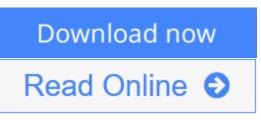


The Colored Cadet at West Point: Autobiography of Lieutenant Henry Ossian Flipper, U. S. A., First Graduate of Color from the U. S. Military Academy (Blacks in the American West)

By Henry Ossian Flipper



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Henry Ossian Flipper was one of the nineteenth-century West's most remarkable individuals. The first African American graduate of West Point, he served four years in the West as a cavalry officer but was court-martialed and dismissed from the service in 1882. He spent the rest of his long life attempting to clear his name.

Flipper's record of accomplishment was significant for any individual in any time, and for a nineteenth-century black American it was phenomenal. As historian Quintard Taylor points out, in his post-Army career Flipper was a surveyor, cartographer, civil and mining engineer, interpreter, translator, historian, inventor, newspaper editor, special agent for the Justice Department, deputy U.S. mineral surveyor, aide to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and consultant to the secretary of the interior. His work carried him to Mexico, Venezuela, and Spain, and he left a record of achievement that demonstrates his enormous talent and unrelenting effort.

The Colored Cadet at West Point contains Taylor's biographical essay, Flipper's account of his career at West Point, and a new index prepared for this volume.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Quintard Taylor Jr. is head of the Department of History at the University of Oregon. He is the author of *In Search of the Racial Frontier*.

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