

Effie J Bassett
 BIRTH 11 JUN 1872 • Shelbyville, Indiana, USA
 DEATH 09/06/1898 • Santiago De Cuba, Cuba
 2nd cousin 3x removed
 Actively Researching

The Yellow Fever Immune Colored Soldiers of the Spanish America War

The Effie Bassett Story - His Journey from Indiana to Cuba and back Home again

“Kokomo, Howard County Hero of the Spanish American War”

US Army 24th Infantry (G Company) Colored Soldier Regiment (Buffalo Soldier) - Spanish American War (“The 10 Day War”)

AUTHOR: Keith Evan Hayes (November 21, 2020)

Buffalo Soldiers



Buffalo Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Regiment in

Active	1866–1951
Country	 United States
Branch	 United States Army
	9th Cavalry Regiment 10th Cavalry Regiment 24th Infantry Regiment 25th Infantry Regiment
Nickname(s)	"Buffalo Soldiers"
Colors	Blue
Engagements	American Indian Wars Spanish–American War Philippine–American War Mexican Border War World War I World War II



292

Martial Graves

No. 544. Private Effie J. Bassett,* Company G, 24th United States Infantry, Sept. 6th, 1898.

The martial graves of our fallen heroes in Santiago de Cuba
 Henry Christopher McCook

Philadelphia
 GEORGE W. JACOBS & CO.
 1899

BASSETT, Effie - Son of Richard and Ann (He born circa 1865 in Indiana; living with his father in Floyd County, Indiana, in 1880; killed in the 1

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Preface/Excerpt from the soon to be published book

The Bassett Settlement Chronicles: Stories from the Spirits of my Ancestors

When I first started genealogy research, several years ago, I would be and still am, so thrilled to find a new relative or new information about them. I would get a calm feeling, a euphoric feeling that I have never experienced before. I also seen this pure joy in others who have reach out to me for help after seeing my tree research on Ancestry.com or my website which is dedicated to my descendants. I can see others joy and happiness in the way they describe their new family discoveries. While researching my family trees this feeling would intensify when I knew I was about to uncovering something no one else had chronicled hopefully for future ancestral researchers. Maybe, just may, there was “something new under the sun” contrary to the saying there is nothing new under the sun. What I uncovered will hopefully be a living legacy that spans well into the future.

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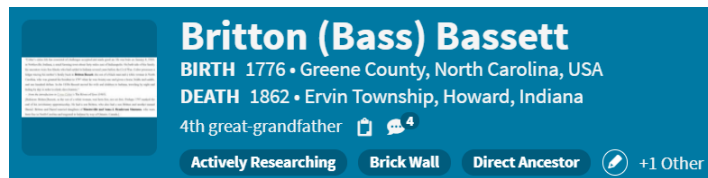
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As a testament to my relatives struggles, I decide to write up the various stories I uncovered. From having a 7ft great-great grandfather, who was a escaped slave from Georgia, to some very well documented stories of a murder trial and one of an interracial marriage then annulment entanglement gone bad (was illegal back in the day). Another story by a cousin, who was a well-known African American novelist wrote in a preface to his novel “ **The River of Eros (1991)**, that spoke of our great, great, great, great (4X) Grandfather, Britton Bassett’s journey from Greene County, NC to Parke county IN. He carried with him a family journal that recorded this journey to Indiana. I have been searching for this artifact for several years with no luck yet! Based on this written journal record his birth would be established in 1776.



One relative, Cyrus J. Colter a well-known fiction writer, contain the following about Britton Bassett as a preface to his best-known novel “The Rivers of Eros (1991)”

“On both side of the family his ancestors were free blacks who had settled in Indiana several years before the Civil War. Colter possesses a ledger tracing his mother’s family back to Britton Bassett, the son of a black man and a white woman in North Carolina, who was granted his freedom in 1797 when he was twenty-one and given a horse, bridle and saddle, and one hundred dollars. In the 1830s Bassett moved his wife and children to Indiana, traveling by night and hiding by day in order to elude slave hunters.”

I was most affected by the story of a 1st cousin, Richard Bassett, whose son Effie Bassett at age 26, enlisted to fight in the Spanish American war and died of Yellow Fever within 88 days after joining. The same cousin Richard Bassett (1st Cousin 4x) carried on the good fight back home in Kokomo, Indiana to bring his son’s remains back from Cuba to

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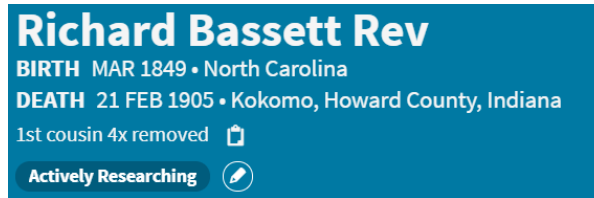


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Crown Point Cemetery for burial. Richard Bassett then carried on the fight to receive a War Pension as a father who lost a son to early, only to get approval on his death bed.



Richard Bassett Rev
BIRTH MAR 1849 • North Carolina
DEATH 21 FEB 1905 • Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana
1st cousin 4x removed
Actively Researching



Rev. Richard Bassett

Descendant of Britton Bassett (founder of Basset Settlement). Was the 2nd African American elected to Indiana state legislator(1892).

One of my most satisfying discoveries and research was regarding the [Bassett Settlement](#), which was an African-American settlement in Howard County, Indiana. The community is also referred to as the Bassett-Ellis Settlement and often is associated with another nearby community called Rush Settlement. However, my research shows that these communities were collectively referred to as the Bassett Settlements. All

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these settlements were in the Ervin and Clay Townships in Howard county Indiana. These communities were established around 1840s and faded from existence around 1920. The population of these communities peaked to as much as 1,200 and more than twenty African American families lived there. These communities were farming agricultural communities. Bassett settlement took its name from either Britton Bassett or Richard Bassett who was the first African American state legislator from Howard County. ([See Resource Section](#))

During my initial visit to the [Bassett Cemetery](#) with a good friend who filmed the event, I could feel my ancestor’s spirits there. I also had a strong “Deja Vue” vibe that I had been there previously, maybe some distant childhood memory of picking greens in a nearby field or going to the country to get some “egg water” from the public well along the road. I always heard growing up “it (egg water) will fix what ails you” and oh what a terrible smell it had, probably the sulfur in it. I imagined a community of African American settlers who travel in dangerous conditions from North Carolina to Indiana only to face additional racial hostilities, but at least they were free.

The Bassett settlement cemetery site is all that is left of the settlement’s history. More than likely the actual settlement was very nearby the cemetery, however, there now exist vast farmlands filled with rows of corn and soybeans. When I rode through a back-dirt road (yes, I was lost) very nearby, there were rows of corn twice the height of our car. Well documented sources indicated that hundreds of African American families lived in these settlements during its existence (1,200 residents at its peak). The location of the settlement was close to a large Quaker community, who championed the manumission of thousands of slaves and bought land then gave it to the freed slaves. Many Quaker communities were friendly to their African American neighbors, but not all were enthusiastic, based on research. The road to the Bassett Settlement was known as “Nigger Pike” by the surrounding locals.

The Bassett Cemetery itself was in good condition, save for the lone beer bottle on the side, near the fence, as if whoever were cutting the cemetery may have left it after a hot day of cutting grass. There seems to be one ancestor that stands out and lingers in my memory who went from farmer to soldier to his death in Cuba within 88 days, named Effie Bassett the “Spanish American War hero of Kokomo IN”.

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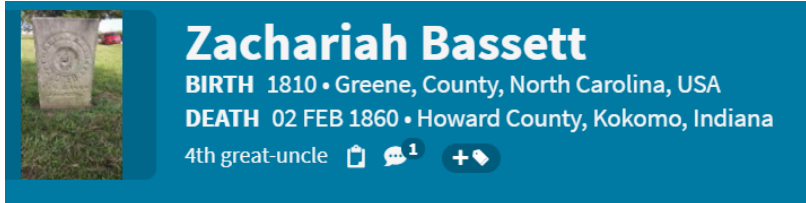
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Zachariah Bassett
BIRTH 1810 • Greene, County, North Carolina, USA
DEATH 02 FEB 1860 • Howard County, Kokomo, Indiana
4th great-uncle

Encryption on Zachariah Bassett tombstone:

**“Remember, friends, as you pass by, as you are now so once was I,
as I am now so you must be, prepare for death and follow me”**

“There Is Nothing New Under the Sun”

Ecclesiastes 1:4-11

*What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be
done, and there is nothing new under the
sun.*

*Is there a thing of which it is said,
“See, this is new”? It has been already
in the ages before us.*

*There is no remembrance of former
things,
nor will there be any remembrance
of later things yet to be among those
who come after*

**“The Effie Bassett Story “His Journey from Indiana to Cuba and back”
“Kokomo, Howard County Hero Effie Bassett”**

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Call to Enlistment

When the call to enlistment went out after the sinking of the *U.S Battleship Maine* on February 15, 1898, which brought America into a war with Spain and the eventual devastating defeat of Spain in Cuba and the Philippines. The war lasted 3 months, 3 weeks, 2 hours days, and spanned from April 21, 1898 to August 13,1898. Many army regiments were still being trained while the war was ending. My 2nd Cousin, Effie J. Bassett was one of the few soldiers, let alone “colored soldiers” to enlist to fight in the Spanish American and actually participate in battles with “Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders”. My research indicated that he probably participated in almost all the battles in Cuba. Articles indicated that he was the only Howard county soldier to die in Spanish American War.

He was referred to in the local Kokomo IN Tribune newspaper in numerous articles as “**Kokomo Howard County Hero Effie Bassett**” although my research shows he was born in Shelbyville, In and lived there at the time of his enlistment. He possibly lived in Kokomo with his father at one time in his life. His father Rev. Richard Bassett was a well-known community figure in Kokomo, In.

