

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES NEWSLETTER

September 2008

## African-Americans in the Civil War

Welcome to the 17th issue of the **Central Illinois Teaching with Primary Sources Newsletter**, a collaborative project of the Teaching with Primary Sources Programs at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Eastern Illinois University.

With this issue and continuing through February 2009 the theme each month will reflect primary sources from our **Abraham Lincoln Calendar**. You can download and print a copy of the calendar at <http://www.eiu.edu/~eiu/tps>.

In 1862, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation opened the door for African-Americans to enlist in the Union Army. Although many had wanted to join the war effort earlier, they were prohibited from enlisting by a federal law dating back to 1792. President Lincoln had also feared that if he authorized their recruitment, border states would secede from the Union. By the end of the war, approximately 180,000 African-American soldiers had joined the fight.

In addition to the problems of war faced by all soldiers, African-American soldiers faced additional difficulties created by racial prejudice. Although many served in the infantry and artillery, discriminatory practices resulted in large numbers being assigned to perform non-combat, support duties as cooks, laborers, and teamsters. African-American soldiers were paid \$10 per month, from which \$3 was deducted for clothing. White soldiers were paid \$13 per month, from which no clothing allowance was deducted. If captured by the Confederate Army, African-American soldiers confronted a much greater threat than did their white counterparts. Library of Congress Learning Page; Civil War and Reconstruction

1861-1877 African-American Soldiers During the Civil War. Accessed 9/05/08.

Treatment of African-American soldiers during the Civil War was an issue of concern to Frederick Douglass. On his first-ever visit to Washington, D.C., in August 1863, he met with President Lincoln to discuss three issues related to African-American soldiers: (1) equal pay, (2) access to promotions when these soldiers performed bravely, and (3) retaliation against the south when captured African American soldiers were killed.

Remembering the meeting years later, Douglass said: "I never shall forget how quietly and sympathetically Mr. Lincoln listened to what I had to say. I saw, when

I came to the last proposition, the first he received with a smile of approval, the second also, but when it came to the third, that of retaliation, I got a peep into that good man's heart. . . I could see that there was a vista of blood opening to him from which his tender heart shrank. He said, "If I could get hold of the men that murdered your troops, murdered our prisoners of war, I would execute them, but I cannot take men that may not have had anything to do with this murdering of our soldiers and execute them. No, Mr. Douglass, I don't see where it would stop." Library of Congress Learning Page Collection Connection Frederick Douglass Papers U.S. History, Civil War and Reconstruction 1860-1877. Accessed 9/5/08

In spite of their many hardships, African-American soldiers served the Union Army well and distinguished themselves in many battles. They comprised about 10 percent of the Union Army. It is estimated that one-third of all African-Americans who enlisted lost their lives. Library of Congress, Learning Page; Civil War and Reconstruction 1861-1877 African-American Soldiers During the Civil War. Accessed 9/05/08.



Galbraith Map Illinois

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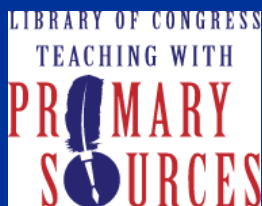
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[www.eiu.edu/~eiu/tps](http://www.eiu.edu/~eiu/tps)

[www.siu.edu/education/tps](http://www.siu.edu/education/tps)



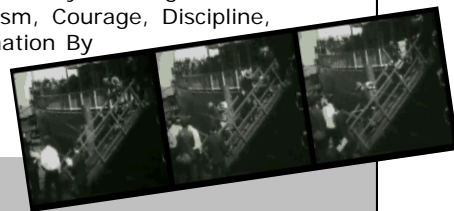
## Beyond Lincoln

From 1865 to 1877, the Constitution was amended three times to provide equal rights to Black Americans. Slavery was abolished, and citizenship and voting rights were guaranteed. Blacks gained political power as they were elected to office at all levels of government. Library of Congress, Learning Page; From Slavery to Civil Rights; Reconstruction accessed 9/5/08.

