

NLM Traveling Exhibitions

PR Information



www.nlm.nih.gov/bindingwounds

The National Library of Medicine produced *Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African Americans in Civil War Medicine*, guest curated by Jill L. Newmark (NLM Exhibition Program).

The traveling banner exhibition and companion website explore the stories of the African American men and women who, during the American Civil War, overcame prejudices to serve as soldiers, nurses, surgeons, laundresses, cooks, and laborers. Their participation in the war challenged the prescribed notions about race and gender and pushed the boundaries of the role of black people in America.

Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries includes an [education component](#) that features two K-12 lesson plans and a university module.

Please include this courtesy line with all public announcements about the project:

The National Library of Medicine produced this exhibition and companion website.

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Host venues for *Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries* receive the following PR images. For your reference, there are brief captions for the images. Please include their corresponding **courtesy** noted below when using them.



Seven African American surgeons worked at Contraband Hospital, later known as Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, DC.

Freedmen's Hospital, formerly Campbell Army Hospital, color lithograph
Courtesy Historical Society of Washington, D.C.



African American men and women participated and contributed to the American Civil War. This group of men and women served alongside the 13th Massachusetts Infantry as nurses, laundresses, cooks and laborers.

Contraband working for the Union Army
Courtesy MOLLUS U.S. Military History Institute



Susie King Taylor was hired by the 1st South Carolina Colored Volunteers in 1862 as a laundress. Soon her primary role became tending to wounded soldiers and teaching them to read and write.

Susie King Taylor, nurse and teacher
Courtesy East Carolina University



Alexander T. Augusta was freeborn in Norfolk, Virginia in 1825. He sought a medical education in Canada after being denied admittance to medical school in the United States. Augusta became the first African American commissioned medical officer in the U.S. Army when he was appointed surgeon with the Union Army in April 1863.

Lt. Colonel Alexander T. Augusta, Army Surgeon
Courtesy Oblate Sisters of Providence, Baltimore, MD



In 1863, Anderson R. Abbot received an appointment as a contract surgeon with the rank of lieutenant after writing to President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton requesting to serve as surgeon to the newly formed "colored regiments."

Anderson R. Abbott, Contract Army Surgeon
Courtesy Toronto Public Library, Abbott Collection