



# January 8th, 1866

## The 28<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment Returns Home

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1866, a public reception is held for the 28th Indiana Regiment, the first and only African American regiment organized in Indiana. They fought in numerous battles and sustained heavy losses, and they proved their bravery in the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond. Throughout the war, they lost a total of 212 men. They saw their first combat at White House, Virginia, traveled with Sheridan and his Cavalry through Chickahominy swamps, and lost almost half of the regiment's entire men during what would later become known as the Battle of the Crater. For their sacrifice, bravery, and dedication to the union, they were given an official state reception for their return to Indiana after the war.

Reception and history of the 28th regiment, according to the January 9th, 1865 issue of the Indianapolis Journal.

### Reception of the 28th Colored.

#### History of the Regiment.

The colored regiment, under the command of Major Sevier, was publicly received on behalf of the State, yesterday afternoon. The exercises were held in the Tabernacle, and a welcome address was made by E. W. Kimball, Esq., after which the boys were spoken to by Governor Baker for a few minutes. The commanding speech was made by their chaplain—a colored man bearing the paradoxical name of "White." The occasion was a very pleasant one, and was a large nail in the great platform of equal justice. The following is the

#### HISTORY OF THE 28TH.

This regiment was recruited in Indiana, as a part of the quota of the State, but upon its organization, it was turned over to the United States authorities, as the Twenty-Eighth U. S. C. T. It was organized by Lieutenant Colonel O. L. Russell, and left the rendezvous at Indianapolis for Washington, on the 24th day of April, 1864. It was placed in a camp of instruction near Alexandria, Virginia, where, consisting of six companies—"A," Lieutenant J. O. Gray; "B," Captain J. M. Wells; "C," Lieutenant W. G. Roberts; "D," Captain J. O. Padon; "E," Captain John C. Harkness; "F," Captain H. Snow, and under command of Lieutenant Colonel O. L. Russell. It underwent a short series of drill, preparatory to the ordeal they were about to undergo. It embarked for White House, Virginia, on the 21 day of June, 1864, and participated in an engagement at that place on the 21st of the same month. It accompanied Sheridan's Cavalry on its excursion through the Chickahominy swamps, and after a hazardous and circuitous march, during which it met severe losses from frequent skirmishes with the enemy, it arrived at Prince George's Court House and was assigned to Thomas's brigade, Ferrero's division of the Ninth Army Corps. With this command it participated throughout the entire campaign before Petersburg in 1864, winning and dying laurels in the bloody battle of the "Crater," where it lost nearly half of its number in killed and wounded. For the gallant and prominent part borne in this action the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Russell, was promoted Colonel, and subsequently Brigadier General, to date from July 10, 1864, having been placed in command of a brigade. The responsibilities of the regiment now fell upon Major Thomas H. Logan, to whom the command is usually indebted for all its subsequent achievements, and whose worth and meritorious conduct afforded a ready access to the Lieutenant Colonelcy vacated by the promotion of Colonel Russell. The decimated ranks were now filled with recruits, and four more companies were organized, and commanded as follows: G, Captain B. C. Sherman; H, Captain T. J. Gray; I, Captain J. Conover, and K, Captain L. H. Bliss. At Hatcher's Run fresh glory was won by both officers and men. During the month of November, when the colored troops were organized into the 25th corps, Army of the James, the 28th regiment was selected for duty in the Quartermaster's Department at City Point, and remained at that place until called upon to assist in operating against Richmond. Constituting a part of a provisional brigade under Gen. Russell it was among the first organizations to enter the city, where it was detained for three days at Camp Lee. For its discipline and efficiency, it was, with the remainder of General Russell's brigade, returned to the post at City Point to take charge of prisoners. Remaining at this place until the 25th corps had embarked for Texas, it set sail under its worthy leader, Lieutenant Colonel Logan, for Brazos Santiago, where it arrived on the 1st day of July. It disembarked at Indianola on the 5th, and was subsequently ordered to rejoin Russell's brigade at Corpus Christi, where it remained until discharged, by virtue of an order from the War Department, on the 8th of November, 1865.

Mustered into the United States service, December 20, 1863, at Indianapolis, Indiana. Field and Staff—Colonel and Brigadier General, Charles L. Russell; Lieutenant Colonel, Thomas H. Logan; Major, Nathan A. Sorensen; Surgeon, George H. Richabn; Assistant Surgeons, P. R. House and Celso Pierpont; Adjutant, J. F. Schulz; Regimental Quartermaster, R. M. Gibson; Chaplain, G. H. White.