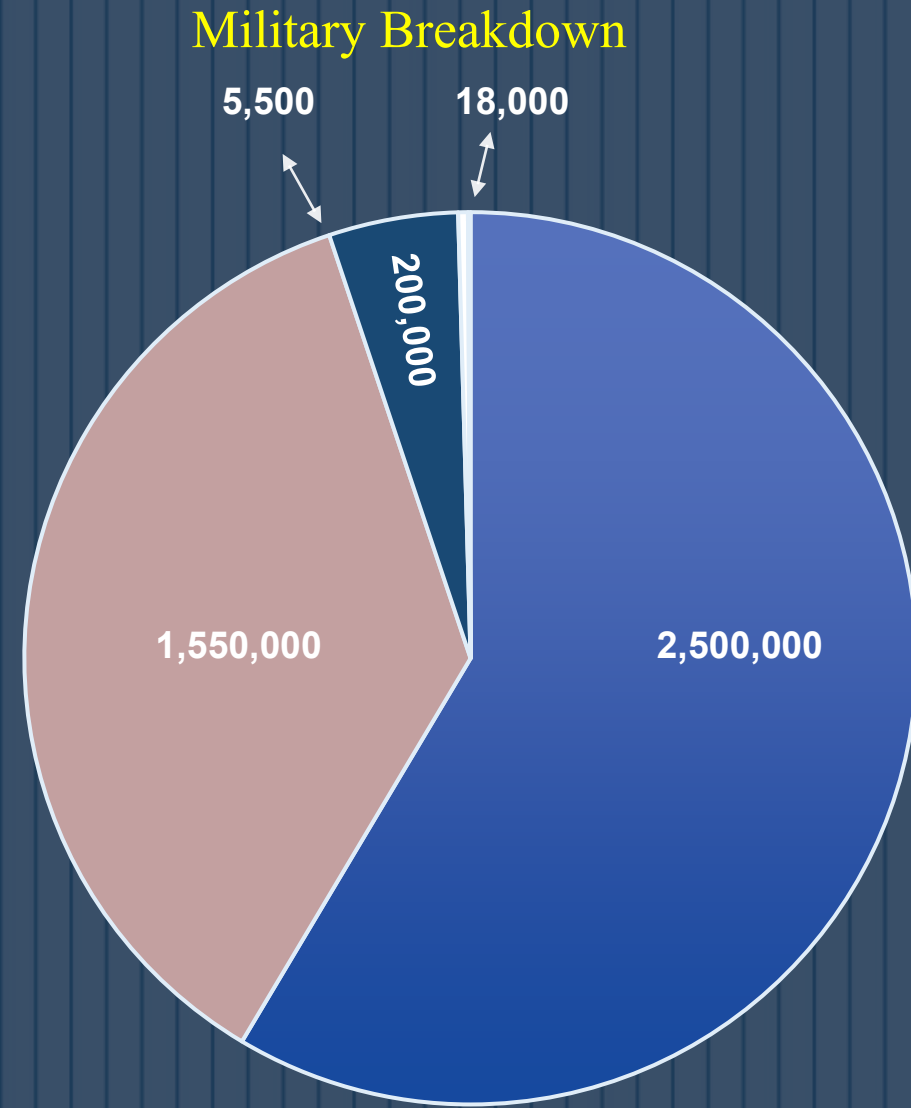
**United States Colored Troops  
Historian**

# Discovering their story....



# The call to bear arms....

4.3 million  
(estimate)



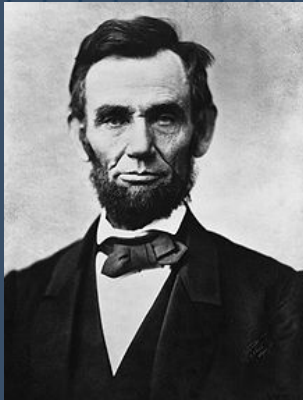
- White Soldiers in the Union Army
- White Soldiers in the Confederate Army
- Black soldiers in the Union Army
- Black sailors in the Union Navy
- White sailors in the Confederate Navy

# ~ Beginnings ~



**1857**

- U.S. Supreme Court rules on the Dred Scott case. As a slave, he could not claim citizenship, therefore he could not sue the government.



**1860**

- Abraham Lincoln becomes President
- Rumblings of secession begins



**1861**

- The Confederacy forms on February 8<sup>th</sup>
- Ft. Sumter is attacked on April 10<sup>th</sup>

# The Fight for the Right to Fight

April, 1861

Letters begin to arrive in Washington from Black volunteers requesting to serve.

*"Would to God you would let us do something. We lack nothing but your consent. We are ready and would go, counting ourselves happy in being permitted to serve and suffer for the cause of freedom and free institutions. But you won't let us go."*

September, 1861

Men form drill companies in Ohio, South Carolina and Indiana in hopes of serving their country.

# Marching Toward Equality

**Dec,  
1862**

- Congress empowers Lincoln to accept Blacks into service as cooks and laborers.

**Jan,  
1863**

- Emancipation Proclamation is passed and Blacks may now serve as armed troops.

**March,  
1863**

- The Bureau of the United States Colored Troops is established – the U.S.C.T.

# Ready, Willing & Able

## TO COLORED MEN!

### FREEDOM, Protection, Pay, and a Call to Military Duty!

On the 1st day of January, 1863, the President of the United States proclaimed FREEDOM to over THREE MILLIONS OF SLAVES. This decree is to be enforced by all the power of the Nation. On the 21st of July last he issued the following order:

#### PROTECTION OF COLORED TROOPS.

"WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, July 21."

"General Order, No. 235.

"The following order of the President is published for the information and government of all concerned:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, July 20.

"It is the duty of every Government to give protection to its citizens, of whatever class, color, or condition, and especially to those who are duly organized as soldiers in the public service. The law of nations, and the usages and customs of war, as carried on by civilized powers, permit no distinction as to color in the treatment of prisoners of war as public enemies. To sell or enslave any captured person on account of his color, is a relapse into barbarism, and a crime against the civilization of the age.

"The Government of the United States will give the same protection to all its soldiers, and if the enemy shall sell or enslave any one because of his color, the offense shall be punished by retaliation upon the enemy's prisoners in our possession. It is, therefore, ordered, for every soldier of the United States, killed in violation of the laws of war, a rebel soldier shall be executed; and for every one enslaved by the enemy, or sold into slavery, a rebel soldier shall be placed at hard labor on the public works, and continue at such labor until the other shall be released and receive the treatment due to prisoners of war.

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

"By order of the Secretary of War.

"E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General."

That the President is in earnest the rebels soon began to find out, as witness the following order from his Secretary of War:

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, August 8, 1863.

"Sir: Your letter of the 2d inst., calling the attention of this Department to the cases of Orin H. Brown, William H. Johnston, and Wm. Wilson, three colored men captured on the gunboat Isaac Smith, has received consideration. This Department has directed that three rebel prisoners of South Carolina, if there be any such in our possession, and if not, three others, be confined in close custody and held as hostages for Brown, Johnston and Wilson, and that the fact be communicated to the rebel authorities at Richmond.

