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--