

DRAFT MANUSCRIPT

The Life and Times of a Buffalo Soldier,
Sergeant Thomas Shaw, 9th United States Cavalry:
Medal of Honor Recipient

By

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Covington, Kentucky

9 November 1999

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe a great deal of thanks to Mike Sweeney and Frank Schubert for taking the time to look at my first draft of the manuscript. Mike's valuable insight concerning the early history of Covington was in itself an untold story. Dr. Schubert reminded me that history is about telling a story. To Jim Reis, Dr. Ann Butler, and the late Basil Lewis, Sr. thanks for keeping me on track about the Buffalo Soldiers and Sergeant Thomas Shaw. I can not leave out Preston Amos and Raymond L. Collins both of whom assisted me early in my research were valuable because of their personal and professional research into the history of the Buffalo Soldier and the Medal of Honor.

I wish to express my thanks to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in New York and Washington. To Fort Leavenworth Library staff for their assistance in researching the Army and Navy Journals during my visit there. The archivist at the Library of Congress and the United States Military Academy archive staff for the photograph of Thomas Shaw. To the reference library staff at the Kenton County (Kentucky) Public Library, thanks for the patience for interlibrary loan request. In closing, I wish to dedicate this book to the memory of my mother, Esther L. Harris; my grandmothers, Cora Forston and Gracie D. Harris; my aunt, Margret Epperson, and my uncle, Nathaniel Harris. Conditions during their lifetime limited their education but not their knowledge and wisdom. They have been a hard act to follow.

PREFACE

Recent scholarly research of often-ignored Buffalo Soldiers has finally gained some importance in military and United States history. The history and involvement of African-Americans in the United States Army has been well documented. Dating back to the Revolution War, African-Americans participation has been as soldiers and militia men but, on an individual basis. They did not participate as independent regular Army or state volunteer units until the Civil War. The conditions surrounding that involvement was determined by their physical status of being either free or slave. African-Americans wanted to serve as an integral part of the United States Army.

The Civil War afforded the first opportunity for African-Americans to demonstrate the cohesiveness and personal fortitude regardless of that physical status. This opportunity was in spite of the political and social apprehension of many, and to participate as units within a military structure. This initial opportunity would be such a success that, it would continue throughout the last half of the 19th century, and end during the first half of the 20th century. This participation would involve the Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, Philippine insurrection, Mexican conflict, World War II, and Korea. Korea was the last major conflict or war where African-Americans served in segregated units. All-in-all, the foundation was laid by these units and the future witnessed the rise of such African-Americans like General Colin Powell to the rank of Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff and American history.

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Courtesy of the Library of Congress
Sergeant Thomas Shaw

INTRODUCTION

On 25 July 1992, General Colin L. Powell addressed an audience attending the dedication of the Buffalo Soldier Monument located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. During those remarks, General Powell acknowledged and thanked those African-Americans who preceded him thereby, paving the way for his rise to the highest rank within the United States military.

General Powell also acknowledged that, history has often ignored those African-Americans who participated in every war or conflict dating back to the Revolutionary War. It was General Powell's remarks on the triumph of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments that drew the most attention. The monument is a tribute honoring those soldiers who served the regiments. The individuals in those two African-American

regiments will for all time be known as the "Buffalo Soldiers."

A large number of African-Americans served as Buffalo Soldiers but few received acknowledgments; and of those, twenty-three earned the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.¹ Sergeant Thomas Shaw is one of those Buffalo Soldiers. His Army career spanned nearly three decades, and he rose to the rank of 1st Sergeant without facing Army discipline.² Before joining the 9th Cavalry, Shaw lived as many others who staffed the regiments; he was an ex-slave and veteran of the Civil War.

General Powell's remarks did not specifically identify Sergeant Shaw; the dedication of the monument was the acknowledgment of those contributions made by persons like Sergeant Shaw. Various books and publications have acknowledged Sergeant Shaw as a Medal of Honor recipient. However, few details about the person or his life are known.

1

SLAVERY IN KENTUCKY AND MISSOURI

Thomas (Shaw) was born a slave on 23 August 1846, in Covington, Kentucky, to an African-American mother and white father.³ Thomas's birthplace Covington, is a river city on the Ohio River, located one-half mile from Cincinnati, Ohio, on its southern shore in Northern Kentucky. As the "Gateway to the South," Covington is strategic in its location but, still a southern city.⁴

During the ante-bellum period, Covington, was primarily a live stock trading center,

unlike Lexington, to the south, a slave-trading center. To the slave owner's advantage, the city historically had a small slave population, and was economically viable as the second largest city in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.⁵ To their disadvantage, slave owners were required keep close watch on their slaves because, escape was always a possibility and abolitionist were in the area.

The Ohio River was the main artery for moving cargo both human and live stock, to the southern United States from river cities in Kentucky, including Covington. A typical shipment of cargo would include a stop over in St. Louis, Missouri, to replenish supplies for the continued trip to the southern markets. Also, at the time of Thomas's birth, the Commonwealth of Kentucky was the largest exporter of slaves of any of the slave holding states.⁶

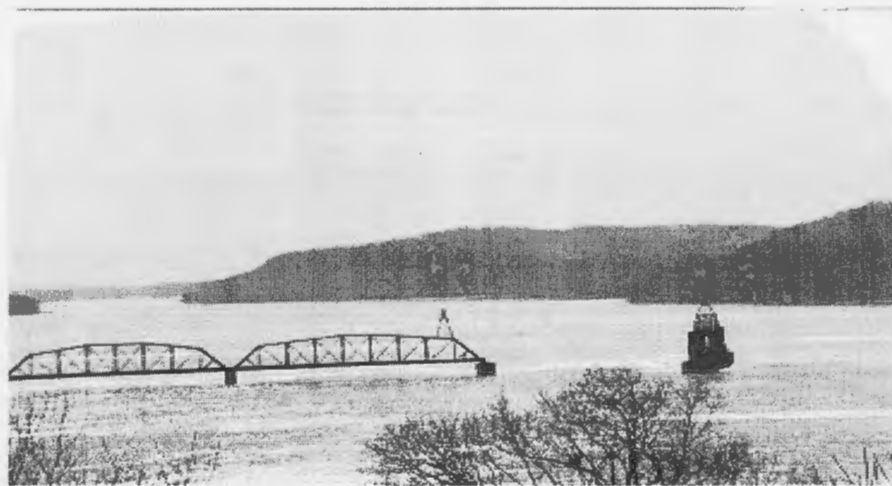


Kentucky and Missouri Cities

In Northern Kentucky's river cities, slave families when sold were often separated and never seen again. The slave traders who bought these slaves held them in small local holding pens until transferred to the larger pens in other parts of Kentucky. The state's largest slave holding jails, slave pens, and slave auctions were in Central Kentucky's blue grass region and Louisville. The blue grass region was known for producing fine horses, which many slaves cared for. Slaves when sold, moved from this central location overland and en-mass to their southern destinations. When slave owners used the river cities, they transferred only the most valuable slaves and generally in smaller quantities. So, Thomas's arrival in Louisiana, Missouri, is both unique and contradictory, given his

age and the conditions in Kentucky involving that “peculiar institution.”⁷

Thomas’s departure from Kentucky was unique but not unusual given the era. The conditions surrounding the sale of slaves in Northern Kentucky, was often the result of estate settlements, financial difficulties, or the bastard children of the master. Regardless of the conditions or circumstances, Thomas became the property of Mary Jane Shaw, a resident of Louisiana in Pike County, Missouri.⁸



Courtesy of the author
Mississippi River, Louisiana, Missouri

Missouri entered the Union as a slave state in 1821, and was the only state below the Mason-Dixon line abutted on three sides by non-slave holding states.⁹ New residents of the state had come from Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina. The largest migration of people into the state came about 1830. Many of these new residents were slave owners, and of course, brought their slaves with them to places such as Louisiana, Missouri.

Louisiana, named after the Louisiana Purchase, is Pike County’s largest city and until

1822, the county seat.¹⁰ The town is nestled in rolling hills, and is quite similar in geographical appearance to Covington, Kentucky. Thomas's first exposure to Louisiana's rolling hills over-looking the Mississippi river, could only remind him of a similar scene from his home in Covington. In Covington, the rolling hills are also over-looking a river, the Ohio River.

Louisiana got its start when James Jones, the county's first surveyor laid out the town. The town became known primarily a farming community with large tracts of farmland, flourished as a commerce center, providing both the necessities and luxuries for the entire county. In 1818, Joel Shaw from Virginia and Samuel Caldwell from Kentucky bought a tract of land from John Bryson, who was a native from South Carolina, and the areas' first settlers. So, Joel Shaw became one of the founding fathers of Louisiana, and he was also the father of Jesse W. Shaw. Jesse W. Shaw was the future husband of Mary Jane Turner.¹¹

Mary Jane Turner, the daughter of John F. Turner, was one of the largest land and slave owners in Pike County.¹² Mary Turner and Jesse Shaw were both long time residents of Louisiana, and although Virginia natives, married in Louisiana on December 1844.¹³ From this union they had one son, named after his father but, called JW, was born on 6 December 1845.

Jesse Shaw did not live to see his son. Approximately six months after their marriage, Jesse died in June of 1845. Upon Jesse's death, Mary Jane became the administrator of his estate, which included four slaves. After a conflict with her Shaw in-laws concerning

slave inventory. Mary Jane sold one of her slaves named Stephen, for six hundred dollars, in order to settle the estate.¹⁴

Without a spouse and with a small child, Mary Jane moved to the home of her parents John F. and Sarah Turner.¹⁵ During the mid-1850's with assistance from her father, Mary Jane became the owner of Thomas. JW Shaw was approximately one year older than Thomas. As was the custom during slavery, Thomas was the playmate and slave of JW, until Thomas was old enough to work in the fields.¹⁶

Following the onset of the Civil War, Thomas joined a Union Army regiment being formed in Pike County, Missouri. In Missouri, to support the Union cause, county and state officials were required to supply troops for the Army. The position taken by county and state officials included a possible draft to fill the state quota for troops.

Some of these officials did not want to draft Missourians to fight for the Union cause. They felt that the enlistment of African-Americans would serve the purpose of satisfying the Union Army. Missouri was one of those border-states, where the recruitment of African-American into federal military service would be a challenge. In Pike County, there were reports that bands of guerrillas and disloyal residents roaming the countryside, making any attempt to join the Union Army difficult.

The initial effort to recruit African-Americans in Missouri began in July of 1863.¹⁷ That year, General John M. Schofield, Commander, Department of Missouri, issued an order to Brigadier General Lorenzo Thomas, Adjutant General of Missouri, for that

purpose.¹⁸ Adjutant General Thomas gave Colonel Pile, authority to recruit African-American troops in the state, subject to the approval of the Governor of Missouri.¹⁹ In Louisiana and Pike County, as in much of Missouri, the recruitment effort was a difficult process and was meeting with resistance.

