

# U.S. COLORED TROOPS

James Hinton did not serve in the Civil War due to physical limitations, but he recruited African American men for the U.S. Colored Troops. The Twenty-Eighth Regiment of the USCT was Indiana's only African American regiment. The men of the Twenty-Eighth served valiantly in northern Virginia, including the 1864 Battle of the Crater.

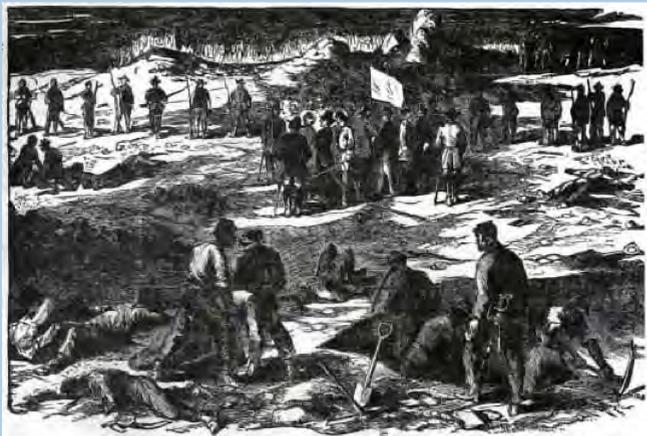
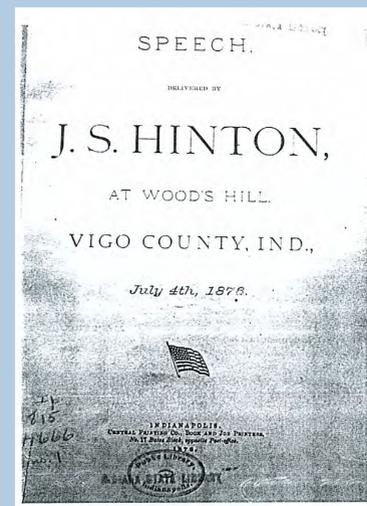


Illustration courtesy of: Joseph T. Wilson, *The Black Phalanx: African American Soldiers In The War Of Independence, The War Of 1812, And The Civil War* (1892).



“The forces of truth and the principles of liberty, born in the days of the revolution, and proclaimed in the Declaration of 1776 have placed the negro for the first time in his history on this continent in a position to realize that he is a man and an American citizen.”

-James S. Hinton, 1876

Speech delivered at Woods Hill in Vigo County, Indiana on July 4, 1876.  
Image courtesy of the Indiana State Library, Indiana Division

## LEGAL BARRIERS

• Indiana's laws and customs discriminated against African Americans in many ways. These are some of the legal barriers to African Americans which were in effect while James Hinton was growing up:

### THE RIGHT TO VOTE:

Indiana's 1816 and 1851 Constitutions declared: "No Negro or Mulatto shall have the right of suffrage." In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment to the US Constitution extended the right to vote to black men.

### THE RIGHT TO ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL:

Before the 1860s, African American children could not attend public schools. The 1869 School Law allowed black children to attend public school but also permitted racial segregation.

### THE RIGHT TO SETTLE IN INDIANA:

Before the Civil War, Indiana legislators passed numerous laws which restricted or banned African Americans from moving to the state.

### THE RIGHT TO SERVE IN THE STATE MILITIA

The 1851 Indiana Constitution stated that only "able bodied white male persons" could serve in the militia. Although African Americans served in the armed forces from the Civil War, this language was not removed from the state constitution until 1936.

• African Americans and their allies fought against these and other forms of racial discrimination.

# JAMES SIDNEY HINTON

1834-1892

Throughout his life, James Sidney Hinton dedicated himself to achieving equal rights for African Americans in Indiana and the country.

