

NORTHER

VS.

SOUTHER

in Delaware

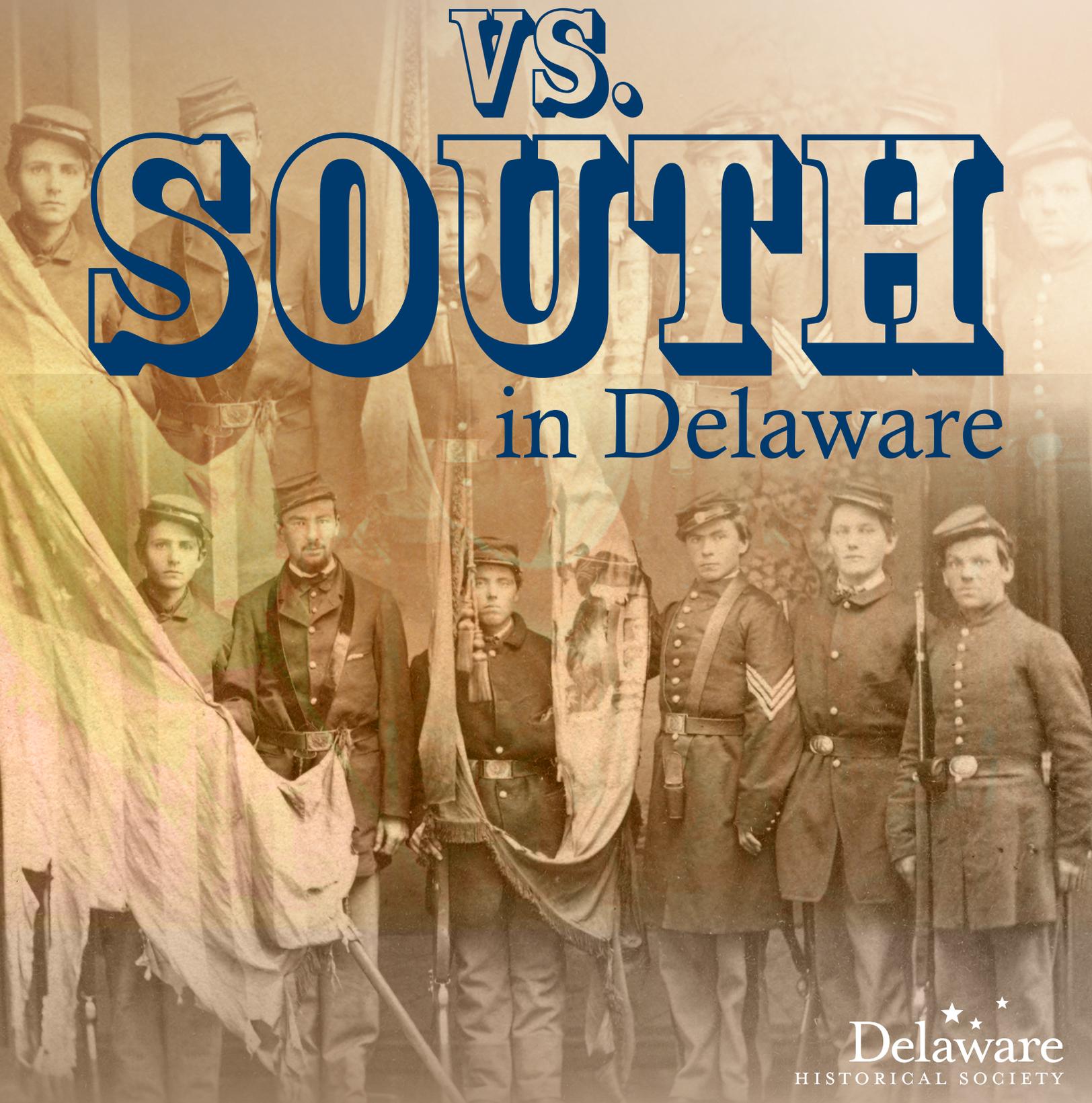


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CHAPTER 1

Mapping the Civil War

A Civil War is a war between citizens of the same country.

