

Frederick Lyman Slade

Army Officer, Athlete, and Census Bureau Manager



Afro-American (Baltimore, MD)
15 May 1936

The U.S. Census Bureau is proud of its history of continually evolving to ensure an accurate count of the people of the United States. To accomplish this, the Census Bureau has long embraced the hiring of a diverse workforce representative of local communities and the people who were a part of the neighborhoods that they counted. For this reason, census work was often one of the few government jobs open to minorities. Beginning with the 1870 Census (the first after the abolition of slavery), the Census Bureau began hiring African Americans as enumerators and data processors. With the creation of a permanent Census Bureau in 1902, Black workers and statisticians found an environment with an inclusiveness far greater than many contemporary institutions.

Frederick Lyman Slade was born on March 25, 1894, in Washington, DC. Frederick's father, James, worked as a blacksmith, and his mother, Anna, traveled the region as a well-known speaker, singer, and performer. Frederick attended M Street High School, one of the oldest Black high schools in the nation (the same school that Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., the first black general officer in the U.S. military, attended several years earlier). Frederick participated in the school's cadet program and graduated in 1913. After graduation, Frederick attended the University of Illinois in 1914 and 1915.

A scan of a 1910 U.S. Census record for the Slade family. The document is a form with multiple columns for names, ages, birth dates, and other demographic information. A red box highlights a specific entry for Frederick Lyman Slade, showing his name, age, and other details. Below the table, there is a red text box with information about where to find such records.

Historic census records are maintained and released by the National Archives and Records Administration, not the U.S. Census Bureau.

Visit <http://www.archives.gov> for more information about publicly available records like the one shown here.

Slade Family, 1910 Census

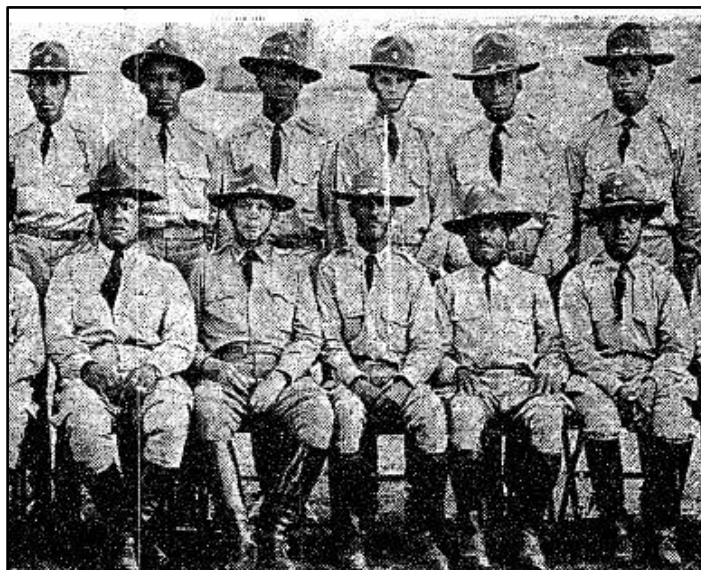


Frederick and the 1927 Howard University Baseball Team
Howard University, "The Bison: 1928" (1928). *Howard University Yearbooks*. 108, p. 100.

In 1917, the first World War raged across Europe and ensnared the United States. Frederick, now living in New York City, enlisted as a sergeant in the 15th New York National Guard Regiment on May 18, 1917. He then deployed with the 369th Infantry Regiment (the famed Harlem Hellfighters) in December 1917 and served on the front lines in the Champagne-Marne and Oise-Aisne campaigns. Frederick earned decorations for bravery during the war. On October 1, 1918, in recognition of his merit, he received an officer's commission as second lieutenant.

Frederick transferred to the 370th Infantry Regiment for the remainder of the war, which ended on November 11, 1918, and he returned to the United States in February 1919. As part of the drawdown of troops following the end of the war, the Army discharged Frederick from active duty on June 30, 1919. He then returned to his family in Washington, DC, where he worked as a teacher in the local Y.M.C.A and as a musician, a job and passion he would pursue throughout his whole life.

In 1923, Frederick began attending Howard University's Junior College, and in 1925, he matriculated to Howard's Liberal Arts College. That same year, he started pitching for Howard University's baseball team and earned his varsity letter. In addition to his interests in music and athletics, Frederick also joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the nation's first intercollegiate black fraternity.



Frederick, front center, and his fellow officers, 1936
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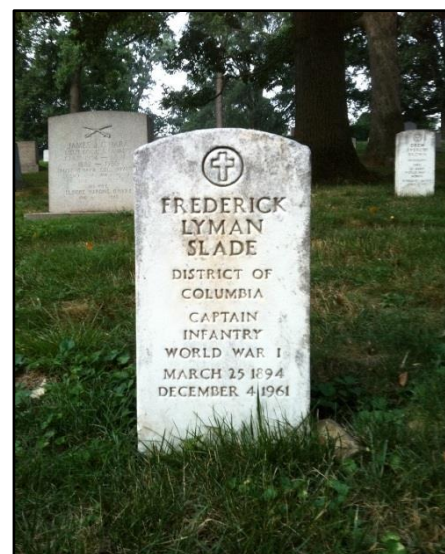


Frederick playing the piano for the Census Bureau's Choir, 1948
Counterparts (Census Bureau) 26 January 1949

In 1928, Frederick began his 20-year career at the Census Bureau, where he worked as a clerk before rising to section chief in the Population Division. Throughout the 1920's and 1930's, while attending school and building his career, Frederick also served in the Army Reserves, eventually advancing to the rank of captain. Frederick even achieved the distinction of serving as the first Black commander of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, during his tenure as captain of the Gettysburg encampment in 1936. Throughout his military career, which ended in 1939, he advocated for the integration of the armed forces and society. In a 1928

letter-to-the-editor Frederick stated that "I am looking forward to the day when we can be admitted to everything with equal rights with the others. We have to work in different ways to accomplish some things and we have to arouse our folks to the point of fighting for theirs."

As a government employee, Frederick served as a member and officer in the American Federation of Government Employees. Drawing on his baseball experience, he served as the head of the Federal Government's Inter-Departmental Baseball League in 1936, and consistently supported and participated in many of the Census Bureau's athletic leagues including softball, baseball, bowling, and tennis. He also participated in the Census Bureau's choir and chorale groups, and served as treasurer of the Census Federal Credit Union. After 20 years with the Census Bureau, Frederick transferred to the Department of the Army Adjutant General's office, where he served as a section chief until his retirement from the federal government in 1959. Frederick married twice: first to a DC schoolteacher named Eva, and secondly to Juanita R. Nutter in 1945, a fellow Census Bureau employee with whom he had a daughter, Sharon. Frederick passed away on December 4, 1961, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The Census Bureau is proud of Frederick's accomplishments on the battlefield and grateful for his contributions to his country.



Frederick's grave marker in Arlington National Cemetery