



The Underground Railroad Story and Fort Donelson National Battlefield



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA





What was the Underground Railroad?

- Resistance to slavery took many forms
- “underground railroad” could have been organized but likely “unorganized” efforts
- Free blacks and anti-slavery whites often aided escapees
- Misconceptions about what the “railroad” was and what it was not
- Was the Underground Railroad *effective*?

National Park Service



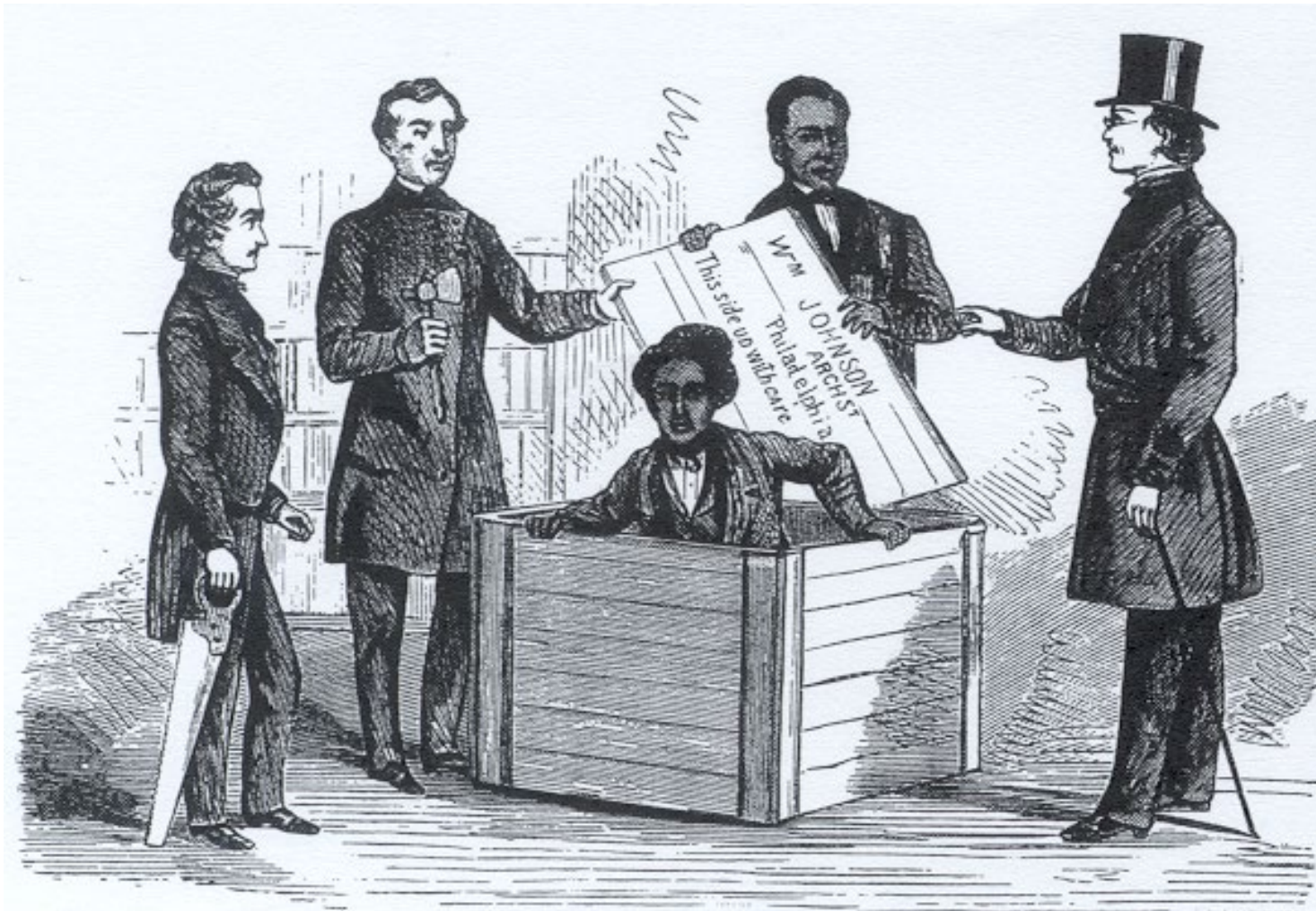
EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