What? American Civil War

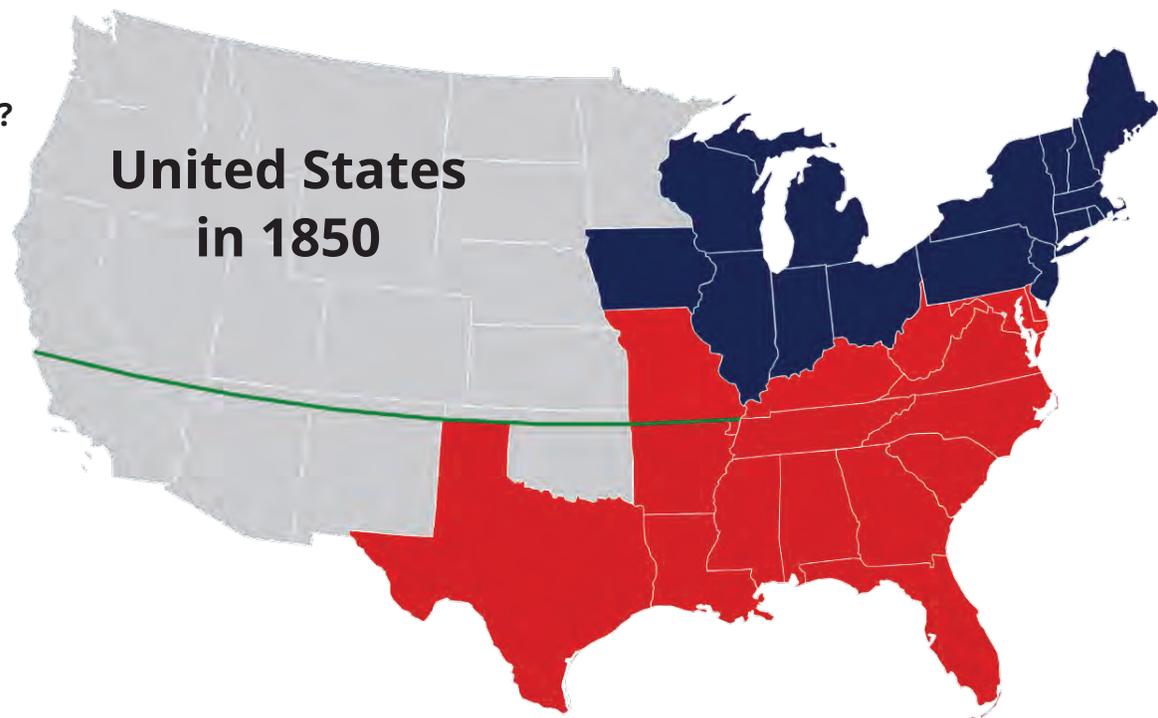
Where? United States

When? April 12, 1861 – May 1865

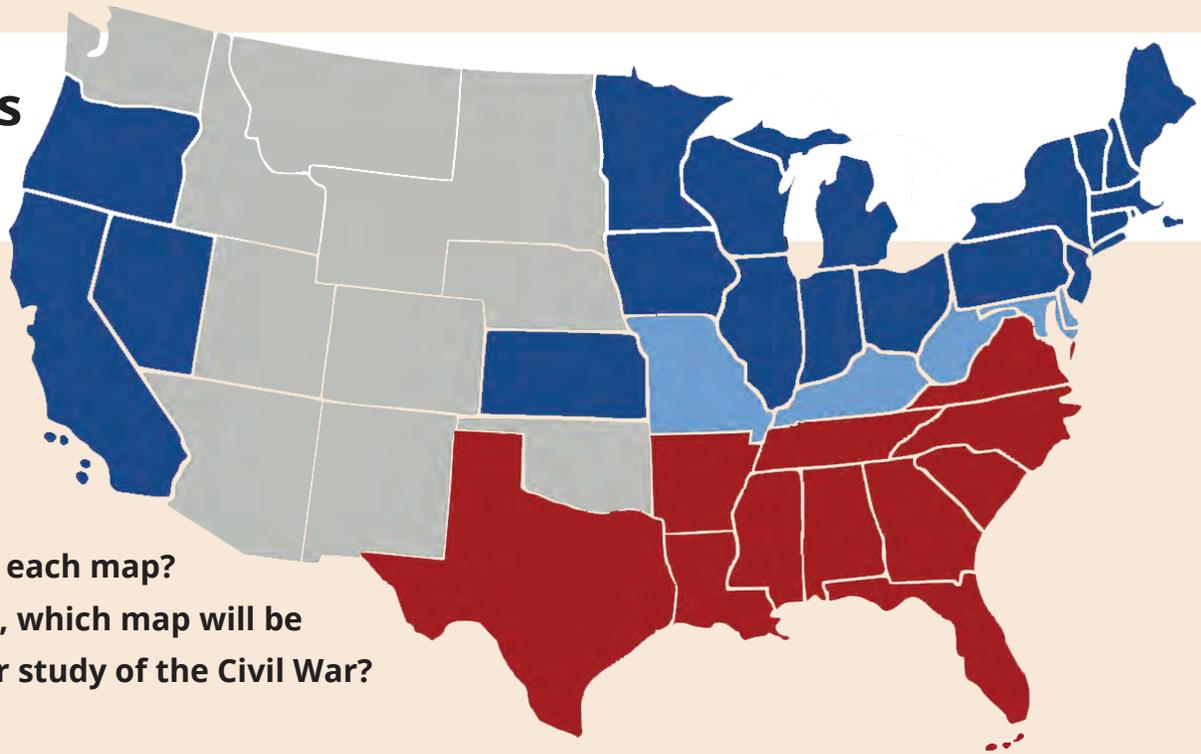
In 1861 Delaware found itself caught in the middle of the fight over slavery. The northern states had already outlawed slavery and now urged the government to pass a federal law making it illegal throughout the United States. The southern states, whose farmers used **enslaved** labor opposed such a law and ultimately decided to **secede** from the United States. They formed a new country, the Confederate States of America, where slavery would remain legal. When the Confederates attacked a Union fort in South Carolina it was clear the debate over slavery would only be solved by war.

Take a close look at the maps (see US 1861 on the next page) and answer the following questions.

Why was Delaware caught in the middle?



United States in 1861



What is the title of each map?
Based on the titles, which map will be most helpful to our study of the Civil War?

What does the green line stand for on the United States in 1850 map? What big “compromise” happened in 1850? What did it mean?

What do you think the different colors stand for?

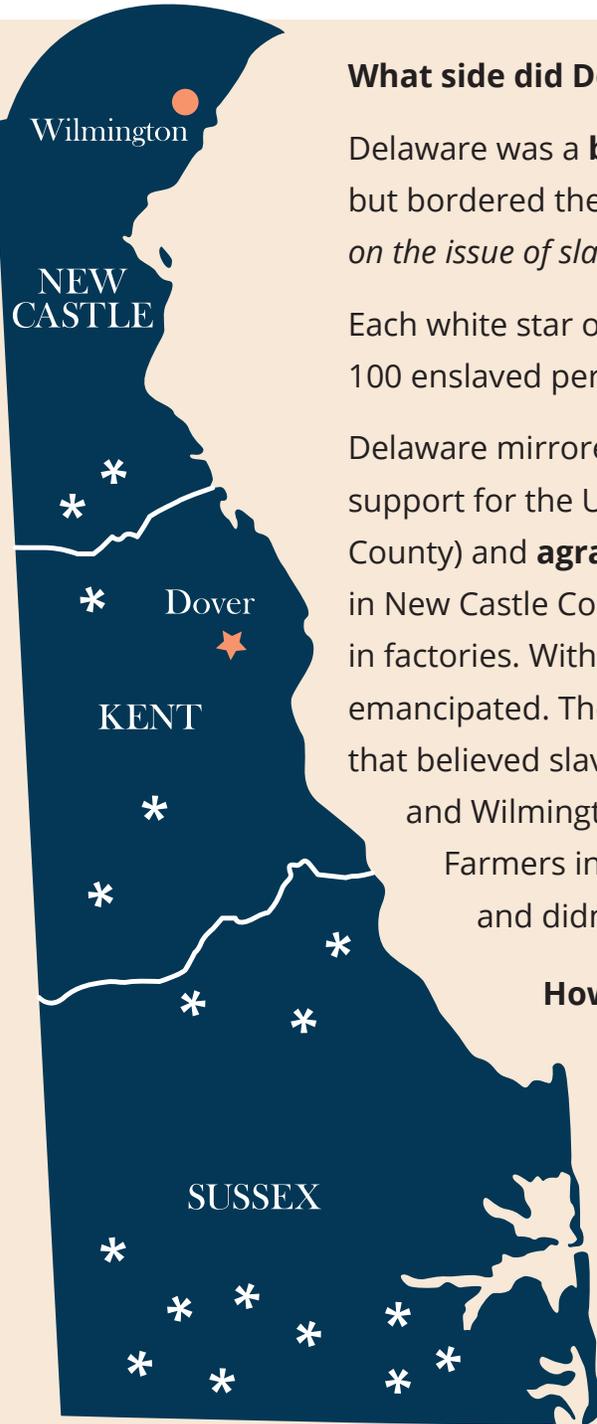
Find Delaware. On the 1861 map, why do you think Delaware and four other states are a different color than the states at the top or bottom?

