

Looking inside the African Americans  
in the Military  
“Yes, we w<sup>+</sup>ere there”

Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy aka “familytreegirl”  
AAHGS Atlanta

# Overview

- There is not one war or conflict on the soil of British American to the United States of America that a person of color has not been involved
- *Steps to find your soldiers!*
  - *Basics of Genealogical Research*
  - What do you know about the Military? –Use the chat box
  - Some Tools to use
- Meet Calvin Clark Davis, WW2

Calvin Clark Davis

1912–1944

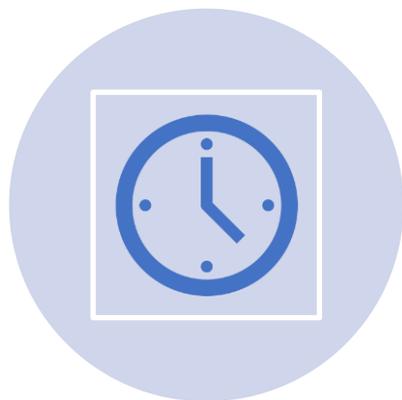
BIRTH 2 SEP 1912 • Joyfield, Benzie, Michigan, USA

DEATH 30 NOVEMBER 1944 • Merseburg-Querfurt, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany

2nd cousin 1x removed



# Genealogical research...is about



**TIME**



**PLACE**



**ASKING QUESTIONS**



Murphy's Rules-  
Follow the:

- Money
- Water
- Land
- Community, and the
- Faith of the people

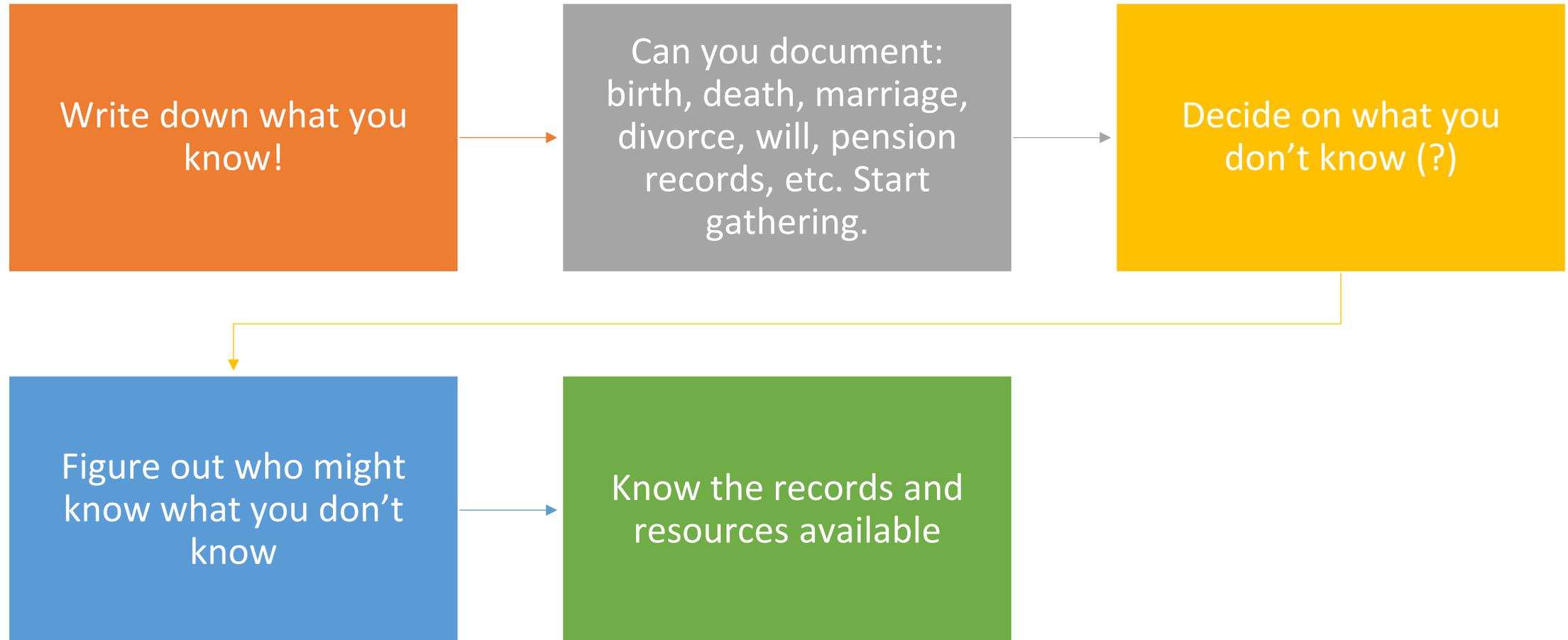
The background features a complex geometric pattern of overlapping shapes in shades of blue and light grey. A prominent vertical orange rectangle is positioned on the left side of the frame. A large white circle is overlaid on the right side, containing the text.

What do you know  
about the Military?

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List what you know in the  
chat box!

# *Step #1 Basics of Genealogical Research*





# Step #2

## Genealogical Tools

What is available?

# Google is your Friend!

Ask google about your ancestor

If you know the location where your ancestor lived or died?

Search for websites about any Wars or conflicts and photos

Do know if someone has already done the research for an ancestry?

# Oral histories, Interviews, etc.

How do you do it?

Use the tools  
available (Tool kits)  
Familysearch.org,  
Ancestry.com, etc.)

Document, document,  
document

Listen, Listen, Listen,  
know when to be  
quiet!

Record if you have  
permission

Know how & and  
what questions to ask  
(think about what you  
are looking for)

## Lineage Societies



A **lineage society** is an organization created to honor a specific heritage or event. Members of **lineage societies** must prove their descent of that heritage or event through industry approved genealogical proof standards.

What's Acceptable documentation?

Birth

Death

Marriage

Will information

Town meeting minutes

Pension records

Affidavits, and more...***JUST PROVE IT!***

# SONS & DAUGHTERS OF THE UNITED STATES MIDDLE PASSAGE

HEREDITARY SOCIETY

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# Society of the First African Families of English America