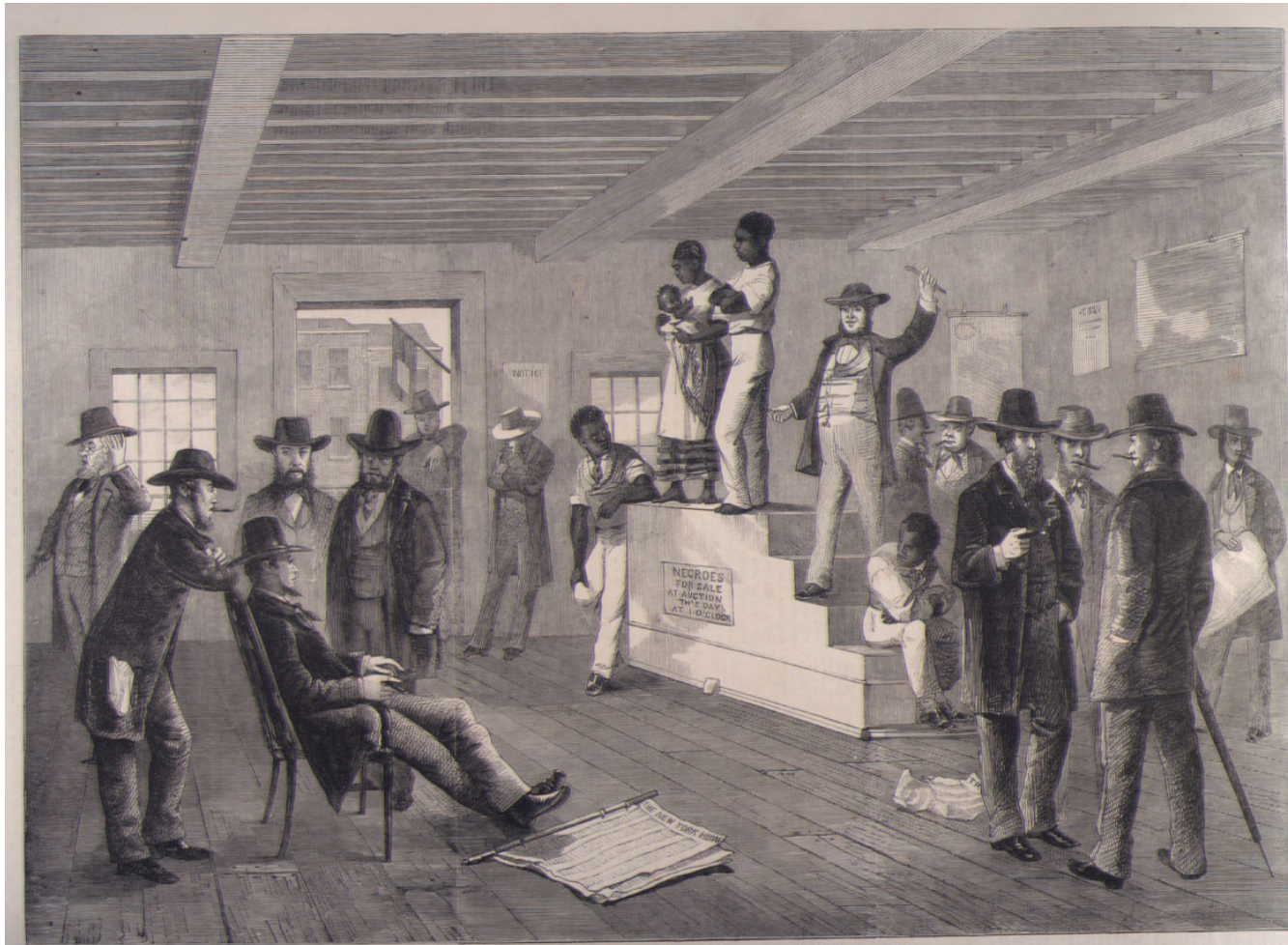
EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA

