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Article Summary: This article describes the circumstances surrounding the 1887 death of First Sergeant Emanuel Stance, who was murdered at Fort Robinson, presumably, by his own men. Stance, a nineteen-year veteran of the all-black 9th Regiment, had been awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership and courage. Stance was with the Ninth Cavalry from the beginning, and spent over eighteen years on active frontier service in the Southwest before arriving in Fort Robinson in 1885. He was known to officers as "a very strict disciplinarian," but events indicate that he was more than that, that he hounded his troops, and that if he was indeed killed by one of his own men, "the shooting may have been the ultimate protest against this kind of leadership and the command structure that condoned it."

Cataloging Information:

Names: General Ranald S Mackenzie, Private Joe Webster, John Hanks Alexander, Lieutenant Charles Young, Colonel Edward Hatch, Second Lieutenant William David McAnany, Private Henry Roberts, Private Thomas Menlow, Private Frank Bowser, Quartermaster Sergeant Robert Harris, Private Alfred Mace, Captain Clarence Augustus Stedman, Private Norbin Harris, Corporal Robert McKeen, Private Henry Royster, Sergeant Ebbert Made, Private Louis Glenn, Private David Kendrick, Private William Smith, Private George Jones, William Perrin, Private Jacob Blair, George Waterford, Captain Stedman, Lieutenant Joseph Garrard, Sergeant Major Jeremiah Jones, Major Andrew Burt, Federal Judge Elmer S Dundy, Private Miller Milds, Captain Augustus Whittemore Corliss, Sergeant Nathan Fletcher, Sergeant Barney McKay, Thomas Goodlow, Sergeant Arthur Ransom

Place Names: Fort McKavett, Texas; Fort Concho; Canadian River; Fort Sill; Fort Reno; Fort Riley, Kansas; Hastings, Nebraska; Camp Crook, Nebraska; Fort Robinson, Nebraska; Kearney, Nebraska; Platte River; North Platte, Nebraska; Fort Niobrara; Chimney Rock, Nebraska; Fort McKinney; Washakie, Wyoming; Fort Bayard, New Mexico

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Photographs / Images: Lt John Hanks Alexander; Lt Charles Young; Camp Crook, Nebraska field maneuvers of the Ninth Cavalry in 1889; Troops on light and dark horses aligned in ranks; Barracks at Fort Robinson 1902-1907; Fort McPherson National Cemetery near Maxwell, Nebraska; Fort Robinson termination of the cemetery 1947; Crawford, Nebraska 1886 and 1888 Officers of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment at Fort Robinson, 1893: Alfred Jackson, John H Alexander, G S Bingham, Charles Taylor, John Guilfoyle, James Swift, Frank Armstrong, John Gardner, Matthias Day, E E Hubert, Lt Wurtz, Philip Powell, Eugene Ladd, Charles Ilsley, James Biddle, Reuben Bernard, Grote Hutchinson, Clarence Stedman

THE VIOLENT WORLD OF EMANUEL STANCE, FORT ROBINSON, 1887

By FRANK N. SCHUBERT

First Sergeant Emanuel Stance, F Troop, 9th Cavalry, rode into Fort Robinson with his unit on August 10, 1885. Three troops of black cavalymen came up the Sidney road that day. The battle-hardened regiment had spent over eighteen years on active frontier service in the Southwest, and a "long-promised rest" in a "quiet" area of Nebraska was finally at hand.¹

If any of the troopers had earned their repose, Emanuel Stance had. The tough, wiry Louisianan had been with the 9th since its very beginning. The regiment was scarcely two months old when a recruiting party entered Lake Providence, the seat of East Carroll Parish, Louisiana, north of Vicksburg in the Mississippi Delta country. Stance was then 19 years old and barely five feet tall. He had grown up in the neighborhood and perhaps even watched the siege of Vicksburg from the Louisiana side of the river. By October 2, 1866, he had decided to leave the Delta. He enlisted in F Troop and joined the regiment in New Orleans. After six months of training and drill, Stance and the other black cavalymen of the 9th boarded trains for Texas with their white officers. Private Stance underwent two months of field training at San Antonio in the spring of 1867. In June, F Troop took station at Fort Davis in the mountains of southwest Texas.²

Stance endured nine years of hard campaigning in Texas and was promoted to sergeant. During that period he won a Congressional Medal of Honor. On the morning of May 20, 1870, he commanded a small detachment on a scout northward from Fort McKavett, a post about 150 miles northwest of San

Antonio. Sergeant Stance's patrol fell on a party of Kickapoo Indians with a horse herd and drove off the warriors. The troopers rounded up several of the animals before camping for the night at Kickapoo Springs, twenty miles north of McKavett. On the way back to post in the morning, Stance and his men struck another Kickapoo band and captured more horses. The Indians reappeared later, but Stance's patrol repelled their attack. In still another skirmish he entered a small Indian camp from which two white prisoners were rescued. Stance received the medal at McKavett on July 20, 1870, and thanked the adjutant general of the Army in Washington, D.C., in a letter of the same date: "I will cherish the gift as a thing of priceless value and endeavor by my future conduct to merit the high honor conferred upon me." Stance thus became the first black trooper to win the Medal of Honor for heroism against an Indian enemy.³

