

## General David Hunter (1802—1886)



Courtesy of Library of Congress

'It is time slavery had its quietus,' he told Illinois Senator Lyman Trumbull, 'we have been trifling long enough.' At the end of January 1862, Hunter wrote Stanton: "Please let me have my own way on the subject of slavery. The administration will not be responsible. I alone will bear the blame; you can censure me, arrest me, dismiss me, hang me if you will, but permit me to make my mark in such a way as to be remembered by friend and foe." Historian T. Harry Williams noted that Hunter :

"... had a scheme to organize an army of freed slaves." Lincoln rescinded his order at the time, but brought African Americans into the Army in 1863. They filled 166 regiments—more than 166,000 men. The regiments were made of men of African descent - many were free volunteers, many had been enslaved.

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## General Rufus Saxton (1824-1908)



Courtesy of Library of Congress

General Saxton wanted to fight, but he was so valued in his ability to bring differing factions together and manage complex affairs with diplomacy that he did not get into the fray. He was appointed military governor of the Department of the South. As such, he directed the recruitment of the first regiments of black soldiers who fought in the Union army. Saxton consistently advocated for expanding the role of black troops in the Union war effort and for equal pay and fair treatment. He later served as assistant commissioner for the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, more commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau, where he pursued the policy of settling freed slaves in land confiscated from white landowners in the Sea Islands.

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## Colonel Robert Gould Shaw - USCT 54th Mass. (1837-1863)



Courtesy of Library of Congress

In May 1861, Shaw joined the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry as second lieutenant. He served there for over two years, seeing action at the Battle of Antietam, and was promoted to captain. He was then recruited by Governor John A. Andrew to raise and command one of the first regiments of black troops for the Union. On July 18, 1863, along with two brigades of white troops, the 54th assaulted Confederate Battery Wagner in the same harbor as Fort Sumter, South Carolina. His unit of United States Colored Troops faced fierce Confederate fire. Shaw led his men into battle shouting, "Forward, Fifty-Fourth Forward!" He mounted a parapet and urged his men forward, but was shot through the heart and he died instantly; his body fell into the fort. He was buried in a mass grave with many of the black men under his command. The Confederates considered this an humiliating insult. He and his family considered it an honor for him to be buried with the brave men that he dared to command.

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## Colonel James Montgomery - 34th USCT formerly 2nd S.C. Volunteers



Courtesy of USMHI

(1814—1871) With the coming of the war, Montgomery joined the regular Army service. He was elected "Colonel" of the Third Kansas Volunteer Infantry. The 3rd was consolidated with several other units to form the Tenth Kansas Volunteer Infantry in April 1862. It would become transformed into one of the first United States Colored Troops. Montgomery remained the regiment's colonel. In early 1863 he was transferred to the Second South Carolina Colored Volunteers, (2nd SCV) and helped fill its ranks with black recruits. Throughout 1863 and part of 1864, Montgomery practiced his brand of Kansas warfare known as Jayhawking in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Many colonels were repulsed by his uncivilized form of warfare and shunned his tactics. Montgomery was one of John Brown's men.

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## Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson- 33rd USCT formerly 1st S.C. Volunteers



Courtesy of Library of Congress

(December 22, 1823 – May 9, 1911) Higginson was a well known Unitarian minister before he joined the Military. He was an accomplished author, journalist, abolitionist, and soldier. He was active in the American Abolitionism movement during the 1840s and 1850s, identifying himself with militant abolitionism. During the Civil War from 1862-1864, he served as Colonel of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, the first federally authorized African-American regiment. Following the war, Higginson devoted the rest of his life to fighting for the rights of freed slaves, women and other disenfranchised peoples. He was the editor to bring both Emily Dickinson's work to the public as well as Susie King Taylor when she wrote her memoirs of growing up with his regiment from 1862-1866.

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## Susie Baker King Taylor (1848-1913) Nurse, Teacher



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Susie Baker was born in Georgia in 1848. Living in Savannah with her Grandmother, she learned to read and write. She became a freedwoman at age fourteen by escaping with her uncle and his family in April 1862 at the fall of Fort Pulaski protecting the port city of Savannah, GA. Susie's uncle sought liberation behind Union lines (in his case, boarding a Federal gunboat that was passing near Fort Pulaski). Susie Baker's uncle took as many members of his extended family with him as he could. She was one of these escapees, many of whom later found themselves associated with a newly formed regiment of black soldiers, the 1st South Carolina Infantry Volunteers (later renamed the 33d Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops) organized by Major General David Hunter of the Union's Department of the South and commanded by Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson of Massachusetts. She was hired as a laundress for the regiment, travelling with them. But she did little laundry. Because she was able to read and write, the Colonel used her to teach the men and help him with his reports.

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## Esther Hill Hawks (1833-1906) Physician, Nurse, Teacher



After marrying Dr. John Milton Hawks, she studied his medical books and decided to go to medical school. Graduating from New England Medical College for Women in 1857, she practiced in various locales with her husband. He was an ardent abolitionist, and, after Hilton Head and the surrounding areas were occupied by Union forces, he obtained a job providing medical care and running a plantation set up for freed slaves along the coast of South Carolina. Esther joined him there and helped provide medical care to the blacks. She also worked as a contract physician in General Hospital Number 10, which was established for black soldiers in Beaufort, South Carolina. Hawks attempted to shield black women in the Sea Islands from sexual assault by Union officers.

