

Descendants Oral History Project:

Since the dedication of the African American Civil War Memorial, July 18, 1998 the African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation and Museum has maintained a large network of descendants of the United States Colored Troops. These descendants play a large role in sharing the history of the United States Colored Troops and the personal stories of these soldiers. Through the Descendants Oral History Project we have connected with over 4,000 descendants of USCT soldiers and collected over 200 filmed narratives.

On the first Saturday of each month the museum invites descendants to present to the public information on their ancestors a soldier of the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Presentations are scheduled at either 11am or 1pm. If you are considering presenting on your ancestor at the museum please consider the following standards in scheduling and planning a presentation.

1.

- To schedule a presentation please fill out a descendants registration form and return it to the museum. Indicate on the form that you wish to schedule a presentation and suggest a month and time for your presentation. If the month and time are available someone from the museum will contact you with a confirmation for your presentation.
- Establish the format of your presentation with the museum (i.e. power point presentation, poster, etc). Please provide the museum with a copy of your presentation at least one week before your scheduled date and time if you will be presenting using power point.
- The museum has a projector and screen available for your presentation as well as a computer and internet access. Please let the museum know in advance what your presentation needs will be.
- On the day of, presenters should arrive at least 15 minutes before their scheduled presentation and identify themselves at the front desk.
- Please speak clearly and project as the museum will audio record presentations. Audio records will be made available to presenters as a CD-ROM after the presentation. A release form will be included with your confirmation if you have not already signed one on your descendants registration form.
- Presentations should be no more than 25 minutes in length allowing for 10 minutes of questions after the presentation.
- Presentations should include some of the following information:

Soldiers Name

Rank

Regiment/Company (type of regiment, i.e. infantry, cavalry, artillery, etc)

Date of Enlistment

Date Muster out of Service

Age

Place of Birth (if known)

Details of Service (what they did, if known)

Information about the soldier before the war (enslaved status, occupation, family)
Information about soldier after the war (home, occupation, activities, family)
Date of death (if known)
Family (who was their immediate family, how are you related to the soldier)

If you are unable to present on your ancestor during one of our regularly scheduled presentation dates you may either schedule another time to conduct a presentation, conduct a private one on one interview or provide a pre filmed presentation to the museum to be added to our collection. Descendants may request a certificate of honor from the museum by filling out our descendants registration form, [here](#).

The Department of Veteran Affairs also provides a Presidential Memorial Certificate and the application may be found [here](#).

For more information about the Descendants Oral History Project and for assistance in locating military documents please contact Dawn Chitty at [info\(at\)afroamcivilwar.org](mailto:info(at)afroamcivilwar.org)