*Making an impact by enriching our members lives.*

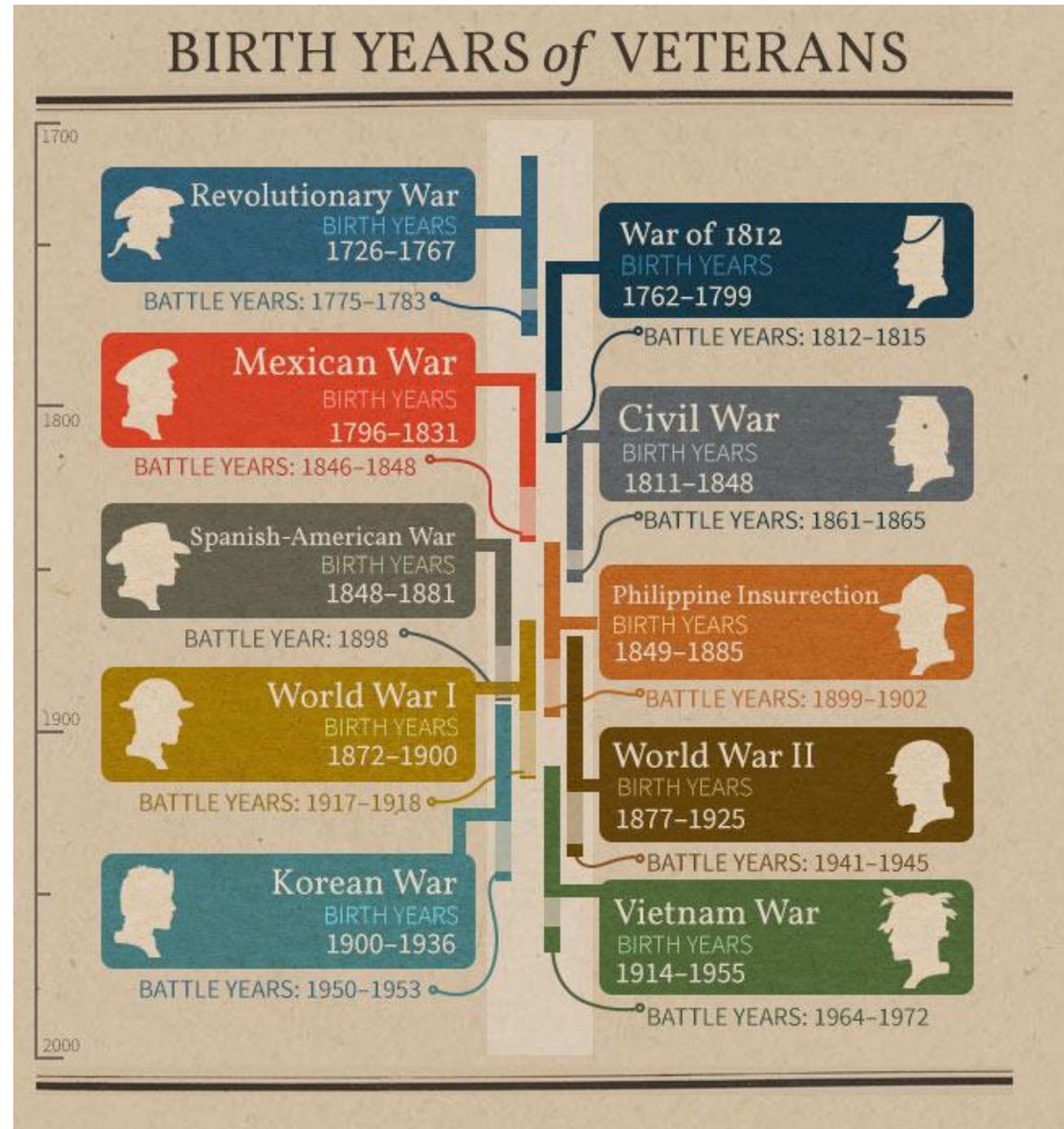


Society of the First African Families of English America -<https://sofafea.org>

*Interpretation of the arrival of the first documented Africans in English America,*

*~Sidney E. King*

# Step #3-Know the births and the Wars



# Each branch of the military has its own role

BY [ROD POWERS](#) | Updated February 24, 2019

Step #4  
Know the  
branches of  
the  
Military-  
modern  
times

## U.S. Military 101 - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines



### Army

The United States Army is the main ground-force of the United States.

Active duty population:  
**471,000**



### Air Force

The primary mission of the Air Force is to defend the United States through exploitation of air and space.

Active duty population:  
**322,000**



### Navy

The Navy's primary mission is to maintain the freedom of the seas.

Active duty population:  
**324,000**



### Marine Corps

Marines specialize in amphibious operations.

Active duty population:  
**184,000**



### Coast Guard

The Coast Guard consists of ships, boats, aircraft and shore stations that conduct a variety of missions.

Active duty population:  
**36,000**

					general
	division (2–3 brigades or regiments)		7,000 to 22,000 troops	☆☆	major general
	brigade or regiment (3 battalions)		2,000 to 8,000 troops	☆	brigadier general
	battalion (2–5 companies)		400 to 1,200 troops		lieutenant colonel
	company (2–4 platoons)		100 to 250 troops		captain
	platoon (3–4 squads)		20 to 50 troops		lieutenant

## military unit

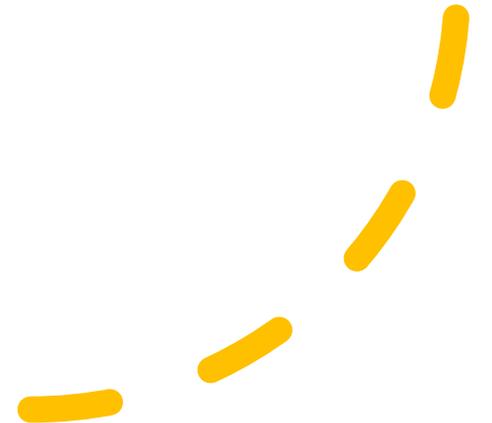
Chart depicting the average size of army operational units and the ranks of their corresponding commanding officers.

## How many African American served?

- Revolutionary War-6,600+, Black Loyalist, abt 20k
- War of 1812-some 5,000 **slaves** took their chances with the freedom-promising British invaders during the **War of 1812**, providing strategic intelligence, access to supplies, general labor, and even military might in the form of organized units of black marines serving under white officers.
- Civil War-By the end of the **Civil War**, roughly 179,000+ black men (10% of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another 19,000 served in the Navy.
- WW1- 350,000 **African Americans served** in segregated units. Several units saw action alongside French soldiers fighting against the Germans, and 171 **African Americans** were awarded the French Legion of Honor.
- WW2- more than 2.5 million **African American** men registered for the draft, and **African American** women volunteered in large numbers. When combined with black women enlisted into Women's Army Corps, more than one million **African Americans served** the Army during the War. Feb 27, 2020
- Vietnam-A total of 300,000 **African-Americans served in Vietnam.** [Military history of African Americans in the Vietnam War ...](#)

Soldiers  
received  
“Pensions” -  
(benefits)

- Divided into series:
  - Revolutionary War
  - Old Wars
  - War of 1812
  - Indian Wars
  - Mexican War
  - Civil War, etc.





# Think about the Pensions

- Know the war are you dealing with?
  - Prior to the Civil War the applications are in alphabetical order.
  - Civil War and later series are filed numerically by the application, certificate, or file number (this makes the number more important than the name of the person)
  - All series of pension applications have alphabetical name indexes and this should be your first step
- 



## Pension Office Ledgers and Payment Cards

M 850 Veterans Administration  
Pension Payment Cards. 1907-  
1933. 2539 rolls DP

M686 Index to General  
Correspondence of the Record and  
Pension Office. 1889-1920. 385 rolls  
DP

**Also: Final Payment Vouchers and  
Settled Accounts**



MORE, MORE

PI 55 Administrative Records of the Bureau of Pensions and the Pension Service. 1953

NM 17 Preliminary Inventory of Pension Case Files of the Bureau of Pensions and the Veterans Administration, 1861-1942

NM 21 Preliminary Inventory of the Financial Records and Pension Control Registers of the Bureau of Pensions and the Veterans Administration, 1805-1933. 1964

NM-23 Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Veterans Administration Pertaining to the Issuance of Artificial Limbs, Trusses, and Other Prosthetic Appliances, 1862-1935. 1964



MORE, MORE,  
MORE

NM 27 Preliminary Inventory of the Legal Records of the Bureau of Pensions and the Veterans Administration, 1862-1933. 1964

NM 29 Preliminary Inventory of Record of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and National Homes Service of the Veterans Administration, 1866-1937. 1964

PC 47-19 (647-1) Preliminary Checklist of Pension Case Files of the Bureau of Pensions and the Veterans' Administration, 1861-1942

I 14 Inventory of the Records of the Accounting Officer of the Department of the Treasury (Revised), comp. and indexed by Craig R. Scott (1997) (RG 217)



# Confederate Pensions

Eligible to apply for a pension in the State in which he lived after the war

Oklahoma, Kentucky and northern states did not provide pensions to Confederate veterans.

FamilySearch and Fold3 have records

Confederate pensions are on [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

# Step #5 Questions to ask...

Which branch of service did your veteran serve?

What files are available to you?

Did your veteran earn any metals?

Did your veteran die in battle?

Is your veteran buried on the mainland or overseas

What's on the headstone?

What was the veterans job duties (MP, Cook, Gunner, Pilot, etc.)

Did the family receive any benefits (pension, etc)

Museums & Memorials (VFW, Awards, etc)

Was the veteran wounded?

Did a sibling also serve in the military?

Are they buried in a military cemetery?

# Something else to think about



Are you searching before the civil war-was your veteran enslave or free, did they pass for white - is there any oral history?

Archives has Revolutionary records-don't forget to search for biographies, etc.

