

Except for the markers in “boot hills,” similar markers can be found in most of the cemeteries in Iowa and other states east of the Rocky Mountains. The book is strengthened by 83 illustrations and hundreds of endnotes.

The Black Citizen-Soldiers of Kansas, 1864–1901, by Roger D. Cunningham. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2008. xvi, 206 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendix, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer David Brodnax Sr. is associate professor of history at Trinity Christian College. He is the author of “‘Will They Fight? Ask the Enemy’: Iowa’s African American Regiment in the Civil War” (*Annals of Iowa*, 2007).

When a Leavenworth-based black militia company known as the Garfield Rifles prepared to march in an 1889 city parade, members of a Democratic organization declared that they would not march behind “a lot of damned niggers” (113). Leavenworth’s black community mobilized a campaign against Democratic political candidates, but their efforts proved to be in vain when the local elections took place several weeks later. This tale of African American militia involvement, linked to political and racial conflict, is part of Roger D. Cunningham’s book, *The Black Citizen-Soldiers of Kansas*.

A retired U.S. Army officer and native of western Missouri, Cunningham relies heavily on newspapers and military records, particularly pension applications, to tell the story of Kansas’s black militias. After an overview of militia history, he turns his attention to the black “citizen-soldiers” of the Civil War and the peacetime service of the ten black militia units that were organized between 1875 and 1894. Although there were few monetary benefits to militia service, African Americans saw it as a way to show their patriotism and racial progress, enjoy “military camaraderie,” take part in public celebrations (which were often attended by eligible young women), and forge ties to white elites (179).

Each chapter is devoted to a different unit or group of units, beginning in Topeka in 1875 and followed by others in Lawrence, Wyandotte, Olathe, and Atchison; reserve units in Topeka and Leavenworth; privately funded companies in Kansas City and Wichita; and black Kansans who served in the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars. Due to their fundraising efforts and participation in public festivals, they received a great deal of attention and support from the African American community, which saw their very existence as a matter of racial pride. On several occasions, they also prevented black prisoners from being lynched, further showing their value to the community. At

the same time, though, white political leaders paid them lip service in order to gain black votes but were otherwise indifferent to their needs, and Kansas's black population was not large enough to press effectively for real change. The units' commanding officers often had questionable personal histories that prevented them from serving in white units or the regular army. They received inferior weapons and equipment, in part because the state did not intend to ever use them for serious purposes; the use of the Garfield Rifles to help put down an 1894 coal miners' strike was a rare exception. They were also prevented from joining together in a separate battalion, and when the Spanish-American War broke out, they were initially barred from enlisting, although former black militiamen eventually did form a regiment; one of its members was John Lewis Waller Jr., son and namesake of the former Cedar Rapids resident and noted political leader.

Cunningham has written an excellent synopsis of Kansas's black militias, making effective use of the limited available primary sources to describe this often overlooked aspect of black military history. The book also convincingly shows how these militia units were politicized by white politicians, the members themselves, and the communities that supported them. The analysis could have been strengthened by more historical contextualization, which Cunningham largely limits to national military events and comparisons with black units in other states. His description of the Garfield Rifles' involvement in the 1894 strike, for example, would have benefitted from looking broadly at the ways that class, race, and military power intersected during that era of labor unrest. Overall, though, *The Black Citizen-Soldiers of Kansas* is an informative read for scholars of African American military history and militia history in general.

Love in an Envelope: A Courtship in the American West, edited by Daniel Tyler with Betty Henshaw. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008. xxxiii, 210 pp. Map, illustrations, family genealogies, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Jane Simonsen is assistant professor of history and gender and women's studies at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. She is the author of *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the American West, 1860–1919* (2006).

In an age when lovers might Twitter their thoughts to one another (and the world) instantaneously, Daniel Tyler and Betty Henshaw offer a compilation of letters between nineteenth-century sweethearts that, in spite of what could be lengthy delivery delays, relay the character of