

ROY WOODFORD 1876-1936 10TH CAVALRY REGIMENT  
A "BUFFALO SOLDIER" FROM GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE

Roy Woodford was born in Greeneville, Tennessee in 1876. His father was Edward Woodford and his mother Elizabeth Mary Beard. His father was born in 1844 either in Georgia or Mississippi depending of which census record one reads. Edward had migrated to the Greeneville area during or shortly after the civil war and probably was an ex slave.

1898 Roy Woodford grew up in the Greeneville area and enlisted in the United States Volunteer Infantry on June 20, ~~1889~~ He enlisted for a period of two years but was mustered out on March 6, 1899. Most likely, due to the short length of the Spanish American conflict. This war ended in Cuba in August with the signing of a treaty in Paris in December of 1898. During this short tour of duty, Roy Woodford, served with Company "C", 8th. Regiment of the United States Volunteer Infantry.

Roy Woodford re-enlisted in the army in 1901 and was to serve four additional periods of three year tours of duty. All of this service would be with the 10th Cavalry Regiment.

He enlisted at Wilmington Delaware on April 24, 1901 and was assigned with "L" Troop of the 10th Cavalry. The 9th and 10th Cavalry were all black enlisted units with white officers. These units had been formed after the Civil war and had gained fame fighting on the Western frontier. The Units were referred to as the "Buffalo Soldiers". Roy Woodford first full enlistment lasted until April 23, 1904.

He re-enlisted on May 3, 1904 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was reassigned to his old unit. This tour of duty lasted until January 28, 1907. Roy re-enlisted the next day (January 29, 1907) and was assigned to Fort Robinson, Nebraska where he served until January 28, 1910.

On February 29, 1910 Roy Woodford re-enlisted and went back with the 10th Cavalry. This time the Unit was sent to duty at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont. In 1912, he attended and graduated from cook school at Fort Riley, Kansas. He would use this training to get a job later in life cooking for the railroad. Roy Woodford was discharged from his final tour of military duty on February 1, 1913.

Military records show that Roy Woodford was 5 feet 9 3/4 inches tall and was of average weight. He had brown eyes, black hair and was dark complexioned. Records indicate he was of very good character, forthwith and faithful. He was a qualified marksman and showed good horsemanship. Some records give a glimpse into what life might have been like serving in a Cavalry unit at end of the 19th century. There are no known pictures of the soldier.

Roy Woodford returned to Greeneville, Tennessee where on March 6, 1913 he married Willie B. Manuel. The marriage ceremony was performed by Reverend W.L. Robinson. Willie B. Manuel was living with her father William (Bill) Manuel who owned land near Holly Street (Holly Row) and Robinson Road. (Knoxville Highway)