

Autumn 2009

Reflections



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Autumn 2009

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

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On the cover: Two unidentified men visit with Carry A. Nation on a city street, circa 1908. Nation (foreground) was an outspoken proponent of prohibition.

Reflections

Welcome

Opportunities abound this fall to enjoy Kansas’ most colorful season. The Historical Society’s activities include fall festivals, graveside conversations, and the KSHS, Inc., Annual Meeting. Explore scenes of harvest through the years when you browse the largest online digital resource for state history, *Kansas Memory*.



Michael Church, coordinator of digital initiatives, oversees the immense effort to place the Historical Society’s photographs, documents, maps, manuscripts, and artifacts online in kansasmemory.org. A native of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Church grew up in Salina. An affinity for history took him to Utah to serve there as an archivist before joining the Historical Society in 2005.

To prepare items for *Kansas Memory*, the team selects, scans, arranges, and describes materials from the collections; applying conservation methods to fragile items; creating transcriptions of handwritten documents; and paginating the images for publication. Many full-time and part-time staff, student interns, and volunteers contribute time to the resource, which currently features more than 62,000 images of items.

“I enjoy digging through our collections and finding sources that document the triumphs and hardships of everyday folks—like Richard West in Barton Station, Alabama, pleading with Governor St. John to help him and his people come to Kansas and escape the cruelty of Southern discrimination,” Church said. “*Kansas Memory* gives voice to the unknown actors in the state’s past and documents their contributions to the issues, movements, and events of Kansas and U.S. history.”

Upcoming additions include 1,500 photos of central Kansas from 1908-1912 by L. W. Halbe of Dorrance and the records of William Clark and other Indian superintendents, 1807-1855, courtesy of a grant from the National Park Service.

Kansas Ambassador for Art

As little Eva Alberta Jessye slept, her Aunt Harriet sang spirituals, not knowing that she was fostering within her niece a love of music and poetry that would take the young girl far from her Coffeyville home.

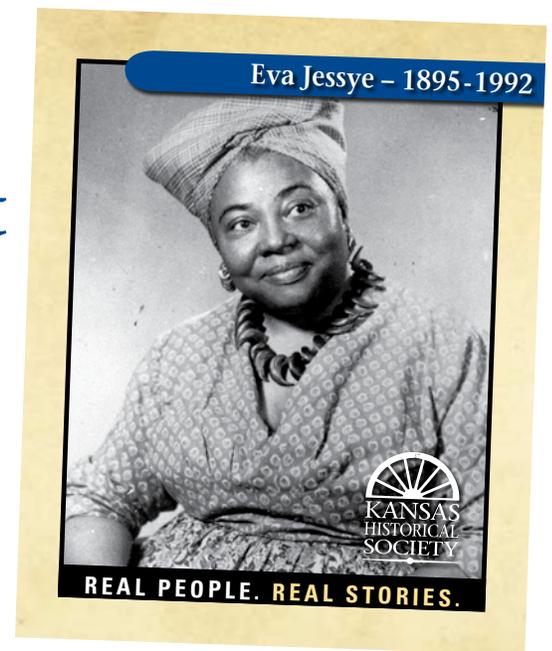
At the age of 12, Jessye organized a girl's quartet, the first of many choral ensembles she would form during her life. Jessye could not attend high school in Coffeyville because she was African American, so she attended Western University in Kansas City. Despite her young age, she was soon responsible for organizing the school's chorus.

As a teen Jessye continued to develop her talents for music and poetry. She believed that the spirituals sung by her ancestors were unique to the African American culture and she wanted to share the tradition with the world. After receiving a teaching certificate from Langston University in Oklahoma, Jessye moved to Baltimore in 1919 to direct the choir at Morgan State College. She moved back to Oklahoma for a while to teach at an African Methodist Episcopal Church school, but returned to Baltimore in 1925 to write for the *Baltimore Afro-American* newspaper.

In Baltimore Jessye performed with the Dixie Jubilee Singers, which would later become the Eva Jessye Choir. The choir performed a wide variety of music, including spirituals, ballads, ragtime, and light opera, on radio, stage, and film.



Eva Jessye shakes hands with Eleanor Roosevelt, who she considered to be among her friends.



