

Hi, I'm
Harriet.



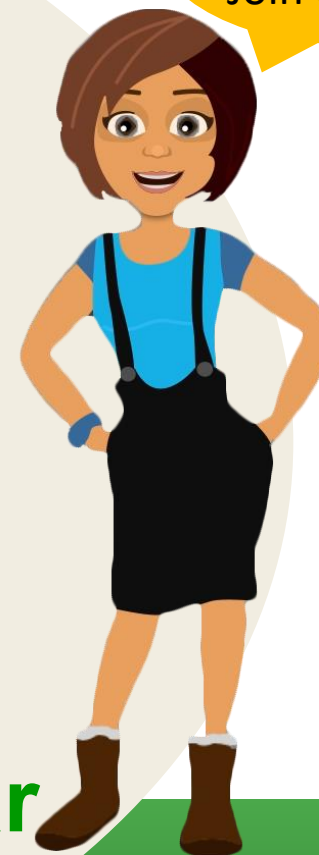
TALKING HISTORY


with

Harriet and Roxanne™


Black Heroes of The Civil War

And I'm
Roxanne.
Join us for...







Roxanne, today we will share information about the Civil War between the Northern and Southern states of America and the black heroes who helped the North win the war.




I can't wait to hear more!




I don't understand why different states would fight in the same country. Can you explain this?



The leading cause was slavery. The contrast between the agricultural South & the industrial North prevented any compromise. The South relied on slavery as part of its economy. Let's look at our history.




Harriet, slavery had been an issue since the Constitutional Convention more than 70 years before the Civil War.




So, when Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860, Southerners knew they had lost control of the government.

President Lincoln said, "a house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, half slave and half free."

Wow!



So, did the slaves fight in the Civil War?



Yes, good Question!

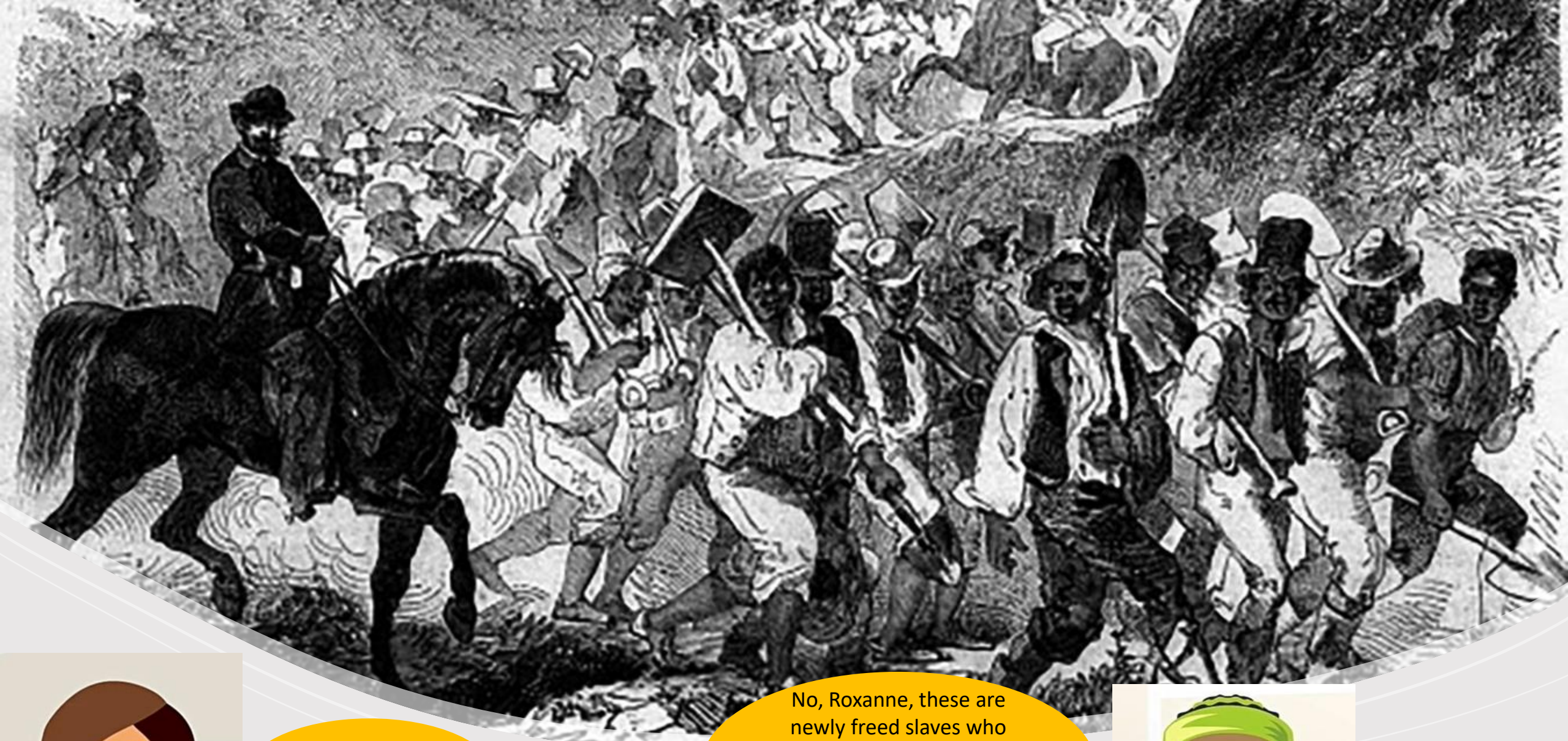
First, according to the 1860 Census Bureau, there were 488,070 free blacks in the United States.

