



The Commission on African-American History

*Presents the*

## Battle of Forks Road Historical Marker Unveiling



South 17<sup>th</sup> Street & Museum Drive  
Wilmington, North Carolina

**Friday, June 19, 2015 · 11:00 a.m.**

## The Commission on African-American History

### **CHAIRMAN**

Atiba D. Johnson

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## Acknowledgement & Appreciation

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum  
Mrs. Silivea Johnson

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# Battle of Forks Road



The Battle of Forks Road, February 20-21, 1865, was fought for the possession of Wilmington, N.C. During the battle, the Union army and the United States Colored Troops (USCT), led by Brigadier General Charles J. Paine, successfully defeated the Confederate army under the command of Major General Robert F. Hoke. Wilmington was, at that time, the Confederacy's last major seaport. And the Union won control over the city, the city's railroads, the seaport, and the Cape Fear River.

Over 1,600 USCT fought in the Battle of Forks Road, including the 1st, 5th, 10th, 27th, and 37th Regiments. Their numbers included at least three Medal of Honor recipients: Powhatan Beaty, Milton M. Holland, and Robert Pinn. Beaty and Holland both escaped slavery and joined the USCT in 1863. Pinn was born a free black in Ohio.

Many of the USCT regiments who fought at Forks Road escaped slavery with their families and joined the army in Union-occupied New Bern, N.C., on the coast just north of Wilmington. They joined the USCT with their own vision and desire to fight for freedom. Following the war, many of these soldiers settled in the Wilmington area.

Photos & history courtesy of [www.battleofforksroad.org](http://www.battleofforksroad.org)

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## Program

### **MASTER OF CEREMONY**

Mr. Todd McFadden, Member  
Commission on African-American History

### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Mrs. Silivea Johnson, Recording Artist

### **WELCOME**

The Honorable Bill Saffo, Mayor  
City of Wilmington

### **PRAYER**

The Honorable Jonathan Barfield, Jr., Chairman  
New Hanover County Board of Commissioners

### **RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

Mr. Atiba Johnson, Chairman  
Commission on African-American History

### **HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM**

Ms. Ansley Wegner, Research Historian  
N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

### **REMARKS**

Mr. Willie Black, Vice Chairman  
Commission on African-American History

Mr. Fred Johnson  
Civil War Reenactor

Ms. Anne Brennan, Director  
Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum

### **UNVEILING OF THE BATTLE OF FORKS ROAD HISTORICAL MARKER**

Reception to follow at the  
CAM Café, Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum

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