

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