

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 133.31

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS REGIMENTAL RETURNS

Abstract: Records of the United States Colored Troops (bulk 1861-1865)

Extent: .3 cubic feet (1 Hollinger box)

Physical Description: Paper

Location: Missouri State Archives

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain

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HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

General Order, No. 143, May 22, 1863 authorized the establishment of the Bureau of Colored Troops to administer the United States Colored Troops. The United States Colored Troops replaced the various state units of African-American troops.

Regimental returns are paperwork created by various companies, regiments and battalions and submitted to the Adjutant General. These records are the kind of bureaucratic paperwork on which the Army marched. Due to the chaotic nature of the Civil War in Missouri, the lack of reliable postal service, and poor record keeping in the field, these records are very incomplete.

The Scope and Content Note for individual regiments contains information on organization, disbanding, transfers and consolidations. Also noted are exceptional records of interest.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Bibliography

Dyer, Frederick. 1959. *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*. New York: Thomas Yoseloff Ltd.

Record and Pension Office, War Department. 1902. *Organization and Status of Missouri Troops (Union and Confederate) in Service During the Civil War*. Washington, D. C. : Government Printing Office.

SERIES

The records are broken down into the following series:

- 1st Regiment Infantry, Alabama Volunteers of African Descent
- 3rd Regiment Infantry, Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent
- 4th Regiment Infantry, Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent
- 2nd Regiment Heavy Artillery, Mississippi Volunteers of African Descent
- 2nd Regiment Light Artillery
- 1st Regiment Infantry, Missouri Volunteers of African Descent
- 3rd Regiment Infantry, Missouri Volunteers of African Descent
- 3rd Regiment Cavalry
- 3rd Regiment Heavy Artillery
- 5th Regiment Cavalry
- 6th Regiment Cavalry
- 7th Regiment Infantry
- 8th Regiment Heavy Artillery
- 18th Regiment Infantry
- 29th Regiment Infantry

51st Regiment Infantry
52nd Regiment Infantry
54th Regiment Infantry
56th Regiment Infantry
59th Regiment Infantry
60th Regiment Infantry
61st Regiment Infantry
62nd Regiment Infantry
64th Regiment Infantry
65th Regiment Infantry
67th Regiment Infantry
68th Regiment Infantry
83rd Regiment Infantry (New)
113th Regiment Infantry (New)
Unassigned

1st Regiment Infantry, Alabama Volunteers of African Descent

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized at Corinth, Mississippi in May 1863. Designated the 55th Regiment, Infantry United States Colored Troops in March 1864.

Regimental Correspondence – Miscellaneous contains a letter dated March 10, 1864 from Lieutenant Lewis presenting a captured “smuggling skirt” to the Sanitary Commission in St. Louis to be auctioned off, with the proceeds going to the “benefit of the noble boys.”

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	1	Regimental	Correspondence - Miscellaneous

3rd Regiment Infantry, Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in St. Louis in August 1863. Designated the 56th Regiment Infantry, United States Colored Troops in March 1864.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	2	Regimental	Correspondence – Miscellaneous

4th Regiment Infantry, Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in Devall's Bluff, Little Rock and Helena, Arkansas in December 1863. Designated the 57th Regiment Infantry, United States Colored Troops in March 1864.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	3	Regimental	Certificates of Muster

2nd Regiment Heavy Artillery, Mississippi Volunteers of African Descent

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized at Natchez, Mississippi in September, 1863. Designated the 5th United States Colored Heavy Artillery in March 1864 and the 6th United States Colored Heavy Artillery in April 1864.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	4	Regimental	Correspondence – Personnel

2nd Regiment Light Artillery

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by battery, then regimental

Scope and Content

Battery E organized from 3rd Battery Louisiana Artillery, African Descent in March 1864. Mustered out in September 1865.