His dying of Yellow Fever is detailed by the local newspaper from the start, with an article detailing the notifying of his father Richard Bassett and mother Ann Hawkins, that their son Effie was ill and in the hospital, but not saying of what. Additional articles tells of his death and burial in Cuba. The story does not end there, it took a while for the US government to bring the remains of Effie and those soldiers who died and were buried in Cuba. The newspaper clippings detail the journey of bringing back Effie’s burial remains for a final burial in the Crown Point Cemetery, Kokomo, Indiana.

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Recruitment of African American Soldiers

The Spanish American war was one that most African Americans and Americans in general, supported, since most of the revolutionaries in Cuba were people of color. The Spanish rule over Cuba was oppressive and this partly fueled America’s sentiment against Spain who were also fighting Cuban nationalist guerrillas. Many Cubans fought alongside American soldiers during the Spanish America War. The US President McKinley eventually called upon several state governors to recruit militias to serve in the war. In Indiana that called to duty was strong in the African American communities. The Spanish American War occurred during a period in American history called “The Gilded Age” which was one of rapid economic growth for some, mainly those with wealth became wealthier and those without became poorer.

The Color soldier regiments were the first to be recruited and sent to Cuba along with Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders regiment. Most came from the 24th Infantry that was fresh from defending America’s “Western Frontiers” in battles with Native Americans, who had labeled them “Buffalo Soldiers”. Even before the start of the Spanish America War, the military was ramping up enlistments and recruitment for the inevitable war with Spain. In particular, the call to use the colored soldiers already enlisted, was in full swing, since they were no longer needed in the west. Many black politicians lobbied for the use of the colored soldier regiments with African America leaders not white. Of course, this did not go over well with the white enlisted officers and many of the color regiments were commanded by whites during the Spanish America War.

The already existing color soldier regiments of the 9th, 10th Calvary and 24th and 25th Infantry were sent first to battle in Cuba. Effie Bassett was part of that 24th Regiment Company G, and some of those first soldiers to battle in Cuba at the start of the Spanish American War. For Effie he had went from the farmlands of Indiana to the shores of Cuba in the span of 39 days, and a span of 88 days total before dying of Yellow Fever. This “Splendid Little War” as labeled by many politicians of that era, claim his life in a short time.

Disinformation Campaign

My research shows, as an additional incentive some politicians and color leadership, started a disinformation campaign that revolved around African Americans being immune to the Yellow Fever, which was raging through Cuba prior and during the Spanish American war. It appears the Effie was enlisted and already fighting in Cuba before the recruitment of the “Immune Regiments”. This disinformation fitted right in with the “Yellow Journalist” ecosphere of this time. Already the press had

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falsely accused the Spanish of attacking and sinking the battleship Maine in Cuba with no evidence to support the accusation.

It was a short war, but the backdrop of a third enemy called “The Yellow Fever” made it a different and a more deadly war. Approximately, 15,000 Spanish and 2,061 America soldiers, Cuban and Philippine revolutionaries died of Yellow Fever/Malaria and dysentery in a truly short period of time in 1898. The soldiers that contracted the Yellow Fever were doomed to die in Cuba, since it was the American policy not to bring back contagious soldiers on American soil for treatment, especially if they were “Colored Soldiers”. The dead soldiers were buried many times in unmark graves in Cuba before the US reclaimed their remains after the war

American history timeline in 1898 for Effie J. Bassett

Military Stations after Enlistment, Muster, and combat battle then death of Yellow Fever in Cuba.

- Sinking of the US Battleship **Maine**: February 15, 1898
- Spanish America War: April 21, 1898 – August 13, 1898
 - o US formally declares war April 25th, 1898
 - o Spain surrenders July 17, 1989
- Effie J. Bassett – Enlisted in the US Army in Shelbyville IN on May 12, 1898.
- Effie J. Bassett - Mustered into 24th Regiment Company G in Indianapolis IN: May 12th-16th, 1898
 - o Stayed at Camp Mount until May 16, 1989
- Effie J. Bassett: Stationed in Tampa FL from May16, to June 13, 1898
- Effie J Bassett: Military Duty in Cuba June 20, 1898 to September 6, 1898
 - o Sick with Yellow Fever starting September 6, 1898 (date discrepancy)
 - o Deceased (Military Records 9/5/1898) [Siboney de Cuba - Wikipedia](#)
 - o Effie’s total tour of duty in Cuba was 88 days
 - July 3, 1898 - Battle of Santiago de Cuba
 - July 3 -17 1898 - Seize of Santiago de Cuba
- Sept 6, 1898 - Effie Bassett deceased and cause of death Yellow Fever

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Cuban Military Tour - Timelines:

Effie J. Bassett: Timeline for participation in the Spanish American War

Effie born - Birth June 11, 1872 Shelbyville, IN	June 11, 1872
Spanish America War started:	4/21/1898
➤ <i>Effie Mustered in Indianapolis IN on May 12th, 1898</i>	<i>5/12/1898</i>
➤ <i>Enlisted in Army at Shelbyville IN</i>	<i>5/12/1898</i>
➤ <i>Stationed in Tampa FL from May16, to June 13, 1898</i>	<i>May16- June 13, 1898</i>
Effie now in Cuba	6/20/1898
Possible battles he participated in or witness:	
➤ Battle of El Carney : Effie participated as part of the 24th (Colored) U.S. Infantry regiments	7/1/1898
➤ Second Battle of Manzanillo	7/1/1898
➤ Battle of San Juan Hill (Bloodiest battle of the war) Effie participated as part of the 24th (Colored) U.S. Infantry regiments	7/1/1898
➤ Battle of Aguacate	7/1/1898
➤ Battle of Santiago De Cuba (aka Battle for the San Juan Heights) Newspaper clippings indicate he participated)	7/3/1898
➤ Siege of Santiago De Cuba	7/3/1898
➤ Third Battle of Manzanillo	
➤ Battle of Nipe Bay	7/21/1898
➤ Battle of Mani-Mani	7/23/1898
End of Spanish American War	8/13/1898
Effie Bassett – Died of Yellow Fever at Santiago De Cuba, Cuba	9/6/1898

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Enlistment in US Army 24th Infantry (Buffalo Soldier Regiment):

A Father’s Fight for a War Pension – Rev. Richard Bassett

At the time of Effie’s enlistment in 1898 his father Rev. Richard Bassett was an ordained Baptist minister and was a well-known and respected community leader. He had previously been elected to the Indiana House of Representatives from Howard County and served one term and was the third African American legislator ever elected in Indiana. Also, the pension disposition submitted by his father after his death indicated his family was dependent on Effie for a large portion of their income. I was most affected by the story my 1st cousin, Richard Bassett, whose son Effie Bassett at age 26, enlisted to fight in the Spanish American war and died of Yellow Fever within 88 days after joining. The same cousin Richard Bassett (1st Cousin 4x) carried on the good fight back home in Kokomo, Indiana to bring his son’s remains back from Cuba to Crown Point Cemetery for burial. Richard Bassett then carried on the fight to receive a War Pension as a father who lost a son to early, only to get approval on his death bed.

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I was able to obtain actual military enlistment records from **Center for Family History at the International African American Museum**. It also includes a written disposition composed by his father the Rev. Richard Bassett that details why he should be given a “Dependent Fathers Pension” based on his service and death during the Spanish American War. The local newspaper clippings chronicle his fight with the U.S Defense Dept in trying to obtain this pension. Tragically after fighting for several years to get the pension, it was approved literally on his death bed with retroactive payments. These artifacts offer a glimpse into my ancestors fight for survival.

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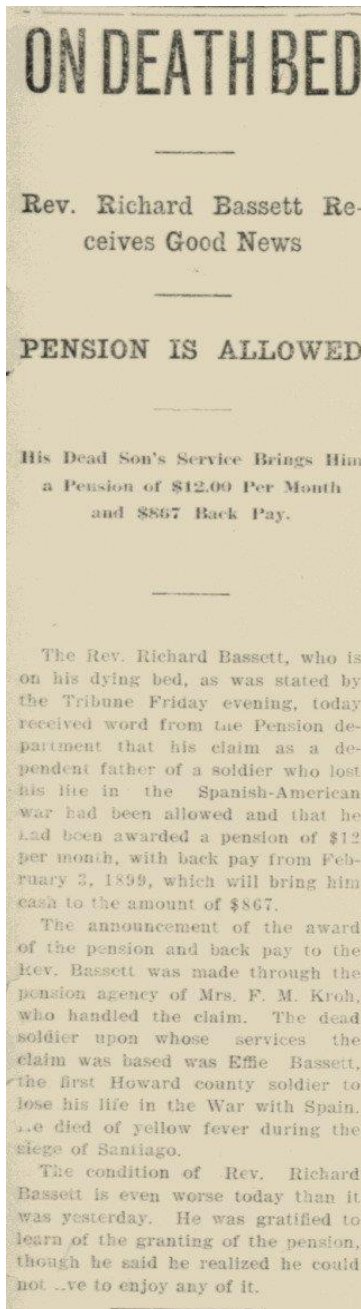
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War with Spain

I **I**

DECLARATION FOR ORIGINAL PENSION OF A FATHER.