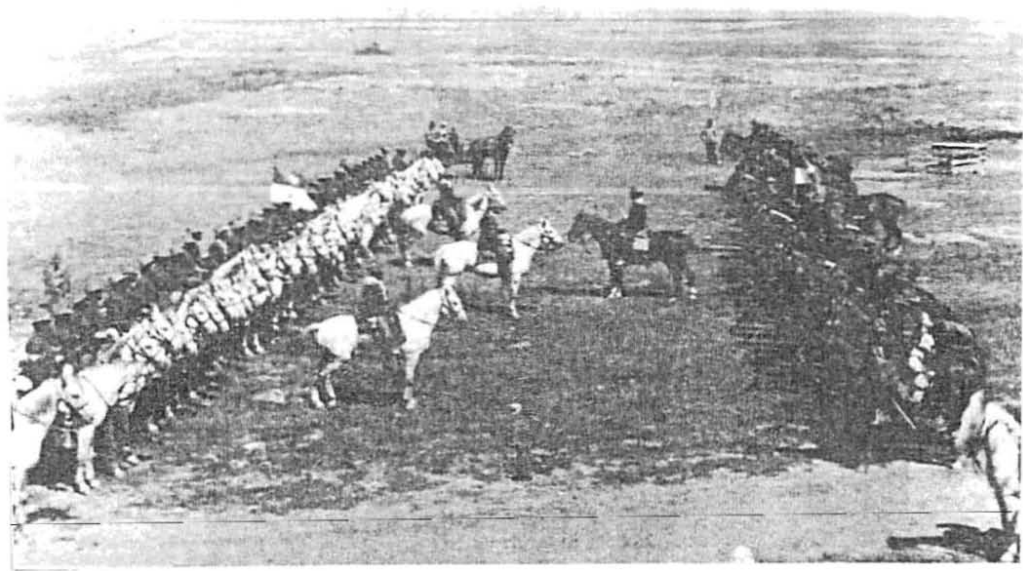
Sergeant Stance stayed at McKavett for another three years. In 1874 he saw action in General Ranald S. Mackenzie's campaign against the Comanche and Kiowa. With F Troop he moved to Fort Concho, about forty miles north of McKavett, in the spring of that year. They spent the summer and fall scouting on the Canadian River, far north of their post—near Fort Sill in Indian Territory and in the Texas Panhandle. During the next several years Stance joined the long, arduous round of patrols, scouts, and skirmishes against the Apache, first in Texas and later in New Mexico.⁴

An 1882 move to Fort Reno in Indian Territory brought no respite. Hostile Indians no longer presented a military problem; however, land-hungry settlers caused trouble enough. The 9th's struggle to keep white "sooners" out of Indian Territory proved to be "four years of near-unremitting and frustrating labor," for which the black troopers earned only "a mountain of abuse." Probably none of the cavalymen objected when they set out for northern posts in June, 1885.⁵

The 9th consolidated at its Fort Riley, Kansas, headquarters and marched into Nebraska, giving many residents their first look at Negro cavalymen. Some Nebraskans did not like what they saw. At Hastings, Private Joe Webster engaged in a fracas with a town law officer and was shot twice in the body as a



Field maneuvers of the 9th Cavalry (above) were held at Camp Crook, Nebraska, a temporary location near Fort Robinson in 1889. Two troops of the regiment align in ranks (below). Note contrasting colors of horses. (Courtesy of National Archives, Washington, D.C.)





Lt. John Hanks Alexander (left), second Negro graduate of West Point (1888), served for two years at Fort Robinson before assignment to Wilberforce University, Ohio, where he died in 1894. Lt. Charles Young, graduate of West Point (1889), was assigned to the 9th Cavalry in 1889. He retired a colonel in 1917 and died in Liberia in 1922.

result. The incident did not slow down the regiment. The 9th made 220 miles in its first ten days out of Riley and arrived at Kearney on July 28. From there the cavalry rode west up the Platte River. The troopers halted on July 7 at the town of North Platte due to rumors of a Cheyenne uprising which panicked southwestern Nebraska. Colonel Edward Hatch moved the regiment farther upstream to Ogallala, where he hoped to block any northward move by the Cheyenne. Just as these rumors proved false, word of another uprising came from the Sandhills in the northern part of the state. Three troops of the regiment, which had been assigned the unhappy task of remaining at Fort Reno, rushed by rail to Fort Niobrara in north central Nebraska. Fifth Cavalry troops from that post had already gone west to Gordon, Nebraska, because of the emergency. A, G, and I Troops of the 9th arrived at Ft. Niobrara in early August. However, the allegedly hostile Sioux from Dakota reservations had designs only on the game animals in the hills.⁶