Hawks helped care for soldiers from the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry after its famous ill-fated attempt to take Morris Island under Col. Robert Shaw. After the war, she continued to work in the area, caring for former slaves and teaching school.

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## Captain Luis F. Emilio - 54th Massachusetts (1844—1918)



Emilio as a newly commissioned second lieutenant in the 64th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, March-April 1863. Within a few weeks he would be a captain commanding the regiment's Company E. (Massachusetts Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, U.S. Army Military History Institute)

Courtesy of USAMHI

He was 18 when he entered the war for the Union Army. Emilio was among the group of original officers of the 54th selected by Massachusetts War Governor John Albion Andrew. He mustered in as a 2nd Lieutenant on March 30, 1863. Two weeks later, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant, and on May 27, he was made Captain of Company E. Captain Emilio emerged from the ferocious assault on Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863 as the regiment's acting commander, since all of the other ranking officers had been killed or wounded. He fought with the 54th for over three years of dangerous combat, mustering out of the Union army on March 29, 1865, still not yet 21 years old.

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## Charles T. Trowbridge of Co. A - Captain 1st South Carolina Volunteers



Courtesy of Library of Congress

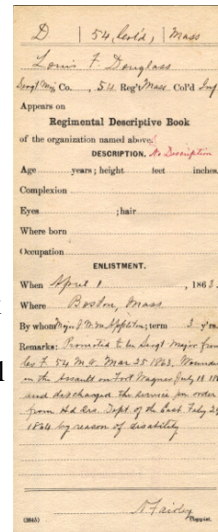
The one hundred men held over from Hunter's regiment were incorporated into the newly organized regiment as Company A, First South Carolina Volunteer Infantry, and continued under command of their original officer, Charles T. Trowbridge. In 1864 the regiment was renamed the 33<sup>rd</sup> United States Colored Infantry and Trowbridge was promoted to Lt. Colonel and given command. He served with the black soldiers of his regiment until January 1866 when the regiment was mustered out. He served with distinction and took over command when Col. Higginson was wounded. He returned to carpentry in his home in New Jersey after the war and later entered politics. USMHI.

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## Sgt. Maj. Lewis H. Douglass (1840—1908) 54th Mass.



Oldest son of Frederick Douglass, Lewis Douglass joined Company F of the U.S. 54th Massachusetts when Governor Andrew authorized the organization of soldiers of African descent. He and his brother Charles rushed to join up. Charles soon joined the 5th Cavalry and served as 1st sergeant for that unit. Lewis exemplified himself as a soldier and was appointed Sergeant Major of the regiment, the highest rank available to colored soldiers at that time. Lewis served with the 54th Massachusetts during the ill-fated assault on Battery Wagner, South Carolina, on July 18, 1863. He was wounded but soon recovered.



circa 1863 Douglass Collection, Box 28-10 Photo Album  
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

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## Commodore Samuel Francis DuPont (1803—1865) U.S. Navy



When communication was cut off with Washington at the start of the Civil War, Du Pont took the initiative of sending a fleet to the Chesapeake Bay to protect the landing of Union troops at Annapolis, Maryland. In June 1861 he was made president of a board in Washington formed to develop a plan of naval operations against the Confederacy. He was appointed flag officer serving aboard the *USS Wabash* as commander of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, leading from Norfolk, Virginia the largest fleet ever commanded by an American officer at that time. On November 7, Du Pont led a successful attack on the fortifications at Port Royal harbor in South Carolina. This victory enabled Union naval forces to secure the southern waters of Georgia and the entire eastern coast of Florida, and an effective blockade was established. Du Pont received commendations from U.S. Congress for his brilliant tactical success, and was appointed rear admiral on July 16, 1862.

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## Clara Barton - Angel of the Battlefield (1831—1912)



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Barton learned that many of the wounded from First Bull Run had suffered, not from want of attention but from need of medical supplies. She advertised for donations in the Worcester, MA *Spy* and began an independent organization to distribute goods. Also the home of Surg. Seth Rogers and Col. Higginson of the 33<sup>rd</sup> USCT. The relief operation was successful, and the following year U.S. Surgeon General William A. Hammond granted her a general pass to travel with army ambulances "for the purpose of distributing comforts for the sick and wounded, and nursing them."

For 3 years she followed army operations throughout the Virginia theater and in the Charleston, SC, area. She met young Susie King Taylor in her time at Beaufort and Port Royal, SC at the Contraband Hospitals there. Her work in Fredericksburg, Va., hospitals, caring for the casualties from the Battle of the Wilderness, and nursing work at Bermuda Hundred attracted national notice. She served as superintendent of nurses in Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler's command. She is known as the founder of the Red Cross in America.