Was Delaware a slave state or a free state?

Slavery began in Delaware from its start as a colony in 1638 and was still legal in the state during the Civil War. It would make sense that Delaware would join the other slave states in the Confederacy. Right? Maybe not.

Delaware in 1860

Looking at the Delaware: 1860 map can you guess why not everyone in Delaware agreed on the issue of slavery? What do you think the white stars stand for? What differences do you notice in each county?



What side did Delaware choose?

Delaware was a **border state**; a slave state that remained in the Union but bordered the Confederacy. *But not everyone in Delaware agreed on the issue of slavery.*

Each white star on the Delaware map stands for approximately 100 enslaved persons.

Delaware mirrored the nation on matters of states' rights, slavery, and support for the Union cause, divided between the urban North (New Castle County) and **agrarian** South (Kent and Sussex Counties). Prior to the war, farms in New Castle County were growing smaller as more people went to work in factories. With less need for farmhands, most enslaved workers were emancipated. The city of Wilmington also had a large Quaker population that believed slavery was immoral. Some Quakers even helped **freedom seekers** and Wilmington became a frequent stop on the **Underground Railroad**. Farmers in the lower two counties, however, still used enslaved labor and didn't see a need to change.

How did Delawareans decide the role they would play in the Civil War?

Just like today, Delaware was known as the First State. Delawareans were proud of their status as the first state to ratify the Constitution. When the Confederate States asked Delaware's governor, William Burton if Delaware would join them, Burton said, "As the first state to join the Union, Delaware will be last state to leave it."

And that decided it. Even though Delaware was a slave state and would stay one throughout the war, it would fight against slavery with the North and remain part of the United States.



CHAPTER 2

Tough Choices

Once the decision was made to stay in the Union, Delaware, its citizens, and soldiers were challenged to make tough choices to change or preserve the country and state.

Delawareans had to choose to become a soldier in the Union army or leave the state and join the Confederacy, sometimes pitting brother against brother. Businesses had to choose whether to sell to Confederate sympathizers. Many factories had to decide if they would produce goods only for the Union army.

John Tillman was born enslaved in Delaware and self-emancipated on the Underground Railroad. Later, he made the decision to join a regiment and fight during the Civil War. Regiments were segregated and Delaware did not authorize a **United States “Colored” Troop** at this time but nearly a thousand African American men from Delaware joined units in other states and valiantly served the Union cause.

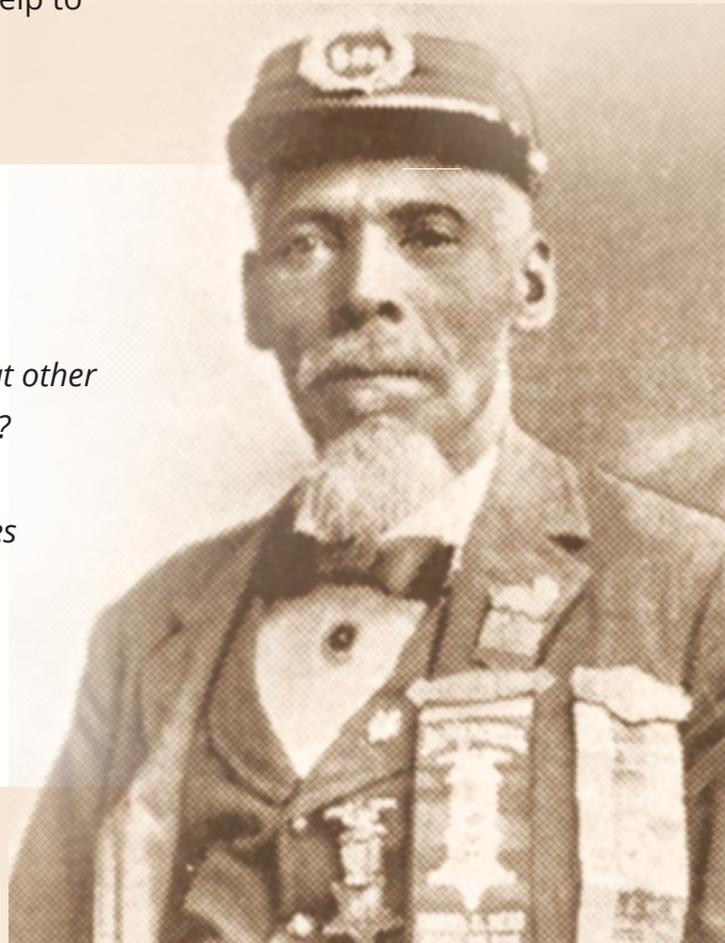
In his book, *Biographical Sketch of the Life and Travels of John W. Tillman*, Tillman reflects: “In 1863, there was a call for colored soldiers to go and fight for their country and liberty, so I shouldered my musket with the rest for to fight for the same cause, and it made me glad when the time came for me to help to save the country and get my equal liberty...”

What does the above quote tell you about Tillman? How did he feel about the “call for colored soldiers”?

*Besides the dangers of war, as a **self-emancipator**, what other dangers would Tillman face fighting during the Civil War?*

This photograph of Tillman was used in his reminiscences in 1896. What is Tillman wearing?

What does Tillman’s choice of outfit tell you about him? How he regards his service as a soldier?



Richard Henry Webb is another Delawarean who had to make a hard choice during the Civil War. Webb was born in Wilmington to a prominent Quaker family.
What do you know about Quakers?

Quakers believe that there is something of God in everybody and that each human being is of unique worth. This is why Quakers value all people equally and oppose anything that may harm or threaten them, including war.

Their belief in equality meant that many Quakers opposed slavery. But slavery was still legal in many states, so helping freedom seekers was illegal. Still, there were Quakers who felt the injustice of slavery outweighed breaking the law and worked on the Underground Railroad. Some were even arrested. Thomas Garrett, a stationmaster on the Underground Railroad, was found guilty in 1848 of helping a family of freedom seekers escape.

Other Quakers saw the Underground Railroad as a crime, disrupting the peace, and thereby going against Quaker values.



In September 1862, Richard Henry Webb joined the Fourth Regiment Delaware Volunteer Infantry as a second lieutenant.

Why do you think Webb chose to enlist?

Based on what you know about their beliefs and views of the Underground Railroad, why do you think some Quakers would be against Webb's decision?

After nearly a month in Wilmington, Webb was stationed at Camp Tom Casey overseeing the brigade's ambulance corp. In 1863 he was made provost marshal for Camp Gilpin, Gloucester, Virginia, in charge of caring for the "contrabands," the former enslaved who joined the camp. He was promoted to first lieutenant in September of the same year.

