



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

Black History Month, February, 2013

Topics

- Roles of African Americans during the Civil War
- 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, June 2014
- Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club

Situation 1861

Lincoln was walking tight-rope to keep border states in the Union

Strength of Regular U.S. Army was 16,402

U.S. Fugitive Slave Law was ineffect

| REGION | TOTAL POPULATION | TOTAL SLAVE-HOLDERS | TOTAL FREE PERSONS OF COLOR | TOTAL SLAVES | % Slaves |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Total CSA | 9,103,332 | 316,632 | 132,760 | 3,521,110 | 38.68% |
| Total Border States | 3,136,961 | 77,335 | 118,027 | 429,401 | 13.69% |
| Total Union | 19,203,028 | 0 | 237,183 | 0 | |
| Total USA | 31,443,321 | 393,967 | 487,970 | 3,953,761 | 12.57% |
| Source: US 1860 Census | | | | | |

African American Roles in the CSA

- Primarily used as laborers
- Armed forces:
 - Dug trenches
 - Constructed fortifications
 - Maintained railroads
 - Mined minerals
 - Manufactured war equipment



African American Roles in the CSA

- Primarily used as laborers
- General economy
 - Foodstuff production for the Army and general population
 - Cotton production to trade for war materials
 - Domestic service



African American Roles in the Union

◉ Changed over time

- Initially an unexploited resource
- Contraband of War—500,000 to 700,000
- Emancipation Proclamation, 1 January 1863
- Recruitment into the Armed Forces—USCT

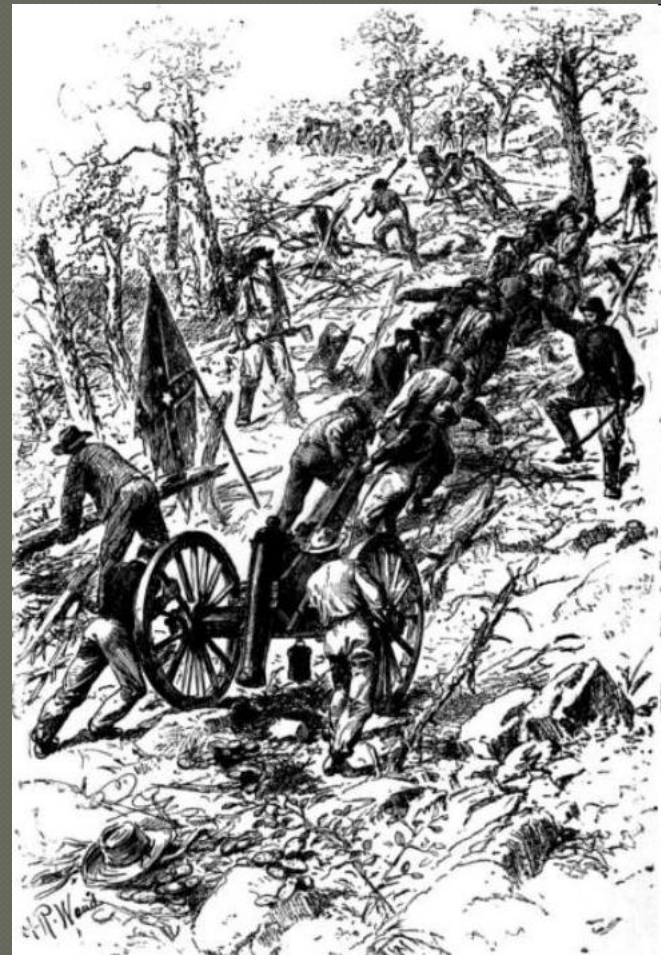
African American Roles in the Union

- Contraband of War May 1861
 - “In one bold swoop. Butler had not only hired bondsmen to work for the Union army, he had also established a policy that, in effect, freed slaves.”
(JOSEPH GLATTHAAR)
- 1st Confiscation Act, codified Butler’s policy. Aug 1861
- 2nd Confiscation Act, July 1862, freedom to all slaves who entered Union lines



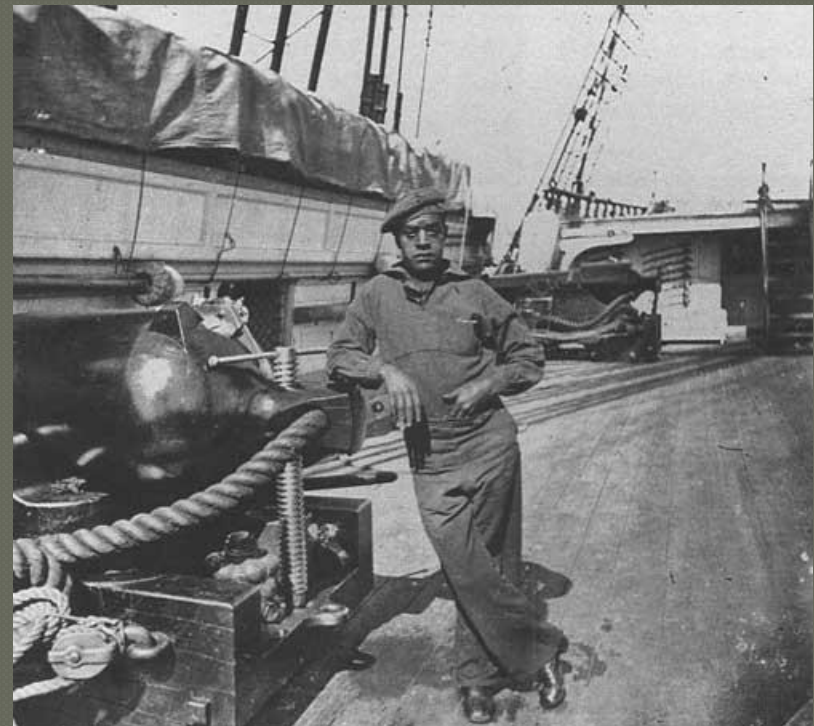
African American Roles in the Union

- Armed Forces recruitment
 - Fatigue duty—Sherman preferred “300 worth a 1,000”
 - Burial details
 - Supply line guards
 - Teamsters
 - Nurses & stretcher bearers
 - Fortifications



African American Roles in the Union

- Armed Forces recruitment
 - 179,000 Army
 - 18,000 Navy
 - 94,000 from the South
- 163 Army Federal Regimental units
 - 41 major battles
 - 449 minor engagements
 - 16 Medals of Honor
- 37,000 dead mostly from disease



150th Anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, June 2014

- 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the Illinois Monument
- Dignitaries from IL
- Luminary event with 3,000 lights
- Encampments





Primary source for this talk is National Park Service e-book found at:
http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/civil_war_series/2/index.htm

