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Chapter 1 : Benjamin Butler (politician) | Military Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

Through the words of these extraordinary participants, both Northern and Southern, McPherson captures African-American responses to emancipation, the shifting attitudes toward Lincoln and the life of black soldiers in the Union army.

His father served under General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812 and later became a privateer, dying of yellow fever in the West Indies not long after Benjamin was born. He was described by a schoolmate as "a reckless, impetuous, headstrong, boy", and regularly got into fights. He attended the public schools there, from which he was almost expelled for fighting, the principal describing him as a boy who "might be led, but could not be driven. In he sought permission to go instead to West Point for a military education, but did not receive one of the few places available. He continued his studies at Waterville, where he sharpened his rhetorical skills in theological discussions, and began to adopt Democratic political views. He graduated in August He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1825, and opened a practice in Lowell. He quickly gained a reputation as a dogged criminal defense lawyer who seized on every misstep of his opposition to gain victories for his clients, and also became a specialist in bankruptcy law. Israel Hildreth of Lowell, on May 16, 1825. They had four children: Paul "Paddy", Blanche, Paul and Ben-Israel This adoption of both sides of an issue manifested when he became more politically active. He first attracted general attention by advocating the passage of a law establishing a ten-hour day for laborers, [18] but he also opposed labor strikes over the matter. He instituted the ten-hour day at the Middlesex Mills. However, at the state level, he supported the coalition of Democrats and Free Soilers that elected George S. Boutwell governor in 1835. This garnered him enough support to win election to the state legislature in 1836. He was elected a delegate to the state constitutional convention with strong Catholic support, and was elected to the state senate in a year dominated by Republican victories in the state. Breckenridge, but then shifted his support to Jefferson Davis, believing that only a moderate Southerner could keep the Democratic party from dividing. A conversation he had with Davis prior to the convention convinced him that Davis might be such a man, and he gave him his support before the convention split. He was nominated for governor in the election by a Breckenridge splinter of the state party, but trailed far behind other candidates. When a secessionist South Carolina delegation arrived there, he recommended to lame duck President James Buchanan that they be arrested and charged with treason. Buchanan refused the idea. Butler also met with Jefferson Davis, and learned that he was not the Union man that Butler had previous thought he was. Butler then returned to Massachusetts, [29] where he warned Governor John A. Andrew that hostilities were likely, and that the state militia should be readied. He took advantage of this mobilization to secure a contract with the state for his mill to supply heavy cloth to the militia. He first offered his services to Governor Andrew in March He then used banking contacts to ensure that loans that would be needed to fund the militia operations would be conditioned on his appointment. The 6th departed first, and was caught up in a secessionist riot in Baltimore, Maryland on April Butler traveled with the 8th, which left Philadelphia the next day amid news that railroad connections around Baltimore were being severed. Hicks attempted to dissuade them from landing. When Governor Hicks informed Butler that no one would sell provisions to his force, Butler pointed out that armed men did not necessarily have pay for needed provisions, and that he would use all measures necessary to ensure order. He also threatened Maryland legislators with arrest if they voted in favor of secession, and eventually seized the Great Seal of Maryland. On May 13 he entered Baltimore on a train with 1,000 men and artillery against no opposition. General Scott criticized Butler for his strategy despite its success, as well as his heavy-handed assumption of control of much of the civil government, and recalled him to Washington. This force established and significantly fortified Camp Butler and a battery at Newport News Point that could cover the entrance to the James River ship canal and the mouth of the Nansemond River. Regulars to man artillery, completed the mission. Lee, and he began organizing the defense of the Virginia Peninsula in response. Butler devised a plan for a night march

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and operation against the positions, but chose not to lead the force in person, for which he was later criticized. A friendly fire incident during the night gave away the Union position and they were further harmed by advancing without knowledge of the layout or strength of the Confederate positions. He argued that Virginians considered them to be chattel property, and that they could not appeal to the Fugitive Slave Law of since they claimed independence. Furthermore, slaves used as laborers for building fortifications and other military activities could be considered contraband of war. Congress later mandated that other Union commanders refuse to return slaves to their former masters, using similar arguments. Butler promptly received official approval for his decision from President Lincoln. In the administration of that city he showed great firmness and political subtlety. He devised a plan for poor relief, demanded oaths of allegiance from anyone who sought any privilege from government, and confiscated weapons. In preparation, Butler imposed strict quarantines and introduced a rigid program of garbage disposal. As a result, in , only two cases were reported. This was in response to women in the town who were pouring buckets of their own urine on Union soldiers, and who at the time could get away with anything as respectable women. If a woman punched a soldier, he could punch her back. The order stopped all of their behavior, [25] without arresting anyone or firing a bullet, but provoked protests both in the North and the South, and also abroad, particularly in England and France. However, his use of the government ship was reported. Thereafter, his brother Andrew officially represented the family in such activities. Since the Act permitted confiscation of property owned by anyone aiding the Confederacy, Butler reversed his earlier policy of encouraging trade by refusing to confiscate cotton brought into New Orleans for sale. First he conducted a census in which 4, respondents failing to pledge loyalty to the Union were banished and their property seized. It was sold at ridiculously low auction prices where Andrew was often the prime buyer. Next the general sent expeditions into the countryside with no military purpose other than to confiscate cotton from residents assumed to be disloyal. Once brought into New Orleans the cotton would be similarly sold in rigged auctions. To maintain correct appearances, auction proceeds were dutifully held for the benefit of "just claimants", but the Butler consortium still ended-up owning the cotton at bargain prices. Always inventive of new terminology to achieve his ends, Butler sequestered i. When editor of the Commercial Bulletin William Seymour asked Butler what would happen if the newspaper ignored his censorship, an angry Butler reportedly stated, "I am the military governor of this state â€” the supreme power â€” you cannot disregard my order, Sir. By God, he that sins against me, sins against the Holy Ghost. Winters wrote that most of the newspapers "were allowed to reopen later but were so rigidly controlled that all color and interest were drained away" and that churches that planned a special day of prayer and fasting for the Confederacy were forbidden from doing so. Several clergymen were placed under arrest for refusing to pray for President Lincoln. The Episcopal churches were closed, and their three ministers were sent to New York City under military escort. Most, including Mumford and his family, expected Butler to pardon him; the general refused, but promised to care for his family if necessary. Butler also took aim at foreign consuls in New Orleans. Instead, Butler accused Coppel of giving aid to the Confederate cause. Even when told by President Lincoln to restore a sugar shipment claimed by Europeans, Butler undermined the order. He also imposed a strict quarantine to protect against yellow fever, which had the added impact of delaying foreign commerce and bringing complaints to his headquarters from most foreign consuls. These unattached persons had to be fed and housed. A Union officer complained of "a big problem" with the new arrivals. Winters wrote that "Soldiers resented the fact that the pampered Negro was given better tents, equal rations, and was allowed to tear down more fences for sleeping boards than were the soldiers. General Phelps [an abolitionist] had organized a few squads of Negroes and drilled them daily. Not knowing what to do with so many Negroes, Butler at first returned the runaway slaves to their masters. But still the contrabands came. Some of them were employed as cooks, nurses, washwomen, and laborers. He also sought revenge against the more moderate Secretary of State Seward, who he believed to be responsible for his recall. Lincoln considered sending him to position in the Mississippi River area in early , and categorically refused to send him back to New Orleans. In January Butler played a pivotal role in the creation of six regiments of U. Volunteers recruited from among

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Confederate prisoners of war " Galvanized Yankees " for duty on the western frontier. Lee , in conjunction with attacks Grant would make from the north. Beauregard , and he was unable to accomplish any of his assigned objectives. But it was his mismanagement of the expedition against Fort Fisher , North Carolina, that finally led to his recall by General Grant. Stanton in early asking free rein to relieve Butler from military service. Since Stanton was traveling outside Washington, D. Ord to replace him as commander of the Army of the James. At his hearing Butler focused his defense on his actions at Fort Fisher. He produced charts and duplicates of reports by subordinates to prove he had been right to call off his attack of Fort Fisher, despite orders from General Grant to the contrary. Butler claimed the fort was impregnable. To his embarrassment, a follow-up expedition led by Maj.

