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**Brian Bond** is a senior Theatre Arts Major (Performance Emphasis) at Bloomsburg University (Class of ’23). Brian has been involved with theatre for over a decade, playing roles such as Ben (Night of the Living Dead) at Williamsport Area High School, Dr. Bennett (Big Fish) at Community Theatre League in Williamsport, PA, as well as Marquis (Hooded: Or Being Black for Dummies) at BU. Alongside his many roles, Brian’s a playwright and director who assistant directed #HereToo at Penn State University, John Proctor is the Villain at BU, directed an original show at Williamsport Area High School titled With Maxine, and more.

**Gabe Moses** (he/him) is an actor, director and overall art maker. He has a BA in Theatre from DeSales University. As a theatre artist, Gabe strives to be able to use his platforms to amplify black and brown voices. Gabe has been seen at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival in their productions of Ragtime, Crazy For You, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, and many others. He has recently taken part in their Linny Fowler WillPower Tours of Julius Caesar and Hamlet. His other recent credits as an actor include HAIR (Cortland Repertory Theatre), The Tempest (Delaware Shakespeare), and Oktoberfest (Tiny Dynamite). He started out as a director doing virtual play readings including Clybourne Park, The Taming of the Shrew, and Crumbs from the Table of Joy. He is a member of The Makers’ Ensemble in New York City where he recently directed a play reading of Twang by Cris Eli Black for their Short Play Festival. He also worked with Palm Beach Dramaworks to direct a reading of Dark Skinned Pavement by TJ Young in their New Year/New Plays Festival. He had the privilege of working alongside Steve H Broadnax III (Broadway’s Thoughts of A Colored Man) as his assistant director for Bayard Rustin: Inside Ashland at People’s Light. Most recently, Gabe directed Blood At The Root by Dominique Morisseau at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts. www.gabemoses.com, IG: @gabejmoses

**Meagon Williams** is a native of Alabama, now residing in Philadelphia, PA. She is a graduate of the University of Montevallo where she received her BFA in Acting. Recent credits include Sweet Charity, The Little Engine, Stickily, and Chicago. She is very thankful for this opportunity.
WHO ARE THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS?

After the Civil War was over, our nation had many men who were left without a way forward. This included the black men who helped the Northern states win the war. Opportunities arose when settlers started moving out west. The government needed men to help maintain order. They relied on the army—most specifically the nation’s black veterans.

The origination of the term ‘Buffalo Soldiers’ came from the indigenous people of the late 1800s. The black Army soldiers were tasked to maintain peace, lay railroad lines and telegraph wires, deliver mail, and move indigenous people while settlers were moving out west. Due to the strength, ferocity of the soldiers, and their hair being similar to the buffalo’s hair between their horns the indigenous people nicknamed them Buffalo soldiers. Despite the men’s competition for land and resources with the indigenous people this was a term of honor due to how much the indigenous revered the buffalo. The Buffalo Soldiers were respected by the very people they were tasked to fight.

The term Buffalo Soldiers was not a term the men themselves used. In reality the regimes that were tasked with this work were the 24th and 25th infantry and the 9th and 10th calvary. These regimes, which made up 10% of the army at that time, were comprised of all black soldiers. The Buffalo Soldiers originally were veterans of the Civil War. These men joined the army for the promise of more rights than were being provided by the southern states. The possibility of respect, equality, and full citizenship for them and their communities was a large influence in enlisting.

Buffalo Soldiers also protected indigenous farmers from raiders of different tribes. The Creek, Chicksaw, and Cherokee relied on these men to help protect their land and their people. The Kiowa and Ute families were protected from the white militias in Texas, as well. They went so far as removing white settlers who illegally settled on Indian Treaty Land.

In 1890, our nation closed the parks to the public due to the abuse these areas were taking on. During this time the mindset of citizens was very utilitarian. If you needed something from the land, you took it. It was a means of survival. However, taking from our Nation’s parks was devastating to the wildlife and eco-system.

