

# BUFFALO SOLDIERS

MEDAL OF HONOR  
RECIPIENTS



# BUFFALO SOLDIERS

## THE INDIAN WARS (1866-1890)

- By the End of the Civil War, the War Department Saw the Value of Black Soldiers
- In 1866, Congress Passed the Army Organization Act
- The Act Created Six All-black Regiments, Two Became the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiments
- The Black Soldiers Were Called “Buffalo Soldiers” by the Native American Tribes
- Their Dark Curly Hair and Fierce Fighting Reminded the Indians of the Mighty Buffalo
- Buffalo Soldiers Played an Important Role in Opening the West
- They Controlled Indians on the Plains, Built Forts, Erected Telegraph Lines, Protected Stagecoaches
- About 20% of the U.S. Cavalry Troops Were Buffalo Soldiers
- Eighteen “Buffalo Soldiers” Were Recipients of the Medal of Honor





# SERGEANT JOHN DENNY,(1846-1901)

## 9<sup>TH</sup> U.S. CAVALRY

Earned His Citation on September 18, 1879

Earned at Las Animas Canyon, New Mexico Against Apache Chief Victorio

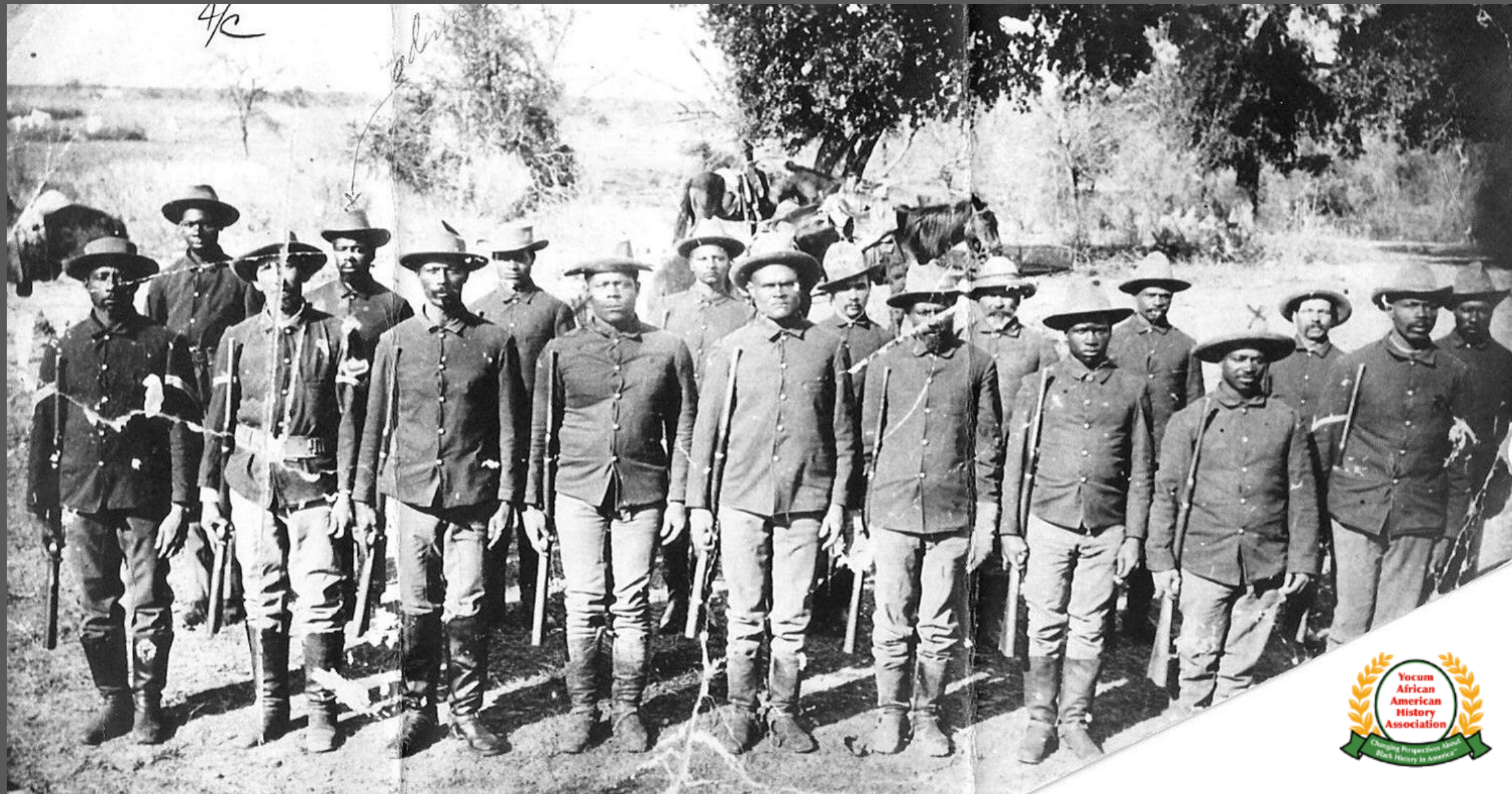
Citation reads,“Removed a Wounded Comrade, Under Fire, to a place of Safety”