Archives has US Colored Troops records for Civil War

After Civil War: check Southern Claims, Freedman's Savings and Trust records, and Freeman's Bureau

# More things to think about?

- How does one know if their ancestor lived during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century in Virginia?
  - Who is your oldest ancestor born before 1800? Were they born in Virginia?
  - Is there a lead /oral history on their parents or grandparents?
  - What do you need to know about the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Century: Laws, Headrights, Land patents, birth, death, marriage, etc.
  - Where are the records located for 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century?
  - Virginia Legislation 1662-1848
  - Bacon's Rebellions activities going on in the Colony of Virginia during this time

## Step #6 Records & Resources

House Repository/  
Cemeteries

NARA

Fold3

Online sites

Local Libraries  
and Historical  
Societies

Newspapers



# Civil War Resources

[Read the Wiki on Family Search: Civil War](#)

Places you can research a Civil War soldier:

- House repository
- Civil War Soldiers & Sailors
- 1890 Veterans Census
- A pension
- G.A.R. or U.C.V. records
- Old soldiers home records
- A cemetery

## Where are the Pensions?

- Union pensions on Ancestry and Fold3
- Order Military Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications (NATF Form 85 from NARA)
- Grand Army of the Republic (**GAR**) & United Confederate Veterans (**UCV**) **veteran society records** –check each state for GAR
- **Old soldiers home records** on familysearch on the wiki
- Cemetery records-Findagrave, Union Cemetery records on Family search, American Cemeteries



# Typical List of more Military Records



- Registrations
  - Pensions
  - Wounded and Deserters
  - Army of Enlistments-1798-1914
  - Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
  - USCTs
  - Final Payment Vouchers index for Military Pensions 1818-1864-ancestry.com
  - WW1 Draft Registration Cards 1917-1918 (Ancestry.com)The individual's name, place of residence, date and place of birth, race, country of citizenship, occupation, and employer.
  - Transportation Records
  - Deceased files
-

# Revolutionary War "Patriots of Color"-6k+



AFRICAN AMERICAN  
AND  
AMERICAN INDIAN PATRIOTS  
IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

SUPPLEMENT 2008-2011

NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



GOEN/GOING/GOWEN, FREDERICK, African American ("free man of color"), R4167, HEI-2, Brunswick Co.  
GOENS/GOWEN, DAVID, Mixed descent ("Mulatto"), Private, S3406, BGMMS:97-98, HEI-2, Halifax Co.  
GOFF, ABRAHAM, African American, S39596, VNSS:35, HEI-2, Cumberland Co.  
GOFF, DANIEL, African American, S15586, Chesterfield Co., moved to Kentucky, HEI-2  
GOFF, MOSES, African American, VNSS, HRVR, CWW, Cumberland Co.  
GOFF, SAMUEL, African American (brother of Abraham Goff), HEI-2, Cumberland Co.  
GOFF, ZACHARIAH, African American, W2730, VNSS:35, HEI-2, Bedford Co.  
GOIN/GOWIN, JOHN, \*\*, HRVR, no residence given  
GOING, DRURY, \*\*, HEI-2, Greensville Co.  
GOING/GOWIN, JOSHUA, ("yellow"), drafted, RAR, HRVR, VASAR, HEI-2, Louisa Co.  
GOING/GOWING, RAVERLY, African American, CCC6, VNSS:35, Charles City Co.  
GOING, ROB, \*\*, HRVR, no residence given  
GOING/GOWAN/GOIN/GOWEN/GOWIN/GOWING, SHERARD/SHERWOOD/SHARAD/SHERIED/**SHEROD**,  
African American ("yellow"), W7545 [married Susannah Simmons on June 5, 1791 in Albemarle Co.],  
GREE, VNSS:35, CWW, RAR, HRVR, FPPV [died November 23, 1837], 1810VA, enl. Louisa Co., res.  
Albemarle Co. [Note: DAR established patriot.], HEI-2  
GOING/GOWIN/GOWING, WILLIAM, African American, Soldier, VNSS, HRVR, VASAR, Halifax  
GOOCH, PRIMY, \*\*, HRVR, VASAR, no residence given  
GOWEN, JACOB, African American, S32273, HEI-2, enl. Lunenburg Co., res. Shelby Co., Indiana in 1834  
GOWENS, CHARLES, African American, S31072, BLWT 26106-160-55, HEI-2, Henry Co.  
GOWENS, ZEPHYRAH, African American, R4165, HEI-2, Brunswick Co.

# Black Patriots: Looking inside...Virginia

GOEN/GOING/GOWEN, FREDERICK, African American ("free man of color"), R4167, HEI-2, Brunswick Co.

GOENS/GOWEN, DAVID, Mixed descent ("Mulatto"), Private, S3406, BGMMS:97-98, HEI-2, Halifax Co.

GOFF, ABRAHAM, African American, S39596, VNSS:35, HEI-2, Cumberland Co.

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GOFF, ZACHARIAH, African American, W2730, VNSS:35, HEI-2, Bedford Co.

GOIN/GOWIN, JOHN, \*\*, HRVR, no residence given

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GOING/GOWIN, JOSHUA, ("yellow"), drafted, RAR, HRVR, VASAR, HEI-2, Louisa Co.

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GOWENS, ZEPHANIAH, African American, S31072, BLWT 26106-160-55, HEI-2, Henry Co.

# What about the Women- Revolutionary War

- 1/3 of the runaways were women during the Rev War
- More than half fled in groups rather than alone
- Roughly 25% fled in family groups consisting of husbands, wives, and young children

