

Portrait of Army Private Jonas M. Poweshiek, 1917



Pvt. Jonas M. Poweshiek,
Aux. Rem. Depot 328, Camp Bowie, Texas.
Enl. June 6/17 at Tulsa, Okla.
Hon. Dis. May 1st.-1919.
(Tama Indian)

Graduates and Teachers from the Tuskegee Institute in Army Training Camp, August 10, 1917

State Capitol Bldg Hist. Natl. Room

Don't Pay
and read The
Bystander

THE BYSTANDER

The Best
advertising medium
to reach colored
people in the west

XXIV No. 8

DES MOINES, IOWA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1917.

Price Five Cents

Graduates And Teachers In Booker Washington's School Now In Army Training Camp, The Great Spirit Of Booker Washington Still Lives.



Here is a remarkable gathering of men in training at Fort Des Moines for commissions in the United States army. All are graduates of, or teachers in Tuskegee institute, Tuskegee, Ala., the famous school founded and built by the late Dr. Booker T. Washington. It is the more remarkable

that these men are by no means exceptional, for the camp is, in large part, made up of college graduates, men who in civil life are engaged in all sorts of business and professional activities. They are the picked men of the race and are taking advantage of what many regard as the greatest

opportunity that ever has come to colored men in America.

Left to right, front row—Mathew L. Dawson, Lee J. Hicks, S. J. Willoughby, C. J. A. Paddyfote, J. C. Banks, Ralph E. Mizell, R. C. Atkins, Benjamin E. Ammons, George J. Austin, Alexander R. Stewart, W. T. McKen-

zie, Cleveland Buchanan, Vanderbilt Brown, Francis Hannon, H. Gow, Grover Hardin, Charles G. Kelley.

Middle row—William A. Harris, E. L. Faulkner, Ernest B. Frazier, Edward A. Simmons, C. R. Richardson, William Kidd Clark, Charles Y. Har-

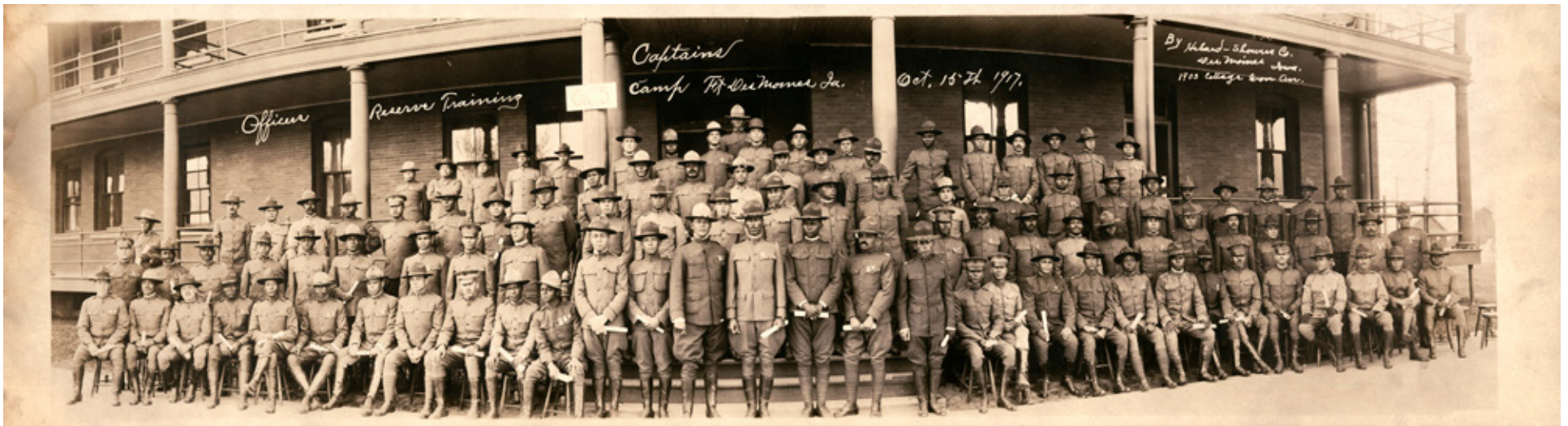
ris, Charles C. Dawson, Thomas J. Narcisse, Horatio Holder, Edward L. Snyder, William H. Clark, Robert H. McClasky, H. H. Boger, Elmer P. Sawyer, Charles H. Fearing.

Back row—R. L. Campbell, Tacitus E. Caillard, W. Elwood Davis, George

E. Lee, O. Bery F. Smith, Charles J. Blackwood, H. H. Hanis, Earl B. Dickinson, C. C. Clayton, Edwin H. Lee, Harold E. Smith, Joseph E. Wiley, W. L. Hutcherson, Frank L. Drye, John W. Ovletrea, Augustus J. Hunt, Felix J. Washington, Walter S. Ross.