In Louisiana and Pike County, there were two types of slave owners, the ones that were loyal to the Union and those who were not. There was also a group of residents who were non-slave owners but acted as they were, but was pro-union. The Army met resistance from the majority of the disloyal slave owners and many of the non-slave owners who either assisted in forming guerrilla bands or who participated in the resistance. The guerrillas and disloyal residents offered resistance to the recruitment effort of the Army, which accounts for the small number of African-American who enlisted.

The resistance to slaves joining the Union Army took the form of actual violence, threats of violence, and the removal of clothing from the slaves themselves.²⁰ In Pike County, some African-Americans that joined the Army had family members still living with the masters, but enlisted anyway. Their enlistment subjected those families to some of the harshest of indignities.

Often the women and children also had to escape from their owners, and seek shelter with the Assistant Provost Marshall in Pike County.²¹ Non-slave residents often mounted patrols to catch run-away slaves, while intimidating and harassing African-Americans who had permission to join the Army. There were loyal slave owners were true to the Union cause, but they were few in numbers, which accounts for the small number of

recruits raised during the early years of the war.

Thomas took his chances with or without Mary Shaw's permission and enlisted in the Union Army on 19 January 1864. Thomas was 18 years of age at the time, and used the surname of his current owner, Shaw. Thomas's future home was A Company 67th U. S. Colored Infantry Regiment. Thomas was not officially mustered into the Army until 10 March 1864, at Benton Barracks, Missouri.²² The 67th Infantry Regiment came into existence after the 3rd Missouri Colored Infantry Regiment was placed into federal service. On 11 March 1864, the 67th Infantry Regiment left Missouri for the State of Louisiana and the Civil War.

While there was resistance in Pike County, the position taken by officials concerning the draft was that they needed to fill the state quota of troops anyway possible. Some newspapers in the state claimed that Missouri, would fill their quota of troops with African-American soldiers, and thus avoid the necessity of a draft in general. A local newspaper reported: "If proper exertions are made we have no doubt whatever that the draft will be avoided entirely in this State. Pike County, we have been told, can put a regiment of able-bodied Negroes in the field, in a few weeks if the proper steps are taken."²³ Later in 1864, African-American troops were used to recruit throughout the countryside in Pike County.

With the large number of slaves enlisting in the Union Army from the boarder states, Congress had to address the question of compensation. In 1864, Congress passed the National Enrollment Act, which allowed for loyal owners of slaves to collect a fee if the

slave enlisted and served in national military service. The Act also provided that the Secretary of War shall appoint a Commission in each slave state, and award to each loyal person to whom an African-American volunteered and may owe service, a just compensation not to exceed three hundred dollars.²⁴

In Pike County, some attorneys wasted little time preparing for the filing of claims, even though the war's end would be over a year away. A local newspaper printed the advertisement, which stated:

"The undersigned are having all the necessary blanks prepared for obtaining the compensation to loyal men, for Negroes enlisted in the U. S. Service, under General order No. 135 and they would respectfully notify all persons in Pike and other counties, whose Negroes have enlisted in the service, that they are prepared to prosecute said claim before the board to be appointed by the President for the examination of said claims. Persons having the certificate and descriptive roll from the Provost Marshall can have their business attended to by leaving the papers in our hands. R. A. Campbell and D. L. Caldwell, Attorneys; Bowling Green, Missouri; Jan 29 at 6-8 a.m."²⁵

Mary Jane Shaw took advantage of National Enrollment Act of 1864. However, Mrs. Shaw had to comply with one requirement to receive compensation, the loyalty affidavit. The affidavit required a declaration of loyalty to the State and United States.

Mary Jane Shaw eventually filed a claim for compensation in 1867, the basis of which was the enlistment and service in the Union Army of Thomas.²⁶ The one irony to the

National Enrollment Act was that Congress failed to provide funds for claims; therefore, the claimants never received compensation. Mary Jane Shaw received another blow in 1867, when her only child JW Shaw, and Thomas' former slave master and playmate, died on 1 March, at the age of 21 years.

2

STATE OF LOUISIANA

New Orleans near the mouth of the Mississippi River was vital to a Union Army victory. Early in the war, to protect New Orleans, a series of Confederate garrisons were established at Vicksburg, Mississippi and Port Hudson, Louisiana for this purpose. In addition, the Union Army had other reasons to control the Mississippi River, commerce from the upper regions of the northern states. To assist in the control of New Orleans and the lower Mississippi River, a West Gulf Blockading Squadron was formed with Rear David G. Farragut as commander.²⁷ Following the fall of Vicksburg, African-Americans played an important role in the attack and siege at Port Hudson. According to Lawrence Lee Hewitt: "It was here, too, that black soldiers in the regular United States Army for the first participated in a major assault."²⁸ Before and after victory on 9 July 1863, the request for more African-American soldiers were being heard by the commanding generals and in Washington, DC. While there was a need after victory, their participation would be primarily in the form of garrison duty in and around Port Hudson.

The 67th Infantry departed Louisiana and Pike County in March of 1864, some ten months after the battle of Port Hudson. Upon arrival at Morganza, Louisiana, Thomas's regiment was assigned garrison duty until May of 1865. This garrison duty included an occasional twenty-five mile patrol from Baton Rouge to Port Hudson, and in the Northern District in the State of Louisiana. Garrison duty was actually fatigue duty and included the building of fortifications. For the Missouri African-American regiments, this work was carried out during the hot steaming months of summer.

This work was in unsanitary conditions, causing protest from the regimental officers and finally an inspection by the Department of the Gulf Medical Board. A letter to the Commanding General stated; "more than a third of the three Missouri black regiments of the 62nd, 65th, and 67th Infantry had perished since enlistment, mostly from various undiagnosed diseases." The medical board recommended that; as a result of the personnel losses, the regiments be either filled up or consolidated.

As a member of the 67th Infantry, Thomas suffered from the various illnesses common to the regiment. Some of the illnesses Thomas contracted included measles, diarrhea, and dystrophy, all requiring hospitalization in Baton Rouge. These diseases required immediate attention from the medical staff and in later years be an attributing factor in his medical discharge from the Army.

On 12 July 1865, the 65th U. S. Colored Infantry Regiment consolidated with the 67th Infantry. Therefore, Thomas became a member of the 65th Infantry on 15 August 1865. Thomas served with the 65th Infantry for approximately thirteen months, until discharged

at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on 24 September 1866.²⁹ For Thomas and the other ex-slaves including post Civil War veterans, Army life was an improvement over slavery for African-Americans.

Thomas considered going back to Missouri, but he was also aware of the 9th U. S. Cavalry Regiment being organized.³⁰ The mustering officer in charge of recruiting for the 9th Cavalry was Major Francis Moore, of the 65th Infantry.³¹ Thomas immediately enlisted as a private in the 9th Cavalry Regiment on 24 September 1866. Thomas joined the regiment at Greenville, Louisiana, being assigned to B Troop.³²

Men for the 9th Cavalry were recruited from the city of New Orleans, and ironically Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky, and as in the case of Thomas Shaw, were Civil War veterans.³³ Each man enlisted for five years; the pay was thirteen dollars a month, with room, board, and clothing being provided by the Army. In September of 1866, the 9th Cavalry assembled at New Orleans to prepare the regiment for training.

The regiment was not fully staffed with officers, however the regiment still required organizing, clothing, and drilling by those officers that were available. In March of 1867, the regiment composed of some 885 enlisted men, moved from New Orleans to Greenville, because of a Cholera outbreak in New Orleans. In late March, with their training completed the 9th Cavalry under the command of Colonel Edward Hatch was ready to move to Texas and the West.

TEXAS

The aftermath of the Civil War witnessed Texas in a state of near collapse. The 9th Cavalry's first duty station was in West Texas. For the 9th Cavalry, the challenges would be many and the territory vast in southwest Texas. Some of those challenges included the migration in and through the state, the availability of vast tracks of land, Indians, and outlaws. African-Americans migrated to Texas, seeking their stake or as former slaves returning home. The mix of African-Americans and the collapse of civil law were a serious challenge for the 9th Cavalry. However, the experience gained in Texas would be helpful in later years, when the 9th Cavalry moved to other forts throughout the southwest and northern plains as "Buffalo Soldiers."

It was in the southwest, where the African-Americans soldiers became known as "Buffalo Soldiers."³⁴ The Comanche's are credited with applying the name Buffalo Soldiers to these African-American soldiers. The belief is upon seeing the soldiers' wiry hair and dark complexion for the first time; reminded the Comanches' of the buffalo. The Buffalo Soldiers sitting erect on their mounts were impressive figures. The 9th Cavalry remained in the southwest for the next fifteen years (1867 - 1882); of which the first ten years would be in West Texas.



Texas Forts

In March of 1867, the 9th Cavalry Regiment received orders to proceed by steamer from Greenville, Louisiana to Indianola, Texas. Upon arriving in Indianola, the regiment marched to San Antonio, where it remained until June. During the regiment's stay in San Antonio; it received instructions in organization and field service.³⁵ The 9th Cavalry's first duty assignment was protecting the mail and stage route between San Antonio and El

Paso, Texas. They had the added responsibility of, searching out and defeating outlaws and marauding Indians in the area.³⁶

In June of 1867, B Troop of the 9th Cavalry commanded by Captain George Gamble departed San Antonio for Fort Stockton, Texas, which was to be their permanent duty station. The route taken from San Antonio to Fort Stockton lay through southern and southwestern Texas. Colonel George F. Hamilton describes the scene along the route: "Water and shade were scarce and Indians were numerous."³⁷ Fort Stockton had been abandoned early in the 1860's needed to be rebuilt. To accomplish this, the employment of all available troops in the command was required. Still, the primary mission of B Troop was escorting the supply wagon trains from San Antonio.

In August of 1868, Captain Gamble and a detachment from B Troop, which included Sergeant Anderson and Private Shaw, were sent on detached service to San Antonio. San Antonio was headquarters and supply depot for Texas. The detachment remained at San Antonio until December.

In 1869, B Troop received orders to change stations from Fort Stockton to Fort Concho. Fort Concho located in the center of the line of post guarding the trail to El Paso was in a similar condition as Fort Stockton in that it had to be rebuilt. This job was entirely in the hands of Captain Gamble. Captain Gamble not only had the responsibility of commanding B Troop, but also that of commandant of Fort Concho.

The strategic location of Fort Concho served as protection of settlers and travelers

against raiding Indians parties and for buffalo hunters as well. For African-Americans both civilian and military, this was a hostile environment including racial hostilities. For B Troop and the entire 9th Cavalry, racial stereotyping was the norm and the duties performed by the 9th Cavalry under conditions less than favorable were not appreciated.

