

Presley Holliday: Letters from an American Soldier

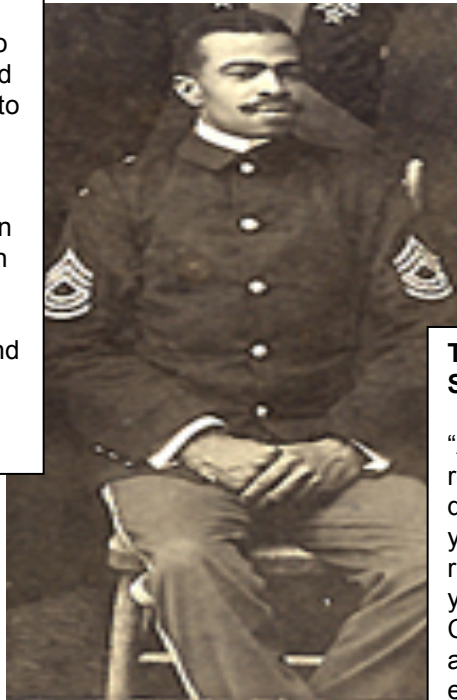
Sgt. Presley (also Pressley or Presly) Holliday, USA
(1873-1954)
Steelton High School (Class of 1890), Married Estelle M. Hill
Buried in Midland Cemetery

He was a Buffalo Soldier who fought in Cuba and challenged a future president...

**To Editor of *New York Age*,
April 22, 1899**

"...as I was an eyewitness to the most important incidents mentioned in that statement [by Col. Theodore Roosevelt], I deem it a duty I owe, not only to the fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers of those soldiers, and to the soldiers themselves, but to their posterity and the race in general, to be always ready to make an unprejudiced refutation of such charges, and to do all in my power to place the colored soldier where he properly belongs —among the bravest and most trustworthy of this land."

Fort Ringgold, Texas



Pictured above in 1902

**To President Harry Truman,
September 4, 1945**

"As a retired soldier who has retained his interest in the army during all of the more than 52 years of this service, active and retired, I urgently request that you exercise your authority as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces to direct by executive order the enlistment of Negroes and their organization into every branch of the regular army ... Mr. President, as this request is nothing more than for simple justice, I hope it may have your careful consideration and meet with your approval...."

Soldiers' Home, Washington DC

...and then kept fighting for equality in dozens more letters to editors and presidents.