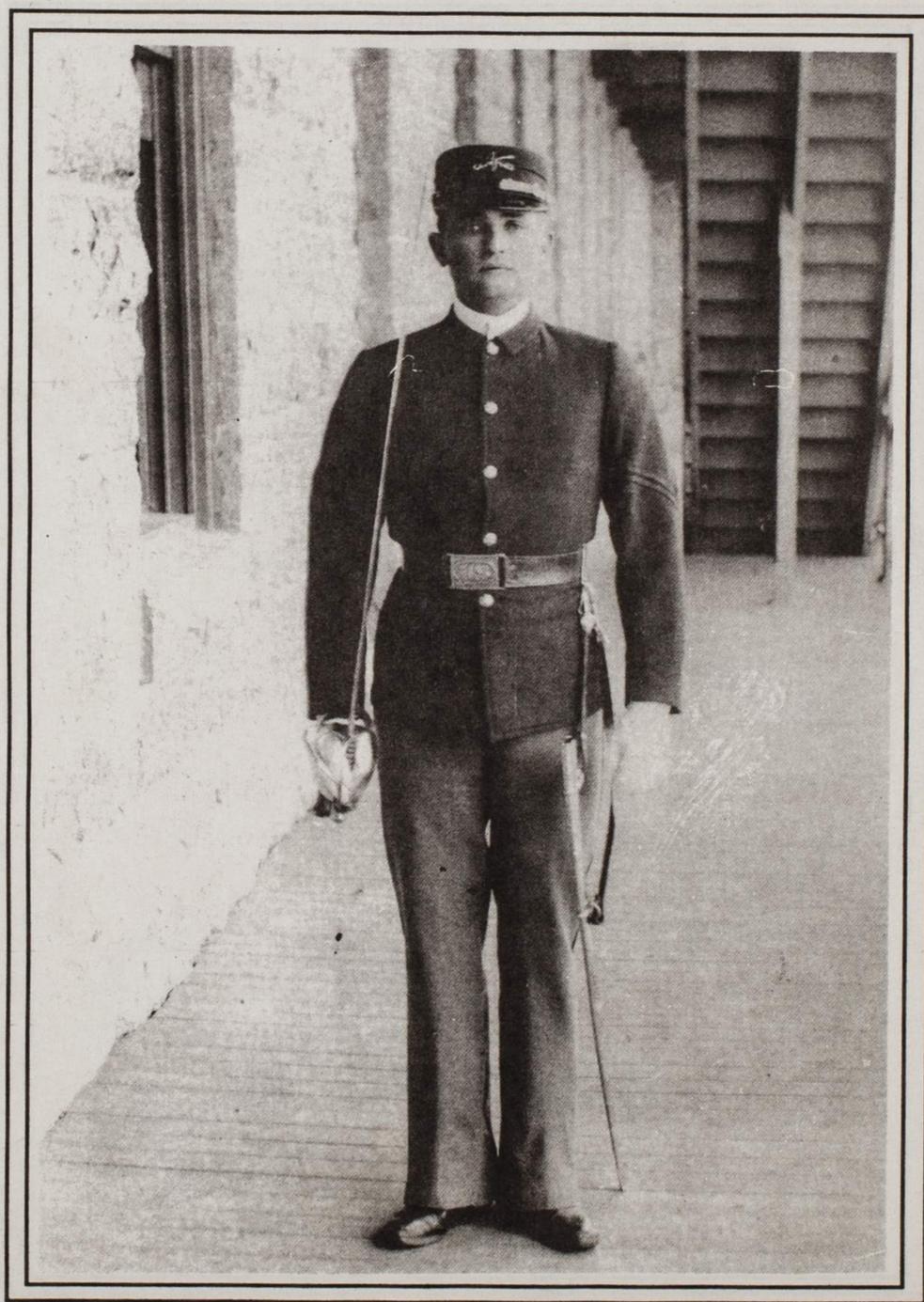


# ***BUFFALO SOLDIER***



Samuel Garland  
10th U.S. Cavalry  
1867 - 1872



10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldier  
*Courtesy National Archives*

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*written by*  
**Angela Bates**

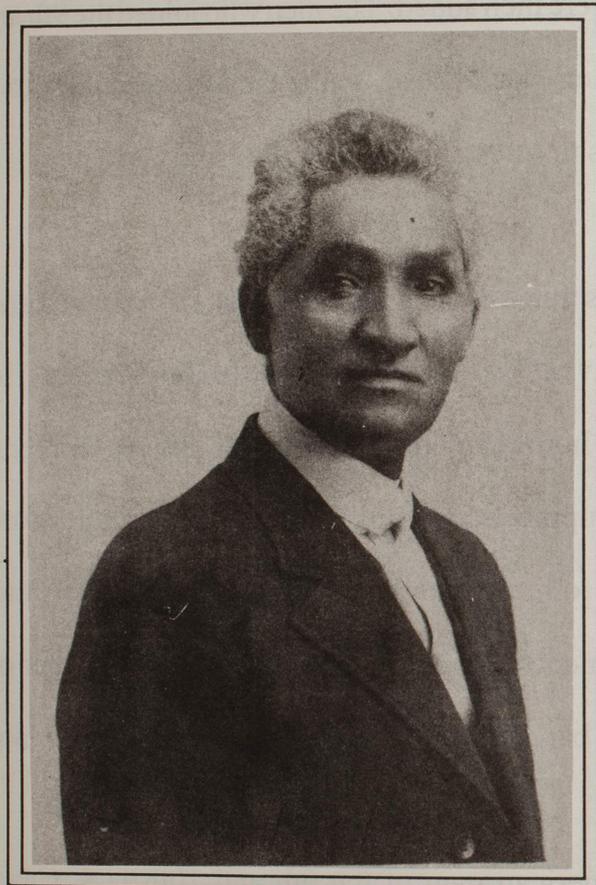
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**D**uring the Civil War African Americans could only serve as volunteer soldiers. It wasn't until after the war that African Americans could officially serve in the military. An Act was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1866 that allowed the Army to increase cavalry regiments by two. The 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry regiments were then added. The men who joined the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry were all African Americans. They became the first officially designated all African American regiments to serve in the peace time army.