The rest of the regiment marched along the North Platte to Chimney Rock. There they split into two parties. Colonel Hatch, the regimental headquarters, and six troops continued

west to Forts McKinney and Washakie in Wyoming. C, F, and K Troops turned north onto the Sidney-Fort Robinson Road. The long march ended on August 10, 1885, when the soldiers dismounted at Fort Robinson on the White River in the Pine Ridge country of northwestern Nebraska.⁷

When Emanuel Stance arrived at Fort Robinson, he could look back on a long and distinguished career. He had served nearly nineteen years against tenacious and skilled foes like Apache Chief Victorio. He held the Medal of Honor for his leadership and courage and wore the chevrons of a first sergeant, the senior enlisted man in the troop. He was without doubt a first-rate soldier.

There was little to do at Robinson for troopers of Stance's caliber. The Sioux wars were long over, and only an occasional security patrol by the 9th Regiment troopers disrupted the monotonous garrison routine. In January, 1886, a gang of thieves stole the post payroll from a stagecoach only sixteen miles east of the fort near Dawes City. Second Lieutenant William David McAnany, Sergeant Stance, and about half of the F Troop privates chased the highwaymen but lost the trail and returned to post.⁸ Very little of military significance occurred in the vicinity during the next five years. There was a short-lived and baseless Indian scare in 1888. However, it was not until the Ghost Dance enthusiasm among the Sioux caused a full-fledged panic at the end of 1890 that the cavalry on post saw action.

Other problems of moment developed within the regiment itself. A private of C Troop, Thomas Menlow, was killed in his bed on September 15, 1886, and authorities could not even find a suspect. Three months later Private Henry Roberts of Stance's F Troop, who had only two months to serve before he could return to his native Ohio, was gunned down in a barroom brawl. The weekly *Cleveland Gazette's* correspondent in the regiment on post reported that Private Alfred Mace of C Troop had killed Roberts, but a civil court apparently acquitted Mace. No one was ever convicted for either death.⁹

F Troop, which was commanded by Captain Clarence Augustus Stedman, experienced the most difficulties. Duty assignments, meals, and even the quiet hours after taps were punctuated by obscene exchanges and brawls. From June to

December of 1887, a long series of tense and often violent episodes flared and culminated in a third homicide.

Many outbursts took place in the odorous stables, where monotonous duty was exacerbated by buzzing flies and the stench of manure. On a June morning Private Frank Bowser decided he had had enough of those conditions. He strolled out of the corral and over to his barracks. Quartermaster Sergeant Robert Harris ordered him back to work. Bowser refused angrily: "Why the devil don't you make some of these other men do something." Harris took the soldier to the guardhouse despite Bowser's threat to "fix" him. The sergeant brushed the warning aside and demanded silence. Bowser, defiant to the end, replied, "You can't stop me from talking."¹⁰

On the same day that Bowser received a court-martial sentence of twenty days, two other men, Private Norbin Harris and Corporal Robert McKeen, confronted each other at the stables. Harris scorned an order to adjust a tether on a horse. Like Bowser, he felt persecuted. He snapped at McKeen that he was "tired of you G-- damn niggers bulldozing me and I will not stand it!" When Lieutenant McAnany asked why he spoke so disrespectfully, the surly Harris answered, "They have been cursing me ever since I have been in the troop and I am tired of it." A garrison court-martial gave him thirty days in the guard house.¹¹

Another incident at the post stable involved First Sergeant Stance, who reprimanded Private Henry Royster for carelessly watering the horses. Stance warned the soldier that he would be jailed unless he was more careful. Royster's defiance could not have been more explicit: "You can take me . . . none too soon, that is fine, I am ready to go." And he went—for ten days.¹² This episode was the third in six days in which privates had disobeyed and defied non-commissioned officers.

Relations among the sergeants themselves were not entirely harmonious. On the morning of November 13, 1887, a quarrel erupted at the stables between Sergeant Ebbert Maden, then in charge of the stable guard, and Quartermaster Sergeant Harris. Maden called Harris a liar, and Harris knocked Maden to the floor. Private Louis Glenn rushed in from his sentry post and tried to stop the fight. Harris demanded that Glenn "dry up or

he would break his damn head," but others intervened and prevented a serious scuffle.¹³

Private Glenn may have already had his share of conflict. He had collided twice with First Sergeant Stance, at a cost of a \$5.00 fine and ten days' confinement. One confrontation occurred in the barracks when Glenn brushed aside an order to wash his trousers; the other took place in the corral. Stance ordered that Glenn stop jerking a horse he was watering. The private denied any misdemeanor and demanded to see Captain Stedman. He warned that he was "tired of your bulldozing me, Sergeant Stance."¹⁴

