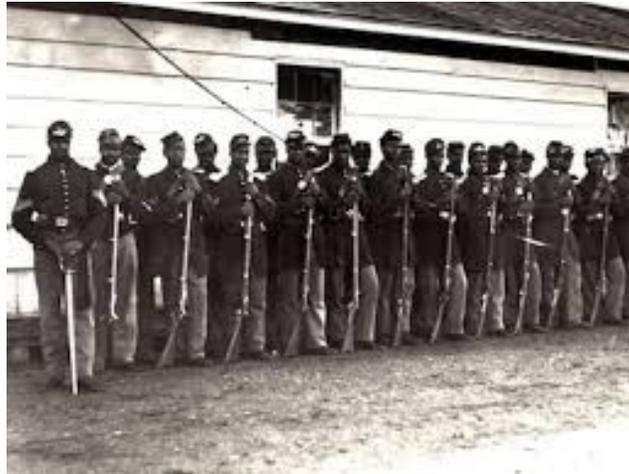




QUICK FACT FRIDAY



***Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment of Colored Troops
& Mount Pleasant's Surrender to Union Troops***

This month's *Quick Fact Fridays* focus on the theme of Mount Pleasant and the Civil War, with this week's release featuring the Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment of Colored Troops and Mount Pleasant's Surrender to Union Troops. The Civil War remains the single most important event in American History. What some call *The War between the States* or *The War of Northern Aggression* continues to dominate the imagination of Americans and impacts their views on the past and present. Although no major battles took place in Mount Pleasant, the town's proximity to Charleston contributed to its involvement in significant events during the War.

On February 26, 1865, Henry Slade Tew wrote a letter to his daughter Emily Jenkins Tew describing the surrender and occupation of the Mount Pleasant. Tew was a storekeeper and leading citizen who was elected the Town's mayor nine days earlier, on February 17. In his letter, Tew described the surrender, "About 12 o'clock Saturday three barges landed from the fleet, and as I had been elected Intendant by the people on Friday, in that official capacity attended by some of the citizens, I surrendered the town submitting to the military authority of the U.S. and was promised protection to persons and private property." The Whilden House, 236 Bennett Street, served as the Union Headquarters.

It is likely that the Federal troops were a contingent of the famous Massachusetts 54 Infantry Regiment of Colored Troops who had attacked with heavy losses the Confederate Battery Wagner on the other side of Charleston's Harbor on July 18, 1863. The 54th also was part of the Union Army that occupied Charleston when it surrendered February 18, 1865, eight days before Mount Pleasant surrendered. The 54th was mustered out in Mount Pleasant on August 4, 1865.

For more information: [Historical Markers in Mount Pleasant - Whilden House and Massachusetts 54th \(#7\)](#), [Historic Markers Map \(#7\)](#), mountpleasanthistorical.org, and [Town of Mount Pleasant website](#).

Image credit: Massachusetts 54 Infantry Regiment of Colored Troops, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

The Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission releases *Quick Fact Fridays* about the history of Mount Pleasant and about the Commission, its programs and activities. Historical facts are drawn largely from the *Our History* section of the Town's website and the Commission's own *Mount Pleasant Historical* website and app. Follow their links by clicking on the images below to discover what makes Mount Pleasant such a distinctive historical place! To receive *Quick Fact Friday* messages [click here to register](#). To also receive news from the Culture, Arts and Pride Commission, [click here to register](#).

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