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UNTOLD STORIES FROM AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

BY SUSAN SHUMAKER

CHARLES YOUNG

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Charles Young

Background

On August 31, 1889, Charles Young graduated 49th out of 49, two months after the rest of his Class at West Point Military Academy. Young had a tough time at West Point; racism was endemic to the school, but Young was a fighter. He was also a poet and a musician and was only the third African American cadet to graduate from West Point. With the entrenchment of Jim Crow, he was also the last—until 1936, nearly half a century later.

Young was born into slavery on March 12, 1864, the same day Ulysses S. Grant assumed command of the Army of the Potomac. His mother Arminta Bruen bore him in their log cabin home, the slave quarters of a small farm in Helena, Kentucky. On February 12, 1865, when Charles was less than a year old, his father Gabriel joined the Union Army as a runaway slave. He enlisted in Company F, Fifth U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery in the border town of Ripley, OH. Some evidence suggests that he took his family with him—on foot—the twenty-one miles down the Ohio River to Ripley, leaving them there for safe keeping. Other accounts differ, suggesting Arminta and Charles stayed behind in Kentucky with her mother. In either case, at the end of Gabriel's one-year enlistment, the Young family was settled in Ohio, eventually putting down roots in Ripley, a place not far from their former home in Kentucky and known for its settlements of freed blacks and abolitionists (Black Cadet 3, 11-15, 20).

Taught at home by his mother (who could read and write) and in the schools of Ripley, Young proved to be an able student. While in elementary school, he gained a love of music and learned to play the piano and the violin. Ripley's high schools were segregated, but some classes—including languages, at which Young excelled—were not. A white classmate, Cora Young, wrote in her diary:

> Charlie is colored. He graduates with the white class this year. Some of the white scholars in the class "cut up High" about him being in the class, for this is the first time the white and colored children have been allowed to "mix" at all. . . . Charlie has a good deal of "pluck" to graduate for his white classmates treat him scandalously mean, and everybody, that is every white person, is very much opposed to him. He has the backing of the school board, though (Papa is a member) and he is determined to "pull through." . . . Now, Charlie is no fool but rather the smartest in the class and will no doubt take the honors. . . . He is very polite and gentlemanly. He is no relation to Me (!) —Cora Young (Black Cadet 24–27).

Young graduated from high school with honors. In the fall of 1881, he began a job teaching at the African American school in Ripley. Then, some time in early 1883, he saw an ad in the *Ripley Bee* announcing the West Point competitive examinations, to be held that April in Hillsboro, OH. Riding in his father's wagon, he traveled the thirty-seven miles to Hillsboro. Eleven out of the twenty-six men taking the exam that day had perfect scores, including Young, who placed second

overall. When the young man who'd finished first resigned from West Point the following year, Young was offered his place. He left home on Monday, June 2, 1884 (Black Cadet 30–35).

Young was the ninth black appointed in the history of West Point. He had hopes of someday being assigned to an all-black cavalry regiment, known collectively as the "buffalo soldiers" (Buckley 132)

Buffalo Soldiers

In July 1866, after the end of the Civil War, the United States established a "New Army" to begin its battles in the western states and territories. Part of the Congressional mandate added four new regiments of cavalry, "two of which shall be composed of colored men." Two new regiments of black infantry were added as well. These new regiments—the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries and the 24th and 25th Infantries—were comprised of some 12,500 men and were completely segregated. They were commanded, at least in the beginning, solely by white officers (Buckley 111).

By all accounts, the black soldiers—most of them Civil War veterans—were exemplary. They stayed longer on the frontier, deserted less, and reenlisted more than their white counterparts. Their ratio of sick calls for drunkenness between 1866 and 1885 was only two per thousand, compared with 54 per thousand for whites. In post-Reconstruction America, many black men found the army a safe haven and the monthly pay of thirteen dollars was more than many could hope to see as civilians (Alt 59; Buckley 112).

The black regiments were also known for their fighting ability. Eighteen medals of honor were awarded to black soldiers between 1866 and 1891, and many to their white officers as well. In 1867, when eight hundred Cheyenne were defeated by just ninety men of the Tenth Cavalry in a two-day battle near Fort Leavenworth, Kansas—losing just three cavalrymen—black scalps became highly prized among Native Americans. One Cheyenne is said to have cut up buffalo hide to make and sell counterfeit scalps (and was later scalped himself when the deception was discovered). Comparing the black troopers to their sacred animal, the Cheyenne called the men of the Tenth "buffalo soldiers." The name soon came to refer to all black western troopers. Buckley reports that Natives eventually refrained from scalping blacks, although they continued to scalp whites, and feared engaging them in battle. One brave reportedly told a cavalry colonel: "Buffalo soldier no good; heap bad medicine" (Buckley 113).

African American West Point Cadets

A decade after the creation of the buffalo soldier regiments, the first black American graduated from West Point: Henry Ossian Flipper, born a slave in rural Georgia. Flipper's father had become a successful shoemaker in Atlanta and was determined to give his children a good education. As Flipper received his diploma in June of 1877, the graduation audience gave him an ovation, with General Sherman leading the applause. Flipper turned down an offer from the Liberian government to become commander of its military in order to be the only black officer in the U.S. Army, assigned to the Tenth Cavalry. Despite his strong start, Flipper was court-martialed and dismissed from the army in 1882, convicted of trumped up charges of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" (Kilroy 12–13; Buckley 122–123).

Ten years later, West Point had its second black graduate, John H. Alexander, born in Arkansas to slave parents. At graduation, Second Lieutenant Alexander joined the Ninth Cavalry and, in 1894, he was appointed professor of military science and tactics at Wilberforce University in Ohio. He died of a heart attack the same year. He was thirty years old. With Flipper's courtmartial and Alexander's early passing, Young would hold the unique position of being the only black West Point graduate in the officer corps of the U.S. Army from 1894 until his own death in 1922. This distinction took on increasing significance as the years passed without additional African American West Point graduates. To blacks struggling under segregation and discrimination, Young became a hero and his achievement of utmost significance (Buckley 131–132; Kilroy 14–15, 20).