The dining room was hardly calmer than the stable. On June 23 Private David Kendrick smashed a bowl over Private William Smith's head. Before Smith could return to duty, he underwent surgery.¹⁵ Private George Jones, obviously displeased at kitchen-police duty, started another mess hall fracas. At first light on November 20, Cook William Perrin assigned Jones to carry breakfast to the prisoners in the guardhouse. Jones called Perrin "a s— of a b—," told him to go to the devil, and refused to serve the prisoners. The outburst disturbed his comrades, who still slept in the adjacent squadroom, and cost Jones a \$3.00 fine.¹⁶

Only two days later Private Jacob Blair also disrupted the early morning quiet of the barracks. He came in at 3:00 o'clock, drunk and extremely disorderly. He laughingly flung his boots about the squadroom, but this amused none of his sleeping comrades. Later, he paid \$2.50 for the commotion. At breakfast that morning Blacksmith George Waterford, perhaps unsettled by Blair's display, created a disturbance.¹⁷ First Sergeant Stance ordered him to be quiet. Waterford growled back that "anyone who approaches me this morning is tired of living."¹⁸

These ten petty difficulties involved eight different privates and four noncommissioned officers in a company of only about forty-five men and ten noncommissioned officers. Obviously, discipline was significantly less than perfect. Troop Commander Captain Stedman, a veteran of seventeen years with the 9th, surely bore ultimate responsibility for this condition. As one of his privates complained, Stedman did not know as much about his troopers as he should have and depended too much on his sergeants for information.¹⁹



Officers of the 9th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Robinson, 1893: (Top row, left to right) Lt. Alfred Jackson, Lt. John H. Alexander (Negro), unidentified, Lt. G. S. Bingham, Capt. Charles Taylor, Capt. John Guilfoyle; (Middle row) Lt. James Swift, Capt. Frank Armstrong, Lt. John Gardner, Capt. Matthias Day, Lt. E. E. Hubert, Lt. ---- Wurtz, unidentified; (Bottom row) Capt. Philip Powell, Lt. Eugene Ladd, Maj. Charles Ilsley, Col. James Biddle, Lt. Col. Reuben Bernard, Lt. Grote Hutchinson, Capt. Clarence Stedman. (Courtesy of National Archives, Washington, D.C.)

The first sergeant not only failed to maintain harmony but was himself the focus of much discontent in a set of confrontations, which indicate that rank was a more divisive force than the bonds of race could overcome. Six of the ten altercations involved privates and their non-coms; four of them involved Sergeant Stance. The military caste system was more than a simple dichotomy of white officer and black soldier. Negro privates responded to what they considered harassment by their black non-coms with belligerence and threats. Moreover, when Emanuel Stance was found dead in December, the soldiers of F Troop became prime suspects.

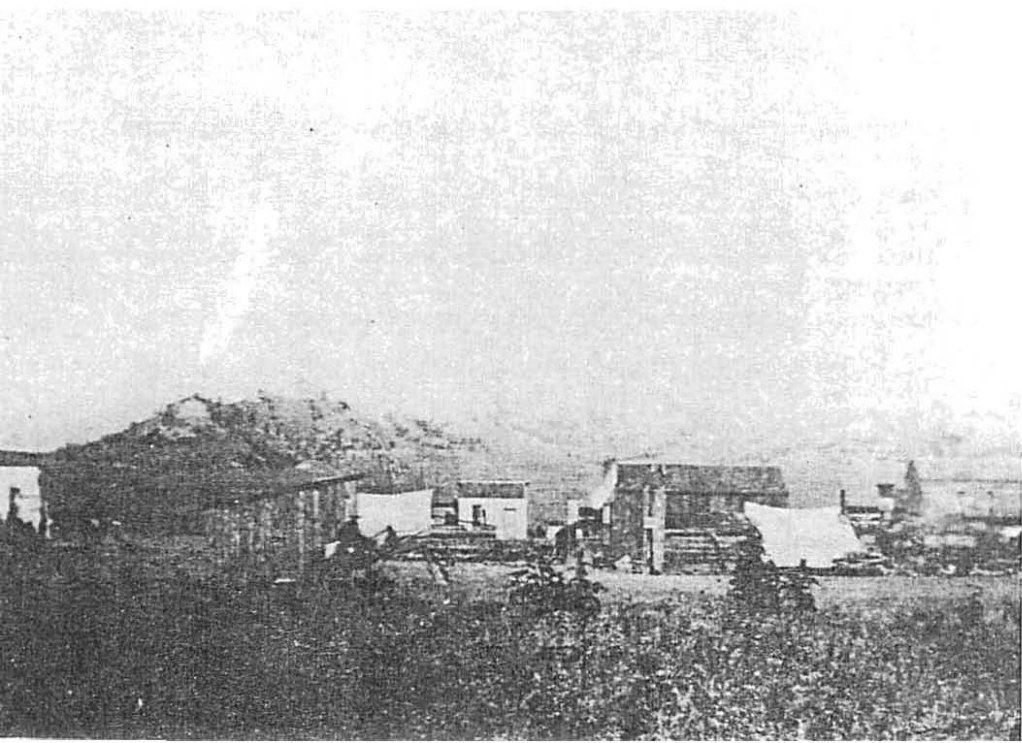
Lieutenant Joseph Garrard discovered Stance's body on the road east toward Crawford at about 8 o'clock on Christmas morning. The cause of his death was obvious: His body bore four gunshot wounds.²⁰ After twenty-nine years of hazardous frontier service, Stance lay dead—murdered, it was conjectured, by his own men.

