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# THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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## A Wonderful Day at Camp Logan

And Some Interesting Facts Concerning Colonel Franklin A. Dennison and His Remarkable Career.

BY FRED C. WILLIAMS.

HOUSTON, Tex., Feb. 22.—A poet once said, "Some men are born great, some achieve greatness and others have greatness thrust upon them." That some achieve greatness is eminently true of the central figure in this article—Colonel Franklin A. Dennison of the 370th Infantry, U. S. A., formerly the Eighth Illinois National Guards.

I say "great" because I have some personal knowledge of this man's career. He is a Texan, born in the city of San Antonio, where he received his first teachings and the foundation for his education at the hands of a benevolent Quakeress. At an early age young Frank, as he was called by every one, being the oldest boy of a widowed mother, with a large family to support, found that he had to go to work. It being up to him to choose his vocation he chose the blacksmithing trade, and as he stood at his anvil from day to day, whipping the sledge under the direction of his tutor, and afterwards as he progressed in knowledge of the finer points of blacksmithing, he was ever restless and he found that his ambition was directed higher than the forge.

He was a constant reader—that is, he read everything he could get—the free almanacs distributed by the drug stores, the scraps of newspapers and a copy of the Congressional Record, brought to him sometimes by a friend, was to him the most interesting of all. He even read as he ate his noonday lunch, seated on the work-day bench in that old sheetiron smithy shop, just on the bank of the San Antonio river.

Behind the court house, a visit to which by Frank on the day of a big sensational trial, when everybody had a half-holiday to hear the arguments of the eloquent lawyers for which the South is renowned, was the turning point in young Frank's career. He realized he was destined for the law. He had worked hard and saved his earnings, and with the help of a few friends started for Howard university, where he finished in the allotted time; took a post-graduate course at Lincoln Law School and landed in Chicago.

His only assets were his nerve and his ambition, which was a strong determination to climb as high on the ladder of success as any one man was able, to be better able to fight the battle of his race. As I sat in the tent of the K. O. (that is military slang for "colonel") and listened to this strong and aggressive man speak in deep yet well modulated tones, I was much impressed with the words that he had just finished speaking.

"Yes, Williams, I am the only race man in command of a regiment in the service of the United States," he said. "Because I am first a Christian, next an American, a Texan by birth, an Illinoisian by adoption—the last to whom I am more than grateful—I am determined that they shall not regret the trust they have reposed in me."

For wherever the old Eighth goes you can bet she will make good from the K. O. down to the last buck private. As I stood in front of his tent and the music of the regimental band floated across the parade grounds, where guard mount was being set up, I thought of this man's early ambitions and determination, and in fine I can say, like many others, he has grown great and is great and will be greater.

His last words when he shook hands in parting were: "God bless you and be with you till we meet again!" which I hope will be when this cruel war is over and he shall be greater.

Colonel, I salute you!

**SELECT MEN AT CAMP SHERMAN TO BE TRANSFERRED**

Rockford, Ill.—Two thousand Negro soldiers are to be transferred from Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, O., to Camp Grant, according to announcement here recently.

They will be assigned to the 183d Brigade of Negro troops.

**Y. M. C. A. BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Columbus, O.—Work has been started on the Colored bazaar of the Y. M. C. A. here. The new building and site will cost \$115,000 when completed.

## HOSTESS HOUSE FOR SOLDIERS

A Suitable Quarters Where Colored Soldiers May Entertain Female Relatives and Friends.

Atlanta, Ga.—During his visit to Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga., Mr. Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the secretary of war, announced to a committee of Colored citizens who are cooperating with the war auxiliary committee, that a hostess house has been provided by the Young Women's Christian association for the benefit of Colored troops stationed at Camp Gordon and their female relatives who visit them from time to time.

This hostess house will offer opportunities for the Colored soldiers to meet their female relatives under dignified and comfortable circumstances. The announcement that this hostess house is to be provided has brought very great pleasure and satisfaction to the Colored citizens of Atlanta and vicinity.

## Proud Father of Thirty-Five

This Patriotic Colored Citizen Has Fourteen Brave, Brawny Sons in Service of Uncle Sam.

BEATS ROOSEVELTEAN IDEAL

Who Dare Deny That John Borden is Doing His Bit to Defeat the Kaiser?