Container List

Box	Folder	Battery	Contents
1	4A	E	Final Statements

1st Regiment Infantry, Missouri Volunteers of African Descent

Extent: 1 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized at Benton Barracks in December 1863. Designated the 62nd Regiment Infantry, United States Colored Troops in March 1864. Mustered out in March 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	5	B	Special Orders

3rd Regiment Infantry, Missouri Volunteers of African Descent

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized at Benton Barracks in December 1863. Designated the 67th Regiment Infantry, United States Colored Troops in March 1864.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	6	A	Special Orders

3rd Regiment Cavalry

Extent: 13 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 1st Mississippi Cavalry of African Descent. Mustered out in January 1866.

The majority of affidavits are regarding pay issues.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	7	A	Affidavits
1	8	B	Affidavits
1	9	C	Affidavits
1	10	D	Affidavits
1	11	E	Affidavits
1	11A	E	Final Statements
1	12	F	Affidavits
1	13	G	Affidavits
1	14	H	Affidavits
1	15	I	Affidavits
1	16	K	Affidavits
1	17	L	Affidavits
1	18	L	Certificates of Discharge
1	19	M	Affidavits

3rd Regiment Heavy Artillery

Extent: 4 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized from the 1st Tennessee Heavy Artillery (African Descent). Designated the 2nd United States Colored Heavy Artillery in March 1864. Re-designated the 3rd Heavy Artillery, United States Colored Troops in April 1864. Mustered out in April 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	20	F	Certificates of Discharge
1	21	F	Vouchers
1	21A	G	Correspondence – Personnel
1	22	H	Certificates of Discharge
1	23	H	Vouchers
1	23A	H	Correspondence – Personnel

5th Regiment Cavalry

Extent: 2 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized at Camp Nelson, Kentucky in October 1864. Mustered out in March 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	23B	C	Correspondence – Personnel
OB3	2	Regimental	Pay Vouchers
1	23C	Regimental	Correspondence – Personnel

6th Regiment Cavalry

Extent: 1 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized at Camp Nelson, Kentucky in October 1864. Mustered out in April 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
OB3	6	Regimental	Pay Vouchers

7th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in Baltimore, Maryland in September to November 1863. Mustered out in November 1866.

Regimental Affidavits contain an affidavit dated October 9, 1863 by Lieutenant Colonel Haskell regarding his name change in July 1862 when he was an officer in the 5th Regiment, Missouri Volunteers.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	24	Regimental	Affidavits

8th Regiment Heavy Artillery

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in Paducah, Kentucky in April 1864. Mustered out in February 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	25	I	Receipts

18th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 6 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in Missouri in February to September 1864. Mustered out in February 1866.

Company B Correspondence—Personnel contains a letter dated February 5, 1865 from Lieutenant Dewey to Mrs. Lizzie Wade regarding the death of her husband Henry Wade.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	26	A	Applications for Certificate of Service
1	27	B	Correspondence—Personnel
1	28	F	Correspondence—Post Civil War
1	29	H	Applications for Certificate of Service
1	30	H	Correspondence—Post Civil War
1	31	Regimental	Correspondence—Personnel

29th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in Quincy, Illinois in April 1864. Mustered out in November 1865.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	32	Regimental	Correspondence – Personnel

51st Regiment Infantry

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 1st Mississippi Infantry (African Descent). Mustered out in June 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	32A	Regimental	Correspondence – Personnel

52nd Regiment Infantry

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 2nd Mississippi Infantry (African Descent). Mustered out in May 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	33	D	Claims

54th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 20 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 2nd Arkansas Infantry (African Descent). Mustered out in August to December 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	34	A	Ration Returns
1	35	A	Correspondence—Personnel
1	36	A	Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1	37	B	Pay Stoppages
1	38	B	Ration Returns
1	39	C	Ration Returns
1	40	C	Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1	41	D	Ration Returns
1	42	D	Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1	43	F	Pay Stoppages
1	44	F	Ration Returns
1	45	F	Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1	46	G	Pay Stoppages
1	47	G	Ration Returns
1	48	G	Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1	49	I	Pay Stoppages
1	50	I	Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1	51	Regimental	Pay Stoppages
1	52	Regimental	Correspondence—Personnel
1	53	Regimental	Correspondence—Miscellaneous

