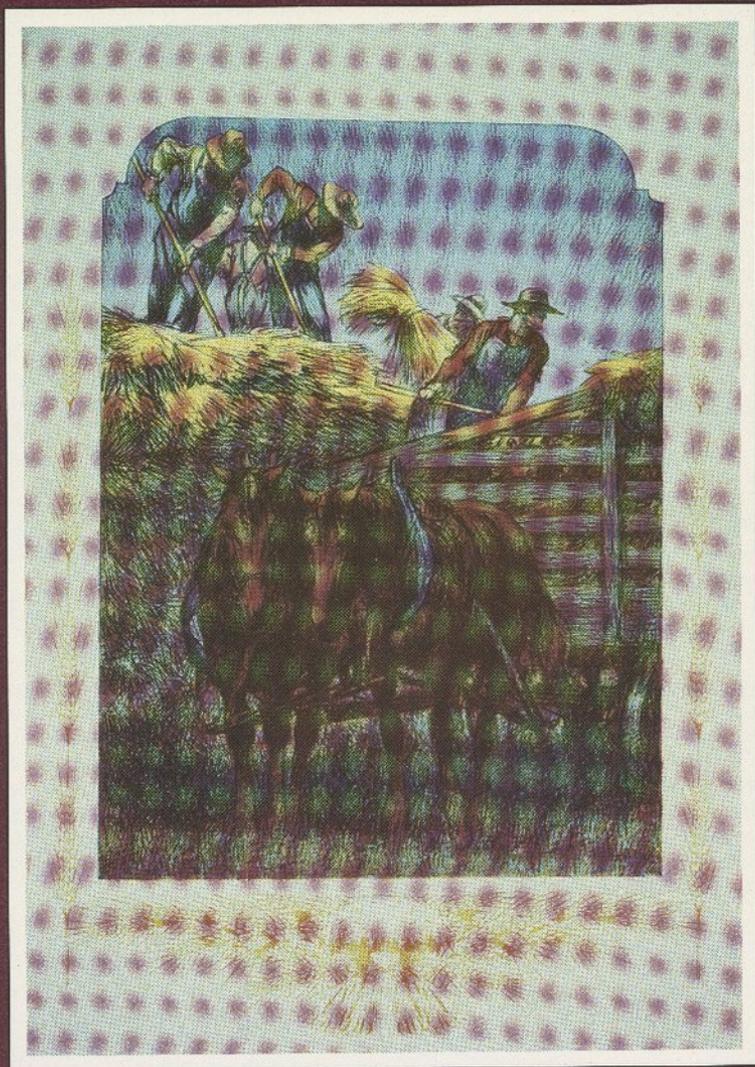


KANSAS HISTORY

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of the
Central Plains

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Kansas State Historical Society

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THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1875 by the newspaper editors and publishers of the state, and four years later it became the official trustee for the state's historical collections. Since then, the Society has operated both as a non-profit membership organization and as a specially recognized society supported by appropriations from the state of Kansas.

The purposes of the Society are the advancement of knowledge about and the preservation of resources related to the history and prehistory of Kansas and the American West, accomplished through educational and cultural programs, the provision of research services, and the protection of historic properties. The Society is governed by a ninety-nine-member board of directors, elected by the membership, and is administered by an executive director and an assistant executive director.

The new Kansas Museum of History features exhibits and educational programs based on the Society's rich artifact collections. It is located near the historic Pottawatomie Baptist Mission west of Topeka, adjacent to Interstate 70. All other Society departments remain at the Center for Historical Research, Memorial Building, across the street from the State Capitol in Topeka.

All persons interested in Kansas history and prehistory are cordially invited to join the Society. Those who would like to provide additional support for the Society's work may want to consider contributions in the form of gifts or bequests. A representative of the Society will be glad to consult with anyone wishing to make such a gift or establish a bequest or an endowment. Address the Executive Director, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1291.

Front and back covers: In the early 1900s a Kansas State Agricultural College yearbook portrayed the Midwest's bountiful harvests, much of it the result of nineteenth-century land settlement by emigrants; giving face to those who settled in the region is the E. A. Jones threshing crew of Martin County, Minnesota, photographed in the 1890s.

The promotion of emigration to Kansas and the Midwest resulted in a flood of new settlers, represent-

ing many countries and ethnic groups. Lured by the promise of rich land at good prices, emigration took many forms—organized colonies, individual travel, and group travel by friends and/or relatives from the same villages or regions. Four examples of emigration and settlement, as well as emigrants' choices about place of settlement, agriculture and ranching, and remaining in the new environment are presented in this issue of *Kansas History*.

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