D’Asia Brockington of Hampton, Virginia enrolled at Hartwick College last year and soon after became a member of the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project, the award winning student chapter of the USCT Institute. Following the lead of the heroine Harriet Tubman, the young scholars devote time to remembrance of family and ancestors. Their research serves as a healing dosage aimed at finding common reference points for helping to solve disagreements about the greater Freedom Journey and the Civil War. But no one expected the outcome of this year’s research that brought into prominence a 15-year-old black/mulatto Confederate soldier.

It is no surprise that African Americans overwhelmingly give praise to the heroics of ancestors who served in the Union ranks during the Civil War. The nearly forgotten soldiers, black and mulatto comrades of the Confederacy, are hardly mentioned in the discourse of African American heritage. But, what happens when it becomes personal? Do you reject an ancestor of the Confederacy or do you explore his life story for insights? For the Tubman Scholars and their preceptor, Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Associate Dean and Director of the Office of Intercultural Affairs, and Founding President of the USCT Institute, the issue of black Confederates could not be avoided.

For Brockington, her research initially meant connecting the lineage of three generations to the Spratley surname in Phoebus, Sussex County, Virginia. Sussex County was formed in 1754 from Surry County. Below it was Southampton County. The research ended, however, when she and Matthews linked her ancestry to Sandy Spratley in the 1870 Census. The research ended, however, when she and Matthews linked her ancestry to Sandy Spratley in the 1870 Census. With the lineage so close to the Civil War, Brockington became interested in learning if any black or mulatto soldiers
Reconciliation  Continued from page 1

from Sussex and/or neighboring Surry County enlisted into the Union ranks. Fold3.com, an online source, provided the following clues:

Harrison – First USC Calvary, Surry Co.
Richard – First USC Calvary, Surry Co.
Merrit – Co. H, 37th USCT
Isaac – Co. G, 38th USCT
Robert - Co. E, 38th USCT, Smithfield
Madison- Co. E, First USC Calvary

Out of curiosity, the young scholar was also directed by Matthews to search the Sussex County – Confederate Pension Rolls, Veterans and Widows. There was a soldier named Sandy Spratley. Was he the same ancestor that had been identified in the 1870 Census? Armed with the new information, Brockington and Matthews searched several sites that contained compiled rosters of Confederate soldiers, but Sandy was not included. The research team pursued an answer by contacting Gary M. Williams, Sussex County Clerk of Circuit Court. His quick response was a defining moment. He wrote:

“Sandy Spratley was the slave of Jesse Hargrave, who was a justice of the Sussex County Court, 1832-1857. During the Civil War, Sandy Spratley was a body servant and cook for Hargrave’s son, Louis P. Hargrave, who enlisted with the Sussex Light Dragoons (Company H, 13th Virginia Cavalry, CSA) and who was wounded at Gettysburg and taken prisoner of war. Sandy was listed as being 15 on 1 January 1863, the time of the Emancipation Proclamation, so he would have been born in or about 1847. Jesse Hargrave’s home was burned by Union troops in December 1864 in a major assault to destroy the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad.”

In a subsequent message, Williams pointed out that after Hargrave was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg, Sandy Spratley stayed with the regiment until Appomattox. In 1927, he received a servant pension from the Confederacy.

Kevin M. Levin, author of *Civil War Memory*, recalled that:

“The Sussex Dragoons were formed at the beginning of the war, and when they became Company H, of the Thirteenth Virginia Cavalry, Richard (Poplar, Negro) attached himself to the command. The Sussex Dragons were a wealthy organization, and each member of the company had his own servant along with him. From April 1861, until the retreat from Gettysburg, Richard remained faithfully attached to the regiment.”

Quite interesting is the fact that documents provided evidence that there were darker brethren who served as servants and soldiers among the Sussex Dragons. Just as intriguing was Poplar’s capture at Gettysburg, which led to his imprisonment for five months at Fort Delaware before being transferred to Point Lookout, the Maryland prison, for 14 months.
The question had to be asked: “How many other black Confederate soldiers fought and/or died at the Battle of Gettysburg?”