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—During the progress of a divorce case in the superior court, which is engaged in the trial of civil actions, on Wednesday of last week, in which John Borden, a well known Colored farmer of this county, was a witness for the plaintiff, a startling revelation of facts was brought out which elicited the attention of the court and amused the spectators and caused the attorneys to "sit up and take notice."

In the course of the cross-examination, while Borden was on the witness stand, Judge Wheedbee, in a spirit of fun, asked him if he wanted to marry the woman after she got a divorce, or, in other words, was he trying to help her to get divorce in order that he might marry her?

This question, which Borden answered in the negative, gave the old man an opening and he didn't fail to take advantage of the opportunity, and for a few minutes he held the undivided attention of his audience, while the judge recorded his remarkable story, which we give below, owing to our limited time and space, in as condensed form as possible.

Borden, in answer to the judge's question, as noted above, said that he had been married three times, his third wife being still living; that he was the father of thirty-five children, fifteen by his first wife, twelve by his second wife and eight by his present wife; that his first wife gave birth to four boys each time for three times, making a total of twelve, and at one time his second wife presented him with three boys and one girl.

Concluding he said that twenty-seven of his children were still living, the youngest being only 22 months old, and that he had fourteen sons in Uncle Sam's army. He said that he was 62 years of age.

If this old man hasn't "done his bit" toward raising Uncle Sam an army then we'll give it up.

## FIRE DESTROYS HISTORIC DETROIT CHURCH

(Special to The Monitor.)

Detroit, Mich.—The Second Baptist Church, situated on Monroe avenue, and one of the landmarks of this city, was destroyed by fire Wednesday night, February 13. The church has a membership of 2,000, being the largest Colored congregation in the city. The church was organized 78 years ago and the property is valued at \$75,000. The probability is that the church will be rebuilt on a new site.

## \$50,000 HOME FOR POOR

Kansas City, Mo.—On Tuesday, February 12th, a delegation of representative Colored citizens called to the County Farm beyond the Little Blue to meet the Judges of the County Court and the County Architect and discuss the plans and select the site for locating the new county home for aged and infirm Negroes of Jackson county. The proposed building is to be strictly up-to-date and modern and will cost \$50,000.00.

## "Sam," or "Somewhere in France"

As Recited by J. Homer Tutt of "The Smarter Set"; the Feature of the New Show, "My People."

(Mr. Tutt has just been handed a telegram informing him of his pal, "Sam's," death "Somewhere in France.")

DEAD! Dead! I feel like saying, "I told you so!" Of course he was one of the first ones to go. He was one of those chaps that must be in front in every scrap, and there stand the brunt of the bitterest fighting! You bet he was game! If the battle was lost he was never to blame. I begged him to stay, but he would take the chance, and now—he is dead—"Somewhere in France." Dead, Somewhere in France! O the pity, the shame; Just one of the millions that's over there slain. But there'll come a reck'ning and some one must pay. For a just God has said to us, "Thou shalt not slay."

SAM was not one of the commonplace kind; He was one in a million so seldom we find. His face shone bright with the glory of youth; Upright his actions, his lips spoke the truth. Either study or play he engaged with a vim; He discounted failure, for he knew he would win. There was never an "exam" that Sam did not pass— Seemed to have a term's lease on the head of the class. We were all proud to follow when Sam set the pace; Who contested with him had to take second place. There was none envied Sam for his rapid advance; And now—he is dead—Somewhere in—France!

I WAS his pal and the first one to know He would answer the summons—to me 'twas a blow. I tried to dissuade him, but I knew 'twas no use; He just smiled at my pleading, ignored my abuse. I said he was crazy and had not the right To forsake his people and enter this fight. Yes, I was disloyal, but my heart was with Sam When I said that this country cared not a damn For him or his service. "Why, the black in your face Is a sign of dishonor, a badge of disgrace!" Then the look in his eyes was determined and fine; The same courage he showed when bucking the line And bowlin' 'em over—yes, making them roll Aside from his path until he placed the goal.