Cadet Young

Young was at West Point for five years, repeating a year after failing a math course. Although Gail Buckley maintains that he was popular at the academy and possibly only, as she puts it, "semi-silenced," biographer David Kilroy writes that Young remembered those years as among the most difficult of his life. He later advised a young African American considering taking the entrance exam that "going through the Military Academy means a dog's life while you are there." While at West Point, he was ostracized, slandered, and subjected to constant racial slurs and hostility from many of his fellow students and professors (Buckley 132; Kilroy 11).

As the years at the academy passed, Young slowly but surely gained the admiration of his fellow cadets through, as classmate Charles Rhodes put it, "his dog-like perseverance." By his fifth and final year, "his own class began to acknowledge and respect his finer traits of character" and began to treat him with kindness and consideration. He was helped and encouraged in his studies by engineering instructor George Goethals, who later led the construction of the Panama Canal. By the time of his graduation, Young had learned to survive—and thrive—in the blatantly racist military community; as Kilroy writes, "he had entered the lion's den and emerged bloodied, but alive" (Buckley 132; Kilroy 18–20).

In late October 1889, Young received his assignment to the Ninth Cavalry as a second lieutenant. He was stationed with Troop B at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and, the following fall, was transferred to Fort Duchesne, Utah. After the death of John Alexander in 1894, Wilberforce University began its search for a professor of military science and tactics. Young fit the bill perfectly and, in the fall of 1894, he began his tenure as a teacher. In addition to military science, Young taught French and mathematics and directed the college band. He made life-long friends among his fellow junior faculty at Wilberforce, most notably the young professor of sociology who'd begun the same year as he: W. E. B. DuBois. According to DuBois's biographer, Young was "the first genuine male friendship" DuBois ever had and "one of a handful in which there was genuine affinity" (Kilroy 26–33; Kenner 305).

The Buffalo Soldiers in Cuba

> We went up absolutely intermingled, so that no one could tell whether it was the Rough Riders or the men of the 9th who came forward with greater courage to offer their lives in the service of their country . . . . When you've been under fire with a man and fought side by side with him, and eaten

> with him when you had anything to eat, and hungered with him when you hadn't, you felt sort of a comradeship that you don't feel for any man that you have been associated with in other ways. I don't think that any Rough Rider will ever forget the tie that binds us to the 9th and 10th Cavalry. —Col. Theodore Roosevelt, 1898 (Buckley 139)

Despite the dearth of black officers, the Spanish American war fought in Cuba was the most integrated American war since the Revolution, and was a place of well-publicized black heroism. At the beginning of the war—April 28, 1898— Charles Young was 34 and, as a First Lieutenant of the Ninth Cavalry, was the only black officer in the regular Army qualified to lead troops in battle. At the time, Young was still a military instructor at Wilberforce. He wrote to the War Department, asking that he be reassigned to his regiment when it was called to active service. But, when the Ninth Cavalry went to Cuba, Young—to his great disappointment—wasn't with them. Instead, he was made a major in the Ninth Ohio U.S. Volunteers, serving at home in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and South Carolina. Black officers would not be allowed to lead black soldiers into combat (Buckley 141–142; Kilroy 41).

The war was brief, with the three decisive victories clinched in the period between June 22 and July 15, 1898—less than three weeks. The "splendid little war," as U.S. statesman John Hay famously called it, was a big hit in the press and among the American public. The lion's share of attention was drawn by the First Volunteer Cavalry, Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders," whom Gail Buckley characterizes as a semi-private army of Texas cowboys and Eastern Ivy Leaguers. However, she adds, Roosevelt's group owed much of their glory—and their lives—to the Buffalo Soldiers, who came to their aid in three important battles: the Tenth Cavalry at Las Guásimas; the 25th Infantry at El Caney ("Hell Caney"), and the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry at San Juan Hill (Buckley 143).

San Juan Hill was the most integrated battle of the war. There were two brigades of integrated cavalry: the white Third and Sixth with the black Ninth in the First Brigade, and the black Tenth with the Rough Riders and the First Regular Cavalry in the Second Brigade. San Juan Hill made national heroes of the men of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry who, by all accounts, fought bravely and fiercely. The *New York Mail and Express* reported of the Tenth Cavalry:

> No more striking example of bravery and coolness has been shown since the destruction of the Maine than by the colored veterans of the Tenth Cavalry during the attack upon San Juan . . . . Firing as they marched, their aim was splendid, their coolness was superb, and their courage aroused the admiration of their comrades. Their advance was greeted with wild cheers from the white regiments, and with answering shouts they pressed onward . . . . The war has not shown greater heroism. The men whose own freedom was baptized in blood have proved themselves capable of giving up their lives that others may be free. —*New York Mail and Express* (Buckley 147)

Back home, the black soldiers were receiving almost as much attention as the Rough Riders. Their popularity, Buckley argues, created a backlash in Jim Crow America. Even Roosevelt, who had promised he "would never forget" the Buffalo Soldiers, began to turn against them shortly after San Juan Hill. Although he'd earlier avowed that "no one could tell whether it was the

Rough Riders or the men of the 9th who came forward with greater courage," he soon claimed that all black accomplishment was the result of white leadership. Worst of all, he invented a story of having encountered black troops deserting the battlefield and forcing them at gunpoint to return. The truth was that he had stopped four men on their way to the supply point to pick up more ammunition (Buckley 152).

"Follow Me": The Philippine Insurrection

Fallout from the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection created an opportunity for Charles Young to prove himself in battle. After repeated requests to rejoin his regiment—Young wrote five times to the adjutant general—Young received orders to return to Fort Duchesne, Utah, taking up his duties once again as first lieutenant with the Ninth U.S. Cavalry in September 1899 (Kilroy 48).

W. H. Nicholas, a young enlisted man, described the day Young took command of the troop:

> From that day on it was horses and men drilled in every form of Army Tactics, mounted and dismounted, Bare-Back and in the saddle—Sham battles every day, save Sundays and Hollidays, and at the expiration of one year, every man could ride a horse at break-neck speed taking Hurdles, Ditches, also Crossed Stirrups "Cossack Style," in fact in every style and fashion to the satisfaction of any Cavalry Officer in the U.S. Army. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (2)

Nicholas would serve under Young for six years, as a private, sergeant, and first sergeant, and as his personal and troop clerk.

