



3RD NC VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

RUSSELL'S BLACK BATTALION

PRESENTED BY BRIG. GEN. WES MORRISON

JFHQ AUDITORIUM
FEBRUARY 3, 2025 AT 1130

Agenda

African American Service in US Army/NC National Guard- Not always progressive

Organization, leadership and service of the 3rd NC Volunteer Infantry for service in Spanish American War

Relation of the 1898 “Wilmington Coup” to 3rd NC and NC National Guard



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African American Service in US Army

First integrated units in history of US Army?

“Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, US, let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder, and bullets in his pocket; and there is no power on earth, or under the earth, which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States.”

- Frederick Douglass

Post Civil War South, Reconstruction, Presidential Election of 1876

Emergence of Populist-Republican “Fusion” Coalition in NC; Election of 1894-Daniel Russell as Governor in 1896-



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Spanish American War

1898- War with Spain- Cuba's independence from Spain

NC Volunteer Infantry- 1st, 2nd and 3rd NC

Appointment of James H. Young



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COL James H. Young



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Take Aways

Outstanding military unit

Faced a lot of discrimination- lost soldiers not to combat but racial violence and illness

Two different Welcome Homes- Wilmington Light Infantry and Two Companies of the 3rd NC- all from Wilmington

NCNG- all White by law after the 3rd NC until 1948?



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