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Photographs of African Americans at the Library of Congress

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Photographs of African Americans at the Library of Congress

African Americans represented in the Civil War Photograph Collection in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room fall into several categories, including soldiers, civilians attached to the military, and contraband and refugees. Although images of African American soldiers are in high demand, they are not well represented here. Each image is listed by group ("LOT") number, and a brief description and the identification numbers needed for reproduction requests are provided. For record-keeping purposes, both glass and film negative numbers are cited. However, in ordering reproductions, the film negative number must be used, if one exists. Images with negative numbers beginning "LC-B815..." are stereographic images.

The list includes citations to three major works, which are noted as LC staff encounter reproductions of images in them. The works are:

-Gardner, Alexander. *Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War*. Reprint. New York: Dover, [1959]. [LC call number: E468.7.G19] (cited as "Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book.")

-Image of War, 1861-1865. 6 vol. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1981-1984. [various call numbers] (cited as "Image of War")

- Miller, Francis Tervelyan, ed. *The Photographic History of the Civil War*. 10 vol. New York: T. Yoseloff, [1957] [LC call number: E468.7.M64 1957] (cited as "Miller")

LOT 4161-C

1."Store House of Christian Commission, Washington, D.C." Shows three blacks posed with a family in front of a store; the blacks stand on the ground and the others pose on the porch (marked 721). Reproduced in Miller, vol. VII, p. 32. LC-B8184-7721 (film negative).

LOT 4161-D

1."Headquarters of Signal Crops, Washington, D.C., April, 1865." Shows black man standing at gate. LC-B8171-7814 (film negative), LC-U5Z62-50173 (film negative).

2."Quartermaster's Warehouses, Washington, D.C., April, 1865." Shows black men standing in front of warehouses; blacks and whites stand separate. LCB8184-10723 (film negative).

LOT 4161-E

1. "Old State Department Building, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue." Shows a black man seated selling bread. LCB8184-10707 (film negative).

LOT 4161-H

1. "Slave Pen, Alexandria, Va." Shows four black soldiers standing at attention along a wagon in front of the firm of Price & Birch Co. (marked 2296, stereo by the War Photograph and Exhibition Co.). LC-B8171-2296 (film negative); LC-B811-2296 (glass negative).

2. Portrait of a lone black woman standing in front of the "slave pen" in Alexandria, Va., the firm of Price & Birch Co., "Slave Dealers," in the background (marked 2300). LC-B8u-2300 (glass negative).

3. "Freedmen's Village, Arlington, Va." Shows about 100 blacks lined up in front of barracks with books, evidently a school group learning to read. LC-B8184-B1163 (film negative).

4. "Freedmen's Barracks, Arlington, Va." Shows a group of freedmen in front of barracks. LC-B8184-B-350 (film negative).

5. "Building Stockade, Alexandria, Va." Shows a group of black construction workers in front of a wooden stockade digging a ditch. Reproduced in Miller, vol. 5, p. 9L LC-B8184-524 (film negative).

LOT 4162 (Stereograph File)

1. "Ruins of Richmond, April, 1865." Shows a black man seated in front of ruins. (Marked "6260.") (No negative number.)

LOT 4162-B

1. "U.S. Christian Commission Office, Richmond, Va., April, 1865." Shows a group including blacks in front of a building (marked 3371). LC-B8171-3371 (film negative).

2. "Group of Freedmen, Richmond, Va." Shows a black family and men seated along the canal with the ruins in the background. LC-B8171-948 (film negative).

3. "View of Canal Bridge at Foot of 7th Street, Richmond." Shows black children standing on the bridge. LC-B8171-868 (film negative); LC-USZ62-58817 (film negative); LC-B811-868 (glass negative).

LOT 4162-C

1."Headquarters of the U.S. Christian Commission, Richmond, Va., April, 1865." Shows a group including black men, women and children in front of building (marked 841). LC-B8184-B-41 (film negative).

2."Washington Headquarters, Richmond, Va." Shows a black woman seated on the sidewalk in front of a building. LC-B815-935 (glass negative).

3."The African Church, Richmond, Va." Shows a group of blacks in front of the church (marked B1211). LCB8184-B-1211 (film negative).

LOT 4162-D

1."Ruins on Carey Street, Richmond, Va." Shows white men inspecting the ruins with one black man holding a coat (marked B250). LC-B8184-250 (film negative).

2."The Fall of Richmond, Refugees, April 2, 1865." Shows black refugees on a boat with household belongings. Reproduced in Miller, vol.5, pp. 318-319. LC-B8171-7617 (film negative).