More than 350,000 African-Americans served in segregated units during World War I, mostly as support troops. Several units saw action alongside French soldiers fighting against the Germans, and 171 African-Americans were awarded the French Legion of Honor. In response to protests of discrimination and mistreatment from the black community, several hundred African American men received officers' training in Des Moines, Iowa. By October 1917, over six hundred African Americans were commissioned as captains and first and second lieutenants. African American Odyssey: World War I and Postwar Society; True Sons of Freedom Accessed 9.8.08



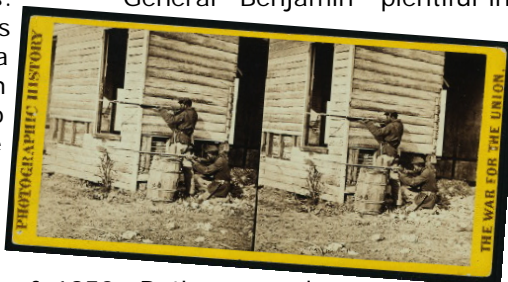
Before 1941, no U.S. military pilot had been an African-American. On March 19, the 99th Pursuit Squadron was activated at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Ill., where 250 African-Americans were trained in aircraft-support trades. In June 1941, the 99th Fighter Squadron, consisting of ground and air crews, was formed at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and soon the squadron joined with two other units to form the all-black 332nd Fighter Group. According to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, the Tuskegee program trained 992 pilots and sent 450 overseas. When the war in Europe ended, the 332nd Fighter Group had shot down 111 enemy aircraft and destroyed another 150 on the ground, destroyed more than 600 railroad cars and sank one destroyer and 40 boats and barges. Library of Congress; Information Bulletin: Patriotism, Courage, Discipline, Skill & Determination By Brenda White accessed 9.8.08



## Topic Connections

**Civil War Treasures from the New York Historical Society** <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/nhihtml/cwnyhshome.html>

From the beginning of the war, slaves began an exodus from the South, seeking refuge at Union Army positions. General Benjamin Butler at Fortress Monroe in Virginia refused to return run-away slaves to a Confederate colonel who, under a flag of truce, demanded their return, citing the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Butler argued that, since Virginia considered itself out of the



**The African-American Experience in Ohio 1850-1920** <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ohshtml/aaehome.html>

Manuscripts, newspaper articles and photographs on the African-American soldier are plentiful in this collection. A search for Civil War Union soldier provides a number of examples of African-American soldiers roles during the Civil War. In a letter from Jacob Bruner, a first lieutenant of the 9th Louisiana Volunteers Infantry describes the daily routine of his regiment of black enlisted men. <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/page.cfm?ID=331>

A little hidden gem in this collection is a photograph of Ralph Waldo Tyler (1859-1921) the only African-American war correspondent during World War I. <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/page.cfm?ID=10046>



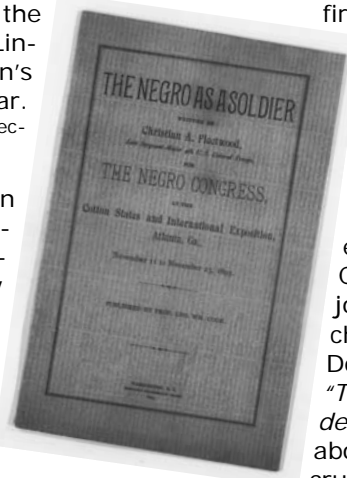
**COLOR'D MEN WANTED!**  
**Bounty, \$602.**  
**Cash down, 350.**  
 Besides State, and United States pay, &c.  
Recruits will be mustered into Colored Regiments.  
APPLY TO  
**JAMES S. HENRY,**  
At Recruiting Office, Second & Bridge Ave.  
Chardon, Dec. 20th, 1863.  
FOR THE USE OF THE REGIMENT, UNDER FEDERAL SERVICE, TO BE MUSTERED IN.