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Chapter 2 : The Negro's Civil War (edition) | Open Library

The election of and the coming of war --The Negro's response to the war, --The drive for emancipation: the Northern scene, --Emancipation in the South, --Anti-Negro mob violence in the North, --The colonization issue --The Negro's response to the charge of racial inferiority --Government, philanthropy, and the.

Oldham rose to correct his colleague. The law referred to did not authorize the President to make these appointments of temporary rank during a recess of Congress. Wigfall said whether the President had the authority or not he had done it, and what had been done could be done again. It had been said yesterday by the Secretary of State in a publick and well considered speech that our salvation depended upon putting negroes into the army and consequent emancipation. He wished to announce that, in his opinion, the emancipation of the negroes was the destruction of the organism of the country. It was as if the government of England was required by countries at war with her to abolish her landed aristocracy and put into their place a market-house mob. Oldham opposed the resolution. He had prepared a measure which he would bring in in a few days, providing for putting negroes into the army, and he believed that his motion would obviate many of the objections urged against the plan. He also thought the Senate should have full time to consider the important measures yet to be disposed of. Semmes opposed a hasty adjournment--mentioning the tax law and several other measures that yet claimed the attention of the Senate. Sparrow had been convinced by Mr. No good result could come of the wrangling between Congress and the Executive. Maxwell said the Senator Mr. Oldham said he would bring in a bill for putting negroes in the army as soldiers. He regarded [it] as a reason why Congress should adjourn to get rid of this question. He would tell the Senator that he could introduce no bill for that purpose that would meet his approval. Wigfall said the Senator might say to this question "down," but he could not lay it down. He was not willing that the proceedings on this question should be smothered in secret session, as they were the other day. The people only knew that a bill to put negroes in the army, as soldiers, had been voted down by the Senate by a vote of 13 to 3. It was right and proper that they should know the arguments that influenced that vote. After some further discussion Mr. House resolution was considered and lost by a tie vote when Mr. Maxwell entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was lost; and thus the question was, for the present, disposed of. Oldham, of Texas, introduced the following bill: A Bill to provide for raising two hundred thousand negro troops. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the President of the Confederate States be and he is hereby authorized to receive into the military service any number of negro troops, not to exceed two hundred thousand. That the President be and he is hereby authorized to assign officers already appointed, or make appointment of officers to raise and command said troops; and the same when raised shall be organized as provided under existing laws. That no negro slave shall be received into the service without the written consent of his owner, and under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War to carry into effect this act. That it is hereby declared that Congress does not hereby assume to change the social and political status of the slave population of the States, but leaves the same under the jurisdiction and control of the States to which it belongs. Oldham made a short explanation of the bill, and requested its reference to the Military Committee. Graham said he thought the sense of the Senate on this measure might as well be tested on the question of reference. He was opposed decidedly to the policy of the employment of negro troops under any circumstances. The Senate had already expressed its sense on the subject. He would vote against the reference. Johnson, of Georgia, said he would vote for the reference, but did not choose to be considered as committing himself to its policy. It was a great question, and ought to go into a committee. At the same time he would say that all his present impressions were against the employment of negro troops. The bill was referred to the Military Committee. Watson, of Mississippi, was transferred to the secret calendar. Wigfall moved to postpone the bill till Monday, which was agreed to. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That in all prosecutions for aiding or assisting any deserter from the army to evade his

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proper commander, or to prevent his arrest to be returned to the service, knowingly concealing or harbouring any such deserter, under the provisions of an act to prevent the procuring, aiding and assisting persons to desert from the army of the Confederate States, and for other purposes, approved January 22d, , when the fact is proved that the person aided or assisted or concealed or harboured is a soldier or officer in the military service of the Confederate States, general reputation that such officer or soldier is a deserter, shall be taken prima facie evidence of the fact of desertion. Orr, of South Carolina, moved to strike out this section. If it passed it settled the question that, after this year, there would not be food enough produced for the support of the country. His State had taken measures to secure a proper number of overseers. He did not know to what extent the State and Confederate authority might come in conflict, but, indeed, if matters went on as they now seemed to be going, he did not know that there would be much need of overseers in South Carolina. It was unnecessary for him to go at length into this question. The minds of Senators were already made up. Graham opposed the bill. No civilized country could put all of its able-bodied men in the field. It might be done by savage nations, who subsisted by hunting. He chiefly objected to the second section, which took from the President and Secretary of War the power of exemption and detail, and revoked all details and exemptions already granted. This seemed to contemplate the carrying but one campaign, and that a very short one. He would vote for the first section. He saw no reason why the owner of fifteen slaves should be exempted any more than the owner of a less number; although his observation was that the owners of the slaves had gone into the war, and that applications for details on this score were made for the purpose of procuring overseers in their places. Still he would be satisfied that the exemption law should stand unchanged. Orr then moved to amend by adding that exemption of persons over forty years of age may be granted under the provisions of the fifteen negro clause. Hunter, of Virginia, moved to amend by adding a provision that persons over forty-five may be exempted under that clause. The amendment was agreed to--ayes 12, noes 8. Graham moved to strike out the second section of the bill providing that no exemption or detail shall be granted by the Secretary of War or President, except of persons disabled for field service, persons over forty years, artisans, mechanics and persons of scientific skill employed by government, and revoking details and exemptions heretofore granted by the President or Secretary of War. Sparrow, the section was amended by inserting the word "labourers" before the word "artisan. Orr, the further consideration of the bill was postponed till Monday. On motion, by Mr. Oldham, the Senate resolved into secret session. Barksdale, of Mississippi, offered a bill "to increase the military force of the Confederate States. The second section provides that the President be authorized to organize the said slaves into companies, battalions, regiments and brigades, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe, and to be commanded by such officers as the President may appoint. The third section provides that while employed in the service, the said slaves shall receive the same rations, clothing and compensation as are allowed in the act approved February 17, , and the acts amendatory thereto "to increase the efficiency of the army by the employment of free negroes and slaves in certain capacities;" and the compensation so allowed shall be made to the owner or to the slave, as the owner thereof may elect. The fourth section of the bill provides that nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize a change in the relation which the said slaves shall bear towards their owners as property, except by consent of the States in which they may reside, and in pursuance of the laws thereof. Miles, of South Carolina, moved that the bill be rejected. He wanted to test the sense of the House upon this subject of arming negroes. He wanted to have a vote upon it. Marshall, of Kentucky--Yes, let us have a vote on it. Let the country know where we stand. Hartridge, of Georgia, asked that the vote on the rejection of the bill be taken by ayes and noes. Barksdale moved that the bill be referred to a select committee of one from each State. After what had been said by the chairman of the Military Committee Mr. Miles it was evident that he had prejudged the question. He did not desire to enter upon its discussion now, but would say that he had introduced the bill under a solemn conviction of duty to his country. It raised no irritating issues. It provided simply that the President should accept the services of slaves to be used as the General-in-Chief, General Lee, might direct, in order to save our cause. That question was left by the bill where it properly belongs--to the owners of slaves,

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by the consent of the States and in pursuance of the laws thereof. Are gentlemen unwilling to let the people have the privilege of contributing their slaves as a free-will offering to aid in repelling the savage foe, who is the common enemy of both races? The bill provides nothing more. Wickham, of Virginia, moved the indefinite postponement of the bill. He was opposed to its going to a select committee. If it went to any committee it should go, in the regular channel, to the Committee on Military Affairs. He wished, however, this question of arming and making soldiers of negroes to be now disposed of, finally and forever. He wished it to be decided whether negroes are to be placed upon an equality by the side of our brave soldiers who have faced the storm of battle for four long years. It were idle to say that if negroes were put into the army they would not be upon an equality with our soldiers. They would be compelled to. They would have to camp and bivouac together. Wickham said that our brave soldiers, who have fought so long and nobly, would not stand to be thus placed side by side with negro soldiers. He was opposed to such a measure. The day that such a bill passes Congress sounds the death knell of this Confederacy. The very moment an order goes forth from the War Department authorizing the arming and organizing of negro soldiers there was an eternal end to this struggle. The question being ordered upon the rejection of the bill, it was lost--ayes 21, noes 137. As this vote was regarded as a kind of test of the sense of the House upon the policy of putting negroes into the army, we append the ayes and noes--the question being the rejection of this bill authorizing the employment of negroes as soldiers:

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Chapter 3 : Revels, Hiram | www.nxgvision.com

CHAPTER XI.. NEGRO TROOPS IN THE UNION ARMY: INITIATION OF A POLICY, Page In the first year of the war many Northern Negroes offered their services to the Union government as soldiers.