"Very respectfully your obedient servant,

"EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

"The Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy."

And retaliation will be our practice now—man for man—to the bitter end.

### LETTER OF CHARLES SUMNER,

Written with reference to the Convention held at Poughkeepsie, July 15th and 16th, 1863, to promote Colored Enlistments.

BOSTON, July 13th, 1863.

"I doubt if, in times past, our country could have expected from colored men any patriotic service. Such service is the return for protection. But now that protection has begun, the service should begin also. Nor should relative rights and duties be weighed with nicety. It is enough that our country, aroused at last to a sense of justice, seeks to enrol colored men among its defenders.

"If my counsels should reach such persons, I would say: enlist at once. Now is the day and now is the hour. Help to overcome your cruel enemies now battling against your country, and in this way you will surely overcome those other enemies hardly less cruel, here at home, who will seek to degrade you. This is not the time to hesitate or to boggle. Do your duty to our country, and you will set an example of generous self-sacrifice which will conquer prejudice and open all hearts.

"Very faithfully yours,

"CHARLES SUMNER."

### VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF *Ark.* COUNTY OF *Sebastian*

I, *Joseph Logan* born in *Johnson County*  
in the State of *Arkansas* aged *Twenty three* years, and by  
occupation a *Laborer* Do Hereby Acknowledge to have volun-  
teered this *seventeenth* day of *October* 186*3*, to serve as a  
SOLDIER, in the Army of the United States, for the period of THREE  
YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also agree to accept such  
bounty, pay, rations and clothing, as are, or may be established by law for *colored* volunteers.

And I, *Joseph Logan* do solemnly swear that I will bear true  
faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them  
honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will  
observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the  
officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Witness my hand and seal at *H. Smith Ark.*  
this *19th* day of *October* 186*3* *his*  
*Joseph Logan*  
*Residing at* *Richmond, Colored* *mark*

I CERTIFY, ON OATH, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer agreeable to the General Regula-  
tions of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would in any way dis-  
qualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

*H. Smith of Ark. Co. 19th Oct. 1863*  
RECRUITING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY, ON OATH, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer,  
previously to his enlistment, and that he is eminently well qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have minutely examined  
his level age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have minutely examined  
the Regulations which govern the Recruiting Service. This soldier has *black* hair, *black*  
complexion, *five* feet *seven* inches high.

*John H. Kuyper 3rd Lieut*  
*2nd* *Regiment of Colored* *Troops*

RECRUITING OFFICER

# Entering Into War

## The First Five Regiments

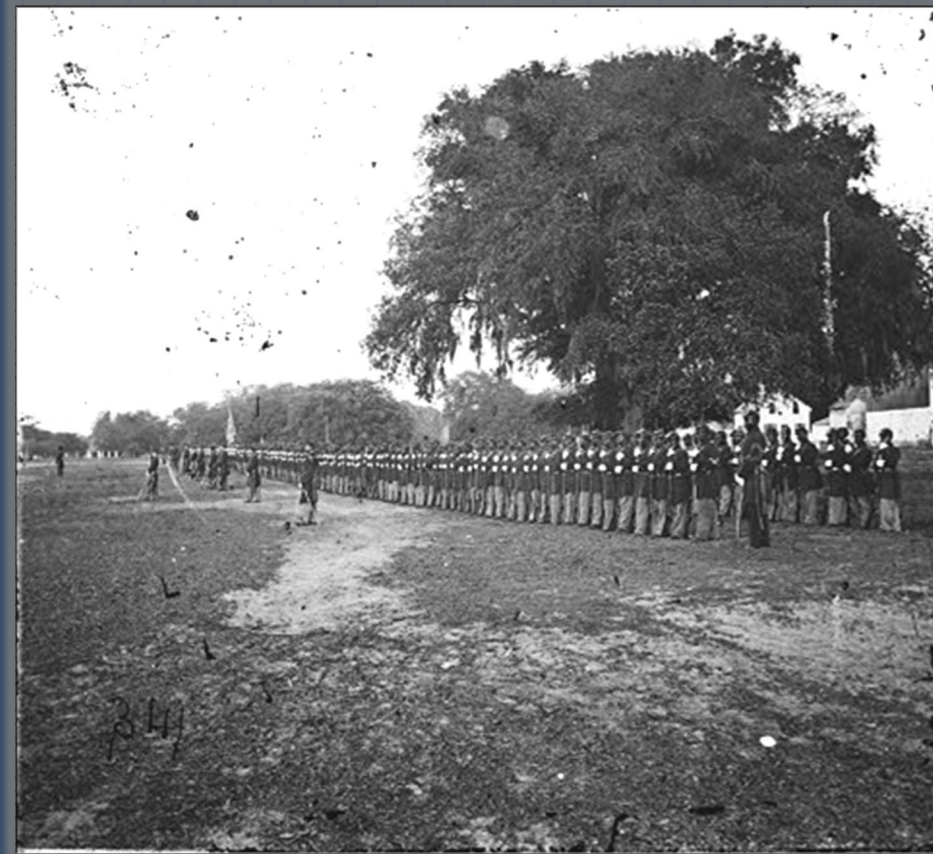


1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Native Guards, A.D.  
*"Corps d' Afrique"*  
73<sup>rd</sup> USCI



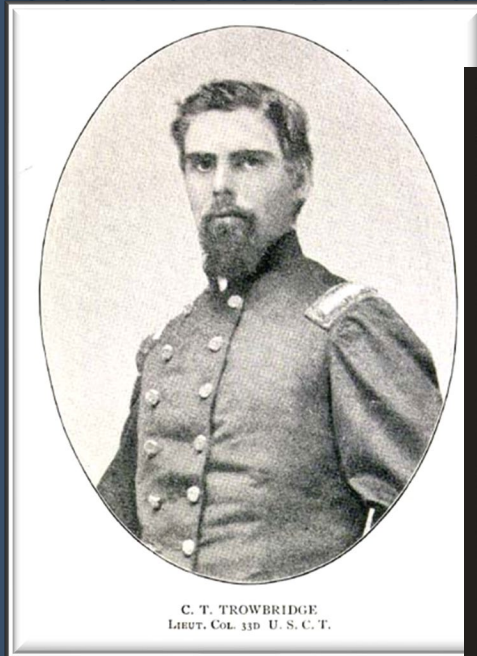
# Entering Into War The First Five Regiments

1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Volunteers  
33<sup>rd</sup> USCI