"Graduates and Teachers in Booker Washington's School Now in Army Training Camp, The Great Spirit of Booker Washington Still Lives," *The Iowa Bystander*, 10 August 1917. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

African-American Captains at Ft. Des Moines, October 15, 1917



World War I YMCA Educational Secretaries, 1918



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 1918

Portrait of Army Private Robert Young Bear, 1918



Pvt. Robert Young Bear,
50th. Co., Transportation Corps,
Ind. Toledo, Ia., June 1/18.
Hon. Dis. July 19/19.
(Tama Indian)

Private George Stewart Letter from World War I, August 3, 1918 (Pg.1)



Private George Stewart Letter from World War I, August 3, 1918 (Pg.2)

Somewhere in France
Aug. 3, 1918

Dear Grand-Pa,

Well I will try and write a few lines to let you know that I am still alive. I expect you think that I have forgotten about you but I have not I often wonder how you are but I never have much time to write.

I am in a French hospital now I got wounded July 19 in my right shoulder and right foot. I have been operated on twice to take the bullets out.

They told me the other day that it would be two or three months before I can go back to duty on the lines.

The French people treat us fine here but I wish that I was in an American hospital but we have got four American Nurses now so we get along pretty good. I will be glad when I can get out and run around again. I have been in the hospital 15 days now.

France is all right and is a pretty country but I will be glad when I get back to the U. S. A. Every thing is different over here this country is about a hundred years behind ours.

I don't know if you can read this or not for I can not use my hand very good yet I hope you keep well this summer and have a good time I suppose you see Lela and the Babie

Private George Stewart Letter from World War I, August 3, 1918 (Pg.3)


quite often. I expect Lela takes you
out riding quite often. I sure would
like to see her and the Babies but I
expect that it will be a long time
yet before I get home.
But we are driving the Germans back
some now.
I will sure be glad when the war is over.
I would like to see some of the boys from
home. I have only saw one fellow that I knew
since I left home. I have not had any
mail since I got over here I sure would
like to hear from home I would like
to know how every one is.
I expect that Lela is quite a big girl
now. I would like to see the boy I
wonder if he looks like me.
I expect most of the boys that I knew
are in the Army now.
Well I hope to be home next year at
this time but I may not.
Well I hope that you keep well and
have a good time.
Tell every body hell-o for me for I
can not write very well with my
shoulder knocked out.
Well I will close for this time
hoping to hear from you all soon
From your loving Grand-son
Privt George J. Stewart
76th. Co. 6th Reg. Md. S. M. C.
A. E. F.

Letter from Private Estle Senter to his Mother During World War I, December 19, 1918 (Pg.1)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME Pr E J Senter
Base Hospital 76
APO 781
Vishay France



Dec 19 1918

Dear Mother:

I will try and write
you a few lines to let you
know how I am getting along
I am still in the hospital.
but I am getting along all
right.

It seems like a wound in
the head heals awfully slow.
I have been in the hospital
every since Oct 9th and I am
still here, I have a fine place
to stay though and so I don't
minder it much. We are staying

Letter from Private Estle Senter to his Mother During World War I, December 19, 1918 (Pg.2)

in big hotels, and ^I we have enough
to eat all of the time, And a
nice place to sleep.

If I only could get my mail
and some pay. I would be pretty
well satisfied, I haven't received my
mail since I came to the hospital
but I guess I will get it some
day before long.

And money I haven't been payed
for six months, excepting one Casual
Pay which is eleven dollars.

Which doesn't go every far in a
town of this size we are in
a town about twice the size of
Perry.

Well Mother it will not be long
until I will spend my second
Xmas in this country,
I can wear my three service stripes
now and one wound stripe.

