

Buffalo Soldiers

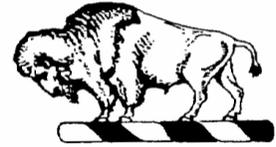


"WE CAN: WE WILL!"



THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA CHAPTER
NINTH & TENTH (HORSE) CAVALRY ASSOCIATION

Bugle Call



"READY AND FORWARD!"

VOLUME III: ISSUE XIV

MARCH 2006

Riverside National Cemetery – “Fiddler’s Green” for WWII Veteran, Trooper Ulysses Grant Mullen

By Trooper Ron Jones



Photos by: Trooper Ron Jones



I first became aware of Trooper Mullen, like I became aware of all things relating to the *Buffalo Soldiers*, from my father, Trooper Fred Jones. Trooper Mullen was an icon and kind of a *person-of-mystery* to me, because he lived so far out (in Riverside County) that he didn't attend the monthly meetings of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association at Rogers Park, in Inglewood, CA. I would hear dad speak respectfully of the Old Trooper who, at the time, was the third oldest surviving trooper from the era of the segregated regiments of the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry, better known as *Buffalo Soldiers*, who served in the U.S. Army from 1866 up to and during WWII and the Korean War.

After my father made his journey to *Fiddler's Green*, I became more active with the association and started producing these newsletters. In 2004 the Recreation Committee decided we should have a social event for our members, and I published

the information about the gathering in this newsletter. About a week after that newsletter was mailed out I got a phone call. At the time the voice on the other end of the line was unfamiliar to me, but it was one that I easily became accustomed to. It was Trooper Mullen, informing me that he would be at our social event. The first time I saw Trooper Mullen I was expecting to see a 94 year old man, possibly using a walker, needing assistance, come struggling through the door of the Home Town Buffet, where we were holding our get together that year. What I actually saw looked like a 20-years younger brother of someone who was 94 years old. Trooper Mullen was stylishly dress, handsome, youthful looking, energetic, mentally quick and a joy to be around. We communicated regularly from that time until his passing. The last time I saw Trooper Mullen was on February 7th, 2006. He had been admitted to the Nursing Care facility of the VA hospital in Loma Linda. It was just three weeks before his passing. He was neatly dressed, handsome, and youthful looking, mentally quick and a joy to be around. I am proud to be associated with an organization that represents men like Trooper Mullen. I am honored to have known him and my condolences go out to his family.

Look at where we've been!



Members of the Buffalo Soldiers from the Los Angeles and San Diego Chapters attend the first fund raiser held by the Inland Empire Buffalo Soldier Historical Association.



Trooper Andrew Aaron was the guest speaker at Holly Park UMC Church's Black History Program. Here he poses with Senior Pastor Kathy Harris.



Trooper Franklin Henderson poses with Lewis Lee Millett Jr., the sculpture of the proposed Buffalo Soldier Monument. A possible site for the statue might be the Riverside National Cemetery.



Also present at the Holly Park service were Troopers Robert Mason, Phil V Wilkes Fixico and Lennister Williams. Trooper Aaron is also pictured with the group.



Trooper Bobby McDonald spoke at Our Lady of Victory Church's Black History program.



Pictured above is a model of the proposed, Buffalo Monument. One suggested site, for the monument, might be the Riverside National Cemetery.



SICK CALL

As we move into our third year of publishing the **Bugle Call** newsletter, we now see the value and the success of our publication. It has become an excellent communication vehicle which enables troopers and other interested readers to feel a kinship to the organization even when there is no personal contact.

As time passes many of our more senior troopers are no longer able to attend meetings or events, but retain a love for the organization and an interest in its activities. The Bugle Call keeps them in touch with today. Still, there is no substitute for that personal attention in the form of a brief phone call or a greeting card.

Your roster lists the names of members you seldom or never see, but you will notice that their dues are current. We certainly must not forget these troopers. In addition, those whose dues have not been paid for two or more years may be suffering extended illnesses or disabilities. Send them a card or make a call. Believe me; they will be happy to hear from you. Remember the widows whose troopers have gone to Fiddler's Green. They should also hear from us.

The following list of troopers, we know for certain, has had some recent health challenges:

- Trooper Royal Carter
- Trooper Fred Cartha
- Trooper Loretta Cartha
- Trooper Harold Cole
- Trooper Ernest H. Collier
- Trooper Bruce Dennis
- Trooper John Tull
- Trooper Waldo Henderson
- Trooper Andrew Isaacs
- Trooper Eugene Lewis
- Trooper Ulysses Mullen* Fiddler's Green
- Trooper Henry Phillips
- Trooper George Poston* Fiddler's Green

Don't leave it to the Calling Tree or Hospitality Committee to maintain member contact.