The demographic makeup of Fort Concho consisted of a large number of Anglo-Texans, including ex-confederate soldiers, buffalo hunters, etc. There was general resentment against the Union Army in its occupation of Texas, and against African-Americans being part of the regular Army and in Texas. Even later in the Twentieth Century, historians disregarded the contributions made by the 9th Cavalry. One of those historians Dr. Haley states:

“The prestige of the Army and the well-being of Texas suffered from the fact that Fort Concho and other frontier posts were garrisoned with Negro troops. It was unfortunate on the one hand because colored troops were neither apt frontiersmen nor good soldiers, and doubly unfortunate on the other because the ingrained attitudes, social customs and prejudices so strong in the South were often violent in Texas.”³⁸

The civilian population at Fort Concho was lively and engaged in activities that challenged Private Shaw and the troopers in B Troop. It would take a mentally strong trooper to avoid the hazards of lawlessness, which Fort Concho seemed to attract. Still the focus was on the vicinity that surrounded the fort; because, their primary objective was protection of the mail from the highwaymen in the area.³⁹ As commandant, Captain

Gamble successfully rebuilt Fort Concho. The fort remained an important Army outpost until officially closed in 1889.

The area between Forts Concho and Griffin was the scene of extensive Comanche and Kiowa raids. These raids caused the 9th Cavalry to increase their patrols of this area. A short distance from Fort Griffin, on 16, 20, and 21 of September 1869, Thomas Shaw and B Troop had their first full engagement at Salt Fork of the Brazos River, against a band of Comanche and Kiowa warriors.⁴⁰ On 28 and 29 October, Shaw's detachment again engaged a group of warriors at the headwaters of the Brazos River.⁴¹ In December of 1869, Captain Gamble resigned from the Army; B Troop was left without a commanding officer.

On 20 March 1870, Private Shaw received a promotion to Corporal in B Troop, and Captain Charles Parker took command in April. In late April, Corporal Shaw led a detachment of eight privates to Washington, D. C., on detached service for the Quartermaster Department. The detachment remained in Washington until October. In June, however, B Troop received orders to change stations from Fort Concho to Fort Davis. Upon the detachment's return, the entire troop began scouting the area around Fort Davis.

Captain Parker remained with the troop for approximately one year and was "dismissed" from the Army in January of 1871.⁴² Again, B Troop was without a commanding officer until the appointment of Captain Oscar Hagen in late January. The troop remained at Fort Davis until February, when the Troop received orders for Fort

Quitman, Texas.

Fort Quitman was located on the Rio Grande River, on the border between the United States and Mexico, and seventy miles south of El Paso. From this fort, Corporal Shaw was in charge of a detachment escorting a wagon train for the Quartermaster Department. In August, B Troop received orders to move to Fort Griffin, where it would remain until March of 1872.

After five years of service in Southwest Texas with the 9th Cavalry, Shaw had risen to the rank of Corporal. However, his enlistment was ready to expire, in late September. On 24 September 1871, he received his discharge at Fort Griffin, Texas.⁴³ Two days later on 26 September, he re-enlisted and based on his abilities and service received a promotion to Sergeant.

During this
~~By~~ the time Thomas Shaw received his Sergeants strips, another Kentuckian and future Medal of Honor recipient became a member of B Troop, Brent Woods. Sergeant Shaw undoubtedly was a mentor to Brent Woods. Because by 1876, Brent Woods was a Sergeant while Thomas Shaw became 1st Sergeant in B Troop. But Brent Woods unlike Thomas Shaw could not avoid the pit-falls associated with Army life.⁴⁴

In November, Sergeant Shaw and a detachment consisting of three Privates guarded the mail station at Mountain Pass, one of the most important routes along the Rio Grande River. On 28 February 1872, B Troop under special orders from the Department of Texas headquarters departed Fort Griffin and arrived at Fort Duncan, Texas, on 28 March. Fort Duncan a key fort that guarded Eagle Pass and was useful in observing and patrolling the

Rio Grande River area. Later that year, on 1 November, Thomas Shaw received one the highest honor in the United States Army enlisted ranks, the promotion to 1st Sergeant.

The 9th Cavalry regimental headquarters received orders transferring the regiment from San Antonio to Ringgold Barracks, Texas. 1st Sergeant Shaw's B Troop along with C, G, H, and L Troops were also transferred. With Captain Oscar Hagen in command of the troop when they arrived at Ringgold Barracks on 8 April 1872.

The location of Ringgold Barracks is just below Rio Grande City, and approximately eighty-five miles north of Brownsville, Texas. The troop at Ringgold Barracks sent out detachments to guard the river crossings from the war parties of Kiowa and Comanche warriors; with the primary responsibility of keeping open the El Paso Road from Brownsville.

B Troop patrolled the area from Edinburg and Lake Trinidad, to the King Ranch.⁴⁵ The King Ranch was a vast area that included over two hundred thousand acres. ~~B Troop~~ ^{the Troop} was attempting to protect the ranch from the cattle thieves that were a major problem because of a lack of law enforcement. In July of 1873, 1st Sergeant Shaw received orders from the Department of Texas headquarters, to proceed from Edinburg to Brownsville. 1st Sergeant Shaw was serving as a witness before a General Court-Martial.⁴⁶ During Shaw's absence at Brownsville, Lieutenant William H. Hugo, the senior officer in B Troop, commanded a detachment of thirty men, who scouted the vast area from Lake Trinidad to the King Ranch.

On 18 August 1874, 1st Sergeant Shaw after being granted a 60-day furlough departed for Pike County, Missouri. This was Shaw's first visit to Louisiana and Pike County in nearly eight years. 1st Sergeant Shaw enjoyed his rank and demonstrated as much to his friends during the visit. For Thomas Shaw the visit was much too short and the journey long.

→ On 20 October, Shaw returned from Pike County, Missouri and rejoined B Troop at

Ringgold Barracks. On 15 January 1875, the troop under orders left Edinburg and returned to Ringgold Barracks. On 27 January, 1st Sergeant Shaw's B ~~and~~ G Troops, *along with B* while patrolling the area, engaged Comanche and Kiowa warriors near Ringgold

Barracks. *This engagement lasted two days, results in men killed on both sides. The troop returned*

The 9th Cavalry's effectiveness at Ringgold Barracks was hampered by the harassment *to it* from local officials. "Those officials disliked anything in a blue uniform, particularly if *Round*

Negroes wore that uniform."⁴⁷ In addition, Ringgold Barracks like other forts in South Texas attracted professional gamblers who migrated to the forts on paydays. After being paid, many soldiers lost their hard-earned pay in just a few hours. The results of those hours off duty often carried over to their military performance. Military justice for African-Americans was often swift and harsh for the smallest infraction. It was not uncommon for soldiers to lose their strips or be confined in the stockade.

The rise of Thomas Shaw to the rank of 1st Sergeant is testament to the fact that two of Shaw's commanding officers in B Troop were former Sergeant Major's during the Civil War.⁴⁸ 1st Sergeant Thomas Shaw avoided those pit-falls often associated with Army life

when the soldiers often became the prey of gamblers, gunfighters, and liquor.

During Shaw's first ten years in Texas, he rose through the ranks without being disciplined. In all likelihood, Thomas Shaw benefited from their experience both in discipline and command structure these two former non-commissioned officers offered. Thomas Shaw's third commanding officer in B Troop was Captain Charles Parker.

Shaw and Parker developed a relationship that would last well into the 1890's. For Thomas Shaw, B Troop, and the 9th Cavalry; their stay in Texas was coming to a close. The experience gained in Texas would be valuable in their new duty station in the Territory of New Mexico.

In the fall of 1875, the Department of Texas headquarters ordered the 9th Cavalry Regiment to proceed from Texas to New Mexico and relieve the 8th Cavalry Regiment in the District of New Mexico. The 9th Cavalry transferred to the district, with the movement taking place during the winter of 1875 and the spring of 1876.

1st Sergeant Thomas Shaw understood that orders for B Troop would soon follow. The time spent in the hot dry land of south Texas was coming to a close. Captain Hagen and 1st Sergeant Shaw gathered the troops and prepared them for a new climate of mountains plus the waterless dessert of New Mexico. In September of 1875, B Troop received orders from headquarters to leave Ringgold Barracks and proceed to their new duty station at Fort McRae, New Mexico.

NEW MEXICO

Colonel Edward Hatch, the 9th Cavalry Regiment's commanding officer faced a new challenge, the Southern Utes and Apache. The 9th Cavalry had completed ten years of service in Texas facing outlaws, Comanche, and Kiowa warriors. Upon arrival in New Mexico, the regiment was under strength and thinly scattered throughout the territory. The headquarters was located at Fort Union in the northern part of the territory a short distance from Cimarron. The trip was via Fort Clark and Pecos Station, Texas and Fort Selden, New Mexico arriving at Fort McRae on 9 December 1875.⁴⁹

By early 1876, majority of the 9th Cavalry Regiment was in New Mexico, only K Troop remained in Texas. 1st Sergeant Thomas Shaw's service enlistment expired earlier in the month. On 26 September, Shaw received his discharge as 1st Sergeant, in B Troop at Fort McRae, New Mexico.⁵⁰

On 26 January 1877, Thomas Shaw joined K Troop as a Sergeant following a four-month respite. When Thomas Shaw changed troops, he was aware the only available billet was that of Sergeant, one grade lower from his previous rank of 1st Sergeant. The commanding officer of K Troop was Captain Charles Parker, Sergeant Shaw's former commanding officer in B Troop. For Thomas Shaw this was a new beginning but with a familiar face in charge, that of Charles Parker. The men of K Troop were fortunate to be in the capable hands of Thomas Shaw. Sergeant Shaw was a welcome addition to the

troop.



New Mexico Forts and Camps

In April of 1877, K Troop received orders to proceed from Fort Union to Fort Garland, Colorado via Fort Craig and Camp Ojo Caliente, New Mexico; to suppress the attacks by the Southern Utes. On 13 May, K Troop assembled and proceeded from Camp Ojo Caliente to Fort Garland. Sergeant Shaw remained at Fort Union, in charge of company property; later in the year, Shaw rejoined the troop at Fort Garland. In late May, Sergeants Shaw, Moses Holland, James Watkins, and Trumpeter Rufus Slaughter departed for Fort Garland arriving at that fort in early June.⁵¹ The problem with Southern Utes began in the 1860's, when squatters encroached upon their land.