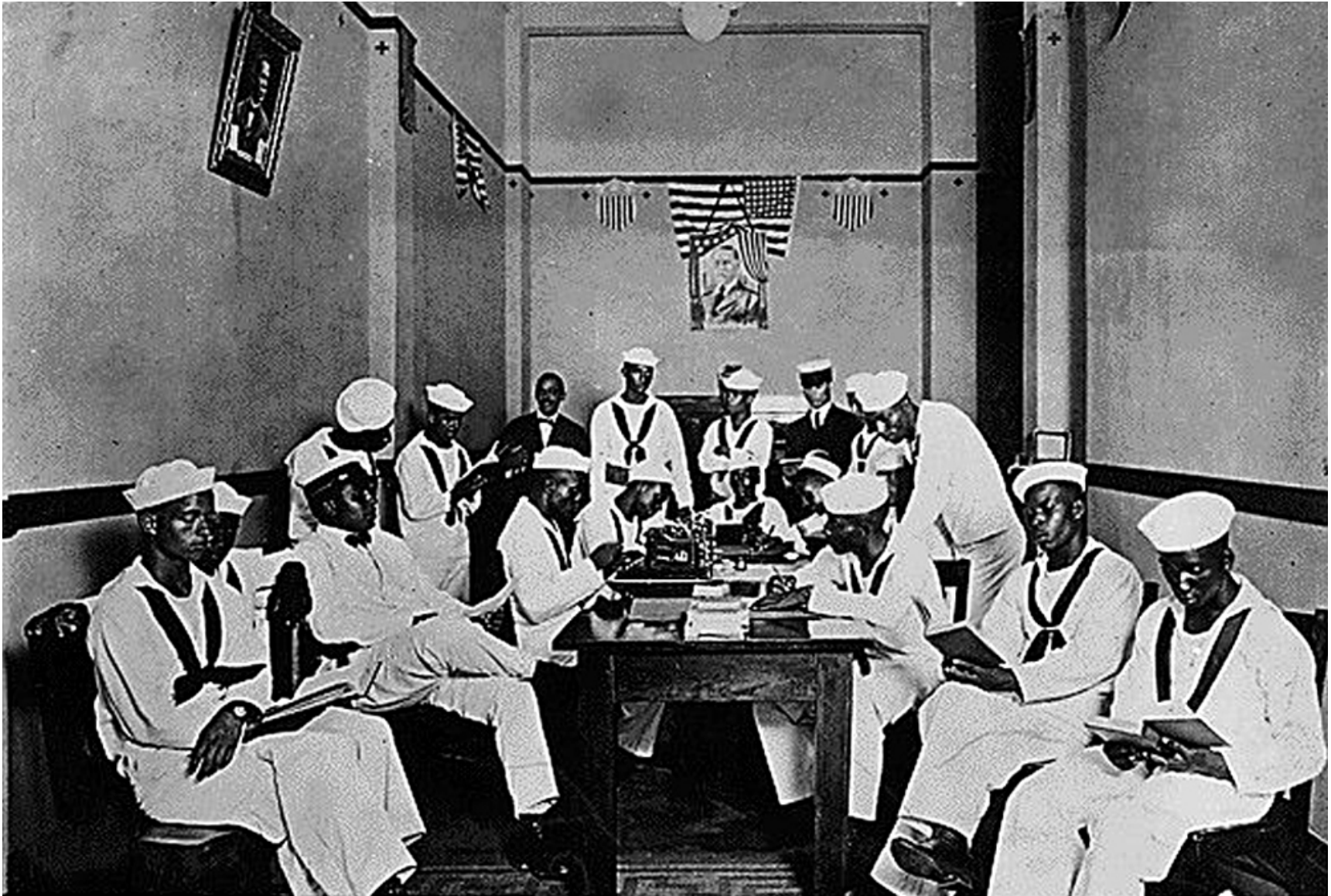
I have been over here eighteen months

Letter from Private Estle Senter to his Mother During World War I, December 19, 1918 (Pg.3)

now and only ³wounded once.
I'll say I was pretty lucky.
I have seen many and many
times I wouldn't give five cents
for my life. I have had shells
burst so close to me that I
was knocked down three different
times, And almost captured once
I had Germans on three sides of
me but I got away the three
fellows that were with me
one of them was shot and
killed, that was Corporal Murphy
and ~~one~~ ^{two} of them were captured
one - an Italian And the other
fellow was from Indiana, And
so I figure I was mighty
lucky not to be a prisoner
well I guess I had felt
close so might soon to the
address on the top of the first
page With love to all from Estle

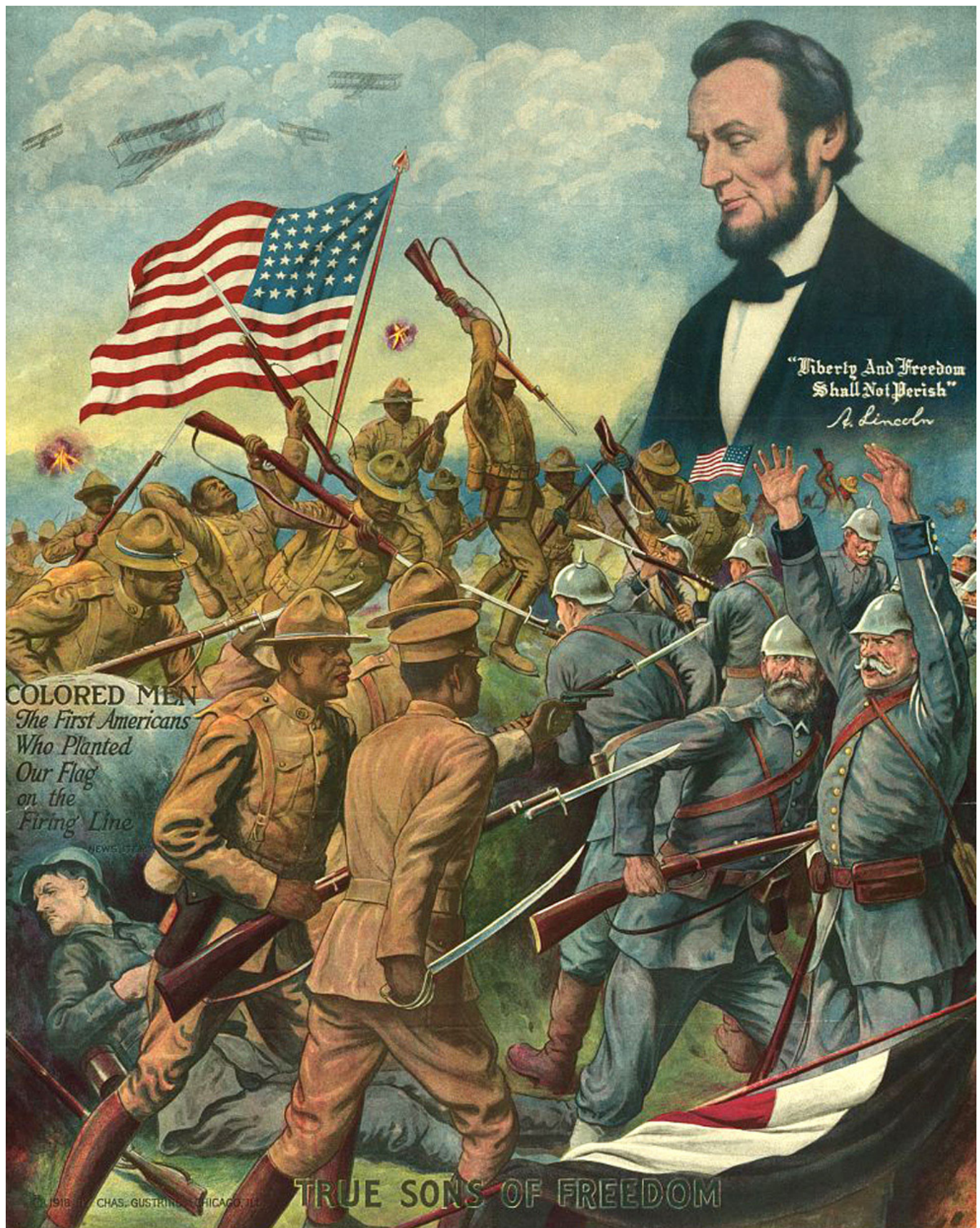
Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 27 December 1917