> [Captain Young] used horseflesh to its fullest Capacity, with no abuse to either horse nor man. He was one of us. He was always fair and just, particularly Void of pettiness and prejudice . . .
>
> He was always in a happy and playful mood—no grouchy, arrogant display of actions and feelings toward superiors or inferiors in rank. . . . He was always in for a good clean Joke, but, when it came to Duty, he was positive and firm, never using dogmatic Commands or ideas nor affrontment. He was kind and polite, respected all men regardless of race or color for their knowledge and worth to mankind, and at all times, a cultured gentleman. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (3)[1]

For fifteen months, Young led Troop I of the Ninth in missions resolving land and other disputes between the Ute Indians and white settlers in Utah. In February of 1901, Young was promoted to captain and just two months later, the Ninth received orders to proceed to the Philippines. He set sail in April of 1901 as commander of Troop I. The first black officer in the regular army to achieve the rank of captain, he would finally have an opportunity, under combat conditions, to prove his ability as a leader. Fighting alongside his men for eighteen months, Young led his troops against rebels in the jungles of southern Luzon—in Darago, Tobaco, and Rosano—and on the smaller islands of Samar and Panay. His men gave him the nickname "Follow Me" for the

1 Underlined in original.

fearless way in which he led his troops into battle and vowed that they "would have died for him" (Kilroy 48–53; Buckley 154–155).

The Presidio

On October 31, 1902, the men retuned home and were stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco for some much needed rest.

> During our stay in San Francisco of two years, Captain Young was visited by such notables as Mrs. Mitchell of Wilberforce University; his mother, Mrs. Young; Booker T. Washington; T. Thomas Fortune, of the *New York Age*; Ernest Hogan's Comedy Company; and many others that knew of him.
>
> In May 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt made a Tour of the U.S. and made a 5 day stay in San Francisco and the Bay Region inspecting the different Forts also Mare Island. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (13–14)

On May 12, Roosevelt participated in a gala parade down Market Street, escorted by secret service men in top hats and mounted police. Leading the carriage and serving as its military honor guard was the Ninth Cavalry. The guard consisted of roughly a hundred troopers, arrayed in ranks of ten and crossing the entire width of the street. They rode at a swift trot and were led by Captain Young and his staff (San Francisco 7–8).

Park Guard Duty

In April of 1903, Young received his next orders.

> Pursuant to General Orders, No. 15, Headquarters Department of California, dated San Francisco, Cal., April 21, 1903, I marched with Troops I and M, Ninth Cavalry (3 officers and 93 enlisted men) on May 20 from California, arriving at Kaweah, Cal., June 3. . . . As soon as we arrived . . . immediate steps were taken to secure the park from injury and depredations. —Charles Young (Report 4–5)

Although their dates differ, Nicholas recounts the same general story:

> On May 15, Troops "I" and "M," Ninth Cavalry, were ordered by the War Department to proceed overland, mounted, from San Francisco to Sequoia National Park, Tulare County, California, a distance of 285 miles, for Park guard duty under the Department of Interior, for the protection and preservation of the Wild Game, during the travel season of Tourists and Hunters of Big Game. — Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (14)

Established in the fall of 1890, Sequoia and General Grant had been set aside to preserve "all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said reservation, and their retention in their natural condition." Preserving the parks in their natural state would prove to be a difficult task, thanks primarily to area residents. Local sheepherders took no notice of park regulations and, when the demand for soldiers during the Spanish-American War left them

unguarded, an estimated 200,000 sheep were driven into the parks to graze, causing untold damage. The other threat was poaching. Locals had hunted freely for years in the High Sierra and—for many—their livelihoods depended upon their ability to put wild game on the table. In addition to preserving the natural conditions, the 1890 legislation decreed that the parks—as with Yellowstone before them—were also to be developed into "pleasuring grounds." Attempts to entice the public to the parks were thwarted by a sore lack of access; it was nearly impossible, with no wagon road, for the public to enter the parks easily, let alone visit their prime attraction, the Giant Forest. Captain Young and the men of the Ninth had their work cut out for them (In the Summer 4).

Initially, Young was not the commander of the troop, nor was he meant to be the superintendent of the park:

> Capt. L. M. Cornish, Troop "M" was in command of the squadron, but after a few weeks the duty became too hard for Captain Cornish and Captain Young, being next in Rank, took Command . . . as Acting Superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, thus relieving Caption Cornish. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (14)

The Sequoia squadron had been preceded by other companies of the Ninth, who'd left on April 23, 1903, to patrol Yosemite. Young and troops I and M stayed behind to escort President Roosevelt through San Francisco on May 13, leaving one week later for Sequoia and General Grant.[2]

With 20 draft mules and four escort wagons, the men—three officers and 93 enlisted men—rode southeast from San Francisco through San Jose and Gilroy, over the Pacheco Pass and into the rich farmland of California's Great Central Valley. On June 2, after thirteen days of hard riding, the men arrived in Visalia, the Tulare County seat and closest real town to the park (San Francisco 10).

A writer for the local *Daily Visalia Delta*, reported the news the next morning:

> The soldiers who are to guard the Sequoia Park this year arrived in Visalia Tuesday enroute for that place and will [continue][3] this morning on their journey. They are troops I and M of the Ninth Cavalry USA and are under command of Captain Charles Young, the only colored captain in the U.S. Army. With the exception of Lieutenant Wilson Pilcher, Lieutenant E. L. Cox and Dr. A. T. Arwine, the two troops are colored soldiers. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, June 3, 1903 (1)

The reporter sized up the new superintendent:

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2 Will Elder, interpretive ranger at the Presidio, says Young and the two troops left on May 23rd (Elder); Sergeant Nicholas remembers it as being May 15th (Nicholas 14). Young himself, in his Superintendent's Report, sets the date at May 20th (Report 4).

3 The photocopy of the newspaper is difficult to make out, but I assume it reads "continue."

> In the afternoon Captain Young was seen in his quarters by a *Delta* representative. He is a man of medium build, very erect, well preserved and though he says he is 39 years, he looks scarcely 25. He is a native of Mason county, Kentucky, and is a graduate of West Point.
>
> Do you know," said the *Delta* man, "that all Kentuckians are looked upon here as men who will use a gun?"
>
> "Just tell them the entire troop are all natives of the Blue Grass state," said the Captain, "and they will know that my orders will be made to be observed." —*Daily Visalia Delta*, June 3, 1903 (1)

Young was clear about his intentions in the park:

> In answer to a question about the preservation of game, Captain Young said, "You can put it down as coming from me as an officer in command of these troops that the game in Giant Forest will be protected." "I understand," he continued, "that the laws are well posted and they must be obeyed while I am guarding the park." —*Daily Visalia Delta*, June 3, 1903 (1)

The arrival of the troops created a sensation in the small town. Although the army had been sending soldiers to patrol Sequoia for a number of years, they had never sent an African American detachment and the arrival of black soldiers in the town caused quite a stir. Young, the reporter wrote, "expressed himself so well that he attracted the attention of everyone," including the town's minority community.