Secondly, many blacks with self-determination fled plantations to the safety of the Union lines.

Let's look how blacks became Civil War soldiers.

First, blacks just wanted to escape their masters. This is a family escaping to the protection to the Union lines.





Harriet, are these black men prisoners?

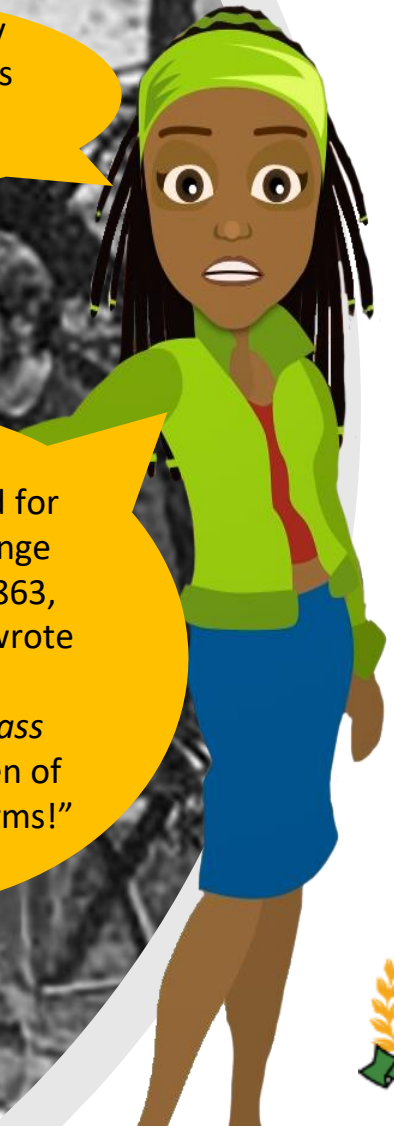
No, Roxanne, these are newly freed slaves who became common laborers for the Union Army after they ran away from their enslavers.





Later, the Union Army used escaped slaves as “servants” for the officers.

Blacks were needed for soldiers. So, to change this, on March 2, 1863, Frederick Douglass wrote an article in his newspaper, *Douglass Monthly*, titled “Men of Color, to Arms, to Arms!”