3."The African Church." Shows a group of blacks in front of church (marked 3368). LC-B8171-3368 (film negative); LC-B811-3368 (glass negative).

4."St. John's Church." Shows a black man and little girl with white children in front of church (marked 3366). LC-B811-3366 (glass negative).

LOT 4165-G

1."General Lafayette, Headquarters at Yorktown, Va." (Revolutionary War). Shows a group of blacks in front of a house; they appear to be servants. LC-B815-369 (glass negative).

LOT 4166-F (Stereograph File)

1."Bomb-proof quarters of Major Strong at Dutch Gap, Va., July, 1864." Shows two black soldiers seated outside of quarters. LC-B8171-2551 (film negative); LC-B8ii-2551 (glass negative).

LOT 4167

1."Collecting Remains of the Dead at Cold Harbour, Va." Collecting remains for reinterment after the war. Shows a black man sitting on the ground in front of a barrel full of skulls and bones. Probably four black men in the background digging graves. Reproduced in Gardner's ..j'hotographic Sketchbook., vol.2, plate 94. LC-B8184-4154 (film negative).

2."Monument of Battlefield at Bull Run, Va." Shows a group portrait of troops in front of the monument with a black boy among them. LC-B817-7532R (glass negative).

LOT 4168

1."Burial of Dead, Fredericksburg, Va." Shows a black man digging graves. LC-B8184-B-473 (film negative); LC-B811-2506 (glass negative).

LOT 4171

1."Captain J.M. Robertson and Staff, 1st Brigade Horse Artillery, Brandy Station, Va., February, 1864." Shows uniformed blacks in back of white officers. LC-B8171-7555 (film negative).

2."Camp U.S. Engineers, near Brandy Station, Va., March, 1864." Shows black man holding a horse in a field. (No negative number).

3."Headquarters, 1st Brigade Horse Artillery, near Brandy Station, Va., February, 1864." Shows a black servant standing beside a stack of firewood while white officers pose for portrait. LC-B8171-7637 (film negative).

4."Staff Officers Mess, Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, Brandy Station, Va., April, 1864." Shows a group of white officers eating while a black servant stands behind them with a pitcher of water (marked 132). (No negative number).

5."Headquarters Army of the Potomac, Brandy Station, Va., April, 1864." Shows camp of Telegraph Corps, several black men working and white men relaxing. (No negative number).

LOT 4172

1."Execution of colored soldier (William Johnson), Petersburg, Va., June 20, 1864." Shows hanging man alone, the charge on which he was convicted was attempted rape. LC-USZ62-49608 (film negative); LCB815-789 (glass negative)

2."View of South Carolina." Shows a man in a field with a small black boy. LC-BH822-200 (glass negative).

LOT 4172-A (Stereograph File)

1."Contraband Foreground." Shows three black boys sitting with three Union officers in front of a tent. Stereo view by Anthony and Co., New York. LC-B8184-2062 (film negative).

2."A Group of Contrabands." Same image as #1 in Lot 4172-B (described below). LC-B8171-2594 (film negative); LC -U5Z62-27821 (film negative).

3."A Negro Family Coming into Union Lines." Same image as #11 in Lot 4172-B (described below) but printed as a stereograph. LC-B8171-657 (film negative; half stereograph), LC-U5Z62-57031 (film negative; full stereograph).