STATE OF Indiana COUNTY OF Howard

On this 20 day of January, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and ninety nine personally appeared before me W. A. Chestnut Notary Public the same being a court of record within and for the county and State aforesaid, Richard Bassett aged 54 years, who, being duly sworn according to law, make the following declaration in order to obtain the pension provided by Acts of Congress granting pensions to dependent fathers: That he is the father of Effie J Bassett who enlisted under the name of Effie J Bassett at Indianapolis Ind on the 12 day of May, A. D. 1898 in the 24th U. S. Inf. (C) in the War with Spain, who died on the 5 day of September 1898 with disease contracted while in the Army - Yellow Fever - at the Hospital in Santiago De Cuba on the 5 day of September, A. D. 1898 who bore at the time of his death the rank of Sergeant in Co G 24th U.S. Inf. that said son, Effie J Bassett, left neither widow nor child under sixteen years of age surviving; that the declarant was married to the mother of said son at Pokonoke Ind on the 18 day of Nov, A. D. 1864, by Charles Balchman Goffney, that he was in part dependent upon said son for support; that the mother of said son died at New Albany Ind on the 17 day of August, A. D. 1876; that there were surviving, at date of said son's death, his brothers and sisters, who were under sixteen years of age, as follows:

<u>None</u>	, born	18
	, born	18
	, born	18
	, born	18

That he has not heretofore received none applied for a pension; that he has not aided or abetted the rebellion; that he hereby appoints Frances M. Koch his attorney to prosecute the above claim; that his residence is at No. Smith street in the Kokomo street in the Howard State of Indiana and that his post-office address is Kokomo Ind Box 341

(Attain) Richard Bassett (Claimant's signature)

And personally appeared Just Brody, residing at No. Charles Hardison street, in Kokomo Indiana and Charles Hardison residing at No. Kokomo Ind street in Kokomo Ind, persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn, say that they were present and saw Richard Bassett, the claimant, sign his name (make his mark) to the foregoing declaration; that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of said claimant and their acquaintance with him, that he is the identical person he represents himself to be; and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

SWORN to and subscribed before me this 20 day of January, A. D. 1899

and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration, &c. were fully made known and explained to the applicant and witnesses before swearing, including the words crased, and the words added; and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

Malchusmt (Signature)
 Notary Public
 (Official character)

ATTY FILED

PENSION B FEB 3 1899 OFFICE.

1 State company and regiment, if in the army; and vessel, &c., if in the navy.
 2 State names of witnesses and all circumstances attending them, or the disease and manner in which it was incurred, in either case showing soldier's death to have been the consequence.
 3 State company or regiment, if in the army; and vessel, &c., if in the navy.
 4 "Whole," or "in part."
 5 If either he, the mother, or the soldier has previously applied, so state, giving the number of the claim.

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“The Yellow Fever Immune Colored Soldiers of the Spanish America War”

The Effie Bassett Story - His Journey from Indiana to Cuba and back Home again

“Kokomo, Howard County Hero of the Spanish American War”

US Army 24th Infantry (G Company) Colored Soldier Regiment (Buffalo Soldier) - Spanish American War (“The 10 Day War”)

BIRTH 11 JUN 1872 • Shelbyville, Indiana, USA

DEATH 09/05/1898 • Santiago De Cuba, Cuba



BASSETT, Effie - Son of Richard and Ann (Hawkins) Bassett; born circa 1865 in Indiana; living with his father and step-mother in Floyd County, Indiana, in 1880; killed in the War with Spain.

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Pre-Enlistment to Spanish American War:

The war itself was a very unusual American War that was based on hearsay and yellow journalism and strange recruitment strategies based on “colored soldiers” being immune to the Yellow fever. During one a recent genealogy research session on the historic Indiana Bassett/Ellis and Rush African American settlements located in western part of Howard County (circa 1830-1900), I came across many relatives who served in the military. One newspaper clipping from the Kokomo Tribune (Aug 13, 1953 Some Howard History “Two Negro Settlement Once Were Busy Communities Here”) noted the following:

“Inhabitants of both settlements were intensely patriotic, and many volunteered for service int the Union Army during the Civil War. The leader of the two places called a meeting of all inhabitants and read Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation to them

Immediately after the reading serval men joined the colors, including William Ellis, Thomas Artis, John Bassett and Horace and Reuben Rush. The bodies of the first three named are buried in the little cemetery a quarter of mile from where the proclamation was read.” [\(See Bassett Cemetery\)](#)

Numerous local newspaper clippings chronicle his journey. Effie Bassett was listed as a farmer at time of his enlistment, 5ft 11ins, 157lbs brown eyes, black hair. Pension statements from his father hand-written application (appears to have been had written by his father) indicate that he might have worked also in “horse livery”, probably cleaning and caretaking of horses. One written account documents the Bassett family involved in a court case of a horse race gone wrong. He lived with his father Rev. Richard Bassett (1st cousin 4x) and mother, Ann Hawkins, and brothers’ George Bassett and Richard Bassett Jr, and Ralph Bassett, as indicated in his father’s application for Dependent Father Benefits from the Department of War, US.

No doubt the strong obligation to enlist in the military service, when opportunities occurred, stayed strong for African Americans in Indiana. The Spanish American War was no exception when Effie J Bassett enlisted to serve in Cuba. Effie’s military journey is a well document and recently obtained Pension records and military records give a personal glimpse into his life. He became part of the famed

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US Army 24th Infantry (G Company) Colored Soldier Regiments, which was part of the historic Buffalo Soldier Regiments.

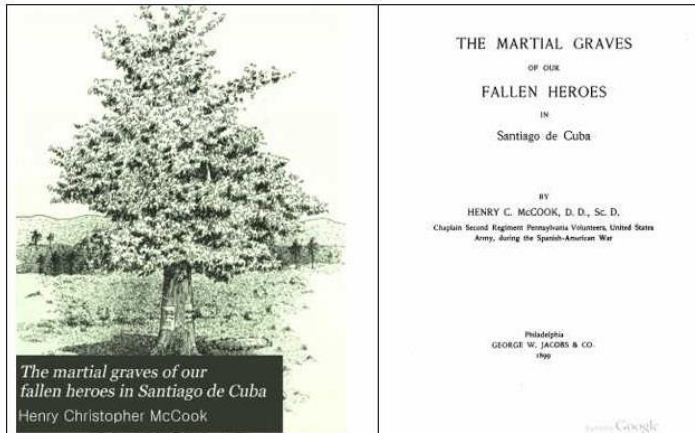
His life journey begins with enlistment at Shelbyville, Indiana where he lived all his life, farmed, and took care of horses. He probably had never travel outside his hometown but then in a span of 2 weeks he traveled from Indianapolis, IN where he mustered and assigned to Company G of the Buffalo Soldier regiment, then on to Tampa Fl and finally to Cuba Santiago Bay, where he died of “Yellow Fever”

“The Martial Graves of Fallen Heroes in Santiago de Cuba” by Henry C. McCook D. D., Sc.D. Chaplain

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Martial Graves

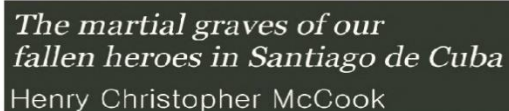
No. 544. Private Effie J. Bassett,* Company G, 24th United States Infantry, Sept. 6th, 1898.



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Martial Graves

No. 544. Private Effie J. Bassett,* Company G, 24th United States Infantry, Sept. 6th, 1898.



Philadelphia
GEORGE W. JACOBS & CO.
1899

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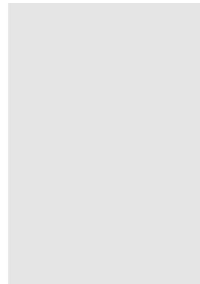
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THE MARTIAL GRAVES OF OUR
FALLEN HEROES IN SANTIAGO DE
CUBA



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Martial Graves

No. 544. Private **Effie J.** Bassett,* Company G, **24th** United States **Infantry**, Sept. 6th, 1898.

No. 545. Private Guy E. Poole, L Company, 33rd Michigan **Infantry**, died Sept. 13th, 1898.

No. 546. Sergeant Timothy K. McCarthy, Company A, 13th United States **Infantry**, died Aug. **24th**, 1898.

No. 547. Private Mosley Gaines, Company B, 10th United States **Infantry**, died Aug. 19th, 1898.

A book was written about how the soldiers suffered from Yellow Fever during the Spanish America War; called “The Martial Graves of Fallen Heroes in Santiago de Cuba” by Henry C. McCook D. D., Sc.D. Chaplain It detailed how the soldiers died so fast that they were put in unmarked graves, and diaries that chronicled the zombie like state of soldiers wandering the roads with the fever and no hope of recovery. The symptoms of Yellow Fever show up after 3 to 5 days after being infected. Bleeding out of the eye, nose, mouth, and vomiting blood occurs in the later toxic stage of the disease. Based on research he more than likely, participated in most of the battles in Cuba including the the battle of San Juan Hill on July 2nd, 1898. After his death I found records that chronically, the subsequent heroic struggle of his father Rev. Richard Bassett to get his body from Cuba to Indiana where he was buried in Kokomo, IN Crown Point cemetery is well told also in the local paper, their “Kokomo, Howard County Hero Effie Bassett”.

Numerous local newspaper clippings chronicle his journey. Effie Bassett (Not verified but first name was probably Ephraim, records indicate both). He was a farmer at time of his enlistment, 5ft 11ins, 157lbs brown eyes, black hair. He lived with his father Rev. Richard Bassett (1st cousin 4x) and mother, Ann Hawkins, and brothers’ George Bassett and Richard Bassett Jr, and Ralph Bassett, as indicated in his father’s application for Dependent Father Benefits from the Dept or War, US. Subsequent records show he cared for horses, which supports documentation dealing with the Richard Bassett being arrested for horse racing for beating and taking a white man’s money.

Battles of the 24th Infantry Buffalo Soldier Regiment

As the war progressed in the year 1898 the 24th Infantry was deployed to Cuba as part of the U.S. Expeditionary Force in the Spanish–American War. A large portion of the 24th participated in the storming of the Spanish fortress in the Battle of El Caney. They as well participated in the famous Battle of San Juan Hill. His service truly exemplified the sacrifice that those who served in U.S. armed forces. The backdrop the Effie Bassett’s service involves the following:

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- Enlistments in US Army 24th Infantry (Buffalo Soldier Regiment)
- Fighting in the Siege of Santiago
- Dying of Yellow Fever and the myth of Colored troop immunity
- Lost and return of his remains
- A father’s fight for a War Pension

Kokomo Tribune News clippings

In several newspaper articles, Effie J. Bassett was hailed as a hometown hero (Kokomo, IN) of the [Spanish American War](#) and the only “colored resident that enlisted to fight” and later articles indicated he was the only soldier from Howard County to die in the Spanish American War.. The enlistment records show Shelbyville, IN is Effie enlisted and became part of the famed 24th US Army Infantry 1898 in Shelbyville, IN. He died in **Cuba September 5, 1898**. The 24th regiment that he was part of helped in the Siboney Cuba hospital were soldiers were being treated for Yellow Fever.

