

Peter Bruner, Camp Nelson Soldier

Description: Peter Bruner's story represents one of the roughly 10,000 Black soldiers who enlisted in the Union Army at Camp Nelson in Central Kentucky. Lincoln declared slaves would become free if they enlisted at Camp Nelson, creating an unusual free-soil area in the middle of a slave state. As enslaved families fled to Camp Nelson to be close to their enlisted family member, an unusual story of tragedy and courage unfolded.