Took Fifteen Years Before He Was Recognized for His Bravery

Denny Remained in the Army Until 1897

John Denny is buried at Soldier’s Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.





# CORPORAL ISAIAH MAYS, (1858-1925)

## 24<sup>TH</sup> U.S. INFANTRY

Earned Medal of Honor on February 18, 1890

Served as Part of Escort for Major Wham, Paymaster, U.S. Army

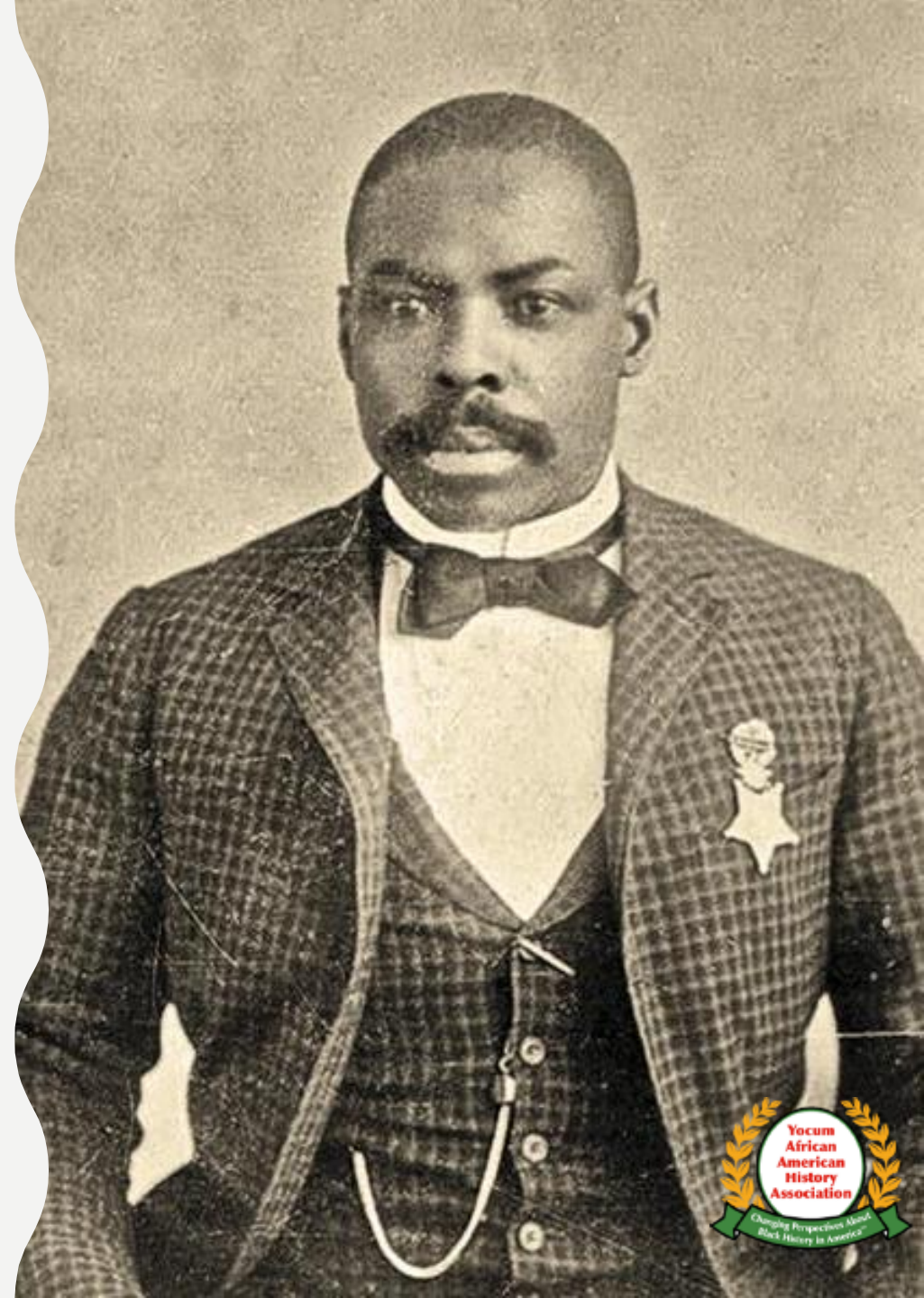
Robbers Ambushed Paymaster Escort for Payroll of  
\$38,345.10