Karen Cook Bell

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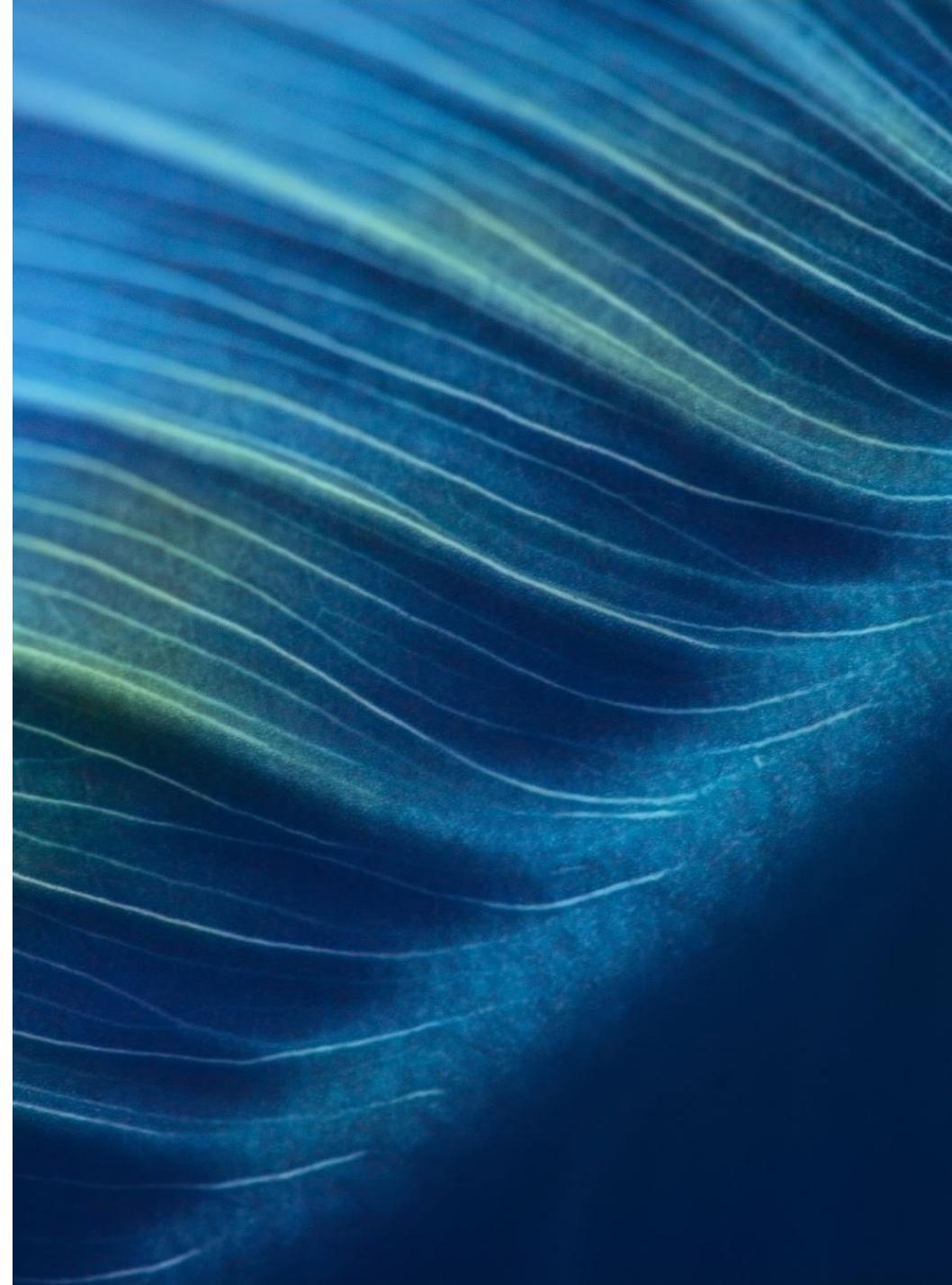
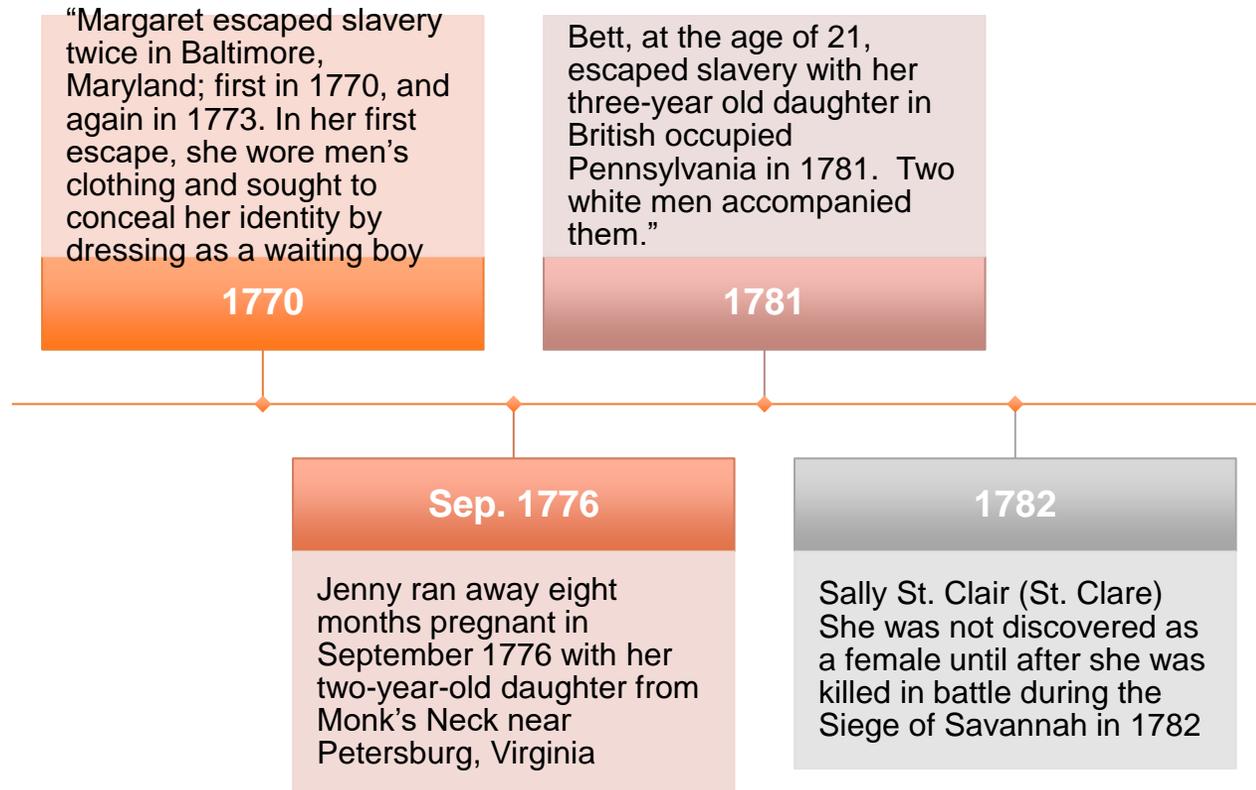
# RUNNING FROM BONDAGE

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ENSLAVED WOMEN  
AND THEIR REMARKABLE  
FIGHT FOR FREEDOM IN  
REVOLUTIONARY  
AMERICA

# A few facts to know...(from Karen Cook Bell's book)



Explore Your Family History

Find Records

Learn From Experts

Order a Certificate



### Search the Database

First Name

Last Name

State of Service 

[Advanced Options](#)



[Patriots of Color Home](#) > [Search Results](#) > Detailed Listing

## Details About "Rawley Pinn"

### Rawley Pinn

[Print these details](#)

**Verification Status:** Verified

**Complexion Description:** Mulatto

**Alternate names:** Penn

**State of Service:** VA

**Service Type:** Militia

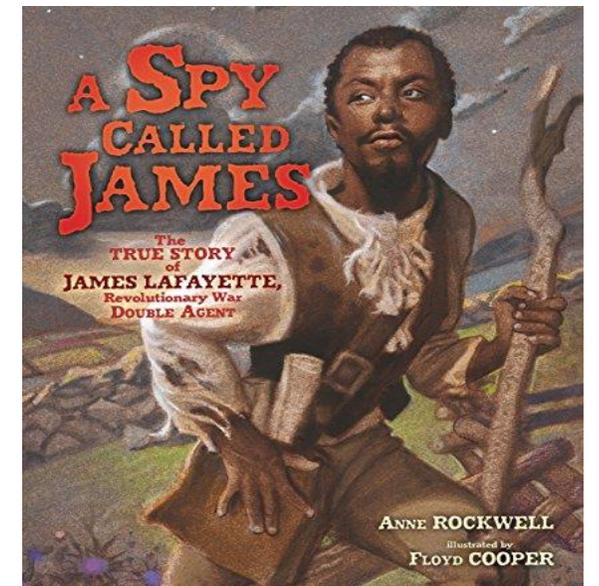
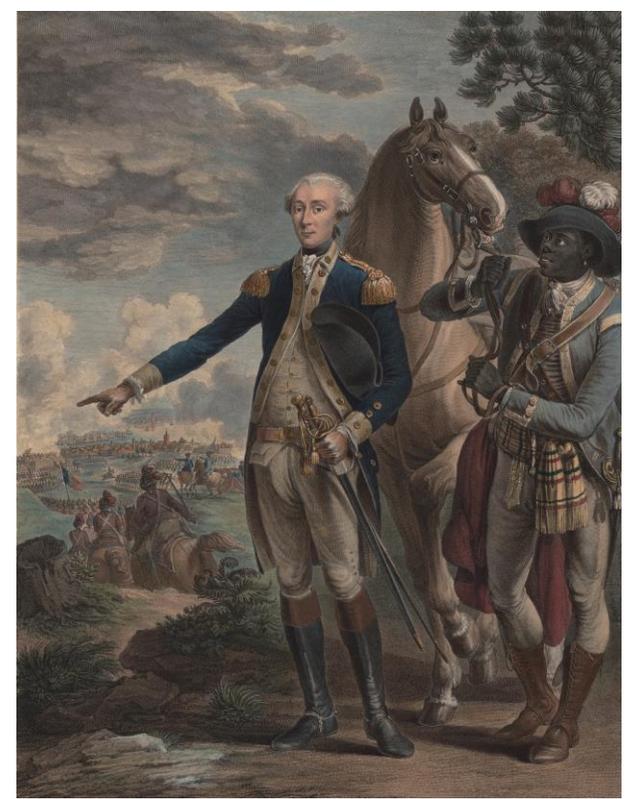
**Federal Pension Number:**

**Pension Application State:**

**State Pension Number:**

# “Double Agent”

- James Armistead enslaved Black man, served as a spy for Marquis de Lafayette during the American Revolution.
- He gave false information to the British in exchange for info on what the British were planning.
- They say he’s one of the reasons why we won Yorktown.
- Later as a free man, James Armistead changed his name to James Lafayette in honor of his friendship and loyalty to the Marquis de Lafayette.
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Armistead\\_Lafayette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Armistead_Lafayette)  
(Photo permission by Iberfoto/SuperStock)