LOT 4172-B

1. "Negro Teamsters." Shows group of seven contraband dressed in old Union uniforms standing in front of a wagon and shack. Same image as #1 in Lot 4172-A (described above) except printed as half stereograph. LC-B8171-2594 (film negative; half stereograph).
2. "Convalescent Colored Troops at Aiken's Landing. M. Aiken's house at right." Shows forty black soldiers sitting and standing on a slight hill. LC-B8171-2608 (film negative).
3. "Headquarters of General Lafayette during the Revolutionary War, Yorktown, Va." Shows group of soldiers and blacks in front of small house, two black washer women with tubs, black man with an ax resting on the ground. LC-B8171-372 (film negative); LC-B815-372 (glass negative).
4. "Group of contraband at Follers House, Cumberland Landing, Va., May, 1862." Shows about twenty ex-slaves sitting in front of a cabin; excellent photograph. LCB8171-383 (film negative).
5. "Contraband." Shows two black men, escaped slaves, sitting in front of a white army tent, one with cigar and the other with a soup ladle. LC-B8171-221 (film negative).
6. "Fugitive Negroes, fording the Rappahannock River, following the retreat of Pope's Army, August, 1862." Shows wagon pulled by oxen across the river to join the Union Army in 1862. LC-B815-519 (glass negative).
7. "Fugitive Negroes, fording the Rappahannock River, following the retreat of Pope's Army, August, 1862." Closer view of 6, above. LC-B8171-518 (film negative).
8. "John Henry, servant at Headquarters, 3rd Army Corps, October, 1863." Shows black servant sitting in front of a large army tent. LC-B817-7339 (glass negative).
9. "Breaking Camp, Brandy Station, Va., May, 1864." Shows black man next to chimney, lean-to in the background. Reproduced in Gardner's *Photographic Sketchbook...*, vol. 2, plate 63. LC-B8184-4165 (film negative).
10. "Camp of the Negro Labor Crew of the Q. M. Depot, Belle Plain, Va." Shows a group of shacks with clothes drying and seven blacks (contraband) standing in front of the shacks. LC-B8184-324 (film negative).
11. "Arrival of Negro Family into Union Lines," Shows an overcrowded wagon with escaping slaves pulled by two mules. Reproduced in Miller, vol.3, p. 223 (bottom). Same image as #3 in Lot 4172-A (described above). LCB8171-657 (film negative, half stereograph); LC-B811-657 (glass negative, half stereograph); LC-U5Z62-57031 (full stereograph).
12. "Negro Teamsters at Butler's Signal Tower, Bermuda Hundred, Va., 1864." Shows a group of black teamsters. LC-B8171-2596 (film negative); LC-B811-2596 (glass negative).

13. "Black cook at City Point, Va." LC-B8171-2597 (film negative).

14. "Camp of 10th U.S. Colored Infantry." Shows group of blacks standing outside tents. (Marked 4319). (No negative number.)

15. "Camp of 27th U.S. Colored Infantry." Shows tents and men standing amid trees in distance. (Marked 4096.) (No negative number.)

LOT 4172-C

1. "Picket Post." Shows two black soldiers in uniform aiming rifles while leaning against the edge of a damaged wooden house. LC-B8171-2553 (film negative); LC-B811-2553 (glass negative).

LOT 4172-F

1. "General Rawlins Horse." Shows a black boy on a horse taken at Cold Harbor, Va., June 14, 1864. (No negative number).

2. "Captain Pierce's Private Horses, Wagons, etc..., Culpeper, Va., Sept., 1863." Shows a black man holding two horses and a young boy on the ground. (No negative number).

3. "Captain Beckwith's Horse, Headquarters Army of the Potomac, February, 1863." Shows a black man holding a horse. LC-U5Z62-74527 (film negative).

LOT 4172-G

1. "Signal Tower at Point of Rocks, Appomattox River, Va.," Shows a black man standing along with signal core. Reproduced in Miller, vol.1, p. 37. LC-B8171-2500 (film negative); LC-B811-2500 (glass negative).

LOT 4172-H

1. "Headquarters of the New York Herald in the Field, Bealton, Va., August, 1863." Shows a black servant behind two seated reporters writing (marked 237). LCB8184-7237 (film negative).

2. "Headquarters of the New York Herald in the field." Shows a black man holding a horse in front of a tent (marked B187). Photograph by A. J. Russell, in Miller, Vol. 13, p. 293. LC-B8184-B-187 (film negative).

3. "Brady's Photographic Outfit in front of Petersburg, Va., 1864 (?)." (U.S. Army Signal Corps "Brady Photograph," catalogue, 1921, no. B-5077, Brady not in photograph). Reproduced in Miller, vol. 13, p. 27. LCB8184-B-5077 (film negative).

LOT 4173

1."1st Colored Infantry." Shows infantry at attention from a side view (marked 3032). LC-B816-3032 (glass negative).

2."Soldiers on Review, South Carolina." Shows black troops on review (2 images). LC-BH822-341 and LCBH822-342 (glass negatives).

LOT 4174

1."Battery of Light 12 Pounders on Ordnance Wharf, City Point, Va." Shows long line of cannons guarded by one black soldier. LC-B8184-2583 (film negative); LC-B811-2583 (glass negative).

LOT 4176

1."Pontoon Bridge, Belle Plain Landing, Va." Photograph by A. J. Russell. Reproduced in Miller, vol.5, pp. 236-37.LC-B8184-612 (film negative).

LOT 4178

1."Dutch Gap Canal, November, 1864." Shows two black soldiers while canal is under construction (marked 4320). (No negative number)

LOT 4179

1."Quartermaster's Wharf~ Alexandria, Va." Shows a group of about forty black laborers, mostly sitting on wharf with shovels, buckets, etc. (marked B440). LC-B8184-440 (film negative).

2."Forge scene at Antietam, Md., April, 1862." Shows a black man seated with a shoe and hammer. LC-B8171-7940 (film negative).

