

SCENE



‘WE FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM’

Louisville’s new Civil War photo exhibit shares stories of African American soldiers

Jason Gonzalez Louisville Courier Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Nearly 24,000 African American troops from Kentucky fought in the American Civil War. Now a new photo exhibit in downtown Louisville is sharing some of their stories. ● Reckoning Inc., and Roots 101 African American Museum have paired up to honor these Civil War veterans in the photo exhibit titled “We Fought for Our Freedom: Kentucky’s African American Civil War Soldiers.” It will be on display at the museum, 124 N. First St., from now through the month of February in honor of Black History Month. ● Radio producer and writer Dan Gediman, who is the executive director of Reckoning, Inc., and genealogy researcher and author Denyce Peyton, started documenting the lives of those soldiers in The Kentucky African American Civil War Soldier Project, which seeks to unlock previously hidden information about enslaved people from Kentucky. ● The goal is to document the lives of all 23,700 Black soldiers who enlisted in the Union Army from Kentucky. According to researchers, each Black Civil War soldier who had children could have up to 1,700 direct descendants living today, unaware of what happened to their ancestors, the Courier Journal previously reported.

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From left, Abram Garvin, Wilson Weir and George Brown were soldiers who served in the Union Army’s 108th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment, which was mustered in Louisville in June 1864. PHOTOS COURTESY OF RECKONING INC.