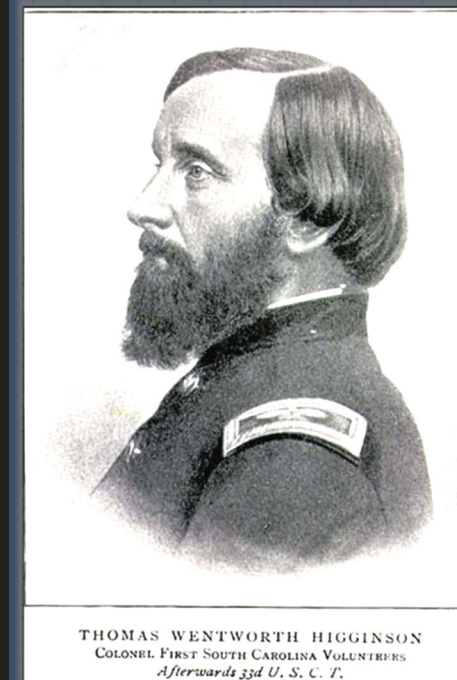
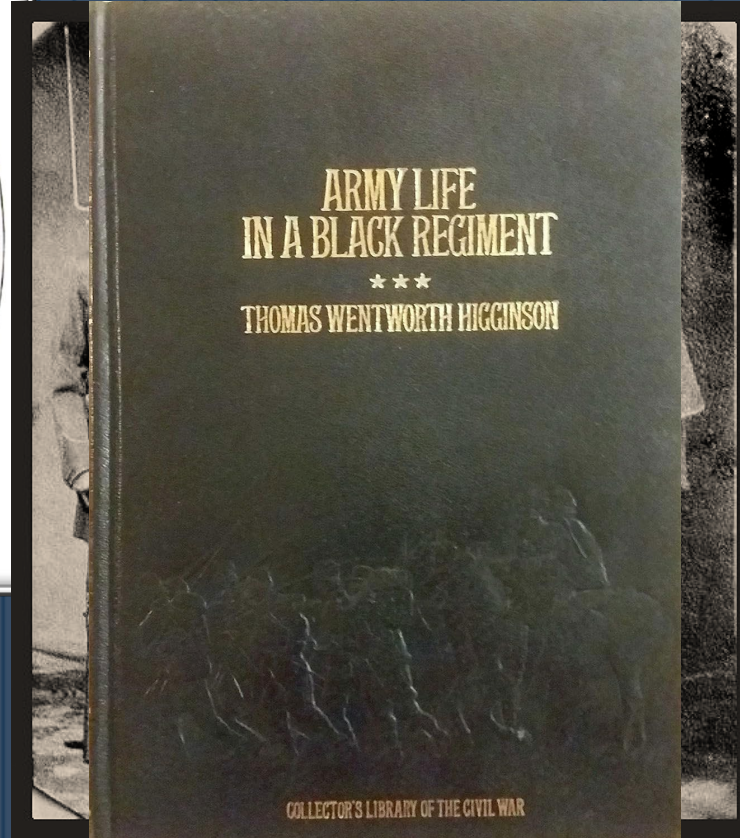


# Entering Into War

## The First Five Regiments



C. T. TROWBRIDGE  
Lieut. Col. 33d U. S. C. T.

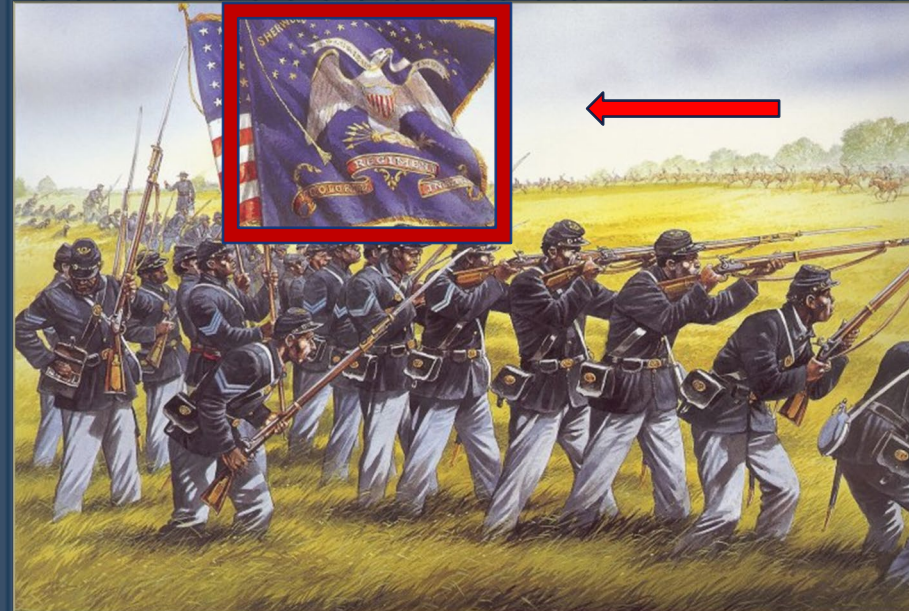


THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON  
COLONEL FIRST SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTIERS  
*Afterwards 33d U. S. C. T.*

1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Volunteers  
33<sup>rd</sup> USCI

# Entering Into War The First Five Regiments

1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Colored Volunteers/79<sup>th</sup> USCI



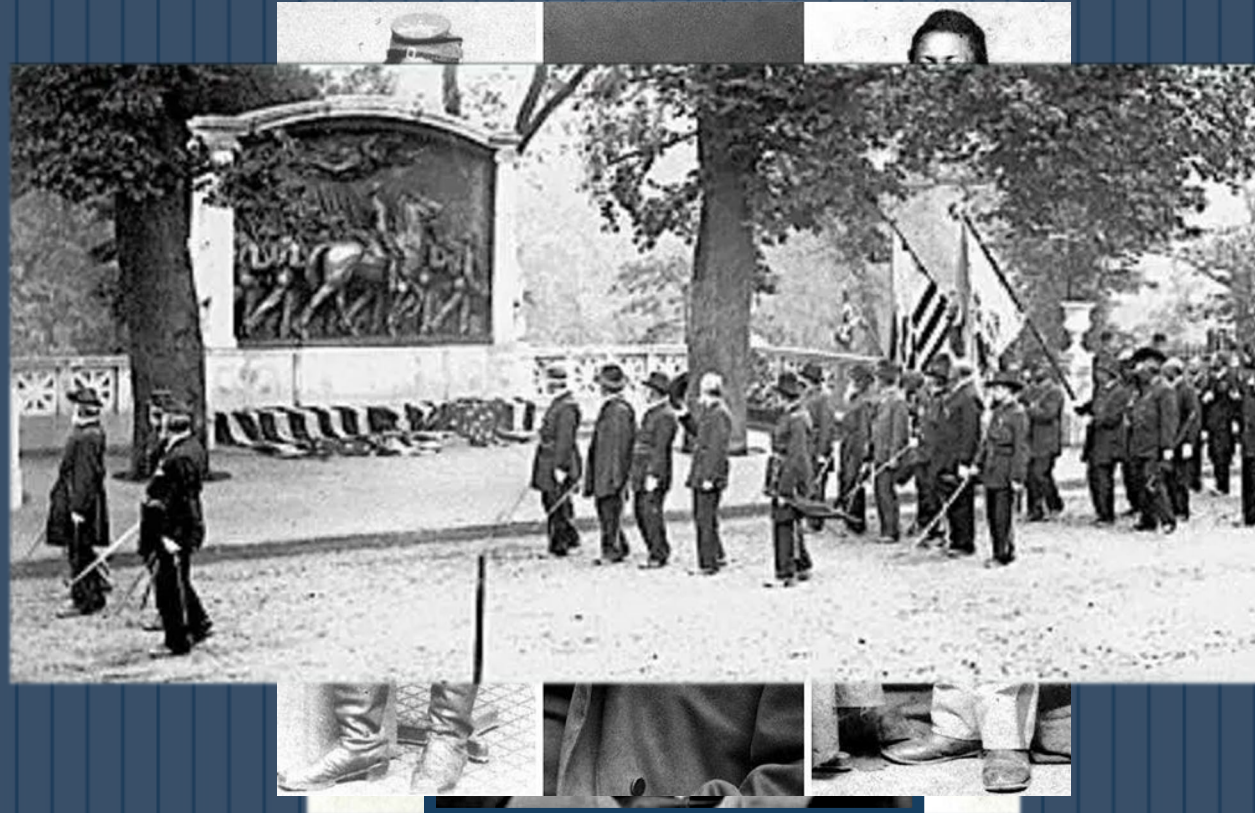
*“It is useless to talk any more about Negro courage.  
The men fought like tigers, each and every one of them.”*

