

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

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## 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Colored)

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### Resources

#### If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Junne, Jr., Dr. George H.	<i>A History of the Fifty-Fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Colored Infantry of the Civil War.</i> Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2012.

### Books

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Blatt, Martin H., et al.	<i>Hope and Glory: Essays on the Legacy of the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts Regiment.</i> Baltimore, MD: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001.
Burchard, Peter	<i>One Gallant Rush, Robert Gould Shaw and his Brave Black Regiment.</i> New York: St. Martin's Press, 1965.
Cornish, Dudley Taylor	<i>The Sable Arm: Negro Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865.</i> New York: Longmans, 1956.
Duncan, Russell, ed.	<i>Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune: The Civil War Letters of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw.</i> Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1992.
_____.	<i>Where Death and Glory Meet: Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry.</i> Athens: University

	of Georgia Press, 1999.
Emilio, Luis F.	<i>A Brave Black Regiment or The History of the Massachusetts Fifty-Fourth Regiment.</i> Boston: Boston Book Company, 1891.
Gladstone, William A.	<i>United States Colored Troops, 1863-1867.</i> Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1990.
_____.	<i>Men of Color.</i> Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1993.
Glatthaar, Joseph T.	<i>Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers.</i> New York: The Free Press, 1990.
Gooding, James Henry	<i>On the Altar of Freedom: A Black Soldier's Civil War Letters from the Front.</i> Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1991.
Greene, Robert Ewell	<i>Swamp Angels: A Biographical Study of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, True Facts About the Black Defenders of the Civil War.</i> Bomark/Greene Publishing Group, 1990.
Luck, Wilbert H.	<i>Journey to Honey Hill: The 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment's (Colored) Journey South to Fight the Civil War that Toppled the Institutions of Slavery.</i> Washington D.C.: Wiluk Press, 1976.
Massachusetts Adjutant Generals Office	<i>Record of Massachusetts Volunteers, 1861-1865.</i> Boston: The Adjutant-General under a resolve of the General Court, 1868-1870.
McPherson, James M.	<i>The Negro's Civil War: How American Negroes Felt and Acted During the War for the Union.</i> New York: Pantheon, 1965.
Pearson, John Greenleaf	<i>The Life of John A. Andrew: Governor of Massachusetts 1861-1865,</i> 2 vols. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1904.
Quarles, Benjamin	<i>The Negro in the Civil War.</i> Boston: Little Brown, 1953.
Schouler, William	<i>A History of Massachusetts in the Civil War,</i> 2 vols. Boston: E.P. Dutton, 1868-1871.
Teamoh, Robert T.	<i>Sketch of the Life and Death of Col. Robert Gould Shaw.</i> Boston: Grandison & Son, 1904.
Vierow, Wendy	<i>The Assault on Fort Wagner: Black Soldiers Make a Stand in South Carolina Battle.</i> New York: Powerkids Press (Rosen Publishing), 2004.

Werstein, Irving	<i>The Storming of Fort Wagner</i> . New York: Firebird Books/Scholastic Press, 1970.
Wilder, Burt G.	<i>The Fifty-Fourth Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Colored: June 1863-September 1865</i> . 3 <sup>rd</sup> ed. Brookline, MA: The Riverdale Press 1919.
Williams, George W.	<i>A History of the Negro Troops in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865 Preceded by a Review of the Military Services of Negroes in t Ancient and Modern Times</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers, 1888.

## Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
The 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry	The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment was reactivated on November 21, 2008 to serve as the Massachusetts National Guard ceremonial unit to render military honors at funerals and state functions. The new unit is now known as the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment Massachusetts National Guard Ceremonial Unit. Their website is <a href="http://www.mass54thcompany-a.com/">http://www.mass54thcompany-a.com/</a>
B Company 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment	B Company 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment is a re-enactor group dedicated to preserving the history of the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment and Black soldiers in the Civil War. Their website is <a href="http://www.54thmass.org/home.html">http://www.54thmass.org/home.html</a>
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History	The Gilder Lehrman Institute contains primary and secondary resources for the history of the Massachusetts 54 <sup>th</sup> . Their website is <a href="https://www.gilderlehrman.org/">https://www.gilderlehrman.org/</a>
Massachusetts Historical Society	The Massachusetts Historical Society offers, workshops and programs and primary source archives relating to the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. Their website is <a href="http://www.masshist.org/">http://www.masshist.org/</a>
National Archives at Boston	The National Archives at Boston has primary source material on the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts

	including letters, reports, and records. Their website is <a href="http://www.archives.gov/boston/">http://www.archives.gov/boston/</a>
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## Web Resources