The first treaty with the Utes signed in 1863, gave the Utes all the land west of the Continental Divide. In 1868, a new treaty united all the Utes and established the first boundaries for a Ute reservation. However, the language in the treaty was a fact not fully understood or appreciated by the Utes until much later.⁵²

A delegation led by 9th Cavalry Regiment's commander Edward Hatch attempted to address both the treaty issue and that of illegal squatters. The relinquished land became the property of the United States and state of Colorado. The reservations established for the Utes were under the control of three Indian agencies namely; White River, Uncompahgre, and Southern near the New Mexico border.⁵³ All three agencies faced illegal squatters, but the Southern Utes were a particular challenge for K Troop and Sergeant Shaw. K Troop was not in Colorado to evaluate the equity of the treaties or treatment of the Utes, but to enforce the rules established by the United States Government.

After the squatters began encroaching on Ute land, the Utes retaliated by attacking the squatters.⁵⁴ Fort Garland is located between the Tunchera and Ute creeks in the San Luis valley, protected the settlers in the valley from the Utes and Jicarilla Apache. After a series of negotiations, the Utes agreed to relocate to other lands "thereby relinquishing claim to that land occupied by the settlers."⁵⁵ Following the settlement with the Utes, K Troop remained at Fort Garland patrolling the area for over a year to ensure peace between the Utes and settlers.

K Troop spent most of 1878 patrolling and scouting from the Blue Mountains, part of the Southern Ute expedition, to the mouth of the Mancos River. In November, K Troop escorted a surveying party from Fort Garland in a northwesterly direction to the Dolores River. The Dolores River is the one hundred and fifteen-mile boundary between the states of Colorado and Utah.⁵⁶ During the first quarter of 1879, the troop remained on garrison duty at Fort Garland.

In the spring and summer of 1879, the troop escorted the U. S. Boundary Survey Party, traveling over eleven hundred and ninety-four miles, arriving at their final destination of Fort Fred Steele, Wyoming on 31 August. That same day, the troop boarded a train and proceeded by rail to Cheyenne, Wyoming. In early October, the troop left again by rail for Springer, New Mexico, continuing on to Alamosa, Colorado, arriving on 7 October.

Alamosa the railhead for the San Luis valley, is approximately twenty-four miles west of Fort Garland. K Troop formed part of the New Mexico column of the Ute expedition in the field; a total distance of three hundred and forty-five miles. From 20 and 22

December, the troop marched to the junction of the San Juan and Animas Rivers, a distance of fifty-four miles.

While K Troop continued to scout the area around the San Juan and Animas Rivers from Fort Garland, Colorado. Sergeant Shaw was in Cimarron, New Mexico, leading a detachment of seven privates during most of October. The presence of Army troops in Cimarron was the result of civil unrest that continued following the Colfax County War of 1875-78.⁵⁷

Cimarron is in north central New Mexico, near Fort Union on the Santa Fe Trail. The area had vast amounts of natural wealth such as, gold, timber, and agricultural resources. The civil unrest followed the removal of the Apache and Utes from the area. The civil unrest began to subside when the territorial Governor Samuel B. Axtell was removed from office in 1878. However, a constant Army presence in the form of the 9th Cavalry was required. Sergeant Shaw and the detachment returned to Fort Union on 9 November 1879.

In February of 1880, Sergeant George Jordan departed Fort Union on detached service at Camp Ojo Caliente. Captain Parker and the remainder K Troop joined Sergeant Jordan, at Ojo Caliente arriving on 26 February. Sergeant Shaw joined the troop at Camp Ojo Caliente, on 9 March. Sergeant's Shaw and Jordan were on escort duty, leading the supply and mail trains from Camp Ojo Caliente to Fort Tularosa. The escort duty was necessary because of the Indians attacks still prevalent in the area, not from the Utes but from the Apaches. The earlier settlement with the Utes had little impact between the

United States Government and the Chiricahua, Warm Spring, and Mescalero Apaches of New Mexico.

For over three hundred years, New Mexico and Arizona were the traditional homelands of the Apache. They consistently resisted efforts from outsiders including miners, settlers, or the United States Government, to occupy the land. The Mescalero Apache considered the southern portion of New Mexico between the Pecos and Rio Grande Rivers, to be their land. The Chiricahua Apache considered their land to be the area west of the Rio Grande River in New Mexico. This area extended to the San Pedro River in Arizona. The Warm Spring Apache were also in the southern portion of New Mexico. This land would be the cause of much conflict for the next ten years, with Sergeant Thomas Shaw being actively involved most of those eight years.

In 1872, Major General George Crook began the task of making the Apache move on their assigned reservation. William H. Leckie describes General Crook and his relations with the Apache while attempting to settle them on their reservations. According to Leckie: "A dedicated and able soldier, Crook conducted a grim and unrelenting operation that ended only when most of the hostile Apaches surrendered at Camp Verde on 6 April 1873."⁵⁸ After General Crook settled the issue of assigned reservation, the chore of feeding and clothing the assignees, became the responsibility of the Department of Interior's Indian Bureau.

In the beginning, the civilian contractors on contract to the Indian Bureau, "delivered goods to the various agencies at the time" as part of their United States Government

contract. Ever mindful of the numerous reservations in New Mexico and Arizona, the contractors saw opportunities for a windfall if they could persuade the Indian Bureau to concentrate the Apache of Arizona on one reservation.⁵⁹ The area selected for the reservation for the most part was a desolate wasteland detested by the Apaches. The Indian Bureau forced the Warm Spring Apache to move from southern New Mexico to the San Carlos reservation in Arizona.

Under pressure from these special interests (Indian Bureau contractors), the Department of Interior adopted the policy of concentration. To implement this policy, a new Indian agent John P. Clum, was appointed in 1874. By April of 1876, the Chiricahua Apache led by Cochise and Geronimo, the Warm Spring Apache led by Victorio and Nana had left their respective reservations and was causing trouble throughout the region. Most of the Chiricahua Apache attacks were in an area that came under the jurisdiction of the 10th Cavalry in Arizona.

The 9th Cavalry's responsibility was primary New Mexico, but extended into Arizona. By August of 1879, Victorio and his Warm Spring Apaches including a few Mescaleros left the Fort Stanton reservation and began a series of attacks. In October of 1879, upon their return from Fort Garland, K Troop began serving garrison duty at Fort Union.

For Sergeants Shaw and Jordan, they departed Fort Union and alternated serving on detached service between Camp Ojo Caliente and Fort Tularosa from 4 October 1879 through 17 July 1880. Captain Parker and K Troop arrived at Camp Ojo Caliente in February, serving escort and patrol duties until ordered to Fort Cummings in July of

1880.⁶⁰ The patrols and escort duty from Camp Ojo Caliente was not without incident.

On 14 May, Sergeant Jordan led a detachment of troopers from K Troop and engaged Victorio and a band of Apaches at old Fort Tularosa. On 5 June, troops from the 9th Cavalry engaged Victorio's band at Cook's Canyon. This was K Troop's last engagement before Captain Parker reported to Lieutenant Colonel Buell and 15th Infantry.⁶¹ The purpose of Colonel Buell's command was to pursue Victorio throughout New Mexico and into the sovereign country of Mexico, if necessary.⁶²

On 6 July, the troop reported to Lieutenant Colonel Buell, 15th Infantry, forming a part of his command, and remained on that duty for the remainder of the year. In March of 1881, K Troop received orders from the Department of New Mexico Headquarters to proceed from Fort Union to Fort Wingate, New Mexico. The troopers arrived at the fort on 30 March, traveling a distance of four hundred and nine miles.

Fort Wingate was located near the headwaters of the Rio Puerco River, in Central New Mexico, and approximately forty-eight miles from the Arizona border. In May, K Troop was scouting the area, marching a distance of two hundred and fifteen miles. During the months of June, July, and August, the troopers performed garrison duty until receiving telegraphic orders from headquarters. The Department of New Mexico ordered K Troop to take a line of march from Rio Amado then to Carrigo Canyon.

From September of 1880 through April of 1881, Captain Charles Parker was on sick leave of absence at Fort Union. On 5 February 1881, while Captain Parker and Sergeant

Shaw were absent, a detachment including Indians scouts engaged Nana at Candelaria Mountain. On 25 April, Captain Parker assumed command of the troop, relieving 2nd Lieutenant M. D. Parker of command.⁶³ Also, while the troop was in the field, a detachment of the troop was performing garrison duty at Fort Union. Sergeant Shaw was on furlough from 26 December through 18 February 1881.

Earlier in October of 1880, units of the 10th Cavalry finally suppressed nearly a year of raids and lawlessness. The 10th Cavalry units caught Victorio and members of the Warm Spring Apaches in the mountains of Tres Castillos, Mexico with Victorio being killed. Chief Nana was not with Victorio at Tres Castillos and Nana immediately sought revenge against anyone in his path.

In April of 1881, a detachment from K Troop engaged the late Victorio's braves near Fort Cummings. The troopers pursued the Apaches across much of Southern New Mexico including Dog Cannon, San Mateo, and Sabinal, New Mexico.⁶⁴ Captain Parker reported: "On 17 July, braves led by Nana attacked an Army pack train near Alamo Canyon. The troopers led by Indian scouts pursued the attackers across the San Andres Mountains, through the White Sands dessert and across the Rio Grande River into the San Mateo Mountains." This area is south of what is now the city of Alamogordo, near the present day White Sands Missile Range.⁶⁵

While the soldiers were still in pursuit, a citizen posse caught up with the Indians in the mountains. The Indians ambushed the posse, killing one man, wounding seven, while capturing all the horses. The troopers caught part of Nana's warriors on 3 August, at

Monica Spring, New Mexico. That skirmish resulted in one Apache wounded and eleven horses captured, but most of the Apaches escaped. While patrolling in the same general area, nine days later, Captain Parker, Sergeants Shaw and Jordan, and K Troop intercepted Nana at Sabinal near Carrigo Canyon.⁶⁶

This interception resulted in a ninety-minute battle earning Sergeant Thomas Shaw the Medal of Honor. The citation best describes Sergeant Shaw's action: "Forced the enemy back after stubbornly holding his ground in an extremely exposed position and prevented the enemy's superior numbers from surrounding his command."⁶⁷ Sergeant Shaw would receive the Medal of Honor nine years later on 7 December 1890, while serving with K Troop, 9th Cavalry at Fort Robinson, Nebraska.⁶⁸

Following this engagement at Carrigo Canyon, K Troop returned to Fort Wingate remaining there until 11 September, when the troop left for Fort Apache, Arizona. The troopers continued to scout the area around Fort Apache, until 28 October, when they returned to Fort Wingate. On 1 November 1881, the Department of New Mexico Headquarters ordered K Troop to proceed from Fort Wingate, to their new duty station at Camp Cantonment, Indian Territory, and presently the State of Oklahoma. K Troop arrived at Cantonment on 14 November, traveling one thousand and ninety-five miles.