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## Seth Rogers - Surgeon, 33rd USCT

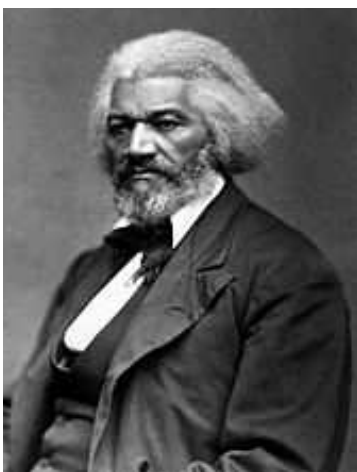


Courtesy of USMHI

In November 1862, Dr. Seth Rogers, a medical doctor practicing at Worcester, Massachusetts, volunteered to serve in the United States Army as a surgeon for the black soldiers of the First South Carolina Volunteer Infantry. Rogers, the proprietor and resident doctor of the Worcester Hydropathic Institution. He joined the newly-formed regiment at the invitation of its commander, Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, a well-known abolitionist and Unitarian minister. The two men had been close friends for years and shared a deep commitment to bringing an end to slavery in the United States. Rogers, the son of a Quaker farmer from Vermont, had been an abolitionist since childhood.

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## Frederick Douglass - Author and Orator (1818—1895)

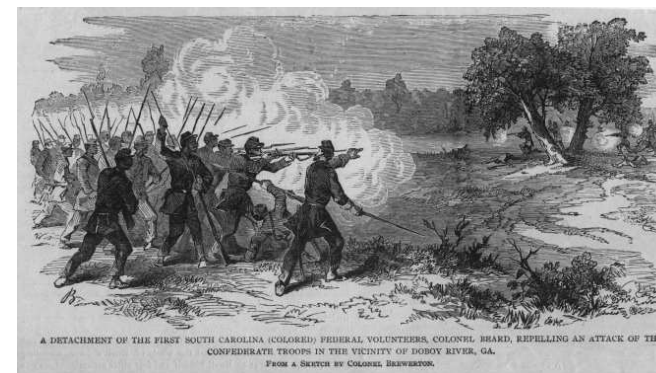


Courtesy of Library of Congress

Douglass became an active recruiter for the United States Colored Troops and pressed President Lincoln to arm the black soldiers, keeping them on an equal level as the white soldiers. He was a self-emancipated, self-educated man of letters and platform speaker for abolition. He was a protégé of William Lloyd Garrison and his radical views. Two of Douglass's first recruits were his own brave sons Charles and Lewis. Charles became the 1st Sergeant of the USCC (The United States Colored Cavalry). Lewis became a sergeant Major for the 54th Massachusetts, under the command of Col. Robert Gould Shaw. Douglass continued to write, lecture and plead for the case of liberty, equality and justice for people of African Descent.

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## Edward (Ned) King—Private 33rd USCT



Ned King, who later married Susie Baker, was from Darien, GA, one of the early recruits of Captain Trowbridge for the First South Carolina Volunteers. King along with Susie Baker and her family had been rescued at the time of the overthrow of Fort Pulaski in Savannah, GA. Ned could read and write and helped the men

of his unit learn also. He served under Col. Higginson and then under Trowbridge until 1866, when the unit was finally mustered out. He sent his young wife letters from the siege at Fort Gregg in SC.

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## John Hunn ( 1818—1894) Quaker and Abolitionist



John Hunn  
Chief Engineer at the  
Southern End.  
William Still, The Under-  
ground Rail Road  
(Philadelphia: Porter &  
Coats, 1872), 719

Hunn was one of the most active “**Engineers**” of the **Underground Railroad** in Camden, Delaware. He was responsible for the operation of a portion of the network that transported thousands of escapees through Delaware to Wilmington, Delaware and on to Pennsylvania and freedom. He was convicted and fined in 1848 by the U.S. District Court, presided over by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney. Later he was fined twice for \$10,000.00 each by the State of Delaware, but was advised the fines wouldn't be imposed if he would promise not to continue his efforts to aid fugitives in their escape from slavery. Instead, Hunn "vowed never to withhold a helping hand from the down-trodden in their hour of distress." His land holdings and all his possessions were sold at sheriff's sale and his family was left utterly destitute, but he continued his efforts to abolish slavery.

He accompanied young Charlotte Forten as chaperone to Beaufort, SC to become a teacher with Laura Towne at the Penn School for the newly freed people there.

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## Charlotte Forten Grimke (1838—1914)



With the outbreak of the Civil War Forten sought out an opportunity to teach in Port Royal, South Carolina. She was accompanied by abolitionist John Hunn, who ran a store on the island for soldiers and freedmen while in Beaufort. Forten was pleased to educate the children of recently freed slaves who would otherwise not have had any educational opportunity. She met Clara Barton, Harriet Tubman and attended the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, all documented in her diary. In 1864, Charlotte returned to Philadelphia and spent the next twelve years writing and publishing poems and essays including two articles about her South

Carolina experiences in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Charlotte also returned to teaching, and in 1878 she married Francis Grimke, the nephew of radical abolitionists Sarah and Angelina Grimke.