Hinton was born into a free family in North Carolina in 1834. He moved with his family to Terre Haute, Indiana during the 1850s. Hinton pursued his education at schools in Terre

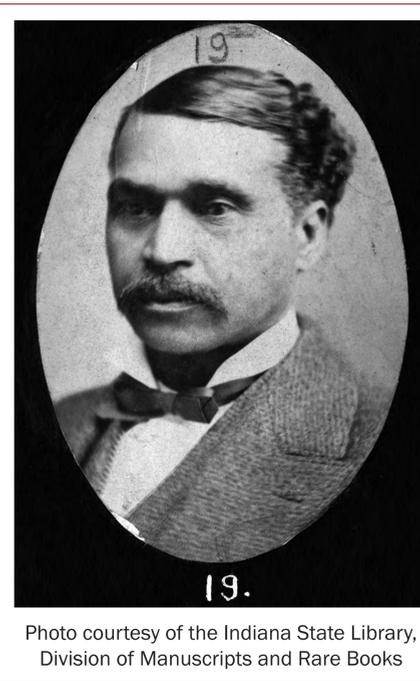


Photo courtesy of the Indiana State Library, Division of Manuscripts and Rare Books

Haute and Ohio before making his living as a teacher and barber. He settled in Indianapolis and became known as a forceful advocate for civil rights and stirring public speaker. Hinton urged African Americans to take their place as citizens and during

the Civil War recruited black men to serve in the United States Colored Troops. In 1880, Marion County voters elected Republican James Hinton to Indiana's House

of Representatives. He was the first African American to serve in the State House. After his term in the legislature, Hinton traveled throughout the country as he campaigned for civil rights. James Hinton died on November 6, 1892.

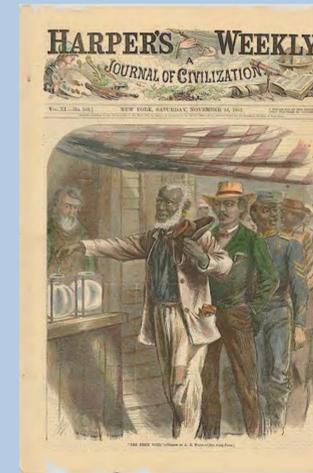


Image courtesy of the Smithsonian, National Museum of American History

## CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS

For many African Americans, achieving full civil rights was the ultimate goal of the Civil War. The right to vote was an essential part of citizenship.

The image from *Harper's Magazine* depicts southern African American men voting for the first time in 1867. After the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1870, African American men in Indiana finally had the right to vote.

In the image below, Marion County citizens registered to vote in 1963. During the civil rights movement, the freedom to vote remained a national issue.



Image courtesy of the Indiana Historical Society

After his death in 1892, the (*Indianapolis*) *Freeman*, an influential African American newspaper, described Hinton as:

“... an alert and fearless advocate of right against wrong, and a prominent member of that heroic and consecrated band of souls that forty years ago were the marked and distinguished foes of the slave power, that then reigned in unquestioned authority over every foot of Indiana soil.”

## EDUCATION

James Hinton was a lifelong advocate for African American education.

When he was a boy, public schools were closed to blacks, so he attended a private “subscription school” in Vigo County. He also studied at a Quaker school and Ohio's Greenville Institute. He promoted access to education and was a trustee of Wilberforce University, a historically black institution in Ohio. Indiana's 1869 School Law permitted, but did not require, racial segregation of the schools. Crispus Attucks High School, pictured here in 1948, was built to accommodate Indianapolis' segregated school system.



Image courtesy of the Indiana Historical Society

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Indiana Department of Administration and the Indiana Historical Bureau were extremely fortunate to work with a number of dedicated individuals to bring this project to completion. These individuals gave much of their time and offered so many talents: Matt Groschek, formerly, Herron School of Art, IUPUI; Jennifer Hodge, Director, Indiana State House Tour Office; Dr. Madupe Labode, Assistant Professor History, Public Scholar of African American History and Museum Studies, IUPUI; Wilma Moore, Senior Archivist, African American History, Indiana Historical Society; Jeannie Regan-Dinius, Director of Special Initiatives, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology; Kisha Tandy, Assistant Curator of Social History, Indiana State Museum.