# Crossing the Delaware

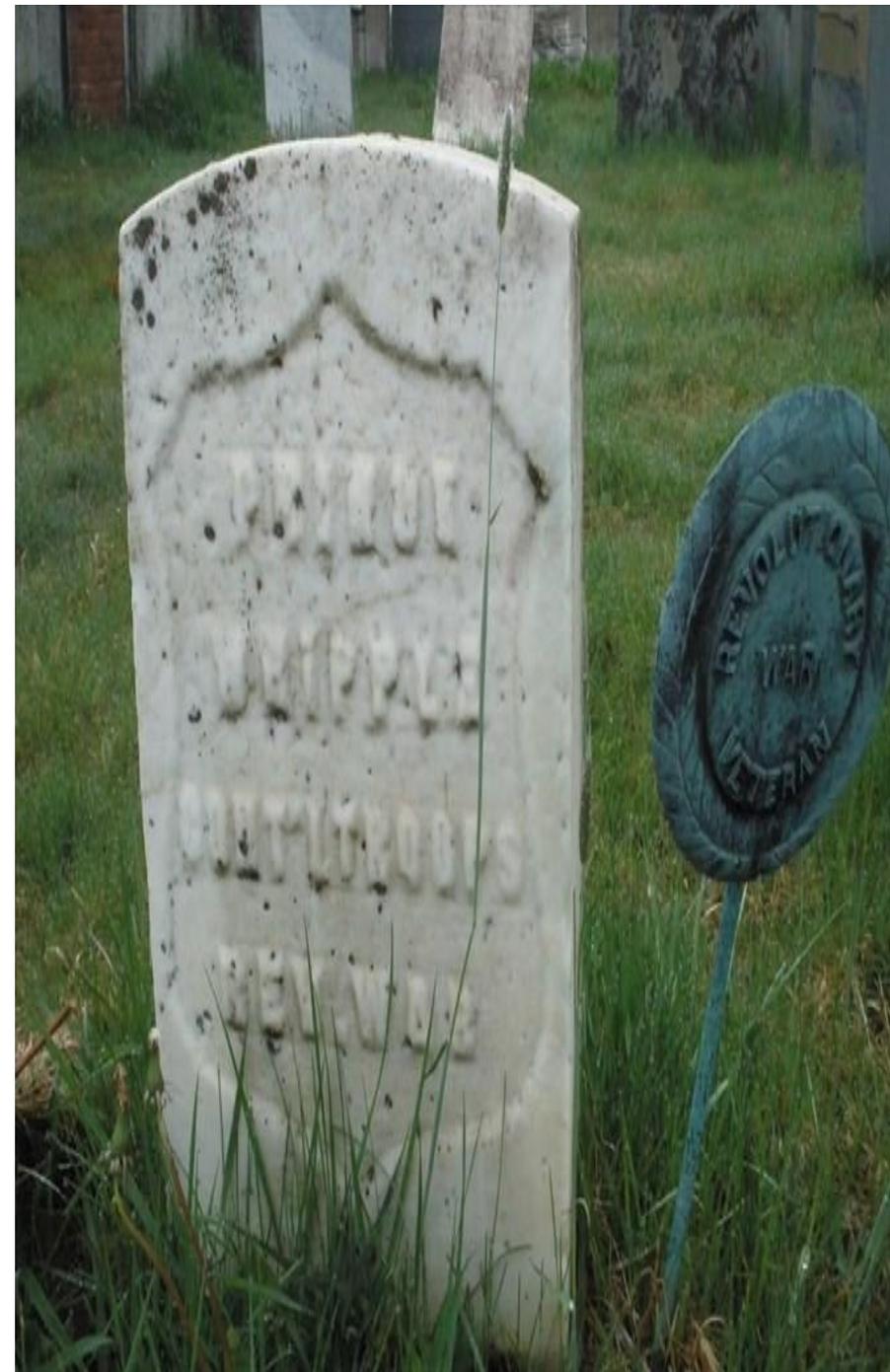
Who's in the boat with General George Washington?



Left side of the bow, feather in hat. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/det.4a26226/>

# Meet Prince Whipple

- Enslaved by General William Whipple, Portsmouth, NH (b. 1750-Africa (?), d. 1796, buried in North Cemetery in Portsmouth, NH)
- The General promised him his freedom if he served.
- Served at the Battle of Saratoga listed on General Whipple's Staff Roll as, "Negro servant of General Whipple."
- He petitioned the state legislature for freedom in 1779
- Became free in 1784
- Wife: Dinah Chase, she was free, a school teacher, they had several children



# Photos at the Archives: T. R. Clarke, 8 US VI Spanish American War



**Title:** T.R. Clarke, 8 US VI

**Date Created/Published:** 1898 Nov. 16.

**Medium:** 1 photographic print : albumen ; 20 x 23.5 cm.

**Summary:** Photograph shows Lt. T.R. Clarke, United States Volunteer Infantry, full-length portrait, wearing hat and uniform, standing in front of tent, facing right, during the Spanish-American War.

**Website:**

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/ppmsca.11428/>

# Introduction: Record Group 105

- The **Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands** (also referred to as the Freedmen's Bureau)
- It is a "Federal Record"- its under the *military*
- Created March 3,1865 at the end of the Civil War to supervise the "relief efforts including education, health care, food and clothing, refugee camps, legalizing of marriages, employment, and labor contracts"
- Also, assisted the Black soldiers, Sailors, and their heirs collect bounty claims, pensions and back pay that was due/promised
- **The collection covers the years 1865 to 1872. Pre-Bureau Records-1863 Mississippi, Louisiana & Ft. Monroe, VA**
- Various records; Destitute, Transportation and much more

# St. Landry, Louisiana Ration Record

Report of Indigent and Helpless Freedmen in the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, applying for relief from the first day of January 1867, to the Twenty-first day of January 1867 -

Name	Age	Sex	Name of former owner	Name of Police jury reported to	Date when reported	Date of Report	Substance of Reply
Sarah Hoaw		Female	Bray. S. Hoaw	John C. Barry		Oct. 20, 1866	Ordered to be sent to Hosp. New Orleans.
James & Elizabeth		Male	Mr. Wm. Moore	John C. Barry	Oct. 12, 1866		Ordered to be sent to Hosp. New Orleans.
John Freedhomme	100	Male		Edbut Gault	Nov. 30, 1866		Ordered to be sent to Hosp. New Orleans.
John Nelson (blind)	48	Male	Mrs. Comarck	Edbut Gault	Nov. 18, 1866		Ordered to be sent to Hosp. New Orleans.
John Theriot	101	Female	Emilien Malouin				Ordered to be sent to Hosp. New Orleans.
Mrs. Malouin	84	Male	Do. Anne Malouin				The Police jury have passed a general resolution expressing the inability of the Parish to furnish shelter and subsistence to indigent and helpless persons; & since the passage of said resolution, Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> 1866, no further reports of indigent and helpless freedmen have been made to the Police jury.
James	80	Male	Joseph Belque				



J. A. H. Capt. McC  
gent

List name, age and former owner, location and remarks.

Note the 80 to 100 year old individuals

# Who's who in the Bureau?



Freedpeople working at the James Hopkinson plantation at Edisto Island, South Carolina. (NARA 64-CN-8971)

Let's be clear-the Bureau is "Federal Records"

**The WAR is over!**

- Refugees: Poor White
- Freedmen: Formerly Enslaved
- Abandoned Lands: returning land to former landowners, etc.