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## Major Martin Delaney (1812—1885)



Delany was born in Charles Town, West Virginia. His mother had to prove her own and her children's free status in court when he was no more than two years old. He became one of the first Proponents of "Black Nationalism" and studied the African origins of his family, from the Mandinka people. He studied to be a minister, a physician, a lawyer, and writer. He worked alongside Frederick Douglass to fill the North Star newspaper with articles and news concerning Americans of African Descent. One idea he had was to create a Black Israel in Liberia, a country on the East Coast of Africa. He was commissioned as a Major in the U.S. Army and served under General Rufus Saxton in the 52nd United States Colored Troops.

Courtesy of Library of Congress

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## Robert Smalls (1839—1915) U.S. Navy Captain

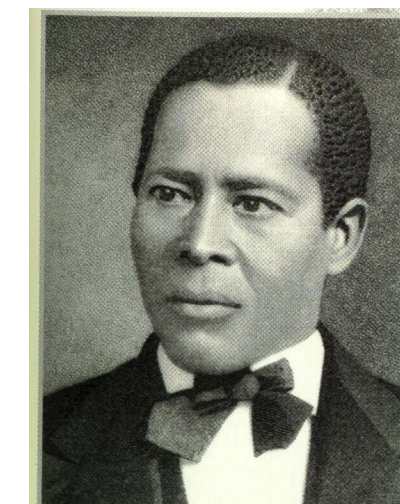


Courtesy of Library of Congress

Though born into slavery in Beaufort, SC, he learned to be a seaman and became a ship pilot. He freed himself and his family when he commandeered a Confederate transport, called the USS Planter, to the Union held port in Port Royal, SC. He took the signal book of Confederate codes with him as well and became a war hero within the United States Colored Troops, serving with the Navy. As a wheelman, he was able to plan the theft of the ship and all of his family on May 12, 1863. Later, during the Reconstruction period, he served in both the South Carolina State legislature and the United States House of Representatives. He authored the first free and compulsory public school system in America.

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## William Still (1821—1902) Father of the Underground Railroad.



Courtesy of Library of Congress

William's father purchased his own freedom and a moved the family to New Jersey. Young Still became a leader in Philadelphia with the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society. HE became its chairman and leader. In 1859 he attempted to desegregate the city's public transportation system. During the war he ran a store selling stoves and later started a coal delivery service. He left a record of the fugitives who passed through his office, including Harriet Tubman and her family. The book is titled "The Underground Railroad." Still helped as many as 60 fugitives escape each month to freedom, interviewing and hiding the stories. In this way he found one of his own brothers—Peter.

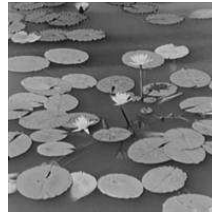
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## Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) During the Civil War



A studio portrait of Tubman taken in Auburn, New York. © Cayuga Museum of History and Art

Tubman worked as a nurse during the war, trying to heal the sick. Many people in the hospital died from dysentery, a disease associated with terrible diarrhea. Tubman was sure she could help cure the sickness if she could find some of the same roots and herbs that grew in Maryland. One night she searched the woods until she found water lilies and crane's bill (geranium). She boiled the water lily roots and the herbs and made a bitter-tasting brew that she gave to a man who was dying—and it worked! Slowly he recovered. Tubman saved many people in her lifetime. On her grave her tombstone reads "Servant of God, Well Done."



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## Mary Ann Shadd Cary 1823-1893



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Mary moved to Washington D.C. and served as a recruiting officer for the Union Army, promoting Black nationalism. In Washington, Mary established a school for Black children and attended Howard University Law School; she became the first Black female lawyer in the United States when she graduated in 1870. As a lawyer she worked for the right to vote and was one of few women to receive the right to vote in federal elections. She organized the Colored Women's Progressive Franchise in 1880 which was dedicated to women's rights.

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## Sarah Parker Remond (1826—1894)



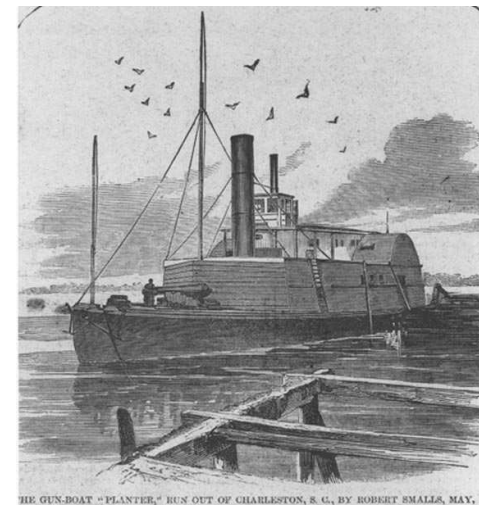
Courtesy of Library of Congress

After the Civil War began, she sought the support of the British for the Union cause. "I appeal on behalf of four millions of men, women, and children who are chattels in the Southern States of America. The sum of sixteen hundred millions of dollars is invested in their bones, sinews, and flesh—is this not sufficient reason why all the friends of humanity should endeavor with all their might and power to overturn the vile system of slavery?"

At the end of the Civil War, Sarah lectured on behalf of the freedmen, soliciting funds and clothing for them. She was an active member of the London Emancipation Society and the Freedman's Aid Association.

