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CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: ROBERT DORAM (BUFFALO SOLDIER)



Kentucky Historical Society collections

LINCOLN & BOYLE COUNTIES — Robert Doram was from Lincoln County and served as a Buffalo Soldier at Camp Rio Pinto, Texas, in the late 1870s. The Buffalo Soldiers were the first peacetime, all African American regiment in the regular U.S. Army. Specifically, the Buffalo Soldiers were members of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments.

From the 1870s to the early 1890s, the Buffalo Soldiers were stationed in the Southwest United States and engaged with American Indian tribes.

Doram's letters, written to his family in Boyle County, recount his daily life as a Buffalo Soldier and the skills he learned in the service, including those of a printer, which he demonstrates in the typeset portion of the letter. Military service provided African Americans with opportunities to enter into the middle class during segregation and learning spaces to gain skills that could be transferred into non-military jobs following their time in the service.

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at khscatalog.kyvl.org

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100 W. Broadway | Frankfort, KY 40601
502-564-1792 | www.history.ky.gov



The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the
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