## Topic Connections Cont.

**Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress** <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html>

"And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, station and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service." With these words from the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln made it possible for African-American's to serve the Union army in the Civil War. Library of Congress: Learning Page; Collection Connections, Civil War Treasures. Accessed 9.08.08

Although the Emancipation Proclamation is undoubtedly the most important document concerning African-Americans serving the Union Army there are also many letters to and from Lincoln with the topic being African-American soldiers. Some are urging Lincoln to give the soldiers fair pay and promotions while others warn President Lincoln to weigh the consequences before letting African-Americans serve the Union. One important document in this collection is a report on Black soldiers given to President Lincoln from Edwin M. Stanton. <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&FileName=mal2/428/4283600/malpage.db&recNum=0>



**The Frederick Douglass Papers at the Library of Congress** <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/doughtml/doughome.html>

From the beginning of the Civil War, Frederick Douglass appealed for the North to use African-American troops. Early in 1863 the governor of Massachusetts announced the formation of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, the first African-American regiment recruited in the North. Frederick Douglass was asked to serve as a recruiter for this and other Negro regiments and immediately accepted. Douglass even recruited his sons Charles and Lewis who joined the 54th Massachusetts regiment. In Douglass's final biography *"The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass"* he talks about his experiences recruiting for the North.

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/douglasslife/douglass.html> Page 339 Second Part. Library of Congress: Learning Page; Collection Connection: Frederick Douglass Papers, U.S. History, Civil War and Reconstruction. Accessed 9.09.08

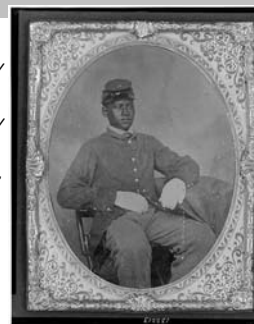
## Lesson Plans, Activities and Resources

### Exhibitions:

**African American Odyssey: Fighting for Freedom** <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart4b.html>

**African American Odyssey: Forever Free** <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart4b.html>

**American Treasures of the Library of Congress: A Civil War Sailor** <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm196.html>



### America's Story

#### Meet Amazing Americans:

**Frederick Douglass: Douglass's Role in the Civil War** [http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/activists/douglass/war\\_1](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/activists/douglass/war_1)

**Harriet Tubman: Tubman During the Civil War** [http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/activists/tubman/spy\\_1](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/activists/tubman/spy_1)

### Collection Connections:

**A Civil War Soldier in the Wild Cat Regiment: Critical Thinking** <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/collections/reynolds/thinking4.html>

**African-American Experience in Ohio: African-American Soldiers in the Civil War** (scroll down to number 2) <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/collections/aaohio/history.html>

**The Frederick Douglass Papers at the Library of Congress: Civil War and Reconstruction** <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/collections/douglass/history2.html>



## Lesson Plans, Activities and Resources

### Learning Page:

#### Features and Activities and Lesson Plans:

**Civil War and Reconstruction: African-American Soldiers During the Civil War** <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/timeline/civilwar/aasoldrs/soldiers.html>

**Civil War and Reconstruction: Photographs of African-American Soldiers in the Civil War** <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/timeline/civilwar/aasoldrs/photocol.html>

**Civil War and Reconstruction: The Negro as Soldier in the War of Rebellion** <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/timeline/civilwar/aasoldrs/warreb.html>

**Civil War and Reconstruction: The Negro Soldier** <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/timeline/civilwar/aasoldrs/nsoldier.html>

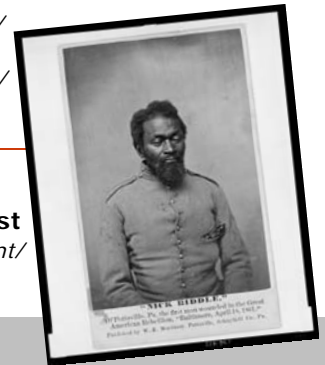
**From Slavery to Civil Rights** <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/civilrights/flash.html>

**Two Unreconciled Strivings** <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/98/two/index.html>



### Resources:

**Photographs of African-Americans During the Civil War: A List of Images in the Civil War Collection** [http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/081\\_cwaf.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/081_cwaf.html)



## What's New at LOC.Gov

### Tuskegee Airmen

There is a wonderful amount of information on the Tuskegee Airmen available on the Library of Congress website. Here are a few links to use in your classroom.