> While he was talking a number of little colored boys of this city gathered about him and he questioned them kindly as to their opportunities and told them to have a high aim and to be industrious. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, June 3, 1903 (1)

Young led the troopers out of Visalia the following morning, having first sent an advance detachment to Mount Whitney, thereby cutting off early season access to the grazing meadows from the east side of the mountains. On June 4, the day Charles Young celebrated his twentieth year with the United States Army, Young and his men arrived in the small foothills community of Kaweah, a ranching and logging settlement on the North Fork of the Kaweah River. There Young established his headquarters and supply depot, preparing for a busy summer of patrolling and road building. He immediately dispatched groups of soldiers to guard various entry points into Sequoia and General Grant parks. Then, he traveled into Sequoia to see for himself the work that lay ahead (*Daily Visalia Delta* 6/3/1903; In the Summer 4; San Francisco 11-12).

"Smooth Enough for Automobiles and Bicycles"

For the following three months, Young and his men protected the parks. In addition, they did something that no previous command had been able to do:

> Two unfinished wagon roads to the parks, that had been in progress for more than ten years, to the entrance of Giant Forrest's Red Wood Trees (about 5 miles) must be completed that year, said Captain Young, also 2 miles of unfinished Road leading into Grant Park 30 miles in another direction

> had to be finished. The annual appropriation was $10,000.00 and Capt. Young was determined to achieve this end which would mean a great deal to his career as an Army Engineer. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (14–15)

The road to the Giant Forest had been started in 1887 by the Kaweah Cooperative Colony, a utopian socialist group established in the 1880s. The group had constructed a road from Kaweah to the edge of the timber belt and filed claims in the sequoia groves, hoping to log the giant trees at an equally large profit (In the Summer 4).[4]

Once the parks had been established and the trees protected, the Colony dissolved, leaving behind the partially-completed road. In 1899, members of the Visalia Board of Trade requested that the road be repaired and extended into the Giant Forest. Congress allocated $10,000 for road work the following year and—beginning in July of 1900—work on the road continued steadily each summer season (In the Summer 7–8).

By the time the Ninth arrived in June 1903, the old colony road had been somewhat improved and six new miles of roadbed completed. On June 11, Young ordered the return to work, starting about a mile above the bridge at Marble Fork. He let the civilian crews do most of the work improving the road from Kaweah while his troopers focused on building roads within park boundaries. His goal was to complete five new miles of road in one summer—almost doubling the six miles it had taken previous crews three summers to complete (In the Summer 8; San Francisco 15).

> [Authority] was asked for and granted to begin work immediately upon the Giant Forest road while the earth was soft and in condition. In the meantime, a tour of inspection was made of the repair work on this road, for which $500 had been previously granted . . . . The route of extension of the road was also gone over by the acting superintendent in company with the constructing engineer . . . and preparations were begun for this work, which was pushed with all possible haste to completion —Charles Young (Report 5).

Although Young personally examined the proposed route of the road, the men of Troops I and M were not alone in their work:

> With the assistance of the regular Civil Engineer Mr. Welch, Chief Ranger Ernest Britten, and Ranger Louis Davis as powder man to blast the right-of-way, the Workmen and Laborers were mustered together and work began with great strides in June, or as soon as the snow [was] cleared away. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (15)

Work was laborious, but went quickly. When, a week after beginning the work, Young rode into Visalia to pick up the payroll, he spoke with members of the local press, praising the beauty of the area and predicting an early completion of the road:

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4 According to Ward Eldredge, it was the Colony's intention to log the giant trees that, in part, precipitated the creation of the parks by Congress in 1890.

> Captain Young is more than pleased with the place he has been detailed to guard and thinks the world traveled over and more beautiful scenery could not be found. . . . He predicts that at an early date all of the well known places of scenery up there will be connected with good mountain roads. The road leading into Giant Forest lacks a mile and one half of being completed. Captain Young says that he will have that smooth enough for automobiles and bicycles. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, 6/20/1903

Other Park Duties

With road work underway, Young left Sequoia on July 11. He brought with him a small detachment to relieve the troopers guarding the meadows below Mount Whitney. Young fully understood that his men's primary purpose in the parks—and the duty to which most of them were assigned—was the protection of game and habitat. This would ultimately prove to be their easiest task—a good thing since there were no strict penalties associated with violating park regulations, making them difficult to enforce. Perpetrators were to be removed from the park, nothing more. There was no cause for ejection from either park during Young's tenure as acting superintendent (Report 9; San Francisco 17).

> During the time Captain Young was over there [in the meadows near Mount Whitney], he had no trouble with the sheep men or with any other stockmen. As a result of the guard duty, the meadows have not been fed off and there has been plenty of feed for the stock used this year by the tourists. Heretofore, the tourists' stock has suffered for want of feed which put those going up for pleasure at great inconvenience. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, 8/9/1903

In this part of the park, Young occupied his men with the clearing of preexisting trails:

> During the building of the roads, Captain Young made several trips mounted to Mount Whitney, by trail 75 miles from the Parks to see that the trails to the Top were cleared of Snow. The Soldiers cleared this Snow away, as much as 17 feet deep in many places, 13 miles from Lone Pine in Inyo County, California. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (15)

Along with this work and their primary mission of guarding against illegal grazing, the detachment began work on two new trails between Lone Pine and Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the lower 48 states (San Francisco 15).

Young also made recommendations for ensuring the safe storage and sealing of firearms, which theretofore were being sealed with only twine and sealing wax. His troop made an inventory of tools and implements for roadwork and Young recommended that such an inventory be done on an annual basis (Report 10).