# Entering Into War Capt. William Mathews



*“I am a Southern man  
with Northern principles.  
As a thinking man, I  
knew this day would  
come.”*

# Entering Into War The First Five Regiments



54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts

# On the Battlefield – Ft. Wagner, SC



54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts



# On the Battlefield – Ft. Wagner, SC

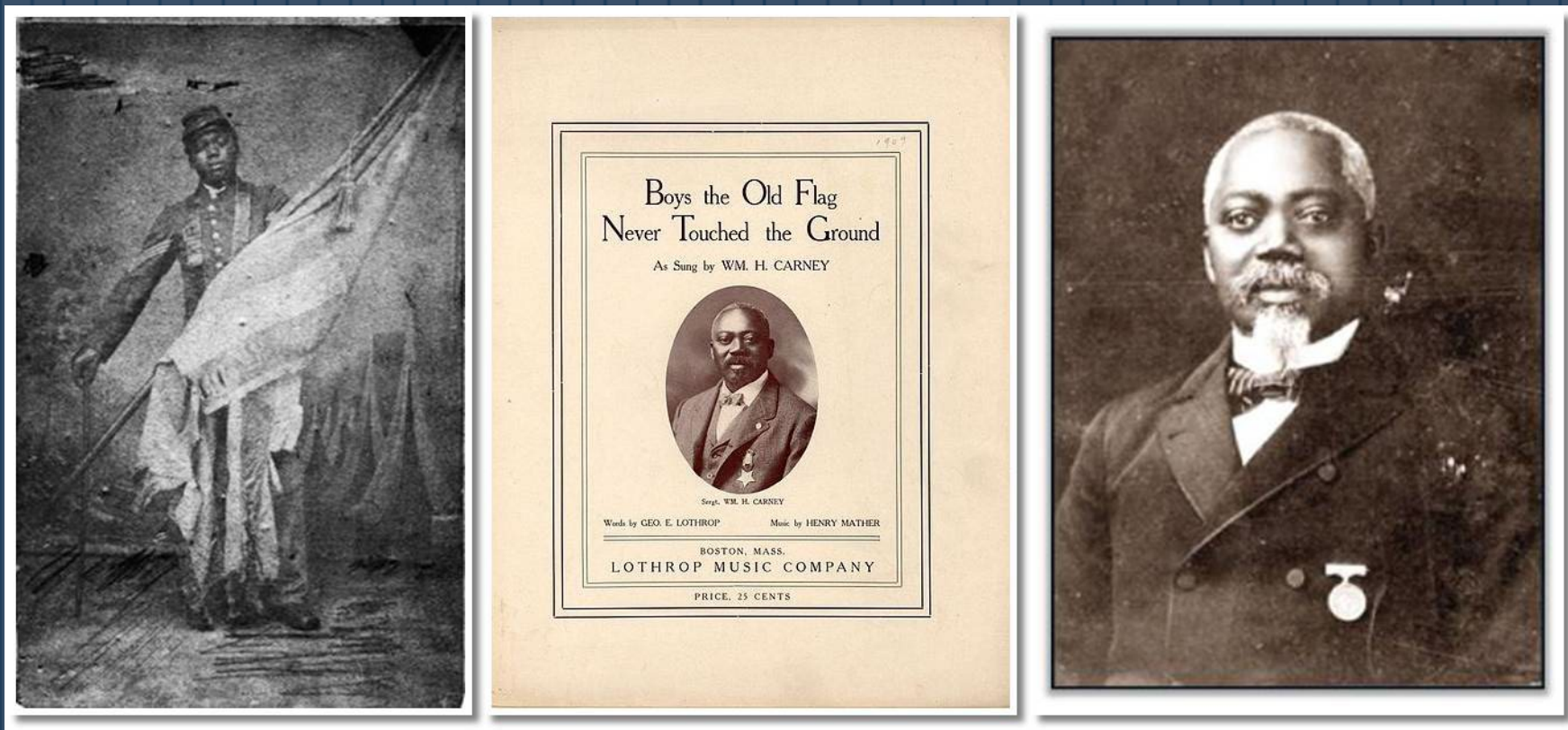


*“I had been shot in the hip and fractured my thighbone. A white soldier from the 100<sup>th</sup> New York gave me a drink of water and offered to carry the flag.*

*I said, “No sir, no man gets these colors unless he is a Fifty-fourth Massachusetts man.”*

Sgt. William Carney, holding the 54<sup>th</sup> regiment flag

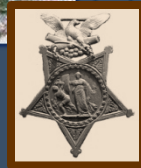
# William Carney



*Recipient of the Medal of Honor  
and  
The Butler Medal*

# Entering Into War

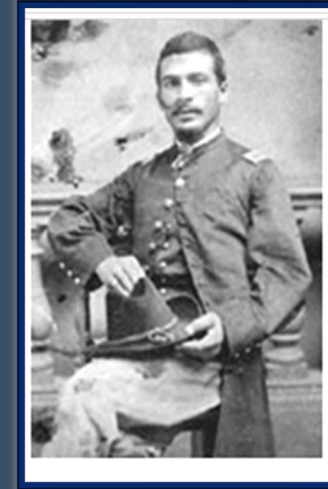
## The First Five Regiments



Andrew  
Jackson  
Smith,  
Medal of Honor recipient



55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts



# On the Battlefield – Chaffin's Farm, VA



# On the Battlefield – Chaffin's Farm, VA



Officers of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> USCI

# Distinguishing Themselves in Battle

Pvt. Bruce Anderson, 142<sup>nd</sup> New York Vol. Infantry

Pvt. William H. Barnes, 38<sup>th</sup> USCI



2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ft. Fisher, NC

Chaffin's Farm, VA,

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Battle of Ft. Wagner, SC

Battle of the Crater, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Battle of Deep Bottom, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Battle of Honey Hill, SC

Chaffin's Farm, VA

Cpl. Andrew J. Smith, 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts

Pvt. Charles Veale, 4<sup>th</sup> USCI





First Sgt.  
Powhatan Be...