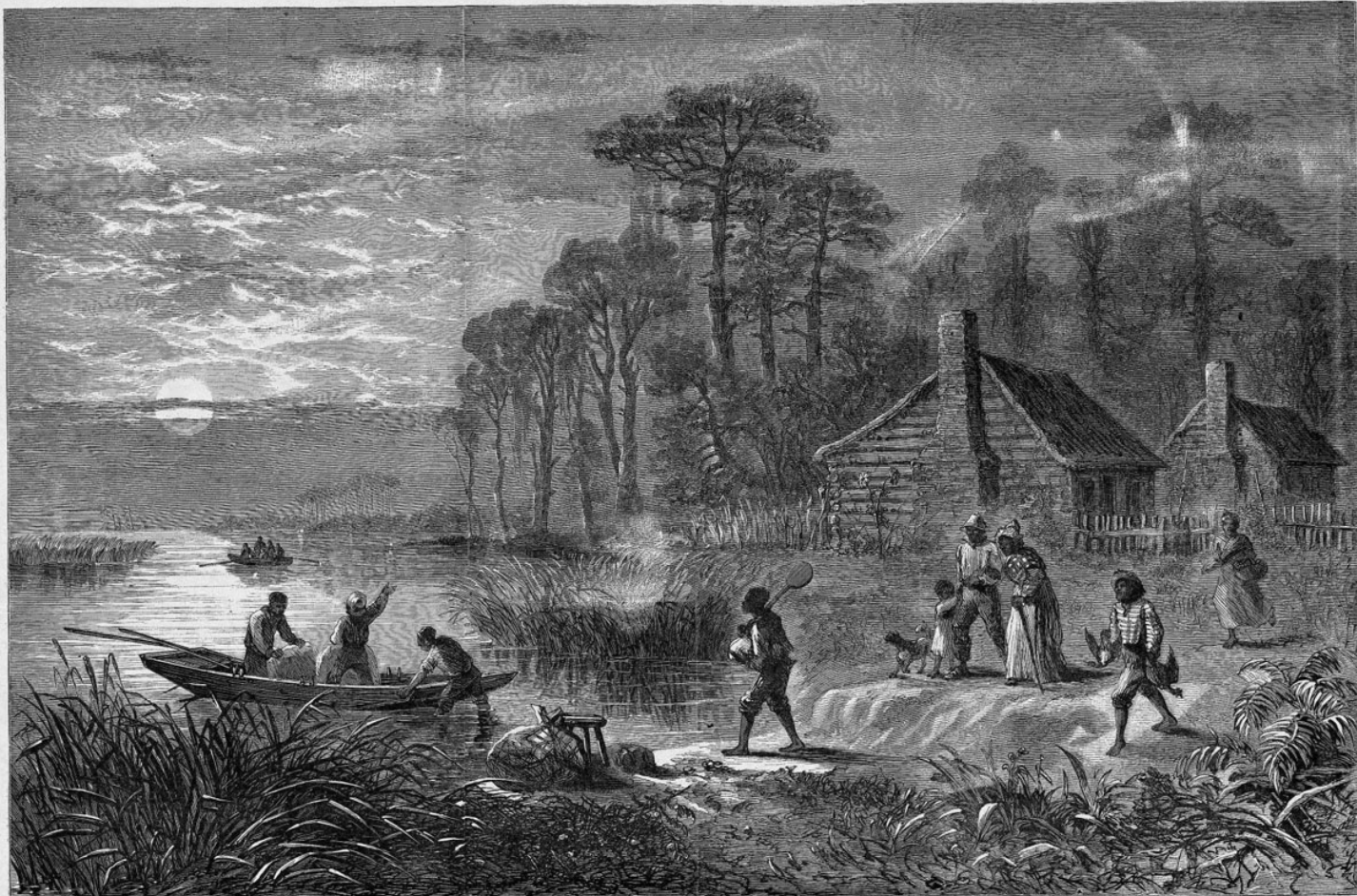


A SLAVE AUCTION IN VIRGINIA.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST

National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



NEGROES LEAVING THEIR HOME.—[See Page 325.]