The Delaware Fourth Regiment first saw combat on June 2, 1864. Webb was killed in battle and buried on the battlefield. His friends drew a map to later find the gravesite and in 1865, the Webb family had Richard's body returned to Wilmington and buried in Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery.

We know Richard Henry Webb's story from the letters, objects, and photographs that belonged to Webb and his family.

Use [THIS](#) analyzing a document worksheet to get to know the following letters and telegram.



Camp Billin Jan. 21st 1763

Dear Father

I rec'd your letter with \$10. enclosed, this afternoon for which accept my thanks.

The men are very much dissatisfied, their families are suffering at home for the necessaries of life and they have no money to send them, and the bounty which was promised them by the City when they left has not been paid them; could you please see either C. C. Stitesberg or S. E. Nales about the bounty and see if it is intended for the men to get it. It is a shame to offer a bounty to stare off

Read the following letter written by Webb. Use the attached document analysis worksheet to get to know the letter. Full letter and transcription in the Appendix.

How do you think Webb feels about his choice to enlist?

What are some of the reasons why Webb and his fellow soldiers were unhappy with the leadership of his regiment?

Why would Webb be interested in joining a Black Regiment?

Read the following letter written by Webb. Use the attached document analysis worksheet to get to know the letter. Full letter and transcription in the Appendix.

How is this letter like the previous letter? How is it different?

Does Webb write differently depending on who he is writing to?

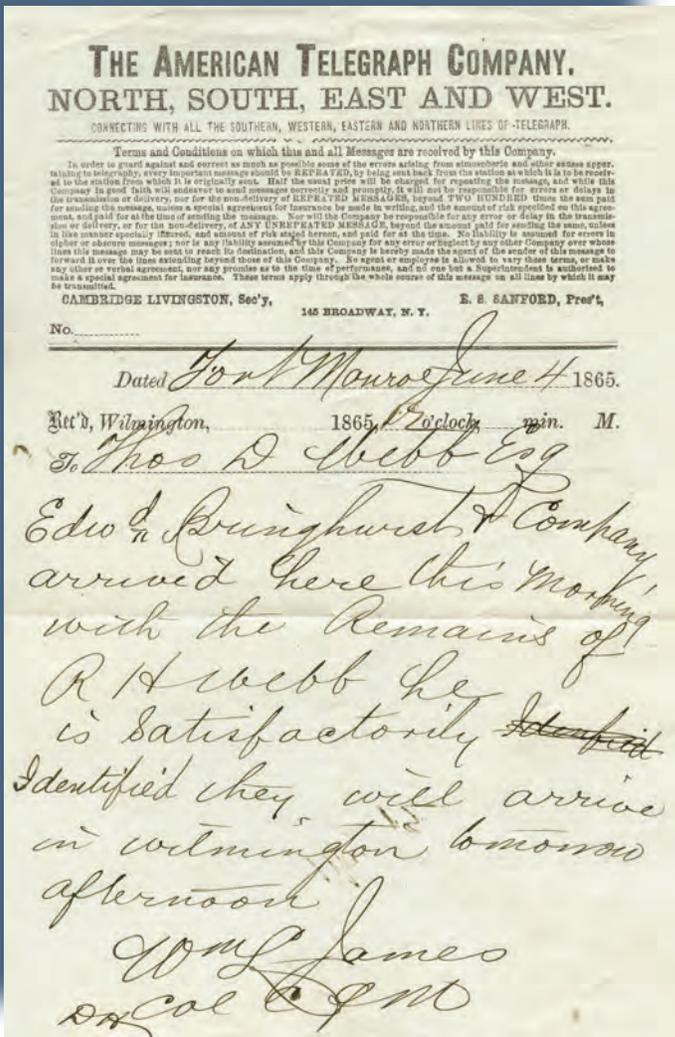
Fairfax Station Va - May 23rd 1764
Dear Mother

All is now bustle & confusion here for this afternoon at 4 o'clock we received marching orders.

We are ordered to report at a place on the Rappahannock called, I think, Post Royal - It is on the left of Brant's line -

I have turned in all my stores both Subsistence & Quarters Master - But I think in all probability I will have to resume the duties of Commissary next month, as the Colonel still keeps the Brigade 2. M. and told him to keep the horses so it looks as if he intends to use them again -

We all fell very lively and think ourselves fortunate to be



You can read the telegram sent to inform the Webb family that their sons' remains were identified and on their way back to Wilmington. Full telegram and transcription in the Appendix.

Why would Webb's family send someone to bring him back to Delaware?

Tillman and Webb are two examples of Delawareans who agreed with Delaware's decision to fight for the Union, but some Delawareans sided with the Confederacy.