Many of the soldiers fighting were of African American descent and were put in the “Old Buffalo Soldiers Regiments or the “colored soldier regiments” as they were called in that era.

The records are not clear as to when he was sick after arriving in Cuba. A recently obtain National Archives records points to him being well health, while on board the trip to Cuba. The pension disposition documents (**DECLARATION FOR ORIGINAL PENSION OF A FATHER**) indicates that obtain NARA records indicate the following

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Effie J Bassett
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 DEATH 09/06/1898 • Santiago De Cuba, Cuba
 2nd cousin 3x removed
 Actively Researching

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Tombstone & Military Documents



War Department,
 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 Washington, D. C. March 27th 1899.

Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Pensions.

It appears from the records of this office that Effie J. Bassett, born in Shelbyville in the State of Ind., age 26 ¹/₂ years, by occupation a Farmer, color of eyes broⁿ, hair black, complexion brn, height 5 feet 11 ¹/₂ inches, was enlisted on the 12th day of May, 1898, Indianapolis Ind., and was assigned Company B., 24th Regiment of U. S. Infantry, joined company May 16 98 from Indianapolis Ind. Muster-rolls show him as follows: July, Aug. & Sept. Oct. 98, absent sick since Sep. 27 98 in line duty. Nov. & Dec. 98, died Sept. 6. 98 at Santiago Cuba of yellow fever. A Pvt. A Private during service. Not shown sick on any muster-roll after than quoted. Stations: Tampa Fla. May 16 to June 13. 98 Cuba June 20 to Sep. 6. 98.

5/

G. C. Corbin, Adjutant General.
 By J. H. S.

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24th Regiment US Colored Troops



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Buffalo Soldiers Research: 25th Infantry Regiment

- [9th Cavalry Regiment](#)
- [10th Cavalry Regiment](#)
- [24th Infantry Regiment](#)
- [25th Infantry Regiment](#)



Buffalo Soldiers

Buffalo Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Regiment in 1890

Active	1866–1951
Country	United States
Branch	United States Army
	9th Cavalry Regiment 10th Cavalry Regiment 24th Infantry Regiment 25th Infantry Regiment
Nickname(s)	"Buffalo Soldiers"
Colors	Blue
Engagements	American Indian Wars Spanish–American War Philippine–American War Mexican Border War World War I World War II



By Unknown - <https://armyhistory.org/the-black-immune-regiments-in-the-spanish-american-war/>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4320636>

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Dying of Yellow Fever and the myth of Colored troop immunity

The Black “Immune” Regiments in the Spanish-American War

By LTC Roger D. Cunningham, USA Ret. JANUARY 20, 2015

One well known military historian in the article “The Black “Immune” Regiments in the Spanish-American War stated the following:

“In April 1898 Congress declared war on Spain, and patriotic Americans of all colors rallied to the flag. The rampant discrimination that characterized race relations in this country during the Gilded Age caused some black citizens to question America’s crusade to end Spanish oppression of dark-skinned Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Filipinos, when they were facing similar conditions of injustice in the United States. Many other African Americans, however, hoped that they could gradually expand opportunities for racial equality by supporting the “splendid little war.”

Many erroneously believed that African Americans were naturally immune to tropical diseases or at least were better suited for service in the tropics. Booker T. Washington wrote the Secretary of the Navy that Cuba’s climate was “peculiar and danger[o]us to

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the unacclimated [sic] white man. The Negro race in the South is accustomed to this climate.” Other black leaders lobbied in Washington to reserve all ten regiments for their race. Although they lacked the political clout to accomplish that lofty goal, President McKinley was well aware that most states had refused to accept black volunteers, and he wanted to recognize the martial spirit of the minority that staunchly supported his Republican party. On 26 May, the adjutant general’s office issued General Orders, No. 55, indicating that five of the Immune regiments would be composed of “persons of color.” Shortly thereafter, that number was reduced to four, and the 7th through the 10th U.S. Volunteer Infantry (USVI) were designated for black enlisted men and lieutenants. Company commanders and “field and staff” officers were to be white, a policy that angered most African Americans.

On 20 August, COL Huggins proudly notified BG Corbin that “the regiment is now ready to go on short notice.” Two weeks later, the 8th Immunes was joined by the African American portion of Indiana’s Volunteer Army quota—two companies, primarily recruited from Indianapolis and Evansville. Indiana had included two black companies in its militia since the mid-1880s and had even assigned them to otherwise white regiments until 1896 (a rare instance of militia integration). Governor James A. Mount had been willing to raise a black regiment in addition to his assigned troop quota, but Secretary Alger told him that such a unit could only be accepted as part of Indiana’s quota. Mount was not that indebted to black voters, so he only allowed about 200 black Hoosiers—Companies A and B, 1st Indiana Volunteers—to be mustered into federal service in mid-July. These men would remain attached to the 8th Immunes, as a provisional fourth battalion, for four-and-a-half months.

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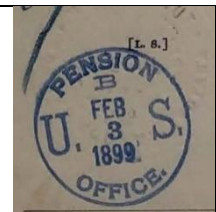
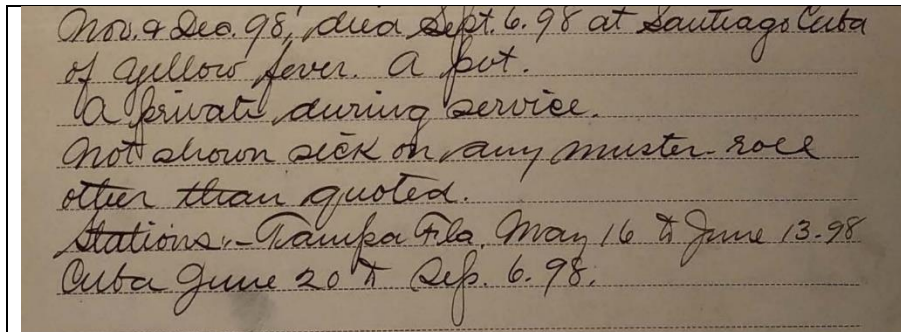
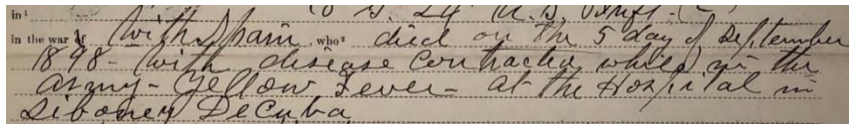
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<p>The Spanish-American War: Conquering Yellow Fever https://www.americanheritage.com/spanish-american-war-conquering-yellow-fever</p>	<p>Jane Colihan October/november 1984 Volume 35, Issue 6</p> <p>A SOLDIER LIES in a tent hospital in Siboney, Cuba, in July 1898, a victim of yellow fever. That month, senior U.S. Army officers fresh from victories at San Juan Hill and Santiago proposed immediate evacuation: “The army is disabled by malarial fever to such an extent ... that it is in a condition to be practically entirely destroyed by the epidemic of yellow fever sure to come. ...” Spain surrendered before President McKinley had to weigh the risks of an epidemic against the humiliation of withdrawal. Even so, losses were severe: in the combined theaters of the war, fourteen times as many men died of tropical diseases as from enemy action.</p> <p>Pressure to conquer malaria and yellow fever did not end with the armistice: to maintain control of Cuba, the Army planned to station ten regiments there. Doctors had quinine to treat malaria, but no drug had proved useful against yellow fever. In an attempt to avert an epidemic, the new recruits were drawn from Southern states already hit by yellow fever—men thought to be immune. When even these men started to fall ill, despite all efforts at sanitation and quarantine, the surgeon general appointed a board to investigate the disease.</p> <p>Led by Maj. Walter Reed, the board tested a theory, put forward by a Cuban physician named Carlos Finlay, that mosquitoes spread yellow fever. After a series of experiments in which Army volunteers were deliberately infected, Reed proved conclusively that the Aedes aegypti mosquito was the carrier. Maj. William Gorgas then began a campaign to eradicate the insect, and within a year there were no yellow fever cases in Havana for the first time in over a hundred years. Reed’s work was immediately put to use by Gorgas in a peacetime project: cleaning up the Panama Canal Zone.</p>
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Military Stations after Munster & Military Records

- Tampa Fl: 5/16/1898 to 6/13/1998
- Cuba 6/20/1898 to 9/6/1898 Deceased (possible 9/5/1898) Siboney De Cuba



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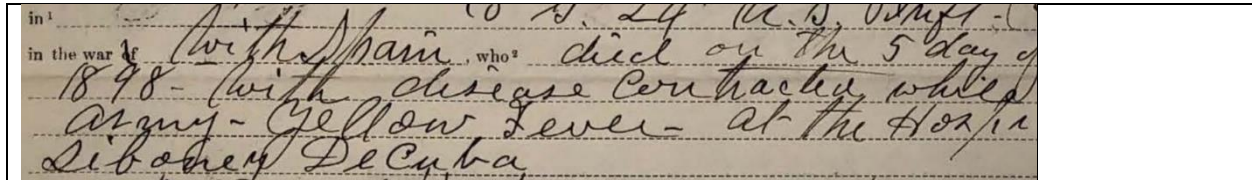
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Records show he also was most likely born in Shelbyville, IN and enlisted in Shelbyville, IN but muster in Indianapolis, IN then put on ship to Cuba from Tampa Fl. However, many newspapers clipping says he was from Howard County (unable to find records showing this) and was hailed as a local military hero of the Spanish American War.