Newsletter Staff: Editor Ron Jones, Contributing Editor Lennister Williams. This newsletter and all previous issues are made available on our website at: www.buffalola.com



Trooper Ulysses Grant Mullen

Obituary:

Ulysses Grant Mullen was the youngest of three children born to John and Lucy B. Mullen on January 24, 1909. Ulysses attended a local church/school. At the age of 12 he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savoir and acknowledged his call from God into the ministry at 18. Receiving and accepting the calling from God was his greatest personal experience in life.

In 1927 Rev. Mullen married Rose Lee Gibson from this marriage two daughters Rose Mullen-Anderson and Lucy B. Mullen were born. At the age of 22, he decided that there was no future in sharecrop farming and decided that life might be a bit more favorable in St. Louis, MO so he "Hoboed" via several freight trains from Altheimer, AR to St. Louis, MO with 50 cents in his pocket. This turned out to be a risky journey, when he arrived in Elmo, MI the town was off-limits to Blacks. However, a White man (a complete stranger) came to his rescue and instructed him how he could escape on the next freight train out-of-town. Ulysses is eternally grateful to this God-sent stranger. After living in St. Louis for a few years, he entered into his second marriage to Helen Withers. This marriage continued until his wife death in 1979.

Rev. Mullen enlisted in the Army in 1940 and was eventually transferred to the 10th Cavalry. He was very good in handling and riding horses due to his prior farming experiences and was selected to the elite color guard of the 10th Cavalry. Rev. Mullen served with the armed 10th Cavalry in 1940 and 1941. The mission of the 9th and 10th Cavalry was to fight the Indians and protect the white settlers. Rev. Mullen's unit was one to the last of the "Buffalo Soldiers" so named by the Native American Indians because of their bravery and tenacity in battle with inferior horses and equipment. He rode honor guard at Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr.'s (the first Black general of the U.S. Army) retirement ceremonies. At the age of 97, Trooper Mullen was one of the oldest surviving "Buffalo Soldiers."

Upon discharge from the Army in 1945, Rev. Mullen returned to St. Louis where he secured a job as a Pullman porter on the U.S. railroad system. Although the overtones and affirmations of prejudice rang out from every whistle stop, he kept his faith in God. He was licensed to preach and ordained. He attended Brooks Bible College

In 1957 Rev. Mullen moved to Los Angeles with his wife, daughter and two grandsons.

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Farewell Trooper George Poston

Obituary:

George T. Poston was born December 17, 1919 to Joseph and Winifred Poston in South Bend, Indiana. He received his elementary and high school education in South Bend, where he graduated from South Bend Central High School, Class of 1938.

In March of 1943, he entered the U.S. Military Service and was assigned to the United States Army's 28th Cavalry Regiment, "C" Troop; he was a veteran of World War II and a "Buffalo Soldier." He toured in countries such as North Korea, Italy and Okinawa, Japan. He was in three major battles and was awarded three Bronze Battle Stars.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, in January 1946, he made Chicago, IL his home. He attended the University of Chicago where he studied Business Administration majoring in Accounting. He moved to Los Angeles, CA in 1955 and established himself as an Accountant. In 1964 he was named President of New Frontier Investment Co. In 1966 he started his own tax and accounting service, Royal Tax and Accounting Service.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife Scarlet Poston, sisters Alice Williams and Colleen Reed (Harry), daughter Tracey Walker (Jason), sons Gregory Poston and Vance Poston, step-daughter Darcel Tyson (John), step-son Christopher McCaleb (Jeannine), grandchildren Brandon Poston, Jasmine Walker, Jason Walker, Jr., and a host of nephews, nieces, relatives, and friends. He is preceded in death by his father Joseph Poston, mother Winifred Grayson, brothers Joseph Poston, Jimmy and Jackie Grayson, sister Peggy and Mary Poston and Greta and Laveda Grayson, son Brian C. Poston and grandson L.Cpl. Christopher M. Poston, USMC.



A Fiddler's Green Tribute for:

Troopers Ulysses Mullen and George Poston



When a cavalryman dies, he begins a long march to his ultimate destination. About half-way along the road he enters a broad meadow dotted with trees and crossed by many streams, known as "Fiddler's Green."

As he crosses The Green he finds an old canteen, a single spur, and a carbine sling. Continuing on the road he comes to a field camp where he finds all the troopers who have gone before him, with their campfires, tents and picket lines neatly laid out.

All other branches of the military must continue to march without pause. Cavalrymen though are authorized to dismount, unsaddle and stay in Fiddler's Green...their canteens ever full...the grass always green, and enjoy the companionship and reminisce with old friends.