The funeral on December 28, 1887, must have been an impressive spectacle. All duty was suspended "as a matter of respect to the memory" of Sergeant Stance. Regimental Sergeant Major Jeremiah Jones formed the command on the parade ground and led the men to the post hospital. The armed troopers, followed by the carriages of officers' families, escorted the body to the cemetery. There a party of sixteen soldiers fired a last salute to the veteran soldier.²¹

Major Andrew Burt, post commander during the absence of Col. Edward Hatch viewed the case as involving more than a single homicide. He sought advice from Federal Judge Elmer S. Dundy in Omaha in a remarkably humble and deferential letter. Burt "very respectfully" apologized to the judge for the "trespass on your valuable time," and posed a series of questions concerning the judicial process. Major Burt confessed his ignorance of jurisdiction over the crime or the proper legal authority to whom to report the matter. He emphasized the importance of the case, feeling that it involved "the whole interests of the service as well as good order."²² On the same day he informed Governor John M. Thayer at Lincoln of the shooting. Burt complained that the Dawes County sheriff had not apprehended any suspects,²³ apparently believing that



Crawford, Nebraska, had not yet been reached by the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad when the 9th Cavalry moved to Fort Robinson in 1885. Contiguous to the fort, the frontier village had much to offer the soldier on leave—but most of it was bad. The top photo is of Crawford in 1888 and the bottom photo in 1886.



some responsibility for solving the case should fall on civilian authorities—or that the murder may have occurred off the base, or may even have been perpetrated by civilians. Thayer offered a \$200 reward for the killer. Colonel Hatch later protested that the sum was insufficient and urged an increase to \$1,000. He obviously shared Burt's anxiety and sense of gravity in the matter. Hatch disclosed a basic reason for their concern: The Stance murder was "the third cold blooded murder" of soldiers at Fort Robinson in eighteen months; moreover, "no one has yet been punished for the crimes."²⁴ Colonel Hatch and Major Burt may have feared that they were losing control over the garrison.

The sheriff finally arrested a suspect, Private Miller Milds of F Troop. Burt remained apprehensive and wrote that it was of "importance, vital importance," that every effort be made "to prevent Milds' escape, if guilty."²⁵ Finally, in late February, 1888, the case was filed in the state district court in Chadron, county seat of Dawes County and about twenty-five miles northeast of Fort Robinson. After some pre-trial hearings, the tribunal declined jurisdiction because it was determined that the crime had occurred on the military reservation. In addition to jailing Private Milds, Colonel Hatch also jailed two cavalrymen for complicity. He wrote Department of the Platte headquarters in Omaha and raised legal questions similar to those Burt had earlier asked. He wanted a federal court to try the case, but did not know which circuit court had jurisdiction or how to bring the matter to trial. The commander feared for the safety of the garrison because "the men who are engaged in these murders are impressed with the belief that the law cannot reach them."²⁶ He did not mention, and perhaps did not know, that he had made a foolish and costly error. The case should have never gone to a state court. Less than a year before the case went to court, the Nebraska Legislature had explicitly ceded judicial and legislative jurisdiction over the reservation to the United States.²⁷ Colonel Hatch apparently did not know this. Thus, the failure to get the case to the proper court was largely due to his failure as a commander.