It is interesting to note that the incidence of pleural effusion, namely, 43 percent of the total, was higher than the usual average of 20 to 25 percent observed in hospitalized troops in the European theater and in the continental United States. In the lack of exact studies on recovered prisoners, analysis of the reason for higher rates is speculative. Colonel Badger stressed as predisposing factors malnutrition and exposure to an environment with greater potentiality for spread of tubercle bacilli. Malnutrition is believed to be a factor in the reactivation of small arrested lesions, which, as noted in various surveys, were present in approximately 1 percent of troops. Excessive exposure to tuberculosis, if it occurred, was not direct. Recovered American military personnel were not quartered with other nationals, except in some instances where they shared barracks with British prisoners, but frequently, in the migration from camp to camp, as the senior consultant in tuberculosis pointed out in his report, they lived in dirty quarters, grossly contaminated by previous occupants, many of whom may have had tuberculosis. At the time of writing, no significant new facts had emerged from followup studies in the United States. The risk for white prisoners, chiefly captives of the Germans in this study, was three and a half times as great as for men with service overseas who were not taken prisoner Long, Esmond R. Government Printing Office, In a special study of disease among recovered prisoners of war, Cohen and Cooper found a high rate of tuberculosis among former prisoners of the Japanese, which did not take into account the many soldiers believed to have died of tuberculosis in Japanese prison camps Cohen, Bernard M. Ten cases diagnosed as tuberculosis were found in 1, prisoners of war, a rate of approximately 5 per 1, All of the men concerned were hospitalized and not all cases were of proved activity, so that the rate of active tuberculosis was lower. On the other hand, it must be recognized that the group examined by X-ray was to some extent an already screened group, from which men obviously ill had been removed. In summary, it appears reasonable to conclude from the evidence that the incidence of tuberculosis did rise in men who had been prisoners of war in the European theater, to as much as five to seven times the rate prevalent in the rest of the Army p. Incidence in recovered Allied military personnel-In a directive from the Office of the Chief Surgeon, European theater, to the surgeons of bases, sections, and advanced sections, attention was called to the high incidence of tuberculosis in prisoners of Allied Nations recovered when the U. Later, an order,23 based on the sudden startling experience of Army units in the forward areas, directed a chest survey of recovered Allied military personnel, and displaced civilians, as follows: Pulmonary tuberculosis of a virulent order has proved a serious problem among displaced civilians of all nationalities. The magnitude of this problem cannot be estimated at this time. It is probable that Recovered Allied Military Personnel will show an incidence of tuberculosis well above the experience of the Theater. It is imperative to establish the gravity of the situation. All displaced civilians and Recovered Allied Military Personnel admitted to hospitals of the United States Army will be carefully surveyed with this thought in mind. History, physical examination, appropriate laboratory studies, and, when indicated, x-ray of the chest, will be made on all such subjects, insofar as facilities permit. Due to film shortage, x-rays will not be taken routinely. In recovered prisoners of war of Allied Nations, U. Army, exceeding 23Circular Letter No. Army, 11 May Nature of the problem On 18 December , patients of varied nationality, though mostly Russian, were admitted to the 50th General Hospital, Commercy, France. Four were dead on arrival. Ninety percent had moderate to advanced disease. Twenty-eight died of tuberculosis in the first week in the hospital, and up to 21 May , 5 months after admission, a total of , or 33 percent, had died. Signs and symptoms of serious nutritional and vitamin deficiencies were the principal associated complications of tuberculosis or malnutrition. Seventy-five percent of them were Russians. A little less than half had tuberculosis, most of which, once again, was advanced disease, complicated by very severe malnutrition. Other pockets of displaced tuberculous nationals, under

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Third U. Army care in Germany, were some 7, men at Mauthausen, 5, at Nuremberg, 3, at Ebensee, and 3, at Klam. This is a glimpse of the end result of the effects of war on Allied national prisoners, both political and military. History The story these men told was much the same from wherever they came. They were prisoners for an average of 34 months in the Stalag camps of Western Germany. They were for the most part captured in the Black Sea area and the Ukraine. They were shifted from camp to camp, finally winding up in the mines and heavy industries near Metz and Sarreguemines, France, and the Ruhr region in Germany. Men were worked 12 hours or more a day with 1 day off a month, when the coal quota was filled. Housing was for the most part in wooden barracks of 40 to feet in size, crowding in to men. Diets varied in different camps, but from their history and starvation state, it was apparently seriously deficient. Hygienic conditions were bad, recreational facilities were prohibited, sleeping and living conditions were congested, and hospital treatment for illness was apparently reserved for those with high fevers combined with a good prognosis. The sick were left to die in their bunks beside the living. Before capture, these men were recorded as being in excellent physical condition. Supposedly, admission to the Russian Army was by complete physical examination with an X-ray of the chest; but, if the latter was accomplished in the Russian Army, it was a monumental task. Furthermore, if only those with negative X-rays were admitted to the Army, the influence of starvation upon unseen tuberculous infection is the more striking. Clinical picture The typical picture of tuberculosis as seen in these patients was that of acute fulminating, rapidly fatal disease, mixed with chronic, slowly progressive, fibrotic tuberculosis. They were acutely ill with emaciation which was the combination of tuberculosis and starvation. The clinical course of approximately 30 percent was rapidly and progressively downhill. Extensive bilateral pulmonary disease was complicated by gastrointestinal, laryngeal, and bronchial involvement. Many patients showed progressive, moderate to far-advanced disease in the presence of a normal temperature, some elevation of pulse, and reasonably good general appearance. The physi- 24See footnote 17, p. Cough and expectoration produced sputa which were heavily loaded with tubercle bacilli. Examination of direct smears showed larger numbers of tubercle bacilli than we are accustomed to see in the routine examination of sputa in the United States. Pathology 1 At post mortem examination, the tuberculosis was always bilateral with wide hematogenous dissemination to a variety of organs with extensive cavitation of the lungs. There was revealed more than the usual lymph gland involvement with massive enlargement of glands in both the chest and abdomen. Not uncommonly, pleural adhesions were multiple and usually obliterative, giving evidence of chronicity of the disease. Miliary tuberculosis was conspicuous by its rarity, though sporadic hematogenous spread was common. However, many cases presented a microscopic appearance of widespread confluent necrosis, without tubercle formation and with very little tissue reaction about the periphery of the lesion and little or no epithelioid cell formation and complete absence of giant cells. Lymphatic tissue often presented complete destruction of all lymphoid cells with tissue necrosis and often very little cellular reaction in tubercle formation. Etiology Etiological factors which produced this fulminating disease were undoubtedly the unusual opportunities for intense and frequent recurrent contact with seriously ill, open cases. Conditions at the German Stalag camps and at Buchenwald were such that at the latter, 46, people were housed in a unit originally constructed for 15, Sanitary conditions did not exist and where three to five men were in one small bunk and the ill were left to die unattended beside the living, the opportunities for cross infection with tuberculosis were such as have probably rarely been observed before. Everything favored the development and spread of the disease. The starvation diet with the serious degree of malnutrition undoubtedly contributed to the rapid progress of the disease. Treatment 1 These patients had treatment, first directed toward relief of starvation and the establishment of discipline. Language difficulties and years of living under the conditions which existed in larger work camps and Stalags made it difficult to establish any hygienic principles, or the segregation of open from closed cases. The dietary problems were not difficult to handle and those patients who were not dying of their disease improved clinically, rapidly overcoming the malnutrition per se. Sputum-positive cases were eventually segregated from sputum-negative cases and an attempt was made to establish absolute bed rest. However, the latter proved to be practically impossible. The concept of bed rest