# Civil War-Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands. "The Bureau" 1865-1872

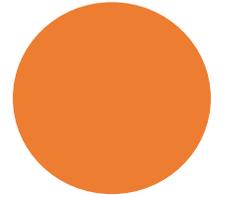
28		29																		
B		MALE -																		
Date	Name of Male	Place of Residence	Name of Female	Place of Residence	Age	Color	No. of Children	Separated by	No. of Children	Age	Color	No. of Children	Separated by	No. of Children	Name of Officiating Minister					
1864					Years		Year		Year	Years		Year		Year						
Dec. 26	Prarrison Roney	Davis Bend	Mella Stokes	Davis Bend	44	Griff	Griff	Griff	3	Scott	3	34	Griff	Griff	Griff	13	Scott	1	H. C. Scofield	
Dec. 11	James Binnings	"	Maria Johnson	"	55	Black	Black	Black	0	Scott	-	45	"	"	"	20	Scott	4	Levin Woods	
Aug. 28	Jo. Black	Co. 267 <sup>th</sup> U. S. C.	Kelley Lawrence	"	25	"	"	"	6	Scott	5	21	1/4 Blk	1/2 Blk	1/2 Blk	6	Scott	5	H. C. Scofield	
Aug. 28	Abster Brown	Davis Bend	Eliza Brown	"	80	"	"	"	1	Force	2	52	3/4 Black	Mulat	Griff	2	Force	2	A. W. Hunt	
Aug. 28	Lewis Reed	"	Eliza Reed	"	55	"	"	"	5	Force	-	40	Black	Black	Black	3	Scott	-	J. A. Hawley	
1865																				
Jan. 12	Morris Brooks	"	Adeline Moore	"	51	"	"	"	-	-	-	25	Griff	Griff	Griff	-	-	-	3	H. C. Scofield
Jan. 12	Abster Brown	"	Eliza Splan	"	46	"	"	"	1	"	3	80	Mulat	White	Griff	3	Force	3	L. N. P. Allen	
Jan. 19	Elisha Gray	"	Sivella Tucker	"	46	"	"	"	-	-	-	29	Griff	Griff	Griff	-	-	-	6	H. C. Scofield
Jan. 12	Esraim Bowie	"	Louisa Sparks	"	54	Griff	Griff	Griff	15	"	9	45	"	"	"	16	"	5	W. D. Matthews	
Jan. 22	James Bonnett	"	Lucinda Simpson	"	68	Black	Black	Black	1	"	1	58	Black	Black	Black	1	Scott	1	H. C. Scofield	
Jan. 21	Abraham Blentzen	"	Maria Colman	"	55	"	"	"	6	Scott	1	40	Griff	Griff	Griff	15	"	-	6	Levin Woods
Jan. 23	Henry Baker	"	Francis Emerson	"	22	"	"	"	-	-	-	19	Black	Black	Black	-	-	-	-	H. C. Scofield
Jan. 24	T. Blackson	"	Martina Williams	"	"	"	"	"	6	Scott	2	24	"	"	"	2	Scott	1	Levin Woods	
March 14	Davis Binkley	"	Emaline Johnson	"	57	"	"	"	7	"	-	27	"	"	"	12	"	-	1	L. N. P. Allen
March	Widling Brown	"	Pennilee Hawley	"	44	"	"	"	23	"	7	24	Mulat	Mulat	Mulat	-	-	-	5	H. C. Scofield
March 2	James Brown	"	Mary Ann Brooks	"	29	Griff	Griff	Griff	-	-	-	25	Black	Black	Black	4	Force	1	1	H. C. Scofield

Buffalo Soldiers-Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion/buffalo-soldiers>

- Mainly served on the western frontier after the Civil War.
- In 1866, six all-Black cavalry and infantry regiments were created after Congress passed the “Army Organization Act”.
- Their main tasks were to help control the Native Americans of the Plains, capture cattle rustlers and thieves and protect settlers, stagecoaches, wagon trains and railroad crews along the Western front.
- Regiments formed in 1866, including the 24th and 25th Infantry (which were consolidated from four regiments) became known as **Buffalo Soldiers**.
- Buffalo Soldiers Protect National Parks
- In the late 1890s, with the “Indian problem” mostly settled, the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry headed to [Florida](#) at the start of the [Spanish-American War](#).
- Buffalo soldiers had the lowest military desertion and court-martial rates of their time. Many won the [Congressional Medal of Honor](#), an award presented in recognition of combat valor that goes above and beyond the call of duty.

# Names you might know or need to know

- Benjamin O. Davis Sr. **first black general** in the U.S. Army. born July 1, 1877, Washington, D.C., U.S.—died November 26, 1970, North Chicago, Illinois) buried in Arlington. Father to JR
- Served 50 yrs. - <https://history.army.mil/html/topics/afam/davis.html>
- **General Roscoe Robinson** (October 11, 1928 – July 22, 1993 ) was the **First African American four-star general** in the U.S. Army.
- Military Academy Class of 1951- Robinson's Vietnam service included a battalion command with the 7th Cavalry Regiment



# NH 105071 USS Sierra

WWI



Photo #: NH 105071 USS Sierra

**Title:** USS Sierra

**Description:** (ID # 1634) Homeward bound troops wave to onlookers as the ship prepares to depart St. Nazaire, France on 13 July 1919. The original photograph is printed on post card (AZO) stock. Donation of Charles R. Haberlein Jr., 2007. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph.

**Catalog #:** NH 105071

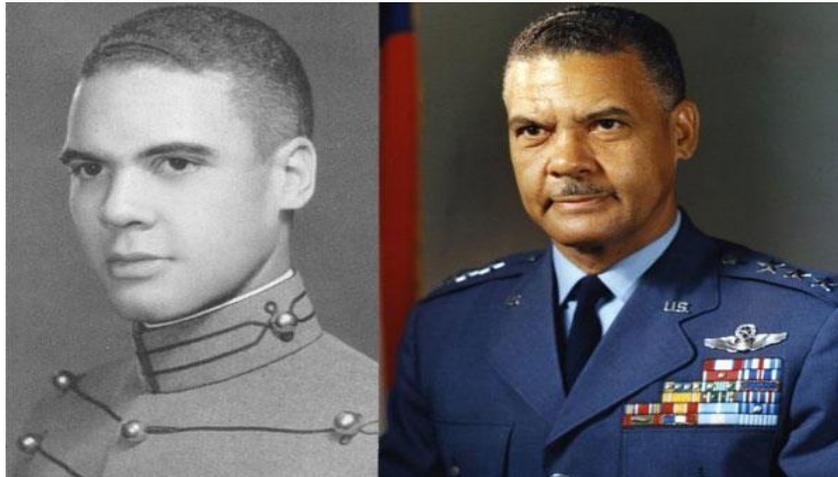
# WW2-names you might of heard of:

- Benjamin O. Davis Jr.
- Tuskegee Airmen
- Montford Point Marines



Look for websites of the organizations such as the 5<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force... example:

- <http://www.8thairforce.com/>
- <http://www.mightyeighth.org/word/index.php>



# Army Enlistment Records 1938-1946 (Ancestry.com)

- Information you might get: name of enlistee, serial number, the county and state where the enlistee resided, place and date of enlistment, if previous service their grade, which branch of services, the term of enlistment, birthplace, birth, race, citizenship, height and weight, education, and marital status.

# Prisoners of War-1941-1946 (Ancestry.com)

- Information in this database was created by the "International Committee of the Red Cross".
- Generally, the type of information you will find in this database for an individual include: the name of prisoner or internee, race, state of residence, service branch, and detaining country.

# Contacts for information

It is best to visit the websites  
to obtain the forms, fax  
numbers and mailing  
addresses:

National Personnel Records  
Center

- Military Personnel Records
- 9700 Page Avenue
- St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

telephone: 314-801-0800

# Medical Records

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA),  
Records Management Center , St. Louis,  
MO

They maintain military active duty health  
records.

Remember: there are forms (Standard  
Form 180) you MUST fill out, visit the  
websites...for detail information, you MUST  
follow their instructions.

50

# Personal Records prior to WWII

Visit the National Archives website:

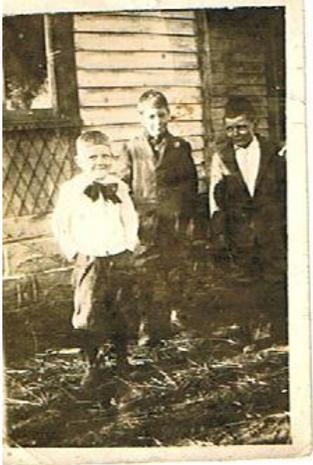
[www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans)

Address:

Textual Archives Services Division

Washington, DC 20408

If after WWII-search the St. Louis MO, site



Welcome:  
Calvin Clark Davis  
b. 2 September  
1912, Benzie  
County, Michigan

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# Getting to know Calvin-What I know!