American Red Cross Rest Room for African-American Soldiers and Sailors, between 1917 and 1919



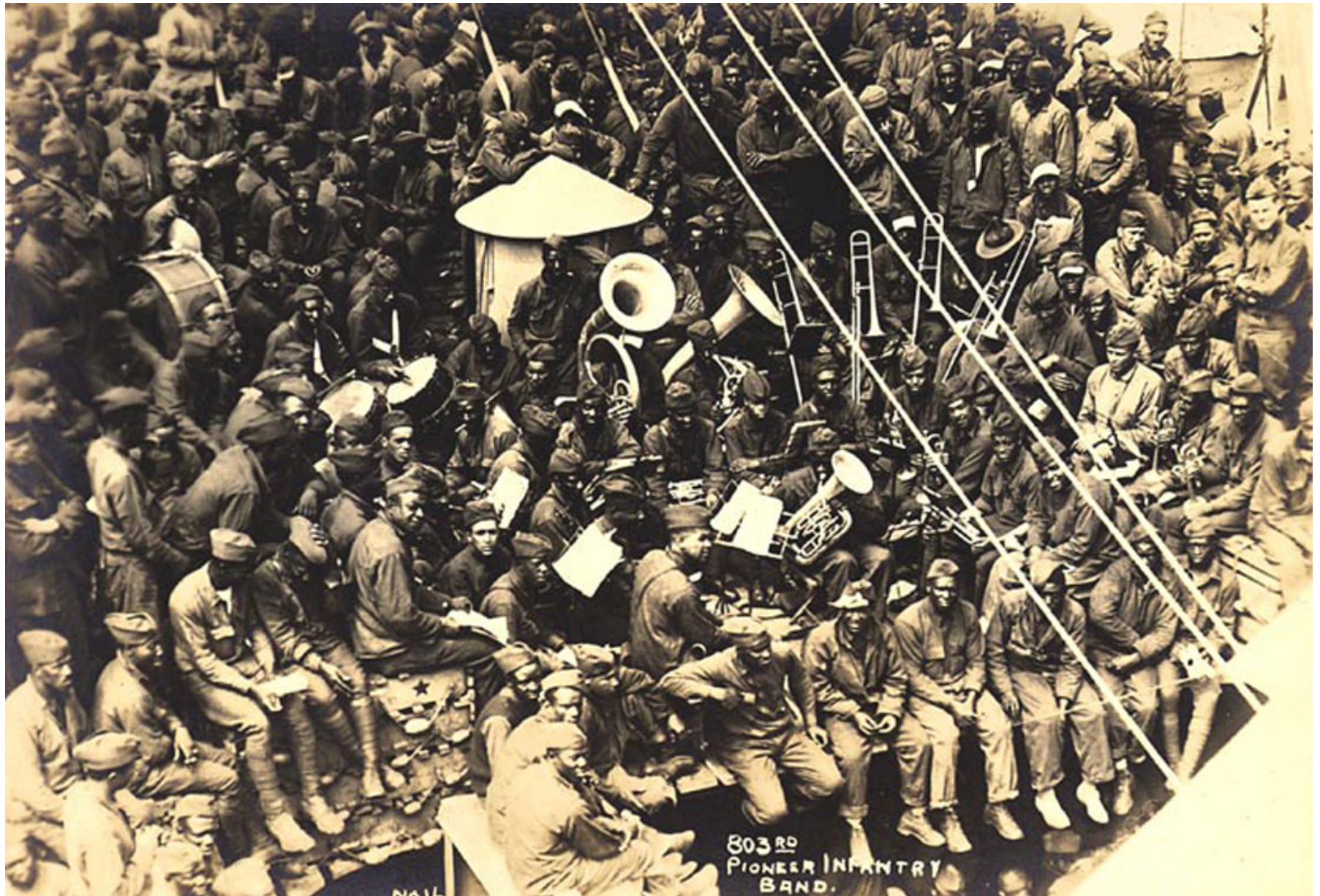
“American Red Cross Rest Room for [African American] soldiers and sailors,” between 1917 and 1919. [Courtesy of National Archives](#)

“True Sons of Freedom” Poster, 1918



Gustrine, Charles, “True Sons of Freedom,” 1918. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