They performed in the 1927 film *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the 1929 film *Hallelujah*, for which Jessye served as choral director. In 1935 she was hired by George Gershwin to direct the chorus for the original production of the folk opera *Porgy and Bess*. Jessye also performed in the show in the role of the washerwoman — a role no other actor in the cast wanted.

"I told the other blacks they were doing opera because their mothers washed clothes, chopped cotton, bowed low, suffered, and labored to get them there," Jessye said. "I believe in keeping the dignity of your background." Jessye's work on several productions of *Porgy and Bess* earned her the unofficial title of "curator and guardian of the score."

During World War II Jessye and her choir toured Europe. For some concertgoers, it was the first time they had seen an African American. "They called us 'chocolate people,'" said Jessye, "and I said I hoped we were half as sweet."

Jessye was involved with the African American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s. Martin Luther King, Jr., asked Jessye and her choir to be the official chorus for the 1963 march on Washington. The choir performed "We Shall Overcome" and "Freedom is the Thing We're Talkin' About."

Jessye returned to teaching and established the Eva Jessye Afro-American Music Collection at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1974. She established a similar collection at Pittsburg State University and served as its artist-in-residence from 1978 to 1981. Kansas Governor John Carlin declared Jessye to be Kansas Ambassador for the Arts in 1981. She continued to write, teach, and direct musical groups until her death in 1992 at the age of 97 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



The Carey Hotel Bar in Wichita. Carry Nation broke the mirror when she threw rocks at it during a temperance protest December 27, 1900.

Carry Nation and the Home Defenders



Before Carry Nation ever moved to Kansas, women here were taking on the fight against alcohol. Believing that alcohol caused men to squander their savings, mistreat their wives and children, and lead to broken homes, these women were seeking reform in 1855 in the new Kansas Territory.

With their efforts, Kansas voters in 1880 passed a constitutional amendment prohibiting the sale of alcohol, well ahead of other states. When communities failed to enforce the amendment, temperance supporters sought ways to stop the sale of alcohol. A passionate supporter would soon join their cause, putting Kansas' temperance fight in the national spotlight.

Carry Nation, born Carrie Amelia Moore in 1846 in Kentucky, quickly learned the negative effects of alcohol. Nation's first husband, Charles Gloyd, as a result of alcohol died after two years of marriage at the age of 29.

As a young widow, Nation struggled to support an infant daughter, finding brief work as a teacher. Since jobs for women were limited, she knew that her best option would be to remarry.

David Nation was 19 years her senior. He found work where he could as an attorney, minister, and newspaper editor. The family lived in Texas and eventually Medicine Lodge, Kansas, where he served as a minister. In Kansas, Carry Nation found like-minded people and she took a leadership role in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, organizing conventions and speaking at gatherings.

Nation joined the president of the Medicine Lodge WCTU to conduct their first saloon raid in December 1894. With the help of two other women, they paid a visit to a “pharmacy.” Nation led the group into the store and announced, “Mr. Day, the ladies of the WCTU want to see what you have in here.” To his surprise, Nation overturned a keg rolled it out the door. “Women, this is whiskey,” she proclaimed. A clerk and policeman were unable to keep Nation from smashing the keg and spilling the contents on the ground, which the women lit and watched “burst into flames.”

Armed with a brickbat, Nation next visited the town of Kiowa where she attacked as many as six bars in June 1900. She defended her actions by claiming that WCTU members had tried letter writing, personal visits, and alerting officials but the law was continually ignored.

In December 1900 Nation used a hatchet to smash numerous “joints.” The demolition spree continued two more months with thousands of dollars in damage to saloons around Kansas. As a result of these efforts, Nation was arrested 30 different times, and her husband filed for divorce on the grounds of desertion. Saying she would “Carry A. Nation” away from the evils of alcohol, she sold photographs, hatchet pins, and “Home Defender” buttons to fund her efforts.

In February 1901 Nation laid down her hatchet and took her fight to the printing press. As editor of the *Smasher’s Mail*, Nation invited discussion regarding the issue of prohibition. “There are but two sides in this question,” she wrote, “the children of God and the children of the devil.” She printed letters from supporters and opponents alike. “There is no sense or reason in such as you, and the sooner you are given a lesson in common sense, the better,” wrote J. L. Ward. “. . . I believe Mrs. Nation has accomplished more in a few days than the rest of us have by many years of hard service,” wrote an Emporia woman. The newspaper ceased publication at the end of the year and Nation continued to enjoy international fame on the lecture circuit.

