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INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF VOLUNTEER UNION SOLDIERS WHO SERVED WITH UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

On the 98 rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer Union soldiers who served with U.S. Colored Troops. Each index card gives the name of a soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served. There are cross-references for names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling and for service in more than one unit or organization.

The supposedly correct name of a volunteer Union Soldier who served with U.S. Colored Troops may not appear in the index for several reasons. First, he may have served in a unit from a State or in the Regular Army. Second, he may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Third, a proper record of his service may not have been made; or, if made, it may have been lost or destroyed in the confusion that often attended the initial mobilization, subsequent military operations, and disbandment of troops. Fourth, the references to the soldier in the original records may have been so vague that it was not practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The compiled service records to which the index applies consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name and containing (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier in the original muster rolls, returns, hospital rolls, descriptive books, lists of discharges, and lists of deserters; and (2) the originals of any papers relating soldier to the particular soldier. A typical example of a compiled service record is filmed at the beginning of the index.

The compiled service records of soldiers serving with U.S. Colored Troops are arranged according to an organizational breakdown ending with the regiment or the independent battalion or company. Under each unit the service records are arranged alphabetically by surname. Unless the unit in which a soldier served is known, his compiled service record can be located only through the use of an index, such as the one reproduced here, which gives the name of the unit in which he served.

The compilation of service records of Union soldiers was begun in 1890 under the direction of Capt. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department. The abstracts made from the original records were verified by a separate operation of comparison, and great care was taken to ensure that the abstracts and the indexes were accurate.

Reproductions of specific compiled service records corresponding to entries in the index here reproduced may be obtained from the National Archives for a fee. Requests for such reproductions should give the name of the regiment or battalion, and the company for each soldier, exactly as shown in the index.

The index here reproduced and the compiled service records to which it relates are part of Record Group 94, Records of The Adjutant General's Office.

The National Archives has other records that may contain information about Union soldiers who served with U.S. Colored Troops. Other series of compiled service records of volunteer soldiers are (1) series containing records of units belonging to the various States and Territories, (2) an alphabetical series of records of Union staff officers, medical records of volunteer Union and Mexican War soldiers, and (4) records of other non-State organizations, such as the U.S. Sharp Shooters, the Signal Corps, and the Veterans Reserve Corps. Information relating to soldiers who served in the Regular Army is recorded in *Registers of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914* (reproduced as Microcopy 233), and in other records of The Adjutant General's Office. If an application for a pension was made, additional information about the soldier may be among the pension application files of the veterans Administration in Record Group 15. Supposed Union military service is sometimes shown by the records to have been civilian service as a scout, guide, or spy. Evidence of such service may be among the records of the Provost Marshal General in Record Group 110.

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12	Brown, K.-Buf
13	Bug-Bus
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15	Can-Car
16	Cas-Che
17	Chi-CI
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19	Con-Cot
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21	Cs-Dau
22	Dav-Daz
23	De-Dic
24	Did-Dov
25	Dow-Dy
26	E-El
27	Em-Fa
28	Fe-Fl
29	Fo-Fran
30	Frap-Gak
31	Gal-Gh
32	Gi-Gn
33	Go-Graw
34	Gray-Gref

35	Greg-Gy
36	H-Ham
37	Han-Harris, K.
38	Harris, L.-Haw
39	Hax-Heno
40	Henr-Hik
41	Hill-Holl
42	Holm-Hoz
43	Hu-Hy
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45	Jackson, J.-Jay
46	Je-Johnson, C.
47	Johnson, D.-Johnson, M.
48	Johnson, N.-Jom
49	Jon-Jont
50	Joo-Ke
51	Kh-Lah
52	Lai-Laz
53	Le-Lev
54	Lew-Loc
55	Lod-Ly
56	M-Marr
57	Mars-Mat
58	Mau-McD
59	McE-Mel
60	Mem-Mil
61	Mim-Moon
62	Moor-Morr
63	Mors-My
64	N-Ni
65	No-O
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