If this weren't enough, the men undertook and completed a number of arduous tasks in General Grant National Park:

> In addition to this important and much needed improvement, over 1.5 miles of fire brake have been constructed on the north and west sides of [General Grant]. Many acres have been cleared of rubbish in the vicinity of the giant trees, the General Grant tree fenced, a small barn built for the rangers'

> animals in use for park services, and the road extended in the park toward Converse Basin. —Charles Young (Report 10)

The Road to the Giant Forest

By early August, when Young returned from Mount Whitney and his other rounds in the park, most of the work on the road to the Giant Forest had been completed.

> The road into the Giant Forest, consisting of about 3 miles, was completed on August 15, and a good wagon road to Moro Rock, 2 miles farther, was constructed in connection with the general plan of the extension of this to the meadows and principal points of interest . . . . The trail from Giant Forest to Mineral King, via Panther Peaks, was also improved . . . In addition to this, the enlisted men repaired about 18 miles of trail, covering a period of five days. The main effort of the year, however, was put upon the Giant Forest road, the completion of which, upon a grade not exceeding anywhere 8 percent, should in future insure a thousand tourists where in previous years there have been but a hundred. —Charles Young (Report 6)

The honor of the first to ride into the Giant Forest went not to tourists, however, but to those who had labored hard on the roads:

> Four Mules teams were hitched to Wagons, and Captain Young, some of the Soldiers, and the Staff of Employees were the first to ride into the Giant Forest on a regular built Wagon Road. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (15)

The *Daily Visalia Delta* reported on the fulfillment of Young's dream:

> [The] wagon road will be completed clean into the forest today and Captain Young will make his first visit into the forest in a wagon. When he began the work he made a vow not to enter the forest until he could do so in a wagon drawn by four horses. This he will do today. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, 8/15/1903 (1)

The men also completed a significant road in General Grant:

> The improvements have progressed in General Grant Park to the extent of finishing the road from the General Grant tree toward Visalia, which road was begun last season. . . . This gives a good road from Visalia and surrounding towns into General Grant Park and allows the United States to supply its soldiers doing guard there with ease during the season. —Charles Young (Report 10)

Although road work was a collective effort, undertaken by the men of the Ninth and local workmen, Captain Cornish, in the preface to the park's 1903 Superintendent Report, gives credit for its completion to Young:

> An examination of the work done on the roads and trails under the direction of Capt. Charles Young shows that it has been well done, and the quantity is largely in excess of that done in previous years, with the same amount of money. This I consider largely due to the strict personal supervision of the work given by Captain Young, who continually spurred on the men under his employ, with the idea that the road to the Giant Forest must be completed this year. About 450 persons visited the park this summer, and now that a good road has been completed to the Giant Forest this number will no doubt be largely increased the next season.
>
> . . . Owing to the good work performed by Captain Young . . . during the present season, I recommend his permanent detail on this duty as long as he is available. —L. W. Cornish, Captain, Ninth U.S. Cavalry, Acting Superintendent (Report 3–4)

In a report sent to Interior on August 29, Young modestly deferred credit for the work, recognizing that the speed with which the roads were completed was due to the hard work by the civilian work crews and his own men:

> I submit that more work has been done, and better work through rougher country than has been done in any two years previous to this. I claim no special credit for this, as it is largely due to the department's permission to allow work to begin early in the season when the ground was moist and when good men were available. —Charles Young (San Francisco 15–16)

Private Land Deals

While supervising his men in these various tasks, Young found time to tackle a thorny problem that had been plaguing the U.S. Government since the parks had been acquired. When Congress established the parks, substantial tracts of private land remained within their borders, including in much of the Giant Forest.

> The private-claim lands have been a source of contention and annoyance both to the Interior Department, the troops sent to guard the parks, and the claimants themselves ever since the parks have been set aside as such. —Charles Young (Report 8)

When Young arrived in 1903, eighteen legal claims, totaling roughly 4,000 acres of parkland, were privately owned. Young considered the issue of privately held lands to be the "gravest concern relative to the parks." He cultivated good relationships with the local landowners and, during his rounds of the park, approached them individually and discussed the situation. By the end of the season, he had convinced all but two of the private landowners to accept a fair price for their lands within park boundaries (In the Summer 15). The attempt to negotiate such deals was nothing new.

> As will be remembered, nearly every captain that has been here on duty has made an effort to influence the proper officials to purchase the private lands within the boundary lines and convert it into the park. Altogether there are eighteen claims within the park, and of that number Captain Young says that he has received a favorable communication from sixteen of them. Since he went there he has

been working along the same lines as his predecessors and feels that the end has about been reached. The eighteen claims can be purchased for less than $75,000, which he considers very reasonable to Washington and a report upon the purchase is expected at most any time. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, 10/13/1903 (1)

Young submitted thirteen agreements along with his report, made September 28, to the Secretary of the Interior:

By dint of hard work this season, and much persuasion, most of the claimants have been induced to sign agreements to sell their lands to the United States within the next year. These agreements are herewith inclosed.

. . . Out of eighteen owners in Sequoia National Park, the agreements of thirteen are herewith submitted; the other five, with one exception, are small owners whom it has not been possible to reach yet, but . . . it is thought that their claims will not exceed $1,600, while the other claims aggregate $70,734; these, with an offer of 160 acres in General Grant for $1,600 (the only private claim in the park), will bring the entire claim within $73,000, which amount is but a trifling sum in comparison with the benefits accruing to the Government in securing for the nation at least 9,000 giant sequoias and innumerable young trees of this species and other timbered and meadow lands, all amounting to 3,877 acres. The price asked averages about $18 per acre.

As the agreements for the most important of these lands, that is, those comprising the Giant Forest, only remain in force for a year, I earnestly urge that immediate steps be taken to effect their purchase.

I may state upon good authority that the country road that runs through the park to Mineral King from Visalia will be given to the Government by Tulare County, in order to more effectively guard the park's interests, provided the purchase of the private claimants' lands is made.

. . . Respectfully submitted,

Chas. Young, Captain, Ninth Cavalry, Acting Superintendent (Report 8-9)

Young underlined the haste in which these properties should be purchased, cautioning the government that the big trees were in danger of being lost forever:

The major part of the [Giant Forest], where the giant trees are, and which is by far the best, belongs to private claimants. It should be bought without further delay by the General Government.

