

Friends of Allensworth

Colonel Allensworth State Park, Allensworth, CA

Newsletter - Spring 2020

President's Message

Hello FOA members,

We are hoping this newsletter finds you and yours doing well.

Although things are much different now than they were a few months ago, we are continuing to move forward with our work as well as with Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park to improve visitors experiences when visiting the park.

FOA is assisting with updating the docent manual, removing some offensive language as well as adding information. If there is information you would like to see added to the docent manual please let us know ASAP.

Work is continuing in the park and FOA will meet for Board meetings via telephone conference calls until further notice. If you would like to call in during the conference calls they are every second Saturday of every month at 11. The number is 515-606-5370. Code 223786.

FOA has two positions open. One for treasurer and one for vice president. If you are interested in either of these positions please refer to our Bylaws/policy procedures regarding qualifications for the positions.

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones as we all do what we can to make it through this crisis.

Best wishes,

Sasha

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at: info@friendsofallensworth.org

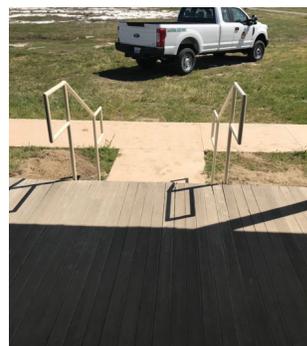
or

877-245-6232



Improvements at the Park

The Ashby House ADA ramp has been repaired. The Barber Pole has been repainted. The benches on the Library porch have been repaired and handrails have been placed at the front entrance. Handrails will be added to the rear and side later. The new pay gate at the entrance of the park has been contracted out. We are waiting on a install date. ADA parking at the Allensworth Hotel is coming soon. The Smith House has a new roof. The campground will be repaired next.



FOA Spotlight

Friends of Allensworth Caterer Shirley Ann (Womack) Moore

Shirley's passion for cooking has landed her countless hours of volunteer work for Bakersfield City Schools and Panama Buena Vista School District. She is also dedicated to cook for church events, 2nd Saturdays of each month for the homeless and family/friend gatherings.

Shirley has been attending events at Allensworth for many years and has grown to love the history and accomplishments of the people who lived there and is proud to be a part continuing to share the history with future generations.



New Board Member

Dr. Terrance Dean

Dr. Terrance Dean received his PhD in Religion and African American Diaspora Studies from Vanderbilt University in June 2019. His research interests include gender, sex, sexuality, Black religion and Homiletics, rhetoric and communication, African Diaspora, Black Cultural Studies, James Baldwin, and Afrofuturism. In 2005, Dean was a John Seigenthaler Journalism Fellow from Vanderbilt University, and in 2014 he earned his Master's in Theology from Vanderbilt Divinity School. Dean is a professor in Black Studies at Denison University.



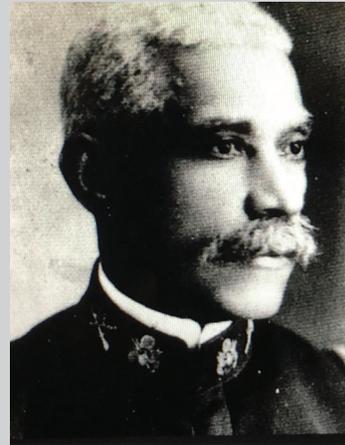
He is the author of the Essence Magazine best-seller *Hiding In Hip Hop - On the Down Low in the Entertainment Industry* from Music to Hollywood (Simon & Schuster/Atria Books - May 2008).

He is also the author of *Reclaim Your Power! A 30-Day Guide to Hope, Healing and Inspiration for Men of Color* (Random House/Villard - May 2003); *Visible Lives: Three Stories in Tribute to E. Lynn Harris*, (Kensington - May 2010). In 2011, Dean made his fiction debut with his novel, *MOGUL* (Simon & Schuster/Atria Books - June 2011).

Mr. Dean has acquired a grant from Denison University to have a student from the University come to Allensworth to do research as well as have students assist FOA and Allensworth State Historic Park in areas of need. We will get assistance with our website, our social media pages, our new online Singleton Store, where people will be able to purchase items and have them mailed to them. He will also assist with making new DVD's about Allensworth that can be sold in our store as well as steamed online. We are looking forward to working with Mr. Professor Dean and the students. We want to thank Professor Terrance Dean and the students from Denison University in Ohio as well as Denison University for their generosity to Allensworth.

About the Colonel

Colonel Allen Allensworth was born a slave in Louisville, Kentucky in 1849. He escaped slavery twice, taking refuge behind the Union Line where he worked as a civilian in the Army Hospital Corps.



From 1863 to 1865, he served in the U.S. Navy and afterwards became an ordained Baptist minister. In 1882, Allensworth discovered that of the four black army regiments (the Buffalo Soldiers), there were no black chaplains. He immediately sought that appointment. On April 1, 1886, President Grover Cleveland appointed Rev. Allen Allensworth as chaplain of the 24th Infantry as the rank of Captain, with the responsibility for the spiritual health and educational well-being of black soldiers in the regiment. At the time of his appointment he was only the second African American, after Henry Plummer, named to serve as a U.S. Army Chaplain.

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Did you know?

Inventions by African Americans:

1. Caps for bottle and jars by A.E. Long in 1898
2. Biscuit cutter in 1875 by Alexander Ashbourne
3. Ice cream scooper in 1897 by Alfred L. Cralle
4. Elevator by Alexander Miles in 1887.
5. Street sweeper by C.B. Brook in 1896
6. Clothes drier G.T. Sampson in 1892
7. Kitchen table by Henry Jackson in 1896
8. Cell phone by Henry Sampson in 1971
9. Pencil sharpener by J.L. Love in 1897
10. Toilet by T. Elkins in 1897
11. Domestication of animals by Africans
12. Higher education (universities) by Africans in 2-AD
13. Casket lowering device by A.C. Richardson in 1894
14. Heating furnace by Alice Parker in 1918

The enslaved had to whistle why they brought food to their master so they would know the enslaved was not eating their food.