Portrait of Army Private Jonas M. Poweshiek, 1917

Pvt. Jonas M. Poweshiek,
Enlisted June 6/17 at Tulsa, Okla.
(Tama Indian)

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 1917
African-American Captains at Ft. Des Moines, October 15, 1917

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Showers, Hebard, 1917 October 15
Pvt. Robert Young Bear,
50th Co., Transportation Corps,
Ind. Toledo, Ia., June 1/18.
(Tama Indian)
CROIX ROUGE FRANÇAISE

UNION DES FEMMES DE FRANCE
Reconnaissante d'utilité publique. — Rattachée au Service de Santé Militaire

HOPITAL 109 — ANCIEN SÉMINAIRE

COMITÉ DE PONT-AUDE

TELEPHONE 124

Mr. A. J. Jones
Algona
Iowa
U.S.A.

La Magistrature

Auxiliaire n° 656

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 3 August 1918
Private George Stewart Letter from World War I, August 3, 1918 (Pg.2)

Somewhere in France
Aug. 3, 1918

Dear Grand-Pa,

Well I will try and write a few lines to let you know that I am still alive. I expect you think that I have forgotten about you but I have not. I often wonder how you are but I never have much time to write.

I am in a French hospital now I got wounded July 19 on my right shoulder and right foot. I have been operated on twice to take the bullets out.

They told me to other day that it would be two or three months before I can go back to duty on the line.

The French people treat me fine but I wish that I was in an American hospital but we have got four American nurses now so we get along pretty good. I will be glad when I can get out and go around again. I have been in the hospital 15 days now.

France is all right and is a pretty country but I will be glad when I get back like the U.S.A. Everything in different over here. This country is about a hundred years behind ours.

I don’t know if you can read this or not for I can not use my hand very good yet. I hope you keep well this summer and have a good time. I suppose you see Lila and the Babine.

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 3 August 1918
quite often. I expect to take you out riding quiet often. I sure would like to see him and the babies but I expect that it will be a long time yet before I get home.

But we are driving the Germans back some now. I will sure be glad when the war is over. I would like to see some of the boys from home. I have only seen one fellow that I knew since I left home. I have not had come mail since I got out here. I sure would like to hear from home. I would like to know how everybody is.

I expect that there is quite a big girl now. I would like to see the boy wounded off the ways like me. I expect most of the boys that I knew over the Christmas.

Well I hope to be home my 2 years at this time. But I may not. Well I hope that you keep well and have a good time. Well your body fell so far me and can not write very well with my shoulder knocked out.

Well I will close for this time hoping to hear from you all soon.

From your loving grandson

Pvt George J. Stewart
76th C. 6th Reg. Md. Bn. C.
A.E.F.
Dear Mother,

I will try and write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I am still in the hospital, but I am getting along all right. It seems like a wound in the head hide awful slow. I have been in the hospital ever since Oct 9th and I am still here. I have a fine place to stay though and so I don't mind it much. We are staying...
in big hotels, and we have enough
to eat all of the time. And a
nice place to sleep.
If I only could get my mail
and some pay, I would be pretty
well satisfied, I haven’t received my
mail since I came to the hosptal
but I guess I will get it some
day before long.
And money I haven’t been paid
for six month, excepting one Casual
Pay which is eleven dollars.
Which doesn’t go very far in a
town of this size we are in.
a town about twice the size of
Perry.
Well Mother it will not be long
until I will spend my second
Xmas in this country.
I can wear my three service stripes
now and one wound stripe.
I have been over here eighteen months.
now and only wounded once.
I'll say I was pretty lucky.
I have been many and many a time I wouldn't have five cents
for my life. I have had shells
burst so close to me that I
was knocked down three different times, and almost captured once.
I had Germans on three sides of
me but I got away the three
fellows that were with me
one of them was shot and
killed that was Corporal Murphy
and two of them were captured
one an Italian and the other
fellow was from Indiana. And
so I figure I was mighty
lucky not to be a prisoner
well I guess I had fell
close to weight 2000 to the
Address on the top of the first
page With the love to all from Estle

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 19 December 1918
LIEUT. HAL SHORT VISITS IOWA CITY


eFashionable Hal短在来到爱荷华城时，引起了热烈的欢迎。他在这儿与许多老朋友重逢，并与几位村民共进晚餐。然后，他参观了当地的军营，了解了士兵们的生活和训练情况。当天晚上，他出席了当地的慈善活动，为当地的贫困家庭筹集资金。通过他的访问，人们更加了解了军人们的付出和努力。
American Red Cross Rest Room for African-American Soldiers and Sailors, between 1917 and 1919

“American Red Cross Rest Room for [African American] soldiers and sailors,” between 1917 and 1919. Courtesy of National Archives
“True Sons of Freedom” Poster, 1918

803rd Pioneer Infantry Band on the U.S.S. Philippines, 1919

Women's Army Corps Company Outside Des Moines Theater, September 29, 1943

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 29 September 1943
October 17, 1917.

