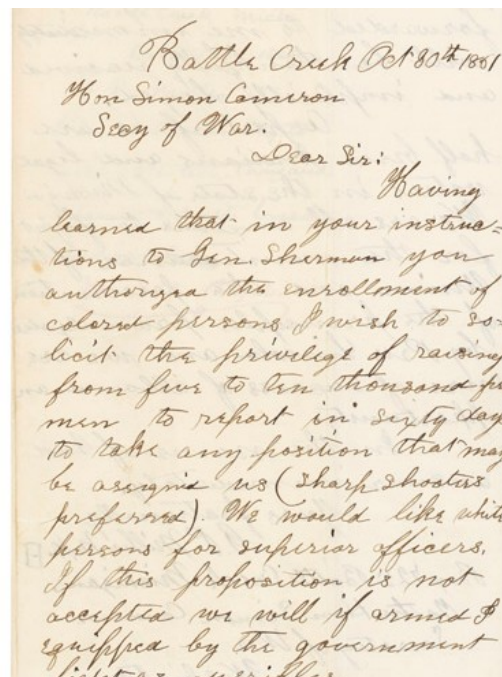
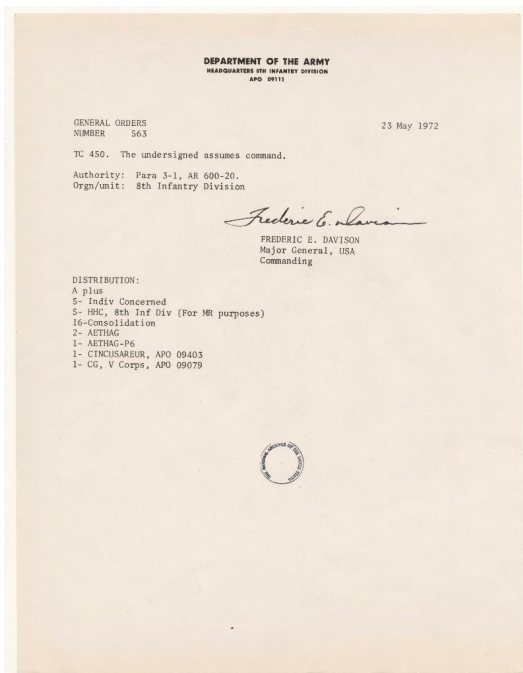


NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG

Explore, Transcribe, and Celebrate African American History



(Left) General Order Number 563, 5/23/1972 National Archives Identifier: [16411518](#) (Right) Letter from a Battle Creek African American Physician to the Union Secretary of War, 10/30/1861 National Archives Identifier: [3854722](#)

On September 24, 2016, the Smithsonian celebrated the opening of the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#). To mark the event, the National Archives is having a transcription challenge for records pertaining to African-American history in our Catalog.

So why should this matter to you?

African American history is often presented linearly. It begins with the horrors of

slavery, its abolition at the end of the Civil War, and it culminates with the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. The reality, of course, is much more complex, and leaves a more extensive paper trail than you may have imagined. Consider the petitions calling for the abolition of slavery sent to individual state government prior to the 13th Amendment; the reports compiled on the education and welfare of African-American students before and after *Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka* went before the Supreme Court; and the amount of legislative records that went into the creation of laws such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

History is in the details. By transcribing and tagging the documents in the National Archives' Catalog, you are making these details accessible for everyone. You (yes, you!) are helping to fill in the gaps, and piece-by-piece and detail-by-detail uncover the long lost stories of the past for the present and future.

So your (transcription) mission, should you choose to accept it, is to:

First, [get instructions](#) on how to get started as a volunteer transcriber.

Once you're all set up, [browse through the records](#) in the mission. If you find something that piques your interest, click on it and begin transcribing and tagging. When you're done, take a look at NARA's other [transcription missions](#).

Written by Kristen Pomroy, an intern from the [Virtual Student Foreign Service](#) for the National Archives. View this post on [History Hub](#), and while you're there, see how you can communicate and collaborate with other researchers!

Image Challenge!

Can you identify the woman in this photograph?

In 1968, she became the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives. She was also the first major-party black candidate for President of the United States. She is seen here being greeted by President Clinton in 1993.



Click on the image to see if your answer is correct!

Learn more about her extraordinary life and work on the National Archives' [Rediscovering Black History](#) blog.



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