How does the UGRR story relate to the Civil War story of Fort Donelson and other military forts?

- Who came to the forts and how did they get there?
- Was the “underground railroad” active in Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky?
- What were their lives like at the forts? What about African-Americans and the Confederacy? Didn’t the Confederate states enroll Black Soldiers?

National Park Service



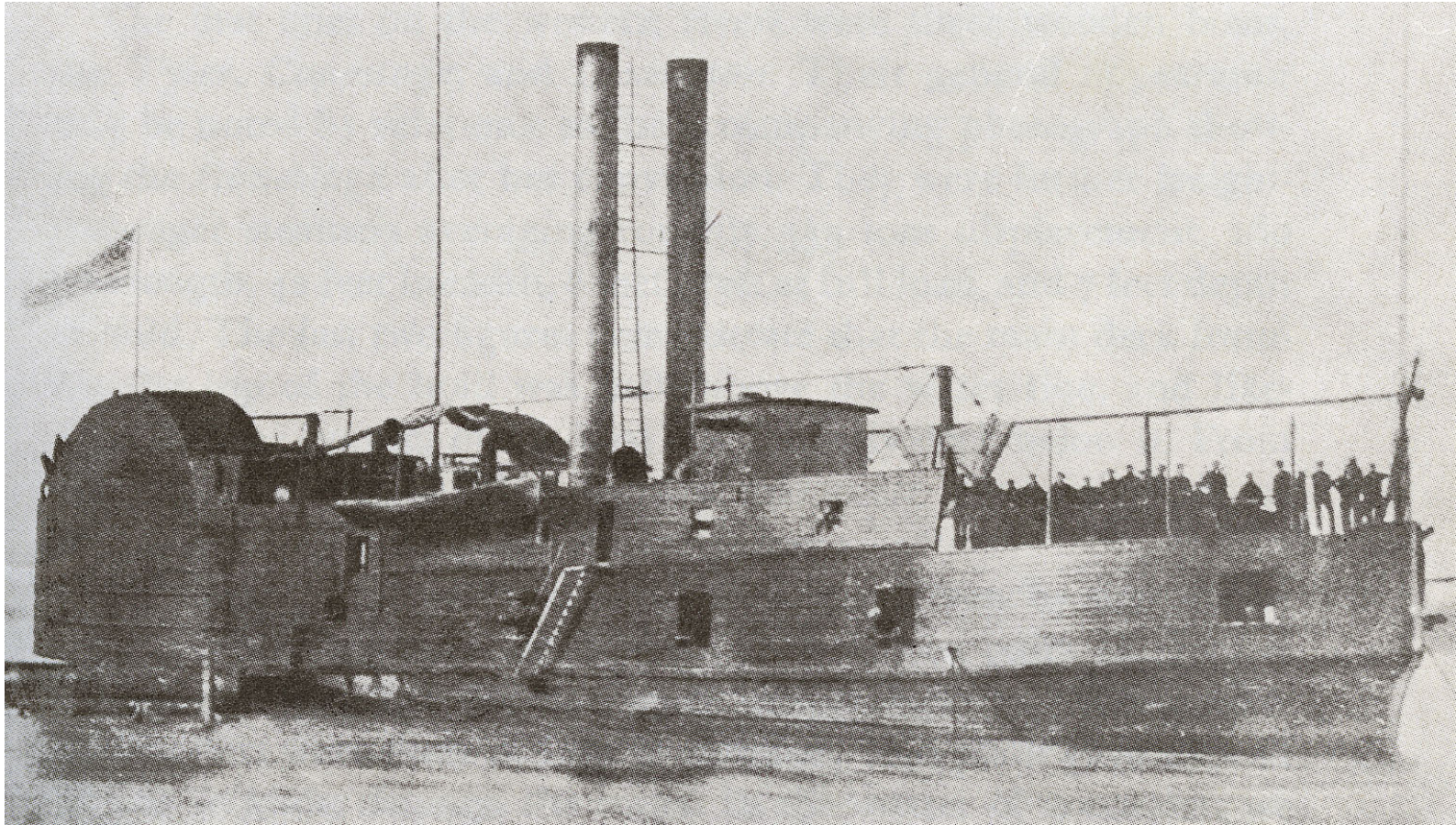
EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA