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was foreign to these men under any circumstances, and, with the Russians, it was against their principles of treatment of tuberculosis, which commanded exercise and sunshine. It was deemed wise for these men to have 4 to 8 weeks of bed rest before pneumothorax was started, as the acuteness of the disease and the frequent presence of tracheobronchitis were not suitable for collapse therapy. Adjustment of their nutritional deficiencies was immediately of greater concern than the tuberculosis itself. In acute widespread, bilateral disease, pneumothorax has not proved to be beneficial. Collapse therapy was never undertaken simply for the sake of "doing something" for the patient. Order had emerged from initial chaos and reasonably good discipline had been established through the assistance of a Russian officer and aidman. It was still quite impossible to establish a regimen of absolute bed rest. Prevention Precautions against spread of tuberculosis were instituted first of all for the protection of U. Army hospital personnel and second toward segregation of the open and closed cases. All staff personnel wore masks and gowns. Patients wore masks when examined or treated and were taught to conceal their cough, to expectorate into small pledgets of paper which were deposited into paper bags to be burned. No contaminated person, X-rays, records, or objects of any sort were permitted in these sanctums of cleanliness. No gowns or masks were worn or removed in these rooms. Scrub-up solutions and contaminated clothing were maintained in an adjacent room. Osipov, member of the Military Mission of the U. Points of difference in treatment in the two countries were recognized, and shortly thereafter, it was decided in the Office of the Chief Surgeon, European theater, to repatriate those Russians who were physically able to travel, as rapidly as was consonant with their safety. The 46th General Hospital was made a collecting hospital for this purpose. It received recovered Russian prisoners previously hospitalized in many hospitals in France and England and effected suitable preparations for the long journey back to Russia. Incidence in concentration camps-In the final weeks of the war in Germany, Allied troops overran a large number of the notorious concentration camps in which the German government imprisoned political nonconformists, Jews, nationals of surrounding states, and others who had offended the Nazi Party. These camps included Buchenwald, Nordhausen, Dachau, Belsen, and many others. Thousands of dead were found in the camps at the time of their liberation, and many more thousands of sick and dying. Among the latter were hundreds of persons with advanced tuberculosis, who constituted an immediate problem for the evacuation hospitals of the advancing armies. Army hospitals rapidly developed machinery for removing discovered cases from camps and placing them under definitive care. Barracks outside the camp were usually used, and in these the tuberculous were bathed, deloused, examined by X-ray, and put on immediate bed rest. In the transfer from camp, they were ably assisted by doctors of the concentration camp; that is, doctors who had themselves been inmates and had maintained primitive hospitals for tuberculous patients in the camp. Subsequently, these patients were transferred to German hospitals in the region, against the time when they could be transferred again to their own countries, or to sanatoriums in Germany. The crowding, the lack of sanitary provisions, the malnutrition and the general medical neglect, all favored progression of the disease in concentration camps.

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Chapter 4 : Diaries of Civil War Nurses | Civil War Women

The election of and the coming of war --The Negro's response to the war, --The drive for Emancipation: The Northern scene, --Emancipation in the South, --Anti-Negro mob violence in the North, --The Colonization issue --The Negro's response to the charge of racial inferiority --Government, philanthropy, and the.

Union[edit] Our Presidents, Governors, Generals and Secretaries are calling, with almost frantic vehemence, for men. Concerns over the response of the border states of which one, Maryland , surrounded the capital of Washington D. Congress passed two Acts allowing for the enlistment of "Colored" troops African Americans [8] but official enrollment occurred only after the final issuance of the " Emancipation Proclamation " in January However, State and local militia units had already begun enlisting Blacks, including the " Black Brigade of Cincinnati ", raised in September to help provide manpower to thwart a feared Confederate raid on Cincinnati from Kentucky. In May , Congress established the Bureau of Colored Troops in an effort to organize black efforts in the war. Augusta was a senior surgeon, with white assistant surgeons under his command at Fort Stanton , MD. Of the 67, Regular Army white troops, 8. Of the approximately , United States Colored Troops , however, over 36, died, or In other words, the mortality "rate" amongst the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War was thirty-five percent greater than that among other troops, notwithstanding the fact that the former were not enrolled until some eighteen months after the fighting began. A number of officers in the field experimented, with varying degrees of success, in using contrabands for manual labor in Union Army camps, and later to raising Black regiments of soldiers from them, including Gen. David Hunter " , U. Lane " , and Gen. Butler " , of Massachusetts. In September , free African-American men were forcefully conscripted and impressed into forced labor for constructing defensive fortifications, by the white citizens of the pro-slavery city of Cincinnati, Ohio ; they came to be known as the " Black Brigade of Cincinnati ". Because of the harsh working conditions and the extreme brutality of their Cincinnati police guards , the Union Army, under General Lew Wallace , stepped in to restore order and ensure that the black conscripts received the fair treatment due to soldiers, including the equal pay of privates. Contrabands were later settled in a number of colonies, such as at the Grand Contraband Camp, Virginia and in the Port Royal Experiment. Blacks also participated in activities further behind the lines that helped keep an army functioning, such as at hospitals and the like. In general, white soldiers and officers believed that Black men lacked the ability to fight and fight well. In October , African-American soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry , in one of the first engagements involving Black troops, silenced their critics by repulsing attacking Confederate guerrillas at the Skirmish at Island Mound , Missouri in the Western Theatre in October By August , 14 more Negro State Regiments were in the field and ready for service. At the Battle of Port Hudson , Louisiana , May 27, , the African-American soldiers bravely advanced over open ground in the face of deadly artillery fire. Although the attack failed, the Black soldiers proved their capability to withstand the heat of battle, with General Nathaniel P. Banks " recording in his official report: Despite the defeat, the unit was hailed for its valor, which spurred further African-American recruitment, giving the Union a numerical military advantage from a large segment of the population the Confederacy did not attempt to exploit until too late in the closing days of the War. Unfortunately for any African-American soldiers captured during these battles, imprisonment could be even worse than death. Black prisoners were not treated the same as white prisoners. They received no medical attention, harsh punishments, and would not be used in a prisoner exchange because the Confederate states only saw them as escaped slaves fighting against their masters. The year was especially eventful for African-American troops. On April 12, , at the Battle of Fort Pillow , in Tennessee , Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest led his 2, men against the Union-held fortification, occupied by black and white soldiers. Casualties were high and only sixty-two of the U. Colored Troops survived the fight. Accounts from both Union and Confederate witnesses suggest a massacre. On September 29, , the African-American division of the Eighteenth Corps, after being pinned down by Confederate artillery

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fire for about 30 minutes, charged the earthworks and rushed up the slopes of the heights. During the hour-long engagement the Division suffered tremendous casualties. Harriet Tubman was also a spy, a nurse, and a cook whose efforts were key to Union victories and survival. Tubman is most widely recognized for her contributions to freeing slaves by the Underground Railroad. However, her contributions to the Union Army were equally important. She became the first woman to lead U. The constant stream, however, of escaped slaves seeking refuge aboard Union ships, forced the navy to formulate a policy towards them. To return them would be impolitic as well as cruel. With rare exceptions, only the rank of petty officer would be offered to black sailors, and in practice, only to free blacks who often were the only ones with naval careers sufficiently long to earn the rank. African-Americans performed forced labor under Confederate military unit direction. Other times, when a son or sons in a slaveholding family enlisted, he would take along a family slave to work as a personal servant. Such slaves would perform non-combat duties such as carrying and loading supplies, but they were not soldiers. Still, even these civilian usages were comparatively infrequent. In areas where the Union Army approached, a wave of slave desertions would inevitably follow; Southern blacks would inevitably offer themselves as scouts who knew the territory to the Federals. Opposition to arming blacks was even stauncher. Many in the South feared slave revolts already, and arming blacks would make the threat of mistreated slaves overthrowing their masters even greater. The Confederate Congress narrowly passed a bill in allowing slaves to join the army. The bill did not offer or guarantee an end to their servitude as an incentive to enlist. Even this weak bill, supported by Robert E. Lee, passed only narrowly, by a 9â€”8 vote in the Senate. President Jefferson Davis signed the law on March 13, , but went beyond the terms in the bill by issuing an order on March 23 to offer freedom to slaves so recruited. Davis, President Davis felt that blacks would not fight unless they were guaranteed their freedom after the war. This is the first company of negro troops raised in Virginia. It was organized about a month since, by Dr. Chambliss, from the employees of the hospitals, and served on the lines during the recent Sheridan raid. At least one such review had to be cancelled due not merely to lack of weaponry, but also lack of uniforms or equipment. These units did not see combat; Richmond fell without a battle to Union armies one week later in early April. The whole sorry episode [the mustering of colored troops in Richmond] provides a fitting coda for our examination of modern claims that thousands and thousands of black troops loyally fought in the Confederate armies. By drawing so many white men into the army, indeed, the war multiplied the importance of the black work force. As the Union saw victories in the fall of and the spring of , however, the need for more manpower was acknowledged by the Confederacy in the form of conscription of white men, and the national impressment of free and slave blacks into laborer positions. State militias composed of freedmen were offered, but the War Department spurned the offer. Cleburne recommended offering slaves their freedom if they fought and survived. He also recommended recognizing slave marriages and family, and forbidding their sale, hotly controversial proposals when slaveowners routinely separated families and refused to recognize familial bonds. Cleburne cited the blacks in the Union army as proof that they could fight. He also believed that such a policy would reduce mass defections of slaves to the Union: There would be no recruits awaiting the enemy with open arms, no complete history of every neighborhood with ready guides, no fear of insurrection in the rear. Stewart said that emancipating slaves for military use was "at war with my social, moral, and political principles", while James Patton Anderson called the proposal "revolting to Southern sentiment, Southern pride, and Southern honor. Benjamin , and General Robert E. On November 7, , in his annual address to Congress, Davis hinted at arming slaves. To talk of maintaining independence while we abolish slavery is simply to talk folly. Howell Cobb of Georgia wrote in January that the proposition to make soldiers of our slaves is the most pernicious idea that has been suggested since the war began. You cannot make soldiers of slaves, nor slaves of soldiers. The day you make soldiers of [Negroes] is the beginning of the end of the revolution. Hunter wrote "What did we go to war for, if not to protect our property? Lee wrote the Confederate Congress urging them to arm and enlist black slaves in exchange for their freedom. The legislation was then promulgated into military policy by Davis in General Order No. Elsewhere in the South, such free blacks ran the risk of being accused of being a