Nation died June 9, 1911, a year before Kansas women received the right to vote. A national prohibition passed in 1919 and was repealed in 1933. Kansas voters finally repealed the state’s prohibition amendment in 1948.

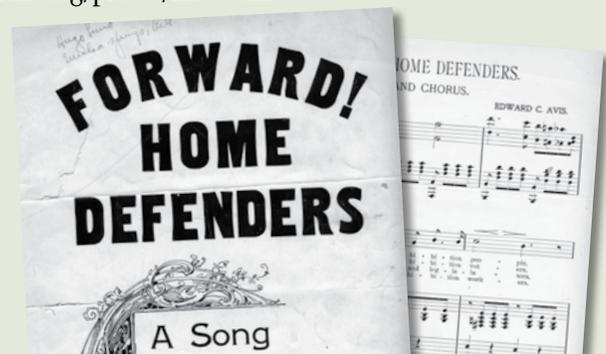
BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Our digital repository features numerous images of Carry Nation, other prohibition supporters, and the temperance union. kansasmemory.org



VISIT | KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The museum’s Main Gallery includes a masonry hammer Carry Nation used to smash saloons, a promotional poster, broken mirror from a saloon, and a song she wrote, “Forward, Home Defenders!” kshs.org/places/museum



VISIT | KSHS.ORG

Our online exhibit, *Carry A. Nation: The Famous and Original Bar Room Smasher*, offers more images and information about the temperance leader. Our *Cool Things* articles feature several of Nation’s personal items.



Bequest from Meder Leaves a Legacy



When Dr. Marylouise Meder passed away in March 2008, the Kansas Historical Society honored her bequest establishing an endowed internship fund. Every other year, the State Archives & Library will be able to hire an intern thanks to Dr. Meder's generosity.

With recent state budget cuts, State Archives & Library staff is doing more with fewer resources.

"Internships help us get our tasks done," said Division Director Pat Michaelis. "From a teaching perspective, we find having interns here really broadens their perspective of what the profession is like. They get actual hands-on experience doing things they don't get to do in a public library. Many of our interns have gone on to make library and archives their selected profession."

Meder earned her Ph.D. in 1964 from the University of Michigan's School of Information. She had a long career in library science, working in college libraries and later teaching at Drexel University, Rutgers University, and Texas Woman's University before joining the Emporia State University faculty. Meder taught at ESU's Library and Information Management from 1971 until her retirement in 1991. Dr. Meder was a life member of KSHS, Inc., since 1976.

Photo courtesy School of Library and Information Management Records, Emporia State University Archives, Emporia, Kansas

Plan a Gift for the Kansas Historical Society

What do Merle and Ruby Lee Chaney, Richard A. Mermis, Jr., Marylouise Meder, and Gerald and Mary Jayne Nice have in common? They included KSHS, Inc., in their estate plans. Their forethought and generosity is making a difference in the Historical Society's ability to sustain its vision of enriching the lives of Kansans by connecting them to the past.

In 1875 Kansas newspaper editors and publishers knew how important it was to preserve the history of our state. Collecting newspapers and artifacts became their call to duty. More than 130 years later the Kansas Historical Society is considered one of the premier historical societies in the nation. From important state documents, artifacts, and buildings to everyday people's diaries and photographs, we collect and preserve the things that tell our state's story. We provide K-12 curriculum materials to educate and inspire Kansas children. Through the stories we tell, Kansans young and old find their personal connection to our state's history.

Help us create an endowment that will sustain the Historical Society through the ages. Please consider including KSHS, Inc., in your estate plans by joining the Kansas Heritage Circle, our bequest recognition society. You may give funds unrestricted or for a designated area. If you wish to designate your gift, please contact Vicky Henley at 785-272-8681, ext. 201, or vhenley@kshs.org. Thank you for your continued support!

Bequest Language

"I, [your name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., a Kansas not-for-profit organization (FEIN #48-6102800), located at 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka KS [insert: written amount, or percentage of the estate, or description of property, or residue of estate] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

Mine Creek Battlefield

On October 25, 1864, approximately 2,800 Union troops attacked and defeated about 8,000 Confederates in a daylong battle along the banks of Mine Creek in Linn County.