Enlistment records indicate he was 5ft 11 ½ black hair and brown eyes. He was a private on enlistment and a Sargent at his death. His place of birth is not shown, but all records show that he was probably born in Shelbyville, IN. He died September 5th, 1898 in Cuba.

Records indicate his mother was Ann Hawkins and father as the Rev. [Richard Bassett \(1849-1905\)](#)(1st Cousin 4x) who was a well-known Baptist minister and the 3rd African American elected to the Indiana state legislature (Howard county IN). He was raised in the historic [Bassett Settlement in Ervin Township, Howard County IN](#).

Fighting in the Siege of Santiago

as class president. Among his classmates was Lieut. Joseph S. Augustin, Jr., who was born in New Orleans in 1874. He had been married less than a year when he fell mortally wounded while leading his heroic regiment of black regulars, the 24th Infantry, up the slopes of San Juan ridge.

Lost and Return of Effie Bassett’s Remains from Cuba

The Kokomo Daily Tribune Wednesday, Jan 4, 1899

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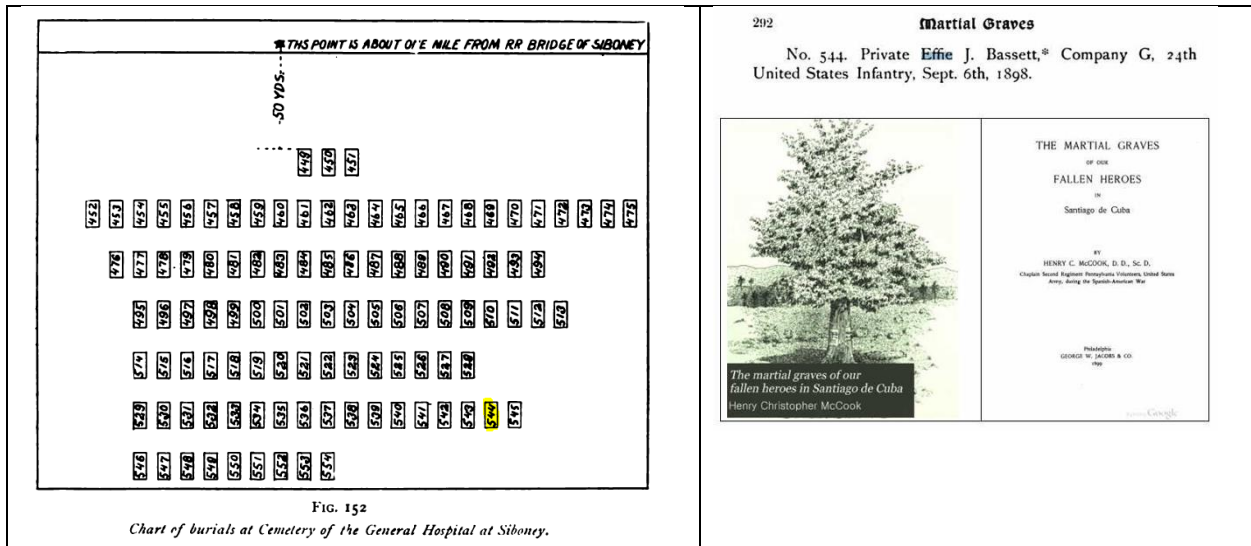


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The Soldier Dead “To be Brought from Cuba for Intern to Their Native Land – The Case of Effie Bassett”

“The only Howard county soldier who, so far as knows, was interred in Cuba soil was Effie Bassett, son of Hon. Richard Bassett. Young Bassett was in the Santiago campaign, and during the siege of the city contracted yellow fever, of which he died”



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 DEATH 09/06/1898 • Santiago De Cuba, Cuba
 2nd cousin 3x removed
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Enlistments Paper in US Army 24th Infantry (Buffalo Soldier Regiment)

NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Bassett, Effie J.</i> (3-11-3)				
NAME OF DEPENDENT: <i>Widow, Minor, Father Bassett, Richard</i>				
SERVICE: <i>24 U.S. Inf.</i>				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
<i>1899 Feb 3</i>	<i>Invalid, Widow, Minor, Father</i>	<i>691,481</i>	<i>586,797</i>	<i>Ind.</i>
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS: <i>AS</i>				



Effie J Bassett
 BIRTH 1872 • Indiana
 DEATH 09/06/1898 • Cuba
 2nd cousin 3x removed

REGISTER OF ENLISTMENTS,

1898		ENLISTED.	WHERE BORN.		AGE	HEIGHT
<i>Bassett, Effie J.</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Shelbyville</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Parmer</i>	<i>brun blk d. br.</i>	<i>57 1/2</i>

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“The Yellow Fever Immune Colored Soldiers of the Spanish America War”

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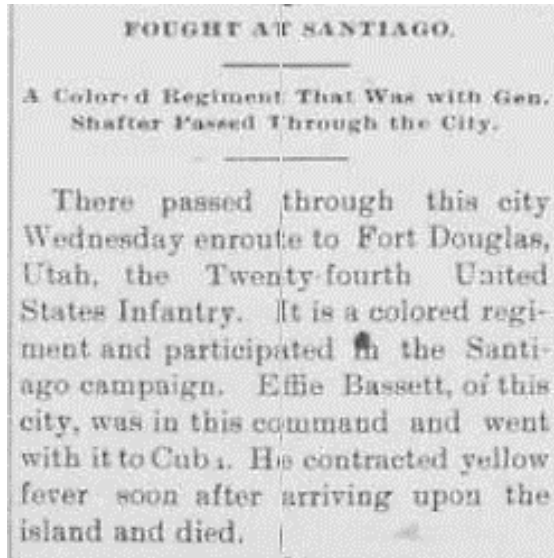
BASSETT, Effie - Son of Richard and Ann (Hawkins) Bassett; born circa 1865 in Indiana; living with his father and step-mother in Floyd County, Indiana, in 1880; killed in the War with Spain.

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[Newspaper Article: Fought at Santiago and Death/Burial In Cuba](#)

Kokomo Daily Tribune

Thursday, February 23, 1899, Kokomo, Indiana, United States Of America



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The Kokomo Daily Tribune Wednesday, Jan 4 1899

The Soldier Dead “To be Brought from Cuba for Intern to Their Native Land – The Case of Effie Bassett”

“The only Howard county soldier who, so far as knows, was inferred in Cuba soil was Effie Bassett, son of Hon. Richard Bassett. Young Bassett was in the Santiago campaign, and during the siege of the city contracted yellow fever, of which he died”

Enlistment records shows he volunteered to fight in the Spanish American War, which lasted from April 21, 1898 to August 13, 1898. Effie was part of the US Army 24th infantry Regiment (colored soldiers). During this short time many soldiers including Private Effie J. Bassett contacted and died from the [Yellow Fever](#).

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Wikipedia Excerpts

The 24th Infantry Regiment – Background Information

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
It was a unit of the [United States Army](#), active from 1869 until 1951, and again from 1995 until 2006 and was primarily made up of African-American soldiers. The regiment is notable for serving their country when systemic racism was overt, and when black troops were treated as "second class" due to segregation. The **24th Infantry Regiment** was a unit of the [United States Army](#), active from 1869 until 1951, and again from 1995 until 2006 and was primarily made up of African-American soldiers. The regiment is notable for serving their country when systemic racism was overt, and when black troops were treated as "second class" due to segregation.

Spanish American War

The year 1898 saw the 24th Infantry deployed to Cuba as part of the U.S. Expeditionary Force in the [Spanish–American War](#). Elements of the 24th participated in the storming of the Spanish fortress in the [Battle of El Caney](#). At the climactic [Battle of San Juan Hill](#) under the command of [Emerson H. Liscum](#), supported by intensive fire from the [Gatling Gun Detachment](#), units of the 24th Infantry accompanied by elements of the [6th](#) and [13th](#) Infantry Regiments, assaulted and seized the Spanish-held blockhouse and trench system atop San Juan Hill.



Newspaper Article on Battle participation

A newspaper article (Kokomo Daily Tribune 9/9/1898) indicated that “The regiment to which young Basset belonged was one of the first to be recruited and sent to the front”. He participated and was with the command throughout the [Siege of Santiago also known as the Siege of Santiago de Cuba](#) ,

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which was the first major battle of the Spanish American war. He also participated in the surrender of the city. He wrote to his father in September of 1898 that he was suffering from [Yellow Fever](#).



Other Articles Clipping from Kokomo Daily Tribune, *Fri, Feb 17, 1905.*

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state. He was the father of Effie Bassett, the first Howard county soldier to lose his life in the Spanish-American war. Young Bassett was a member of a colored regiment that saw hard service in the siege of Santiago. He contracted yellow fever and died there. A couple of years later the government dug up his remains, placed them in a metallic coffin, hermetically sealed them and sent them to this city. They were interred in Crown Point cemetery.