When Poplar died in 1886 in Petersburg, he was buried in the Confederate cemetery at Memorial Hill with full military honors. Sandy, on the other hand, lived a longer life, appearing in the 1930 Census at the age of 83.

**Historical Context.** Williams’ and Levins’ information helped to place the service of the black men of Co. H, 13th Virginia Cavalry within historical context. As early as September 9, 1863, *The Oneonta Herald* (NY) reported that Rebel newspapers were circulating the rumor that Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, had issued a proclamation calling for 500,000 black soldiers, promising them freedom and 50 acres. More than a year later, the Richmond *Enquirer* advanced the notion in a November 12th article, “the conscription of negroes should be accompanied with freedom and the privilege of remaining in the State.”

Davis made clear during the above month that the act of 17th February past, which provided for bringing up to 20,000 enslaved Africans into the Confederate ranks as teamsters, cooks, workers upon fortifications, hospitals and several other support roles, had failed. An important reason was because the labor of those enslaved persons had to be contracted for between the slave owners and the government for short periods of time. Davis wanted to correct the situation by buying approximately 40,000 enslaved Africans and engaging them not only in the above-mentioned support roles, but extending their involvement and training for the roles of pioneers and engineer laborers. Each who performed well would be rewarded with freedom.

Davis’ advocacy created a fireball of reaction among his Southern constituents, but he did receive support from a leading Confederate general. It was reported in the press during December 1864 that General Robert E. Lee, reacting to President Abraham Lincoln’s boast of having 200,000 black soldiers in the Union ranks, expressed that he did “not see why he should not have the use of such available material as well.” Lee believed that the Confederates could make better soldiers of enslaved Africans than the Union.

Near the end of January 1865, the question was still being asked, “Will the Rebels Arm the Slaves?” Within days, the Rebel House of Representatives passed the Davis bill for bringing enslaved Africans into the army in the expanded support roles that had been urged by the President. It was not without opposition, however. While the action was occurring, the Union Congress also was busy at work. On January 1, 1865, the House of Representatives voted to adopt the Senate resolution calling for the abolition of slavery within the Union. As word of the action circulated, the notion of the Confederacy offering freedom to enslaved Africans who would join their ranks, became “too little, too late.”

There does not appear to be anyone who knows for sure how many enslaved Africans supported the Confederacy, although estimates have been placed in the range of 38,000 to 90,000. Drawing upon numerous sources, noted Harvard professor John Stauffer concluded in a 2015 article that “between 3,000 and 6,000 served as Confederate soldiers. Another 100,000 or so blacks, mostly slaves, supported the Confederacy as laborers, servants and teamsters.” Sandy Spratley was among the latter.

What makes Sandy’s connection so important is that the remembrance of him has been brought forward by a current descendant. Regardless of his role during the Civil War, he was one survivor of the conflict who later established and maintained a stable black/mulatto family that continues to thrive today.

Brockington now has census records, birth records, and military documents from the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. The documents place her lineage to Sandy and Vianna Spratley, her g g g g g grandparents.
When Matthews questioned Brockington about her ancestral findings, she first replied, “It is crazy! Why would he (Sandy) do that? It does not make any sense. He was 15 years old. He did not have much say in the matter, though, being enslaved.”

She continued, “We basically found the starting point of my family’s enslavement. And we fought in all these wars – the three that Sandy, Charles (WWI), and Charles Bell (WWII) fought in.”

The young researcher next shared her emotions. “My heart is pumping. It just shows that while African Americans are treated as such non-Americans, there is evidence of my family’s patriotism to a country that showed them no love.”

After a few minutes, Matthews asked Brockington, “Now that you know that your ancestor fought in the Confederacy, how will you process this?”

She responded after a long pause.