. . . In the Atwell Mill country, where these big trees grew close to the county road, the owners have cut them by the wholesale and put the lumber upon the market, so that where once was a fine forest of these magnificent giants there now is but devastation and ruin in the shape of stumps and sawdust piles on either side of the high road. . . . The owners of these lands are only detained from cutting the timber, including the giant forest trees, by want of public or private roads leading to a market for it, the General Government having forbidden them the use of its roads for this purpose. —Charles Young (Report 8)

Later in the report, Young made his point plainly:

> . . . The United States cannot afford to have the beauty of the park destroyed or its value lessened by cutting of the very redwood trees which the park was set aside to protect. . . . The Government cannot afford to lose the Giant Forest lands, nor to longer tolerate private ownership within the parks. —Charles Young (Report 8)

Unfortunately, this would be, as Sequoia ranger Ward Eldredge put it, "a lost opportunity." Although the Department of the Interior eventually acted on Young's recommendations, it would not be for many years. Congress did not allocate the necessary funds until 1916. By then, the cost for just one of the tracts had risen to $70,000. The total cost to acquire the Sequoia properties would be over $220,000, nearly triple the price Young had negotiated. And, in General Grant, one tract—Wilsonia—remains in private hands to this day (Nicholas 16; In the Summer 16).

Community Relations

In the course of this work, Young became acquainted with many area residents. He found the locals, both those living in the park and in the nearby town of Visalia, friendly and appreciative of the efforts to protect the area.

> The people of the adjoining country and tourists are awakening to the benefits and beauties of the park, and desire to protect the game and forests and see that the regulations are not violated —Charles Young (Report 5)

Sergeant Nicholas commented on the esteem in which Young was held by community members, despite the fact that he was of a different race:

> All of the People of this section of the Park Community were white; not one colored of any race, save the Soldiers. They were carried away with him because of his unusual intelligence, ability, and generosity. Information and Cooperation from all and to all was always at hand. Social gatherings in the Homes and at the Camps were many for Captain Young and his men. In fact, he had no enemies among the Civilians or the Soldiers in any of the places or locations which he happened to be serving. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (15 cont'd)

He continued in a more personal vein:

> To myself, he was a father, brother, teacher, and a real true friend at all times under all conditions, good and bad, in all times of need. I really loved him. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (15 cont'd)[5]

In addition to his men and the people of Visalia, Young befriended Philip Winser, a member of the Kaweah Colony. Shortly after his arrival in the area, Young received an invitation from Winser and his wife, Blanche. The Winsers had come to the Sierra Nevada from England in

5 Underlined in original.

the spring of 1891, during the last days of the colony. In an unpublished autobiography, Winser recounts his invitation and Young's reluctance to accept:

> We heard he had come and Blanche, sensing what might be, asked me to call and see if he would visit us. He received me as the courteous gentleman he was, but gently turned aside the invitation. Again we returned, to at last elicit the admission that he preferred to stay on his own side of the fence. Then we told him, for us there was no fence, and after the promise that one of his men should share the invitation, they came and so began a friendship with a rare and cultured soul, which lasted 'til his death. —Philip Winser (In the Summer 7)

Young would correspond with Winser throughout the remainder of his life. His friendship with the Winsers, and love of the High Sierra, may have influenced his decision to put down roots in the area. That summer he purchased two properties adjoining the park, as did Sergeants Nicholas and Pierce:

> Leaving 3 Rivers Sequoia Park District, Captain Young purchased a Fruit and Stock Ranch consisting of 480 acres on which there was 15 acres of Apples, and various other Fruits Trees such as Lemons, Oranges, Nuts, and Berries sufficient to market a 10 room House, Barn for 8 Horses, and a Storage House for 40 Tons of Apples. We purchased 4 horses (work), one saddle horse, 2 cows, 160 head of hogs, Wagons, and sufficient tools to operate the place.
>
> In connection, Captain Young bought 160 acres in Inyo County, California. Sergeant Pierce and myself homesteaded 160 acres adjacent to this property—all level land, and at the expiration of our term of enlistments, December 1903, Sergeant Pierce and I operated these ranches. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (15 cont'd)

Young commented on the beauty of the parks and their importance as a national resource, for recreation, rest, animal life, and agriculture:

> It has been previously remarked that the Sequoia National Park is the Giant Forest, but it is believed by many that even without the grandeur of the Giant Forest, which is matchless anywhere else in the world, there are enough beautiful mountain views, delightful camping sites, and water courses stocked with fish to constitute a national park where the overworked and weary citizens of the country can find rest, coolness, and quiet for a few weeks during the hot summer months, and where both large and small game can have refuge and be allowed to increase.
>
> Indeed, a journey through this park . . . will convince even the least thoughtful man of the needfulness of preserving these mountains just as they are, with their clothing of trees, shrubs, rocks, and vines, and of their importance to the valleys below as reservoirs for storage of water for agricultural and domestic purposes. —Charles Young (Report 6–7)

He urged the government to work on popularizing the park, so that more people could take advantage of its gifts, especially the big trees:

> Excluding the best-informed people of this State, there are comparatively few in the country who know where in California, outside Calaveras County, the big trees are situated. "Sequoia National Park" is but a name to them. They do not know that "Sequoia" is the scientific name for the giant redwoods. Probably the simpler one of the "Big Tree" or "Giant Tree Park" would have attracted more lovers of the forest, and those, perhaps, who desire to see these enormous trees which grow here as large and, indeed, more numerous than elsewhere in the world. . . . It is hoped that something may be done to popularize the knowledge of the location of these trees, which must be seen in their natural location, or Redwood Belt, to be appreciated. These are most numerous in the Giant Forest and General Grant National Park. —Charles Young (Report 7–8)

A Time to Celebrate

Upon completion of the road, Young planned a celebration for the workers. By that time, they had extended the wagon road even further, from the site of the first public campground at Round Meadow to Moro Rock, a popular destination for tourists. Young and his troopers had achieved as much in one season as their predecessors had in three prior years (San Francisco 20).