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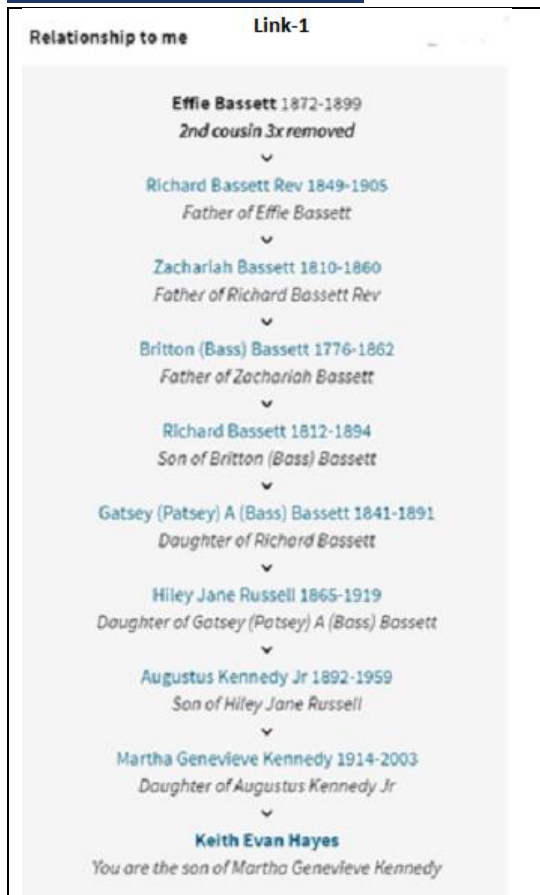


Effie J Bassett
 BIRTH 11 JUN 1872 • Shelbyville, Indiana, USA
 DEATH 09/06/1898 • Santiago De Cuba, Cuba
 2nd cousin 3x removed
 Actively Researching

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Ancestry Tree Relationship



Census Records

1880 United States Federal Census for Effie Bassett										
Indiana > Floyd > New Albany > 071										
Relationship	Sex	Age	W/D	Mar	Occupation	Month	Sick	and	C	
50	Poplar St	588	Bassett	Effie	Black	Female	8	Abt 1872	Daughter	Single

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Enlistment Records

U.S. Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, 1821-1916 for Effie J Bassett

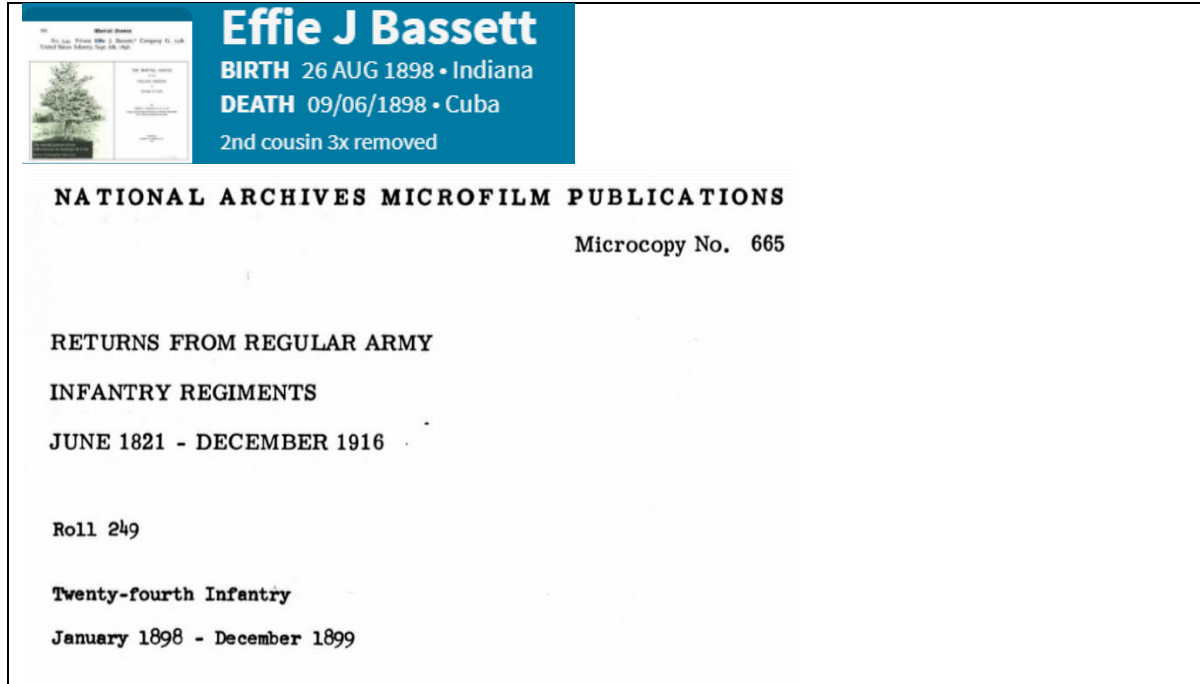
24th Infantry > 1898-1899



RETURN of the *24th* Regiment of *Infantry*, Army of the United States (Colonel *J. Ford Hunt*), for the month of *January*, 189*8*.

PRESENT ABSENT PRESENT AND ABSENT ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST MONTHLY RETURN. MEMORANDA.

National Archive Microfilm Publications



Effie J Bassett
 BIRTH 26 AUG 1898 • Indiana
 DEATH 09/06/1898 • Cuba
 2nd cousin 3x removed

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
 Microcopy No. 665

RETURNS FROM REGULAR ARMY
 INFANTRY REGIMENTS
 JUNE 1821 - DECEMBER 1916

Roll 249

Twenty-fourth Infantry
 January 1898 - December 1899

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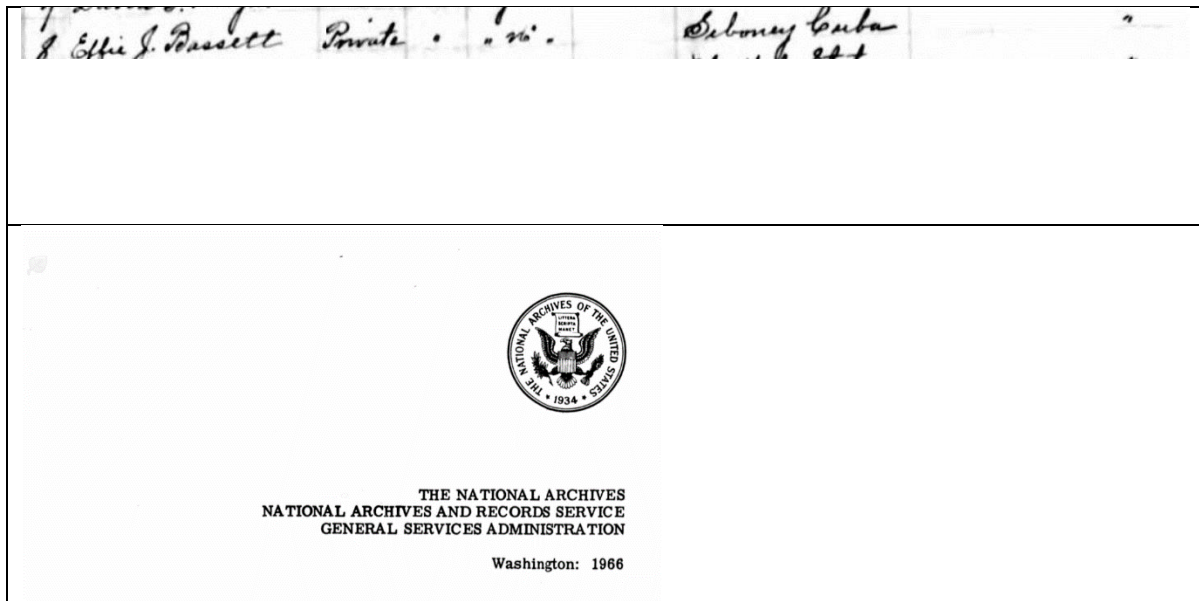
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The Buffalo Soldier & The 24th Infantry Regiment (Spanish American War)

Buffalo Soldiers originally were members of the [10th Cavalry Regiment](#) of the [United States Army](#), formed on September 21, 1866, at [Fort Leavenworth, Kansas](#). This nickname was given to the Black Cavalry by [Native American](#) tribes who fought in the [Indian Wars](#). The term eventually became synonymous with all of the [African-American](#) regiments formed in 1866:

- [9th Cavalry Regiment](#)
- [10th Cavalry Regiment](#)
- [24th Infantry Regiment](#)
- [25th Infantry Regiment](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/24th_Infantry_Regiment_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/24th_Infantry_Regiment_(United_States))

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History [\[edit \]](#)

The 24th Infantry Regiment (one of the [Buffalo Soldier](#) regiments) was organized on 1 November 1869 from the [38th U.S. \(Colored\) Infantry Regiment](#) (formed 24 July 1866) and the [41st U.S. \(Colored\) Infantry Regiment](#) (formed 27 July 1866).^{[2]:5} All the enlisted soldiers were black, either veterans of the [U.S. Colored Troops](#) or [freedmen](#). From its activation to 1898, the 24th Infantry served throughout the Western United States. Its missions included garrisoning frontier posts, battling American Indians, protecting roadways against bandits, and guarding the border between the United States and Mexico.

[Spanish–American War](#) [\[edit \]](#)

The year 1898 saw the 24th Infantry deployed to Cuba as part of the U.S. Expeditionary Force in the [Spanish–American War](#). Elements of the 24th participated in the storming of the Spanish fortress in the [Battle of El Caney](#). At the climactic [Battle of San Juan Hill](#) under the command of [Emerson H. Liscum](#), supported by intensive fire from the [Gatling Gun Detachment](#), units of the 24th Infantry accompanied by elements of the [6th](#) and [13th](#) Infantry Regiments, assaulted and seized the Spanish-held blockhouse and trench system atop San Juan Hill.

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The story of black soldiers in the Spanish American war is an interesting period in American military. Many were blacks were recruited base on the false believe by the white establishment that

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Date	April 21, 1898 ^[b] – August 13, 1898 (3 months, 3 weeks and 2 days)
Location	Cuba and Puerto Rico (Caribbean Sea) Philippines and Guam (Asia-Pacific)
Result	American victory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty of Paris of 1898
Territorial changes	Spain relinquishes sovereignty over Cuba; cedes Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine Islands to the United States. \$20 million paid to Spain by the United States for infrastructure owned by Spain.