“I am dumb-founded. I guess that I can see why, but maybe he was not thinking about the bigger picture, being really aware of what was going on. I do not know how it happened, but afterward a lot of my mulatto and black ancestors were free.”

She continued, “Was he smart for fighting in the Confederacy because maybe they granted him and his family their freedom? Because those blacks who fought with the Union were probably looked upon by the Southerners as traitors.”

Finally, she concluded, “It was not the right thing to do, but it was the best thing to do because it allowed Sandy an opportunity to survive and later have a family including a son and grandson who fought in later wars. And they were free.”

Brockington and four other Tubman Scholars will present their findings at the annual USCTI Student Mini-Conference during October 20-22, 2017. They, along with two USCTI members, will be presented with the American Society of Freedmen Descendants Gold Medal by the USCTI for outstanding research.

REMEMBERING BLACK POW OF THE CIVIL WAR

The fight to end slavery in the United States and the preservation of the Union were two prominent reasons that 200,000 African American males served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Most of the obstacles that the darker brethren had to overcome as soldiers are well documented, although one is lesser known. The story of black prisoners of war was an inhumane episode in the war between the states. Even before President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863, the President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, and its Congress made it clear that black soldiers who were captured would be sent back into slavery or be killed. To President Lincoln’s credit, he made it clear that the Union would retaliate for each black POW killed or enslaved by the Confederacy. The position caused a previously agreeable parole exchange of prisoners between the Union and the Confederacy to collapse. The result was the dramatic increase of prisoners of war on both sides. The Record and Pension Office in 1901 estimated that 195,000 Northerners and 215,000 Southerners were sent to prison camps. The horrible conditions contributed to the death of almost 30,000 Union soldiers and nearly 26,000 Confederate prisoners.

An article by Thomas J. Ward, Jr. was published by the New York Times in 2013, which revealed that black POW were held at nine or more Confederate prison camps. Evidence also reported that the black soldiers were frequently separated from white soldiers and treated more harshly. Ward further pointed out while no one knows the exact number of black POW that were killed, a Congressional committee report estimated that “79 black Union soldiers died in Confederate prisons, 77 escaped, 384 were recaptured by Union forces, and 236 were paroled at the end of the war.”

The United States Congress Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War was established on December 9, 1861 and ended in May 1865. One of its earliest reports focused upon the Fort Pillow Massacre of April 12, 1864, in which black soldiers were slaughtered rather than taken as prisoners of war. This was done under the watchful eyes of Confederate General Nathan B. Forrest. “Remember Fort Pillow,” became a rallying call among black soldiers from that point on.

Source: Fort Pillow Massacre, Harpers Weekly
Courtesy: The Matthew Collection
Yet another source, Bob O’Connor’s book, *The U.S. Colored Troops at Anderson Prison*, indicated that the explosive Battle of Olustee, Florida on February 20, 1864, resulted in the loss of many lives, but also the unusual circumstance of 47 captured USCT taken to Andersonville prison at Camp Sumter, Georgia, rather than killed.

Perhaps one of the more informative testimonies of black POW occurred at the Wirz trial during the fall of 1865. Four African Americans at Andersonville prison shared information about the 103 black soldiers at the prison. William Henry Jennings and John Fisher were of the 8th USCT, Frank Maddox was joined by his white Major Archibald Bogle of the 35th USCT; and much less was known of Lewis Dyer.

The Andersonville National Historic Site agrees with O’Connor and other historians that most information about the POW at Andersonville focused around two prisoners – white officer Major Archibald Bogle of the 35th USCT and Corporal James Gooding of the Massachusetts 54th Colored Regiment.