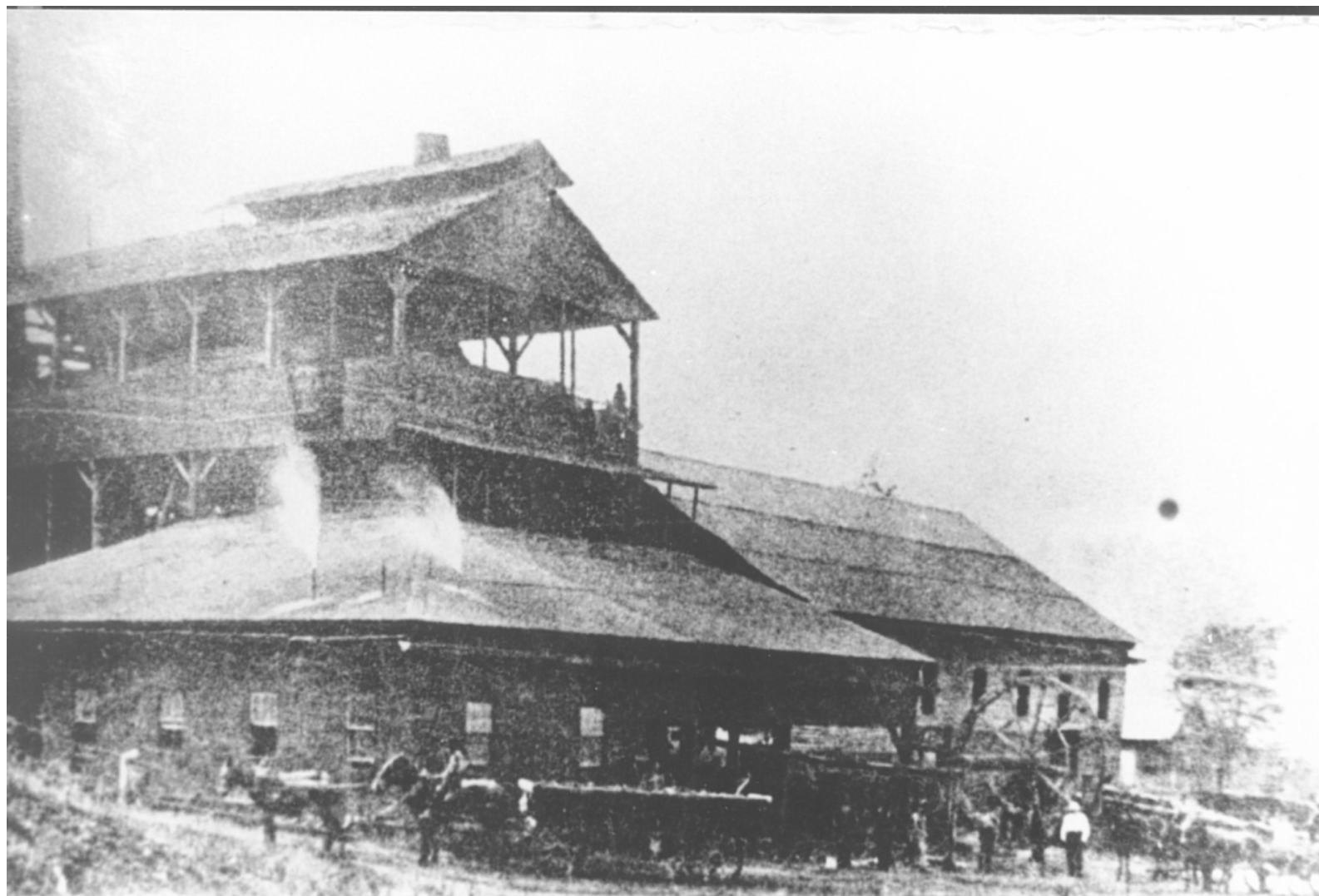
Union Victory at the forts

- Ulysses S. Grant's terms of "unconditional surrender" to Confederates in February 1862—1st strategic Union victory of the war
- Runaway slaves were "not released or permitted to return to their masters"—*Grant, February 1862*
- Union victory "created new opportunities" for freedom-seeking slaves

National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA

U.S. Military Presence in Middle Tennessee

- Increase in numbers of refugees and freedom-seekers in the camps at Donelson & Clarksville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Columbia, Nashville
- Former slaves worked as laborers, teamsters, blacksmiths, and cooks
- Women were hired by soldiers as cooks, laundresses, and seamstresses
- Communities were established--schools, homes, and churches, larger camps are established in urban areas

Gravelly Run.

