

# Civil War Through A Soldier's Words



Lindley Miller (1834-1864) served in the United States Army first as a member of the Seventh Regiment New York State Militia, also known as the Silk Stocking Regiment, after war was declared in April 1861. In 1863 he requested and received a commission to serve as an officer leading a troop of African Americans in the First Regiment Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent. Lindley wrote a song to inspire in his men, the "Marching Song of the First Arkansas Colored Regiment". Lindley's talent is also preserved in several poems he wrote during the Civil War.

## Excerpt from In Camp written in Baltimore, MD 1862

A thousand homes are darkened  
with heavier gloom than this,  
Young faces, widowed of their smile  
and foreheads of their kiss.  
Of eager children longing to hear  
their father's call,  
standing tip-toe waiting, listening,  
for his whistle in the hall.

We will not weep, my darling, unless  
it be at night.

"When all the world is quiet", and  
the stars the only light;

## T.W. His Last Words—"Come on" 1861

Brave Heart! Whose pulses throbbed, so quick,  
so strong for Truth and Right  
Like drum-beat in their perfect time  
through discords of the fight;  
For years, thy mind had braced its thought  
to meet this battle-strain;  
It came: the rifle-bullet hissed and dark  
was flash of eye and brain.  
Too late! Thy voice had pieced the air  
with grander longer range,  
Go find the hearts of friends afar  
and never swerve or change--  
"Come On!" We will till God's ideal  
shall trample breathless wrong;  
"Come On!" We will, till freedom ring  
through every human song;  
"Come On!" We will till not a Soul  
in gloom and dread involved,  
This darkness shall give way to light--

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*His last words - "Come on!"*  
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*His poem shall be sold.*  
Lindley Miller - 1861