Recent research by the USCTI reveals that both POW of the 8th USCT survived the prisoner ordeal and filed for military pensions. Private John Fisher, Co. B, filed in May 1873. William H. Jennings, Co. A, filed in September 1875. In further research, two military documents for one Frank Maddox, 38th USCT, was retrieved from *Civil War Service Records, Union, USCT, Miscellaneous Personal Papers*. The cover page identified that the attached letter was written on behalf of Frank Maddox, 38th USCT and was sent to the Office of the Commissary General of Prisoners. It was dated August 8th, 1865 and sent to the Washington, DC office. The letter was written after the Civil War officially ended on June 2, 1865. Thus, it appears that Captain T. Harts was working to help transition POW back to their respective regiments for formal discharge from the Union Army. The question is whether or not the letter reference to the 38th USCT should have been to the 35th USCT.

A curious document appeared during the USCTI research that identified one Private Lewis Dyer, Co. A, 12th USCT. On November 14, 1865, he completed a form titled, “U.S. Requisition for Transportation,” from Washington, DC to Kingston Springs, Tennessee in order to rejoin his regiment. The 12th USCT was organized at Camp Nelson, Kentucky.

The documents retrieved via the USCTI research provide additional glimpses of the above POW, supporting earlier references to Major Bogle and Corporal Gooding. More specifically, the Major survived his time at Andersonville. Corporal Gooding on the other hand, was buried at the Andersonville Prison cemetery and he was later memorialized by the Andersonville Historic Site.
To be true, however, Gooding’s life story has been recalled as an important contribution in the broader African American Freedom Journey. He was born into slavery in 1838 in North Carolina. His journey from slavery to freedom was complete when he enrolled as a student at the New York Colored Orphan’s Asylum in September 1846. During that same year, the famed African American, Dr. James McCune Smith, became the orphanage’s medical doctor. Ten years later, Gooding made his way to Massachusetts, gaining employment in the whaling industry. A short while before the outbreak of the Civil War, Gooding married Ellen Allen in New Bedford. As a soldier in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, he wrote a letter to President Lincoln about the unfairness of black soldiers receiving different pay from white soldiers.

Gooding forwarded letters to the New Bedford Mercury on a frequent basis that provided a chronology of thought by a black soldier during the Civil War. His engagement in battle at Fort Wagner, South Carolina, then later at the Battle of Oustlee, Florida was honorable. It was at the latter conflict that Gooding was wounded, with many thinking he had died.

It was later learned that he had actually been captured by the Confederate Army and taken to Andersonville prison. It was there that he died on July 19, 1864.

The USCTI provides a gravesite salute to James H. Gooding, William H. Jennings, John Fisher, Frank Maddox, Lewis Dyer, as well as to the white officer, Major Bogle, for their contribution in preserving the record of the Freedom Journey.

A VISIT TO BELLE ISLE, VA

Several months ago, Belle Isle in Richmond, Virginia, was visited by Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Hartwick College Associate Dean, Director of the Office of Intercultural Affairs, and Founding President of the USCTI. It was a solemn occasion
in which a young college student, Anthony Carter, provided Matthews with a personal tour of the Confederate military prison during the Civil War.

Beginning in June 1862, Belle Isle Prison was established by Confederate authorities for captured Union privates and noncommissioned officers. Theoretically, the prison was for white captured soldiers, without consideration for holding black soldiers.

Conditions were harsh for the prisoners. According to CensusDiggins.com, there were 3,000 tents for the population of 10,000 soldiers by 1863. Belle Isle Prison was under the watchful eyes of the authorities of the Confederacy headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. Thus, the policies expounded by President Davis and the Confederate Congress were daily reminders at the prison. Which begs the question, “Was there a single black prisoner of war at Belle Isle?”

While historical circumstances provoke a negative response, a diligent researcher may still learn that there was one.

TUBMAN SCHOLARS EXCEL IN RESEARCH

Three years ago, the United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research (USCTI) at Hartwick College embarked upon a journey to engage select student members of the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project and the Buffalo Soldiers Remembrance Group in research. The result was the publishing of their findings in a booklet titled, Stories Our Mothers Told Us: A Search for Roots. The content followed a format that began with oral history and concluded with research findings. A series emerged with several other research booklets prepared by members of the USCTI and its Alumni Council. Remaining true to the goal, Book 2 and Book 3 have also been published. This issue of the USCT Civil War Digest showcase the research of five students and two USCTI members.

