

THE JOURNAL

The unofficial newsletter of Wilson County Historical Society



IN THIS ISSUE

315 YEARS AGO

APRIL'S MEETING

DUDLEY STRAWS

**MARCELINAS BAPTIST
CHURCH - 150 YEARS**

OPRY LINE-UP

**NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT
HONORS COUNTY
VETERANS
COUNTY CLERK QUERY**


315 Years Ago

from TSHA's [Texas Day By Day](#)

While Wilson County was formally created in 1860, the history of the area began much earlier and its beginnings can be traced to the many historical events of the surrounding area. One such event occurred over three centuries ago.

On April 13 1709, an expedition led by Franciscan fathers Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares and Isidro Félix de Espinosa reached the site of what is now the city of San Antonio and named the nearby springs San Pedro Springs. To learn more about this expedition, see TSHA's [Texas Day By Day](#) entry for April 13th.

APRIL'S MEETING PROGRAM



Wilson County Historical Society

Buffalo Soldiers History

April 16, 2024
6:00 PM
Wilson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom
1320 3rd Street, Floresville

Sergeant Major (SGM, Retired) Turner McGarity will share the Buffalo Soldier history. SGM McGarity is a San Antonio native, a 25-year Army veteran, and former Deputy Commandant, TMI Corps of Cadets. SGM McGarity served as President, Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association and enjoys serving in his church where he's been a member for 67 years and currently serves as Church Trustee, Treasurer, and President of the Usher Board #2. SGM McGarity spent over 25 years officiating both basketball and football as a member of the San Antonio Officiating Chapter.

Be sure to join us at our monthly meeting in April where SGM (Ret) McGarity will share with us the storied history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

SGM McGarity portraying Lt Henry Flipper - TrueWest Magazine
<https://truewestmagazine.com/article/the-valiant-and-brave/>

Our April meeting, scheduled for 6:00 PM on April 16th at the Wilson County Courthouse, will have Sergeant Major (SGM) (Retired) McGarity sharing with us the history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

SGM McGarity is a San Antonio native, a 25-year Army veteran, and former Deputy Commandant, TMI Corps of Cadets. SGM McGarity served as President, Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association and enjoys serving in his church where he's been a member for 67 years and currently serves as Church Trustee, Treasurer, and President of the Usher Board #2. SGM McGarity spent over 25 years officiating both basketball and football as a member of the San Antonio Officiating Chapter.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Dudley Straws - Wilson County's Buffalo Soldier

By Melinda Creech, PhD

Dudley Straws was born 27 or 28 February 1844, in Franklin County, Kentucky. His father's name was Dudley Straws and his mother's maiden name was Collier.

He enlisted in the U. S. Army and served as a private in the 119th U. S. Colored Infantry on 23 May 1865 for three years. According to the records he was 22 years old, stood 5' 11", and was occupied as a farmer. The records also state that his owner was David Stout.

The Slave Schedule for 1860 lists a David Stout of Franklin County, Kentucky with seven slaves. One of the slaves was 16 years old. The Slave Schedule for 1850 lists a David Stout of Franklin County, Kentucky with seven slaves. One of the slaves was 6 years old. These could have been Dudley. It looks like David Stout sold two of his slaves between 1850 and 1860 and another enslaved child was born in 1851. The Slave Schedule might indicate that Mr. Dudley Straws, Sr. was born in 1813 and Mrs. Collier Straws was born ca. 1802.

The 119th Colored Infantry was organized at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, January 18, to May 16, 1865. It was attached to Dept. of Kentucky and duty at various points in that State until April, 1866. The group mustered out April 27, 1866.

Dudley Straws' military records report that he was also in the A 41 Infantry. The 41st United States Colored Infantry was an infantry regiment that served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. The regiment was composed almost entirely of African American enlisted men and commanded by white officers. The regiment was authorized by the Bureau of Colored Troops which was created by the United States War Department on May 22, 1863. The regiment engaged in the Siege of Petersburg and Appomattox Campaign and was present at the unconditional surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

His records also report that he also served in G 24 U. S. Infantry until 15 January 1870, when he was discharged. The 24th United States Colored Infantry Regiment was organized at Camp William Penn near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania beginning January 1, 1865 for three-year service under the command of Colonel Orlando Brown. The regiment moved to Washington, D.C., May 5, and served duty at Camp Casey until June 1. At Point Lookout, Maryland, they guarded prisoners until July 16, and then moved to Richmond, Virginia, and served duty in the Sub-District of Roanoke, Headquarters at Burkesville, until September. After that they were moved to Richmond, and served there until mustered out of service on October 1, 1865.