K Troop was the only troop from the 9th Cavalry to serve at Camp Cantonment. The troop remained there until ordered to Fort Supply in May of 1882. When K Troop arrived at Cantonment, Sergeant Shaw's enlistment was ready to expire after serving fifteen years in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado.⁶⁹

On 5 January 1882, Sergeant Thomas Shaw received his discharge from the Army at Camp Cantonment. What influenced Sergeant Shaw to leave the Army after eighteen years of military service? Was the positioning of the K Troop in Indian Territory the one factor that Thomas Shaw could not take? Did something happen within the troop or the regiment? Did Sergeant Shaw simply decide that fifteen years of cavalry and three years of infantry enough?

Indian Territory, was a new challenge not only for K Troop but also for the 9th Cavalry. On this occasion, the challenge would be from settlers, moving onto so-called "free land."⁷⁰ The "Sooners" would later in the century follow the action of these early settlers called "Boomers".⁷¹ These "Sooners" would illegally homestead and claim land in Indian Territory, before the land rush of 1889. For Thomas Shaw fifteen years in the southwest was enough. Thomas returned home to Louisiana, Missouri, remaining out of the Army until December of 1886.⁷²

5

MISSOURI

Thomas Shaw returned to Louisiana, Missouri, in early 1882. During his eighteen year Army career, Thomas often returned to Louisiana while on furlough. The physical appearance of Louisiana remained as during his childhood. However, there were two things important to Thomas; employment and marriage. The only types of employment

available to the former African-American Sergeant in Louisiana were that of farming and general laborer. By the age of 36, Thomas had yet to marry; the Army was his entire life for eighteen years. However, while away, Thomas did maintain contact with his friends in Louisiana.

One of those friends introduced Thomas to a local woman named Laura Luce. After a few months of courtship, they married on 27 April 1882, in the office of a local Justice of the Peace. Thomas and Laura remained in Louisiana until after the birth of their only child; a daughter named Leona, who was born on 22 July 1883. Louisiana was just not the place for Thomas and his family; he had to move.

Although Saint Louis was less than one hundred miles to the south, Thomas decided to move to the western part of the state, Kansas City, Missouri. Shaw's move to Kansas City afforded him a better opportunity for employment. Also, Kansas City was close enough to Forts Riley and Leavenworth in Kansas, where he could enjoy the comradeship of other former soldiers. Thomas found employment at an African-American saloon, where he worked for four years until his re-enlistment in the Army.⁷³

Thomas worked as barkeeper in a saloon owned by Samuel D. Jordon. Was this Jordon a relative of 1st Sergeant George Jordan?⁷⁴ Thomas lived in the eight hundred block of east Third Street, only a short distance from the saloon. Thomas had an opportunity to enjoy many of his former comrades who came in for a visit. However, being a barkeeper in a frontier town can be a dangerous business; Kansas City was no different. What Thomas Shaw knew well was being a soldier.

In June of 1885, the 9th Cavalry moved their regimental headquarters from Fort Riley, Kansas to Fort McKinney, Wyoming. The entire 9th Cavalry served at various posts throughout the central plains. After many years of field duty in Texas and New Mexico this was the first opportunity for primarily garrison duty.⁷⁵ The troops reported for duty at posts located in Nebraska and Utah; with K Troop being assigned to Fort Robinson, Nebraska.⁷⁶

6

NEBRASKA

On 10 December 1886, after a four year absence Thomas Shaw rejoined the 9th United States Cavalry as a Private at Fort Leavenworth. The 9th Cavalry Regiment and Fort Robinson were both notified of the enlistment by telegraphic direction. The Department of the Platte, Adjutant General's office informed both commands that Thomas Shaw was again a member of the 9th Cavalry.⁷⁷

Within a few days, Shaw received a promotion to Sergeant. From Fort Leavenworth, Sergeant Shaw went on furlough from 20 December 1886 through 2 January 1887; his family was only a short distance away in Kansas City. Also, at Fort Leavenworth, was 1st Sergeant George Jordan who was on detached service. Did Sergeant Jordan influence Thomas Shaw to return to the regiment? 1st Sergeant Jordan was also a Medal of Honor recipient; this afforded K Troop the distinction of having two highly decorated soldiers.

On 3 January 1887, Shaw left Fort Leavenworth and joined K Troop at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. In April, Sergeant Shaw was officially absent from the fort. He returned to Kansas City, Missouri to move his family with him to Fort Robinson.⁷⁸ In May, Colonel Hatch shifted his command from Fort McKinney to Fort Robinson. The facilities at Fort Robinson were poor, but it permitted the married soldiers' families an opportunity to accompany them.

Sergeant Shaw was one of only fifteen married men in the regiment with families on the fort.⁷⁹ Duty at Fort Robinson was generally routine with the trooper's families taking the time to entertain themselves and to travel. During Christmas of 1888, the Ninth Cavalry string band played in the Post Amusement Hall. The Cleveland Gazette reported: "The New Year saw Mrs. Sergeant Shaw visiting in Kansas City. Mrs. Sergeant Benjamin is expected home soon."⁸⁰ However, there were a few incidents that mollified K Troop's garrison duty. K Troop responded to the call when ranchers illegally fenced government property in Wyoming; and the Sioux Wars at the Pine Ridge Indian Agency in South Dakota.

From the time of their arrival, the 9th Cavalry assisted the railroad, homesteaders, and cattle ranchers settle their disputes. On 23 May 1887, Captain Parker and K Troop received orders from Department of the Platte Headquarters to assist the Department of the Interior's Indian agent in Wyoming arriving in Cheyenne on 30 May. The local cattle barons had erected fences on government property and K Troop was there to protect the local agent while removing fences. During this six months in the field, K Troop visited

Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, before returning to Fort Robinson. The troop also stopped at Fort Laramie, finally arriving at Fort Robinson on 24 October 1887.⁸¹ The troopers traveled a distance of one hundred and seventy miles.

On 11 April 1889, the 9th Cavalry's commander Colonel Edward Hatch died following a carriage accident near Fort Robinson. When the Colonel's body was set for burial at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Sergeant Shaw was a member of the honor guard of seven Sergeants and the Chief Trumpeter from the 9th Cavalry.⁸² This group of senior non-commission officers from the 9th Cavalry represented twenty-two years of service under the command of Edward Hatch.⁸³ Thomas Shaw was the sole member of that honor guard who would become a Medal of Honor recipient later in 1889.

During the early settlement of the West, Fort Laramie, was one of the picket of forts that aligned the Oregon and Bozeman trails.⁸⁴ These forts provided protection to both travelers and traders alike. In 1885, when the 9th Cavalry moved to the central plains, various troopers paid occasional visits during transit to other forts and locations, but Fort Laramie had out lived its usefulness.⁸⁵ In the spring of 1890, the United States Army decided to close Fort Laramie.⁸⁶ Headquarters dispatched an advance party from the 9th Cavalry to prepare for its closing. That detachment was from K Troop.

Sergeant Shaw led the advance detachment consisting of three privates departing from Fort Robinson on 20 November 1889.⁸⁷ The detachment's stay at Fort Laramie totaled eight days, returning to Fort Robinson on 28 November. In charge of the closing was 1st Lieutenant C. W. Taylor from I Troop who arrived earlier and was present when the

detachment arrived.⁸⁸ In December, Sergeant Shaw again led the detachment from Fort Robinson to Fort Laramie spending an additional eight days. On 12 December, during a heavy winter snowstorm Sergeant Shaw returned to Fort Robinson.



TROOP B, NINTH CAVALRY

4-18-1888

In March of 1890, a detachment from Fort Robinson received orders for Fort Laramie. Their duty was to officially close the fort and dispense with the fort's property. Sergeant Thomas Shaw, the most senior and experienced, led the detachment consisting of two Sergeants and eleven enlisted men from B, I, and K Troops.



Courtesy of Special Collections, United States Military Academy Archives
9th U. S. Cavalry Sergeants - Sergeant Thomas Shaw,
2nd row, 2nd from right

1st Lieutenant Taylor was in charge of the detail when it arrived at Fort Laramie.⁸⁹ The detail remained at Fort Laramie until the end of April, returning to Fort Robinson in early May. On 26 April, because of trouble surrounding the Ghost Dancers, Captain Parker and the remainder of K Troop had received orders, to proceed to the Pine Ridge Indian Agency in South Dakota.

When the fanatical Ghost Dancers spread to Pine Ridge, K Troop became directly involved in the last major Indian conflict of the century. On 19 November, K Troop while grouped with D, F, G, and I Troop received orders to proceed to South Dakota.⁹⁰ In

command of this battalion was Major Guy V. Henry, who at the time was in command of the garrison at Fort McKinney.⁹¹ Major Henry took command of the battalion at Fort Robinson. The battalion was pursuing followers of Chief Big Foot and other Sioux who had fled into the Bad Lands of South Dakota.⁹²

The troopers left Fort Robinson reaching the Pine Ridge Agency the following day. Neither Captain Parker nor Sergeant Shaw was on duty with K Troop, when the troopers departed the fort. Captain Parker was seriously ill in Washington, DC; and Sergeant Shaw remained at the fort on detached service. When Sergeant Shaw received the Medal of Honor that 7 December, it is unknown if Captain Parker was aware the medal being issued. Because, five days later and after a long illness, Captain Parker died in Washington, on 12 December 1890.⁹³ His men in K Troop would not forget Captain Charles Parker.



Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society
K Troop at Pine Ridge Indian Agency, Winter 1890-91

On 7 December, while on detached service at Fort Robinson, Sergeant Shaw officially received the Medal of Honor.⁹⁴ In early January 1891, Sergeant Shaw rejoined K Troop at Pine Ridge Agency. On 24 January, General Nelson A. Miles held a Pass-In-Review to acknowledge the effort of the battalion.⁹⁵ The battalion remained at Pine Ridge until 24 March, enduring one of the harshest winters the 9th Cavalry had ever experienced. While returning to Fort Robinson, the sixty-eight mile trip spanned two days. They traveled through the heaviest snowfall in several years including 30 degree below zero weather.⁹⁶



Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society
Pass-In-Review, 9th Cavalry, Fort Robinson, Nebraska, 1889

7

VIRGINIA

In April, K Troop because of its outstanding service at Pine Ridge Agency received

orders from the War Department to move east for a well-deserved rest.⁹⁷ K Troop was the first African-American regular Army regiment to serve east of the Mississippi during the post-Civil War era. The civilian population around Washington, DC and Fort Myer, Virginia, received notification of K Troop's arrival through a local newspaper. The 27 April, edition of the Washington Post stated:

“K Troop, Ninth Cavalry, has, it is understood, been selected for detail at Fort Myer, in place of one of the troops now there. It is said that one troop of the First Cavalry, not yet designated, will also be brought to Fort Myer. K Troop is now at Fort Robinson, Neb., and participated in the late fight near Pine Ridge.”⁹⁸

K Troop's arrival in the nation's capital was not without its critics. K Troop was under the command of Captain Martin B. Hughes, while Major Guy V. Henry remained the overall commander. The troop arrived at Fort Myer in May of 1891, for a four-year stay.⁹⁹ According to Dr. Charles L. Kenner, some of those critics considered African-American troops in Washington “detrimental to the best interest of the service.”¹⁰⁰ For Sergeant Shaw this was familiar territory, having served on detached service for the Quartermaster Department for six months in 1870.