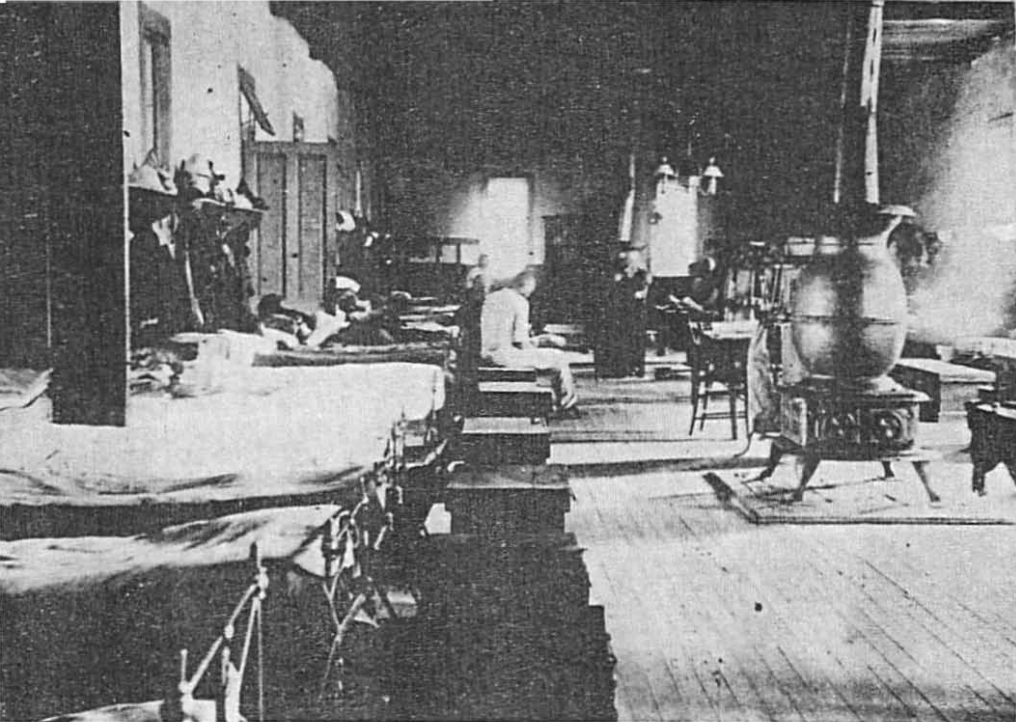
Within a few days of Hatch's plea for help, three federal officers—a district attorney, United States commissioner, and a marshal—arrived to examine the evidence. The commissioner

decided Milds was the principal assailant and sent him to Fort Omaha for trial. Nearly a year passed before the proceedings continued. In the interim the accused was returned to Fort Robinson. Incredibly, the delay was attributed to a lack of funds for the prosecution. By the time the case was to have resumed, some of the witnesses had died, and others had been discharged and could not be located.²⁸

Colonel Hatch finally approved Captain Stedman's recommendation of a dishonorable discharge for Milds and forwarded the request to Omaha. He called Milds a "worthless scamp" and reported that the soldier had contracted syphilis; Hatch hinted that the condition was chronic. Milds was in the Fort Robinson hospital "and in all probability will spend most of his enlistment there." Milds was dismissed from the service in January, 1889, at Fort Robinson.²⁹

Private Milds was never brought to trial for the murder of Sergeant Stance, and post correspondence contains no proof of his guilt. However, the evidence still points strongly toward the men of F Troop. Captain Augustus Whittemore Corliss, who was on the post at the time with the 8th Infantry, believed "men of his [Stance's] own troop" probably killed Stance. Private Simpson Mann, who joined F Troop shortly after the murder, heard that two or three soldiers had killed one of their sergeants near Crawford. Mann, years later when reminiscing about Fort Robinson, recalled that the victim had been "dirty mean," had beaten soldiers, and had lied to officers about them.³⁰

Mann commented that the murdered man's replacement, Sergeant Nathan Fletcher, represented an improvement. This was no surprise; the shooting probably subdued many a belligerent non-com. More significantly, Mann concluded that the sergeants "all were about [the] same."³¹ An earlier court-martial of a private in C Troop supports the aged veteran's recollection and evaluation. The court convicted the soldier of striking his first sergeant, Thomas Bannister. General George Crook, commander of the Department of the Platte, overturned the decision. Crook noted that Sergeant Bannister had provoked the assault when he struck the accused on the head with a carbine, and then chased the soldier through the barracks.³²



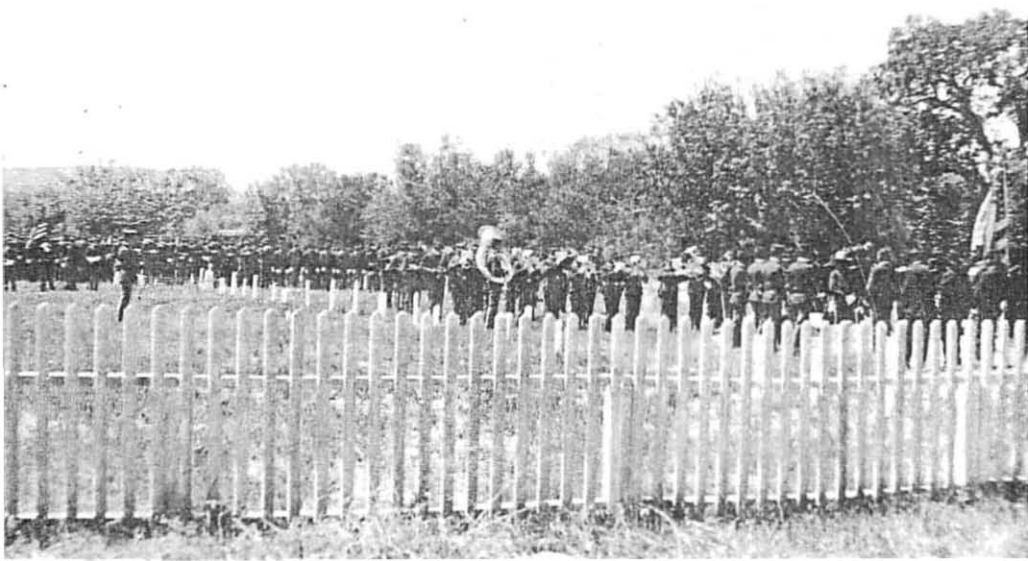
Barracks at Fort Robinson in the 1890's were little different from those of other posts. They saw few changes in the years following. The cork helmets on the shelf date this picture in the 1902-1907 period, after the 10th Cavalry had seen service in the Spanish-American War. (Courtesy of Fort Laramie National Historic Site.)