During World War II, civil rights groups and black professional organizations pressed the government to provide training for black pilots on an equal basis with whites. Their efforts were partially successful. African American fighter pilots were trained as a part of the Army Air Force, but only at a segregated base in Tuskegee, Ala. Hundreds of airmen were trained and many saw action. Wise Guide March 2003 <http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/mar03/tuskegee.html> accessed 9.15.08

The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 700 missions and never lost a bomber to enemy aircraft. They earned more than 744 Air Medals and Clusters, more than 100 Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, 8 Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, and a Legion of Merit. American Treasures of the Library of Congress: The 332nd Fighter Group <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm116.html> accessed 9.15.08



Harry Leavell, a World War II veteran trained at Tuskegee, the legendary school that produced the famed eponymous airmen. He had aspirations of becoming a fighter pilot. Although these dreams were dampened by personal setbacks he went on to become engineer and an important support role in the Pacific Theatre. His collection on the Veterans History Project is very complete offering audio of his experiences at Tuskegee, photos, official documents and an article on the Tuskegee Airmen. Veterans History Project <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.02658/> accessed 9.15.08

The Veterans History Project also incorporates webcasts. As part of the National World War II Reunion the Library of Congress Veteran History Project presented a webcast titled Tuskegee Airmen. This webcast is 50 minutes long and includes interviews with Lt. Col. Lee Archer, Thomas Lowery and Col. Charles McGee. Veterans History Project <http://www.loc.gov/vets/wwii-webcasts-may28.html> accessed 9.15.08

## Test Your Knowledge...

### Test your Knowledge African-Americans in the Civil War

Fill in the blank

All answers are found in this newsletter or newsletter links

1. Who was the first man wounded in the great American Rebellion?
2. During the Civil War she served the Union as a soldier, spy and nurse.
3. In August 1863, he met with President Lincoln to discuss treatment of African-American soldiers.
4. What made it possible for African Americans to join the Union Army?
5. What massacre happened on April 12, 1864 on the banks of the Mississippi River in Western Tennessee?
6. Slaves that fled to Union camps were called?
7. Harriet Tubman's experience leading slaves along the \_\_\_\_\_ helped her as a spy for the Union because she knew the land well.
8. The first African-American regiment recruited from the North was formed in what state?
9. The 105<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers was nicknamed the \_\_\_\_\_ regiment.
10. African-American soldiers comprised about what percent of the Union Army?



## Image Sources



Library of Congress  
A. Lincoln showing Sojourner Truth the Bible presented by colored people of Baltimore, Executive Mansion, Washington, D.C., Oct. 29, 1864  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Standing soldier, frock coat, kepi, painted background, dirt floor, done by traveling camp photographer  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Beaufort, South Carolina. 29th Regiment from Connecticut  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Tuskegee airmen Marcellus G. Smith and Roscoe C. Brown, Ramitelli, Italy, March 1945  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Colored troops disembarking / Thomas A. Edison, Inc. ; producer and camera, William Paley.  
Early Motion Pictures 1897-1920



Library of Congress  
Color guard of Negro engineers, Ft. Belvoir(?), [Va.]  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Colored pickets on duty near Dutch Gap. [Stereograph]  
Civil War Treasures from the New York Historical Society



Library of Congress  
Color'd men wanted ! Bounty, \$602. Cashdown, 350. Besides State, and United States Pay, &c.  
[Poster]  
Civil War Treasures from the New York Historical Society



Library of Congress  
Camp Cooking  
The African American Experience in Ohio 1850-1920



Library of Congress  
The Negro as Soldier (Series: Speech, Article, and Book File---F: Speeches and Articles by Others, Miscellaneous  
The Frederick Douglass Papers at the Library of Congress



Library of Congress  
Seated black soldier, frock coat, gloves, kepi  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Make way for liberty!  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
"Nick Biddle," of Pottsville, Pa., the first man wounded in the great American Rebellion, "Baltimore, April 18, 1861" / W. R. Mortimer.  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Col. Benjamin O. Davis, full-length portrait, and Edward C. Gleed, wearing flight gear, standing next to airplane, and looking upward, at air base at Rametti, Italy  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
District of Columbia. Company E, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, at Fort Lincoln  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Will you ever give the colored race a show: an appeal to Congress/words and music by Robt. P. Jackson  
We'll Sing to Abe our Song! Sheet Music about Lincoln, Emancipation, and the Civil War from the Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolnia



Library of Congress  
Two Brothers in Arms  
Prints and Photographs



Library of Congress  
Mustered Out  
Prints and Photographs