803rd Pioneer Infantry Band on the U.S.S. Philippines, 1919

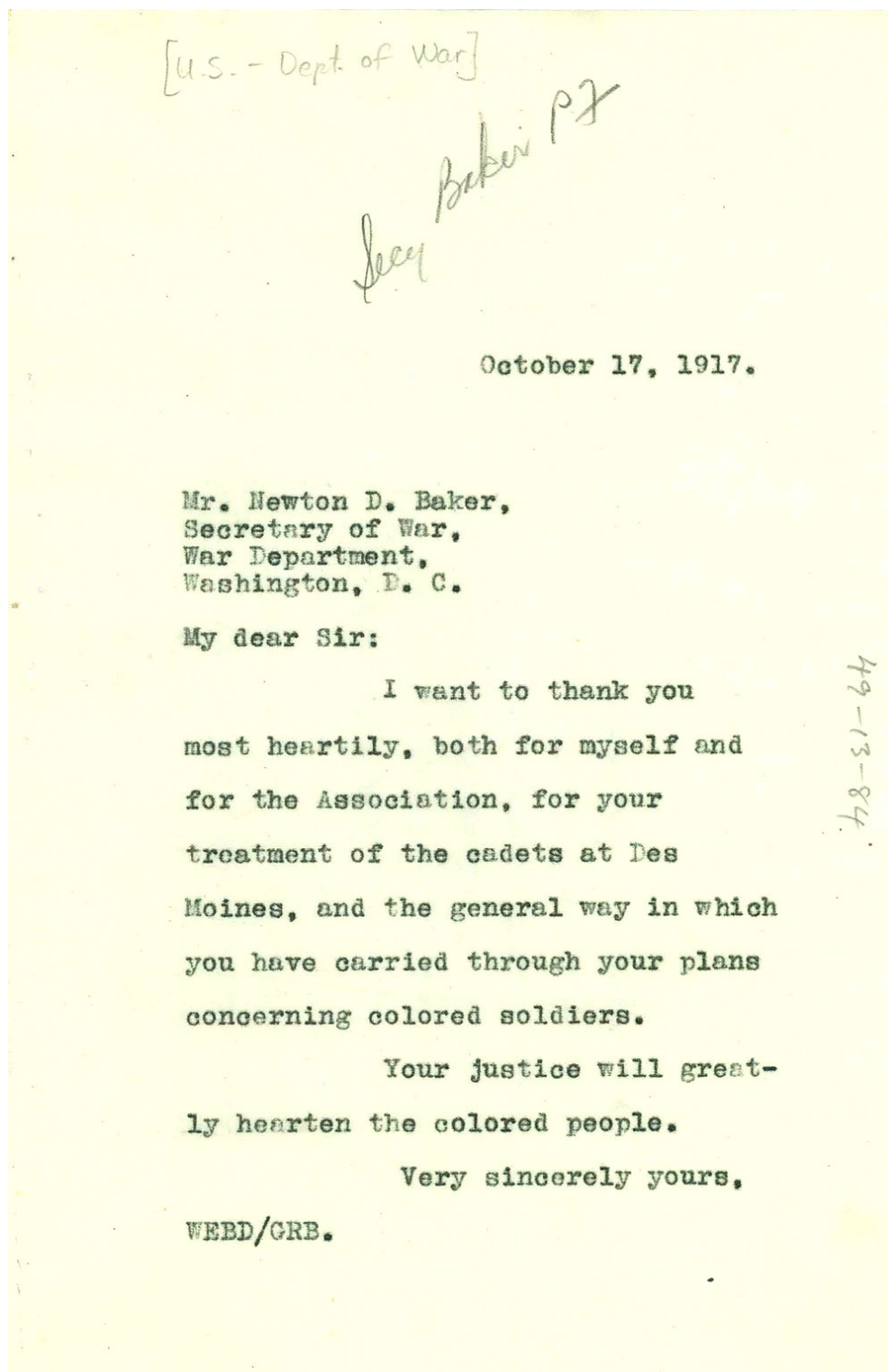


"803rd Pioneer Infantry Band, No. 16," 1919. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

