

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

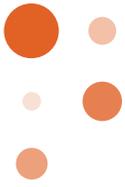
- Considering that, as Head of the History Department at West Point Col. Seidule professes, “The evidence is clear and overwhelming. Slavery was, by a wide margin, the single most important cause of the Civil War – for both sides,” why do you think that the question of whether slavery was the primary cause of the American Civil War or not, “More than 150 years later... remains a controversial question,” even amongst many legitimate history scholars?
- Col. Seidule reminds us that Alexander Stephens captured the blatantly racist attitude of many Southerners at the time when Stephens declared, “...the great truth that the Negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, submission to the superior race, is his natural and normal condition.” Why do you think that so many Southerners at the time accepted such a morally repugnant position? How come so many Northerners didn’t? Do you think that many Southerners at the time were racist before Africans were victimized and brought to America as slaves? Why or why not?
- We learn from Col. Seidule that, “...The secession documents of every Southern state made clear, crystal clear, that they were leaving the Union in order to protect their “peculiar institution” of slavery – a phrase that at the time meant ‘the thing special to them.’” Why do you think that slavery was so important to people in the South at the time?
- Col. Seidule states in the video that, “Slavery is the great shame of America’s history.” Do you think that Native Americans would agree with the Colonel’s assertion? Why or why not? Weren’t many Native Americans enslaved and thought of as inferior as well? How does their plight compare to that of Africans who were kidnapped and forced into slavery in this country?
- Col. Seidule ends the video by claiming that, “...it’s to America’s everlasting credit that it fought the most devastating war in its history in order to abolish slavery. As a soldier, I am proud that the United States Army, my army, defeated the Confederates. In its finest hour, soldiers wearing this blue uniform – almost two hundred thousand of them former slaves themselves – destroyed chattel slavery, freed 4 million men, women, and children from human bondage, and saved the United States of America.” Why do you think that the Confederacy is still so revered by many in the South today? What do you think the long-term consequences would have been for America, and especially for African Americans, if the United States Army hadn’t won? Why do you think that racism still persists in some areas of the U.S.? What do you think can be done to eliminate it?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Harriet Tubman

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Harriet Tubman’s Great Raid” and “Harriet Tubman: Nurse, Spy, Scout” then answer the questions that follow.

- What were the benefits to the United States Army utilizing Harriet Tubman’s multitude of skills and tenacity? What did the U.S. Army and Harriet Tubman do at Combahee? Why was their spectacularly successful mission so important to the war effort of the U.S. Army, and ultimately for saving the country?
- Besides the fact that Harriet Tubman was the only woman to plan and lead a combat mission in the Civil War, what else was so remarkable about her and about what she did? What was so remarkable about the U.S. Army officers and their attitude towards Ms. Tubman and other African Americans at the time? Do you think that Ms. Tubman or Colonel Montgomery would give any credibility to any of the arguments about the U.S. Civil War being about something other than slavery? Why or why not?
- Harriet Tubman suffered from terrible headaches caused by brain damage she suffered from the beatings she received as a child slave herself. In her 80’s, she was finally given brain surgery to try to relieve her suffering- she chose not to have morphine or any other pain reliever during the operation. What else can we learn from such a strong and amazing person? Do you think that the U.S. Army should take pride in valuing and collaborating with such a remarkable person? Why or why not? Do find her story inspiring? If no, why not? If yes, what does she inspire in you?



QUIZ

WAS THE CIVIL WAR ABOUT SLAVERY?

- 1. In the middle of the 19th century, both North and South _____.**
 - a. Were agrarian societies.
 - b. Were industrial societies.
 - c. Paid the slaves they owned.
 - d. Were limited in the amount of slaves they could own.

- 2. What document did President Abraham Lincoln issue in 1863?**
 - a. The Bill of Rights
 - b. The Constitution
 - c. The Emancipation Proclamation
 - d. Declaration of Independence

- 3. The slave society was only embraced by plantation owners.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 4. The secession documents of every Southern state made clear, crystal clear, that they were leaving the Union in order to _____.**
 - a. Keep states' rights.
 - b. Separate themselves economically.
 - c. Protect their "peculiar institution" of slavery.
 - d. Become a different country.