"MY COUNTRY has called—I am not asking why?" And then he continued: "'Tis little care I What some people may say, or how others define My race or my color—this country is mine! My people earned title by the sweat of their brow, In factory and field; 'tis my heritage now. For Liberty Crispus Attacks' was the first blood to spill; Peter Salem fought bravely at old Bunker Hill; Many black men died fighting down at New Orleans With brave Andrew Jackson, back of his cotton bale screens. The brave Tenth at San Juan and gory Carrazal Is a record of glory, a tale known to all. Through no crisis in history that this country has fared, No struggle, nor conflict, that my race has not shared." I can still hear him speaking, see the fire in his glance; And now—he is dead—Somewhere in France!

HE died while in action. This tells of the fight, Of the brilliant charge made in the gray morning light; How they rushed from their trenches; nor rifle, nor shell, Could stay their mad rush. Good God, it was hell! Sam carried the flag; in the front was his place. "Come on, boys!" he shouted. "For your country and race!" Rifle, shrapnel nor shell could those gallant boys stay; Demoralized, the enemy fled in dismay. Sam carried the flag to their works' highest crest, Then fell when a rifle ball pierced through his breast. He fell, but he kept the old flag waving high, "Till 'twas grasped by a comrade who was fighting nearby. And these words were the last his lips ever gave sound: "Boys, I never once let the old flag touch the ground!"

AND I called him a fool! But never again. Such heroes as Sam was cannot die in vain. He died for his country, not forgetting his race, And when history is writ Sam's name will have place With other black men, who will as gallantly die For their country as he, and never ask why. And America must remember such heroes as Sam, Nor reckon their COLOR, but remember the MAN; For our heroes have died, be it thus understood, For One Country, One People and One Brotherhood.

SALEM TUTT WHITNEY.

610 North Thirty-ninth Street, Philadelphia.

## WILLIAM H. SKEENE DIES

Boston, Mass.—William H. Skeene, grand secretary of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Massachusetts, well known to the Masonic fraternity of the United States and also a race leader of this state, is dead.

## CHILDREN MAKE A RECORD

Atlanta, Ga.—The Atlanta school children have made a magnificent showing during the two weeks of the campaign for sales of the thrift stamps, when they sold \$200,000 worth of stamps to the citizens of Atlanta.

## RELIEF FOR OUR SOLDIERS' FAMILIES

Little Rock, Ark.—The Colored women of Arkansas are responding nobly to the appeal of the National Colored Soldiers' Comfort committee at Washington for funds to relieve the distress of the families of the Colored soldiers recently hanged and imprisoned for life at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Colored women of this state feel that those men suffered for the race and that they met their tragic end in defense of Colored womanhood.

## RIOTERS AND MURDERERS GET OFF CHEAPLY

Belleville, Ill., Feb. 14.—Cornelius Meehan and Cornelius Hickey, former police officers of East St. Louis, Ill., pleaded guilty in the circuit court to charges of rioting in connection with the East St. Louis race riots of last July. Each was fined \$50. Hickey formerly was night chief of police. Albert Lee Wilson also pleaded guilty and was fined \$50.

The state dismissed charges of rioting and conspiracy against Henry Coombs and John Haley and a murder charge against James O'Brien, former policeman. All these are white.

## Tennessee Burns Its Third Victim

Reasonable to Believe That Huns Are Horrified and Turks Terror-Stricken by Reports Reaching Them of American Atrocities.

## THE WHOLE COUNTRY GUILTY

Just as Long as These Barbarous Outrages Are Permitted to Continue Through National Indifference.

ESTILL SPRINGS, Tenn., Feb. 13.—A mob estimated at several thousand people, burned Jim McIlherron at the stake here yesterday after forcing from him the usual confession (?) by the application of red hot irons.

Trouble began when three white men were killed in a running duel with the Colored man. There were no eye-witnesses to the tragedy, which took place in a deserted part of the town, and no one seems able to establish the cause. A mob of infuriated citizens was hastily formed and started in pursuit of McIlherron. When the posse, whose numbers had been augmented by many hundreds, on its dash for vengeance, reached Prairie, a Colored settlement twelve miles east of here, they suspected their quarry had spent the night with the pastor of the church located there. An attempt was made to arrest Rev. Mr. Lynch for thus aiding the fugitive, whereupon the preacher got down his old musket and fired into the mob, injuring several seriously, if not mortally. He was in turn overpowered and shot to death.

