
Buffalo Soldiers Research Museum Newsletter

April 2012

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Looking Back at Our Buffalo Soldiers' Story 11, 12, 13 Years Ago

Lessons from April 1999

In April 1999, the Heartland Chapter of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry, located in Cincinnati, OH focused on the history of Lt. Henry O. Flipper. What did we find?

Lt. Henry O. Flipper was the first African-American graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, West Point in 1877. He was given the silent treatment during the last two years at West Point but still graduated in the top third of his class. He commanded the 10th Cavalry. While in charge of commissary funds at Ft. Davis, TX, \$2,561 was found to be missing, He was charged with embezzlement and acquitted in a court martial, but he was found guilty of "conduct unbecoming an officer" for lying to investigators. He was dishonorably discharged from the Army in 1882.

Flipper blazed paths where no blacks had ventured. He achieved many "firsts" in addition to graduation from West Point. He was a cavalry officer, surveyor, cartographer, civil and mining engineer, translator, patented inventor, editor, author, and special agent for the Justice Department.

In February 1999, former President Bill Clinton posthumously pardoned Lt. Henry O. Flipper. The action cleared his record and made him eligible for reburial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Landmark Travel Guide - Thomasville, GA

In southwest Georgia, less than 20 miles from the Florida border, in the small town of Thomasville – Henry O. Flipper was born into slavery on March 21, 1856. Thomasville is approximately four hours south of Atlanta. Take I -75 south for about 2.5 hours until you reach Route 84 west. Continue on State Road 84 for approximately 1.5 hours to Thomasville.

Thomas County Library – Flipper Room located at 201 N. Madison St.

You will find a bronze bust of Lt. Henry O. Flipper at the Thomas County Public Library. There are a variety of photos and articles about Flipper in the library collection.

Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper's Grave located at 700 N. Madison St.

Lt. Flipper was re-buried in the Old Magnolia Cemetery on February 11, 1978. A Georgia state plaque marks his gravesite.

Lt. Henry O. Flipper Park located at 800 N. Broad St

This park is dedicated in the memory of Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper.

Festus Flipper's Home located at 430 Lester St.

Festus Flipper was one of Henry Flipper's older brothers. He and his family lived in this front gabled craftsman style cottage. Festus was a shoemaker and carriage trimmer; his business was located in the 200 block of South Broad St. The home is now rented out to family members of the Flippers.

Our 2012 Update

We have visited the landmarks listed and found the library to be the most enlightening. The bronze bust is great but, more importantly, you will find research materials here that you cannot find in any other place. It is a treasure! We enjoyed a few quiet moments in the park, also.

The Jack Hadley Black History Museum opened on December 3, 2006. It houses more than 2,000 artifacts about black Americans from pre-slavery to the present. Lots of information about Henry O. Flipper



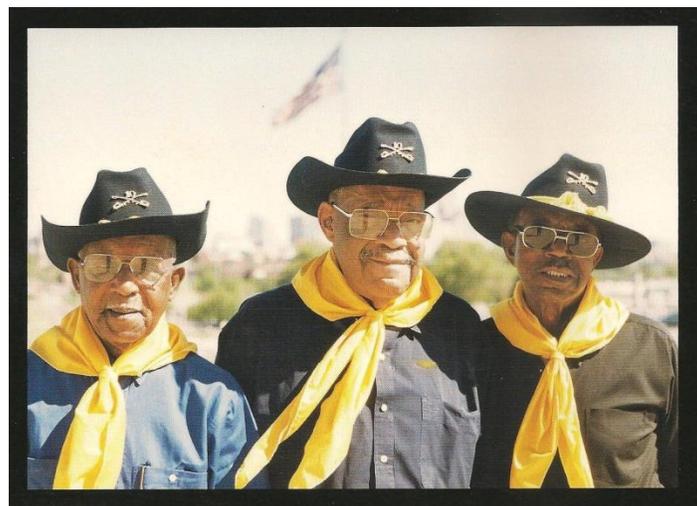
is there, too. Jack and his wife, Christine, are the museum founders. Jack Hadley enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after he graduated from high school in 1956. He served for 28 years and retired in 1984. He went to work for the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier for the next 12 years where he retired in 1997. In his spare time, he was an avid collector of black memorabilia. His memorabilia is now his museum.

The museum is located at 214 Alexander St. in Thomasville. Call 229-226-5029 for more information or visit the website www.jackhadleyblackhistorymuseum.com. To contact him through email send a note to - jackhadleyblackhistorymuseum@rose.net



Lessons from April 2000

By 2000, our research focus was on members of the Heartland Chapter who were World War II soldiers. We organized a small group to help us find all of the soldiers that they remembered. They were the foundation for our efforts - Lorenzo Denson, Linwood Greene, Jr. and Uell Flagg.



Here's what we knew then...