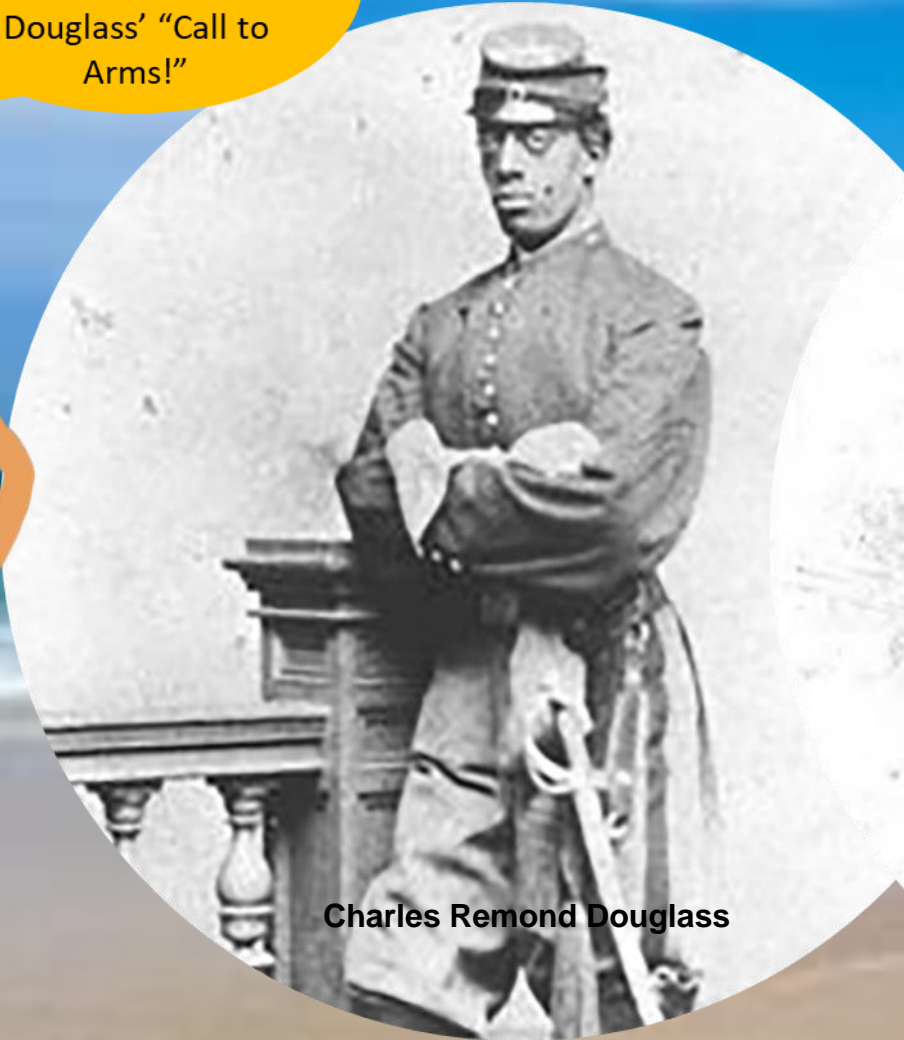
There were 180,000 black soldiers and 19,000 black sailors, who answered the call to serve the Union in the Civil War.

- “Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder, and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on the earth or under earth which can deny that he has earned the right citizenship in the United States.”
- Frederick Douglass

OFF FOR THE WAR.



Harriet, these two soldiers probably answered Mr. Douglass' "Call to Arms!"



Charles Remond Douglass

Yes, they did! These two men are the sons of Fredrick Douglass.



Sgt. Major Lewis Douglass

Let me tell you more about Lewis.



What did Lewis do in the war?



He was part of the all-black 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry that fought in the fierce battle at Fort Wagner.



