

ALBUM [25TH INFANTRY BICYCLE CORPS](#)

Album Description

In 1896, the 25th made its first sojourn from Fort Missoula to Yellowstone National Park, tackling roughly 800 miles, including the return journey. A year later, Moss, along with another white officer, assistant surgeon James Kennedy, would travel with their now 20 black compatriots on a 1,900 mile expedition to St. Louis, Missouri.

“The chosen route closely followed the Northern Pacific Railroad from the corps headquarters at Fort Missoula to Billings, Montana,” HistoryNet [reported](#). “From there it paralleled the Burlington Northern Railroad through Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Missouri.”

[Military](#)

[25th Infantry](#)

[Buffalo Soldiers](#)

[Bikes](#)

[Bicycles](#)

[Social Studies/History](#)



1896 ARMY BICYCLE CORP

Teaching Notes:

The 25th Infantry **Bicycle Corps** was a unit of black soldiers commanded by a white officer, Lt. James A. Moss, which **was** formed in 1896 to test the combat viability of **bicycle**-mounted troops by riding from Missoula, Montana to Saint Louis, Missouri. [Black Soldiers](#) [Buffalo Soldiers](#) [Bicycles](#) [Lt James Moss](#)



From Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula

Teaching Notes:

[United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 25th. Bicycle Corps](#)

[Fort Missoula \(Mont.\)](#)

[Bicycles](#)

[Soldiers](#)

Digitized at the University of Montana Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. Scanned as a master TIFF using Epson Expression 10000XL at 800 ppi, 24-bit color. Used Adobe Photoshop CS to create JPG derivative, 570 pixels along the long edge. [bicycle corps](#) [Black soldiers](#) [25th Infantry](#)

Reference Link: <https://mtmemory.org/digital/collection/p16013coll27/id/97/rec/7>



From Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula

Teaching Notes:

1896; 1897; 1898

Date (unknown or estimated) Circa 1897

[Soldiers](#)

[Bicycles](#)

[United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 25th. Bicycle Corps](#)

[African American soldiers](#)

Subject (LCSH)

[Social Studies/History](#)

[Civil Rights](#)

[Black Soldiers](#)

Reference Link: <https://mtmemory.org/digital/collection/p16013coll27/id/3755/rec/8>



Teaching Notes:

Report of the Trip from Missoula to St Louis.

[Social Studies/History](#) [25th Infantry](#) [Buffalo Soldiers](#) [Black Soldiers](#)

Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85047084/1897-10-20/ed-1/seq-2>

Newspaper: The Pacific commercial advertiser. [volume] (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands) 1885-1921

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85047084/1897-10-20/ed-1/seq-2>

Image provided by: University of Hawaii at Manoa; Honolulu, HI

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85047084/1897-10-20/ed-1/seq-2.pdf>



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88064111/1897-06-05/ed-1/seq-3>

Newspaper: The Lafayette gazette. [volume] (Lafayette, La.) 1893-1921

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88064111/1897-06-05/ed-1/seq-3>

Image provided by: Louisiana State University; Baton Rouge, LA

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88064111/1897-06-05/ed-1/seq-3.pdf>

FORT MISSOULA



AN EXPERIMENT

Teaching Notes:

The Anaconda standard. [volume], July 12, 1896, Page 10, Image 10

[Black Soldiers](#) [25th Infantry](#) [Bicycle](#) s [Social Studies/History](#)

Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84036012/1896-07-12/ed-1/seq-10>

Newspaper: The Anaconda standard. [volume] (Anaconda, Mont.) 1889-1970

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84036012/1896-07-12/ed-1/seq-10>

Image provided by: Montana Historical Society; Helena, MT

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84036012/1896-07-12/ed-1/seq-10.pdf>

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Teaching Notes:

Tactics

[Bicycles](#)

[Black Soldiers](#)

[Buffalo Soldiers](#)

[25th Infantry](#)

Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042461/1898-07-31/ed-1/seq-21>

Newspaper: The herald. [microfilm reel] (Los Angeles [Calif.]) 1893-1900

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042461/1898-07-31/ed-1/seq-21>

Image provided by: University of California, Riverside; Riverside, CA

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042461/1898-07-31/ed-1/seq-21.pdf>

CORPS WILL MAKE A PRACTICAL TEST TRIP OVER ROUGH WESTERN ROADS UNDER



Teaching Notes:

The Lafayette gazette. [volume], June 05, 1897, Image 3

[Lieutenant Moss](#) [Social Studies/History](#) [Black Soldiers](#) [Bicycles](#)

Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88064111/1897-06-05/ed-1/seq-3>

Newspaper: The Lafayette gazette. [volume] (Lafayette, La.) 1893-1921

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88064111/1897-06-05/ed-1/seq-3>

Image provided by: Louisiana State University; Baton Rouge, LA

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88064111/1897-06-05/ed-1/seq-3.pdf>



25TH INFANTRY BICYCLE CORPS (1896-97)

Teaching Notes:

The 25th Infantry Bicycle Corps was a unit of black soldiers commanded by a white officer, Lt. James A. Moss, which was formed in 1896 to test the combat viability of bicycle-mounted troops by riding from Missoula, [Montana](#) to Saint Louis, [Missouri](#). Moss, a West Point graduate and avid cyclist who held his black enlisted men in high regard, wrote Major General Nelson Miles about his interest in the use of the bicycle in warfare.

