

Soldiering for Freedom: How the Union Army Recruited, Trained, and Deployed the U.S. Colored Troops

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example of a regional study that is also very local in its focus. Weiner does talk about the region in general but often focuses on certain specific communities in some detail, providing a good example of how to link the local, regional, and national in a scholarly study.

Soldiering for Freedom: How the Union Army Recruited, Trained, and Deployed the U.S. Colored Troops, by Bob Luke and John David Smith. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014. How Things Worked series. x, 131 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$39.95 hardcover, \$19.95 paperback.

Reviewer David Brodnax Sr. is professor of history at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois. He is the author of "'Will They Fight? Ask the Enemy': Iowa's African American Regiment in the Civil War" (*Annals of Iowa*, 2007).

Early in the Civil War, Iowa Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood rejected a proposal to place a company of black men into a white regiment, but by 1863 he supported the creation of a separate black regiment, declaring, "When this war is over & we have summed up the entire loss of life it has imposed on the country I shall not have any regrets if it is found that a part of the dead are *niggers* and that *all* are not white men" (quoted in Ira Berlin, Joseph P. Reidy, and Leslie S. Rowland, eds., *Freedom's Soldiers: The Black Military Experience in the Civil War* [1998], 86). Such mixed and changing attitudes held by many government officials about whether and eventually how to use black troops is the subject of this short monograph by historians Bob Luke and John David Smith. Published as part of Johns Hopkins University Press's How Things Worked series, *Soldiering for Freedom* employs a wide array of secondary sources and some published military documents and other primary sources to summarize the process by which African Americans joined and served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

In the first two years of the war, Luke and Smith argue, Northern blacks who attempted to join the military were turned away, while a handful of officers in the South who tried to recruit blacks were thwarted by government resistance and by their own strong-arm tactics. After the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect in 1863, the government massively expanded recruitment into the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Here Luke and Smith give special attention to the efforts of Adjutant General Lorenzo Thomas, who played an important role in the formation of Iowa's 60th U.S. Colored Infantry. The authors next focus on the white officers who led USCT regiments, describing their varying motives for seeking such positions and how they were chosen and trained; there is also a brief description of the largely unsuccessful efforts

of African Americans to gain appointments as officers. Another chapter describes the process of initiating thousands of former slaves and free blacks into the military. Including details such as what black soldiers carried in their mess kits and how they were taught to fire rifles as well as the fundraising efforts of black women on the homefront, Luke and Smith provide a vivid description of army life. The book concludes with the USCT's combat history, including the Battle of Milliken's Bend, where black troops fought alongside the 23rd Iowa Volunteer Regiment. Hindered by the desire of many white officers to use them simply as laborers, by a lack of proper training and weaponry, and by Confederate policy of murdering those who tried to surrender, the troops had a mixed record under fire but nonetheless fought bravely.

As the subtitle suggests, *Soldiering for Freedom* focuses on the actions of white government and military officials. Successful efforts by recruiters, for instance, are explained by their respectful engagement with blacks and government cooperation, while black agency is not an important factor. The murder of a white USCT recruiter by Confederate sympathizers is highlighted; the dangers faced by African Americans who fled from slavery to enlist and by the family members they left behind are not. There is thus a discrepancy between the book's stated goal and what it actually does. Otherwise, the monograph is a concise and informative overview, best suited for middle and high school courses and perhaps introductory college courses. There is also an exhaustive and useful list of suggested readings for those interested in learning more about this pivotal time in American history.

Lincoln and the Military, by John F. Marszalek. The Concise Lincoln Library. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2014. xiv, 139 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$24.95 hardcover.

Lincoln and the War's End, by John C. Waugh. The Concise Lincoln Library. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2014. ix, 136 pp. Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 hardcover.

Lincoln's Assassination, by Edward Steers Jr. The Concise Lincoln Library. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2014. 155 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, index. \$24.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Patricia Ann Owens, now retired, lives in Lawrenceville, Illinois. She has written extensively about Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Administration.

For decades "Get right with Lincoln" has been the mantra for many historians, writers, and politicians. A slew of new books hit the already sagging shelf of Lincoln books during the bicentennial of his birth; now,