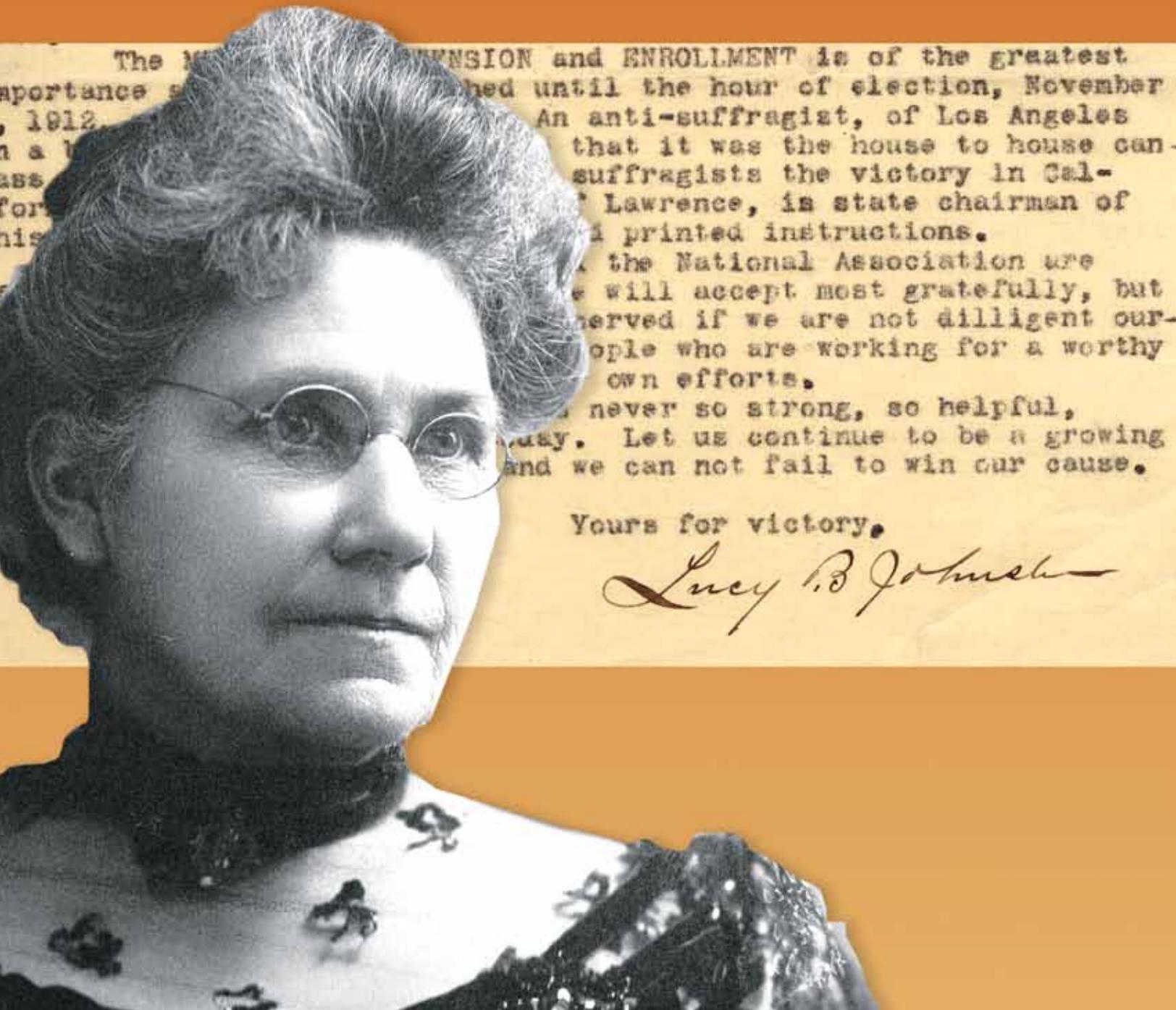


Reflections

A publication of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Foundation



The M... EXTENSION and ENROLLMENT is of the greatest importance... until the hour of election, November... 1912... An anti-suffragist, of Los Angeles... that it was the house to house canvass... suffragists the victory in California... Lawrence, is state chairman of... printed instructions.