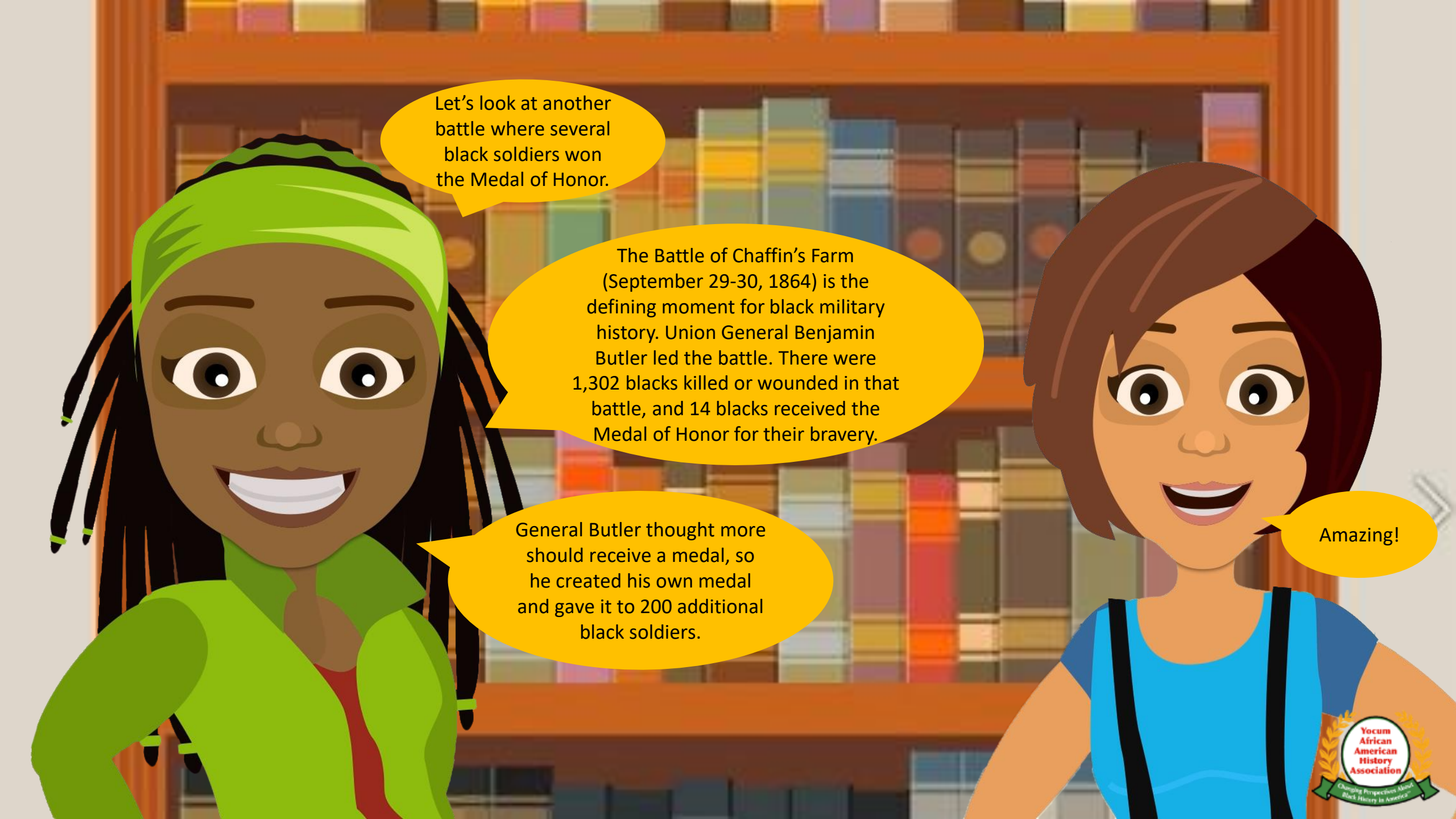
On July 18, 1863, the Battle of Fort Wagner was located on a beachhead fortification on Morris Island, South Carolina, that covering the southern approach to the Charleston Harbor. The 54th Massachusetts Infantry fought bravely and with distinction and was acclaimed for its bravery that proved the value of the black soldiers. Nevertheless, the black soldiers suffered enormous casualties and withdrew.