PRESERVING THE LEGACY

North Carolina. Aliyah Bridgett of Leeds, New York celebrated her mixed Italian and African American heritage. Since she had a family research book about her Italian side, she decided to explore the history of her heritage from North Carolina. She began her search with the knowledge that her great-grandfather was named John A. Bridgett and that he fought in the Korean War. She also know the name of Lillie Mary
Reconciliation  Continued from page 7

Berry, her great-great-grandmother. Guided by her limited information, Aliyah was able to use Records on Korean War Dead and Wounded Army Casualties from the National Archives to learn that John A. Bridgett was from Augusta, North Carolina. He was placed on the casualty list on June 16, 1952. He lost a finger during the war.

Using North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979, Aliyah acquired the marriage record for Lillie Mary Berry and John Andrew Bridgett on August 7, 1954.

The North Carolina Birth and Death Indexes, 1800-2000, led to Lillie’s parents, Aaron Berry and Lula (Hill) Berry. They were from Bertie, NC, the same location as John’s parents, Eddie and Georgie Bridgett.

Aliyah was able to go back yet another generation by learning from the North Carolina Deaths, 1931-1994, that Edward’s father was Jetson Bridgett. The elder was further identified in Archives.com; FamilyTreeRecordView as born in 1865 in Bertie. There was the additional surprise of learning that Jetson’s parents were Henry and Ellen Bridgett, born respectively in 1838 and 1842. Finally, Aliyah learned that Jetson was married a second time with his new wife, Josephine Jordan, having eight children, including Edward.

South Carolina. Ashantai McCain from Brooklyn, New York, had an oral history that placed her ancestors in slavery on a South Carolina plantation. She also had a written publication of her family’s history. Thus, her goal was to acquire additional information. She located the Registration Card for World War I for her great-grandfather, Willie Cain. Then through the usage of census records, Ashantai was able to acquire copies of appropriate documents linking her ancestors from 1940 to 1870 in Colliers, Edgefield County. In doing so, she learned that her great-great-grandparents were Stephen (b. 1848) and Emmeline (b. 1849).

Italy and Puerto Rico. Kayla Martinez shares a proud mixed heritage of Italian and Puerto Rican. Her research journey began with a good oral history.

Her father, Jose Martinez, Jr., is the son of Luis R. LaSanta, Sr. (b. September 19, 1934). Kayla’s great-grandparents are Pablo Ramos (b 1904) and Mathida LaSanta (b. 1909). They were married May 14, 1927 in Naguabo, Puerto Rico. Kayla’s great-great-grandparents were the couple Estaban Ramos & Anicasia Medina and Eusebio LaSanta & Ana Melendez (b. est. 1891). On her Italian side, she learned of her ancestor, Rosario Sole, and his military service during World War II.

Family connections were affirmed by the United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014. Rosario Sole was mentioned in the Times Union obituary of his wife, Grace Sole of Colonie/Albany, who passed on June 8, 2008 at the age of 95. Also included in the obituary were Kayla and Jose Martinez.

Alabama. Amber Lawson is from Harlem, New York. She celebrates her African American heritage with deep roots in Alabama. Her oral history included names going back to her great-great-grandmothers on both sides. Her grandparents are Sallie A. (Hawkins) Lawson and Walter Lee Lawson. Amber’s great grandparents were Mary E. Hawkins and Archie Hawkins. Her great-great-grandmother was Irene Thomas.
Amber’s great-grandparents on Walter Lee Lawson’s side were Carrie Frazer (Jackson) who was born in 1895 and Joder Frazer. Her g-g-grandparents were Hanna Richardson and Walter Richardson.