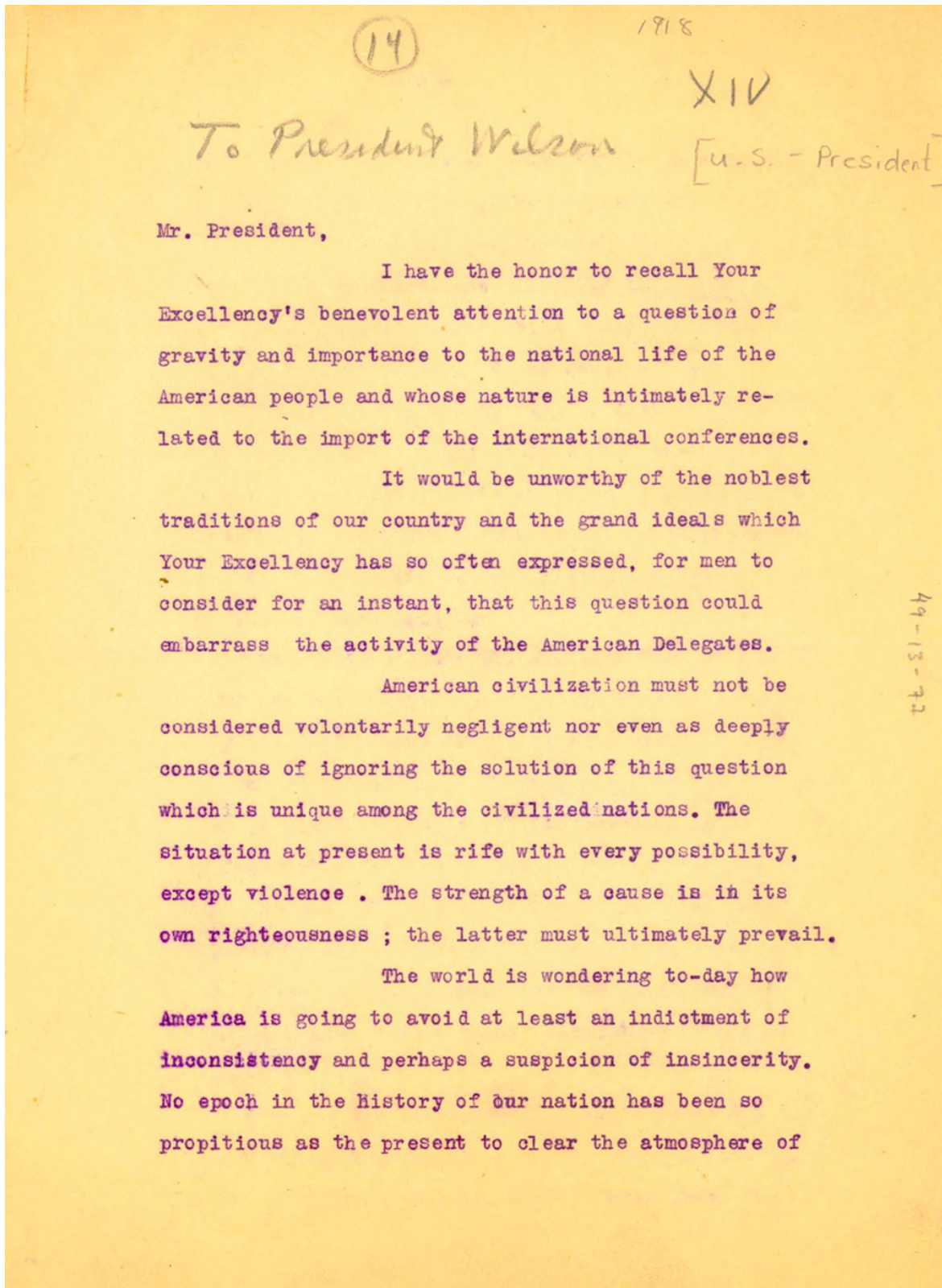
Women's Army Corps Company Outside Des Moines Theater, September 29, 1943



Letter from W.E.B. Du Bois to U.S. Secretary of War Newton Baker Praising Ft. Des Moines, October, 17, 1917



Letter from W.E.B. Du Bois to President Woodrow Wilson, November 1918 (Pg.1)



Du Bois, W.E.B. "Letter from W. E. B. Du Bois to President Woodrow Wilson," November 1918. Courtesy of UMass Amherst Libraries, permission of use granted by the David Graham Du Bois Trust

Letter from W.E.B. Du Bois to President Woodrow Wilson, November 1918 (Pg.2)

- 2 -

doubt as to the national intention in this matter.

The international peace Congress that is to decide whether or not peoples shall have the right to dispose of themselves will find in its midst delegates from a nation which champions the principle of the "consent of the governed" and "Government by representation". That nation is our own and includes in itself more than twelve million souls whose consent to be governed is never asked. They have no ^{more} numbers in the legislatures where they are in the majority and not a single representative in the national Congress.

For us to sustain the ancient ^s these of ineligibility and incapacity to govern himself or to enjoy the full rights of citizenship would be a libel on our civilization; if sixty years of its influence has produced so poor a result, Americanism would be a lamentable failure. Happily such is not the case.

He was illiterate; but not less than five (probably six) of the Allied Nations whose rights to independent Government are recognized by the United States have a higher percentage of illiteracy than he.

In numbers he represents nearly twice the population of Roumania or Holland, two and half times that of Chile or Sweden, nearly three times that of

44-13-28

Letter from W.E.B. Du Bois to President Woodrow Wilson, November 1918 (Pg.3)

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Switzerland, three times that of Portugal and five times those of Norway or Denmark.

From agricultural pursuits alone he has enriched the nation to the extent of more than twelve billions of dollars in twenty years, without considering the corn crop (the most important of the country) which included, would mean that the black population of the United States has in the period above mentioned, given by its labor to the nation twice the amount of all the loans made to the Allied Powers. From an economic point of view he cannot be considered as unimportant.

His tradition in the wars of our country has been that of a worthy patriot and a good soldier ; the very birth of the nation was consecrated by the blood of Crispus Attucks; he left his fifty thousand dead on the battle fields of the Secession ; he saved a difficult situation at San Juan Hill ; he distinguished himself in this last and greatest struggle in the history of mankind, proving himself to be the equal of the best soldiers on the field ; he participated brilliantly in the final combat; thus from the Boston massacre to the last battle of Sedan he has maintained traditions worthy of the American people.