They came upon McIlherron several miles away at McMirville, where he put up a brave battle, but being outnumbered by 1,000 to one was forced to surrender. Another mob of a thousand persons met the train on which he was brought back here. A sister of one of the victims addressed the crowd, denounced his slayer and called for summary vengeance. The prisoner was then taken out of town, chained to a tree, where red hot irons were applied to his body in order to extort the usual confession. He was then burned to death.

The mob-crazed people collected the charred bones of the victim for souvenirs. This was the third burning of Negroes in which Tennessee has engaged within the past eight months, the others being at Memphis and Dyersburg.

## PRIVATE JOHN BURNETT DIES IN FRANCE

Topeka, Kas.—John C. Burnett of Topeka, reported among the dead in France by General Pershing, is a Colored man. He had been a waiter in hotels here until last summer, when he enlisted in one of the stevedore regiments recruited for service in France. He leaves a wife and mother in Topeka.

## Colored Man's Big Opportunity

To Continue Trade and Serve Country; Tailors, Canvas Men and Leather Workers Needed at Once; Good Pay; Rapid Advancement.

CAMP FUNSTON, Kan., Feb. 16.—The vast amount of leather and canvas goods used by the army is in constant need of repair. One of the chief functions of the Ordnance Department, Ninety-second Division, is to take care of this kind of work, consequently skilled Colored men who have been leather workers, saddlers or harness men, tailors or canvas men are urgently needed in the ordnance detachments which will accompany the Ninety-second Division (all Colored troops).

Furthermore, an excellent opportunity is offered to Colored men skilled in the above trades to become non-commissioned officers. It is planned to promote rapidly those who qualify to fill the existing vacancies. The pay for the enlisted man will vary from \$30 a month for private to \$51 a month for ordnance sergeant.

Those applicants who are accepted will have the advantage of a course of instruction varying from fifty to seventy days at government expense at the various schools established for that purpose, and upon completion will rejoin their units. No previous military experience is necessary and any one of military age can volunteer.

Applications are now being received and those interested should communicate at once with division ordnance officer, Ninety-second Division, Camp Funston, stating full name, education, trade, qualifications, previous civil experience, with name or names of employers, and also name and number of local drafting board. Letters of recommendations should accompany the application. As the mobile shop is rapidly reaching its enlisted strength no delay should be incurred in order to assure favorably action on your application.

All correspondence should be addressed to Lieutenant J. L. Butler, Ninety-second Division Headquarters, Camp Funston, Kansas.

## NATIONAL SOLDIERS COMFORT COMMITTEE INCORPORATED AS PERMANENT BODY

Washington, D. C.—The National Colored Soldiers Committee has been incorporated as a permanent organization, under the laws of Congress here. Under its incorporation it can contribute to the relief of any and all worthy charities and charity institutions as well as for the relief of dependents of Colored soldiers. It incorporated with Prof. Kelly Miller, dean at Howard University, president; J. C. Napier, banker, treasurer, and Ralph W. Tyler, the well known newspaper writer, as national secretary in charge of the campaign for funds and membership.

## MISS WATERS GETS POSITION AT HOWARD

Washington, D. C.—Miss Phyllis Wheatley Waters, the talented daughter of Col. and Mrs. Phil Waters, of Charleston, W. Va., has been appointed instructor of French in the Department of Modern Languages of Howard University. Miss Waters is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and throughout her course in the college and in the high school at Ann Arbor she was a favorite with teachers and classmates. She has the distinction of being the first Colored girl in the history of the University of Michigan to win her letters in athletics, and for several terms was captain of the basketball team of the institution. She finished with high honors in the class of 1917.

## GREAT ARMY DEPOT TO BE ERECTED AT NORFOLK NEED 6,000 COLORED MEN

Norfolk, Va.—Porter Bros., of Spokane, Wash., contractors for the great army depot to be erected in this city, have opened offices at 300 Withers Building. They have announced that they need 12,000 men, and can use from five to six thousand Colored men in the work.

## MAY GO TO CAMP FUNSTON

Camp Meade, Md.—It is understood here that the two Colored regiments in camp here, the 351st and 368th, will soon be ordered to Camp Funston at Fort Riley, Kans.

BUY  
ANOTHER  
WAR SAVINGS  
STAMP