Based upon Amber’s family history, Find A Grave.com led her to Carrie Frazier Lawson’s 2005 (August 30) obituary and image. Her age at death was stated as 110 that placed her birth in 1895. Amber remembers this picture from when she was about 8 years of age. The elder lived in Demopolis, Marengo County, Alabama. She was buried at Mount Zion Cemetery.

Also buried at Mount Zion Cemetery was the Rev. Isham Lawson, whose date of birth was placed at December 27, 1901. He died on May 28, 1960. Amber continued her research by starting with the most recent census available to the public for scrutiny.

Alabama Deaths, 1908-1974—Isham Lawson, Jr. (b. 1914) from Demopolis, Marengo, Alabama, passed on May 28, 1960 at 46 years of age. He was buried at Mount Zion Cemetery. There is a major contradiction in date of birth (1901) between this record and the Find A Grave.com records. The parents of the deceased were Isham C. and Harriet Lawson.

The 1920 Census—Isham C. Lawson, Sr. (b. 1865) and his wife, Mollie (b. 1880), lived with children, John H. (b. 1902), Isham C., Jr. (b. 1904) and Harriet C. (b. 1905).

Alabama County Marriages—Isham Lawson married Mollie Glover on October 4, 1919 in Marengo, Alabama. She was his second wife.

Alabama Deaths, 1908-1974—Harriet Lawson passed on March 25, 1919 in Demopolis, Marengo, Alabama. She was at the time in the Hand & Bailey Infirmary in Gallion. Her husband was Isham Lawson.

The 1910 Census—Isham C. Lawson, Sr. (b. 1865) was residing in Demopolis with his wife, Harriet G. (b. 1867) and five children, including John H. (b. 1898) and Harriet E. (b. 1905).

Alabama County Marriages, 1809-1950—Henry Lawson married Irene Thomas on June 2, 1905 in Marengo County, Alabama.

The 1930 Census—Walter Richardson (b. 1865) was residing in Demopolis, Marengo, Alabama. His wife Patsie (b. 1872), lived with three sons, including Thomas (b. 1887) and Henry (b. 1912). They were the ancestors of Joder Richardson.

The 1910 Census—Walter Richardson (b. 1864) was residing in Demopolis, Marengo, Alabama. His wife, Patsy (b. 1869), lived with eight children, including Thomas (b. 1888) and Pinkie (b. 1894). The family was identified as mulatto. Also included within the household was the daughter Janie Jackson, a 20-year-old mulatto.

The 1900 Census—Walter Richardson (b. 1863) was residing in Precinct 2, Demopolis, Marengo, Alabama. His wife, Patsy was born in 1870. The couple’s four children included 9-year-old Hannah (b. 1891) and 10-year-old Jane (1890), Thomas (b. 1887) and 7-year-old Pink. The family was identified as black.

Syracuse, New York. Randolph Johnson lives in Oneonta, but was raised in Syracuse, New York. His oral history identified his great-grandfather, William Johnson, as the first black man to graduate from the school of law at Syracuse University. He also knew that his grandfather, Herbert A Johnson, the son of William, had served in World War II.

Spinning off of the oral history, Randolph was able to acquire documentary evidence of Herbert A. Johnson’s military service. According to the Syracuse Post-Standard newspaper, reporter Jennifer Thompson on August 27, 2009, indicated that a wall of honor existed for men of World War II, including Herbert A. Johnson of the Army.
Reconciliation Continued from page 9

_Empire Magazine, Syracuse Post-Standard_—Herbert A. Johnson, the son of William H. Johnson, was the first African American Court Clerk for the Court of Special Sessions. He was an Army veteran who served in World War II during the Battle of the Bulge. He was a charter member, former commander and judge advocate of Dunbar Post 1642, American Legion. He was named Onondaga County Historian emeritus for the American Legion.