URL	Name and description
<a href="http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/19990213/NEWS/302139998&amp;cid=sitesearch">http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/19990213/NEWS/302139998&amp;cid=sitesearch</a>	Ric Oliveira, "Valor of 54 <sup>th</sup> ", <i>South Coast Today</i> , February 13, 1999.
<a href="http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/payton.htm">http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/payton.htm</a>	Benjamin F. Payton, Speech at the Centennial Celebration of the Monument to Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts Regiment.
<a href="http://battleofolustee.org/54th_mass_inf.html">http://battleofolustee.org/54th_mass_inf.html</a>	Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry is a website containing a number of useful links to primary sources and related websites relating to the regiment.
<a href="http://www.historynet.com/americas-civil-war-54th-massachusetts-regiment.htm">http://www.historynet.com/americas-civil-war-54th-massachusetts-regiment.htm</a>	This historynet.com website contains a short history of the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts.
<a href="http://www.blackpast.org/aah/fifty-fourth-massachusetts-infantry-1863-1865">http://www.blackpast.org/aah/fifty-fourth-massachusetts-infantry-1863-1865</a>	This blackpast.org website contains a short history of the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts.
<a href="http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/robert-gould-shaw.html">http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/robert-gould-shaw.html</a>	The Civil War Trust page on Robert Gould Shaw is located at this URL.
<a href="http://www.nps.gov/boaf/historyculture/shaw.htm">http://www.nps.gov/boaf/historyculture/shaw.htm</a>	This is the National Park Service page covering the Shaw and Shaw Memorial in Boston MA.
<a href="http://web.cas.suffolk.edu/richman/eng101/Shaw.htm">http://web.cas.suffolk.edu/richman/eng101/Shaw.htm</a>	This website contains useful links to primary and secondary sources on Robert Gould Shaw and the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts.
<a href="http://54th-mass.org">http://54th-mass.org</a>	This website contains letters written to and from soldiers of the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts and links to archives with additional letters.
<a href="http://www.teachamericanhistory.org/file/the_54th_massachusetts_colored_infantry_unit.pdf">http://www.teachamericanhistory.org/file/the_54th_massachusetts_colored_infantry_unit.pdf</a>	This is a lesson plan for teaching the history of the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts.

## Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
African American Civil War Memorial and Museum	The Museum is dedicated to the history of African Americans in the Civil War. It is located at 1925 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington DC 20001. 202-667-2667. It is open T-F 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sat 10:00 a.m.; to 4:00 p.m., Sun noon to 4:00 p.m. Their website is <a href="http://www.afroamcivilwar.org/">http://www.afroamcivilwar.org/</a>
<i>The Massachusetts 54<sup>th</sup></i>	American Experience video available from PBS can be watched here: <a href="http://video.pbs.org/video/2298140670/">http://video.pbs.org/video/2298140670/</a>
<i>Glory</i>	Glory is a 1989 Film about the 54 <sup>th</sup> and the assault on Fort Wagner directed by Edward Zwick and starring Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman among others.

## Scholars

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## Topic Précis

The most famous African American regiment of the Civil War was the Massachusetts 54<sup>th</sup>, renowned for its assault on Fort Wagner. Located near Charleston on Morris Island, Wagner was one of several fortifications built to protect the city and its harbor. There were many people, both high and low, who banded together to fight for the creation of the regiment. Among them was John Albion Andrew, the wartime governor of Massachusetts; Frederick Douglass, the former slave who fled to Massachusetts and became a newspaper man and politician; and Robert Gould Shaw, the young Boston blue-blood officer who reluctantly agreed to lead the command. It would be Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 that would "kick open the door" for the possibility of African Americans to fight for their country. Recruitment for the 54<sup>th</sup> was so successful that within a few months, a sister unit, the 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment was created and later, the 5<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment. On July 18, 1863 the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts attacked Fort Wagner. At about 6:00 p.m., Colonel Shaw led the charge on his horse and carrying the national flag with his men marching closely behind. With all of the Confederate weapons focused on that narrow area, the casualties were high. It seems impossible, but Colonel Shaw and some of his men managed to climb up the front of the fort and take the fight inside. Shaw was wounded and soon killed leading the fight inside the fort. All of the officers leading the 54<sup>th</sup> had become casualties but the men refused to surrender and were slaughtered. Shaw had led 600 enlisted men and twenty-two officers in the battle at Fort Wagner and the unit suffered 272 casualties. Nearly 300 had actually managed to get inside the fort and fight. In the aftermath, the Confederates buried Colonel Shaw with his Black soldiers as a sign of disrespect. Northern newspapers carried stories about the bravery of the 54<sup>th</sup> under fire and because of their courage, many were forced to reevaluate their racist views of African American soldiers. Boston remembered the 54<sup>th</sup> on May 31, 1897, with the unveiling and dedication of the Shaw Memorial.

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