56th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 4 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 3rd Regiment Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent. Mustered out in September 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	54	F	Correspondence – Post Civil War
1	55	K	Correspondence – Post Civil War
1	56	Regimental	General Orders
OB3	3	Regimental	Pay Vouchers

59th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 3 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 1st Tennessee Volunteers (African Descent). Mustered out in January 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
OB3	4	Regimental	Pay Vouchers

60th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 7 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 1st Regiment Iowa Volunteers of African Descent. Mustered out in October to November 1865.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	57	B	Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1	58	F	Certificates of Discharge
1	59	G	Correspondence—Personnel
1	60	H	Applications for Appointments
1	61	H	Correspondence—Personnel
1	62	Regimental	General Orders
OB3	5	Regimental	Pay Vouchers

61st Regiment Infantry

Extent: 9 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 2nd Tennessee Infantry (African Descent). Mustered out in December 1865.

Affidavits are mostly dated December 1865 affirming officers have turned in all necessary records and paperwork.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	63	A	Affidavits
1	64	B	Affidavits
1	65	C	Affidavits
1	66	E	Affidavits
1	67	F	Affidavits
1	68	H	Affidavits
1	69	I	Affidavits
1	70	K	Affidavits
1	71	Regimental	Affidavits

62nd Regiment Infantry

Extent: 3 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Originally named the 1st Regiment Infantry, Missouri Volunteers of African Descent. Re-designated in March 1864. Mustered out in March 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	72	H	Recommendations
1	73	Regimental	Applications for Appointments
1	74	Regimental	General Orders

64th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 3 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in March 1864 from the 7th Louisiana Infantry (African Descent). Mustered out in March 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	74A	C	Final Statements

65th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 2 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Originally named the 2nd Regiment Missouri Volunteers of African Descent. Re-designated in March 1864. Consolidated with the 65th Regiment Infantry, United States Colored Troops in July 1865. Mustered out in January 1867.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	75	A	Correspondence – Post Civil War
1	76	Regimental	General Orders

67th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 3 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Originally the 3rd Regiment Missouri Volunteers of African Descent. Re-designated in March 1864. Consolidated with the 65th Regiment Infantry, United States Colored Troops in July 1865.

Company G Correspondence – Post Civil War contains a letter dated April 2, 1899 from Mrs. Leuisa Willison asking for information about the death of her husband Nelson Willson [sic].

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	77	G	Correspondence – Post Civil War
1	78	K	Correspondence – Post Civil War
1	79	Regimental	General Orders

68th Regiment Infantry

Extent: 5 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Originally the 4th Regiment Missouri Volunteers of African Descent. Re-designated in March 1864. Mustered out in February 1866.

Company G Colored Volunteer Enlistments contains enlistments and descriptive lists for two men (George Reynolds and Ambrose Wiley).

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	80	A	Claims
1	81	B	Correspondence – Post Civil War
1	82	G	Colored Volunteer Enlistments
1	83	Regimental	Special Orders
1	84	Regimental	Correspondence – Personnel

83rd Regiment Infantry (New)

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Organized in December 1864 from the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry. Mustered out in November 1865.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	85	D	Correspondence – Post Civil War

113th Regiment Infantry (New)

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Formed in April 1864 by consolidation of the 11th Regiment Infantry, 112th Regiment Infantry and 113th Regiment Infantry (Old). Mustered out in April 1866.

Container List

Box	Folder	Company	Contents
1	86	A	Correspondence – Civil War

Unassigned

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company, then regimental

Scope and Content

Colored Volunteer Enlistments contains enlistments and descriptive lists for two men (Thomas Jefferson Grimes and William Franklin).

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents
1	87	Colored Volunteer Enlistments
OB3	1	Pay Vouchers