

NARA BLACK HISTORY BASIC TRAINING

Feb 8 – The Golden 14

During World War I, fourteen women took advantage of a loophole and the need for clerical workers and became the first Black women to enlist in the United States Navy. The [Golden 14](#) served as Yeowomen in the all important Muster Roll Division – tracking and monitoring the movements of the vast amounts of enlisted sailors and servicemen during the War. This group within the Muster Roll Division was assembled under John T. Risher at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. Armelda H. Greene was the first to enlist on Aug 18, 1918. As ordered, all Yeowomen were required to disenroll by the end of 1919, but many of the Golden 14 continued to work for the Navy in civilian capacities. Like other service members of WWI, the women received the World War I Victory Medal.



Records:

- ✓ [African Americans in the Military During WWI](#)
- ✓ [World War I Centennial](#) at the National Archives

Viewing:

- ✓ [African American Soldiers in the Great War](#)
- ✓ [Researching Military Records at the National Archives](#)

Reading:

- ✓ [Mustering Out: the Navy's First Black Yeowomen, Rediscovering Black History](#)
- ✓ [Women at War: The Navy's First African American Yeomanettes](#), Boundary Stones
- ✓ Double Victory: How African American Women Broke Race & Gender Barriers to Help Win WWII (Chicago Review Press), 2017