In 1899, the government assigned the Buffalo Soldiers to protect areas of the United States that needed preserving. Yosemite, Mount Rainier, and Sequoia National Parks were the first to be protected. The men moved to these places and helped protect them from timber thieves and poachers. The Buffalo Soldiers became park rangers before we even had the term park ranger.
As you can imagine, many visitors to the parks did not take kindly to black soldiers telling them what to do. Daily, these brave men battled racism and hate while they tried to protect our nation’s parks. This did not stop them from doing their job and more. Not only did they protect our national parks but they built buildings to live and work in, trails and roads to traverse the parks, and even built our first National Park Museum, an arboretum, (plant museum) in Yosemite National Park. In fact, the trails and roads proved so sound that we still use them today to tour the parks.

The Buffalo Soldiers proved to be an invaluable part of our National Park history. Without them, our parks would not be what they are today. History almost lost their stories for 100 years due to racism and bigotry however Park Rangers and History Buffs alike are working every day to make sure our citizens don’t forget these brave, amazing men.

**FUN FACT:**
Smokey the Bear’s hat was modeled after the Buffalo Soldier’s way of wearing their military hats. The distinct pitched top, or Montana Peak, was created to help deter water from gathering at the top of the hat.
WHO IS CHARLES YOUNG?

Charles Young is one of the most famous Park Rangers in our National Park history. Born on March 12th, 1864, directly in the middle of the Civil War, his parents, who were indentured servants, moved the short distance to Ripley, Ohio to live free in the Northern States. Charles was born a slave but he would never have to experience slavery.

Growing up in Ripley, Ohio Charles proved to be a smart and motivated young man. He graduated top of his class at an integrated school in his hometown. In 1884, he was admitted into West Point Military Academy. He was only the 9th African American man to be admitted in the school’s history at that time. While at West Point, he experienced shunning and discrimination, however he did not let that slow him down. He graduated from West Point; the third black man to do so.

After his college years, Charles started teaching at Wilberforce University in Ohio. There he taught Military Science and Tactics, preparing African American soldiers and students for life in the military. While teaching he befriended educators such as W.E.B. Dubois and Paul Laurence Dunbar. This friendship lasted their whole lives.

In 1894, Charles’ father died and his mother moved to the university to live with her son. There, Charles owned a lovely home called Youngshome where he entertained contemporaries, students, friends, and strangers alike. It became such a social hub that even while Charles was away gatherings still happened!

In 1903, Charles became the Acting Military Superintendent of Sequoia National Park with his troops. While there he built the trails and wagon roads that we still use today. He did such good while there that he is still the most talked about Buffalo Soldier, or Park Ranger, to date.

After Charles left the park, he went on to be a Military Attaché in Haiti and Liberia. He did such a great job that in 1916 the NAACP awarded him the Singarn Medal.
Later in life he was honorably discharged. Charles did not like this and fought the decision until they reinstated him. He continued to be an Attaché’ up until his death. While in Nigeria, Charles took gravely ill and died of a kidney infection. (January 8th, 1922). His wife, peers, and friends urged the government to repatriate his body to the United States in 1923 and he received a full military funeral in Arlington National Amphitheatre, and he remains buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

**FUN FACT:**
President Barack Obama established the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio on March 25th, 2013!
WHY DO WE NEED NATIONAL PARKS?

National Parks are a huge part of our nation’s infrastructure and preservation efforts. In these parks live many animals, including ones that have once been or still are considered endangered. In Sequoia National Park, the Giant Forest still stands due to the work of our Park Rangers and government. This is one of the world’s largest Tree Groves.

The National Park Service is a resource for both our parks and our local gems. The present-day service spends its time protecting, not only the famous parks and resources, but offers guidance for citizens who wish to maintain a local historic landmark or park.

You can visit these parks and enjoy our nation’s beautiful landscape while learning our history and the history of our ecosystem.

Wondering how our national park service came about? Visit this website below!
https://www.nps.gov/articles/quick-nps-history.htm
A comprehensive list of our nation’s national parks:
Buffalo Soldiers Word Search

Buffalo Soldiers
Conservation
Yosemite
Army

National Parks
Indigenous
Sequoia

Mount Rainier
Arboretum
Calvary
COLORING PAGES!!

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NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE BUFFALO SOLDIERS STUDY FILM
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zunKW4iBoaA&t=415s

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y13RwS95PIM

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNT03VVe7h-A

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