During the years that followed the Civil War, the vast western frontier lying west of the Mississippi River, was quickly being settled by pioneers. However, much of the western frontier was home to many Indian tribes. The government wanted these lands that the Indians occupied, and used its power and military force to remove them. Some tribes refused to leave their land and go to reservations that were set aside for them by the government. The Army with its increased number of regiments, set out to remove these last bands of Indians and began to open new lands for the settlers.

The African American men of the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry were stationed throughout the western frontier. They fought Indians and Mexican revolutionaries, guarded railroad workers and new settlers, built Army forts, mapped the wilderness and helped civil authorities.



Samuel Garland

February 24, 1847 - July 9, 1946

These African American soldiers were known throughout the military as brave and proud Indian fighters. The Indians shared this same view of the men in the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry. They called them 'buffalo soldiers' after the proud and brave buffalo, and who's hair looked similiar to that of the buffalo.

One of the buffalo soldiers of the 10th U.S. Cavalry was a man named Samuel Garland. He was born a slave in Pansola County, Mississippi on February 24, 1847 to a Cherokee mother and an African American father.

When Sam was fourteen he boarded a river boat on the Mississippi River and worked as a cabin boy. During the Civil War Sam served as a volunteer soldier. After the war he worked until June 1867, then joined the 10th U.S. Cavalry at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He served five years as a buffalo soldier for the U.S. Cavalry. He was stationed at various Kansas forts, and assigned to duty throughout the western frontier. He fought in many Indian battles and was a member of the rescue party that assisted Colonel George Forsyth and his men at the famous Battle at Beecher Island.

The Battle at Beecher Island took place in September 1868 at a small sandy island on the Arickaree Fork of the Republican River. On this small river island in eastern Colorado, the bloody battle lasted for nine days. Roman Nose, chief of the Cheyenne Indians and his many warriors, killed and wounded several of Colonel Forsyth's men. Two scouts were sent to Ft. Wallace, Kansas for assistance. Sam Garland and another



scout, crossed their path. They were told of the bloody battle at Beecher Island. They quickly returned to camp and delivered the message for assistance. Only after the arrival and rescue from the 10th U.S. Cavalry were Colonel Forsyth and his men saved.

Sam only received minor wounds while serving in the U.S. Cavalry. However, he was shot in the forehead with an arrow and nearly died while in a battle with Indians near Victoria, Kansas. He pretended to be dead, and thus saved his own life.

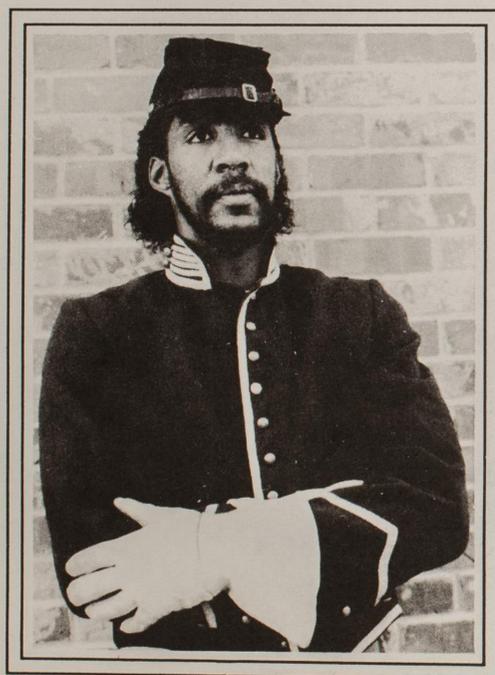
Sam served his country and gave his military best. When he finished his term with the U.S. Cavalry in 1872, he returned to civilian life where he married a lady named Mary Samuels. In April of 1879 he moved his family from Leavenworth to Nicodemus, Kansas.

Nicodemus was a newly established all African American frontier town and a place where Sam wanted to make his home. It was in an area of the frontier where he had spent much of his military life. While in Nicodemus, Sam operated a hardware store and a real estate business. He also served as a great orator, giving many campaign speeches for the Republican Party.

Sam left Kansas to establish an all African American community in south eastern

Colorado. This community became known as Manzanola. The community included Sam, his family and many friends and relatives.

Sam died on July 9, 1946, and left a host of family and friends to remember him. He also left a proud legacy as one of the first African American soldiers to serve in the 10th U.S. Cavalry. In January 1991 and over 55 years after his death, Sam's great grandson, Alanzo Gillan Alexander of Nicodemus, performed his first one-man show dramatizing the life and times of the proud men of the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry.



Alanzo Gillan Alexander



Emblem of the 10th U.S. Cavalry  
*Courtesy National Archives*



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