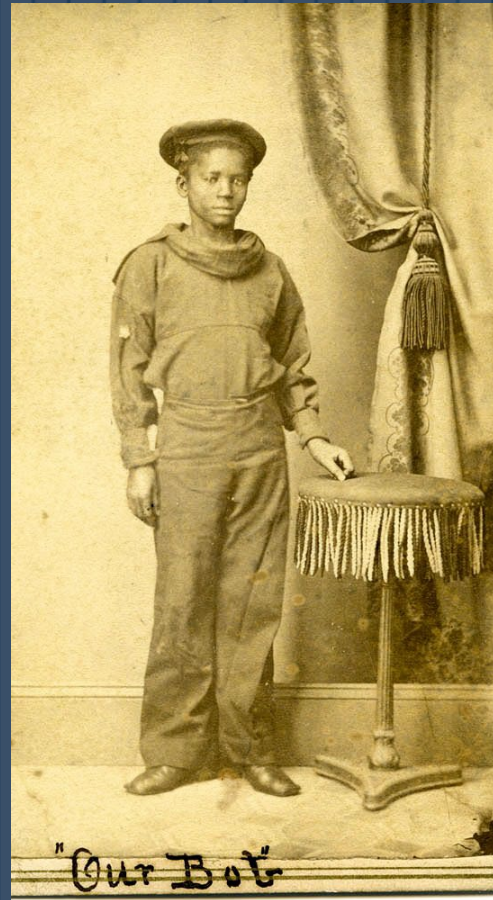
*“There, in a space not wider than the clerk's desk, and three hundred yards long, lay the dead bodies of 543 of my colored comrades, slain in defense of their country, who had laid down their lives to uphold its flag and its honor, as a willing sacrifice. And as I rode along, guiding my horse this way and that, lest he should profane with his hoofs what seemed to me the sacred dead, and as I looked at their bronzed faces upturned in the shining sun, as if in mute appeal against the wrongs of the country for which they had given their lives, and whose flag had been to them a flag of stripes, in which no star of glory had ever shone for them. Feeling I had wronged them in the past, and believing what was the future duty of my country to them – I swore to myself a solemn oath: May my right hand forget its cunning, and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if ever I fail to defend the rights of the men who have given their blood for me and my country this day and for their race forever. And God helping me, I will keep that oath”.*



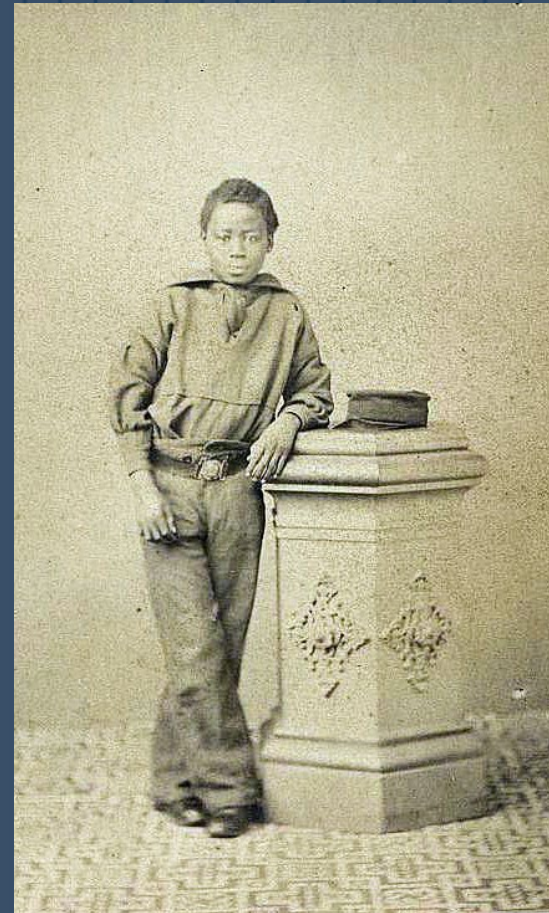
Sgt.  
Bert A. Pinn

Heart

# On Land and At Sea



Robert Walker, USCN,  
Wilson's Creek, MO



Unknown "First Class Boy"

