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Black Soldiers in the Civil War

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The authors of all manuscripts published in the *Quarterly* become eligible to receive the James Phinney Baxter Award of \$100.00. Established to promote excellence in the research and writing of Maine history, the Baxter Award is presented at the discretion of the Editorial Board to the author of the best article appearing in the *Quarterly* during the volume-year.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: This contemporary woodcut depicts the fact that scores of southern slaves, abandoning the plantations for Union-held territory, emancipated themselves even before Lincoln's famous 1863 Proclamation. As rising numbers of ex-slaves passed through the Union lines, northern leaders pondered the repercussions of using them in fighting units. In this issue author David M. Gold describes the frustrations of Maine's John Francis Appleton, colonel of the Ninth Regiment, Corps d'Afrique, a black unit. John Francis Appleton's military career was cut short by war and disease; that of his father, on the other hand, unfolded brilliantly. In a second article, William Wells explores the world of the elder John Appleton, illuminated by a letter the Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court wrote to ex-Governor Edward Kent. *The cover illustration is from THE AMERICAN SOLDIER AND SAILOR IN WAR, a collection of war artists' sketches published in 1898.*