



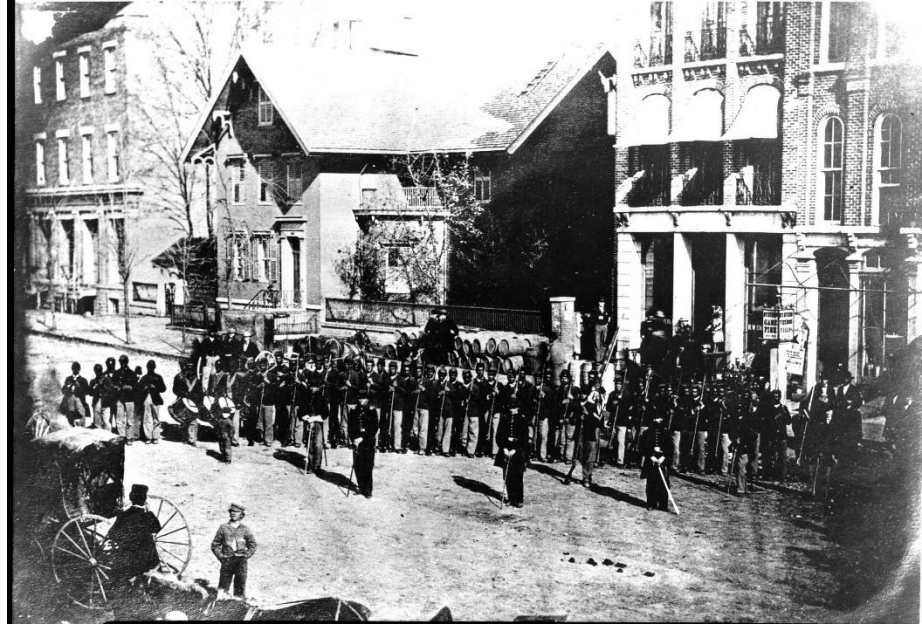
## Camp AH-HA Throwback Thursday: Celebrating African American Civil War Soldiers

Learn more about the Civil War and the African Americans who fought in it.

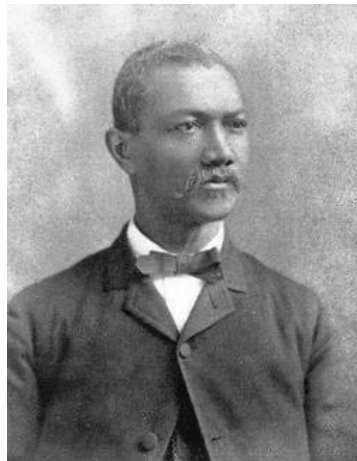
Who: You and your family

What:

- What do you know about the Civil War? Did you know that Ohio played an important role in the war? Even though no major battles were fought here, Ohio supplied troops to fight, and helped enslaved people escape to freedom.
- Do you remember when we learned about the Underground Railroad and Sylvania's own Lucian Lathrop? (If not, go back to Day 8 of our Camp AH-HA activities!) Americans of all races helped as part of the Underground Railroad, but they also helped fight in the Civil War.
- Did you know that by the end of the war nearly 179,000 African American soldiers were fighting in the Union Army? That is about 10% of the total number of soldiers who fought.
- The soldiers fought as part of the US Colored Troops. One of the more famous units was the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment. It was originally formed in August of 1863 in Ohio at Camp Delaware as part of the 127<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Here is an early picture of the unit



- This unit was reassigned to Virginia and fought in many important battles in Virginia throughout the war.
- Although not a part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, one of the more famous African American soldiers from the Civil War was Dr. Alexander Augustus.



- Dr. Augustus was born into a family of free African Americans in 1825. Because he could not pursue a medical degree in the United States at the time, he moved to Toronto Canada in 1850 to attend Trinity College.

- Once the Civil War broke out, Alexander wanted to come back and serve his own country. It wasn't easy. He was denied entry into the army because he was black. But he didn't give up. He eventually wrote to President Abraham Lincoln to ask for the chance to serve his country. The President responded by making Alexander a major in the army to serve as a surgeon for wounded African American soldiers.
- Alexander was the first African American doctor in the US army and at the time was the highest ranking African American soldier.
- Although he continued to face discrimination, he never quit and continued to serve his country throughout the war. He was even appointed to run the Freedman's Hospital in Washington DC in 1863 making him the first African American Hospital Administrator in the country.
- After the war, Dr. Augustus continued to make 'firsts': he was the first African American professor at Howard University and the first African American professor at any medical college in the country.
- When he died in 1890, he was buried in Arlington Cemetery and was the first African American officer buried there.
- There are many great museums dedicated to learning more about the Civil War. Check out a few of these resources:
- <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/curriculum/middle-school/united-states-colored-troops-usct>
- <https://acwm.org/learn/book-readings/>
- <https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/united-states-colored-troops-in-the-civil-war.htm>
- <https://www.aacwmed.org/services>