Many in the Escort Were Wounded

Corporal Mays Eventually Went for Help, Traveling Two Miles

The Band of Robbers Were Eventually Successful Gaining the  
Payroll

Corporal Mays Received the Medal of Honor for his Bravery  
Under Fire



# OTHER MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS

- Private Pompey Factor (1849-1928) Indian Scout
- Sergeant Thomas Boyne, (1849-1896) 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry
- Sergeant George Jordan, (1847-1904) (9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry
- Corporal Clinton Greaves,(1855-1906) 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry
- Sergeant Emanuel Stance, (1847-1887) 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry
- Private Augustus Walley, 1856-1938) 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry
- Corporal William Othello Wilson (1867-1928) 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry
- Private Adam Paine (1843-1877) Indian Scout
- Private Isaac Payne (1854-1904) Indian Scout
- Sergeant John Ward (1847-1911) Indian Scout





## **SERGEANT THOMAS SHAW (1856-1895)**

9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry

Born a Slave in Covington, KY

Earned His Medal of Honor on  
August 12, 1881

Against Nana and His  
Renegade Apaches

Retired From the Army in  
1894

Buried at Arlington National  
Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia





## FIRST SERGEANT MOSES WILLIAMS, (1849-1899) 9<sup>TH</sup> U.S. CAVALRY

Earned Medal of Honor August 16, 1881

Citation reads, "Rallied a detachment, skillfully conducted a running fight of three or four hours, and by his coolness, bravery, and unflinching devotion to duty in standing by his commanding officer in an exposed position under heavy fire from a large party of Indians saved the lives of at least three or four of his comrades."





**SERGEANT WILLIAM  
MCBRYAR (1861-1941)**

10<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry

Earned Medal of Honor in  
1890

Distinguished Himself for His  
Coolness and Bravery in  
Battle

Buried at Arlington National  
Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia





## SERGEANT HENRY JOHNSON

9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry

Medal of Honor for Conflict With Ute Indians

Action from September 29 to October 5, 1879

Citation reads, "Voluntarily left fortified shelter and under heavy fire at close range made the rounds of the pits to instruct the guards; fought his way to the creek and back to bring water to the wounded."





# SERGEANT BRENT WOODS, (1850-1906)

## 9<sup>TH</sup> U.S. CALVARY

Sergeant Brent Woods Medal of Honor Citation Reads, "For saving the lives of his comrades and the civilians at Gavilan Canyon."





## SERGEANT BENJAMIN BROWN (1859-1910)

24<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry

Earned His Medal of Honor on  
May 11, 1889

Brown and Corporal Mays  
Defended Their Troops From  
Robbers of Army Payroll

Sergeant Brown Was Shot in the  
Abdomen and in Both Arms Before  
He Ceased Fighting





# SUMMARY

- In 1866, the Army Organization Act Created Six All-Black Regiments
- These All-black Soldiers Were Known as the Buffalo Soldiers
- The Buffalo Soldiers Protected Settlers Throughout the West
- They Controlled Hostile Indians on the Plains, Built Forts, Strung Telegraph lines, Protected Stagecoaches and Mail Routes
- About 20% of the U.S. Cavalry Troops Were Buffalo Soldiers
- Eighteen Buffalo Soldiers Earned the Medal of Honor
- Buffalo Soldiers Also Served in the Spanish-American War, Philippine American War, World War I & II
- The Unknown Army: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/programs/buffalo-soldiers/>