The National Association are... will accept most gratefully, but... served if we are not diligent ourselves... people who are working for a worthy... own efforts.

never so strong, so helpful, today. Let us continue to be a growing... and we can not fail to win our cause.

Yours for victory.

Lucy B. Johnson

Autumn 2012

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4

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On the cover: Lucy Browne Johnston was one of the suffragists who fought for women’s right to vote in Kansas. **See story page 2.**

Reflections

This issue of *Reflections* celebrates the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in Kansas. On November 5, 1912, the male voters of Kansas passed the Equal Suffrage Amendment to the state constitution giving women full voting rights. We highlight two suffragists: Lucy Browne Johnston in an article on page 2, and Laura Mitchell Johns on page 8, and suffrage events in Kansas history on page 1.

Meet Anita Faddis

Anita Faddis is site administrator at Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site in Fairway. She grew up in McCook, Nebraska, and later moved to Kansas. She attended Emporia State University where she received a bachelor’s degree in vocational education and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in American history. For 25 years she taught history and culinary arts in the Baldwin City Unified School District and worked with the district’s preschool programs. She has been at Shawnee Indian Mission since 2007.

As site administrator Faddis interacts with school and community groups. She develops age and grade specific programs that meet the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy. Activities focus on American Indian history and the Oregon-California and Santa Fe trails. She also works with local community groups to stage productions based on the history of the mission and Johnson County.



Anita Faddis

Notable Events in Kansas History

To commemorate the Kansas 150, Governor Sam Brownback appointed a Blue Ribbon Panel on Kansas History. The panel selected 12 notable events in the state's history. This date was selected because it launched state efforts to promote women's suffrage.

Women's Suffrage

When the United States was formed most states allowed only white men who owned property to vote. New Jersey initially gave full voting rights to all citizens with wealth, including African Americans and unmarried women, since married women could not own property separately from their husbands. New Jersey's 1807 legislature reinterpreted its constitution to exclude suffrage for all but white males with wealth. Some 300 people, mostly women, attended a convention in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, to debate gender inequality. This two-day convention helped to launch the women's rights movement and served as a springboard for leaders in the movement including Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Kansas was host to the first national referendum on women's suffrage in 1867. The movement's leaders like Anthony, Stanton, Lucy Stone, and Olympia Brown, came to the state to campaign. Here they joined Clarina Nichols in a valiant but futile effort to equalize voting rights. Kansas voters rejected amendments for both female and African American suffrage later that year.

The Kansas Legislature voted in 1887 to give women the right to vote in municipal elections. Susanna Salter of Argonia was elected mayor that year, the first female in the nation to hold that office. Several Kansas communities elected female city council members in the following years.

Women were given the right to vote in Wyoming Territory in 1869. By the end of the century, women in Colorado, Idaho, and Utah, joined their ranks. In 1912 the Kansas

Constitution was amended to allow women full voting rights, making Kansas the eighth state to do so.

Congress passed the federal women's suffrage amendment in 1919 and sent it to the states for ratification. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was signed granting women the right to vote.

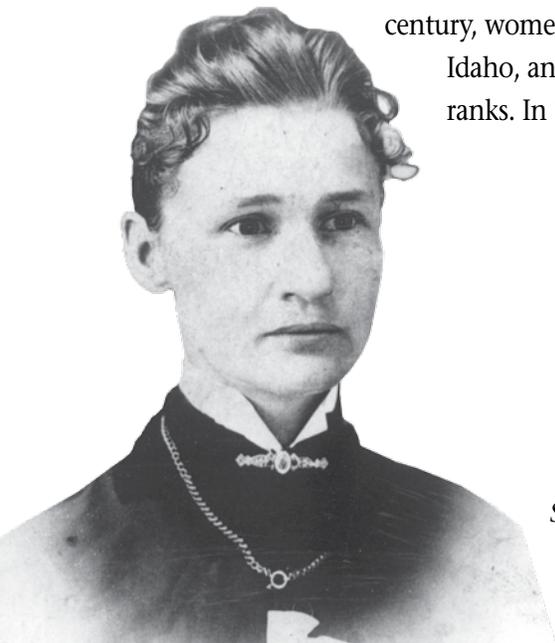


After Kansas women gained the right to vote, these delegates to the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association in Topeka voted to support the national effort for women's suffrage.