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runaway slave, arrested, and enslaved. One of the state militias was the 1st Louisiana Native Guard , a militia unit composed of free men of color , mixed-blood creoles who would be considered black elsewhere in the South by the one-drop rule. The unit was short lived, never saw combat, and was forced to disband in April after the Louisiana State Legislature passed a law that reorganized the militia into only " Other militias with notable free black representation included the Baton Rouge Guards under Capt. The only official duties ever given to the Natchitoches units were funeral honor guard details. Colored Troops at Vicksburg National Military Park Prisoner exchanges between the Union and Confederacy were suspended when the Confederacy refused to return black soldiers captured in uniform. In October , the Confederate Congress issued a resolution declaring all Negroes, free and slave, that they should be delivered to their respective states "to be dealt with according to the present and future laws of such State or States". As for freemen, they would be handed over to Confederates for confinement and put to hard labor. In the last few months of the war, the Confederate government agreed to exchange of all prisoners, White and Black, and several thousand troops were exchanged until the surrender of the Confederacy ended all hostilities.

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Chapter 5 : Military history of African Americans in the American Civil War - Wikipedia

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content. Book Reviews EDITED BY CHARLES T. MILLER B-II University Hall Iowa City, Iowa The Sable Arm: Negro Troops in the Union Army,

On motion, by Mr. Semmes, the Senate adjourned. Note--The Senate on yesterday removed the injunction of secrecy from the proceedings on the Senate bill introduced by Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, to provide for raising two hundred thousand negro troops. The bill was disposed of on Tuesday, the 21st instant, in the following manner: On the question to agree to the motion submitted by Mr. Garland, that the further consideration of the bill be postponed indefinitely, it was determined in the affirmative--ayes 11, noes Those who voted in the affirmative were Messrs. Those who voted in the negative [were] Messrs. I herewith transmit, for your information, a communication from the Secretary of War relative to the accessions to the army from each State since April 16, ; to the number of persons liable to conscription who have been exempted or detailed, and to the number of those between the ages of seventeen and forty-five, and not unfitted for active service in the field, who are employed in the several States in the manner indicated in your enquiry. The message and accompanying documents were laid upon the table and ordered to be printed. The message states that the number of conscripts assigned to the army from camps of instruction, 81, Deserters returned to the army, 21, Assignments under section eight of the act of February 17th, , 7, Approximate estimates of men who have joined the army without passing the camps of instruction, 76, Total number of exempts, 66, Detailed on account of publick necessity, 5, For details, bureaux and departments, not including artisans and mechanicks, 4, Detail of contractors to furnish supplies, Detail of artisans and mechanicks, 6, The pending question being on agreeing to the second amendment of the House to strike out the clause restricting the number of negroes to be employed to thirty thousand east of the Mississippi River, and ten thousand west of that river. Orr said he should vote against the amendment of the House. Forty thousand negroes to be employed in the army was the number recommended by the Executive. If eighty or one hundred thousand had been recommended he should have voted for that number. But the bill had given rise to the discussion of a subject which had excited the publick mind more than any other whatever--putting negroes in the army as soldiers. In his opinion, this would be one of the most fatal steps that could be taken. He believed our soldiers would object to the measure to such a degree that it would have the effect of disorganizing our army. This continued until the Yankees began to enlist the negroes as soldiers, when it almost entirely ceased. But the moment it was known that we designed putting them into our armies they would leave by thousands. He believed the negroes were naturally cowardly; but if it was simply a choice between entering one or the other army, they would go to the Yankees. Nine hundred and ninety-nine out of a thousand would do so. Orr then went on to show that emancipation was a necessary concomitant of putting negroes into the army as soldiers, and dwelt eloquently upon the disastrous effect upon our country that the emancipation of the slaves would entail. There was an impression in the country that a large number of men were absent from the army with and without leave. If this opinion was incorrect, no one was so much responsible for it as the President himself, who, during his unfortunate speech at Macon, wherein he said that two-thirds of that army was absent, and one-third of those two-thirds absent without leave. Maxwell spoke in opposition to putting negroes into the army as soldiers. It involved abolition of slavery. He could scarcely realize that he had heard such a proposition discussed in the Confederate Senate. He did not believe that putting negroes into the armies would add to its strength, and as the amendment of the House was understood to tend in that direction, he would vote against it. Johnson, of Missouri, said he was astounded at the range this debate had taken on this amendment. He was in favour of giving Generals Lee and Beauregard whatever amount of negroes they should find necessary. Another subject had been freely discussed; the restoration of General Johnston to the Army of Tennessee. He had no opinion on this subject himself, because he had no knowledge of its merits, but he would state that every Missourian of the Army of Tennessee with whom he had conversed had told him that

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General Johnston was the only man who could revive the spirit of that army, and that the heart of every man in the army had sunk when he was removed from its command. Burnett said he had not lost the pride of a Southern citizen, but his chief end was severance from the Northern Government. If this could be done without resort to negro soldiers, he would say never put a negro into the army. If he was convinced that there was white material enough in the country, he would vote against negro soldiers, but he was not convinced of it, and, if called an abolitionist, he was in good company. General Lee, and many other distinguished officers, favoured putting negroes into the army. The material of which the Yankee army was composed was Irish, Germans and negroes. It was the policy of the enemy, having issued a proclamation of universal emancipation, they put into the army all the able-bodied negroes in the country as they overran it. The portions of Kentucky held by our armies in was now garrisoned by negro troops, the slaves of that country. In his opinion it was with us simply a choice whether we should put the negroes into our armies, or to leave them to swell the armies of the enemy. Burnett said all the disasters to the Army of Tennessee had been the direct consequences of the removal of General Johnston, and he believed his restoration would be hailed with joy by the whole army. He did not know whether the President knew the truth, but he would do what he could to enlighten him. In conclusion, he said the question of putting negroes in the armies as soldiers was not practically before the Senate. The vote being taken, the amendment was rejected--yeas 9, nays Those who voted in the negative were Messrs. The remaining amendments were then considered, and, with three exceptions, agreed to. Before a vote was taken on the bill, Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, moved to reconsider the vote by which the second resolution was concurred in. Watson, who desired to express his opinions on the subject of that amendment, might be heard. On motion of Mr. Caperton, of Virginia, the Senate resolved into secret session. Atkins, of Tennessee, offered a series of resolutions as a substitute for those offered on Wednesday by Mr. It will be recollected that the resolutions of Mr. Gholson declared that the people of the Confederate States have ever been, and are now ready to make peace on terms honourable to both parties; yet it is the judgment of this House that, while we should manifest a willingness to treat for peace, we should not omit vigorously to prepare for war; that in the judgment of the House this preparation can be best made by using every effort to place at once in the army every man liable under our laws to render military service, by causing the commissary, quartermaster and other departments to be administered with renewed energy and increased activity; and since General Lee has been made General-in-Chief, by assigning under him our best and most acceptable generals to the command of our separate armies, and by ceasing to agitate the policy of employing negro troops. The resolutions offered by Mr. Atkins, as a substitute, were as follows: Resolved, That arming slaves in our cause, upon a promise of emancipation, is in conflict with well established principles, and therefore should not be done. Resolved, That the character of the war which the enemy is waging against us and the immense resources which he is bringing to bear for our subjugation, justifies and requires that we should exhaust all the resources within our reach rather than submit to so terrible a fate. Resolved, That between subjugation and using our slaves in our defence, every principle of justice and self-preservation requires the latter; and therefore we should at once put one hundred thousand slaves, between the ages of seventeen and forty-five, in the field; and, in order to make them effective, and to immediately interest all of our soldiers in the initiation, it is expedient that the government should purchase all the slaves thus put in the army, and give to each white soldier now in the army, or who will join the army within three months after the enactment of a law in accordance with these resolves, a slave, to be his absolute right, and property, to be forever free from the claims of any and all persons, and the title only to be diverted by such soldier abandoning his post without leave, in which case the title shall revert to the government. Boyce, of South Carolina, moved that the House go into secret session upon the consideration of the resolutions, but the motion did not prevail. The subject being taken up, Mr. Conrad, of Louisiana, proceeded to address the House, directing his arguments principally in opposition to the resolutions of Mr. At the conclusion of Mr. Hilton, of Florida, moved that the resolutions be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, which was so ordered. Brown, of Mississippi, introduced the following: Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be