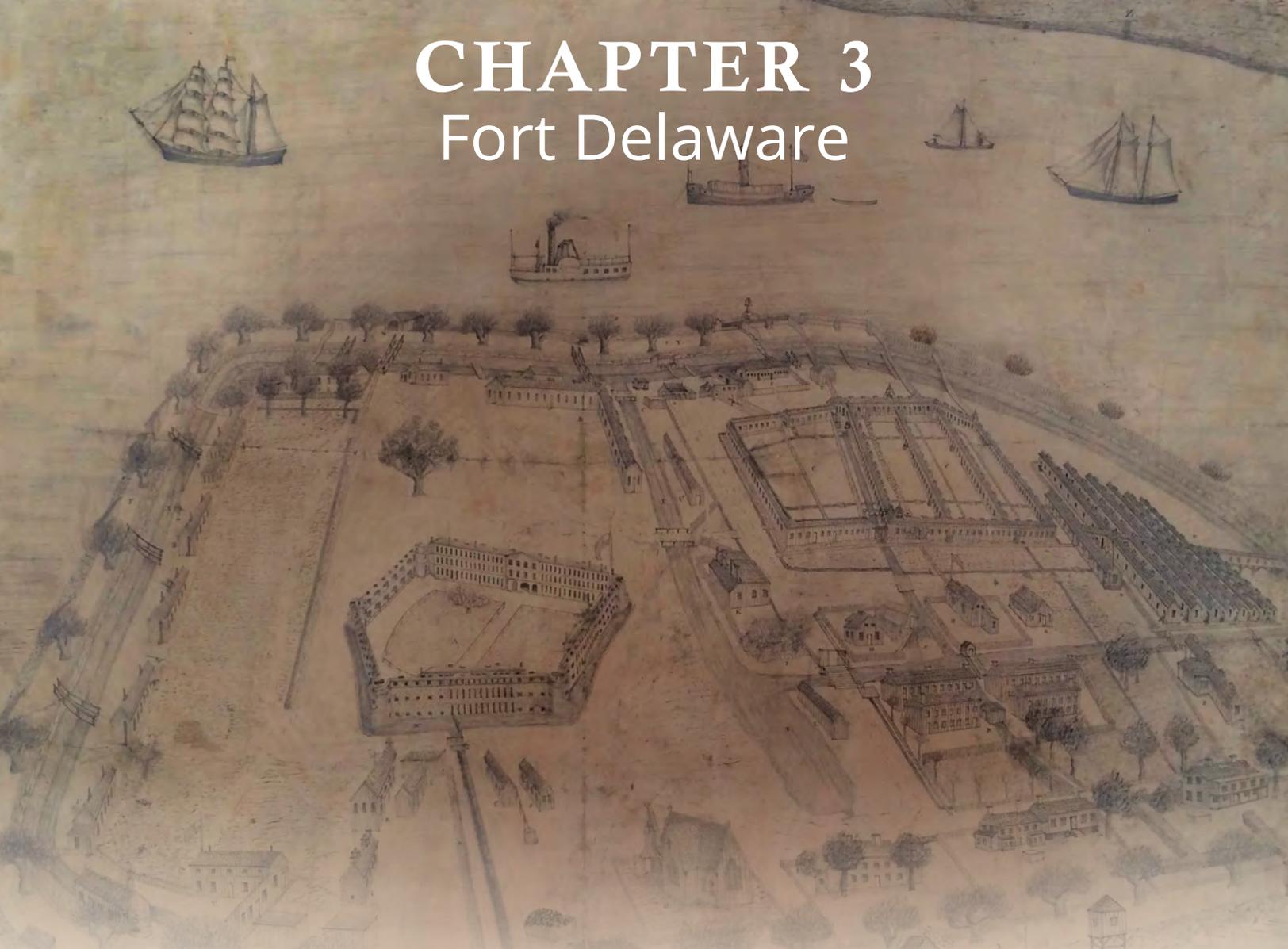
James Dale from Bridgeville, Delaware was a student at West Point Military Academy when war broke out. Military students were asked to take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States Army, but Dale refused. Instead, Dale made the choice to join the Confederate Army. In a letter to Confederate president Jefferson Davis, Dale requests a commission in the army of the Confederate States of America, stating, "I am a Delawarean and a true Southern man." He describes leaving West Point in secret and travelling south through Union Army lines, heading straight to Virginia, fearing for his father's life if he stopped to visit him in Delaware. Dale joined Col. Stonewall Jackson's 5th Virginia Infantry and was killed at the Battle of Kernstown in 1862. Like Webb, Dale was buried in Virginia but his family later brought him back to Delaware.

Why does Dale have to travel South in secret?

Why would his father's life be in danger?

CHAPTER 3

Fort Delaware



During the Civil War, Fort Delaware, on Pea Patch Island in Delaware City, housed roughly 33,000 prisoners-of-war, mainly Confederate soldiers. The prisoners had few resources and little contact with the outside world.

Julia Jefferson of New Castle and her friends wanted Delaware to support the Confederacy. When that did not happen, they decided they would do what they could to support the Confederate cause. After receiving a pass from the post commandant, they provided food, clothing, tobacco and mail to Confederate soldiers at Fort Delaware. The prisoners sent letters of thanks and requests for help and even sent her a copy of a song they wrote. **How can a song be used as a primary source?**

What can music tell us about the people who made and listened to it?

The Wailings at Fort Delaware

by B.H. Haynie

Oh! Here we are confined at Fort Delaware
With nothing to drink but a little Lager there
Infested by vermin as much as we can bear
Oh! Jeff can you help us get away from here [?]

Chorus:

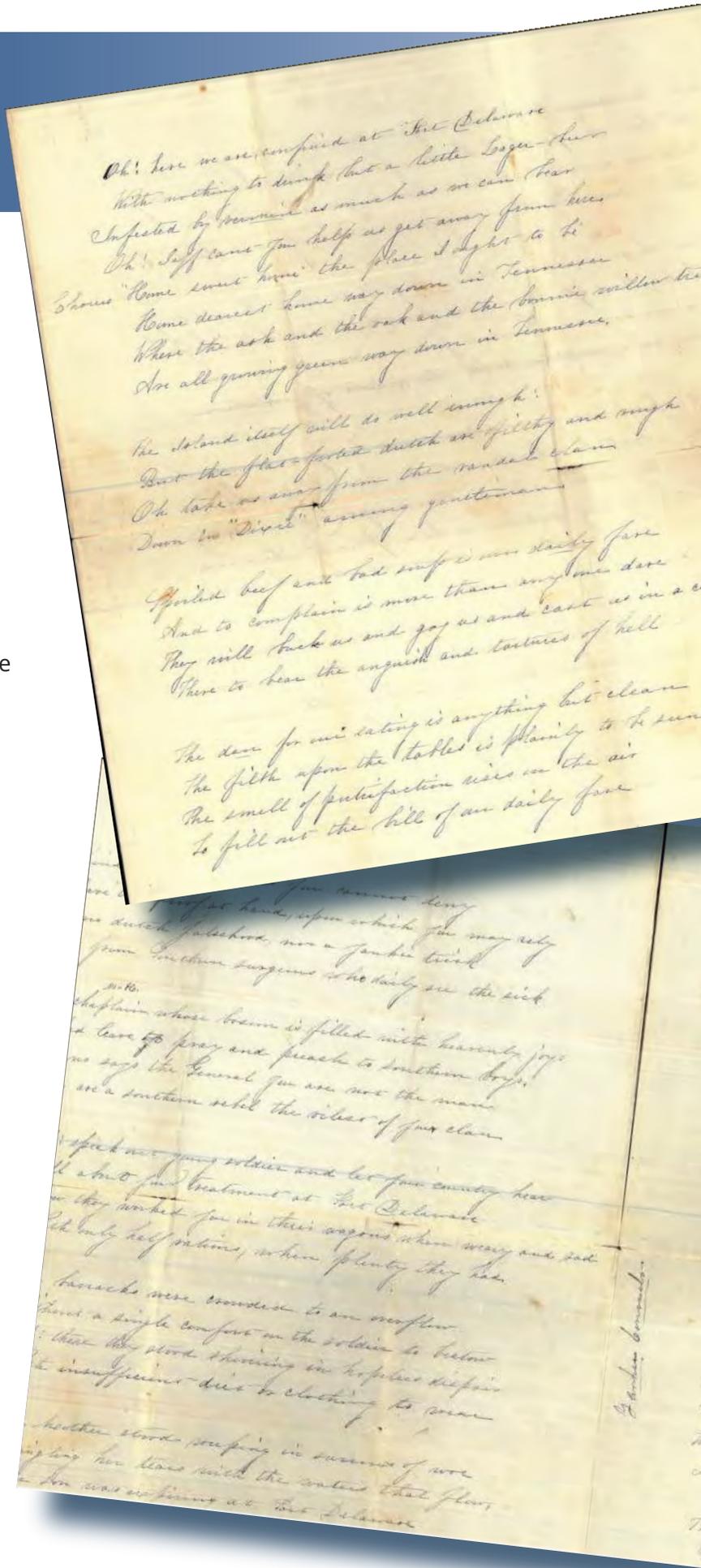
"Home sweet home" the place I ought to be
Home dearest home way down in Tennessee
Where the ash and the oak and the bonnie willow tree
Are all growing green way down in Tennessee.