Born to Horace Burr (mulatto) and Harriet (Lee) (white) Davis,

Grandparents: Joseph B. (mulatto) and Mary Bell (Imes) (mulatto)

Great grandparents: William (mulatto) and Mildred A. (Brand) (mulatto) Davis-Franklin County PA

Great-Great grandparents: Mr. Davis (Scotch/Irish & African enslaved woman)-PA

Calvin's siblings: Bessie, Frances, Harlan, Thurman, Leo, Floyd, Al, Ernie (Calvin is the youngest)

Bear Lake High School, class of 1932

Singer in Glee Club, Yodeller, ran Track

Was known for having a lot of girl friends\*

# Service & Awards

Entered the military in May 1941

Distinguished Flying Cross, Two Oak Leaf Clusters

Purple Heart received for Military Merit and for Wound's rec'd that resulted in his death

Was recommended for a Silver Star

# Service

## #16014331

### Served:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force-Pacific-New Guinea (90<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 400<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, the Black Pirates, Japanese held territory) Completed over 50 combat mission
- 8th Air Force-Europe, Germany, 390<sup>th</sup> BG, 570 Squadron, completed 16 missions

55

# Records



- Search Attack & Staging (approval for aerial flights), Mission records
- Individual Flight records: assignment location/base, hours, dates, type of plane
- (B-17G and B24s and planes serial number)

WW2 30  
November  
1944  
Meresburg  
Germany-  
Bombing-  
Records

Flight crew-  
websites

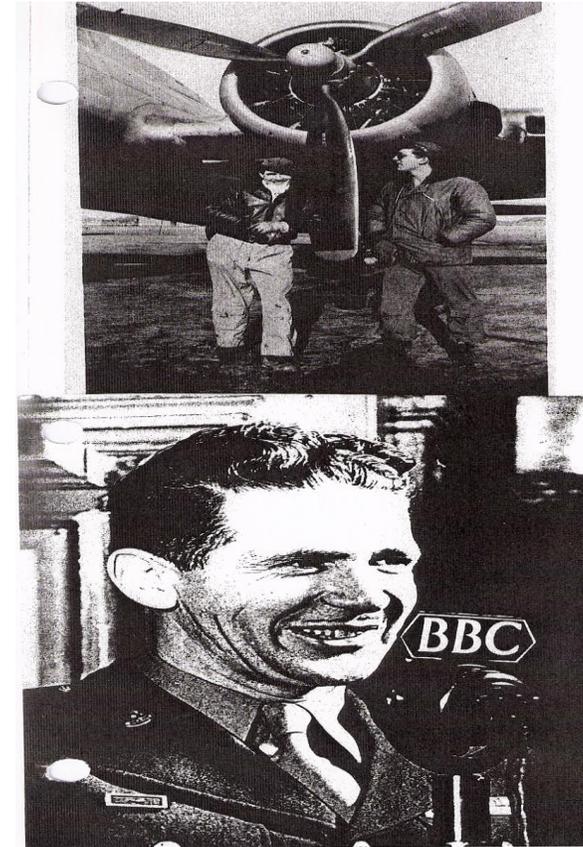
Crash report-  
websites

Deceased file  
records

Who survived: Bill  
Pace, Raymond  
Labinski and Curtis  
Green

Telephone call to  
Everett A. Fitchlee  
22 July 2001

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# Calvin C. Davis and Bill Pace

# Records

Registration

Deceased file

Mission & Leave  
reports

Flights

Awards and  
presentations

Photos, newspaper  
articles

Websites



# The Plane Crash-Asterisk

As described in records and Bill  
Pace, Florida, personal interview

60

# Faces beyond the Graves

[Home](#)   [Faces](#)   [Units](#)   [Cemeteries](#)   [Links](#)   [Contact](#)   [WWII collection](#)

- Calvin's grave site along with 10 other American veterans has been adopted by a gentleman named Martijen living in Holland, his parents live near the cemetery and when he visits, he puts out fresh flowers etc,.
- <http://www.facesbeyondthegraves.com>

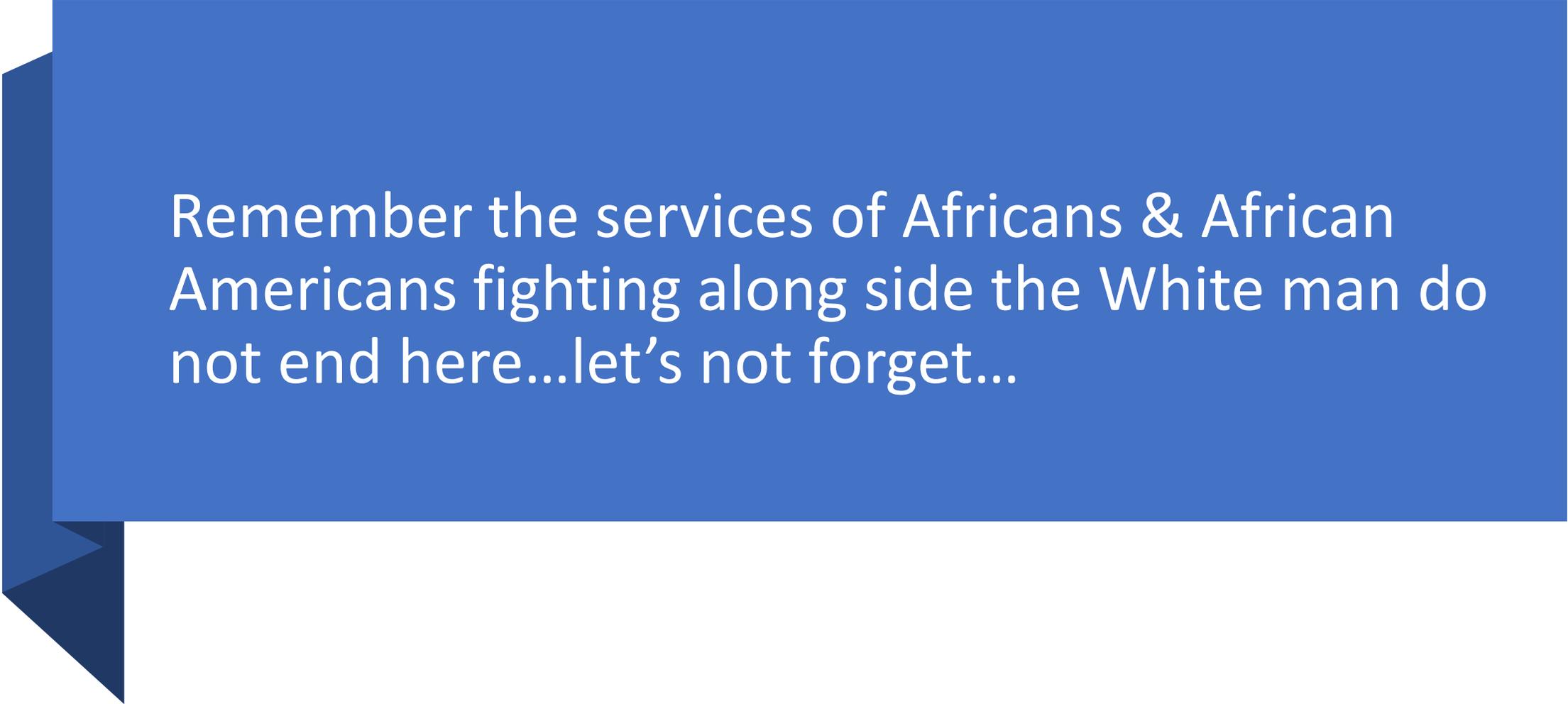


Burial: **(Plot D, Row 10 Grave 29)**  
American Cemetery, Belgium 61

# Sharing the story

- Bear Lake Museum tribute
- Pete Hoekstra & John
- Conyers, Michigan
- Newspaper coverage-AP



A blue speech bubble graphic with a white text message. The bubble has a dark blue shadow on the left side, giving it a 3D effect. The text is centered within the bubble.

Remember the services of Africans & African Americans fighting along side the White man do not end here...let's not forget...

