



JOHN RAYMOND GOURDIN

Civil War Researcher, Author, Lecturer

John Raymond Gourdin, a native South Carolinian, was born, raised and attended the public school system in Williamsburg County. Shortly after graduating from high school he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and continued his education attending evening school and the military degree completion program. During 1978, John earned a B.A. in Economics and Business Administration from Chapman University, Orange California, and during 1980, he earned an M.S. degree in Economics from the University of Southern California.

After retiring from the Marine Corps in 1984, John gained employment with Westinghouse Electric Corporation as an international tax manager and continued his studies, earning an M.P.S. degree in Public Policy from the University of Maryland in 1997. Having served more than 20 years with the Marines and with a growing interest in the Civil War, John discovered re-enacting as an excellent means of gaining detailed insight of the role of black soldiers in the Civil War. After attending several re-enactments as a spectator, he joined the ranks of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (Re-enactors) and has actively participated in countless battlefield re-enactments, living history presentations, parades and ceremonies in practically every state along the Atlantic coast.

Over the years John developed his hobby as a genealogist and family historian, and in 1995, published his family genealogy and history — ***GOURDIN: A French-African-American Family from South Carolina, 1830-1995***. Having discovered an ancestral connection with Civil War soldiers during his research, John initiated a more detailed research of service and pension records of veteran soldiers from the low-country of South Carolina, and in 1997, published a resource book — ***Voices from the Past: 104th USCT, 1865-1866***. During the spring of 2003, he edited and published a fact-book citing the participation and contributions of black soldiers during the Civil War — ***First, Last, Etcetera: Black Soldiers during the Civil War Era, 1861-1867***. Most recently, in 2008, he edited and published a resource book — ***Borrowed Identity: 128th USCT, 1865-1866***

Currently, John is researching and preparing a manuscript for publication by the University of South Carolina Press consisting of historical profiles and demographical study of the seven USCT regiments organized and mustered in South Carolina — ***Palmetto Liberators***.

John resides in Severn, Maryland with his wife Gloria. They are the proud parents of two sons and two grandchildren. He is a long time member of the South Carolina Historical Society; the Hilton Head Heritage Library Foundation; past president of the Central Maryland chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society; instructor of a ***Practical Genealogy*** course for Anne Arundel Community College (MD); a board member of the United States Colored Troops Living History Association (MD); and, a Senior Fellow and board member of the United States Colored Troops Institute (NY).