JULY 5, 1859

Women's suffrage included in discussions of Wyandotte Constitution

Susanna Salter of Argonia was the first woman in the nation elected to the office of mayor.



Campaigning for Women: Lucy Browne Johnston



Lucy Browne Johnston was a predominant force for the enfranchisement of women. A spirited political and social activist on the state and national level, Johnston's efforts helped Kansas women win full suffrage in 1912.

Born near Camden, Ohio, in 1846, Johnston received a doctoral degree in law and returned to Camden to teach grade school. She married William A. Johnston and moved with him to Minneapolis, Kansas. The Johnstons agreed on social issues, opposing capital punishment and supporting prohibition and women's suffrage.

Johnston was elected to the local board of education, serving three terms. She lobbied for manual training and domestic science classes in the public school system, a state industrial farm for women at Lansing, and a traveling library commission. In 1910 she became involved in the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association, was elected president and was charged with leading the ratification campaign.

With little funding, the campaign was challenged to find creative ways to reach its audience. Supporters established a network to distribute literature across the state to counter those who thought women were not concerned or intelligent enough to vote responsibly. Johnston organized advocates to be proactive and seek out public speaking opportunities. Most communities were supportive of the effort, but Johnston recalled a male speaker who opposed the campaign:

... I had heard much of southern chivalry so was surprised that he continued to puff his cigar while he declared that the women of the south had no desire to vote, and that southern men would not permit their women to mingle in the dirty pool of politics . . . and then forgetting, or perhaps he had never known, that Kansas women had been voting for fifty years, for taking a fresh pull at his cigar he proceeded to draw a picture of all the deplorable things that would happen in the home while the women went to vote.

These tactics helped to maximize the organization's efforts. When a national magazine asked Johnston to describe the "spectacular propaganda" the association planned, she responded:

... I could not think of a single woman that I would dare ask to carry a banner down Kansas Avenue . . . and I answered that since John Brown, Jerry Simpson and Carrie Nation had gone to Heaven, and Mary Ellen Lease to New York, we were rather short on the spectacular and would probably have a very hum-drum campaign but

that we were going to win without either spectacular or militant methods.

The Equal Suffrage Association organized a men's league to help with its advocacy and Johnston's husband, chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court, was among the first members. Johnston called them to go where women could not.

... in these places you could be of valuable service, that is in barber shops, hotel lobbies, all kinds of shops, on the streets, and at public meetings for men. These are most excellent places where an opportunity could be seized to talk for "Votes for the Woman's Suffrage Amendment."

Through the effort of Johnston and many others, the woman's suffrage amendment was passed by the male voters of Kansas, on November 5, 1912. The amendment received more than 160,000 votes, making Kansas the seventh state to enfranchise women.

Johnston died in Topeka in 1937.

BROWSE | MANUSCRIPTS

The Lucy Brown Johnston papers comprise seven boxes in the categories of correspondence, traveling libraries, and women's suffrage. kshs.org/14052



BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Find photographs, telegrams, postcards, and a quilt connected with Johnston's efforts on behalf of women's rights. kansasmemory.org/category/5040



Johnston, pictured second from left, among delegates to the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association, Topeka, 1916.

Westar Energy Donates Truck

When Westar Energy in Topeka heard that the Kansas Historical Society needed a maintenance vehicle, the company graciously offered to donate one of the trucks being sold at auction. Westar's donation of the Chevrolet Silverado being retired from its fleet saves the Historical Society vital funds.

"We cannot thank you enough," said Jennie Chinn, executive director of the Historical Society. "This is going to save the tax payers so much money to allow us to do the job we need to do. Westar has always been a fabulous partner with us."

"The Green Team has partnered with the Historical Society in creating trails and bridges," said Brad Loveless,



Westar Energy. "We are pleased to share this pick-up so they can continue to safely and effectively take care of our historic treasures."