In preparation, Young and a few of his men traveled to Visalia to purchase supplies:

> While going to Visalia 52 miles away in a Daugherty Wagon, [with] 4 mules, Captain Young accompanied by Sergeants Nicholas, Pierce, and Langley, to purchase the materials for the Picnic Dinner. Captain Young had several Hundred Dollars in Gold Coins in his trousers pockets, some of which belonged to the men of his Troop, for safekeeping. This was at night. We became sleepy and stretched out on the floor of the wagon in the hay for a little sleep. The next morning when we arrived in Visalia, Captain Young was short of just $105.00. The money had fallen out of his pockets in the hay and that amount had sifted through the cracks in the floor of the Wagon along the road side in the Deep dust and could not be recovered by diligent search. No trace of any of it was ever heard from, but Captain Young readily reembursed [sic] the men with every dollar lost from his own private funds. —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (15A)

On Sunday, August 30, Young welcomed to the Giant Forest a party of celebrants from Visalia for the grand feast. The group traveled overnight on the Broder and Hopping stage, arriving in the forest around two o'clock in the afternoon. Guests of honor included Major George W. Steward, land agent and editor for the *Visalia Delta*, who had played a major role in the establishment of the parks twenty years earlier; W. St. J. Caudron, land agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad; and W. G. Dozier, land agent for the Santa Fe Railroad. There were roughly a hundred guests, including Miss Ada Mills, a woman Young had met in San Francisco before traveling to the Sierras. Stewards and Cooks prepared the Picnic Dinner, which was laid out in the Giant Forest.

> Large logs served as tables covered with bleached cotton tablecloths. Small Fruit Baskets, filled with Fried Chicken, Ham and Cheese Sandwiches, and assorted Fresh Fruits of the season, were [served] on Picks, Shovels, and Spades, and passed along to the guests to help themselves. Beer (pint bottles) [and]

> Hot Coffee was served with the food. . . . Captain Young composed a little Poem on Cards pasted in Redwood Bark as a holder with the following Words:
>
> After the Forest Road was made,
> We sat beneath the Redwood Shade,
> And Feasted from Boxes laid,
> On well-worked Shovel, Pick, and Spade."
> —Sgt. W. H. Nicholas (15A)

During the picnic, there were toasts all around and a proposal that a tree be named for Captain Young. Young demurred and, instead, offered that a tree should be named for Booker T. Washington. But many of the locals, impressed with Young's leadership, were determined not to forget him (Eldredge).

> So much interest has Captain Young taken in the work, and so appreciative are the leading citizens and the representative men of this city that a tree has been selected and in the future Captain Young's name will be inscribed on it, never to blot it out, and the tree will bear his name. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, date unknown (In the Summer 11)

Young still refused. His friend Philip Winser recounted Young's deferral:

> They wanted to name a tree for our captain but he refused, saying they could do so if they felt the same way, twenty years hence and they compromised on one for Booker T. Washington. —Philip Winser (In the Summer 11)

Young didn't approve of the rampant naming of trees in the parks by "irresponsible parties" and felt it his duty to assure that any names placed on trees would be acceptable to the entire nation.

> I permitted the naming of three trees in Sequoia Park this season: One "G.A.R." tree, in honor of the Grand Army of the Republic; another, from its peculiar growth of three large trees from one big trunk, was named, "I.O.O.F.," for the Odd Fellows of the country; and the third, after repeated requests from visitors and the wishes of the workmen who finished the Giant Forest road, was named for that great and good American, Booker T. Washington. —Charles Young (Report 10)

Young also took steps to protect the two trees that had already been so honored:

> To protect the General Grant and General Sherman trees I had redwood fences made around them and notices duly posted against trespassing within their inclosures. This was necessary to prevent theft of bark and standing upon their roots by photographic parties. —Charles Young (Report 10)

Return to San Francisco

Young handed over the acting superintendancy of the parks to Captain Cornish on September 2, the latter having taken the summer to recover. Young remained on duty in the parks for the

next two months. In late October, he prepared his troops for their return to the Presidio. Before leaving, he dispatched Ranger L. L. Davis in General Grant for the following winter, to protect the park, and charged two other rangers—Ernest Britten and C. W. Blossom—with the protection of Sequoia. He recommended that $500 be appropriated from the 1904 budget for Britten to oversee early spring repairs on the Giant Forest Road (Report 9).

On their way back, Troop I conducted a mounted march through the town of Visalia on November 3rd and spent the evening with the town's leaders and local reservists, celebrating the accomplishments of the summer (In the Summer 12, 16).

> The members of Troops I and M of the Ninth cavalry arrived in this city Tuesday about noon from Lemon Cove where they have been doing guard duty all summer, to the Presidio, where they will remain until further orders are given.
>
> . . . In the evening the members of Company E entertained them at Armory hall, and gave them a spread which consisted of varied refreshments. The offices of the troop were banqueted at the Pablo tamale parlors by Colonel Geo. W. Stewart and captain M. J. Byrnes of Company. The usual good dishes were sat before those present, after which cigars were passed and story telling was in order. The troops will leave this morning for the north, camping tonight at Kingsburg. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, 11/4/1903

The men of the Ninth were celebrated for good reason and the people of the region had much to look forward to.

> The outing for them has been a most pleasant one and at the same time has been beneficial to the county. The troopers have done most excellent work in the way of making roads and enforcing the rules and regulations of the government in regard to the park. The place is now one of interest, and as it has always been, for scenery, but is more accessible than ever. —*Daily Visalia Delta*, 11/4/1903

For his work opening the area up to tourists, Young received an official commendation from the Visalia Board of Trade. The following morning, he and his troopers headed northwest to the Bay, retracing their steps from the previous spring. Early the following month, Young gave a much-lauded speech at Stanford University, in which he commented on the plight of the black man in America (In the Summer 17; Ideals 1).