3."Commissary Tent at Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, near Fairfax Courthouse, Va., June, 1863." Shows four blacks, one being handed provisions and another weighing meat (marked 438). LC-B8184-7438 (film negative).

LOT 4180

1."Camp of Chief Ambulance Officer, 9th Army Corps in front of Petersburg, Va., August, 1864." Shows a group of white civilians, Army officers and a black servant sitting under a hospital tent. LC-B8161-7538 (film negative).

2."Quarters of Chief Ambulance Officer, 9th Army Corps in front of Petersburg, Va., August, 1864." Shows a group of officers with two black servants (marked 818). LCB8184-818 (film negative).

3."Kitchen of 'Soldiers Rest,' Alexandria, Va." Shows a black man cooking (marked 863). LC-U5Z62-23246 (film negative).

LOT 4186

1."General Paul Humphreys and Staff, June, 1865." Shows two black servants posed with white staff on either end of tent. (No negative number).

2."General N.E. McLaughlin and Staff, near Washington, D.C., July, 1865." Shows a black servant with white staff (two images). LC-U5Z62-96478 (film negative); LC-B8184-7180 (film negative).

3."General George Stoneman and Staff, near Richmond, Va., June, 1862." Shows a small group of white officers with a black servant sitting on the ground with a dog in his lap. Photograph by James F. Gibson. LC-B815- 445 (glass negative).

4."Major General Fitz John Porter and Staff, Headquarters of the Fifth Army Corps, Harrison's Landing, James River, August, 1862." Shows a group of white officers (each identified) and a female black servant in the background (identification reads: "Chief cook and bottle washer, Mrs. Fairfax"). (No negative number)

LOT 4187

1."Officers, 33rd N.Y. Infantry: Field and Staff of 33rd N.Y. Infantry, Camp Granger, near Washington, D.C." Shows officers with black staff members included. LCB8184-4542 (film negative).

2."Officers, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, Fort Slocum, April, 1865." Shows a group of white officers and several blacks in uniform. (marked 689). (No negative number)

3."Officers, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, Fort Slocum, April, 1865." Shows group of white officers and three blacks, one in uniform. (Marked 851.) LC-B8171-7851 (film negative).

4."Officers of the 114th Penn. Infantry in front of Petersburg, Va., August, 1864." Shows two black servants with a small group of white officers (marked 144). (No negative number)

5."Field and Staff of the 39th U.S. Colored Infantry in front of Petersburg, Va., August, 1864." Shows two black soldiers with white officers (marked 51). (No negative number)

6."Officers, Headquarters Army of the Potomac, Warrenton, Va., September, 1864." Shows a group of officers with black servant. Reproduced in Gardner's Yhotographic Sketchbook..., vol. 1, plate 27. (No negative number)

7. "Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Staff of the 93rd Infantry, Ballston, Va., 1863," (marked ii). (No negative number)
8. "Officers of N.S. Horse Artillery, Army of the Potomac, Culpeper, Va., September, 1863." Shows black servant serving whiskey from a barrel to white officers. (No negative number).
9. Group of officers in front of a house with a black servant seated on the ground. (No negative number)
10. "Captains Jane and Clark." Shows white officers with black servant. (No negative number)
11. "Major H. H. Humphrey and Others, June, 1865." Shows white officers in front of a tent with black servant holding a flask in the background. (No negative number)
12. "Officers of the 107th U.S. Colored Infantry." Shows a group of officers on a porch, including one black guard at attention (marked 684). (No negative number)

LOT 4188

1. "Negro Soldiers." Identified by Bill Wiley in 1953: thought to be a group of Union soldiers, ca. 1863-1865, with their Northern officers and teachers probably on the South Carolina coast. LC-B8184-10061 (film negative).
2. Unidentified group of officers in front of a house with their black servant. (No negative number)
3. "Gettysburg, Camp of Captain Huft, July, 1865." Shows white men relaxing by their tents while six black servants cook. (No negative number)
4. "Provost Marshal's Office, Acquia Creek Landing, Va., Winter 1862-63." Shows a black clerk off to the side of a group of white men. Reproduced in Gardner's *Photographic Sketchbook...*, vol. 1, plate 46. (No negative number)
5. "Captain Howard and Group Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax, Va., June, 1863." Shows a black boy seated on the ground in front of white staff. LCB8184-7549 (ifim negative).
6. "Telegraph Corps, Brandy Station, Va., April, 1864." Shows black men chopping wood while white soldiers relax near their tents. LC-BH84-7353 (glass negative).
7. "Group, 22nd N.Y. State Militia, near Harper's Ferry, Va., 1861 (?)." Shows black soldiers seated and black cook standing in the background (marked B838). Reproduced in Miller, vol. 7, p. 69, also in LOT 4189. LC-B8184-B-163 (film negative).