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instructed to report a bill, with the least practicable delay, to take into the military service of the Confederate States a number of negro soldiers, not to exceed two hundred thousand, by voluntary enlistment, with the consent of their owners, or by conscription, as may be found necessary; and that the committee provide in said bill for the emancipation of said negroes in all cases where they prove loyal and true to the end of the war, and for the immediate payment, under proper restrictions, of their full present value to their owners. Brown said he regretted that every Senator who had in previous debate adverted to this subject, had taken occasion to say that he thought the time had not come for the employment of negro troops in our armies. He introduced this resolution to show that, in his opinion, the time had come when we should employ negro troops. Now, if ever, was the time; we were in the very crisis of our fate. He had seen with pleasure the revival of the war spirit, and he hoped it would sweep through the land. But still he feared our armies would not be strong enough to withstand the enemy without the employment of negro troops. We might do the same. Maxwell said this subject would involve the discussion and narration of facts which it was not advisable should go to the ears of the enemy. He thought that the resolution should be transferred to the secret calendar. Wigfall hoped that the resolution would not be transferred to the secret calendar. He thought the discussion upon it should be in open session. The Senator from Florida Mr. Maxwell had talked of the moral muscle of the people. The Senator would get no moral muscle in this way. There was no reason why the people should not hear everything that was said. There was no panick. Discussion on the motion to go into secret session was ruled out of order, and Senate resolved into secret session. Semmes moved to take up House bill to provide for raising negro troops. The bill being on the secret calendar, On motion, by Mr. Caperton, the Senate resolved into secret session.

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Chapter 6 : The Forgotten Sons: North Carolinians in the Union Army

Book Description: A History of the Negro Troops in the War of the Rebellion, (originally published in) by pioneer African American historian George Washington Williams remains a classic text in African American literature and Civil War history.

Forgotten Heroes of the Civil War At the beginning of the war, women in all walks of life saw the need for nurses and simply showed up at military hospitals. Some are merely names on lists in dusty government archives; others we will never know. Dix was also a no-nonsense leader. At first she required nursing applicants to be at least 30 years of age and plain looking. As casualties mounted, Dix was forced to relax her standards, and accepted anyone willing to work. As the war dragged on, other women volunteered. Sanitary Commission all helped care for the sick and wounded. Although it was believed that women have a natural aptitude for nursing, it was considered improper for women to care for strange men in army hospitals. Despite public ridicule, it is estimated that more than 3, women served as paid nurses in both the North and the South. This figure does not account for the thousands who were not compensated. As more and more volunteers came forward, the press applauded them for their patriotism and compassion. Many women in the Confederacy traveled to battle sites to nurse soldiers from their home states. Margaret Elizabeth Clewell of Salem, North Carolina left a rare, unpublished account of her nursing experiences that was found in the Perkins Library at Duke University. This narrative tells of nursing the troops of the 21st North Carolina Regiment at Thoroughfare Gap and at the battlefield at Manassas in August Her memoir, *A Volunteer Nurse*, reads in part: I remember that day, September 19, , when I left Salem with a part of volunteer nurses, to go to Fauquier County, Virginia, where the 21st N. Regiment was in camp. We were given the use of a fine old Virginia home, Blantyre, which we soon made as comfortable as possible, and as many sick soldiers were brought in as the house could hold. We had carried many things with us, knowing we could get nothing in the way of supplies when we reached the camp. One thing I remember was a large box containing a barrel of good whiskey packed in dry fruit. Both whiskey and fruit were of great benefit to us, the former being used only when requested in the way of medicine A young woman from New York named Sophronia Bucklin had similar motives for enlisting. Because of her age, beauty and social standing, she initially met with opposition. In her book, *In Hospital and Camp*, she wrote: The same patriotism which took the young and brave from workshop and plow, from counting-rooms and college halls Because we could not don the uniform of the soldier and follow the beat of the stirring drums, we chose our silent journeys into hospitals and camps, and there waited for the wounded sufferer Louis and was assigned to the Lawson Hospital. A few weeks later, she was placed as head nurse on the hospital steamer *City of Alton* during the Vicksburg campaign in the summer of At Vicksburg, Mississippi the ship was loaded with four hundred invalid soldiers sick with fever, many of them past recovery, and returned as far as Memphis. On this trip, the strength and endurance of Miss Parsons were tried to the utmost in caring for the helpless and suffering men, several of whom died on the passage up the river. During that trip she contracted malaria. For a few weeks after her return to St. Louis and at intervals during the ensuing years, Miss Parsons suffered from an attack of malaria. While recuperating she wrote home: It is a life of hard work, and uncertain work: I have gone wherever I was asked since I came here, and nearly killed myself - though I do not mind that - and now if I get my strength back, I shall keep where I can use it, and not, by getting sick, become of no use or comfort to anybody. We must have our bodies in good order, if we want to do for others. Miss Parsons soon recovered and was back at work at Benton Barracks hospital in St. Louis; this is an excerpt of a letter she wrote on June 5, I am rather busy now; I have to look after refugees, contrabands, soldiers, both black and white, and keep my senses. The comfort of many depends in a great degree upon me. I wish I had a little stronger body, that I was a small Hercules for instance. I wish you could have seen the face of one poor white soldier as I was bathing him the other day. I do get such sweet words and looks sometimes. The world may not think I do much here, but the poor men like to have me round