Roxanne, the Battle on Morris Island encouraged additional black soldiers to join the Union Army. As a result, Sergeant William H. Carney, a son of slaves, was the first black soldier to be awarded the highest honor of the nation, the Medal of Honor, for his bravery at the Battle of Morris Island.



That is wonderful!





Let's look at another battle where several black soldiers won the Medal of Honor.

The Battle of Chaffin's Farm (September 29-30, 1864) is the defining moment for black military history. Union General Benjamin Butler led the battle. There were 1,302 blacks killed or wounded in that battle, and 14 blacks received the Medal of Honor for their bravery.

General Butler thought more should receive a medal, so he created his own medal and gave it to 200 additional black soldiers.

Amazing!

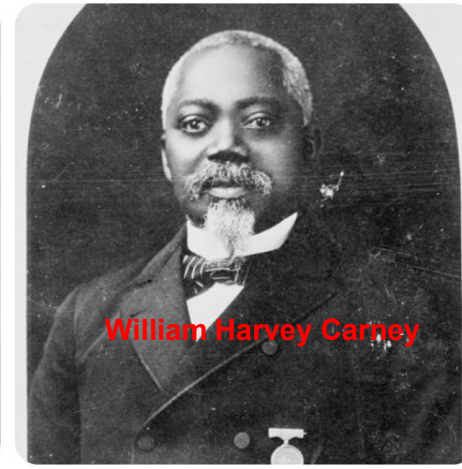
At the beginning of the war, there was a widespread belief that blacks could not fight. However, many abolitionists believed they should have the opportunity to fight.

Blacks participated in 39 major battles and 410 minor engagements and won 26 Medal of Honor awards.

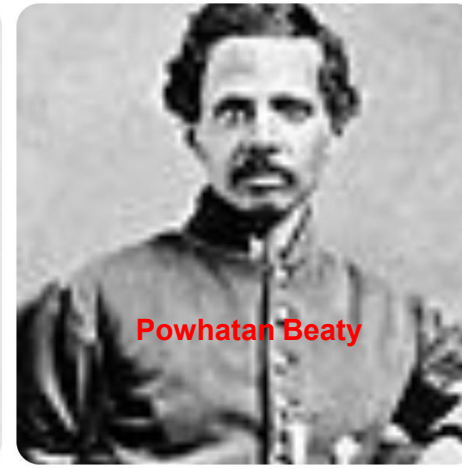
Here are 9 of those 26 Medal of Honor winners.