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## The Confederate Ship: The Planter Captured by Smalls



THE GUN-BOAT "PLANTER," RUN OUT OF CHARLESTON, S. C., BY ROBERT SMALLS, MAY, 1862

Harpers Weekly

The "Planter," was a Confederate steamship which operated out of Charleston, South Carolina. In May 1862, Robert Smalls, a black seaman and pilot of the steamer, left his enslavement behind when he was assisted by eight enslaved black crewmen. Together they steamed out of the Charleston harbor and turned the "Planter" over to gunboats of the U.S. Blockading Squadron on patrol offshore. They led the ship to Port Royal Harbor where it was received by the Federal Navy. From that day forward, Smalls piloted the USS Planter for the Federal navy.

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## John Milton Hawks, M.D. With 33rd USCT (1826-1910)



Courtesy of Florida State Archives

Dr. John Milton Hawks, surgeon, United States Colored Infantry. Like Seth Rogers, Dr. Hawks was an avid abolitionist who volunteered for service in a war that he prayed would bring an end to slavery in the United States. John came to Port Royal from his home in New Hampshire to be the surgeon for the Contraband Hospital in Beaufort in the fall of 1862. His wife, Esther Hill Hawks, was also a medical doctor and a life-long abolitionist. She wanted to join him and was able to come as a teacher with the American Missionary Association. He joined the USCT in order to treat former slaves he had advocated so hard for before the war began. He combined his vision with his practice. He and his wife stayed in the south and opened a school after the war to work with the newly freed people in need of education.

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## Massachusetts Governor John Andrew (1818—1867)



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Andrew took office on January 2, 1861, on the eve of the Civil War, and he immediately began to ready the Massachusetts militia for duty. He also asked the governors of Maine and New Hampshire to prepare for war. Among his early actions were to accept recruits from other states to serve in Massachusetts regiments, including 500 men from California who he encouraged to join the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry in 1862 and early 1863. Andrew's strong feelings about emancipation are clearly expressed in the following quote from an 1862 speech: "I know not what record of sin awaits me in the other world, but this I know, that I was never mean enough to despise any man because he was black."

Andrew was receptive to the concept of using black men as uniformed soldiers in the Union army. In April 1862 he began working closely with the Federal government and with Frederick Douglass. He wrote letters to different states and to Lincoln trying to get support. He authorized the formation of two regiments of black infantry, the 54th and 55th Massachusetts, composed of blacks from the state, as well as Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and other states.

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## The First South Carolina Volunteers (later renamed the 33rd USCT)

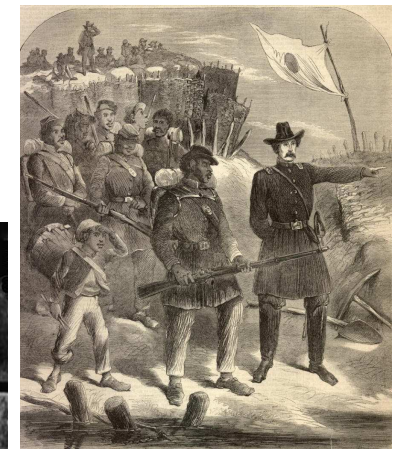
The first black soldiers to serve in the Union army during the Civil War were enrolled in March 1862 at Union-occupied territory on the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina under General David Hunter. President Lincoln rescinded Hunter's orders and the regiment was disbanded. When the U.S. Congress passed the second confiscation act, Hunter was allowed to form a Black regiment again. One-hundred men from that original unit became members of the First South Carolina Volunteers. Susie King Taylor wrote about Captain Trowbridge coming to recruit them on Simon's Island after they fled from the defeated Fort Pulaski in Savannah, GA. Her uncles and cousins and future husband became a part of that regiment.



The photograph was taken at the former J.J. Smith Plantation, Beaufort, South Carolina. USMHI.

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## Recruiting Volunteers and Making soldiers



Courtesy of Library of Congress

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## Women Were Soldiers Too

An adaptation of the original booklet [© 1992]  
the author  
For the 32nd Virginia Inf. Co. H reenactment group  
Internet Homepage,  
(And including some new information)

### THE WOMAN SOLDIER

(Remember Me)

Once I stood in ranks of Blue.  
Once I stood in ranks of Gray.  
Fighting for a cause so true  
Wondering - Who would remember me today?  
Disguised as man; filled with alarm.  
An enemy's bullet could yet slay  
This woman's life - or cause me harm.  
Who would remember me today?  
The missiles, they whistle through the air.  
A "rebel yell" from those in gray.  
The victor's shout, the loser's despair.  
Who would remember me today?  
A last volley sent from hidden lines.  
Oh sudden shock! Life fades away.  
Crimson springs from this body mine.  
Pray - Who would remember me today?  
Please lay me in a grave, unmarked  
And place me where my comrades lay.  
Remember this battle with a park  
And please, remember me today.

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## Education and Organization in South Carolina

Mitchelville was part of an effort in the spirit of reconstructing the south and preparing former slaves for life in the Republic. Hilton Head Island was divided into five school districts: Mitchelville, Marshland, Seabrook, Stoney and Lawton. The American Missionary Association provided most of the teachers.