_Syracuse University Connection_—William H. Johnson (b. 1875) in Syracuse, New York. He graduated from the Law School of Syracuse University in 1903. Today, an annual award honors him as the first African American graduate of the Law School. (*2005 Syracuse Law Review*)

**MAJOR CENSUS FINDINGS**

_The 1910 Census_—Francis Johnson (b. 1842) was the father of Edward R. Johnson (b. 1874) and William H. Johnson (b. 1877). Grandchildren included Katherine B, Edith H.T., Charles E.F., and Wilhelmina G.D. The family was identified as mulatto.

_The 1900 Census_—William H. Johnson (b. 1876) was the 23-year-old student. Other children were son Edward R. (b. 1873), and grandchildren Katherine M.B. (b. 1878) and Edith H.L. (b. 1899). The head of household were Francis Johnson (b. 1843) and Mary L. Johnson (b. 1845).

_The 1880 Census_—William H. Johnson (b. 1876) was the 4-year-old son of Francis Johnson (b. 1846) and Mary L. Johnson (b. 1848) residing in Syracuse, Onondaga, New York. Six-year-old Edward R. Johnson was another child in the family. The father was a coachman by profession. His parents were both born in the District of Columbia, Washington, DC.

_Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, New York_—Mary L. Johnson, passed July 31, 1906. She was the mother of Edward R. Johnson (1873—1930) and the wife of Francis Johnson (1847—1915). Her tombstone photograph provided by _Find A Grave.com_

_Obituary for Francis Johnson_—Cause of Death Lobar Pneumonia _Syracuse Herald_, Friday, December 24, 1915, Page 6

“Former slave dies at St. Joseph’s Hospital Francis Johnson was at one time coachman for author of “David Harum.”

“Francis Johnson, 68, colored, formerly coachman for the LATE Noyes Westcott, author of “David Harum” and the late Dr. H.D. Didama, formerly dean of the medical college of Syracuse University, died last night at St. Joseph’s Hospital. He had been a patient at that institution since Monday, suffering from a complication of diseases.”

_South Carolina_. Harry Bradshaw Mathews was born in Denmark, South Carolina. He knew that his grandfather, Richard Parler, Jr., was formerly enslaved and emerged as the Grandmaster West Indian Mason in Denmark, Bamberg, South Carolina. Rebecca Killingsworth Parler was his grandmother, whose lineage traced to the black Killingsworth cabinetmakers as far back to Isaac the African in 1762.

Based upon his research for his family history book, _African American Genealogical Research: How to Trace Your Family History_ (revised 2007), he learned that the black Killingsworth trace to 1762 in Barnwell County from which Bamberg County emerged. Further, census records from 1940 to 1790 linked his extended
family through the generations, including a free black person in one of the three connected Killingsworth households in the 1790 Census.

Recent research provides links to military men of World War I and World War II. For example, Willie Killingsworth was the son of Stephen, who was the brother of Isaac, Jr. The two brothers were the sons of Isaac Killingsworth, Sr. and Emmerly (1870 Census).

92nd Infantry (Buffalo Division) World War II Association (92ndinfantry.org)—
Frederick Douglass Killingsworth served in the 365th Infantry Division of the 92nd. He earned the Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal. He received his combat infantry badge GO#6 HQ 365 Infantry on January 13, 1945. Frederick Douglass Killingsworth was the son of Wade and Lillie; Wade was the son of Willie (WWI) and Zellie Killingsworth. Numerous other members of the Killingsworth, Parler and Rice extended family have been documented as soldiers. Many members of the extended family are buried in the Parler Cemetery in Denmark, South Carolina.

In Tribute of
Private
Fredrick Douglas Killingsworth
92nd Infantry, Buffalo Division,
United States Army, World War II
Son of Wade and Lillie Killingsworth, of Denmark, Bamberg County, South Carolina

Commemorated in perpetuity for service in defense of the Nation and advancing the Freedom Journey as proclaimed and recognized by the United States Colored Troops Institute.
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To become a member of the United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research at Hartwick College, please contact Harry Bradshaw Matthews, 410 Dewar Hall, Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York 13820.