Spanish–American War
 Part of the Philippine Revolution
 and the Cuban War of Independence



(clockwise from top left)

Signal Corps extending telegraph lines from trenches

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Belligerents		Strength	
United States	Spain	72,339 troops (total) ^[11]	206,000 troops ^[4] (Caribbean)
Cuban revolutionaries ^[a]	Philippines	53,000 rebels ^[2]	55,000 troops (Philippines)
Philippine revolutionaries ^[a]	Cuba	40,000 rebels ^[3]	
	Puerto Rico		
Casualties and losses			
American:		Spanish:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 385 killed^[5] • 1,662 wounded^[6] • 11 prisoners^[7] • 2,061 dead from disease^{[8][9]} • 1 cargo ship sunk^[10] • 1 cruiser damaged^[8] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700–800 killed^[11] • 700–800 wounded^[11] • 40,000+ prisoners^{[8][12]} • 15,000 dead from disease^[13] • 6 small ships sunk^[8] • 11 cruisers sunk^[8] • 2 destroyers sunk^[8] 	

Effie died of Yellow Fever at Santiago Cuba. He was part of the 24th regiment which was group under the mantle of the Buffalo soldiers. The participation of these soldiers in the Spanish American war is somewhat of a twisted journey

His father Richard Bassett filed for a dependent father pension but was denied and on appeal the case was won. However, he was already on his death bed and only received a small penitence of the pension. Effie remains were found in Cuba and sent back to Indiana for burial at Indiana in Crown Point cemetery Pensions and Compensation to Veterans and Their Dependents

<https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v5n11/v5n11p10.pdf>

Spanish – American War:

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Spanish-American War, 1898](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Spanish-American_War,_1898)

Buffalo Soldiers: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo Soldier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo_Soldier)

<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-spanish-american-war-buffalo-soldiers-24th-infantry-1898-173727791.html>

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[Richard Bassett \(Father\) Battle to obtain a Pension](#)

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Saturday, February 18, 1905, Kokomo, Indiana, United States Of America

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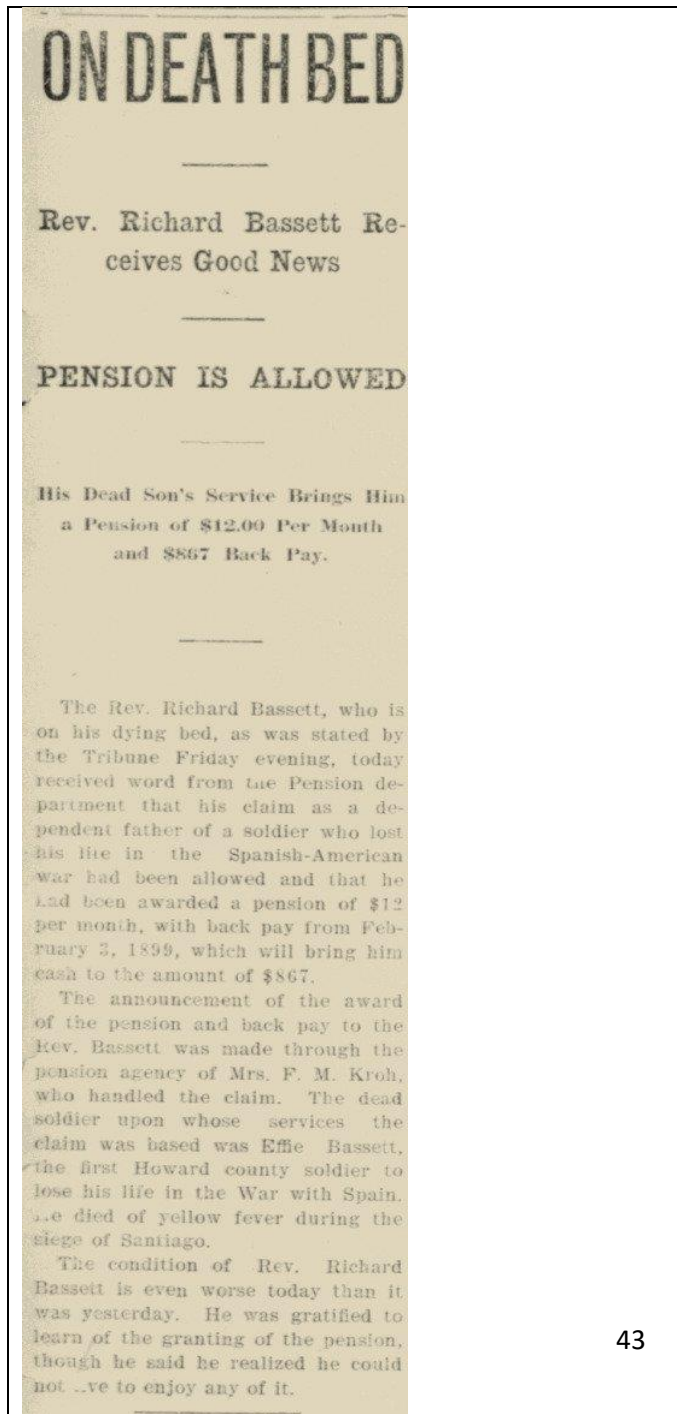
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Kokomo, Indiana

February 18, 1905

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January 3, 2018.

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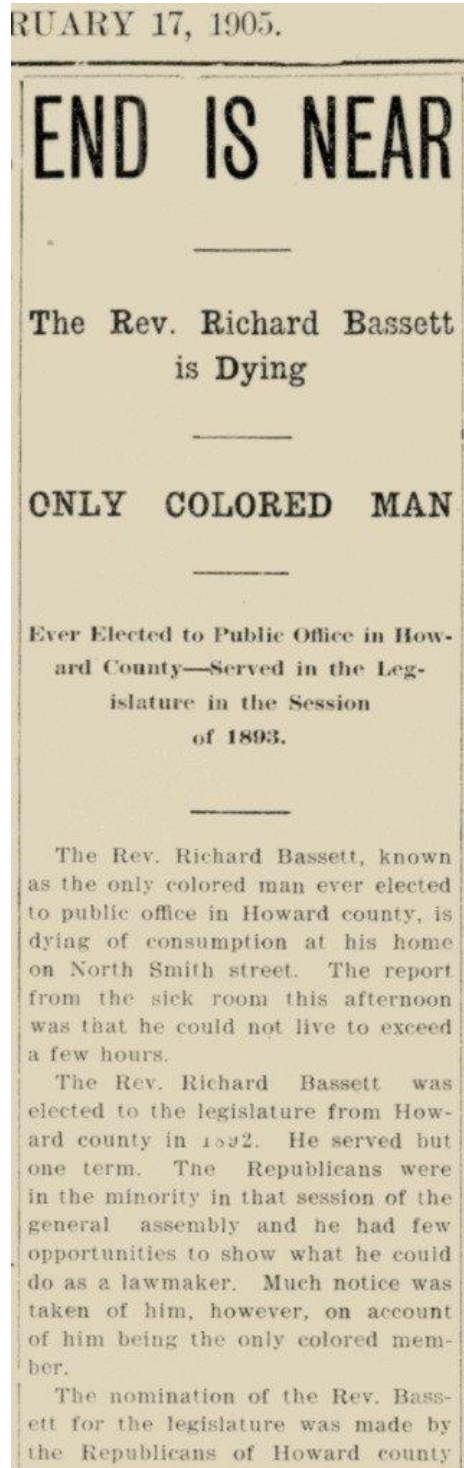
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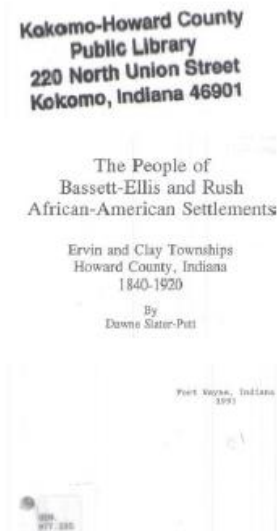
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Effie Bassett Military Rooster 2th US Infantry Regiment

ROSTER - 24TH U. S. INFANTRY REGIMENT

June thru December, 1898

Compiled by Historian Anthony L. Powell

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“The Yellow Fever Immune Colored Soldiers of the Spanish America War”

The Effie Bassett Story - His Journey from Indiana to Cuba and back Home again

“Kokomo, Howard County Hero of the Spanish American War”

US Army 24th Infantry (G Company) Colored Soldier Regiment (Buffalo Soldier) - Spanish American War (“The 10 Day War”)

BIRTH 11 JUN 1872 • Shelbyville, Indiana, USA

DEATH 09/05/1898 • Santiago De Cuba, Cuba



BASSETT, Effie - Son of Richard and Ann (Hawkins) Bassett; born circa 1865 in Indiana; living with his father and step-mother in Floyd County, Indiana, in 1880; killed in the War with Spain.

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Company "G"

1st Sergeant Robert Woods

Sergeants: John Logan, Edward Gibson, John T. Williams***

Corporals, Abram Hagen**(***), Lewis W. Washington**, James Washington, David F. Wright, John H. Green, Peter Jackson**, W. E. Hughes, Jeff Queen, Matthew Flemming, John Mason, E. L. Brown, Parker Buford, J. H. Butler, J. B. Butler, Eugene Crowder, P. H. Hammond, George B. Kelly, John R. Miller*, William Thornton**

Musician: James Price

Wagoners: Richard M. Coleman, George A. Brown*

Privates: Ferances Edelin?, Jacky Whidaer?, Frank Humae, Effie J. Bassett, Charles A. Dempsey, William R. Green, David Williams, Herman Raisel, Louis G. Carney, John G. Williams, Charles P. Preston, William A. Pledges Jr., Andrew Clark, William L. Cook, Replong Burnett., Thomas E. Terrill, H. Harve, George Stroud, C. Harris, W. Reeves, W. H. Smith, Robert L. Wright, P. Moore, J. A. Green, G. Smith, Charles F. Clay**, Richard M. Coleman**, Pleasant H. Hammond**, Charles Harris, George T. Hilton**, Willis Howe, John S. Newman**, Robert Scott, Thomas R. Powell, Henry Johnson, John Webb, Charles O. Wilson, Robert S. Bowley, Thomas Glass, Albert Hawthorn, Edward Pringle, John Sheffey, Thomas White, Charlie B. Carter, Jefferson Coleman, James Dupee, Joseph H. Evans, John Francis, Charley Johnson, James Price**, George K. Jones, John Welber**, Eugene Crower**

Newspaper Clippings Honoring Military Service

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THE KOKOMO DAILY TRIBUNE, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1908.