Voices From the Earth, Inc.

## Mitchelville, SC - (formerly the Drake Plantation)



Mitchelville about 1865, showing different kinds of houses and how the freedmen used the yard area for different activities.  
Courtesy of Florida State Archives

This town was built for and by freedmen located in what is now Hilton Head Island, SC. It was named for one of the Local Union Army Generals Ormsby M. Mitchel and place in a cotton field on the former Drayton Plantation. It had neatly arranged streets, quarter lots, elected officials, a church and schools. It was an attempt to make a real home for the newly freed men and women.

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## Laura Towne (1825-1901) Teacher at Penn School



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Ms. Towne was first interested in Medicine and studied in Pennsylvania and became an abolitionist and educator. She is best known for starting the school known as the Penn School on St. Helena Island, Beaufort SC. The Schools operated as a Normal school (elementary education), then added an Industrial and Agricultural school. Now, known as Penn Center the old schools has been the center of African American heritage, and culture, keeper of the Gullah and Geechee language and heritage. Col. Higginson advocated Towne's homeopathic practice and gave his own testimony to her effectiveness in saying that she was, "... Probably the most energetic person this side of civilization: a person of splendid health and astonishing capacity."

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## Frances Ellen Watkins Harper - Lecturer and Poet



Courtesy of Library of Congress

September 24, 1825 – February 22, 1911  
She was an outspoken activist for freedom, equality and justice. She said, “The work of the mothers of our race is grandly constructive. It is for us to build above the wreck and ruin of the past more stately temples of thought and action. Some races have been overthrown, dashed in pieces, and destroyed; but to-day the world is needing, fainting, for something better than the results of arrogance, aggressiveness, and indomitable power. We need mothers who are capable of being character builders, patient, loving, strong, and true, whose homes will be uplifting power in the race. This is one of the greatest needs of the hour.”

She chronicled the valor of the United States Colored Troops in poetry. She said, “No race can afford to neglect the enlightenment of its mothers.”

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## (1863) William H. Carney - Medal of Honor (1840-1908)



Sergt. William Carney with the flag he saved at the battle of Battery Wagner July 18, 1863.

Courtesy of USMHI

**“Boys, I only did my duty. The old flag never touched the ground, boys.”** Born in Virginia, attended a secret school conducted by a local minister where he learned to read and write. Emancipated upon the death of his master, he moved to New Bedford, MA and studied for the ministry. He enlisted with the call for troops with the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry’s company C, saying, he “could serve my God by serving my country and my oppressed brothers.”

At the assault of Fort Wagner, when he saw the flag bearer shot down, he dropped his rifle and picked up the flag. Although he suffered multiple gun wounds to his head, chest, shoulders and one arm, Carney carried the flag to safety when the 54th was driven back by Confederate counterattack. Seeing his predicament, a soldier from another regiment offered to carry the flag so Carney could get medical attention. Carney said, “No one but a member of the 54th could carry the colors!” Later, Carney miraculously carried the regiment’s flag into camp to the rousing cheers of his battered comrades.

From *America’s Heroes: Medal of Honor Recipients from the Civil War to Afghanistan* by James H. Willbanks

Voices From the Earth, Inc.

## (1863) First South Carolina Volunteers



### Smith Plantation

The Union Military forces from the North had to occupy the lands available in Port Royal to train and house the new soldiers and their families. The first South Carolina volunteers were made of black soldiers commanded by white officers. White troops had strong animosity toward the black troops and the Colonel decided that it would be better to quarter and train separately and set up the

Courtesy of USMHI

Voices From the Earth, Inc.

## Sgt. Prince Rivers



Prince Rivers fled from Edgefield to Union Lines after the “Day of the Big gun shoot” in Port Royal. A large imposing figure, Rivers became a leader among the soldiers and advanced in the ranks, supplying much needed intelligence to the commanders of the 33rd USCT. On the Day of the reading of the Emancipation, he was given the regimental flag and spoke to the crowd. He later was elected to the South Carolina Constitutional Convention, and then a member of the state

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## New Uniforms for the 33rd and the 34th USCT



The first suits worn by the boys were red coats and pants, which they disliked very much, for, they said, "The rebels see us, miles away." Susie King

Three Union regiments organized at Hilton Head, South Carolina. Known originally as the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Loyal Volunteers, these regiments were officially mustered into the Union Army as the 33<sup>rd</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> regiments of United States Colored Infantry. For the remainder of the war these once-enslaved black men fought to free their families and other Africans Americans from bondage, and to bring a permanent end to slavery in the United States of America. By the end of the Civil War, 186,017 African American men from all over the divided nation had enlisted as "Colored Troops" in the Union army.

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## Brigadier General Ormsby Mitchel (1810-1862)



Courtesy of USMHI

An attorney, surveyor, publisher and war hero. He is notable for publishing the first magazine in the United States devoted to astronomy. Known in the Union Army as "Old Stars", he is best known for ordering the raid that became famous as the **Great Locomotive Chase** during the Civil War. Freedman's town "Mitchelville" was named for him.