This was one of the largest cavalry battles in the Civil War and was a major battle fought in Kansas. The Union brigades were commanded by Colonels Frederick W. Benteen and John F. Philips. After this battle, federal forces pursued and defeated additional Confederates in Missouri as they attempted to return to Arkansas, Indian Territory (Oklahoma), and eventually Texas. Two weeks later the Civil War in the West was practically over.

Mine Creek Battlefield now tells the story of Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War. Discover the 2.6-mile nature trail, marked with interpretive signs. Explore artifacts and interactive exhibits and take in the view of the battlefield from the visitor center.



Visit the site!

Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site
Two miles south on U.S. 69, one-half mile west on K-52 in Pleasanton
913-352-8890 • kshs.org/places/minecreek

Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 students; KSHS, Inc., members and children five and under admitted free

Visitor hours (subject to change):

Last Sunday in October through first Tuesday in April – visitor center closed • grounds open dawn to dusk

First Wednesday in April through last Saturday in October – 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday

Join us for a special open house Saturday, October 24, to commemorate the 145th anniversary of the battle.



Three Cheers for “Old Springfield”

Civil War battle flags served a vital role in combat. They were guideposts for troops and regimental markers for officers. Because of their special significance, flags needed careful protection from enemy capture. Those given the honor to serve as flag bearers did so with reverence and pride at great personal risk.

When President Abraham Lincoln sent out a request for troops at the beginning of the Civil War, thousands of Kansans responded. The Emporia Home Guard or Company H of the Second Kansas Volunteer Infantry was organized to serve 90 days. The women of the community created a national flag for their soldiers. They chose red and white challis for the 13 stripes, blue cashmere for the field from fabric that had been intended for a dress, and white silk for the 36 stars.

On the day before Company H departed, the Emporia community provided a special flag presentation. One of

the women, Fanny Yeakley, delivered a patriotic address and presented the 4' by 6' flag to the standard bearer.

The Second Kansas was sent to Springfield, Missouri, joining the First Kansas Volunteer Infantry to form one brigade. Early in August the Second Kansas captured Forsyth, Missouri, from the Confederates, briefly flying the flag from Emporia.

“I took Ensign Miller with our colors and planted them on the spire of the court house in place of the S.C. rag,” wrote Lieutenant C. S. Hills of Emporia.

Company H saw little combat until August 10. That day

the small Union army led by Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon faced the much larger Confederate army under Brigadier General Ben McCulloch near Wilson's Creek in Missouri. General Lyon held the Second Kansas in reserve through much of the five-hour battle. Just as he gave the order to send the unit into battle, Lyon was shot and killed, the first Union general to die in the war. The Second Kansas regiment carried just one national flag that day—the one made by the women of Emporia. Some said it was the only national flag on the field when General Lyon was killed. The Union lost the engagement that day and the flag sustained much wear and tear, as did the soldiers of Company H; four were killed and 11 were wounded.

Lieutenant Hills reported that Ensign Thomas Miller of Americus, who carried the flag, was “shot through the kidney” and “will not carry it home again.” Hills said the flag was “completely riddled,” and left “smoke-stained” and “bloodstained.” “Tell the donors it has not been disgraced,” Hills wrote. “I tell you, marching around town is one thing, but a bloody battle is another.”

General John C. Frémont issued an order to add the battle name of "Springfield" to the flag in honor of the service at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. As new Emporia home guard recruits were being sent off in September, Mary Jane Watson recalled the sacrifices of those who carried the Springfield flag. “That flag, all bullet-torn as it is, will, we hope, be returned to its donors, and carefully preserved as a mute and eloquent memorial of the patriotism of those who fought beneath its folds,” Watson said. She presented the new soldiers with a “beautiful emblem of our national power,” from the women of Emporia.

When Company H arrived home October 5, 1861, it was greeted by crowds of supporters. Old Springfield was immediately raised above Emporia House where it could be seen and admired. A “vast audience” gathered for a program a few days later where men and women “gave three rousing and soul-stirring cheers” for the home guard and “three more” for Old Springfield. Major William F. Cloud proudly told the gathering that the flag was carried farther into Confederate territory “than any other flag in the army, either East or West.”

Old Springfield was among the 80 flags presented to the State Adjutant General after the war. The flags were eventually donated to the Kansas Historical Society in 1905.