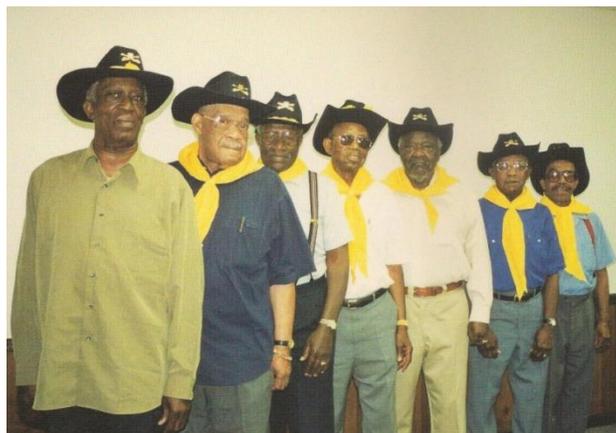
During World War II, the U.S. Army recruited approximately 25 young men from the Greater Cincinnati area. They went to Ft. Thomas, KY and were sent to Camp Lockett, CA. These men were part of the 28th (Horse) Cavalry. They were trained to guard the Mexican border. After about a year in training at Camp Lockett, they were deployed to North Africa and later to Italy. In 1944, the horse units were disbanded – ending the era of the horsed cavalry. World War II ended in 1945. Here's the list of C Troop, 28th Cavalry who lived in the area.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Taylor Brookings * | 2. Louis Burch * |
| 2. Lorenzo Denson | 4. ? Duncan (Springfield) * |
| 5. Fred Elliott * | 6. Uell Flagg |
| 7. Sgt. Freeman (Lexington) * | 8. Arthur Graham * |
| 9. Linwood Greene, Jr. | 10. Ed Grimes * |
| 11. Horacious Hollis * | 12. Cecil Howard |
| 13. Fred Jennings | 14. George Johnson * |
| 15. Arthur Jordan (Middletown) | 16. Charles "Squirrel" Marshall |
| 17. Arthur McCrary * | 18. Jackie Pace |
| 19. John Price | 20. William Snow |
| 21. Jeff Walker | 22. John Washington * |
23. **Otis Wesley**

Our 2012 Update

For the next five years, we researched the lives of these soldiers. At that time, eleven soldiers were deceased (names with an asterisk). Today, we know of only one who is alive – William Snow (who will be 90 years old this summer). We now have information about all of the men whose names are in bold and italics. We have stories and a photographic collection of them as well as our own collection of wonderful memories of our Heartland Chapter meetings and events. We met wives, sons, and daughters who are a part of their military stories.

We learned a lot and enjoyed every opportunity they gave us to know about their lives and the history that they lived. See the His Stories and Collections sections on this website for details.



Pictured left to right – Neze Tate, Linwood Greene, Jr., John Burden, Jr., Uell Flagg, Otis Wesley, Lorenzo Denson, and William Snow

Lessons from April 2001

The Heartland Chapter was going strong. Presentations, invitations, and public appearances helped these World War II veterans get a lift. They received plaques, accolades, and awards. Some received their high school diplomas and others were highlighted in the Cincinnati Enquirer newspaper. They enjoyed bus trips to nearby casinos and attended parties and receptions when requested. On Thanksgiving Day 2001, they were interviewed on the radio (WCIN) and provided the listeners with detailed information about their experiences.

Several veterans who was not part of Troop C, 28th (Horse) Cavalry, Neze Tate and John Burden, Jr., were active participants in the meetings and activities of the Heartland Chapter.

Our 2012 Update

We were connected with the National 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association and attended several annual reunions held each July. An important connection was with Trooper Fred Jones from the Los Angeles Chapter. He grew up in Cincinnati and was a member of Troop C. He wanted to return to Cincinnati to see his friends so we helped organize their reunion. A parade was held in the Madisonville community of Cincinnati and a group of young men from a program called Vision Quest marched in style. Several of the WWII veterans rode on horses. It was a grand day in Cincinnati...



Overtime, we were able to tell their stories to wide ranging audiences. We were invited to present at a community college, for a local television show and at the 16th annual Meet the Artists Gala sponsored by the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library. Our stories were out in new ways including the addition of our website. We met several World War II veterans in Indianapolis and were most pleased to discover a World War I Buffalo Soldier in our neighborhood. Dr. John Morton Finney's story is impressive. We have added his biography to the Dr. Louis Gates' African American Biographies published by Harvard University and Oxford Press.

Yes, their stories continue to make their way to the public. Then and now, we feel a sense of pride in the fruits of our efforts. Buffalo Soldiers resting in Fiddler's Green are watching us work...

. For more information about the Buffalo Soldiers, contact the

Buffalo Soldiers Research Museum

ghicks9@indy.rr.com

www.buffalosoldiersresearchmuseum.org

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