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Dr. Leonidas H. Berry
412 E. 47th Street
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Dear Leonidas:

Yours of May 2 received with great interest.

Your great uncle belonged to a notable regiment. It is referred to many times in the General Index of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Here are the references: Series I, volumes 33, 36, 40, 42, 43, 46, 47; Series II, volume 7; Series III, volumes 4 and 5 (see index of each volume for page numbers).

From Series III, volume 4, page 146, it is evident that the regiment was raised in Maryland. From Series I, volume 40, page 124, it is evident that it was a doughty regiment. A witness at the investigation to determine the cause for the failure of success at the battle of the Crater testified: "The colonel of the Thirtieth Regiment Colored Troops (U.S. Colored Infantry) led his (men) through; that is the only one I saw go through the crater."

The Thirtieth Regiment belonged to General Burnside's Ninth Corps which was a part of the Army of the Potomac.

However, you are more interested in your grandfather John Augustus Berry. I do not believe the unit designation "2d Company, Light Artillery, U. S. Colored Troops" is complete. It does not state which regiment. I have an idea that his regiment was one of the colored artillery units in the Eighteenth Corps, Army of the James. Colored artillery is listed as stationed at Fort Monroe under General Butler in January 1864.

I advise you to ask your congressman or senator to get for you a transcript of the service record of John Augustus Berry "2d Company, Light Artillery,

File Biography