

# Slave, Union Soldier, Husband & Father: Taylor Wolfolk of Shelby County, Kentucky

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Taylor Wolfolk survived slavery and the Civil War. He married Rhoda Williams and they reared eight children in Indianapolis, Indiana. Undoubtedly, the couple's strength, determination and foresight helped secure their progenies' opportunities for better lives than the ones they lived.

## **Topics**

1. The life story and legacy of Taylor Wolfolk
2. Documents and sources of information used to bring the story together
3. An unexpected bonus: the partial life story and legacy of Rhoda Williams Wolfolk

## **Taylor Wolfolk's Life Story**

- A. Early Life
- B. The War Years
- C. Return to Civilian Life
- D. Family Life

## **Documents and Sources of Information**

- A. Pension Card
- B. Compiled Military Service Record
- C. Books
- D. Federal Census Records
  - a. Population Schedules
  - b. Slave Schedules
  - c. Agriculture Schedules
- E. Vital Records
- F. Newspaper Articles and Obituaries
- G. Freedman's Bank Records
- H. Probate Records
- I. Pension File (or Packet)
  - a. Declarations
  - b. Vital Records
  - c. Affidavits
  - d. Depositions
  - e. Sworn Statements

## **Rhoda Williams Wolfolk's Life Story**

- A. Early Life
- B. Marriage
- C. Children

### **Online Resources:**

Ancestry.com	<a href="https://www.ancestry.com">https://www.ancestry.com</a>
FamilySearch	<a href="https://www.familysearch.org">https://www.familysearch.org</a>
FindAGrave	<a href="https://www.findagrave.com">https://www.findagrave.com</a>
Fold3	<a href="https://www.fold3.com">https://www.fold3.com</a>
GenealogyBank	<a href="https://www.genealogybank.com">https://www.genealogybank.com</a>
GovInfo	<a href="https://www.govinfo.gov">https://www.govinfo.gov</a>
HathiTrust	<a href="https://www.hathitrust.org">https://www.hathitrust.org</a>
Internet Archive	<a href="https://archive.org">https://archive.org</a>
JSTOR	<a href="https://www.jstor.org">https://www.jstor.org</a>
Library of Congress	<a href="https://www.loc.gov">https://www.loc.gov</a>
National Archives and Records Administration	<a href="https://www.archives.gov">https://www.archives.gov</a>
National Archives Print <b>OR</b> EServices	<a href="https://www.archives.gov/forms">https://www.archives.gov/forms</a>
National Park Service: Soldiers & Sailors Database	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm">https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm</a>
Newspapers.com	<a href="https://newspapers.com">https://newspapers.com</a>

### **Print Resources:**

- Bigham, Darrel E. *On Jordan's Banks*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2006.
- Bingham, Emily. *My Old Kentucky Home, The Astonishing Life and Reckoning of an Iconic American Song*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2022.
- Dobak, William. *Freedom By The Sword, The U.S. Colored Troops 1862-1867*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 1943.
- Franklin, John Hope. *Reconstruction after the Civil War, Second Edition*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994.
- Lucas, Marion B. *A History of Blacks in Kentucky, From Slavery to Segregation, 1760-1891, Second Edition*. Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 2003.
- Works Progress Administration. *Kentucky Slave Narratives, A Folk History of Slavery in the United States From Interviews with Former Slaves*. Orlando, Florida: Historic Publishing, 2023.



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