> I wish to acquaint you with the spirit strivings of the black race of which I am part and parcel. I fear that the higher interests of my people are going netherward—and yours with them, for when one part of the body is diseased the whole body is not well, and my people are one-twelfth of the body politic.
>
> . . . We are between the devil, which would bid us give up hope, and the deep blue sea of our ambitions that are surging in our hearts. A negro sculptress has invented a statue of a man eating his own heart. Nobody but a negro would have conceived such a thing. We know what it is to eat our own hearts. We know what it is to stifle our aspirations, to have our efforts derided, the finger of scorn pointed at us because we fail to reach the level of the white man. But we will not survive by

> sycophancy, rise by truckling. This feeling is not the result of higher education of the negro, but is the result of the American negro manhood. —Charles Young, 12/6/1903 (Ideals 1)

Young ended with a plea:

> I do not come today to work up a maudlin sentiment, to make you "nigger lovers." I do come to demand that as you love your country you will not disgrace its escutcheon by oppression of a man the most kindly and helpful God ever gave. You are going to have a white man's chance, and that is all I ask for the negro. The time of old "aunties" and "uncles" is past. The "sassy nigger" followed, but he too is gone. The negro asking for the white man's chance is the one we have now. Will you give it? —Charles Young, 12/6/1903 (Ideals 1)

Military Attaché

On February 4, 1904, Charles Young married Ada Mills, the 23-year-old daughter of a wealthy mulatto family from Oakland, California. Two months later, Young learned that he would soon became the first African American military attaché. On May 12, he and Ada left the Presidio and sailed to Port-au-Prince, where he would serve as military attaché to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Young was thoroughly adept at his new post. In addition to his roles as ambassador and intelligence officer, he explored and mapped both countries on horseback, sending reports back to the Army War College. In his free time, he wrote a book, *Military Morale of Nations and Races*, published in 1912, and a play based on the life of Haitian national hero, Toussaint Louverture. Young also found time to exercise his skill as a linguist, compiling a detailed French-English-Creole dictionary and grammar (Kilroy 63–65; Buckley 159–160).

Young served in Haiti until 1907. After a second tour in the Phillipines with the Ninth and two years at Fort D. A. Russell in Wyoming, Young was again sent overseas on a diplomatic mission, this time as military attaché to the Republic of Liberia. In March 1912, he sailed for Monrovia. During his three years in Liberia, Young helped reorganize the Liberian Frontier Force and Constabulary, traveled throughout the country—on foot, by boat, and in a hammock—making maps, and—although it fell outside his duties as attaché—again directed the building of a road, this one from Monrovia to the Liberian interior. Shortly after his return to the United States, Young was awarded the Springarn Medal, due at least in part to his significant work in Liberia (Heinl 678; Kilroy 91, 99).

Mexico, World War I, and Forced Retirement

After his work in West Africa, Young returned to the U.S. Army. He was given command of the Second Squadron, Tenth Cavalry, as part of the 1916 "punitive expedition" to Mexico, in pursuit of the rebel Pancho Villa. During the course of the Mexican campaign, Young led his men on a 300-mile chase across northern Mexico, engaging in many successful actions, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. The punitive expedition marked the last time that mounted cavalry would play a significant role in U.S. military history. It would also prove to be Young's last campaign in the uniform of the United States Army (Kilroy 99–100).

In early 1917, the U.S. government reached a diplomatic settlement with Mexico. Young returned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and single-handedly started an officer training school for black enlisted men. Knowing the American entry into World War I to be imminent, he believed that black officers would be needed if buffalo soldier troops were to be sent to France (with, he assumed, himself as their commander). Young's efforts, however, were in vain. At the outset of the war, Congress authorized the creation of fourteen officer training camps, all for whites only. On April 24, 1917, a month after the war began, the War Department announced that "no more Negroes will be accepted for enlistment in the United States Army" (Kilroy 111–112; Buckley 175).

Young was still anxious to play a role in the conflict himself. On May 7, 1917, he took the examination to be promoted to full colonel. Although the examination board found him fit to serve, Young's physical exam revealed high blood pressure and hypertrophy of the heart, brought on by "chronic interstitial nephritis of an advanced grade." Young was forced into retirement, at the rank of colonel. There was widespread feeling among African Americans that Young had been forced out by unfair means. Some whites in the military feared that, if he were to be made colonel, Young was in danger of eventually becoming brigadier general, especially if he served in Europe. The problem, as Buckley put it, was solved with Young's medical exam. The Medical Corps report concluded that he was unfit for service as strong physical exertion would cause a danger to his life (Kilroy 120–123; Buckley 176)

The black community and press were outraged. To prove his fitness, Young made a highly publicized non-stop cavalry ride from Ohio to New York, covered by the mainstream press, and captured the imagination of the American public. Five days before the Armistice, he was promoted to full colonel and recalled to active duty with the Ohio National Guard. The timing and nature of his return assured, however, that his dreams of promotion and service in Europe would never be realized. He was understandably bitter and confessed to General Hugh S. Johnson, "[If I] wanted complete revenge on a super-enemy, I wouldn't send him to hell . . . I'd make him a Negro officer in a white man's army" (Kilroy 131-133).

Young's Death

Young returned to Liberia as special U.S. advisor to the Liberian government in 1919. While visiting Lagos, Nigeria, he died, on January 8, 1922, of chronic nephritis. He was buried in Liberia with full British military honors (Kenner 306).

Four months later, after repeated requests by his widow, Ada, Young's body was exhumed and returned to the United States. His remains arrived in New York and services were held in his honor at City College. Speakers at the memorial service included W. E. B. DuBois, Joel Springarn, and Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. "No man ever more truly deserved the high repute in which he was held," Roosevelt said, "for by sheer force of character, he overcame prejudices which would have discouraged many a lesser man" (Heinl 679).

On June 1, 1923, Young's body was brought in state to Washington, DC. Arriving at Union Station, the funeral train was met by a large gathering of black veterans and citizens groups. African American schools across the nation—from Howard University down to the elementary level—were closed for the day, in honor of Young, and it is said that 50,000 people lined the

processional route through the capitol. The flag draped caisson rolled slowly down Pennsylvania Avenue *en route* to Arlington National Cemetery. Dolly, Young's favorite mare, walked riderless behind it, Young's boots turned backward in the stirrups of his saddle (Kilroy 157).

At Arlington, preceded by the Howard University choir, clergy, and family, Young's body was brought into the amphitheatre. Charles Young was only the fourth person to be honored with funeral services in the Arlington Amphitheatre, the others being the remains of two Civil War veterans—buried in 1912 as a symbol of national unity—and the Unknown Soldier, memorialized after the Great War. Unlike the other buffalo soldiers, buried in segregated sections on the periphery of Arlington, Young was laid to rest amongst generals and admirals, on the crest of a ridge a short distance to the south of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Here—at last—there was no distinction made based on the color of Young's skin. In death, he was fully embraced by the American military establishment (Kenner 307; Heinl 679; Kilroy 158; Buckley 176).

* * * * *

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