Has this race not earned as much consideration

49-13-79

Letter from W.E.B. Du Bois to President Woodrow Wilson, November 1918 (Pg.4)

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as most of the smaller nations whose liberties and rights are to be safeguarded by international convention ?

In principle this is as much an international question as that of the Poles or the Yougo-Slaves who were comprised until recently within the Central Empires . In fact, the question "a people" applies with exceptional distinctness in this case .This appeal can have no report with class distinction or class legislation. The ideals of the peace Congress have to do with the rights of distinctive peoples ; a more distinctive people than the American Negro would be difficult to imagine when taken in his present surroundings and as compared with the other races interested which have not the distinguishing mark of color.

More than to the Black race within her borders, America owes to the world the solution of her race problem, from this very year. The question can be resolved and should be resolved, by the same impartial and righteous judgment that is to be applied to other peoples . The consequence of such an effort would not be revolution but untrammelled evolution.

If asked by what authority I make this appeal, my answer would be :-

By the tacit consent of twelve million people not one of whom would repudiate the principles set forth and by the right that Almighty God has given to each one of his creatures to lift up his voice against suffering and injustice.

49-13-80

Charles Young Auxiliary at Red Cross Bazaar in Des Moines, Iowa, December 20, 1918

RACE ECHOES.

GENERAL RACE NEWS.

Booker T. Washington, Jr., has been appointed as claim adjuster at the United States government air nitrate plant in Alabama.

Four colored delegates were present at the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor. The color line seems to have been almost completely abolished in labor's ranks.

Rev. Edward Thomas Dwyer has been consecrated Suffragan Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas. Bishop Dwyer is the first colored man to receive this honor.

David H. Baynes, a colored man living near Shreveport, La., has purchased \$100,000.00 worth of Liberty Bonds. He says that in case the city falls short of its quota, he will give a check for the amount needed to bring the amount up to the proper amount.

The corner stone of the new Y. M. C. A. building in New York City was laid in October. The new building will cost \$250,000 when completed and finished. It will be seven stories high and have 300 bedrooms.

Lincoln Kings Diamond, who holds the quarter mile record, is planning to run in the Olympic championship races to be held on the military track at Columbus near Paris, France. It is said that this will be one of the largest races ever held in France.

Miss Jeannette Carter has been appointed director of the Colored Bureau of Industrial Housing and Transportation, in the U. S. Department of Labor, with many workers in her bureau. She is the first colored woman to be appointed Chief of the Bureau.

Colored women are being employed in the construction of one of the largest shipbuilding plants in the country. The site of the plant was a swampy wilderness in Alabama, but the colored women worked side by side with the men in an effort to reclaim the land.

The War Department has appropriated \$700,000.00 for the erection of a training school for colored nurses at Camp Sherman, O. Young women will be trained here to serve as nurses among the colored soldiers. Any colored girl with two years' high school education, who is physically and morally fit, is acceptable.

Many press reports, concerning the American army in France, intimate that the Germans have a wholesome fear of colored troops in action. General Pershing is lavishing his praise of the colored soldiers and has testified before the fact that they show marvelous coolness under shell fire, and an entire regiment, as well as individual colored soldiers, has been cited for decorations of honor.

The colored man now holding the highest rank in the regular army is Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Davis, a native of Washington, D. C., who is now stationed with the 8th Cavalry in the Philippines. He has seen service in Mexico and a number of points in this country and won distinction as military attaché of the United States in Liberia. He was in the Spanish-American war and has won his way up from the ranks.

The North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co. has purchased \$100,000.00 worth of Liberty Bonds. This is said to be one of the largest subscriptions taken by a company composed wholly of colored people.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE.

By Miss Ursula A. Guy.

During this present great war year and just after our country was awakened fully to her responsibilities and simultaneously to her dangers by the mighty German drives of last spring, not to mention the deadly submarine warfare that brought the struggle to our own coast—during this crisis, I say, the women of America nobly came to the front and rose to every emergency that confronted them.

But the wave of heroism did not stop there. The girlhood of the country caught the spirit of the times and wanted to contribute in some way, too, toward backing up parents, brothers, friends, and sweethearts "over there."

Some of our girls, colored and white, expressed this infectious spirit, often in ways that provoked severe criticism, while the general tendency was to rebuke too much indelicate admiration for our boys. Instead of extending solid friendship and moral needed help.

Thus it came about that the government authorities, realizing and experiencing the many problems caused by this undue admiration of the men in khaki, decided to mobilize all spirit organizations and attempt to give direction to this admiration by placing at the disposal of the War Recreation Board "Girl Workers," and in such manner it happened that Des Moines was among the first eastern cities to give these workers by means of the fact that Des Moines was a pioneer city in having established Army Clubs for soldiers, the presence of which meant great need in the way of chaperones for the girls who would attend the social functions for soldiers.

The colored "Girl Worker" has been engaged therefore in many activities. At first, most of her time was devoted to organizing girls' patriotic service clubs and as a result, there are night clubs (which, by the way, are not "cataracts") that have been organized and bound together by the Patriotic League plan. In addition, however, they have a big program for physical, mental, social and spiritual development.