I talked to an archivist at the Buffalo Soldiers Museum in Houston and he informed me that the regiment that he was in was sent from Virginia to Edinburg, Texas to defend the border. According to a thesis written by William E. Gorham, "Buffalo Soldiers: The Formation of the Twenty-fourth Infantry Regiment: October 1866-June 1871," Dudley Straws, attached to Company G of the 24th regiment, probably came to Texas by ship, landed first at Galveston, then Port Isabel. The company proceeded up the Rio Grande through Ft. Duncan, Ft. Clark, Ft. Davis, and Ft. Quitman. Going east they went to Ft. Stockton and ended at Ft. McKavett. Most of his duty would have been at Ft. McKavett. San Antonio was the closest town, but it was 180 miles away.

Dudley Straws' military service ended on 15 January 1870. He was married to Sarah Straw, who was born in Kentucky.

The 1880 Census has Dudley Straws' name transcribed incorrectly as "Sloan." In 1880 he was living in Wilson County, Precinct 3, with his wife Sarah and daughter Phoebe and son Davis M.

Dudley was living in Floresville in 1900, according to the census that year. He is living with his daughter, Febie Houston and her husband Pinkney Houston and children: Willie Durant (5), James Durant (2), Mosby Straw (20), Birdes Straw (18), Ethel Straw (9), and Marie Durant (3 mos.) in 1900. On 19 June 1894, Phoebe married Willie Duran.

In 1910 he was living with his daughter Ethel Wright (19) and her son Ellwood on the Floresville and Sutherland Springs Road. Phoebe and her daughter Willie and son, James, are living on Ave. C. in San Antonio. Phoebe remarries Ernest Hall and is living on Centre Street in San Antonio with her nephew, Elwood Wright.

Dudley Straws died in Floresville, Texas, 18 April 1912, of dropsy, and is buried in City Cemetery #2. He was 68 years, 1 months, and 19 days old and was widowed at the time of his death. His grave marker reads: "Dudley Straws / Co. D. / 100 U. S. C. I. (United States Colored Infantry)."

Ethel Wright died on 16 April 1918 in San Antonio. Her death certificate lists Sarah Whitaker, Louisville, Kentucky, as her mother. The information is given by Pheobie Hall. Ethel was buried in Floresville, but there is no record of her burial. Phoebie Hall was also buried in Floresville with no record of her burial.

Dudley's son, Mosby was hit and killed by in a car accident in 1936 in San Antonio. He is buried in Floresville.



Source: findagrave.com

A Cause for Celebration

Marcelina Baptist Church 1874-2024

For where two or
three gather in
my name, there
am I with them.

-Matthew 8:20



Saturday,
April 27th

11am

Come on out and celebrate Marcelinas
150th year! We will have Music from the
"Lost But Found" Gospel Group and
other singers. There will be many
Special Guests and a BBQ Potluck!
Many memories and memorabilia will be
on display along with fun for the kiddos!



Pastor Bobby Moody (210)859-2836
Secretary Holly Wilson (210)970-1113

510 Cr. 404
Floresville, 78114

Come out April 27th and help Pastor Moody and the Marcelinas Baptist Church congregants celebrate their sesquicentennial.

Floresville Opry Line-Up

Floresville Opry

HEADLINER SCHEDULE

Call EARLY for reservations!

Reserved Tables (Seat 8) - \$100
General Admission - \$15
Catered Dinner
Desserts by WCHS

6-9:15 pm • Doors Open @ 5 pm
WILSON COUNTY EXPO AND COMMUNITY CENTER
435 Hwy 97 E, Floresville

April 4	–	Billy Mata	<i>SOLD OUT</i>
May 2	–	Randy Carson	
June 6	–	Jody Jenkins	
July 4	–	Freddy Cruz	
Aug. 1	–	Jake Blocker	
Sept. 5	–	Sean O'Brien	
Oct. 3	–	Derek Spence	
Nov. 7	–	Wyatt Aleman	
Dec. 5	–	Mike Hughes	

Floresville Opry House Band

Contact: Viola (830) 391-1062

Wilson County News, a proud sponsor of the Floresville Opry

Do not take your chances by waiting to purchase your tickets at the door. Viola and her team have sold out the previous months and this will likely continue. Reserve your seats now!

MUSEUM EXHIBIT HONORS VETS

On April 13th, the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum opens a new exhibit. The new exhibit is a salute to the men and women in the armed forces that are from Wilson County. With Memorial Day coming up in May we want to remember those we lost and those that came home. It's also a time to salute those that fought for our freedom starting in the Civil War through today. Let us not forget.

Loaned Artifacts:

Sutherland Springs Historical Museum

Finder's Keepers

Edward and Wilma Schulze

Clay Maeckel

Keith Muschalek

Becca Opiela



Be sure to check out our Website and "like" our Facebook page



<https://www.wilsoncountyhistory.org>



facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistoricalsociety

Have you visited the Wilson County Clerk's Official Records Site?

<https://wilson.tx.publicsearch.us/>

Which historical record among the County Clerk's Deeds have you found to be interesting? Share your find by sending us an email at info@wilsoncountyhistory.org