The 9th Cavalry Regiment consisted of twelve troops, of those twelve troops, K Troop had the most senior non-commissioned officers and enlisted men in the regiment. Sergeant Thomas Shaw and 1st Sergeant George Jordan had the distinction of wearing the Medal of Honor. Major Henry's goal was to have the troop bring the much deserved credit to the entire regiment and pride throughout the country's African-American

community. This, as on many other occasions, K Troop welcomed this opportunity to showcase and perform for all Washington and the honor of the 9th Cavalry.¹⁰¹ K Troop became the pride of both the regiment and the large African-American population in and around the Washington, DC area.

Major Henry's other duties included being the commanding officer of the Post.¹⁰² Before leaving Fort Robinson, K Troop left their mounts at the fort. The Post Quartermaster transferred the mounts currently at Fort Myer to the incoming troops.¹⁰³ Major Henry's first report included all the officers and enlisted men from K Troop. After seven months at Fort Myer, Sergeant Shaw's enlistment was ready to expire.

On 10 December, Sergeant Shaw received his discharged with a rating of excellent on his military performance and character. His final enlistment occurred the following day on 11 December at Fort Myer.¹⁰⁴ With this enlistment, Sergeant Shaw was approaching normal retirement based upon years of service. Until 1891, the United States Army provided for retirement only after thirty years of service. The other retirement was medical, which paid a pension.¹⁰⁵ Sergeant Shaw continued his service at Fort Myer. On Memorial Day 1892, five "stalwart" members of K Troop arrived at Arlington National Cemetery from Fort Myer. The visit's purpose was to honor their former commander Captain Charles Parker. Although, the five members were not identified but, most assuredly it consisted of Sergeant Thomas Shaw and 1st Sergeant George Jordan.¹⁰⁶ Throughout 1892, K Troop made practices filed marches from Bull Run, Virginia to Antietam, Maryland. On 23 June 1893, K Troop departed Fort Myer for Gettysburg,

Pennsylvania by rail to participate in the July 4th celebration at the Gettysburg National Cemetery. The troop returned to the fort on 5 July 1893.

One year later, a similar but awkward occasion occurred with the death of Mrs. Mary Jane Shaw in 1893. The years Sergeant Shaw spent with Captain Parker had earned that respect both men could share. The same could not be said of the relationship between Sergeant Shaw and his former slave master, Mrs. Mary Jane Shaw. Although, Sergeant Shaw was on furlough from August 15 to October 14, Thomas chose to remain at the fort and not return to his hometown of Louisiana, Missouri.

From the time of Thomas Shaw's first enlistment in 1864, throughout the 1890's, Thomas made occasional visits to Louisiana, Missouri. Mary Jane Shaw continued to live in Louisiana, and by 1893, resided at 123 South Seventh Street.¹⁰⁷ On 2 August 1893, Mary Jane Shaw died in that city at the age of seventy years. The local newspaper's death notice stated:

"In this city, Wednesday night, August 2, Mrs. Mary Jane Shaw died of congestion of the stomach, age 70 years, widow of Jesse W. Shaw and daughter of the late John F. and Sarah F. Turner. Mrs. Shaw was a native of Amherst County, Va., and for the past fifty years was a resident of Missouri, having come to the State in 1838 at the age of 15 years. She was a thorough Christian woman and for many years a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church."¹⁰⁸

K Troop performed general garrison duty at Fort Myer, which included field trips for target practice. On 14 July 1894, a special field report stated: "K Troop including two

officers and forty-six enlisted men left the Post in compliance with Post Orders and proceeded to Marshall Hall, Maryland, for target practice.” On this occasion, Sergeant Shaw did not participate in this trip to Marshall Hall; he reported to sick call at Fort Myer.

Sergeant Thomas Shaw was a professional soldier having served over twenty-eight years in the United States Army, rising to the rank of 1st Sergeant in the 9th United States Cavalry.¹⁰⁹ Sergeant Shaw’s long military service had finally taken its toll. On 16 August 1894, Sergeant Thomas Shaw received a disability discharge from the United States Army at Fort Myer, Virginia; Shaw settled in nearby Rosslyn, Virginia.¹¹⁰

In January of 1895, K Troop received orders to return to the Regimental Headquarters at Fort Robinson, after serving four years at Fort Myer. Thanks to Major Guy V. Henry who drilled the troopers in performance with precision that showcased their talents. By the time of the trooper’s departure, their behavior “surpassed all expectations.”¹¹¹

On 23 June, after suffering from a long illness, Thomas Shaw died at his home in Rosslyn, Virginia. The local Louisiana, Missouri, newspaper noted his death stated: “Thomas Shaw, colored, son-in-law of Louis Luce, died at Washington, D. C., Sunday, June 23rd.”¹¹² The newspaper did not indicate that Sergeant Shaw retired from the United States Army or the recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Following Sergeant Shaw’s death, his widow filed a claim for her husband’s pension based upon his Civil War service. To document the claim, for a widow’s pension, the claimant was required to supply various affidavits including a Marriage License,

testifying to the authenticity of the widow's claim. There were three affidavits filed with the claim; George Robinson, Mary Luce, and a joint affidavit for Lucretia Luce, and Susan A. Mitchell.

George Robinson was 47 years of age at the time. He described his relationship with both Thomas and Laura. George acknowledged knowing Thomas since they were young boys and served together during the Civil War. George stated that Thomas had not married before his marriage to Laura. "After the close of the Civil War, Thomas enlisted in the regular army, and during his service in the cavalry and would visit Louisiana. George knew Laura from the time she was a child and knows that she did not marry before her marriage to Thomas Shaw."¹¹³

Mary Luce was listed as 69 years at the time and the mother of Laura Shaw. Mary Luce stated that her daughter, Laura one child, a daughter who was born at Mary's house on 22 July 1883. The only other person present at her birth was Dr. John Bell who has been dead several years. Mary Luce was able to fix the exact date; "from the fact that she was born the day Mrs. Adaline Beard, a near neighbor died."¹¹⁴ Affixed to the affidavit was the funeral notice of Mrs. Beard giving the date of her death.

The last affidavit was a joint statement from Lucretia Luce and Susan A. Mitchell. Lucretia Luce is the sister of Laura Shaw and that Susan A. Mitchell is an intimate friend. Lucretia and Susan knew Thomas and Laura Shaw stating, "we knew them at the time of their marriage and were in frequent correspondence." Laura and Susan would write to the couple, "while they lived in different places during the time Thomas Shaw was in the

Army.” Their joint affidavit also stated did not divorce from each other and if they had been; “their acquaintance with them as such that they would have would have known it.”¹¹⁵ On 27 August and 18 November 1895, A. H. Draper, a Notary Public in Louisiana, Missouri, received the three affidavits and forwarded them to the United States Pension Office.

On 23 May 1898, three years following the death of Thomas, Laura Shaw died of heart failure in Washington, DC. On 2 June, Mr. Richard A. Tilghman received guardianship of Leona, awarded by the Supreme Court of The District of Columbia (Orphans’ Court). On 14 June 1898, Richard A. Tilghman filed a minor’s application for accrued pension based on Thomas and Laura Shaw’s claim with the Pension Office.

On 27 July 1899, Leona Shaw because of legal limitations no longer received a pension from the United States government.¹¹⁶ From 1900 through 1904, Leona Shaw lived at the boarding house of Julia Barnes located at 1742 V street, N. W. Washington, DC. Leona Shaw’s occupation was that of sewing. After 1904, Leona does not appear in the city directory.¹¹⁷

Sergeant Thomas Shaw’s final resting-place is Arlington National Cemetery. On 25 July 1992, The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin L. Powell dedicated the memorial to the two African-American regiments commonly called the “Buffalo Soldiers” at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.¹¹⁸ The memorial as described is a fitting end to a period often forgotten in United States history.

¹ Until 1918, the nation's highest honor was known simply as the Medal of Honor. On 9 July 1918, Congress passed an act amending an existing provision so the President is authorized to present, in the name of the Congress, a Medal of Honor.

The Buffalo Soldiers also includes the 24th and 25th infantry Regiments

The Congressional Medal of Honor: The Names, The Deeds. Chico, California: Sharp & Dunnigan Publications, Inc. 1988, p 11.

² Raymond L. Collins, letter dated 23 September 1997. The total number of eighty-six African-Americans, from 1863 to 1969 have earned the Medal of Honor. Letter in possession of the author.

Schubert, Frank N. Black Valor: Buffalo Soldier and the Medal of Honor, 1870-1898. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources Inc. 1997, p 7. "All twenty-three of the buffalo soldier heroes who received the Medal of Honor for their bravery during the Indian Wars and the Cuban campaign earned their recognition during the period of flux that occurred before 1904."

³ Register of Enlistments United States Army, 26 September 1871. Washington, DC: National Archives and Record Service (NARS). Government Printing Office, 1871.

Thomas Shaw's first Army enlistment records indicate his place of birth as Crittenden County, Kentucky. However, his re-enlistment into the 9th Cavalry, The Register of Enlistments United States Army, dated 16 September 1871, list his place of birth as Covington, Kentucky. The City of Crittenden, which is in Grant County, is located approximately thirty miles south of Covington, Kentucky; and Crittenden County is in the southwestern part of the state. The conflict in the place of birth was quite common during the early history of the United States. The distance between Crittenden County and the City of Covington is over two hundred miles. There are three other cities close to Crittenden County in distance than Covington, and they are Paducah, Owensboro, and Louisville.

⁴ Bell, Ruth and Evelyn Fedders. "Kentucky's Old Gateway To The South." Kentucky Explorer. Vol. 2, No. 7, January 1988, p 46. A State of Kentucky Highway marker on the south bound side of the Roebling Suspension Bridge, Covington, Kentucky.

⁵ Reis, Jim. "Free blacks faced half measure along the road to genuine freedom." The Kentucky Post.

Covington, KY. 20 January 1992. P 4K. The 1860 population in Covington, Kentucky, was 16,000 with 200 or 1.25 percent blacks including free blacks.

Bureau of the Census, Negro Population in the United States, 1790 - 1915. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1918. The Commonwealth of Kentucky total population was 1,155,684 and 235,759 or 20.4 percent were black, and 10,684 or 0.9 percent of the total population were free blacks in the state.

⁶ Mathias, Frank F. "Slavery, The Solvent of Kentucky Politics." Kentucky It's History and Heritage. Saint Louis, MO: Forum Press, 1978, p 96.