- 5. Why was the American Civil War fought?**
 - a. States' Rights
 - b. Economic reasons
 - c. To keep the Union together.
 - d. Slavery



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/06/07/harriet-tubmans-great-raid/?_r=0

Harriet Tubman's Great Raid

By

[Paul Donnelly](#)

June 7, 2013 11:19 pm June 7, 2013 11:19 pm

It is arguably the most beautiful scene ever recorded in war. Two Union gunboats, the Harriet A. Weed and the John Adams, converted ferryboats, churning up the Combahee River with their big side paddlewheels. Steam whistles signal, while in the bow of the Adams, a small, powerful woman is... singing. From all around, hundreds hear Harriett Tubman's call and run for the boats, for freedom. At least 727 men, women and children escape, mothers carrying babies, including one pair of twins: the largest liberation of slaves in American history.

Perhaps half a million slaves escaped to the Union Army during the war, and in the end the war itself liberated nearly four million. But Harriet Tubman's achievement on the Combahee River 150 years ago was unique. And it wasn't just her singing.

She was already famous for her work on the Underground Railroad – leading at least 12 missions from her home in Cambridge, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, bringing nearly 100 people (most of them her relatives) out of slavery and into Canada. One abolitionist, Thomas Higginson, met her in Boston. “The greatest heroine of the age,” he called her. “Her tales of adventure are beyond anything in fiction and her ingenuity and generalship are extraordinary.”

But Higginson, whom she would meet again on the Combahee, did not expect that she would live long: “She will probably be burned alive whenever she is caught, which she probably will be, first or last, as she is going again.”

Yet Tubman, despite all the odds, lived to the age of 93 — the centennial of her death in 1913 was celebrated earlier this year in Auburn, N.Y., where she was living when the Civil War broke out. Her friends in the abolitionist movement, notably Gov. John Andrew of Massachusetts, reached out to the Union Army to find a place for her.



Harriet Tubman Credit Library of Congress

Just what that place was, and what she was to do, was obscured, even at the time. Ostensibly – particularly when it came to the federal government’s paying her – she was just a cook and a nurse, who did a little instruction for liberated slaves in the refugee camps along the coast of South Carolina.

But her role was always more than that. On Feb. 19, 1863, the Union general David Hunter – a friend of Governor Andrew – gave her something remarkable for a civilian: “Pass the Bearer, Harriet Tubman, to Beaufort and back to this place, and wherever she wishes to go, and give her free passage at all times.” That’s not a pass for a cook and nurse.

Like Andrew, Hunter was an abolitionist. So was Gen. Rufus Saxton, and now-Colonel Higginson, the first commander of a black regiment, as well as the Kansas jayhawker James Montgomery, who commanded the Combahee raid. So many self-declared abolitionists stocked the officer ranks along the occupied South Carolina coast that it is hard not to conclude that Lincoln wanted it that way.

Harriet Tubman understood why these men were needed there, even before Lincoln did, telling a friend in January 1862: “God won’t let Master Lincoln beat the South until he does the right thing. Master Lincoln, he’s a great man, and I’m a poor Negro but this Negro can tell Master Lincoln how to save money and young men. He can do it by setting the Negroes free.”

By January 1863, Lincoln understood: the Emancipation Proclamation declared that, wherever the rebellion ruled, the slaves were free. It was more than a symbolic or moral move; Lincoln saw the proclamation as partly a military measure. “I have reliable information that there are large numbers of able-bodied Negroes,” he was told, “who are watching for an opportunity to join us.” But that didn’t mean they would come on their own. The Union needed to do more to encourage them.

Meanwhile, the war was not going well for the North in June 1863. In May, the Union suffered its worst defeat in the First Battle of the Wilderness, Robert E. Lee's masterpiece victory; that July, the Confederacy crested at a small Pennsylvania crossroads called Gettysburg. Though the Union won that battle, at the time all people knew was that the Confederacy had the power to invade the North, making the war's outcome anyone's guess. All slavery needed to prevail was Lincoln's defeat in 1864.

That's why the Weed and the Adams went chugging up the Combahee: so that slavery would not prevail.

But the reason the Combahee raid prevailed was Harriet Tubman. She gave the Union Army solutions for all the special problems posed by the raid.