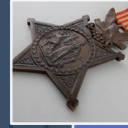
# Meritorious Service At Sea



First Class  
Boy

*Robert  
Blake*

of  
South  
Carolina



Landsman

*Wilson  
Brown*

of  
Mississippi



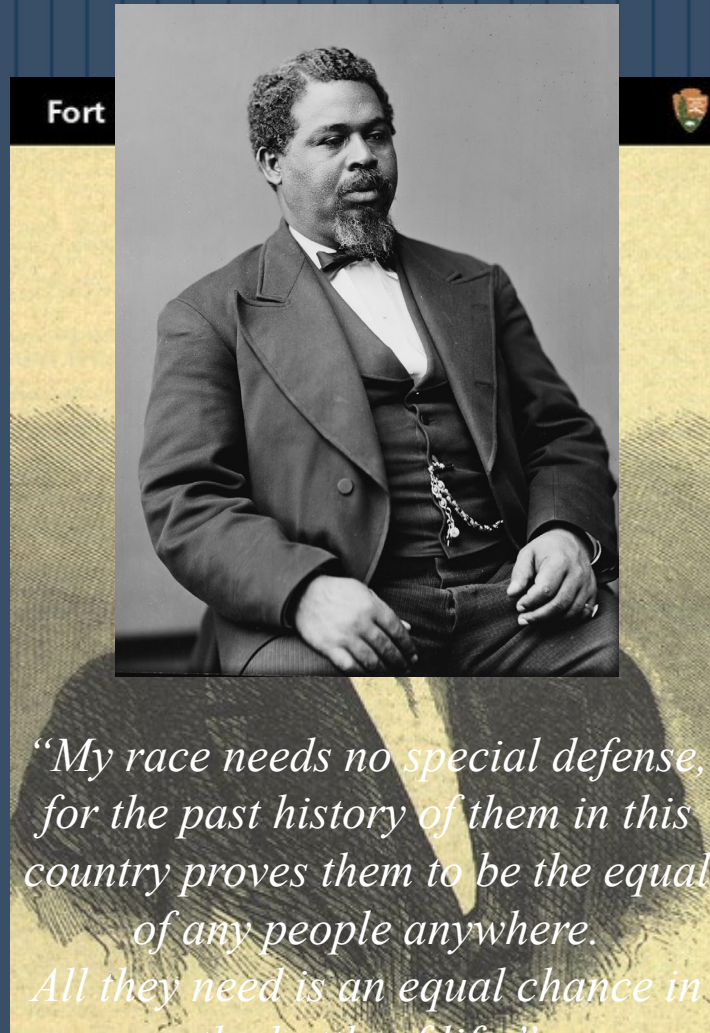
Landsman

*Aaron  
Anderson*

of  
North  
Carolina

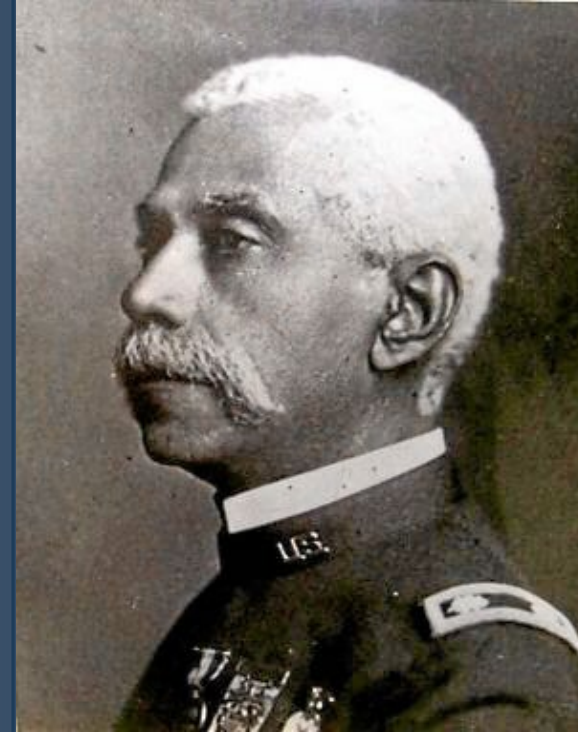


# Robert Smalls, Gunboat Pilot



*“My race needs no special defense,  
for the past history of them in this  
country proves them to be the equal  
of any people anywhere.  
All they need is an equal chance in  
the battle of life.”*

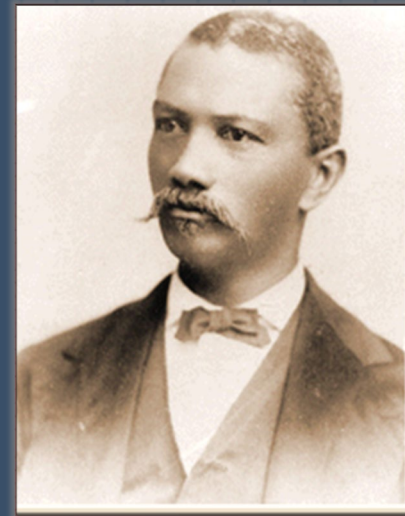
# Land and Sea



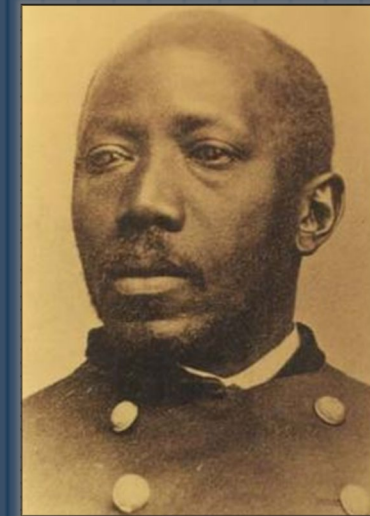
*His aim, he said, was “to show, in behalf of his race, that a Negro can be an officer and a gentleman.”*

# Healers of the Body

C. C. Radmore, J. F. Stevenson,  
J. M. Rand, W. A. Conover,  
D. McKay, and N. Folson,  
USCT Surgeons



Lt. Col.  
Alexander  
Augusta, M.D.



Maj.  
Martin Delany,  
M.D.



# “Look to the North Star”

Lt. Anderson R. Abbot, Contract Surgeon

Anselm Achim, Asst. Surgeon, 41<sup>st</sup> USCT

Lt. Col. Alexander T. Augusta, M.D., 7<sup>th</sup> USCT

William Clunie, Asst. Surgeon, 10<sup>th</sup> USCT

Maj. Martin Robeson Delany, 104<sup>th</sup> USCT

Jerome Riley, Contract Surgeon

William S. Tremaine, Asst. Surgeon, 31<sup>st</sup> USCT

Charles M. Wright, 32<sup>nd</sup> USCT



# “To the Beat of a Different Drum”



Miles Moore,  
Company H  
54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts



John Gooseberry,  
Company E  
54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts

# “To the Beat of a Different Drum”



Drummer Boy with the 45<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry  
at Cold Harbor, VA

# Illinois Connections – 29<sup>th</sup> USCT Infantry



*Flag of the 29<sup>th</sup> United States  
Colored Troops*

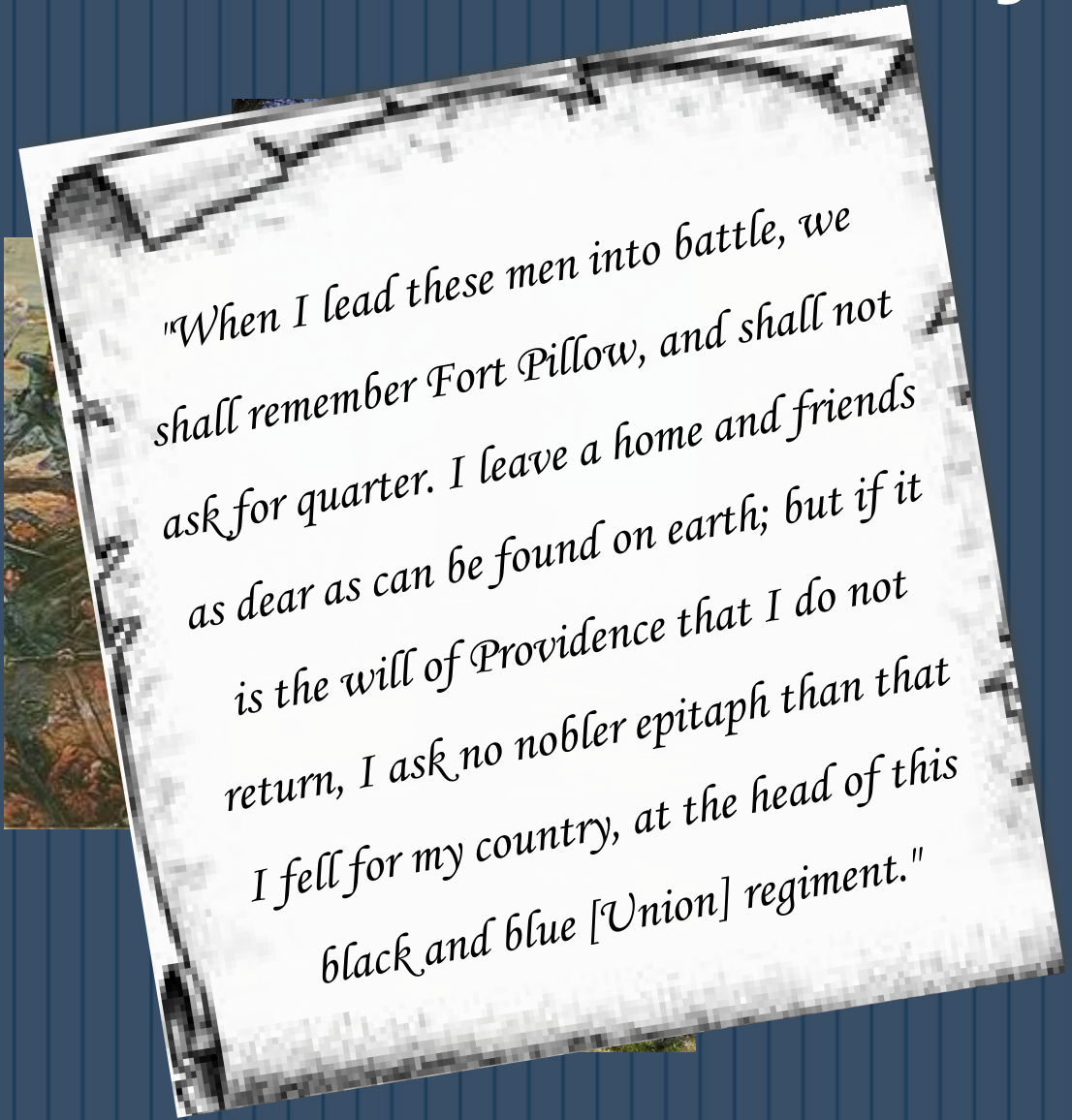
*Preserved at the  
Illinois State Historical Society*

