

(Lights out, Lights up WARD.)

WARD

(Smoothing out hat with care.)

Yeah, let me tell ya, the Native American, them Indians was something else! FIGHT! Them was some brave mens...Took everything the government could muster to put the Red Man down. (A beat.) Naw, I ain't gonna let ya play with my hat, you'll have it out there in the dirt somewhere.

(Putting hat back on.)

Tell you some stories...SHOOT, ya'll don't wanna hear none of what I got to say, this here's HISTORY, be boring to ya'll...go play with some of the T.V. games ya Mama bought ya. I tell ya one thing though, the things that we put out, as negroes, BLACK MENS, in the Ninth, Tenth Cavalry, put all that video nonsense to shame. We had real adventures! (A beat.) LIKE WHAT? Boy...let me tell you, ya'll just don't know....first off they had a time finding white men that even wanted to serve as officers with black mens.

(Lights up, STANCE.)

STANCE

Let me tell right now, for a white man, Colonel Grierson is a good man, respects us, treats us like men. He's tried to do the best he could for us, they ain't gonna let him do too much on account we colored. It's odd to see a white man treat ya that way. Wasn't that long ago I was a slave. Some of us don't quite know how to take it. You know, a white man being in ya corner. You can trust a white man that treats ya bad, that's honest. You gotta watch one that offers ya manhood.

(Lights up, Col. GRIERSON, a white officer.)

GRIERSON

When Colonel Hatch took the Ninth Cavalry and I took the Tenth, we knew we had many difficulties before us. Like the negroes in my regiment, I was an unlikely candidate for success in the cavalry. I had studied music. Music was my love. When I was eight a pony kicked me in the face. I have never cared for horses since. When we started recruiting for the new regiments, I told the recruiters, "Enlist all the superior men you can who will be a credit to the regiment." Prejudice was always a problem.