It's no exaggeration to say that the Combahee raid was unique in American history. All Union operations in slave territory, especially as the Emancipation Proclamation became well known, yielded the self-liberated by the hundreds. But the Combahee raid was planned and executed primarily as a liberation raid, to find and free those who were unable or unwilling to take the enormous risks to reach Union lines on their own. That's how Tubman conceived of it. That, too, is unique – because for the first and only time in the Civil War, or for that matter any American conflict before this century, a woman (and a civilian at that) played a decisive role in planning and carrying out a military operation.

But South Carolina was not like the Eastern Shore, so the Combahee was not like the Underground Railroad. It does not diminish Tubman's heroism to recognize that Cambridge was perfect for her: there were actually more free blacks than there were slaves, so people were used to seeing blacks traveling without restrictions. Eastern Shore slavery was small-scale, mostly house servants and artisans, without the large-scale discipline that characterized Deep South plantations. Tubman primarily went back to get family members, and she relied on her local knowledge and an extensive network of support.

She had none of that in South Carolina. Despite all the Black History Month stories and seventh-grade book reports, her role on the Combahee was not leading an elite commando unit, as some, including [a lengthy entry](#) on Tubman at the C.I.A.'s Web site, have portrayed her. She wasn't walking the back roads gathering intelligence. "They've told a story about her. It's a great story," says Jeff Grigg, who knows as much about the Combahee raid as anybody. "But it's the wrong story."

Grigg isn't a professional historian. He's a boat mechanic. His shop with a dozen or so watercraft in various stages of salvage in the yard has sat at the crossroads of the raid for 25 years. "When they talk about wading through the swamp gathering intelligence, carrying a musket on her back – they belittle her," Grigg explains as his truck slithers down Stocks Creek Road, still unpaved. "This was the road. She'd have stood out like a sore thumb. Nobody would have known her and the overseers would have seen that in an instant."

What's more, Tubman did not speak Gullah, a language common among coastal slaves. As Tubman herself says of a crucial moment in the raid: "They wasn't my people ... because I didn't know any more about them than [a white officer] did." And these were slaves who worked mostly in the fields, men and women who trusted "house" slaves as little as they trusted whites, even white Yankees.

In other words, the amazing thing about Tubman's role during the raid was not that she was in her element, but that she was so far outside it.

Yet it's clear that it was Tubman who visited the camps of liberated slaves along the coast and recruited the 10 scouts named in Union records, 9 of whom had escaped from nearby plantations. Lieutenant George Garrison, posted to one of the Northern-raised black regiments, said, "She has made it a business to see all contrabands escaping from the rebels, and is able to get more intelligence than anybody else."

Yet she didn't need them to listen to her; the Union needed her to get them to talk to her. Hunter gave her money, which she paid for good information. "There would be slaves coming out, this guy coming from Newport, that guy coming from Heyward [Plantation], taking maybe a couple weeks to get to the lines, hiding in the swamps taking their chances, moving at night," Grigg says. "The others would talk to them, and say, you need to go see Miss Harriet. She'll give you money for good information. So they would tell her – there are 350 slaves at Newport, there are 538 slaves at Heyward, if you land here and here you can take them off."

The Second South Carolina, which carried out the raid along with white troops from Rhode Island, was made up of liberated slaves, many from the Combahee area. It was officially created on May 22, less than a fortnight before the gunboats chugged up the winding Combahee. Sadly, like Tubman herself most of the slaves could not read or write, so the best stories are lost to history. Still, looking at the results of the raid, it is hard not to hear Tubman asking potential recruits, who wants to go burn Nichols' [plantation] library?

The raid's official record is sparse. As Montgomery wrote soon after,

I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your orders, I proceeded up the Combahee River, on the steamers John Adams and Harriet A. Weed, with a detachment of three hundred (300) men of the Second South Carolina Volunteer Regiment and a section of the Third Rhode Island Battery, commanded by Captain Brayton. We ascended the river some twenty-five (25) miles, destroyed a pontoon bridge, together with a large amount of cotton, rice, and other property, and brought away seven hundred and twenty-seven slaves, and some fine horses. We had some sharp skirmishes, in all of which the men behaved splendidly. I hope to report more fully in a day or two.