TO DO | SAVE THE FLAGS

The Kansas Historical Society's Civil War collection includes various Kansas regiment, Confederate, and border ruffian flags. Contributions to help with their preservation are welcome in any amount. kshs.org



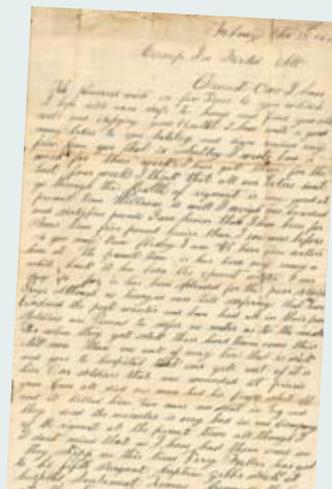
VISIT | KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The museum features several Civil War flags on display — two from African American regiments, a Seventh Kansas Cavalry guidon, and one from Quantrill's Raid. Several flags from Bleeding Kansas are also on display. kshs.org/places/museum



BROWSE | WAR LETTERS

William Casper Haynes was a Civil War soldier stationed somewhere in Missouri when he wrote in 1863 to “Dear One.” Haynes’ letter is among the Kansas War Letters online. kshs.org/ms/warletters



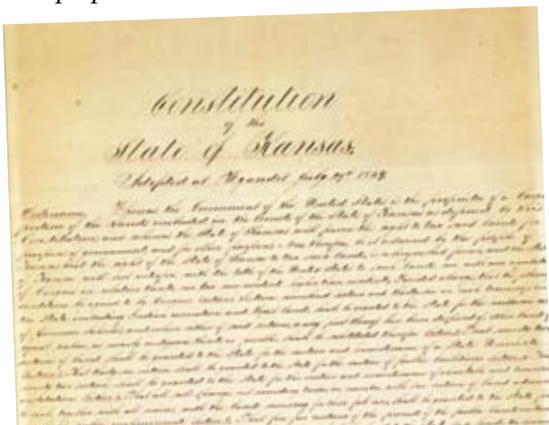
In 2011 Kansas will celebrate its statehood sesquicentennial. "Countdown to Statehood" is a series of articles depicting key events from Kansas' territorial days and related commemoration events sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society.

Countdown to Statehood: Ratification of the Wyandotte Constitution, October 1859

With the signing of the free state Wyandotte Constitution on July 29, 1859, the stage was set for a bitter partisan contest for ratification. This version of the state constitution denied the voting rights of African Americans and American Indians, but it differed from its predecessors. For the first time, women would be allowed to vote, but only in school board elections.

G. W. Paddock was a minister and free state supporter who came to Kansas Territory in 1857 and visited the Wyandotte constitutional convention. His October 4, 1859, diary entry expresses the optimism shared by many freestaters going into the election.

*The election on the Wyandott Const. held to day.
It will be doubtles accepted by a majority of
the people.*



Paddock's prediction held true as voters in favor of ratifying of the Wyandotte Constitution defeated the opposition nearly two to one. The document approved by voters ends with an affirmation and a request:

Resolved, That it is the desire of the people of Kansas to be admitted into the Union with this Constitution.

Resolved, That Congress be further requested to assume the debt of this Territory.

After the October 4 ratification, official copies of the constitution of the state of Kansas were prepared and sent to the President of the United States, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives. It would take 15 months and the secession of Southern states to make Kansas statehood a reality.

Discover the new Wyandotte Constitution section of our website at: kshs.org/research/topics/politics/wyandotte_constitutional_intro.htm.

HISTORY'S HEROES

James Mershon grew up in Iowa where his father instilled pride in state history and family heritage. When Mershon and his wife, Barbara, moved to Wichita in 1970, he felt separated from his roots. Through researching his genealogy, Mershon was delighted to discover that he has a Kansas connection—kinship with Governor Andrew H. Reeder.

"I've done a lot of research on Andrew Horatio Reeder and learned he was a relative," Mershon said. "I needed a connection to Kansas in the worst way."

Henry Mershon, a Huguenot ancestor from France,

immigrated in 1683 to Long Island, New York. His daughter Hannah was an ancestor of Reeder; his son Nathaniel was an ancestor of James Mershon.

When Mershon became involved in a family organization, he met Marie Reeder Stokes, a descendant of Reeder. They became close friends over the years and eventually Stokes offered some of Reeder's letters and other artifacts, which Mershon in turn donated to the Kansas Historical Society. Mershon encourages others to consider donating their historical family documents to the Historical Society.