OUR HONORED SOLDIER DEAD

Roster of Heroes Now Sleeping in Howard County Cemeteries Whose Graves Will be Garlanded Memorial Day.

SPANISH WAR. U. S. C. Inf., 24-Co. I, Effie Bassett. 1st D. C., Fred Kern. U. S. V., 158t, Co. L, Herman Schultz. Wm. Carmon, Everett Griffith, Walter McVey.

IN SOLDIERS' CIRCLE, KOKOMO. Thomas Flynn, E, 9th Illinois. Cornelius Eckles, C, 33d Indiana. James Hunter, H, 53d Indiana. Absalom Anthony, U. S. Regulars. Joseph Luckey, G, 120th Indiana. Albert Miller. William Blessing. Wm. M. Miller. John Smith. John McCarty, F, 12th Indiana. Mont Hostetler, H, 125th Indiana. Wm. Bowman, 7th Indiana Battery. Wm. H. Hill, 59th Ohio. Noah Massey, F, 70th Indiana. Frank M. Smith, E, 128th Indiana. Solomon Osborn, E, 4th Kentucky. Calvin Brown, H, 25th Indiana. James M. Thompson, B, 71st Ohio. Daniel Barnhart, A, 8th Ohio. Francis M. Reel, D, 89th Indiana. Wm. Finch, 25th Indiana Battery. Absalom Parlow, F, 89th Indiana. Scott Holtzman, I, 151st Indiana. David W. Fee, K, 52d Indiana. Enoch Meacham, C, 69th Indiana. John Ralston, A, 29th Indiana, D, 99th Indiana. Elias Badger, 4th Indiana Battery. Effie Bassett, I, 24th U. S. C. (Spanish war).

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Newspaper Clippings on Remains of Effie Bassett Brought from Cuba for Burial

THE KOKOMO DAILY TRIBUNE: FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 24, 1899.

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BROUGHT HOME FOR BURIAL

Will Be the Remains of Effie Bassett, a Kokomo Volunteer Soldier.

The Steamship Roumania Now En Route From Santiago to New York With Soldier Dead on Board.

It is doubtful if in all the history of all the ages of man there has been recorded anything that so strongly proclaimed a nation's devotion to its dead as is chronicled in the brief dispatch sent out from Santiago Thursday announcing that the steamship Roumania had sailed from that port with the bodies of the soldiers who gave up their lives in the Santiago campaign on board. Plowing its way through the waves of the Atlantic the vessel is now headed for New York. Its cargo is gruesome, but to the hearts that are waiting at home it is very precious. If good winds prevail the ship will arrive at New York next Tuesday where arrangements have been made to send the remains of the soldiers to their former homes. Where no requests are made or the remains are unknown they will be sent to the National cemetery at Arlington.

On board the Roumania is the body of a Kokomo soldier, Effie Bassett, son of Hon. Richard Bassett. He died of fever soon after the city of Santiago capitulated. He volunteered at the outbreak of the war and was attached to a colored regiment that saw active service during the campaign conducted by Gen. Shafter. His parents first learned of his death from his name appearing in the newspaper publication of General Lawton's sick and death reports. When it became known that the remains of the soldier dead would be brought back to the states for interment the parents of young Bassett set about procuring information as to how to secure the body. They have forwarded a request to the department that upon the arrival of the remains in New York that they be forwarded immediately to this city. This request will no doubt be complied with and it is very possible that ere the first anniversary of the declaration of war all that was mortal of a brave colored lad will have found a last resting place in the Soldiers' circle on the sunny slope of beautiful Crown Point.



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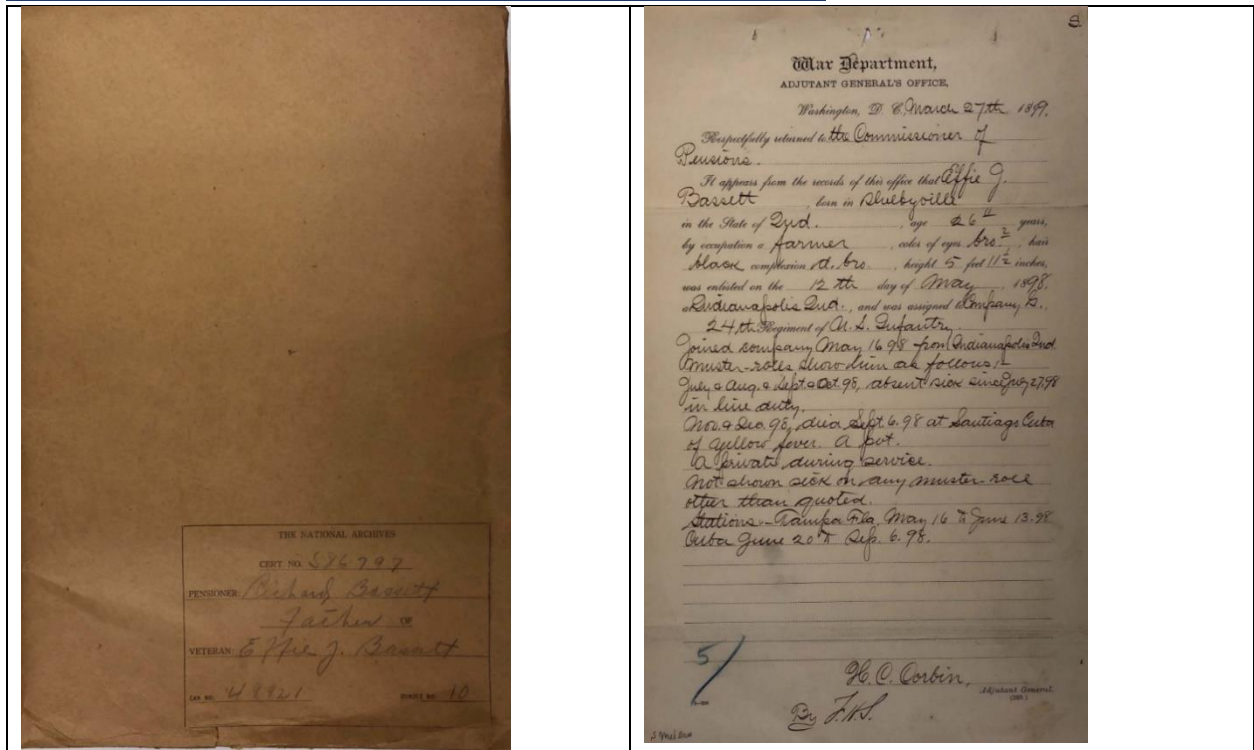


Effie J Bassett
 BIRTH 11 JUN 1872 • Shelbyville, Indiana, USA
 DEATH 09/06/1898 • Santiago De Cuba, Cuba
 2nd cousin 3x removed
 Actively Researching

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Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings and Research Documents



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<p>Indianapolis News Saturday, September 10, 1898, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States</p> <p>Died of Yellow Fever. Kokomo, Ind., September 10.—Effie J. Bassett, colored, son of the Rev. Richard Bassett, colored, of this city, who once served in the Legislature, is reported dead of yellow fever at Santiago. He was a member of Company D, Twenty-fourth Infantry, and was the only volunteer of his color to enlist in Howard county.</p>	<p>Kokomo Daily Tribune Tuesday, February 21, 1905, Kokomo, Indiana, United States Of America</p> <p>His career in the legislature was uneventful and he retired as soon as he served one term. Since that time he has given his attention principally to ministerial work. He had always been a poor man and the last few years of his life have not been free from hardships. Last week the pension department allowed him a pension of \$12 per month and back pay amounting to \$864. This pension was on account of him being a dependent father of Effie Bassett, a soldier who lost his life in the war with Spain.</p>
<p>THE KOKOMO DAILY TRIBUNE: FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1898.</p> <p>BELIEVED TO BE EFFIE BASSETT.</p> <p>Gen. Lawton's Report of Yellow Fever Victims Contains a Name Intended for That of a Kokomo Colored Boy.</p> <p>In General Lawton's health report published in the Indianapolis Journal Thursday the name of Effie J. Bassett appears in the list of dead. Hon. Richard Bassett, of this city, believes the name to have been meant for that of his son, Effie J. Bassett, of Co. G, 24th U. S. Infantry. The similarity of the names taken in connection with the fact that young Bassett is known to have been suffering with yellow fever makes the father feel certain that his son is dead and even now sleeping in a soldier's grave on the coast of Cuba.</p> <p>The regiment to which young Bassett belonged was one of the first to be recruited and sent to the front. It saw active service throughout the campaign before Santiago. Bassett was with the command throughout the siege and capture of the city and was present at the surrender. Soon after the capitulation of the city he wrote to his father that he was suffering from yellow fever, but saying that he was expected to speedily recover. This was the last heard from him and his silence is taken by his relatives to mean that the end has come.</p>	<p>Kokomo Daily Tribune Thursday, February 23, 1899, Kokomo, Indiana, United States</p> <p>FOUGHT AT SANTIAGO.</p> <p>A Colored Regiment That Was with Gen. Shafter Passed Through the City.</p> <p>There passed through this city Wednesday enroute to Fort Douglas, Utah, the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry. It is a colored regiment and participated in the Santiago campaign. Effie Bassett, of this city, was in this command and went with it to Cuba. He contracted yellow fever soon after arriving upon the island and died.</p>

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