8. "Headquarters of the 16th N.Y. Infantry." Shows a black servant standing behind two white soldiers playing chess. Reproduced in Miller, vol. 8, p. 241. LC-B8184-B-305 (film negative).

9. "Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, October, 1862." Shows white officers seated on ground and a black servant seated behind them in a rocking chair, men are identified. LC-U5Z62-82793 (film negative).

10. "Group at Quartermaster General's Office, Washington, D.C., April, 1865." Shows a black man, probably a servant, among large group in front of a building (three images). LC-B8184-7826. Reproduced in Miller, vol. 8, p. 38. LC-B8184-7871 (film negative); LCB8184-7828 (film negative).

11. "Group at Quartermaster General's Office, Washington, D.C., April, 1865." Shows a black man, probably a servant, among large group in front of a Renwick Building, Washington, D.C. Reproduced in Miller, vol. 8, p. 38. LC-B817-7827 (glass negative).

12. "Headquarters of General O.B. Wilcox, in front of Petersburg, Va., August, 1864." Shows white officers watching a cock fight conducted by two black servants (chickens clearer in this image). LC-B8171-7222 (film negative); LC-B817-7222 (glass negative).

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13. "Headquarters of General O. B. Wilcox, in front of Petersburg, Va., August, 1864." Shows white officers watching a cock fight conducted by two black servants (people slightly better in this image). LC-B8161-7722A (film negative); LC-B817-7952 (glass negative).

14. "Mess House at Government Stables, Washington, D.C., April, 1865." Shows group of whites and black kitchen servants standing in front of the kitchen and mess hall. LC-B817-7676 (glass negative).

15. "Scouts and Guides of the Army of the Potomac." Shows a large group of guides and black man wearing an apron standing with them. LC-B8171-7105 (film negative).

16. "Commissary Clerks, Acquia Creek Landing, February, 1863." Shows seven clerks in camp, black clerk seated on the left. (No negative number)

17. "Provost Marshall Depot, Petersburg, August, 1864." Shows a group with two black men in the back. LC-B817-7537 (glass negative).

18. "9th Mass. Infantry, Camp near Washington, D.C., 1861." Shows white officers with black servant seated on the ground (marked 8142). LC-U5Z62-12228 (film negative).

LOT 4189

1. "2nd Rhode Island Infantry." Shows two black boys with a group of white officers (marked 817). (No negative number)
2. "2nd Rhode Island Infantry." Shows three black boys seated on the ground in front of three white officers (marked 919). (No negative number)
3. "2nd Rhode Island Infantry." Shows a black boy reclining and smiling in front of infantrymen (marked 1055). (No negative number)
4. "2nd Rhode Island Infantry." Shows a black man in the background under shelter behind a group of white officers (marked 821). (No negative number)
5. "2nd Rhode Island Infantry." Shows a black boy seated in front of three standing soldiers (marked 1053.) (No negative number)
6. "2nd Rhode Island Infantry." Shows a black man reclining on the ground in front of a group of infantrymen (marked 1041). (No negative number)
7. "7th New York State Militia, Camp Cameron, D.C., 1861." Shows a black boy wearing an apron holding a frying pan in front of three white officers (marked B952). (No negative number)
8. "7th New York State Militia, Camp Cameron, D.C., 1861." Shows a black boy seated in front of a group of white officers (marked B954). (No negative number)
9. "7th New York State Militia, Camp Cameron, D.C., 1861." Shows a black boy shining shoes next to white officers (marked 13950). (No negative number)
10. "7th New York State Militia, Camp Cameron, D.C., 1861." Shows a black servant washing in a bowl on the ground in front of a group of white officers (marked 13902). (No negative number)
11. "22nd New York State Militia, near Harper's Ferry, Va., 1861." Shows a black boy carrying things from a tent (marked B873). (No negative number).
12. "23rd New York Infantry." Shows a black man seated with white officers shining boots (marked B1028). (No negative number)
13. "23rd New York Infantry." Shows a black man seated with one white officer in front of a tent (marked B1065). (No negative number)

LOT 4190F

1. "Co. E, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, Ft. Lincoln, defenses of Washington." Shows 27 blacks in two lines with rifles resting on the ground (marked 890). LCB8171-7890 (film negative); LC-B817-7890 (glass negative).

2. "Band of 107th U.S. Colored Infantry." Shows a group of 20 black soldiers with musical instruments (marked 861). LC-B8171-7861 (film negative).