Mr. Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

I want to thank you
most heartily, both for myself and
for the Association, for your
treatment of the cadets at Des
Moines, and the general way in which
you have carried through your plans
concerning colored soldiers.

Your justice will greatly hearten the colored people.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBD/GRB.
Mr. President,

I have the honor to recall Your Excellency’s benevolent attention to a question of gravity and importance to the national life of the American people and whose nature is intimately related to the import of the international conferences.

It would be unworthy of the noblest traditions of our country and the grand ideals which Your Excellency has so often expressed, for men to consider for an instant, that this question could embarrass the activity of the American Delegates.

American civilization must not be considered voluntarily negligent nor even as deeply conscious of ignoring the solution of this question which is unique among the civilized nations. The situation at present is rife with every possibility, except violence. The strength of a cause is in its own righteousness; the latter must ultimately prevail.

The world is wondering to-day how America is going to avoid at least an indictment of inconsistency and perhaps a suspicion of insincerity. No epoch in the history of our nation has been so propitious as the present to clear the atmosphere of
doubt as to the national intention in this matter.

The international peace Congress that is to

decide whether or not peoples shall have the right
to dispose of themselves will find in its midst
delegates from a nation which champions the prin-
ciple of the "consent of the governed" and
"Government by representation". That nation is our

own and includes in itself more than twelve million
souls whose consent to be governed is never asked.
They have no numbers in the legislatures where they
are in the majority and not a single representative
in the national Congress.

For us to sustain the ancient these of ineli-
gibility and incapacity to govern himself or to en-
joy the full rights of citizenship would be a libel
on our civilization; if sixty years of its influence
has produced so poor a result, Americanism would be
a lamentable failure. Happily such is not the case.

He was illiterate; but not less than five
(probably six) of the Allied Nations whose rights
to independent Government are recognized by the
United States have a higher percentage of illite-
racy than he.

In numbers he represents nearly twice the po-
pulation of Roumania or Holland, two and half times
that of Chile or Sweden, nearly three times that of
Switzerland, three times that of Portugal and five times those of Norway or Denmark.

From agricultural pursuits alone he has enriched the nation to the extent of more than twelve billions of dollars in twenty years, without considering the corn crop (the most important of the country) which included, would mean that the black population of the United States has in the period above mentioned, given by its labor to the nation twice the amount of all the loans made to the Allied Powers. From an economic point of view he cannot be considered as unimportant.

His tradition in the wars of our country has been that of a worthy patriot and a good soldier; the very birth of the nation was consecrated by the blood of Crispus Attucks; he left his fifty thousand dead on the battle fields of the Secession; he saved a difficult situation at San Juan Hill; he distinguished himself in this last and greatest struggle in the history of mankind, proving himself to be the equal of the best soldiers on the field; he participated brilliantly in the final combat; thus from the Boston massacre to the last battle of Sedan he has maintained traditions worthy of the American people.

Has this race not earned as much consideration
as most of the smaller nations whose liberties and rights are to be safeguarded by international convention?

In principle this is as much an international question as that of the Poles or the Young-Slaves who were comprised until recently within the Central Empires. In fact, the question "a people" applies with exceptional distinctness in this case. This appeal can have no report with class distinction or class legislation. The ideals of the peace Congress have to do with the rights of distinctive peoples; a more distinctive people than the American Negro would be difficult to imagine when taken in his present surroundings and as compared with the other races interested which have not the distinguishing mark of color.

More than to the Black race within her borders, America owes to the world the solution of her race problem, from this very year. The question can be resolved and should be resolved, by the same impartial and righteous judgment that is to be applied to other peoples. The consequence of such an effort would not be revolution but untramelled evolution.

If asked by what authority I make this appeal, my answer would be:

By the tacit consent of twelve million people not one of whom would repudiate the principles set forth and by the right that Almighty God has given to each one of his creatures to lift up his voice against suffering and injustice.
Charles Young Auxiliary at Red Cross Bazaar in Des Moines, Iowa, December 20, 1918

“Chas. Young Auxiliary, American Red Cross, Des Moines, Iowa,” The Iowa Bystander, 20 December 1918. Courtesy of Library of Congress