During the Civil War, he entered the Union Army with a commission as brigadier general of volunteers. He first organized the northern Kentucky defenses around Cincinnati. He commanded the Department of the Ohio from September to

November 1861. During this time, he conspired with espionage agent James J. Andrews on plans to steal a train in Georgia and disrupt a railroad vital to the Confederate States Army .coincidentally with Mitchel's planned attack on Chattanooga, Tennessee. The raid failed, as did Mitchel's military operation. Andrews and a number of his men were captured. Andrews himself was among eight men who were tried in Chattanooga. They were hanged in Atlanta by Confederate forces.

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## General Thomas Sherman



Courtesy of Library of Congress

At the start of the Civil War, Sherman was still serving in the U.S. Artillery when he received a volunteer commission as brigadier general on May 17, 1861. He assumed command of the ground forces in the Port Royal Expedition. Sherman and the naval force under Flag Officer Samuel F. DuPont captured Port Royal in a combined Army/Navy operation. After briefly commanding the Department of the South, Sherman was sent to the Western Theater. He took command of Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas's division.

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## Brigadier General Quincy Gilmore (1825-1888)



Courtesy of Library of Congress

With the outbreak of the Civil War in early 1861, Gilmore was assigned to the staff of Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman and accompanied him to Port Royal, SC After being appointed as a brigadier general, Gilmore took charge of the siege operations against Fort Pulaski, GA. His new artillery brought down the fort protecting Savannah and Susie Baker was able to escape with her family behind enemy lines by boat.

About the middle of June General Gilmore assumed command of the Department, and at once began preparations for active operations against the approaches to Charleston. Terry's Division, the First, was sent to James' Island for a diversion, where, on the 16th of July, the enemy made a spirited attack, but was signally repulsed. Abandoning James' Island, Terry proceeded to Folly Island, where he landed, and marching up to Light House Inlet, passed over, and joined the forces which had already effected a lodgment upon Morris Island.

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## (1820-1891) General William Tecumseh Sherman



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Gen. Sherman issued Special Field Order #15 on January 16, 1865, setting aside the Sea Islands and a 330-mile inland tract of land along the southern coast of Charleston for the exclusive settlement of Blacks. This land had been confiscated by the Union Army. Each family would receive 40 acres of land and an army mule to work the land, thus "forty acres and a mule," a phrase incorporated into the English language for compensation that was to be awarded to freed African American slaves after the Civil War but was returned instead to former landowners. The order applied to black families who lived near the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

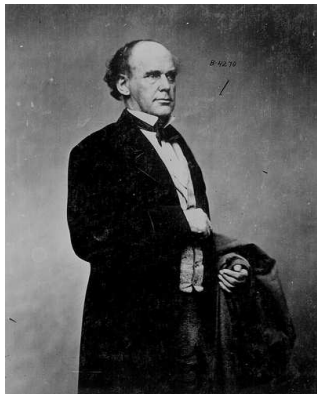
On a national level, this and other land, confiscated and abandoned, became the jurisdiction of the Freedman's Bureau, which was headed by Gen.

Oliver Otis Howard (for whom Howard University is named). He wanted to "give the freedmen protection, land and schools as far and as fast as he can." By June 1865, around 10,000 freed slaves were settled on 400,000 acres in Georgia and South Carolina.

But President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and Andrew Johnson became president. Johnson revoked the order, issued special pardons, and returned the property to the white ex-Confederates, the former owners. Because of this, the phrase has come to represent the failure of Reconstruction and the general public to assist African Americans.

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## Salmon P. Chase (1808-1873) USA Secretary of the Treasury



Courtesy of Library of Congress

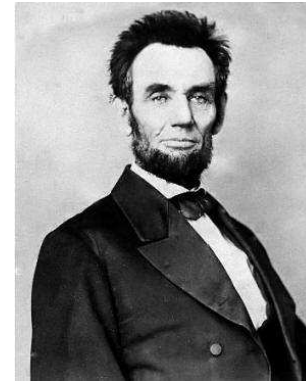
Chase was one of the most prominent members of the new Republican Party before becoming Chief Justice. He coined the slogan of the Free Soil Party, "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men." He devoted his energies to the destruction of what he considered the Slave Power – the conspiracy of Southern slave owners to seize control of the federal government and block the progress of liberty. He was a leader in the movement to form a new party opposing the extension of slavery. He tried to unite the liberal Democrats with the dwindling Whig Party, which led to establishment of the Republican Party. Chase was the first Republican governor of Ohio, serving from 1856 to 1860, where he supported women's rights, public education, and prison reform.

He served as U.S. Senator from Ohio and the 23rd Governor of Ohio; as U.S. Treasury Secretary under President Abraham Lincoln; and as the sixth Chief Justice of the United States Supreme

Court. During his service in the Senate (1849–1855), Chase was an anti-slavery champion. He spoke ably against the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854.