Christian Fleetwood



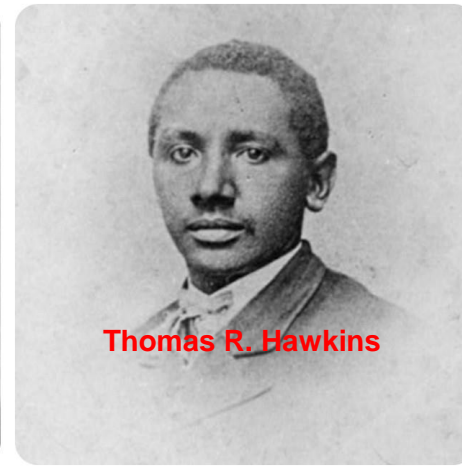
William Harvey Carney



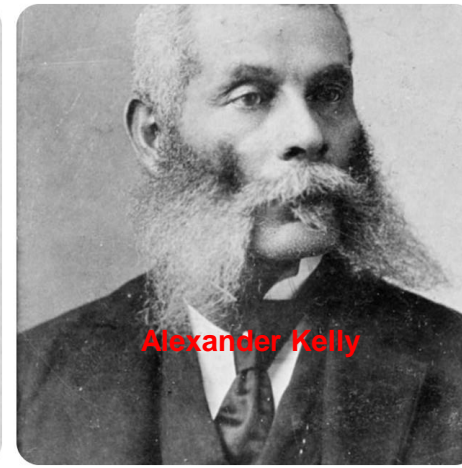
Powhatan Beaty



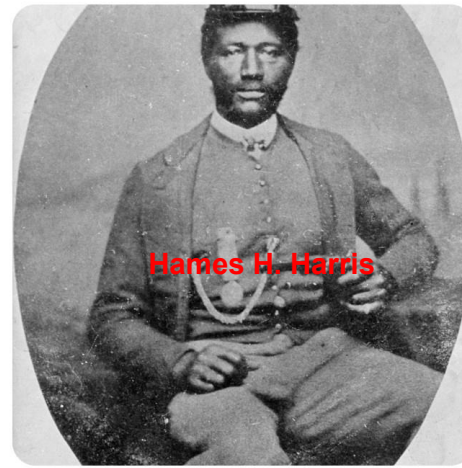
Robert Pinn



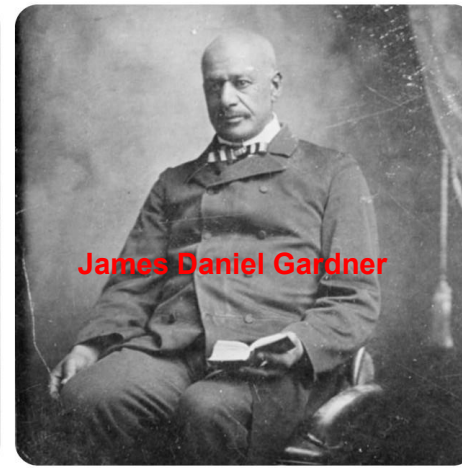
Thomas R. Hawkins



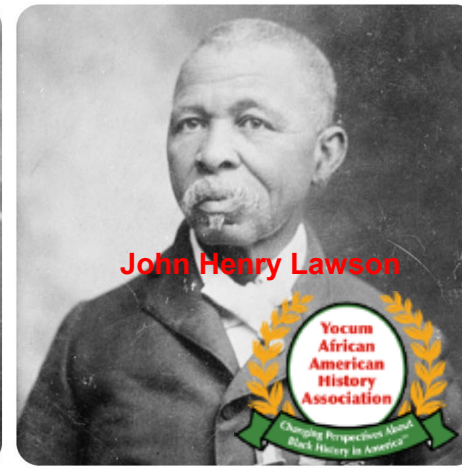
Alexander Kelly



James H. Harris



James Daniel Gardner



John Henry Lawson





Boy, it's too bad that there were no black women heroes in the Civil War!



Wait a minute Roxanne, there were black women heroes! Let me share some with you.

Here are three spies that worked for the Union Army.



Harriet Tubman



Mary Touvestre



Mary Elizabeth Bowser




Roxanne, **Harriet Tubman** was also a Union army nurse, cook, spy, and scout. She had a force of ten men who made daring raids that destroyed thousands of dollars worth of Southern property and liberated hundreds of blacks from plantations.


Mary Touvestre, while working for a Confederate engineer in Norfolk, Virginia, overheard plans to use the ironclad CSS Virginia to destroy Union ships. She traveled to D.C. with a copy of the plans and spoke to the navy's secretary. The Union hurried their plans for building the ironclad USS Merrimack. The battle between the CSS Virginia & the USS Monitor was one of the most famous of the war.

Mary Elizabeth Bowser was a literate free black living in the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. She was able to give Confederate troop movements and strength to the Union Army.





Roxanne, there are so many stories I could share about the Civil War, but I think that is enough for today. I want you to remember that this country felt deeply about slavery and fought a civil war to end it.



Thank you, Harriet, I will remember that.

Please come back soon for more "Talking History With Harriet & Roxanne."



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