[Bicycles](#) [Black Soldiers](#) [25th Infantry](#)



BICYCLE CORPS: AMERICA'S BLACK ARMY ON WHEELS

Teaching Notes:

This program tells the story of the 25th Infantry's bicycle trip from Missoula, Montana, to St. Louis, Missouri in 1897. The African American infantry took the trip to test a theory that the bicycle would replace the horse in transporting men for the army. The program also examines the life of the African American soldier at the turn of the century, in particular First Sergeant Mingo Sanders.

[Social Studies/History](#)

[25th Infantry](#)

[Black Soldiers](#)

[Bicycles](#)



Teaching Notes:

<https://youtu.be/cZIB1M1cm7s>

[Social Studies/History](#) [Buffalo Soldiers](#) [Bicycles](#)

'City Corner - Buffalo Soldiers & Bicycles

Host: Steve Potter

May 2017

Guest: Angela de Silva, Black Tourism Network

Guest: Anne Milford - Great Rivers Greenway

A discussion with Angela da Silva and Anne Milford about this year's Mary Meachum Celebration and the upcoming event "Buffalo Soldiers & Bicycles." The Montana to St. Louis bike ride pays tribute to a 41-day bicycle ride in 1887 when soldiers from the 25th Colored Infantry made that same trip.

For more information, visit <http://www.greatriversgreenway.org> and <http://www.marymeachum.org>.

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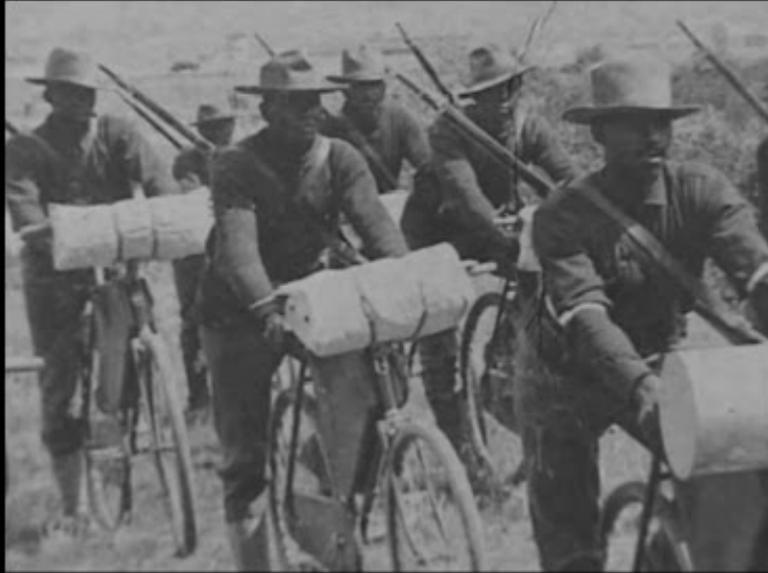
On U-Verse on channel 99

Streaming on the net: http://stltv.net/live_vbrick.asx

(requires Windows Media Player, or Flip4Mac plugin: <http://www.telestream.net/flip4mac-wmv/overview.htm>)'

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'Directed by Gus Chambers

The story of the 25th Infantry's bicycle trip from Missoula, Montana, to St. Louis, Missouri in 1897. The African American infantry took the trip to test a theory that the bicycle would replace the horse in transporting men for the army. The program also examines the life of the African American soldier at the turn of the century, in particular First Sergeant Mingo Sanders. Produced by Montana PBS.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Gus Chambers has produced award-winning films for MontanaPBS for over twenty years. Chambers makes films about the rich history and culture of Montana.

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Teaching Notes:

What a remarkable compilation of primary source photos and newspapers in this album. This is yet another example of how much primary sources can inform. All new to me. Thank you!



Teaching Notes:



[Neme Alperstein](#) I was still in the military in the early 80's and read an article in the Army Times probably about 1985. There are some books that have been written about the Bicycle Corps.

Great Bicycle Experiment: The Army's Historic Black Bicycle Corps, 1896-97 (Fort Missoula) By Kay Moore. Softcover, 72 pages.



Teaching Notes:

So interesting  [Ruth Ferris](#) , thanks so much for compiling it! I've added a link to this fabulous album on both [Primary Source Spotlight: Bicycles](#) and [African American Resources](#) under groups.



Teaching Notes:



[Julie Schaul](#) I am so glad you like it and made some links to share it!