Clifford E. Stone

Clifford Stone has been a leading supporter of historic preservation and the arts in his community of El Dorado and the state of Kansas for many years. A true entrepreneur and philanthropist, his life is a model of good citizenship, from military service as a young man, to board service for a number of organizations, to lifelong patronage of the arts in Kansas.



Taking the charge to serve his country, Stone enlisted in the army in May 1942 and became a decorated World War II bomber pilot. He later built a successful banking career and served as president of the Kansas Bankers Association.

Stone is a founding board member of the Butler County History Center/Kansas Oil Museum and of El Dorado, Inc., the city's economic and business development organization. Tom Murry, another founder of El Dorado, Inc., told the *El Dorado Times* in 2008 that the community of El Dorado would not be nearly as well off without Stone's influence. "We owe him a deep, deep sense of gratitude," Murry said.

While Stone enjoys the publications he receives as a member of the Historical Society, he said it is the work of the organization that is most important—preserving the state's historical record and educating people of all ages about the importance of the Kansas legacy. "All of us should have some appreciation of what went before," Stone said.

Not only does Stone support the arts and humanities but other community causes such as health care, creating the Cliff Stone Endowed Fund to provide financial support for El Dorado's Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital.

A recipient of the Kansas Governor's Arts Award, Stone has a passion for celebrating the art and poetry of the Flint Hills region. He converted an alleyway behind Commerce Bank into a beautiful, naturally lit atrium art gallery filled with landscape paintings he acquired over the years.

Each painting illustrates a quote written by his friend Rolla A. Clymer, former editor and general manager of the *El Dorado Times*, often called the "Poet of the Hills." The poetic quotes describe the beauty of the Flint Hills countryside through the four seasons, which Stone paired with his paintings of the unique Kansas region, further revealing its beauty.

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership support enables the Historical Society's programs to continue. The cost of membership remains only \$40 annually. Members receive free admission to the museum and all state historic sites, a discount at the Historical Society's stores and on online purchases, as well as quarterly issues of *Reflections* and the award-winning *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. More information available at kshs.org/joinkshs, by calling 785-272-8681, ext. 209; or membership@kshs.org.

Serving Up Traditions at Connie's Café

While working as a barber at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Rafael Lopez must have spent many hours thinking about his business plan while giving buzz cuts and close shaves.

His wife, Concepción, was a housekeeper and enjoyed cooking food for fundraisers at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Wichita. Her cooking gained notoriety and she was encouraged to open a restaurant. In the early 1960s, when he heard of a restaurant for sale, he seized the opportunity to buy it for his wife. More than 45 years later, Connie's Mexico Café is the oldest family-run Mexican restaurant in Wichita.

Both Lopezes were born in Mexico, he in the state of Nuevo León and she in Jalisco. They grew up during a tumultuous period that followed economic strife and the Mexican Revolution. These conditions set the stage for a wave of emigration from Mexico to the United States, with families settling in states along the border. Conversely, the U.S. economy was booming and labor was in demand. Railroads actively recruited in the hardest hit Mexican states. By 1930 Mexicans comprised Kansas' second largest immigrant group. More than half of the immigrants settled in Wichita and other urban areas of the state, most finding work with the railroads and the meat packing industry.

The Lopezes met and were married in Texas, where their only child was born. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served during World War II. After the war the Lopezes visited friends in Wichita. They fell in love with the city and moved there in 1951. After serving in the Korean War, he began his work as a barber at McConnell.

The owner of Chata's Mexican restaurant asked in 1961 if there was interest in purchasing his business. The 1930s building had housed a hotel and two Mexican restaurants. Located in the north part of Wichita near the meat packing



Concepción and Rafael Rocha Lopez brought culinary traditions from their native Mexico and opened Connie's Café in Wichita.

industry, the restaurant was positioned to serve hungry workers in the area. The Lopezes quickly saw the opportunity and soon began operating their family restaurant, changing the name to Connie's in 1963 to attract non-Hispanic customers as well.

The first specialty was the burrito, made with homemade tortillas. The menu grew over the years, with customers raving about the salsa, and other favorites including tacos, chorizo, chile relleno, fajitas, and enchiladas. Eventually there was no time to make homemade tortillas and they had to be purchased instead from a local business.