U.S. Military Cemetery.

Henderson Tract

Office of the Surgeon General

"Tennessee River" or

Standing Rock Road.

Gravelly Run.

U.S. Military Cemetery.

Henderson Tract

Office of the Surgeon General

"Tennessee River" or

Standing Rock Road.

National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



Laborers at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1862

National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA

United States Colored Troops

- Recruitment began at the Forts Henry, Heiman, & Donelson in August 1863
- Men mustered into regiments such as the 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th USCT, 8th USCHA
- Nashville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro began recruitment in 1863
- Battle of Nashville



National Park Service



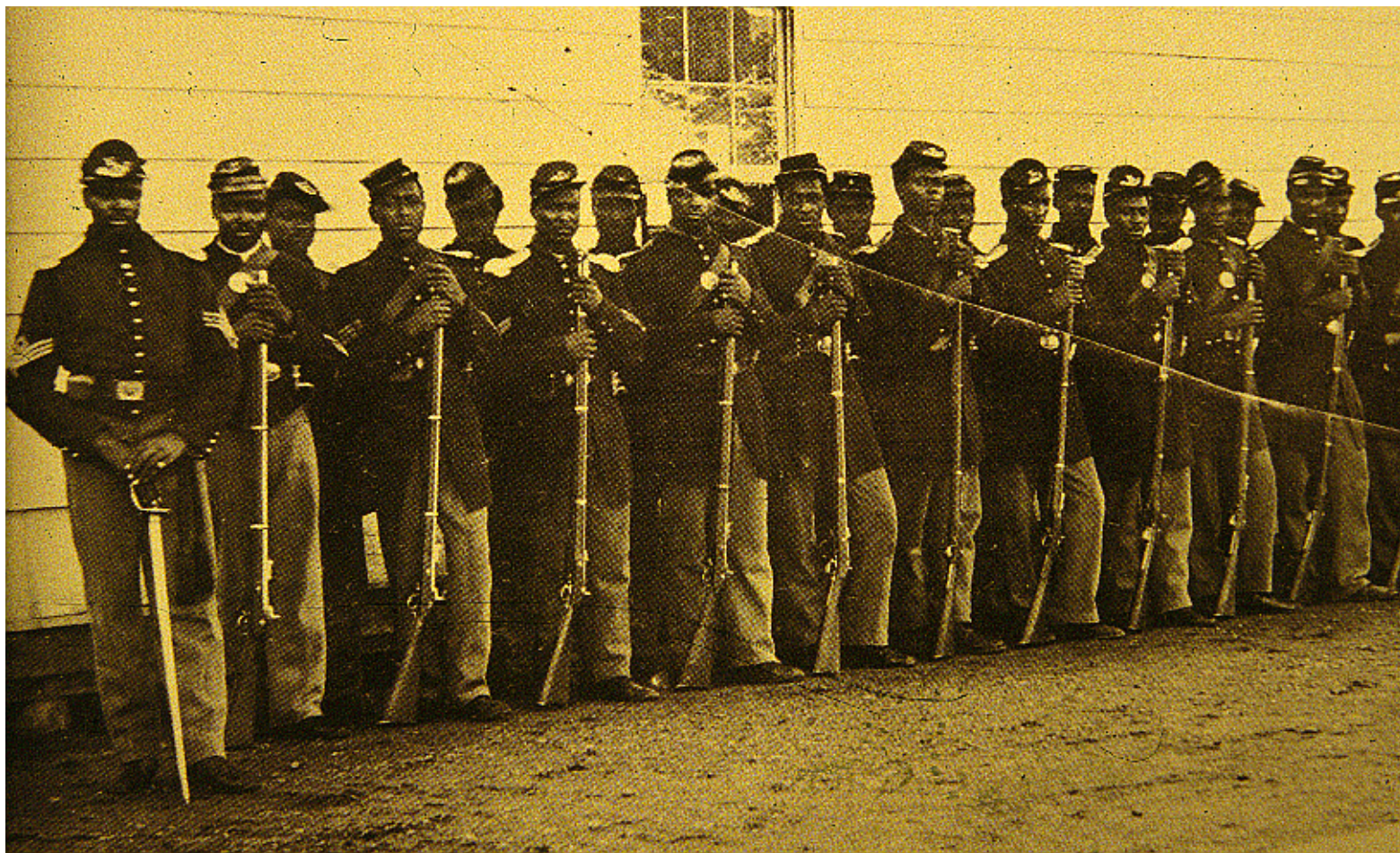
EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