Trooper Mullen's obituary

(Continued)

Shortly after, the family moved to Los Angeles he found a unique job opportunity at KMPC broadcasting as a Maintenance Engineer. Rev. Mullen enjoyed as illustrious career for almost 20 years working for KMPC, where he worked until he retired in 1976. His career at KMPC allowed him to work with numerous broadcast celebrities such as: George Putnam, Hal Fishman, Larry McCormick, Johnny Grant, Lloyd Sigmund and others. He had the chance to meet and chat with 'the famous' Gene Autry on many occasions.

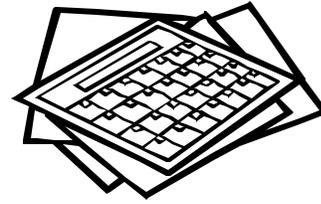
Rev. Mullen lost his second wife in 1979. He married his third wife, Dora Kellum, in 1981. They lived in Inglewood until 1989 and moved to Sun City. In 1990 Rev. Mullen was called to pastor a church in Perris (Mead Valley). He served there for two years before deciding to retire. Rev. Mullen entered the Sacramento School to Theology and earned his BS degree in Theology at the age of 86. Rev. Mullen was the recipient of numerous awards, certificates and acknowledgements at the religious, civic and national levels.

He lost his third wife on Easter Sunday 1999 this was another grief stricken time in his life, but GOD helped him get through this awesome loss. Prior to his illness Rev. Mullen served as an associate minister at First Baptist Church in Perris, CA. Rev. Mullen would always accept preaching appointments at various churches in the Inland Empire and he preached at least two Sundays each month.

Rev. Mullen leaves to mourn his passing, his daughter Rosia Anderson of Sun City, grandson Michael Harris of Harbor City, step-daughter Doris (Anthony) Scovill of Sun City, Jean (Johnny) Young of Carson, step-son Benny (Claire) Cunningham of Moreno Valley, nephew Edward Mullen of St. Louis, MO., special cousins Juanita Randall, Samuel (Sandra) Murphy, and Roosevelt Phelps. Zelma Lightfoot a special friend, nephews, nieces, cousins, and a host of relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Lucy Mullen, his brother John Mullen, Jr., his sister Cindy Mullen, and daughter Lucy B. Mullen

On January 24, 2006, Rev. Mullen celebrated his 97th birthday at the VA hospital in Loma Linda. He was surrounded by many friends and loved ones and he gave GOD all the Praise, the Honor and the Glory for such a unique and rewarding journey. GOD has walked with him every step of the way and it was GOD that carried him when he could not carry himself. Last November 2005 Rev. Mullen ended altar prayer with these words, *"If you miss me from praying down here, hey, hey, hey I'll be praying up there!"*

Calendar of Events



MARCH 22ND - Winston MTA Station celebrates the 100th Birthday of Arthur Winston. The MTA facility is located on the SW corner of 54th Street and Arlington. The celebration starts at 11:00 a.m. The contact is: Mr. Rich Morallo – (213) 922-2338

MARCH 24TH – Weemes Elementary School will dedicate their new Library in the name of the Buffalo Soldiers. The dedication will start at 8:00 a.m. The school is located at 1260 W. 36th Place. The contact is: Mr. Ray Wong (323) 733-9186

MARCH 28TH – Brea Rotary Club of Brea, CA request a speaker for their monthly meeting. An honorarium will be given and souvenir sales will be permitted. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be held at the Brea Civic Center Mall Community Center. Directions: take the 60 Freeway east to the 57 Freeway, exit at Imperial Hwy the go North to Birch and turn east to Community Center. The contract is: Alan West (714) 992-2121

APRIL 7TH – Hook Junior High School Western Days Program and Celebration. Every year the school holds a Western Days Program filled with entertaining and educational teaching sessions. In previous years the Buffalo Soldiers became teachers for a day. Taking over a class room and conducting six classes on the Buffalo Soldiers. This is an all day commitment. The contact is: Liz Brown (760) 955-3360.



Trooper Ulysses Grant Mullen is pictured here, the 4th rider on the right. He was a member of the Honor Guard during General Benjamin O. Davis Sr.'s retirement ceremony



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A MESSAGE FROM TROOPER RON JONES

I am going to forgo my normal closing remarks and dedicate the remaining space to two of our fellow troopers who have gone on to Fiddler's Green. Let these pictures remind us of the ultimate price we all must pay. May our service to God and this nation be worthy of a Fiddler's Green home going. *Trooper Ron Jones*



Assembly

Our Next Meeting

Saturday, March 25, 2006
Rogers Park in Inglewood

Start: 10:00 a.m.
End: 12:00 p.m.