Rafael Lopez worked as a barber at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita.

The family made frequent trips to Mexico to visit family and friends and returned with practical and decorative items to fill their restaurant. At home a decorative crockery pot was used to cook beans. A special pan was used to make their signature tortillas, which were kept warm at the table in an embroidered holder. In the restaurant servers wore lapel pins shaped as flatware, until the Lopez granddaughters protested and stopped the tradition.

The restaurant was damaged three times by truck crashes: in 1976 a semitrailer crashed into the northeast corner, in 1982 a drunken driver crashed into the southeast corner, and in 2004 a drunken driver crashed into the northeast corner. Each time the Lopezes rebuilt, taking the opportunity with the last crash to do some remodeling that added more vibrant colors to the interior décor. The restaurant today seats 60 in the front section, and 70 to 80 people in the back.

After their deaths, he in 1994 and she in 2006, the family continued to operate Connie's Mexico Café. Carmen Rosales and Delia Garcia, their daughter and granddaughter, recently donated several items to the Historical Society. These items also include some of the Lopezes' personal possessions such as Spanish language books and records, a Mexican blanket, and her favorite purple sweater, most items purchased in the Lopezes' homeland. These donations will help future generations understand the contributions of Mexican Americans in the state's history.

VISIT | COOL THINGS PODCAST

Our *Cool Things* in the collections features a number of the items donated by the Lopezes. You'll see the decorative bean pot, embroidered tortilla warmer, and lapel pins worn by the servers. kshs.org/cool



LISTEN | COOL THINGS PODCAST

Our *Cool Things* podcasts on Connie's Mexico Café examine some of the items donated by the family. You'll hear curators discuss Mexican cuisine and how the items were used at this Wichita restaurant. kansasmemory.org



BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Browse the collection of photographs donated by the Lopezes. You'll see images from the barbershop, restaurant, and family portraits. kansasmemory.org



Happening at KSHS



Graveside Conversations, Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

Join us October 24 for guided tours of the Fort Hays cemetery. History re-enactors will tell the stories of people who lived and died at the fort, including a cavalryman killed in a battle with American Indians, a young girl who died of typhoid, a grieving mother, two soldiers killed in a gunfight in Hays, and the local legend known as the Blue Light Lady. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 785-625-6812. kshs.org/places/forthays

Official Meeting and Election Notification

We invite you to join us for the KSHS, Inc., Annual Meeting, November 6, 2009, at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka. This meeting includes the election of board members. You can find the slate of nominees and register for the meeting online after September 15 at kshs.org/joinkshs. If you wish to receive a registration or slate of nominees by mail, please call Elizabeth Page, 785-272-8681, ext. 209.

Fall Festival, Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

This event, October 10-11, is free and includes family-friendly fun, crafts, entertainment, and food. See living history reenactors, mountain men, American Indian dancers, spinners, weavers, blacksmith, storytellers, musicians, traditional craftsmen, pony rides, and a quilt show. kshs.org/places/shawnee



Holiday Open Houses at our State Historic Sites

Our sites are ready to celebrate with events throughout the holiday season. Depending on the site, look for period decorations and traditions, holiday goodies, or specials in the stores. Visit the following sites during their open houses to get in the holiday spirit:

Kaw Mission, Council Grove, December 3
kshs.org/places/kaw

Hollenberg Pony Express Station, Hanover, December 5
kshs.org/places/hollenberg

Fort Hays, Hays, December 5
kshs.org/places/hays

Shawnee Indian Mission, Fairway, December 5
kshs.org/places/shawnee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through November 8, 2009

Lincoln in Kansas

Exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

October 2-4, 2009

Museum Store Fall Open House

Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

October 10-11, 2009

Fall Festival

Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

October 24, 2009

Graveside Conversations

Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

November 6, 2009

KSHS, Inc., Annual Meeting

Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

November 7, 2009

Historic Sites Board of Review

Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

December 3, 2009

A Kaw Mission Christmas

Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Grove

December 5, 2009

Christmas Open House

Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site, Hanover

December 5, 2009

Christmas Past

Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

December 5, 2009

Holiday Open House

Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

Autumn 2009

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Governor of Kansas

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Vicky Henley, CEO/Executive Director

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Membership information is available by calling

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This 1910 photo of a group of children in a Topeka neighborhood is one the many fun images you can browse when you visit kansasmemory.org.