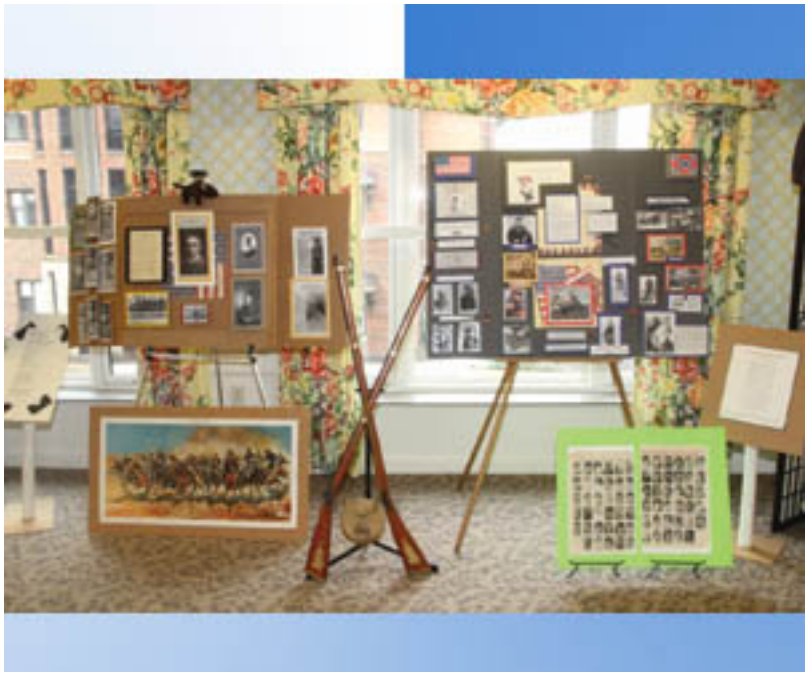

During the tour, you'll see big displays from the Buffalo Soldiers. The Buffalo Soldiers originally were members of the U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army , formed on September 21, 1866 at
Fort Leavenworth
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Kansas
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By JAMES W. WADE III

Staff Reporter

During the month of February, the McGregor Home is transformed into a Black History Museum . Renard Turner is the brainchild behind this exhibit showcased around
Cleveland
since 2001.

A collector for over 40 years, he used to buy and resale items until he decided to hold on to them for Black History every year. A graduate of John F. Kennedy Mighty Fighting Eagles, he wanted to make a difference for Black History Month and asked Judge Una Keenon could he help out at Kennedy instructing on the history of Blacks.

Turner has enjoyed watching school students' amazement while looking at the exhibit. "If I can get one person interested and open their eyes about this type of presentation, its well worth all the work to me," Turner said.

Such exhibits include a trolley car by Granville T. Woods, an African-American inventor who held more than 60 patents. Most of his work was on trains and street cars. Woods also invented the Multiplex Telegraph, a device that sent messages between train stations and moving trains. Born in Columbus, Ohio, on April 23, 1856, Woods dedicated his life to developing a variety of inventions relating to the railroad industry.

On display is an old typewriter that a Black man named Lee S. Burridge, or Nathaniel Alexander, invented and patented. The brown folding chair is used in church, school and group gatherings.

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The nickname was given to the " Negro Cavalry " by the Native American tribes they fought . The term eventually became synonymous with all of the African-American regiments formed in 1866:

Turner has items from the early 20th Century, as those years saw an emergence of several powerful Black clubs in the Midwest. Teams like the Chicago Giants, Indianapolis ABCs, St. Louis Giants and Kansas City Monarchs rose to prominence and presented a legitimate challenge to the claim of diamond supremacy made by Eastern clubs like the Lincoln Giants in New York, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Stars and Homestead (Pa.) Grays.

In the South, Black baseball was flourishing in Birmingham's industrial leagues and teams like the Nashville Standard Giants and Birmingham Black Barons were establishing solid regional reputations.

If you get a chance visit the McGregor Home located at 14900 Private Drive in East Cleveland and ask for Renard Turner, or call him at (216) 851-8200 ext 3011.