The Confederates knew that the raid was coming, and that it was intended to liberate slaves. The local slave owner William C. Heyward reported that at dawn on June 2 "the driver, who was with the hands at work in lower fields, sent up word that there were three Yankee boats coming up the river. Immediately got up and sent word to him to bring up the hands and take them back into the woods."

The Second South Carolina was not made up of veterans. The men had far more in common with Tubman than with their own officers. That's why she went with them on the raid. Yet Tubman wasn't a passenger. The intelligence she gathered, the soldiers she recruited, indicate that she actually planned the raid with Hunter and Montgomery: three landings on the right, one on the left.

But it was Captain Hoyt of the Third Rhode Island, not Tubman, who led the Second South Carolina onto the shore and a mile inland to burn the Heyward plantation. It was Isaac and Samuel Heyward, self-liberated scouts with family there, who showed their comrades where to go, since Tubman wouldn't have known.

As the troops finished their demolition work, the fleeing slaves started to reach the boats, many more slaves than there was space available. "When they got to the shore," Tubman recalled later, "they'd get in the rowboat, and they'd start for the gunboat; but the others would run and hold on so they couldn't leave the shore. They wasn't coming and they wouldn't let any body else come."

That's when a white officer told Tubman to sing to "your people." Even decades later, when she would regale white audiences with the Combahee story, she said she resented that – a surprisingly modern sensitivity. But she did sing. And it worked. "Then they throwed up their hands and began to rejoice and shout, glory! And the rowboats would push off."

It's hard to understand how the song Tubman recalled singing – about how "Uncle Sam is rich enough to buy you all a farm" – could have persuaded those left behind to let the boats go. Did she intentionally omit the fact that she threatened to shoot anyone who tried to back out from escaping? Meanwhile, the Confederates set upon those on shore with dogs and guns; at least one young girl was killed. But hundreds escaped.

The raid did not yield as many new recruits as the Union was hoping for: Tubman claims credit for just 100 enlistments (for which she was not paid) afterward out of more than 700 liberated. That may explain why Hunter was relieved of his command, then his replacement cancelled Tubman's free pass and nothing quite like the Combahee liberation raid was tried again.

And yet – like the Emancipation Proclamation that made it possible, the Combahee raid is essential to the meaning of the Civil War. It did not save the Union. But coming between the fiasco of First Wilderness and the grim glory of Gettysburg, Harriet Tubman's Combahee Raid indelibly illustrated what made the Union worth saving.

Sources: "Letters and Journals of Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 1846-1906"; William Friedheim, with Ronald Jackson, "Freedom's Unfinished Revolution"; Gen. Rufus Saxton to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, March 6, 1863; Jean M. Humez, "Harriet Tubman: the Life and the Life Stories"; Frederick Denison, "Shot and Shell: the Third Rhode Island Heavy Artillery Regiment in the Rebellion, 1861-1865"; "[Black Dispatches](#)" at [cia.gov](#).



Paul Donnelly is an advocate for legal immigration.

http://www.army.mil/article/126731/Harriet_Tubman__Nurse__Spy__Scout/

Harriet Tubman: Nurse, Spy, Scout

May 27, 2014

By [Ruth Quinn](#)

Major General David Hunter, Union commander of the Department of the South, issued the valuable military pass in 1861. It read: "Give her free passage at all times, on all government transports. Harriet... is a valuable woman. She has permission, as a servant of the government, to purchase such provisions from the Commissary as she may need." He was referring to Harriet Tubman, best known as the former slave who became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, risking life and liberty to help other runaway slaves escape to freedom. Tubman ran away from her own enslavement in 1849 and immediately had a price on her head. She made the first of thirteen clandestine trips to Maryland to rescue relatives and other slaves in 1850. By 1861, her reputation was widespread. She was smart and strategic, devising clever disguises and playing to her strengths. She operated in winter, when nights were long and people stayed indoors, and made her return trips with the escaped slaves on Saturdays because the papers did not print runaway notices until Mondays. An activist in the Freedman's Aid Society wrote of her in 1865: "She has needed disguises so often, that she seems to have command over her face, and can banish all expression from her features, and look so stupid that nobody would suspect her of knowing enough to be dangerous;

but her eye flashes with intelligence and power when she is roused." These experiences not only made Harriet Tubman famous, they made her a valuable asset to the military.

Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrew, a staunch abolitionist, was well-acquainted with Harriet's clandestine efforts and her passion to help. He had a problem: when federal troops occupied regions of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, the white plantation owners fled, leaving behind ten thousand slaves who became "contraband of war." They barely had clothes on their backs, much less jobs, money, or education. They flocked to the Union camps, destitute and desperate. Governor Andrew called on Harriet Tubman in the fall of 1861 and asked for her help to go south and help these former slaves adjust to their new way of life and to keep them from overrunning the camps. She agreed, telling a neighbor that he had advised her to act as a "spy, scout, or nurse, as the circumstances required." The governor arranged for her transportation and assigned her to General Hunter, who gratefully accepted her help.

Once in Hilton Head, Harriet began her work as a spy and an organizer and leader of scouts. She selected and paid (out of "secret service money") nine reliable black scouts, riverboat pilots who knew every inch of the local waterways, and trained them in methods of gathering intelligence. Using Harriet's knowledge of covert travel and subterfuge and their familiarity with the terrain, these scouts mapped the shorelines and islands of South Carolina. Harriet and her scouts provided valuable intelligence to the newly-formed black regiments, providing, for example, vulnerabilities and locations of Confederate sentinels. Historian H. Donald Winkler, in his book *Stealing Secrets*, writes: "Harriet and her nine-man spy team evolved into a kind of special-forces operation for the black regiments. Her team sneaked up and down rivers and into swamps and marshes to determine enemy positions, movements, and fortifications on the shoreline beyond the Union pickets."

Colonel James Montgomery came into Harriet's life they worked together to raise the 2nd South Carolina Colored Infantry regiment. They shared a common vision and passion for the cause and would work together repeatedly on a number of raids. The most famous of Montgomery's river raids was planned and guided by Harriet Tubman herself -- the Combahee River Raid.

When General Hunter asked Harriet if she would go with several gunboats up the Combahee River on a dangerous military mission, she agreed, as long as Montgomery was appointed to command. Hunter agreed; Montgomery led about 300 black soldiers and Harriet led the way. Their mission was to destroy Confederate supply routes and find and disable mines that had been placed by Rebels in the river. As a civilian attached to the Army, Harriet had much more leeway than a military commander. She knew that slaves had placed those mines, so she sailed up the river on a reconnaissance mission with her scouts to the slave cabins and found the men who had placed them. She promised freedom to anyone who would help her locate them. If the mission succeeded, she intended to free them all.

On the night of June 1, 1863, Tubman and Montgomery aboard the *John Adams*, accompanied by another gunboat, sailed silently up the Combahee. Montgomery dispatched troops to scatter the Confederate sentinels at Fields Point while Harriet guided the ships past the mines. The raiders set fire to bridges, plantations, rice mills, and storehouses, seizing cotton, corn, rice, potatoes and supplies -- all reconnoitered by Harriet and her scouts. What couldn't be seized was destroyed. All through the night, while the damage was being done, the gunboats sounded their whistles, a signal to all the slaves within hearing distance to run to the river and the boats that were waiting for them there. More than 700 slaves -- men, women, and children, some with chickens and pigs, answered the call. Harriet said she had never seen anything like it: "They [reminded] me of the children of Israel coming out of Egypt."

Aside from freeing the slaves, the raid was a huge military success that damaged food sources for the Confederacy and opened the river for Union boats that could now cut off further Confederate supplies. It supplied Montgomery with nearly 200 new recruits for his regiment. A Boston newspaper, the *Commonwealth*, reporting on the Combahee River Raid, said the "gallant band of Black soldiers, under the guidance of a Black woman, dashed into the enemy's country, struck a bold and effective blow, destroying millions of dollars' worth of commissary stores, cotton, and lordly dwellings, and striking terror into the heart of rebeldom... without losing a man or receiving a scratch. It was a glorious consummation." The same paper identified the black woman as Harriet Tubman a month later, thus exposing her work as a spy

in a front-page article.

Harriet stayed in the south for the next year, helping in any way she could. Sometimes this meant assisting military regiments, participating in guerrilla activities, or baking and selling pies to help the newly liberated slaves. Through it all, she communicated with her black neighbors, obtaining more intelligence from them than anyone else could, and passing that intelligence on to the commanders for action.