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Emily Parsons died of a stroke on May 19, Later that year, her father published her correspondence entitled *Memoir of Emily Elizabeth Parsons*, detailing her experiences as a Civil War nurse. During her fifteen months there, she wrote long letters to her sisters and recorded her daily experience in diaries. She was responsible for administering medicines and distributing special diets, as well as non-medical tasks such as entertaining and comforting the patients. In her first letter home Amanda wrote: On June 14, , in a letter to her sisters, she wrote: It seemed to me this evening, as I sat at my table adding to the list of medicines - writing down name, regiment, list of clothing, etc. In another letter, Akin describes how visiting the Smithsonian grounds next door to the hospital helped her escape from the turmoil of the patient ward and the suffering. His homely face with such sad eyes and ungainly figure did not fill my youthful idea of a President of the United States; but it was a grand thing for him to come and cheer our soldier boys with his presence. No doubt the fearful responsibility of his office weighs heavily upon him. From October to May , Eaton worked as a roving regimental nurse in northern Virginia. Eaton found the politics challenging; conflict between Eaton and coworker Isabella Fogg erupted almost immediately. The two rode in ambulances in the wake of battle, cooked meals on outdoor campfires, cared for wounded soldiers in hospital tents and distributed medicine. Though Eaton praised some of the surgeons with whom she worked, she labeled others charlatans whose neglect had deadly implications for the wounded. Harriet Eaton returned home in May due to illness and then returned to the field in October. By this point in the war the Union medical corps had become more efficient at moving wounded and sick men from the battlefield, and there was less need for nurses in the field. Instead these volunteers were limited to transportation hubs like City Point, where soldiers were cared for while waiting to be transferred to hospitals in the North. While the Union medical corps had made substantial improvements in the care of wounded soldiers, the inevitable bureaucracy deprived nurses of the opportunity to provide personal care to the soldiers. Eaton was constantly under the watchful eye of the U. Sanitary Commission personnel, who often assigned her to care for men from other states, not her beloved Mainers. Eaton quickly decided that she much preferred regimental nursing over hospital nursing and her time at City Point was deeply unsatisfying for her. She wrote less than a month after her arrival: I am more than ever dissatisfied with this way of working. I reach the suffering and destitute so indirectly. After leaving City Point, Harriet Eaton spent two months in Alexandria, Virginia nursing soldiers who had been released from Confederate prison camps. Her diary and letters about her experiences during the war were published as *This Birth Place of Souls: African American Nurses* Except for a very few that are very well known, there is a great dearth of information about black nurses. Many of these women were illiterate, and therefore incapable of leaving a record of their experiences. This does not mean, however, that they did not serve. The Confederacy impressed black women as hospital workers but thousands voluntarily entered the Union ranks as spies, nurses and laundresses. In running away or refusing to continue to work for masters and mistresses, enslaved women contributed to the destruction of slavery and the making of freedom. Like white women, they endured sacrifices. The enlistment of black soldiers placed even greater responsibilities on their shoulders. While black soldiers tried to return for their families when possible, increasingly the task of getting a family to Union lines fell to enslaved women. Freedom was not free and enslaved women paid the ultimate price. An untold number were beaten to death by masters and mistresses seeking to crush their bid for freedom. And when the war ended, black women had disproportionately lost husbands, fathers and brothers. The death rate of black soldiers exceeded that of both northern and southern soldiers. Women nurses volunteered their services for a variety of reasons: As male breadwinners went to war, many women needed to support themselves, but they were routinely paid less than male relief workers. Some nurses worked for particular regiments; others became involved through relief organizations like the United States Sanitary Commission. Women who lived near battlefields often showed up to lend a hand. White middle class women were not the only nurses in the Civil War; they only kept better records of their experiences than lower class women and African American women who were mostly trying to survive. However, these poor women were there to do their part by the hundreds, probably thousands. They bound wounds, washed clothing and cooked meals for suffering soldiers, just like their more affluent counterparts,

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but we will never be able to tell their stories; they are lost to history.

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Chapter 7 : From Slaves to Soldiers: African Americans and the Civil War

In late and early , the Union Army developed its official policy to hire blacks as army laborers in the Quartermaster, Subsistence, and Engineering Departments.'3 Some Union Army officers had begun already, though unofficially, to retain slaves as laborers.

In the Regular Army was set at ten regiments of cavalry and 45 regiments of infantry. The Army was authorized to raise two regiments of black cavalry the 9th and 10th Colored Cavalry and four regiments of black infantry the 38th , 39th , 40th , and 41st Colored Infantry , who were mostly drawn from USCT veterans. In the Regular Army was kept at ten regiments of cavalry but cut to 25 regiments of Infantry, reducing the black complement to two regiments the 24th and 25th Colored Infantry. They were nicknamed by Native Americans who compared their hair to the curly fur of bison. Civil War, Medal of Honor recipient. In at Fort Monroe in Virginia, Butler was the first to declare refugee slaves as contraband and refused to return them to slaveholders. This became a policy throughout the Union Army. Their owner, a Confederate colonel, came to Butler under a flag of truce and demanded that they be returned to him under the Fugitive Slave Act of Butler informed him that since Virginia claimed to have left the Union , the Fugitive Slave Law no longer applied, declaring the slaves to be contraband of war. During the advance, Carney was wounded but still went on. When the color-bearer was shot, Carney grabbed the flagstaff and planted it in the parapet, while the rest of his regiment stormed the fortification. When his regiment was forced to retreat, he was wounded two more times while he carried the colors back to Union lines. He did not relinquish it until he handed it to another soldier of the 54th. Carney did not receive his medal until 37 years later. Smith prevented the regimental colors from falling into enemy hands after the color sergeant was killed. Due to a lack of official records, he was not awarded the medal until William Harvey Carney Medal of Honor recipient. The historian Steven Hahn proposes that when slaves organized themselves and worked with the Union Army during the American Civil War , including as some regiments of the USCT, their actions comprised a slave rebellion that dwarfed all others. It is administered by the National Park Service. In July , the Museum celebrated a grand opening of its new facility at Vermont Avenue, just across the street from the Memorial. Four years of related events were planned for the th anniversary of the Civil War and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement, to commemorate African-American contributions under the theme "From the Civil War to Civil Rights. Since the s and the expansion of historical coverage of minorities, the units and their contributions have been the subject of more books and movies. During the war years, the men had difficulty gaining deserved official recognition for achievement and valor. Often recommendations for decorations were filed away and ignored. Another problem was that the government would mail the award certificate and medal to the recipient, who had to pay the postage due whether he were white or black. Most former USCT recipients had to return the medals for lack of funds to redeem them. It showed their training and participation in several battles, including the second assault on Fort Wagner on July 18, Although the 54th was not a USCT regiment, but a state volunteer regiment originally raised from free blacks in Boston, similar to the 1st and 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry, the film portrays the experiences and hardships of African-American troops during the Civil War.

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Chapter 8 : United States Colored Troops - Wikipedia

By war's end, African-American soldiers made up roughly 10 percent of the Union army. Approximately 37,000 black soldiers wore the blue; 37,000 lost their lives. In March 1862, the Confederate congress authorized the army to recruit black troops.

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Negro Troops in the Union Army, By Dudley Taylor Cornish. The establishment of American Negroes as fighting troops in the Civil War was a gradual and difficult task, as this book reveals. Public sentiment, military logic, and even the Lincoln administration forbade such procedure until near the end of the war, when setting up Negro troops seemed advisable and, in some instances, necessary. During the first half of the war there was great conflict over the matter of giving military status to Negro troops. Cornish traces this period in faithful detail, providing an authoritative and highly interesting account of the difficulties involved. While many Northerners sympathized with the enslaved Negroes in the South, there were also many who felt that the Negro no more had a place in the Union Army than he did in contemporary society. Indeed, early in the war "before the advent of the Negro soldier" New York City witnessed race riots and other displays of violence, and the feeling of prejudice was reflected elsewhere. As for the military, most leaders thought that Negro soldiers were not only out of place but also unnecessary. And those leaders who were willing to give the Negro military status and train him for battle usually were thwarted by administrative decisions. President Lincoln, for one, felt that the sensitive border states would secede and join the Confederacy if Negro troops were committed to combat in the Northern armies, and he wanted at all costs to keep those states in the Union. This attitude gradually weakened, but it was not until the middle period of the war that Negroes were allowed to participate in the Civil War as soldiers. Almost immediately General Hunter began making plans for training and arming Negroes. This measure embittered both the Negroes and the administration, but the persistent general made several more attempts to establish the first Negro regiment in the Union army. His methods were crude and eventually he lost his fight with Congress on this issue, but the fact remains that he succeeded in bringing the matter to public attention. Lorenzo Thomas, Owen Lovejoy, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, James Montgomery, and James Beecher were others who helped decrease racial barriers, and each is given due attention in this volume. Cornish unravels the problem, he adopts a conversational tone a refreshing technique in historical literature which carries with it the implication that the author actually knew all these men. Similar techniques have often failed in other works, but Mr. Cornish has eminently succeeded. True, there are a few references to his general attitude

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Chapter 9 : Black Confederate Soldiers | American Civil War Forums

Teaching about African American soldiers with the film Glory Our next objective for students is to learn about the historic efforts of the Massachusetts 54th regiment. It is a film about an all African American Union Army regiment during the Civil War.