Officers like Hatch, Burt, and Stedman either failed to appreciate the fact that sergeants browbeat and sometimes even terrorized private soldiers, or they condoned this behavior in the name of discipline. One officer wrote that Stance had been "a very strict disciplinarian" and that he "stood high in the esteem of his superiors." Probably it was the same officer who observed that Stance's troop "needed a strong hand, and it took a pretty nervy man to be 1st sergeant."³³

Events indicate that Sergeant Stance was more than a strict disciplinarian. He hounded his troops and apparently condoned similar behavior by his subordinate non-coms. If he was in fact killed by one of his own men, as the evidence suggests, the shooting may well have been the ultimate protest against this kind of leadership and the command structure that condoned it. Awareness of this possibility may have been what prompted Hatch and Burt to such vigorous pursuit of Stance's killer. Post officers had not been nearly so energetic after the Menlow and Roberts murders. Their actions after Stance's death were surely



The Fort McPherson National Cemetery (above) in the Platte River valley near present-day Maxwell, Nebraska, contains the grave of Sergeant Emanuel Stance. His body was moved there when the cemetery at Fort Robinson (below) was terminated in 1947.



prompted partly by their respect for the victim's previous service, but their near panic suggests that more basic factors were also involved.

Six years later, in the spring of 1893, strife shook another 9th Cavalry unit on the post. Sergeant Barney McKay of G Troop stood trial for distributing an incendiary leaflet to incite the men against the citizens of nearby Crawford. The great majority of the men, privates as well as sergeants, stood by McKay and refused to testify against him. However, personal animosities broke the unit's cohesiveness. Thomas Goodlow, the troop's first sergeant, watched the rifts develop among his men and commented sadly that "the niggers won't hang together; they are always ready to hang one another."³⁴

The veteran Goodlow was wrong, of course. Black soldiers frequently faced their officers and a generally hostile white world as a solid, unified group. For example, in 1891 on two separate occasions at different posts, enlisted men felt confident enough in both their unity and righteousness to circulate petitions among their fellows protesting the leadership of their commanders. Then they presented their remonstrances to post commanders at Fort Bayard, New Mexico, as well as Fort Robinson.³⁵ The troopers also demonstrated their solidarity against hostile white civilians. They shot up a town (Suggs, Wyoming), where some of their comrades had experienced racial abuse. Fort Robinson troopers from the 9th Cavalry had been sent to northern Wyoming to intercede between belligerent factions of cattlemen in the Jackson County War.³⁶ Solidarity appears to have been more the rule than the exception among black soldiers.

But, as the foregoing narrative shows, there was some division and strife within black units. In the McKay case problems grew out of a personal argument between McKay and Sergeant Arthur Ransom. In Stance's troop tensions developed along the lines of the military caste system. Non-commissioned officers harried their men, possibly with the tacit approval of their white officers. The six uneasy months of 1887 before Stance's death passed with ample warnings. The soldiers expressed their complaints and defiance candidly, as the orders which published the results of their trials show. Their signals went unheeded, and

the evidence indicates that some of them killed the man they identified as their chief tormentor.

NOTES

1. Post Returns, Fort Robinson, August, 1885 (National Archives, Record Group 94, hereafter cited as NA and RG, respectively); William H. Leckie, *The Buffalo Soldiers, A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West* (Norman, 1967), 251.

2. Colonel George F. Hamilton, "History of the Ninth Regiment U.S. Cavalry," typescript (United States Military Academy Library, West Point), 1-7; Enlistment Register, 1866 (NA, RG 94).

3. Leckie, *The Buffalo Soldiers*, 93, 95; Hamilton, "History of the Ninth Regiment U.S. Cavalry," 12; Lieutenant Grote Hutcheson, "The Ninth Regiment of Cavalry," Theodore F. Rodenbaugh and William L. Haskin, eds., *The Army of the United States* (New York, 1896), 285; Irvin H. Lee, *Negro Medal of Honor Men* (New York, 1967), 61.

4. Hamilton, "History of the Ninth Regiment U.S. Cavalry," 19-21, 27, 31, 36, 45, 52, 59-60.

5. *Ibid.*, 64-67; Leckie, *The Buffalo Soldiers*, 245-252.