A special phase of the girls' work is their recreation work and among our colored girls, classes in military drill, swimming and folk dancing have been organized. For the first two we plan an exhibition to come off some time soon. As for the folk dancing, two groups of girls have been organized, the "Y" and K. of C. girls at Camp

THE BYSTANDER

Register's All-State Teams

FIRST ELEVEN.	
Reed, Capt. (Iowa).....	End
Holding (Iowa).....	End
Stater (Iowa).....	Tackle
Sydnor (Iowa).....	Guard
Bredon (Iowa).....	Guard
Huselman (Iowa).....	Q. B.
Scott (Iowa).....	Halfback
Callahan (Iowa).....	Halfback
Lohman (Iowa).....	Fullback
SECOND ELEVEN.	
End (Iowa).....	End
Northrup, C. (Missouri).....	Tackle
Schick (Iowa).....	Guard
Mockmore (Iowa).....	Guard
Dugood (Iowa).....	Q. B.
Hook (Iowa).....	Halfback
Butler (Iowa).....	Halfback
Maas (Iowa).....	Fullback
Donnelly (Iowa).....	Fullback
Crane (Iowa).....	Fullback

Negro Students Win Football Honors in Iowa.

TWO NEGROES EARN PLACES. Men also are named in the honor roll who probably would not serve mention under normal conditions.

The outstanding feature of this year's all-state selections is the fact that two

Negroes, Slater of Iowa, and Collins of Mo., are named on the first selection and that Butler of Dubuque college and seminary, another Negro, is placed on the second eleven. This is the first time in several years that a Negro has gained the honor.

The conference and state teams are selected after consultation with the leading coaches and officials of Iowa.

The first team is made up largely of State University players. Many critics believe Iowa had its strongest team in

Chas. Young Auxiliary, American Red Cross, Des Moines, Iowa.

RED CROSS BAZAAR.

Don't fail to visit the bazaar being held in the tea room of the Mabel Dodge Store tomorrow, Saturday, Dec. 21st.

to graduate from the State University of Iowa with the degree of B. A. With her several years' experience at work in this state, Indiana and West Virginia and two consecutive years as director of play grounds for the city of Des Moines, Miss Hyde has been of great service in assisting with the War Camp Community Service and Patriotic League, being a leader of the Young Girls Aid Circle Patriotic League, which is composed of the girls in their early teens.

Miss Hyde has been quite interested in the Red Cross work, being director of the Junior Red Cross. Has been one of the efficient assistant hostesses at the Army Club No. 2, also an active member of the Mary Church Terrell Club, an organization that has been foremost in cheering the soldiers at Fort Des Moines.

Just recently Miss Hyde has been appointed as one of the Indoor Playground Directors for the city of Des Moines. She is, indeed, a very progressive and pleasant young lady.

See her out on page 5.

UNCLE SAM'S SAM'S POUCH

Somewhere in France.

My Dear Miss Watson:

I can't tell how glad I was to receive your letter. I was very sorry though to hear of the illness of your grandfather.

This leaves me well, and as I am somewhat of a "home" man, as you are a "home" man, I wrote you last. I had just come "out," and was helping at

Mrs. V. L. Jones

Mrs. Colleen Alexander-Jones has been one of the very active young ladies in the War Recreation Work and War Camp Community Service. She is one of the efficient assistant hostesses at the Army Club No. 2, also leader of Service Club No. 1 of the Patriotic League, composed of the High School Girls.

Mrs. Jones is a product of Des Moines, being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Price Alexander, very prominent citizens of this city and who have lived throughout the state. She has a wonderful contralto voice and has sung her way into the hearts of our boys and girls at Camp Dodge and Fort Des Moines. She has always been a very willing to cheer the hearts of the boys far away from home.

See her out on page 5.

Miss Adah Hyde

Miss Adah Hyde is a young girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Hyde, and highly respected citizen of Des Moines. She is a graduate of West Des Moines High and the first colored girl

men are members of the A. M. E. Church. Rev. M. M. Cable pastor of the local church.

The Sunday School is preparing for most pleasant occasion Christmas Eve. Mrs. Brad Baker and her daughter, Mrs. J. H. Baker, have the program in hand. The pastor, Rev. B. H. Massey, is asking parents and friends to invite them to bring his gifts that are in evidence on the tree, as he is to be in other days.

Mrs. Brad Baker is expected to return home this week from Chicago where her husband has been confined to the Providence hospital with pneumonia.

Bertha May Dickerson was elected treasurer of the Sunday school. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Roberts, recently from New City, Iowa.

Rev. J. H. Reynolds of Des Moines, Ill. is visiting Sunday.

Patricia Baker was able to attend church services twice during the day.

Mrs. Della Collins and her two daughters, April and Julia, are sick with pneumonia.

Mrs. Wilbur Gibson died Monday morning, Dec. 16, from a gunshot wound inflicted Sunday, Dec. 15.

The Baptist Sunday school is planning for a Christmas tree and program Christmas eve.

The following are on the sick list at this writing: Mr. George Abbe, Mrs. W. A. Mitchell and Mrs. George Jones.

The Thompson Hotel at 5th and Park Streets, a modern hotel. Rooms by the day or week. Call up Market 129.

Mrs. Broyles, Proprietress.

"Chas. Young Auxiliary, American Red Cross, Des Moines, Iowa," The Iowa Bystander, 20 December 1918. Courtesy of Library of Congress