Andrew Jackson Smith



- Escaped from Lyon County, KY
- Stayed with officer in an Illinois Regiment
- 55th Massachusetts Infantry
- Medal of Honor

National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA

Efforts to Aid Former Slaves



- Soldiers' Efforts
- Civilians
- Freedmen's Aid Associations
- Freedmen's Bureau

National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA

What do we do now to tell the story?

- Special Programs at the park
- Programs for schools and Teacher Workshops
- Parks As Classrooms projects
- Traveling Trunks

National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



Programs by the 12th US Colored Heavy Artillery

EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



“Stories from Da Dirt”

EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



National Park Service



EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA





References

Books.

- Ash, Stephen. *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed, 1860-1870: War & Peace in the Upper South*. Louisiana University Press, 1988.
- Cimprich, John. *Slavery's End in Tennessee, 1861-1865*. University of Alabama Press, 1985.
- Cooling, B.F. *Fort Donelson's Legacy: War & Society in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1862-1863*. University of Tennessee Press, 1987.
- Durham, Walter T. *Reluctant Partners: Nashville & the Union*. Tennessee Historical Society, 1987.
- Freehling, William W. *The South Vs. the South: How Anti-Confederate Southerners Shaped the Course of the Civil War*. Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Genovese, Eugene. *Roll, Jordan Roll: The World the Slaves Made*. Vintage Books, 1976.
- Grimsley, Mark. *Hard Hand of the War: Union Military Policy Toward Southern Civilians, 1861-1865*. Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Lovett, Bobby. *The African American History of Nashville, Tennessee, 1730-1930*. University of Arkansas Press, 1999.
- Maslowski, Peter. *Treason Must Be Made Odious: Military Occupation & Wartime Reconstruction in Nashville, Tennessee*. KTO Press, 1978.
- Simon, John Y. *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. Vol. 4. Southern Illinois University Press, 1972.

Manuscripts.

- Duke University Special Collections, Durham, NC. Alice Williamson Diary. Eugene Marshall Papers.
- Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN. Sarah Bailey Kennedy Papers.
- Clarksville-Montgomery County Museum. Serepta Jordan Papers.
- National Archives & Records Administration, Washington, D.C. RG 393, U.S. Army Continental Commands, RG 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office (USCT), and RG 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Cemetery Commission Records.

Web sites.

- www.mtsu.edu/~tncivwar/ugrr
- www.nps.gov/history/ugrr
- www.nps.gov/fodo