The island itself will do well enough:
But the flat-footed dutch are filthy and rough
Oh take us away from the vandal clan
Down in "Dixie" among gentleman

Spoiled beef and bad soup is our daily fare
And to complain is more than anyone dare
They will buck us and gag us and cast us in a cell
There to bear the anguish and tortures of hell

The den[?] for our eating is anything but clean
The filth upon the tables is plainly to be seen
The smell of putrifaction rises in the air
To fill out the bill of our daily fare

The sick are well treated the southern Doctors say
And the losses by death scarcely[?] four per day
Its [] mixture for scurvy and smallpox
And every other escape from Pandora's box.



Oh! Look at the grave-yard on the Jersey shore
At the hundreds and thousands who'll return no more
Oh! Could they come back again to testify
Against the wicked devils; who lived to see them die

Our kindness to prisoners you cannot deny
We have the proof at hand upon which you may rely
Its no dutch falsehood nor a Yankee trick
But from Southern surgeons who daily see the sick

Our chaplain whose bosom is filled with heavenly joys
Asked leave to pray and preach to Southern boys
Oh! No says the General you [?] are not the man
You [?] are a southern rebel the vilest of your clan

Oh! Speak out young soldiers and let your country hear
All about your treatment at Fort Delaware
How they worked you in their wagons when weary and sad
With only half rations, when plenty they had

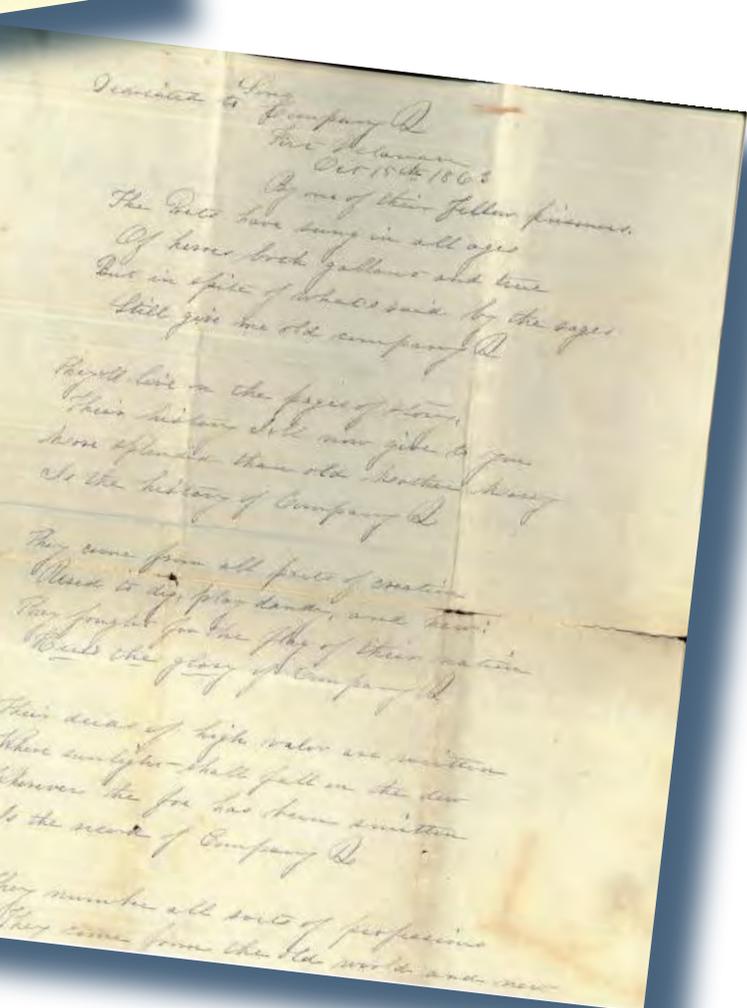


The barracks were crowded to an overflow
Without a single comfort on the soldiers to bestow
Oh! There they stood shivering in hopeless despair
With insufficient diet or clothing to wear

The mother stood weeping in sorrow of woe
Ringing her tears with the waters that flow
Her son was expiring at Fort Delaware
Which could have been avoided with prudence and care;

Oh! Take off[f] my fetters and let me be free
To roam o'er the mountains of old Tennessee
To bathe in her waters and breathe her balmy air
And look on her daughters so lovely and fair

Then cheer up brave boys our country shall be free
Our battles will be fought by Gen Bragg and Lee
The Yankee's will fly with trembling and fear
[line missing]—end of page



What does the song tell you about life as a prisoner at Fort Delaware? Cite specific examples from the song.

Who are the “flat-footed Dutch” and what do the Confederate prisoners think of them? Why?

Who is the “Jeff” referred to in the song?

Confederate Officers Imprisoned at Fort Delaware



Compare the description of life at Fort Delaware from the song to the above image of Confederate officers at Fort Delaware. How do you think their experiences were different? How were they the same? Do you think an officers' life was as hard as the soldiers who wrote the song?

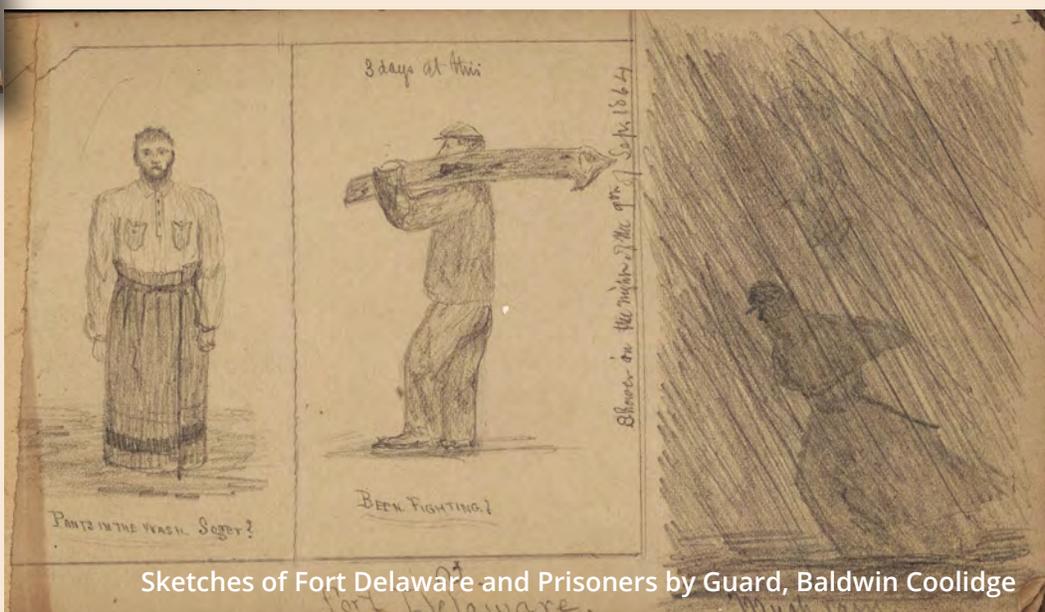
Baldwin Coolidge served as a guard at Ft. Delaware during the war. He kept a sketchbook of his time there. **Examine the sketches on the following pages.**