# Questions...

Thank you and good luck on your journey diggin' for your military roots

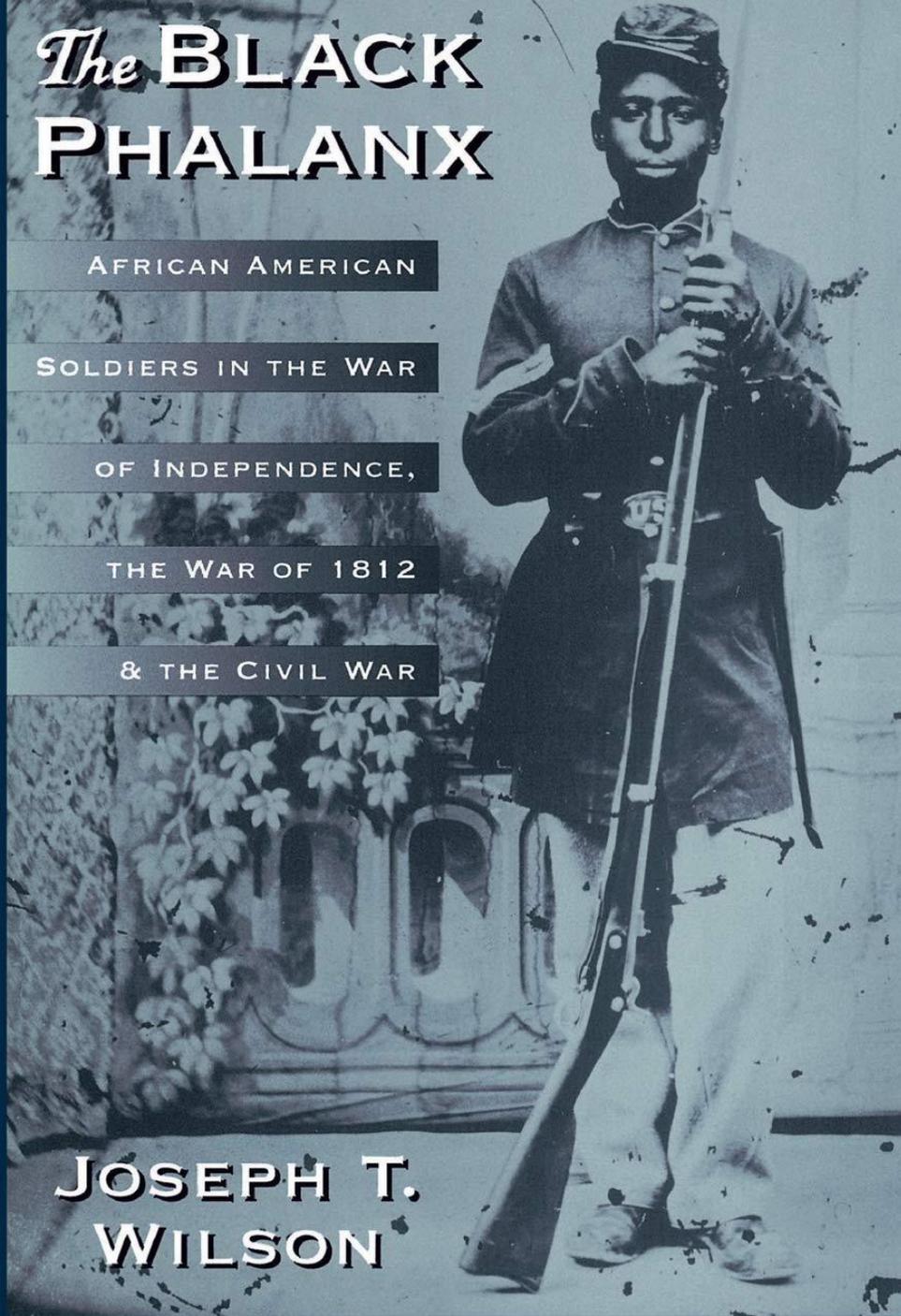
**ASSIGNMENTS for AAHGS ATL Chapter**

# AAHGS ATL Chapter Assignments

## #1 Revolutionary War

- Locate info on two African Americans who served?
- What's his or her story?
- Did he/she receive a pension?
- What Records and Resources used?
- Share your findings-anything significant?





## Assignment #2 War of 1812

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- Locate info on two African Americans who served?
- What's his or her story?
- Did he/she receive a pension?
- What Records and Resources used?
- Share your findings-anything significant?



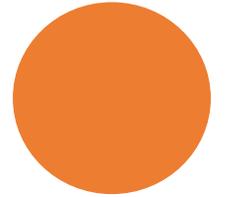
# Assignment #3

## Civil War-USCT

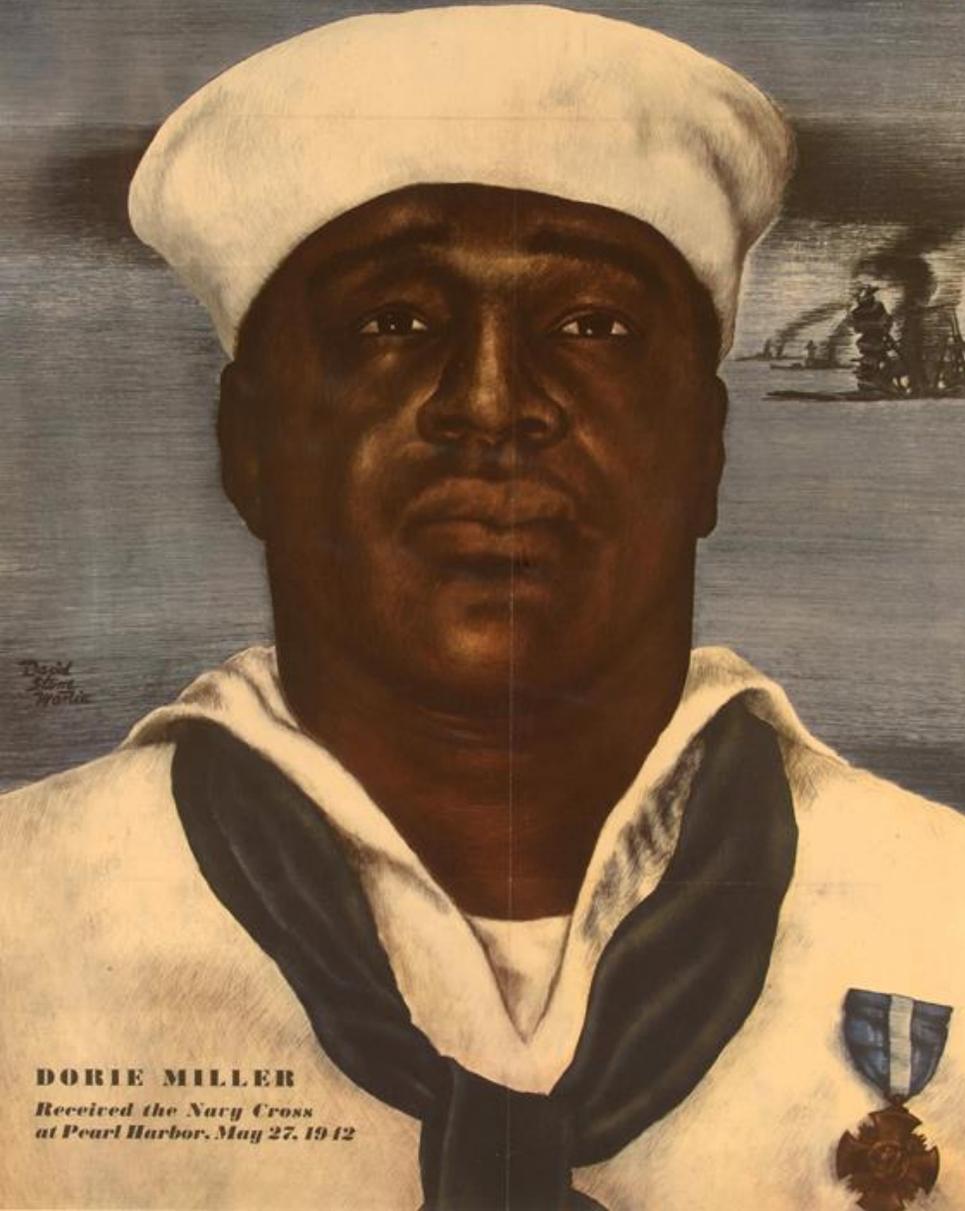
- Locate info on two African Americans who served?
- What's his or her story?
- Did he/she receive a pension?
- What Records and Resources used?
- Share your findings-anything significant?
- USCT's, do you have a USCT in your family? What's their name and where did they serve? Unit?

# Assignment #4 WW1

- Locate info on an African Americans who served?
- What's his or her story?
- Did he/she receive a pension?
- What Records and Resources used?
- Share your findings-anything significant?



“above and beyond the call of duty”



## Assignment #5 WW2

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- Locate info on an African Americans who served?
- What's his or her story?
- Did he/she receive a pension?
- What Records and Resources used?
- Share your findings-anything significant?

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart8.html>