⁷ Coleman Jr., J. Winston. Slavery Times in Kentucky. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1940, p 122.

⁸ Mary Shaw, Free Inhabitants, City of Louisiana, Pike County, State of Missouri. The U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Eighth United States Census, 1860." Washington, DC: NARS. Government Printing Office, Mary J. Shaw, Fourth Ward Louisiana, Pike County, State of Missouri. The U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Ninth United States Census, 1870." Washington, DC: Shaw, Thomas, Military Records. Washington, DC: NARS. 1895.

⁹ As part of the Missouri Compromise, Missouri was admitted as a slave-holding state, but slavery was prohibited in the United States territory north of the latitude 36 degrees.

Schwadron, Karen, ed. "Pike County In The Civil War." Pike County, Missouri: People, Places & Pikers. Pike County Historical Society, 1981, p 94. Some of the three states did not join the union until later, Illinois (21), 1818; Iowa (29), 1846; and Kansas (34), 1861.

¹⁰ Louisiana, Pike County, Missouri, is located on the Mississippi River, approximately one hundred miles north of St. Louis and thirty-one miles south of Hannibal, Missouri; and across from the state of Illinois.

¹¹ Schwadron, Karen. *Ibid.*, pp. 12-13.

¹² "Free Inhabitants, Pike County, Missouri." The U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Seventh United States

Census, 1850." Washington, DC: NARS. Government Printing Office.

"Free Inhabitants, Pike County, Missouri." The U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Eight United States Census, 1860." Washington, DC: NARS. Government Printing Office.

Pike County, Missouri Slave Schedule." The U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Seventh United States Census, 1850." Washington, DC: NARS. Government Printing Office.

Pike County, Missouri Slave Schedule." The U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Eight United States Census, 1860." Washington, DC: NARS. Government Printing Office.

¹³ Pike Co. MO. Marriages 1840-1849, Vol. 2, p 15.

Turner, Mary. 19 December 1844; Jesse W. Shaw.

¹⁴ Shaw, Jesse W. Estate Probate Records. Pike County records, Bowling Green, Missouri, 1846.

¹⁵ City of Louisiana, Pike County, Missouri. The U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Tenth United States Census, 1880." Washington, DC: NARS. Government Printing Office.

Pike County Chapter DAR, compiled by, Cemetery inscription Vol. VII - Buffalo Twp., Riverview Cemetery a. Old Cemetery & First Addition, Pike County, Missouri. Turner, John F. 22 October 1880, age 82 years, 4 months, 6 days.

¹⁶ African-American plantation children often became the childhood playmates of the white masters children, especially if they were close in ages.

Blassingame, John W. The Slave Community: Plantation Life in The Ante-Bellum South. London: Oxford University Press, 1972, pp. 166-169.

¹⁷ Berlin, Ira, Joseph P. Reidy, and Leslie S. Rowland, Ed. "Recruitment in the Border States: Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky." Freedom: a Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867. Series II The Black Military Experience. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982, pp. 226-243.

¹⁸ Berlin, Ira. *Ibid.*, p 187. Governor Gamble consented to Pile's operation within Missouri, but only so long as Pile restricted enlistment's to ante-bellum freemen and the slaves of disloyal masters.

¹⁹ Berlin, Ira. *Ibid.*, p 187. Colonel William A. Pile was a Methodist Minister, and a Radical Commander of a St. Louis Infantry Regiment.

²⁰ Berlin, Ira. *Ibid.*, pp. 237-238.

²¹ Berlin, Ira. *Ibid.*, pp. 245-246.

²² Benton Barracks was located on the northern side of St. Louis, Missouri. This author had a telephone conversation on 25 February 1999, with Michael W. Pierce, President, Jefferson Barracks Civil War Historical Association. In later years, Benton Barracks became the Sportsman's Park, the first home of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball club. The park is presently called Fairgrounds Park.

Winter, William C. *The Civil War in St. Louis*. Columbia: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1994, pp. 73-75.

Greene, Lorenzo, Gary Kremer, Antonio Holland. *Missouri's Black Heritage*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1993, pp. 75-87.

²³ "Negro Enlistment." *The Louisiana Journal*. Louisiana, Missouri. No. 9. Vol. 9. 5 December 1863.

²⁴ "Negro Claims." *Weekly Louisiana Journal*. Louisiana, Missouri. No. 26. Vol. 9. 2 April 1864.

²⁵ "Negro Recruits." *The Louisiana Journal*. Louisiana, Missouri. No. 19. Vol. 9. 13 February 1864.

²⁶ Letter dated 19 September 1994, to the author from Mrs. Sarah E. Sterne, Pike County Historical Society.

Joel Shaw, was one of the founding fathers of the City of Louisiana, Missouri.

Shaw, Thomas. *Military Records*. Washington, DC: NARS. 1895. Mrs. Mrs. Mary J. Shaw filed a claim for compensation for slave enlisted. This affidavit was for only loyal Unionist following the Civil War.

²⁷ Hewitt, Lawrence Lee. *Port Hudson Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi*. Baton Rouge and London Louisiana State University Press, 1987, p xi.

Cunningham, Edward. *The Port Hudson Campaign, 1862-1863*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University

Press, 1863, 1991, p 4.

²⁸ Hewitt, Lawrence Lee: *Ibid.*, pp 33-34.

Glatthaar, Joseph T. Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers. New York: The Free Press, A Division of Macmillan, Inc., 1990, pp. 69, 123-135.

²⁹ South, Aloha P. "Data Relating To Negro Military Personal In The 19th Century." Reference Information Paper No. 63. Washington, DC: NARS. 1973, pp. 2-3.

Those men serving in volunteer regiments who desired to enlist in the regular regiments were authorized to be discharged from the volunteer organization. The Act of 18 July 1866, is published in General Order No. 56 of 1 August 1866, and implemented by General Order No. 92 of 23 November 1866.

³⁰ "A Fighting Regiment: History of the Seventh Cavalry from the Date of Organization." The Washington Post. Washington, DC. 11 January 1891, p 5. "In 1866 the Army was increased to a total of sixty regiments. Of these four were cavalry - two white and two colored - and twenty-four were Infantry."

³¹ Carroll, John M. Ed. The Black Military Experience in the American West. New York, NY: Liveright, 1972. Hutcheson, Grote. (Adjutant Ninth U. S. Cavalry). "The History of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment." 1973. pp. 65-75.

³² "October 1866, Monthly Return." Roll 87, Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916. Ninth Cavalry, 1866-72. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

³³ "Military - Newport, Kentucky." The Cincinnati Daily Gazette. Cincinnati, OH. 30 September 1872. "Forty colored recruits for the 9th and 10th Cavalry will leave the Newport Barracks tomorrow for the West." Until it was closed in the late 1890's, Newport Barracks, Newport, Kentucky, provided the recruit training and was the primary source of replacement troops for the 9th Cavalry and the other African-American Regiments in the Western United States.

³⁴ Leckie, William H. The Buffalo Soldiers, A Narrative of The Negro Cavalry In The West. Norman:

University of Oklahoma Press, 1967, p 26.

³⁵ Hamilton, Colonel George F. "History of the Ninth Regiment U. S. Cavalry, 1866-1906." Unpublished manuscript. West Point: United States Military Academy Library, p 4.

³⁶ Porter, Kenneth W. "Negro And Indians On The Texas Frontier." Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. LIII, October, 1949, p 161.

³⁷ Hamilton, Colonel George F. Ibid., p 6.

³⁸ Haley, J. Evetts. Fort Concho and the Texas Frontier. San Angelo: San Angelo Standard - Times, 1952, p 72.

³⁹ Kubela, Maruerite Evely. "History of Fort Concho." Unpublished Master thesis. Austin: University of Texas, 1936, p 72.

⁴⁰ "September through November 1869, Monthly Return." Roll 87, Returns From Regular Army Cavalry Regiments. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

Porter, Kenneth W. Ibid., p 160.

Cherokee and Seminole African-Americans were normally trackers and scouts with the 9th Cavalry.

⁴¹ Heitman, Francis B. Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, from its organization, September 29, 1789, to March 2, 1903. Volume 2. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. 1903, p 434.

⁴² Kenner, Charles L. Buffalo Soldiers and Officers of the Ninth Cavalry, 1867-1898. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999, p 140.

⁴³ Patterson, Michael R. "Life On The Frontier." The New York Times. New York, NY. 3 March 1991.
Fort Griffin is presently located on U. S. Route 283, between Abilene and Dallas, Texas.

⁴⁴ Brent Woods would lose and win his Sergeants strips several times before retiring to Somerset,

Kentucky, in 1902. Brent Woods died on 31 March 1906 and is buried in Mills Spring National Cemetery, Mills Spring, and Kentucky.

"Buried As A Pauper, a Hero is finally Honored." The Kentucky Post. Covington, KY. 29 October 1984, p kp3.

⁴⁵ "October, 1873 - April 1874 Monthly Returns." Roll 88, Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916, Ninth Cavalry, 1872-80. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁴⁶ "October 1873, Monthly Return." Roll 88, Returns from Military Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916, Ninth Cavalry, 1872-80. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁴⁷ Leckie, William H. *Ibid.*, p 107.

⁴⁸ Heitman, Francis B. Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army. Volume 1. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1903, pp. 444, 486, and 769.

⁴⁹ "September 1875, Monthly Returns." Roll 88, Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916, Ninth Cavalry, 1872-80. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁵⁰ Agnew, S. C. Garrisons of the Regular U. S. Army, New Mexico, 1846-1899. Santa Fe: The Press of The Territorian, 1971, pp. 1, 3, 6, 9.

Frazer, Robert W. Forts of the West: Military Forts and Presidios and Posts Commonly Called Forts West of the Mississippi River to 1898. Norman and London: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972, pp. 97, 100. Fort McRae was abandoned on October 30, 1876, and was located a short distance from Ojo Caliente on the Rio Grande River.

⁵¹ "May and June 1877, Monthly Return." Roll 1307, Returns from Military Posts, 1800-1916, Fort Union, New Mexico, January 1875-December 1883.

⁵² Emmitt, Robert. The Last War Trail: The Utes and the Settlement of Colorado. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954, p 23.

⁵³ Emmitt, Robert. *Ibid.*, p 25.

⁵⁴ Savage, W. Sherman. "The Role of Negro Soldiers In Protecting The Indian Frontier From Intruders." *The Journal Of Negro History*, Vol. XXXVI, No. 1 (January 1951), pp. 28-29.

⁵⁵ Leckie, William H. *Ibid.*, pp. 206-207.

Emmitt, Robert. *Ibid.*, p 285. "On 15 June 1880, Congress passed an act to accept and ratify the agreement submitted by the confederated bands of the Ute Indians in Colorado, for the sale of their reservation in said State, and for other purpose and to make the necessary appropriation for carrying out the same."