6. Regimental Returns, 9th Cavalry, June-August, 1885 (NA, RG 94); Report of Brigadier General Oliver O. Howard, commanding general, Department of the Platte, September 17, 1885, *Annual Report of the Department of War, 1885*, 142-143, 146; *Daily State Journal* (Lincoln, Nebraska), June 27, 1885.

7. Hamilton; "History of the Ninth Regiment U.S. Cavalry," 67.

8. Post Returns, Fort Robinson, January, 1886; Telegram, assistant adjutant general, Department of the Platte, to commanding officer, Fort Niobrara, January 12, 1886, Miscellaneous Records, Department of the Platte (NA, RG 393).

9. Commanding officer, C/9th Cavalry, to the adjutant general, United States Army, November 11, 1886, Letters Sent, C/9th Cavalry (NA, RG 391); Captain A. W. Corliss, Diary, II, December 7, 1886 (Western History Collection, Denver Public Library); *Cleveland (Ohio) Gazette*, January 1, 1887; Post Returns, Fort Robinson, May, 1887; Commanding officer, Fort Robinson to assistant adjutant general, Department of the Platte, March 4, 1888, Letters Sent, Fort Robinson (NA, RG 393); Two 9th Cavalry troopers, one each at Fort McKinney, Wyoming, and Fort Duchesne, Utah, were also killed by comrades in the autumn of 1887. Regimental Returns, 9th Cavalry, October-November, 1887 (NA, RG 94).

10. Orders 123, Fort Robinson, June 20, 1887, Post Orders (NA, RG 393).

11. Orders 126, Fort Robinson, June 25, 1887.

12. Orders 130, Fort Robinson, July 4, 1887.

13. Orders 225, Fort Robinson, November 17, 1887; Orders 226, Fort

Robinson, November 18, 1887. A garrison court-martial fined Harris a month's pay and reduced Maden to the ranks.

14. Orders 188, Fort Robinson, September 23, 1887.

15. Orders 140, Fort Robinson, July 13, 1887.

16. Orders 241, Fort Robinson, December 6, 1887.

17. Orders 238, Fort Robinson, December 3, 1887.

18. *Ibid.*

19. Don Rickey, Jr., interview with Simpson Mann, Wadsworth Veterans' Hospital, Leavenworth, Kansas, 1965. Typescript (Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln).

20. Entry for December, 1887, Medical History, Fort Robinson (NA, RG 393); Commanding officer, Fort Robinson, to assistant adjutant general, Department of the Platte, February 5, 1888, Letters Sent, Fort Robinson. Major Burt asked Surgeon A. W. Taylor for a report on the nature of the wounds in a letter of December 26, but Taylor's reply is not included in post correspondence.

21. Orders 253, Fort Robinson, December 27, 1887.

22. Commanding officer, Fort Robinson, to Honorable Judge Dundy, United States Circuit Court, Omaha, January 4, 1888, Letters Sent, Fort Robinson.

23. Commanding officer, Fort Robinson, to Governor John M. Thayer, Lincoln, January 4, 1888, Letters Sent, Fort Robinson.

24. Commanding officer, Fort Robinson, to assistant adjutant general, Department of the Platte, March 4, 1888, Letters Sent, Fort Robinson.

25. *Ibid.*, February 5, 1888.

26. *Ibid.*, March 4, 1888; *Crawford* (Nebraska) *Crescent*, March 1, 1888, reprinted from *Crawford Clipper*.

27. *Army and Navy Journal*, 23 (May 23, 1886), 695; *Laws, Joint Resolutions, and Memorials . . . State of Nebraska, 1887* (Lincoln: Journal Company, 1887), 628-629.

28. Commanding officer, Fort Robinson, to assistant adjutant general, Department of the Platte, March 13, 1888; and December 24, 1888, endorsement on letter, commanding officer, F/9th Cavalry, to commanding officer, Fort Robinson, n.d., Letters Sent, Fort Robinson.

29. *Ibid.*; Regimental Returns, 9th Cavalry, January, 1889, (NA, RG 94).

30. Corliss, *Diary*, II, December 25, 1887; Rickey, interview with Simpson Mann.

31. *Ibid.*

32. *Army and Navy Journal*, 24 (June 18, 1887), 936.

33. *Ibid.*, 25 (December 31, 1887), 442; *Ibid.*, 25 (January 15, 1888), 482.

34. Proceedings of General Court-Martial, Sergeant Barney McKay, Fort Robinson, June 1-21, 1893 (NA, RG 153).

35. *Army and Navy Journal*, 30 (April 25, 1891), 600; *Ibid.*, 30 (May 30, 1891), 683; Commanding officer, Fort Robinson, to assistant adjutant general, Department of the Platte, May 1, 1891, Letters Sent, Fort Robinson.

36. Frank N. Schubert, "The Suggs Affray: The Black Cavalry in the Johnson County War," *Western Historical Quarterly*, 4 (January, 1973), 62-63.