What do the image and sketches tell us about life at Fort Delaware during the Civil War?



How does Coolidge feel about the Confederate prisoners? How do you know?



After four long, bloody years the Civil War came to end when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered in 1865. More than 600,000 men died; only one man returned home for every four men who went to war. Almost 12,000, Delawareans fought for the Union, and about 2,100 were killed, wounded, or reported missing. Although the exact number is unknown, it is estimated that around 2,000 Delawareans fought for the Confederacy.

Even though Delaware was a slave state, joining the Union meant that Delaware and its citizens were not subjected to Reconstruction.



After being hung up two hours
for
stealing rations



Fort Mifflin at Fort Delaware
7 Sept. 1864.



12 or 14 years of age perhaps.

Rebel Boy
in Prison at
Fort Delaware

These sketches were
sent to my father
from Fort Delaware
and afterwards found
among my collection after
his death.
Rebo

CHAPTER 4

After the War: Reconstruction

Emancipation Proclamation – issued by President Lincoln in January 1863. Freed enslaved populations in the rebellious Confederate states. Because Delaware sided with the Union, the enslaved population in Delaware was not freed by the proclamation. Delaware continued the practice of enslavement for two years after the Emancipation Proclamation (until the end of the Civil War).

The Reconstruction Amendments – the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the US Constitution adopted between 1865 and 1870 with the intention of guaranteeing freedom to former slaves and to establish and prevent discrimination in certain civil rights to former slaves and all citizens of the United States.

- 13th Amendment (1865) – abolished slavery
- 14th Amendment (1868) – granted citizenship rights and equal protections under the law
- 15th Amendment (1870) - prohibits discrimination in voting rights of citizens based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude"

Delaware refused to ratify all three of the amendments until 1901.

Black Codes – During Reconstruction many state and local governments in the Southern states enacted laws that enforced racial segregation. These codes are often referred to as Jim Crow laws. Delaware had many of these laws well into the late 1960s.

- Separate schools, hospitals, neighborhoods for whites and African Americans
- Hotel, restaurant, theater owners were allowed to refuse service to African Americans
- Interracial marriage was prohibited

Agrarian: composed of or relating to farmers; rural; agricultural

border state: a slave state bordering on a free state before the Civil War

emancipate: to free from bondage

enslaved: to cause to be a slave or to be in a condition of bondage

freedom seeker: an enslaved person attempting to escape bondage

primary sources: documents, images or artifacts that provide a firsthand account of a specific time period

self-emancipate: to set oneself free; a term often used to refer to the action of enslaved people seeking freedom on the Underground Railroad

Underground Railroad: a system of cooperation among active antislavery people in the U.S. before 1863 by which freedom seekers were secretly helped to reach the North or Canada

Secede - to withdraw from or leave a group or a political union.

US Colored Troops – regiments or military units in the United States Army composed primarily of African-American soldiers during the Civil War

APPENDIX

Camp Gilpin Jan. 21st 1863

Dear Father

I rec'd your letter with \$10. enclosed, this afternoon for which accept my thanks.

The men are very much dissatisfied, their families are suffering at home for the necessaries of life and they have no money to send them, and the bounty which was promised them by the City when they left has not been paid them; could you please see either C. C. Stoenberg or S. E. Wales about the bounty and see if it is intended for the men to get it. It is a shame to offer a bounty to stave off

Letter from Richard Henry Webb to his father:

Transcription to follow

a draft and then when the state is safe to turn around and refuse to come up with their promise, it makes me ashamed of the city which I have been proud to say that I am from. On last Monday there was every prospect of a mutiny amongst some of the companies but every-thing was quieted when the men saw that they would be making the matter worse for themselves and maybe lose their pay. Fortunately our company kept itself out of the scrape because the men say that we never promised them anything but what they got. I was in Yorktown on Monday and paid a visit to the old Rebel batteries

on the night, where Gen. M^r:
Belknap shelled them out
one morning from an earth
work which he threw up
at night. A great many
trees had been pierced by
shot. The battery which
is stationed here had shell
practice yesterday afternoon,
it was a fine sight to see
shells bursting in the air
but would have shown much
better at night.

I wish they would commence
forming black regiments and
I could get a position in
one of them, I would leave
this affair for if there
was a Regt. + Col. played
well here they are. Col.
drunk and interfering
with company business &c

If you see about 20 Officers
from the 4th Del. home
some day don't look surprised.

We are going to hold out for
a while longer for the good
of the country but if it keeps
on the way it has since we
have been at this post why
we are going to give up & leave
and run the risk of being
considered inefficient. Our
consciences will clear us for
we know that it will be the
fault of an inefficient Col.

When I was in the Amb-
Corps at Alexandria I bought
a cavalry sabre which will
be in Wilmington pretty soon,
take good care of it and
put it away. I don't want you
to think that if I come home
from this Regt that my war
business is over, I intend to
see the war through if I
live; for I think that I may

stand a good chance if
the black Regts only will
form.

The Regt is generally ^{well} except
a few severe cases of typhoid
fever & some jaundice.

Please do not show this
letter outside of the family
as ~~my~~ I have trodden on
forbidden ground in speak-
ing of my superiors, but it
is the truth.

I ~~am~~ ^{would be very} well satisfied
but for those two things.

I am well.

Respectfully
Richd H. Webb.

Transcription:

Camp Gilpin, Jan. 21st 1863

Dear Father:

I rec'd your letter with \$10 enclosed, this afternoon for which accept my thanks.