⁵⁶ Hamilton, Colonel George F. *Ibid.*, pp. 38-48.

⁵⁷ Murphy, Lawrence R. Philmont: A History of New Mexico's Cimarron Country. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1972, pp. 103-104, 107, 109, 114-116.

Cleaveland, Norman. Compiled and Annotated. An Introduction to the Colfax County War, 1875-78. Santa Fe: 1975, pp. 9-12.

⁵⁸ Leckie, William H. *Ibid.*, p 173.

⁵⁹ Leckie, William H. *Ibid.*, pp. 173-174.

⁶⁰ "October 1879-December 1880, Monthly Returns." Roll 88, Ninth U. S. Cavalry, 1873-80. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁶¹ Hamilton, Colonel George F. *Ibid.*, p 53.

⁶² Billington, Monroe Lee. New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers: 1866-1900. Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1991, p 97.

⁶³ Lieutenant M. D. Parker was no relation to Captain Charles Parker.

⁶⁴ Billington, Monroe Lee. *Ibid.*, p 105.

⁶⁵ White Sands Missile Range is near Holloman Air Force Base at Alamogordo, New Mexico.

⁶⁶ Committee on Veterans' Affairs United States Senate, Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863 - 1978.

Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, February, 1979, p 313.

⁶⁷ Committee on Veterans' Affairs, *Ibid.*, p 313.

⁶⁸ Carroll, John M., Ed. "Battle of Carrigo Canyon. " The Black Military Experience In The American West. Fort Collins, CO: The Old Army Press, 1970, pp. 397-398.

⁶⁹ "November 1881-May 1885, Monthly Returns." Roll 89, Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916, Ninth Cavalry, 1881-87. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁷⁰ To many Anglo-Americans, this was the last fertile land that was free.

Savage, W. Sherman. "The Role of Negro Soldiers In Protecting The Indian Frontier From Intruders." The Journal Of Negro History. Vol. XXXVI, No. 1 (January 1951)., pp. 28-29.

⁷¹ The other settlers were African-American however, they were not considered "Boomers."

⁷² Baird, W. David and Danny Goble. The Story of Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994, pp. 298-299. Sooners were people who claimed land based upon the Homestead Act, but before it was officially made available. The official land rush began in 1889, in the area identified as Unassigned Land.

⁷³ Hoye's Kansas City Directory, 1883-1997.

Kansas City: Hoye City Directory Company, Kansas City, Missouri.

1883 - Shaw, Thomas (colored) working at saloon at 109 E. 3rd, residing at 820 E. 3rd.

1884 - Shaw, Thomas (colored) working at saloon at 109 E. 3rd, residing at 820 E. 3rd.

1885 - Shaw, Thomas (colored) working at saloon at 109 E. 3rd, residing on the east side of Locust, between 18th and 19th.

1886 - Shaw, Thomas (colored) working at saloon at 109 E. 3rd, residing at 1823 Locust.

1887 - Shaw, Thomas (colored), residing at 1823 Locust

⁷⁴ The spelling of names may have been different depending upon the speller.

⁷⁵ Leckie, William H. *Ibid.*, p 251.

Coleman, Ronald G. "The Buffalo Soldiers: Guardians of the Uinith Frontier, 1886-1901." Utah Historical Quarterly. XLVII, 4 (1979); pp. 421-439.

⁷⁶ Schubert, Frank N. Buffalo Soldiers, Braves, and the Brass: The Story of Fort Robinson, Nebraska. Shippenburg, PA: The White Mane Publishing Company, 1993, p 23.

⁷⁷ "December 1886, Monthly Returns." Roll 1029, Returns from Military Post. 1800-1916, Fort Robinson, Nebraska, 1885. Washington, DC: NARS. 1965.

⁷⁸ "April and May 1887, Monthly Returns." Roll 89, Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916, Ninth Cavalry, 1881-87. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁷⁹ Fletcher, Marvin. The Black Soldier and Officer In the United States Army, 1891-1917. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1974, pp. 97-98.

⁸⁰ "From Out West." The Cleveland Gazette. Cleveland, OH. No. 22. Saturday, 12 January 1889, p1.

⁸¹ K Troop included First Lieut. P. A. Betters, 48 enlisted men and 51 public horses.

⁸² Kenner, Charles L. *Ibid.*, pp. 47-50.

⁸³ The Kansas City Times, Kansas City, Missouri, 17 April 1889, p 6.

Army and Navy Journal, 20 April 1889, p 677.

⁸⁴ Hafen, LeRoy R. and Francis Marion Young. Fort Laramie and the Pageant of the West, 1834-1890. Fort Laramie Historical Association, 1938. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984, pp. 140-142.

⁸⁵ Schubert, Frank N. "The Black Regular Army Regiments In Wyoming, 1885-1912." Unpublished M. A.

Thesis, Department of History, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, 1970, p 4.

⁸⁶ Matloff, Maurice. General Editor. American Military History. Army Historical Series. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, 1969, pp. 306-308.

⁸⁷ "November 1889, Monthly Returns." Roll 90, Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916. Ninth Cavalry 1888-1895. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁸⁸ "April 1888, Monthly Returns." "Order #51, Department of the Platte." Roll 1029, Returns from U. S. Military Posts, 1800-1916. Fort Robinson, Nebraska, Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁸⁹ "March-April 1890, Monthly Returns." Roll 90, Ninth Cavalry, 1888-95. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁹⁰ Perry, Alexander Wallace. "The Ninth United States Cavalry In The Sioux Campaign of 1890." Journal of the United States Cavalry Association. Volume 4. 1891, pp. 37-40.

⁹¹ Schubert, Frank N. "The Black Regular Army Regiments in Wyoming, 1885-1912." *Ibid.*, pp. 22-23. Major Henry a recipient of the Medal of Honor, during the Civil War, retired as a Major General.

⁹² Heitman, Francis B. *Ibid.*, Volume 1. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. 1903. Major Henry served with the 9th Cavalry from 26 June 1881 to 30 January 1892.

⁹³ "January 1891, Monthly Returns." Roll 90, Ninth Cavalry, 1888-95. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

⁹⁴ No records or photographs exist of Sergeant Shaw actually receiving the Medal Of Honor, only the fact, the Medal of Honor was authorized from Army Headquarters in Washington, DC.

⁹⁵ "December 1890 and January 1891, Monthly Returns." Roll 1029, Returns From U. S. Military Posts, 1800-1916, Fort Robinson, Nebraska. January 1885 - December 1894. Washington, DC: NARS. 1965. "B, I, and K Troop, 9th Cavalry and E Company 8th Infantry remained in the field during the month."

⁹⁶ Army and Navy Journal, 4 April 1891, p 546.

⁹⁷ Returns From U.S. Military Posts, 1800-1916. Roll 824, Fort Myer, Virginia. January 1891 - December

1904. Washington, DC: NARS. 1965.

⁹⁸ "Cavalry Officers." The Washington Post. Washington, DC. 27 April 1891, p 8.

⁹⁹ Foner, Jack D. Blacks and the Military in American History. New York, NY and Washington, DC: Praeger Publishers, 1974, p 69. "On 28 April 1891, Secretary of War Procter further breached the 'color line.' Despite protests from local citizens, he issued an order assigning K Troop of the 9th Cavalry to Fort Myer, Virginia, outside the national capital, as regard for their service in the recently concluded Indian campaigns at Pine Ridge."

¹⁰⁰ Kenner, Charles L. *Ibid.*, p 132.

¹⁰¹ Army and Navy Journal, 7 March 1891, p 471.

¹⁰² The Troops at Fort Myer under the command of Major Carpenter, were B Troop 4th Cavalry, and B Troop 6th Cavalry.

¹⁰³ "Transfer of Troops." The Washington Post. Washington, DC. 29 April 1891, p 5.

¹⁰⁴ "December 1891, Monthly Returns." Roll 90, Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916. Ninth Cavalry, 1888-1895. Washington, DC: NARS. 1970.

¹⁰⁵ Richey, Don Jr. Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963, pp. 339-342.

¹⁰⁶ Army and Navy Journal, 11 June 1892, p 729.

¹⁰⁷ Walker-Hehner's Pike County Directory - Louisiana City Directory 1892-93. Geo. B. Walker and Ed P. Hehner., St. Charles, Mo., p 77.

¹⁰⁸ "Deaths." The Pike County News. Louisiana, Pike County, Missouri. No. 47. Vol. III. Thursday, 3 August 1893, p 8.

¹⁰⁹ Carroll, John M. and Company. The Indian Wars Campaign Medal: Its History and Its Recipients.

Mattituck, NY & Bryan, TX: J. M. Carroll & Company. Republished, 1992.

Sergeant Shaw was also the winner of other military medals from his service in the United States Army; the Civil War Medal, was issued for service during 1861-65. Although, Shaw was eligible for the Indian Wars Campaign Medal, 1865-98, but, this medal was not issued posthumously and not authorized until January, 1905.

¹¹⁰ Sergeant Thomas Shaw's illnesses consisted of: Measles, August 1864; Diarrhea, November 1864; Diarrhea, May 1865; Rheumatic Fever, July 1865; Colic, April 1867; Bronchitis, March 1869; Rheumatism, April 1870; Bronchitis, October 1871; Catarrhs of the Lungs, December 1871; Fever, March 1875; Dislocation of Index finger, September 1877; November 1877; Piles, February 1879; Constipation, August 1880; Piles, April 1881; Acute Rheumatism, July 1881; Acute Rheumatism January 1882; Contusion of Right Knee when horse fell on him on exercise, April 1887; Colic, May 1887; Renal Congestum, February 1888; Influenza, January 1890; Colic, August 1890; Lumbago, September 1890; and Muscular Rheumatism, November 1893.

¹¹¹ Kenner, Charles L. *Ibid.*, p 134.

¹¹² "Deaths." The Pike County News. Louisiana, Pike County, Missouri. No. 42. Vol. V. Thursday, 27 June 1895, p 8.

¹¹³ Shaw, Thomas. Pension Records. Washington, DC: NARS. 1895.

¹¹⁴ Shaw, Thomas. *Ibid.*, 1895.

¹¹⁵ Shaw, Thomas. *Ibid.*, 1895.

¹¹⁶ Shaw, Thomas. *Ibid.*, 1895.

¹¹⁷ District of Columbia. The U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Twelfth United States Census, 1900." Washington, DC: NARS. Government Printing Office.

In 1905, Richard Tilghman moved from the V street address to Fairmouth Heights, Maryland, living there through 1907. Richard Tilghman worked for the United States navy where his occupation varied from messenger to clerk.

Leona Shaw's only relative an aunt named Lucretia Luce, continued to live in Louisiana, Missouri. Lucretia Luce died in that city in 1946.

¹¹⁸ General Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, letter dated 19 August 1992. "Lest We Forget...." Program. Buffalo Soldier Monument Dedication. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 2 July 1992.

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