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## President Abraham Lincoln (1809 –1865)



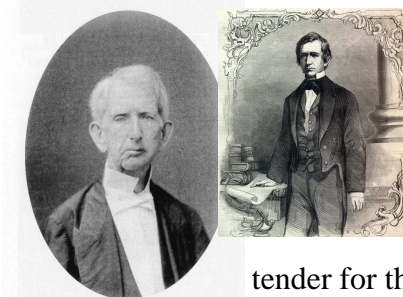
Courtesy of Library of Congress

As the 16th President of the United States he served from March 1861 until his assassination just six days after the surrender of Confederate commanding general Robert E. Lee, April 9, 1865. He led the country through a great constitutional, military and moral crisis—the American Civil War—preserving the Union while ending slavery and promoting economic modernization. Reared in a poor family on the western frontier, Lincoln was mostly self-educated. He became a country lawyer, an Illinois state legislator, and a one-term member of the United States House of Representatives. He was an affectionate, though often absent, husband and father of four children.

As the leader of the moderate faction of the Republican party, his Gettysburg Address of 1863 became one of the most quoted speeches in American history. It was an iconic statement of America's dedication to the principles of nationalism, equal rights, liberty, and democracy. Lincoln has frequently been ranked by a majority of scholars as the greatest U.S. president.

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## Secretary of State William Seward— (1801—1872)



William Seward. This portrait was taken after an attempted assassination on April 14, 1865, the night Lincoln was murdered. (Seward's right cheek drooped the rest of his life as a result of his injuries.) Seward House, Auburn, New York

12th Governor of New York, United States Senator and the United States Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. An outspoken opponent of the spread of slavery in the years leading up to the American Civil War, he was a dominant figure in the Republican Party in its formative years, and was widely regarded as the leading con-

tender for the party's presidential nomination in 1860 – yet his very outspokenness may have cost him the nomination. Despite his loss, he became a loyal member of Lincoln's wartime cabinet, and played a role in preventing foreign intervention early in the war. On the night of Lincoln's assassination, he survived an attempt on his life in the conspirators' effort to decapitate the Union government. He made possible Harriet Tubman's purchase of land for her home in Auburn, NY.

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## The July Assault at Fort Wagner Becomes a Siege until Sept 6



Harper's Weekly

Forts Wagner and Gregg were upon situated at the upper end of Morris Island, covering Fort Sumter, held by the enemy. General Gilmore determined to carry Wagner by assault. General Strong's Brigade, supported by Putnam's, formed the storming party, while Stevenson's Brigade, to which the Ninety-seventh belonged, was held in readiness to advance in case the assault proved successful.

At dusk the order to advance was given, and the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts (colored) leading the way, the assaulting column moved forward. A fierce fire of artillery was poured upon it as it advanced, and on reaching the fort a deadly storm from small arms. Without faltering it passed the obstructions, and gained the slopes of the works; but here the slaughter was appalling; and the remnant, unhurt, recoiled and turned back. Putnam's Brigade followed, but shared a like fate. Stevenson's Brigade was ordered forward but was almost immediately re-called, the failure of the assault being but too apparent. General Stevenson remained upon the ground until the last, superintending in person the removal, manifesting the greatest anxiety that no colored soldier should be left to fall into the hands of the enemy, saying to the officer in command, "You know how much harder they will fare at the hands of the enemy than white men."

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## Artist—Francis Bicknell Carpenter - 1864



"The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln"

Shown from left to right are Edwin Stanton, secretary of war (seated); Salmon Portland Chase, secretary of the treasury (standing); Lincoln; Gideon Welles, secretary of the navy (seated); Caleb Blood Smith, secretary of the interior (standing); William Henry Seward, secretary of state (seated); Montgomery Blair, postmaster general (standing); and Edward Bates, attorney general (seated).

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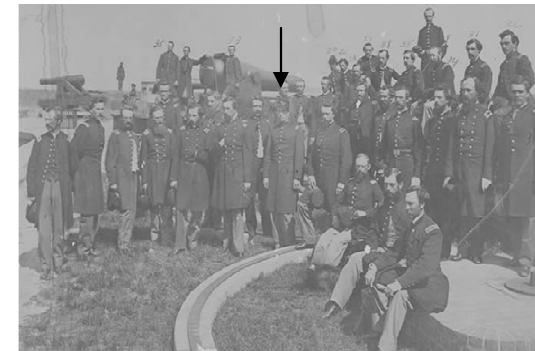
## Edwin Stanton (1814—1869)



Nicknamed "Mars" for his hot and fiery temper. Stanton was a lawyer and politician who served as Secretary of War under the Lincoln Administration during the American Civil War from 1862—1865. Stanton's effective management helped organize the massive military resources of the North and guide the Union to victory. After Lincoln's assassination, Stanton remained as the Secretary of War under the new President Andrew Johnson during the first years of Reconstruction. He opposed the lenient policies of Johnson towards the former Confederate States. Johnson's attempt to dismiss Stanton led the House of Representatives to impeach him.

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## Lt. Col. Oliver T. Beard 48th NY Volunteers—1862



New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center

LT. Col. Beard commanded one of the first raids made by the First South Carolina Volunteers and made reports back to General Saxton of their success and valor. IN November 1862, he took Company A under command of Captain Trowbridge and his own men in a mission into Florida to obtain resources and more men who could fight with the regiment. Later that month, col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson was assigned to train and lead the troops and prepare them for armed combat and to stand beside the white soldiers with honor.

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