

Buffalo Soldiers, Cowboys, Lawmen, Scouts Explorers, Merchants, Settlers, Outlaws

Presented as a program of the Jubilee Project

A Living History Program



Frontier West Comes To Life

The spirit of the Old West is alive in the person of Joe Certaine. Certaine is an historian who presents living history. His characters are right out of the Golden Age of the Frontier West. They include stories of Scouts and Lawmen, Buffalo Soldiers and Outlaws. They all fit into his well presented stories called the Shadows Warriors.

Certaine is a descendant of a family that documents two Civil War soldiers. One, Sergeant Robert Certain fought with the famed 1st South Carolina Volunteer Infantry, one of the very first Black Union Regiments during the American Civil War. The unit later became the 33rd Infantry Regiment of the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Another soldier, Jordan Certain served with the 35th USCT for a limited time towards the end of the Civil War.

After the Civil War, family lore tells of one soldier heading West in an Black wagon train with Pap Singleton and his Exodusters. He left the wagon train in Kansas and joined the 10th Cavalry, one of the first regiments of the Black units known as the Buffalo Soldiers. >>



Frontier historian and re-enactor Joe Certaine and his horse Cochise. Certaine presents Black historical figures from the Frontier West. Here he portrays Isom Dart a sometimes rancher, full time outlaw who rode with the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang

Certaine also portrays John T. Glass, Chief of Scouts at Fort Apache Arizona Territory, White Mountain Apaches.

Isaiah Dorman is another of Certaine's characters. Dorman was the only Black man who rode with George Armstrong Custer into the Valley of the Little Big Horn River in June of 1876. George Goldsby, a Sergeant Major of the Tenth Cavalry, is also a Shadow Warriors presentation.

Shadow Warriors brings the Old West to life.

Certaine presents his characters on horseback, whenever possible, in order to lend period authenticity to the stories. He is most often found in a school library or church hall. Clothed in period attire of either; an 1872 Buffalo Soldier, the buckskins of a Cavalry Scout or in the recognizable clothes of an Old West Drover. Certaine offers a realistic view of what the West was like during the period after the American Civil War, often called the Golden Age of the West. He focuses on recorded but ignored historical characters of American history

Joe Certaine served as the on screen historian and narrator for the "The Invisible Men of Honor - The Legend of the Buffalo Soldiers" a television documentary that portrays the history of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers. He has written two short stories "As the Crow Flies" a record of a visit to his friends on the Crow reservation and "The History of the Buffalo Soldiers" a history of the early years of the 9th and 10th Cavalry. Both are published by Blue Horse Productions of Tucson, Arizona

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Shadow Warriors cont'd.

The Shadow Warriors series will change the way you think of Black history. It will awaken your spirit and test your knowledge of who you are. You're sure to want more and that's the point. The more you hear of the Shadow Warriors the more you understand the contribution made by Black Americans to tame the Western Frontier and build the country.

While researching his family history, Certaine discovered the Black West . Little known stories of settlers and gamblers; preachers and merchants, lawmen and bronc-busters, soldiers and outlaws, all of whom were Black. During the last decade of the twentieth century, Joe Certaine, rode with the Warrior Societies of the mighty Plains Nations, the Lakota, Cheyenne and the Crow. He retraced the old Comanche War Trail in Texas and Oklahoma. He guided his horse up the rugged mountain trail deep in the Dragoon Mountains of Southern Arizona, into the stronghold of the great Apache leader Cochise. He rode across the Little Bighorn River in the company of the Bishkawaliki onto the Little Bighorn Battlefield. He conducted research in places named Brackettville and Uvalde, Tombstone and Cheyenne, Forts Clark, Robinson, Leavenworth and Sill, all the while learning about the Black men and women of the Frontier West.

Now Joe Certaine shares the stories of Black Americans seeking a new life in a wild and rugged land. His characters like Bose Ikard, ride the Chisholm, the Western and the Goodnight-Loving Trails on cattle drives.



They work on the Union Pacific and they search for Billy the Kid in Lincoln County New Mexico. Black settlers go west in wagon trains from Missouri. They build Black towns named Nicodemus and Boley, Wewoka and Marshalltown. They run a ferry across the Red River.

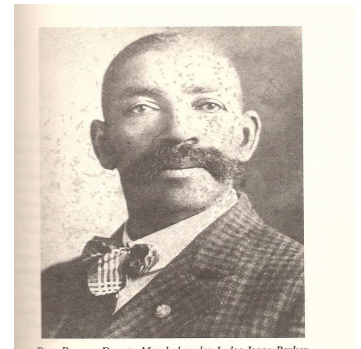
They stop Victorio and his Apaches from raiding in Texas and they capture outlaws in Indian Territory. In the process, they help to build America. Shadow Warriors brings you untold stories of adventure and accomplishment .

Bring the Black West to life during a Living History presentation by Joe Certaine as John T. Glass, Chief of Scouts, Fort Apache Arizona Territory

Bass Reeves - Deputy U.S. Marshal - Indian Territory

Probably the greatest Frontier Lawmen to ever sit a horse was the legendary Bass Reeves. Reeves rode the federal jurisdiction of the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) for Thirty-seven years. He was one of several Black deputy marshals employed by Judge Isaac Parker at Ft. Smith Arkan-

sas . Reeves was famous for always bringing in his man. He was always given the warrants for the toughest and the meanest outlaws. He once brought in his own son who was wanted for murder. He used disguises and detective skills but once admitted to killing fourteen men.



Bass Reeves, Deputy Marshal under Judge Isaac Parker

There were hundreds of Black cowboys during the Golden Age of the West. It is clear that one out of five cowboys who worked cattle and horses were Black. Most of the cattle drives involved herds of about 2500 head. The crew usually numbered no more than eleven men and in many instances the cook , the wrangler working the remuda and at least one of the other seven working drovers was Black. Although it didn't happen as often as it should have, it wasn't that unusual to find that the "top hand" was a Black man who could perform all of the skills needed to run a herd to market over the cattle trails to Abilene, Deadwood or Bozeman. Of course the Trail Boss was never Black. The history of the Old West is full of stories about Black cowboys

No better cowboys ever trailed cattle over the old Chisholm or Goodnight-Loving trails into the open range country of

Black Cowboys Ride the Open Range In Joe Certaine's Shadow Warriors, Living History Program

Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana . Black cowboys like Thornton Biggs, Bronco Sam and later Isom Dart all were part of Wyoming cattle lore. Like many others ,some became famous outside of the law. Others were like businessman B.M.Ford, who owned and operated the Inter Ocean Hotel, one of the finest hotels in Cheyenne.