*Springfield, Illinois*

# Illinois Connections – 29<sup>th</sup> USCT Infantry

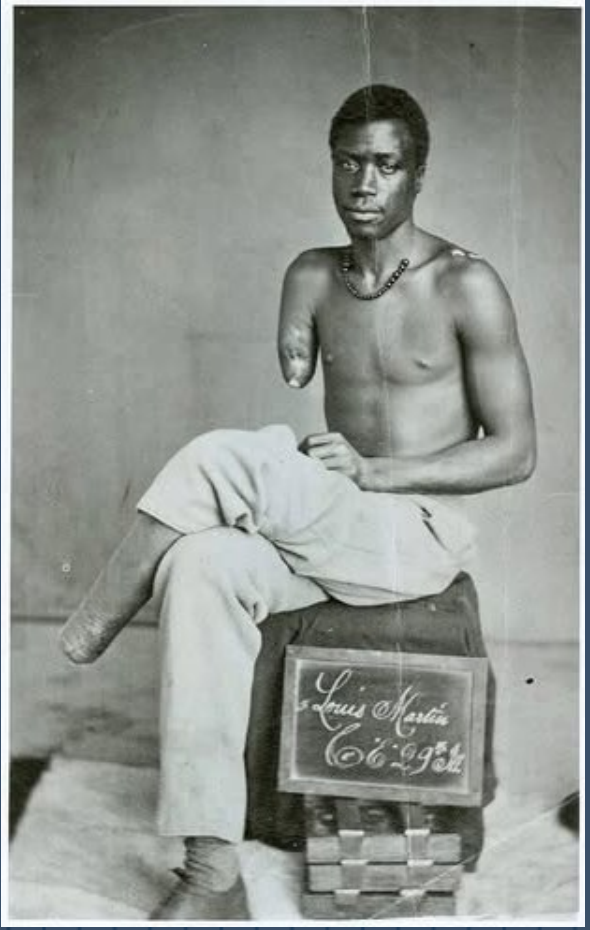


*Col. John Armstrong Bross*



*"When I lead these men into battle, we shall remember Fort Pillow, and shall not ask for quarter. I leave a home and friends as dear as can be found on earth; but if it is the will of Providence that I do not return, I ask no nobler epitaph than that I fell for my country, at the head of this black and blue [Union] regiment."*

# Illinois Connections – 29<sup>th</sup> USCT Infantry



*Pvt. Lewis Martin*



29<sup>th</sup> USCT at Petersburg



# The Next Chapter....



10<sup>th</sup> USCC and 25<sup>th</sup> USCI, post-war

# Our Place in History

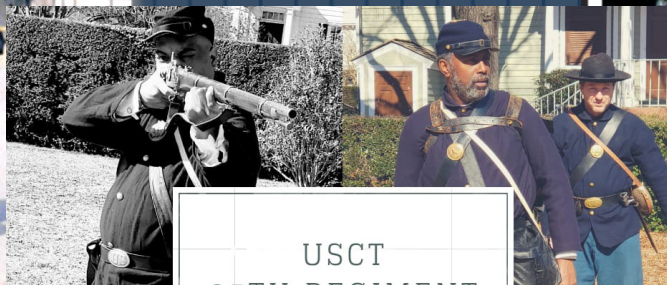
## THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

### THE COLORED TROOPS

“Wherever a Negro has been tried, the courage, steadfastness, and endurance of the African race have been triumphantly vindicated.

The Negro will fight for his liberty, for his place among men, for his right to develop himself in whatever direction he chooses; he will prove himself a hero, and if need be, a martyr.”

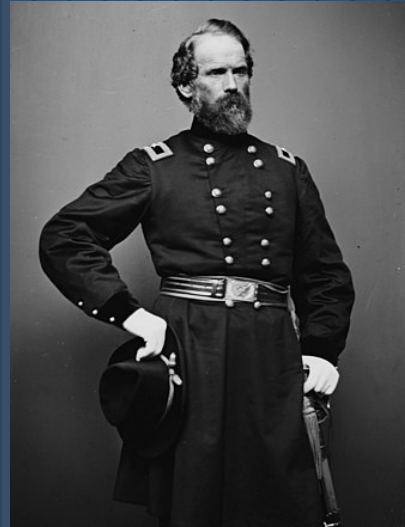
# Their Spirit Lives On



USCT  
35TH REGIMENT  
NEW BERN NC

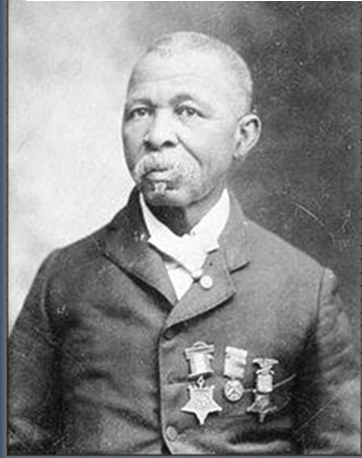
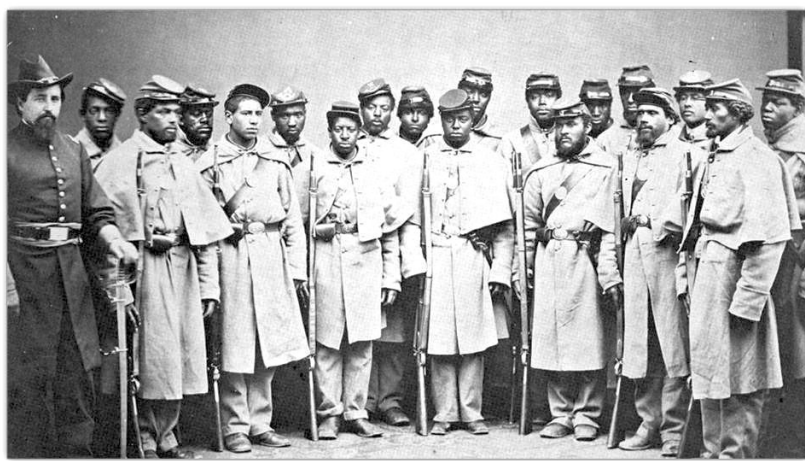
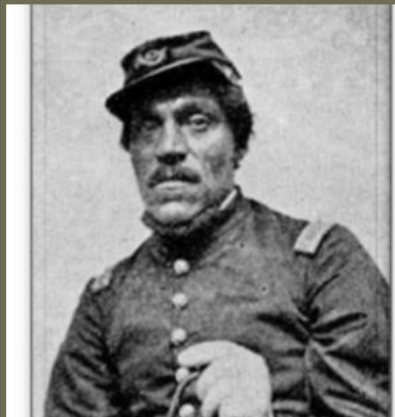