When these Tar Reels have been remembered, they have not been remembered well. Yet most North Carolinians are unaware they ever existed. It was in recognition of this fact that *The Forgotten Sons* was written. The author has tried to show something of the organization and participation in the war of the four White and four Negro regiments. An attempt has also been made to present a glimpse of their character and attitudes in general. Most of the information contained in this study came from the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Other primary sources include newspapers contemporary with the Civil War, and books by authors who lived during the period and who wrote of personal experiences which they recalled. Secondary sources used include periodicals, books which present the Civil War as a whole, or as it happened in the state, and a study of a particular military campaign. Personnel for all the White regiments were drawn from among Unionists, some of whom were deserters from the Confederate Army. The area was subjected to periodic raids by smaller Confederate forces and two serious attempts by the Confederacy to rid the coast of Union soldiers. For those who had deserted the rebel army it was a risky occupation. Capture meant probable execution, a penalty which was suffered by a number of Union volunteers. There was no friendly military force located in Western North Carolina to help dissenters from secession. But mid-way in the war the United States Army controlled a goodly portion of East Tennessee, many of whose citizens had always been Unionists. Moving west across the mountain trails into more friendly territory, Western North Carolinians went to fight for their chosen cause. The Third Mounted Infantry was organized in February of and never stopped growing until the end of the war. All of the Colored troops enlisted on the Union-held coast, to which thousands of slaves fled, seeking the sanctuary of freedom. All three Colored infantry regiments served in the Carolinas and Virginia. The Second and Third Infantry, redesignated the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh United States Colored Troops, respectively, found a home in Virginia where they served in prisons as guards and on the battle lines. The men of the Thirty-fifth finished the war near Charleston, South Carolina, and those of the Thirty-sixth in Virginia. The soldiers of the Thirty-seventh, which was removed from the Old Dominion to take part in the expedition to Fort Fisher in January of , completed their service in North Carolina. The Union volunteers contributed to the United States war effort by releasing northern soldiers for duty elsewhere, and by undermining morale among the people of the state. Tar Heel soldiers in blue were average men with average values who, in the degeneration of war, suffered at the hands of others and caused others to suffer at their hands. Preface It is a well known fact that North Carolina contributed more men to the Confederate Army than any one of her sister states. It is not so well known that eight regiments of Union soldiers also bore her name. The material presented in the following pages is designed to enumerate those regiments and tell something of their composition, movements, trials, and successes. It should be stated that this paper does not include all the Tar Heels who served in the Union army. Many left the state before the loyal regiments were conceived, to become soldiers of the states in the North. Neither were all who served in the North Carolina regiments natives of the state, though most were. This fact is attributed to their being organized before the Negro troops or those in the Western part of the state. Also the activities of the two regiments were confined to a smaller area, making their movements easier to follow. The reader will note a discrepancy regarding the terms, "general orders," and "general order. I wish to thank the several persons among my friends and colleagues who have provided leads to sources of information dealing with my chosen subject. Special thanks is extended to Dr. Ina Van Noppen for her guidance in the preparation of this paper and for her tolerance of a most imperfect and tardy student. I am also grateful to my sister, Doris, for the hours she spent patiently typing. Introduction When the guns fired on Fort Sumter on April 12, , precipitating a bloody conflict between

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a newly formed nation determined to live and another nation just as determined not to be dismembered, North Carolina was still a part of the Federal Union. Most North Carolinians disapproved of Abraham Lincoln but they also disapproved of the Southern demagogues upon whose agitation the Confederacy was founded. The people of the state did not want to secede but their economy and their culture were Southern. If it came to war, most citizens felt, North Carolina must go with the cotton states. Suddenly, it was over. Feeling that they had been forced to choose, most North Carolinians must have felt relieved when after an agonizing period of indecision, a stand was finally taken. The convention which finally voted the state out of the Union was a mere formality. Unity was the watchword of the hour as hitherto staunch Unionists sadly turned into secessionists. One such man, John A. Gilmer, of Guilford County pronounced the words which the state leadership believed to be true, when he said, "We are all one now. On the eve of civil war North Carolina was probably more united than it had been, or would be again, for a very long time. Gilmer should not have said "all. This was unfortunate for in the next four years it was learned that these beings could march, charge, and fire guns. In the next four years at least 5, 2 North Carolina Negroes, organized into four regiments, bearing the name of their native state, did all in their power to make the North victorious and gain freedom for their race. In making his all inclusive statement Gilmer also overlooked two other types which would be found in the state. Because the Guilford Unionist and his friends lost their Unionism he presumed that all others of like mind had lost theirs too. This conviction proved to be untrue. Several thousand White North Carolinians wore the Union blue. About half joined regiments of other states becoming lost among the names of those with whom they served. The others, numbering at least 3, 3 were organized into four regiments of North Carolina Union Volunteers. To their fellow citizens they were cowardly traitors and in most North Carolina history books they never existed, or if they did, it was only in small numbers. After one hundred and three years perhaps it is time for North Carolinians to take a new and unprejudiced look at the approximately eight thousand whose eight regimental banners read, "North Carolina. The University of North Carolina Press, , p. War Department, The War of Rebellion: But having gained the island this General, who is best remembered for his mistakes, made a correct decision. He saw the possibilities of a potential landing on the mainland launched from Hatteras. The calm waters of Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds also offered safe passage from "Norfolk to Cape Lookout" for light vessels which could not travel on the open sea. Butler was so sure of the rightness of his thinking that he sailed away from the conquered island on the day of his victory to successfully plead his case in Washington. The command of all he gave to Colonel Rush C. Hawkins of the Ninth New York Volunteers. He suspected that they had little reason to be good loyal Confederates. We the citizens of Cape Hatteras, do ask of your honor that you will allow us to return to our homes and property and protect us in the same as natural citizens as we have never taken up arms against your government, nor has it ever been our wish to do so. We did not help by our votes to get North Carolina out of the Union. Believing that your clemency will not allow you to treat us as rebels, who have always been loyal citizens, we do earnestly request, for the sake of our women and children, that you will comply with our wishes, as we seek protection from your honor. He told them that as the colonel commanding the Federal Forces now in North Carolina, having heard of the erroneous impression which exists among the inhabitants as to the object and purpose of said forces, would state that it is no part of the object of said forces to pillage and plunder. We come not to destroy, but secure peace and uphold the law of the United States. The rights of property and persons will be protected and respected, and any Federal soldiers infringing upon them will be most severely punished. It is no part of our intention to war against women and children; on the contrary, they shall be protected with all the power under our control. Loyal citizens can enjoy their homes and property without fear of molestation. No law will be abrogated or interfered with unless it comes in conflict with some law of the United States or with the Constitution; all others will be obeyed and respected. It is with traitors and rebels in arms who are destroying peace and order and inciting rebellion that the Federal forces are to deal. We come to give you back law, order, the Constitution, and your rights under it, and to restore peace. We call upon traitors and rebels in a to lay them down, and upon good citizens, who respect the law to aid us in our undertaking. To

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Governor Henry T. As the Twentieth Indiana Regiment retreated the people of the town fled with them. North Carolina had been in the Confederacy for about three months when the Union forces landed, and, for the people of Hatteras that was simply long enough. Hawkins believed in their sincerity even if Governor Clark did not. As early as September 11, , he had urged recruiting among the North Carolinians on his narrow strip of sand. He believed they would enlist, if assured they could remain in the state. The order was duly made and sent out the following day in General Orders Number It had to wait for the Burnside expedition in On February 8 of that year Burnside took Roanoke Island 22 and the Union army was then ready to move on to the mainland. From Roanoke, eight days after his victory, Burnside issued a proclamation to the people of the state similar to that of Hawkins six months before. One such expedition to Elizabeth City on February 10 finally disposed of the "Mosquito fleet. Edenton was captured February 12 25 and Winton on the eighteenth, but only after a battle. Carolina City was taken on March 21, Morehead City on the twenty-second, New Port on the twenty-third, and Beaufort on the twenty-fifth. At Washington the invading army, aboard navy gunboats, was met some distance below the town by Mayor Isaiah Respass and other Unionists there to welcome them. Flusser of the Navy urged Hawkins to prod Burnside into taking positive action toward organizing them. Rowan, in the fortunes of the Union people. Potter of New York colonel of the prospective regiment. Philadelphia was anchored just off Plymouth. On board were a group of people from the surrounding countryside there to meet with the commander and Colonel Hawkins. The two officers promised the Unionists arms to use in defending themselves, provided they would organize into formal military units in the United States Army.