The men are very much dissatisfied, their families are suffering at home for the necessaries of life and they have no money to send them, and the bounty which was promised them by the City when they left has not been paid them; could you please see either E. C. Stotsenberg or L. E. Wales about the bounty and see if it is intended for the men to get it. It is a shame to offer a bounty to stave off a draft and then when the state is safe to turn around and refuse to come up with their promise, it makes me ashamed of the city which I have been proud to say that I am from. On last Monday there was every prospect of a mutiny amongst some of the companies but everything was quieted when the men saw that they would be making the matter worse for themselves and maybe lose their pay. Fortunately our company kept itself out of the scrape because the men say that we never promised them anything but what they got.

I was in Yorktown on Monday and paid a visit to the old Rebel batteries on the sight, where Gen. M. S. Clellan shelled them out one morning from an earth work which he threw up at night. A great many trees had been pierced by shot. The battery which is stationed here had shell practice yesterday afternoon, it was a fine sight to see shells bursting in the air but would have shown much better at night.

I wish they would commence forming black regiments and I could get a position in one of them, I would leave this affair for if there ever was a Regt. & Col. played out her they are. Col. drunk and interfering with company business etc. If you see about 20 officers from the 4th Del. home some day don't look surprised. We are going to hold out for a while longer for the good of the country but if it keeps on the way it has since we have been at this post why we are going to give up & leave and run the risk of being considered inefficient. Our consciences will clear us for we know that it will be the fault of an inefficient Col.

When I was in the Amb. Corps at Alexandria I bought a Cavalry sabre which will be in Wilmington pretty soon, take good care of it and put it away. I don't want you to think that if I come home from this Regt. that my war business is over. I intend to see the war through if I live; for I think that I may stand a good chance if the black Regts. only will be form.

Regt. is generally well except a few severe cases of Typhoid Fever & some jaundice.

Please do not show this letter outside of the family as I have trodden on forbidden ground in speaking of my superiors, but it is the truth.

I would be very well satisfied but for those two things.

I am well.

Respectfully

/s/ R. H. Webb

Letter from Richard Henry Webb to his mother:

Transcription to follow

Fairfax Station Va - May 23rd 1864
Dear Mother

All is now bustle & confusion here for this afternoon at 4 o'clock we received marching orders.

We are ordered to report at a place on the Rappahannock called, I think, Port Royal - It is on the left of Grant's line -

I have turned in all my stores both Subsistence & Quartermaster - But I think in all probability I will have to resume the duties of Commissary next month, as the Colonel still keeps the Brigade Q. M. and told him to keep the horses so it looks as if he intends to use them again -

We all fell very lively and think ourselves fortunate to be

Transcription:

Fairfax Station, Va. May 23, 1864

Dear Mother:

All is now bustle and confusion here for this afternoon at 4 O'clock we received marching orders.

We are ordered to report at a place on the Rappahannock called, I think, Port Royal. It is on the left of Grant's line.

I have turned in all my stores both subsistence and Quartermaster. But I think in all probability I will have to resume the duties of Commissary next month, as the Colonel still keeps the Brigade Q. M. and told him to keep the horses so it looks as if he intends to use them again.

We all feel very lively and think ourselves fortunate to be kept safe this long and then to have a chance in what I think are the last battles of the Rebellion.

I have packed all superfluous articles in my valises which will soon reach you by Express.

I have with me, some paper and envelopes, pen, inkstand, etc. 2 under shirts, 2 over shirts, 3 pair stockings, 2 pair drawers, and other little articles usefull.

The clothes which you will find in the valise are rather dirty, but you can remedy that--the sheet which is packed around my dress coat and vest is a sanitary article, better keep it for a curiosity.

Did I leave my bible at home, I have looked for it high and low and cannot find it.

We are expecting the train every minute so I will have to close.

My love to all.

Affectionately

Richd. H. Webb

P.S. We are now one mile from the above place and actually out of doors had the sky for a ceiling last night, we left Fairfax at 2 and arrived here at 3 last night.

Tell Father to put those papers which are done up with red tape, in the safe, they may be of some advantage if any other papers are ever returned.

Webb

Telegraph to T. D. Webb Esq:

Transcription to follow

THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.
NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST.

CONNECTING WITH ALL THE SOUTHERN, WESTERN, EASTERN AND NORTHERN LINES OF TELEGRAPH.

Terms and Conditions on which this and all Messages are received by this Company.

In order to guard against and correct as much as possible some of the errors arising from atmospheric and other causes appertaining to telegraphy, every important message should be REPEATED, by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price will be charged for repeating the message, and while this Company in good faith will endeavor to send messages correctly and promptly, it will not be responsible for errors or delays in the transmission or delivery, nor for the non-delivery of REPEATED MESSAGES, beyond TWO HUNDRED times the sum paid for sending the message, unless a special agreement for insurance be made in writing, and the amount of risk specified on this agreement, and paid for at the time of sending the message. Nor will the Company be responsible for any error or delay in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of ANY UNREPEATED MESSAGE, beyond the amount paid for sending the same, unless in like manner specially insured, and amount of risk stated hereon, and paid for at the time. No liability is assumed for errors in cipher or obscure messages; nor is any liability assumed by this Company for any error or neglect by any other Company over whose lines this message may be sent to reach its destination, and this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender of this message to forward it over the lines extending beyond those of this Company. No agent or employee is allowed to vary these terms, or make any other or verbal agreement, nor any promise as to the time of performance, and no one but a Superintendent is authorized to make a special agreement for insurance. These terms apply through the whole course of this message on all lines by which it may be transmitted.

CAMBRIDGE LIVINGSTON, Sec'y,

145 BROADWAY, N. Y.

E. S. SANFORD, Pres't,

No. _____

Dated *Fort Monroe June 4* 1865.

Ret'd, *Wilmington,* 1865, *2* o'clock, *min.* M.

To *Thos D Webb Esq*

Edw & Brughurst & Company
arrived here this morning
with the remains of
R H Webb they
is satisfactorily ~~Identified~~
Identified they will arrive
in Wilmington tomorrow
afternoon

Yours James
W Col & J M

Transcription:

Copy of telegram to T. D. Webb, Esq.

In Telegraph envelope
The American Telegraphy Co.

Dated-- Fort Monroe, June 4, 1865

To: Thos. D. Webb, Esq.

Edwd Bringhurst and Company arrived here this morning with the Remains of R. H. Webb, he is satisfactorily identified. They will arrive in Wilmington tomorrow afternoon.

Wm. L. James
Col. CGNT



Camp Belgin Jan. 21st 1863
Dear Father
I rec'd your letter with \$10. enclosed, this afternoon for which accept my thanks. The men are very much dissatisfied, their families are suffering at home for the necessaries of life and they have no money to send them, and the bounty which was promised them by the city when they left has been

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Sgt. Hall



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