# Pvt. Hubbard Pryor

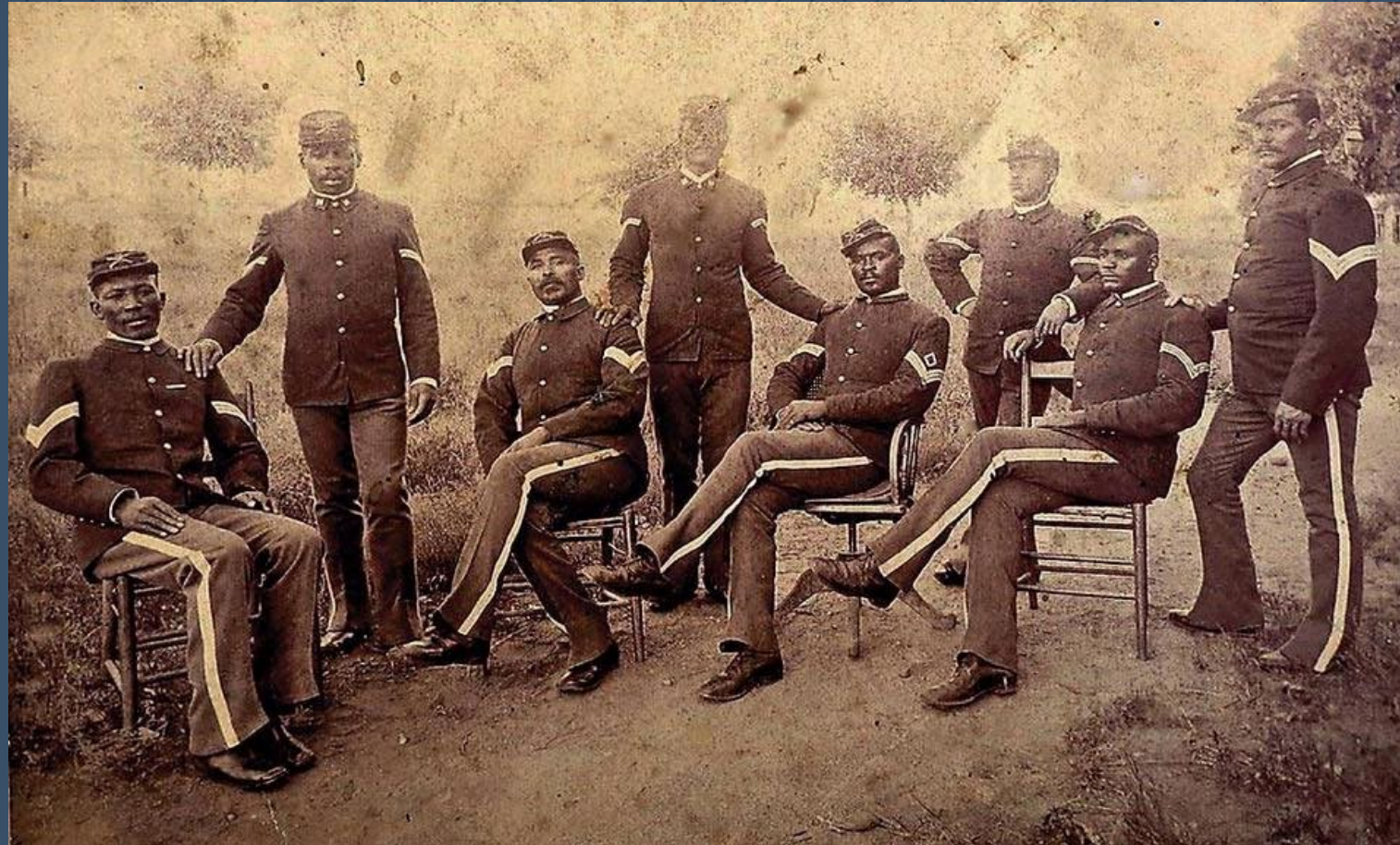


“He was completely metamorphosed, not only in appearance and dress, but in character and relations also. Yesterday a filthy, repulsive ‘nigger,’ to-day a neatly-attired man; yesterday a slave, to-day a freeman; yesterday a civilian, to-day a soldier. He is nothing of what he ever before was; he never was aught of what he now is.”

They often arrived degraded, emaciated, and unfamiliar with the surroundings of a military setting. They also arrived half-starved, barefoot, unkempt and in tattered clothing, with the scars of one who'd been chained and beaten, treated worse than the dogs used to hunt slaves. It was nearly impossible to feel sympathy for a man when you looked like a dejected animal.”



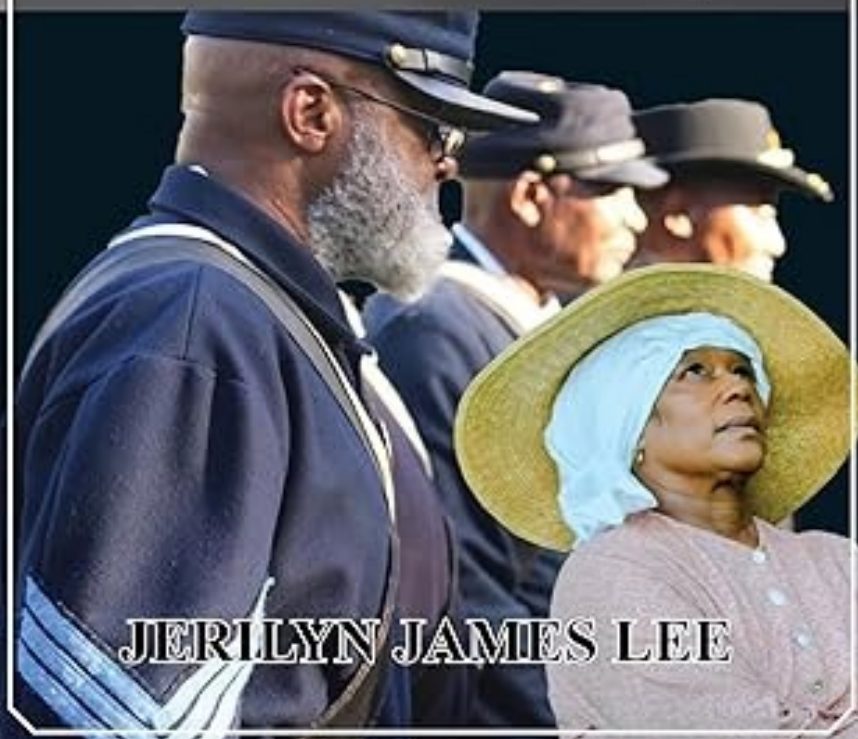
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“Stories of the United States Colored Troops”



*Jerilyn Lee, USCT Historian*

**THE KINSHIP OF WAR**

*Stories of the  
United States  
Colored Troops*



JERILYN JAMES LEE