The Historical Society is grateful for the generous donation which now is being used for maintenance on the grounds at the Historical Society headquarters in Topeka.

Annual Giving: How Private Funds Make a Difference

You can support the Kansas Historical Society. When you make a gift you are creating a personal legacy for future generations while providing critical assistance.

You have helped us accomplish quality programs and exhibitions to rank among the best historical societies in the country.

In fiscal year 2012 private funding supported:

- Kansas students K-12 curriculum and the fourth grade activity book
- School field trip bus subsidies
- State-owned historic sites
- Acquisitions, exhibits, and other projects

Private funding preserves public history. You can help ensure our rich legacy is preserved for future generations by:

- Joining the Kansas Historical Foundation at the \$100 level
- Donating unrestricted, endowed, or specific funds
- Creating corporate partnerships
- Making a gift through your will or estate plan
- Shopping the Museum Store onsite or online, kshs.org

Join us in our commitment to preserving Kansas history by contributing to the Kansas Historical Foundation. Please contact Sally Zogry, 785-272-8681, ext. 210; szogry@kshs.org for more information on annual giving.



SAVE OUR HISTORY | ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting



Take part in a lively discussion to guide the future of the Kansas Historical Foundation at the 137th annual members meeting. President Paul Buchanan shares his passion for the Abbott cannon, and Jennie Chinn and Vicky Henley provide updates on the

state organization and private foundation. The election of board members will be at 1 p.m., the election of officers will be at 3 p.m. Applications available online at kshs.org/11409, or by contacting 785-272-8681, ext. 221; sholmes@kshs.org. We look forward to seeing you Friday, November 2!

Kansas Historical Foundation

Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL STORIES.

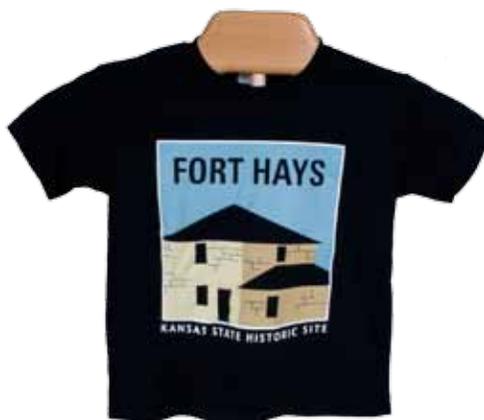


SAVE OUR HISTORY | RETAIL

New Store Products

The Historical Foundation's efforts to create new collections inspired products continue with nine new t-shirts. These colorful shirts depict some of our State Historic Sites—Constitution Hall in LeCompton, Fort Hays in Hays, Hollenberg Pony Express Station in Hanover, Grinter Place in Kansas City, Kaw Mission in Council

Grove, Mine Creek Battlefield near Pleasanton, Pawnee Indian Museum near Republic, Red Rocks in Emporia, and Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway. Many of the Museum Store's products are available for purchase through our new online site at store.kshs.org.



Wild Cat Money

New settlers to Kansas Territory learned all too quickly about challenges on the frontier. In addition to other concerns, settlers learned to beware of “wild cat” currency.

No federal banking regulations existed in the 1850s to protect the public. That function was left to the states. Kansas Territory needed first to form a government, pass a constitution, and establish laws before it could regulate securities. Unregulated territories were fertile ground for the issuance and distribution of “uncurrent” paper money.

With no regulations, anyone could issue paper currency and the issuer wasn’t required to secure the bills. Issuers were only able to profit if the public was willing to accept the money. Wild cat banks often set up in inaccessible areas of the frontier so that consumers would find it nearly impossible to redeem these paper notes.

With the absence of a federal standard, only gold was allowed for the purchase of land. Because treaties were still being negotiated, settlers were able to purchase land, but unable to use their land as collateral. They were able to use paper currency to pay their taxes.



Notes issued by Lucien Ayer's non-existent Merchants Bank of Fort Leavenworth, 1854

Paper currency was issued by banks and municipalities; and there were thousands of banks in the new territory. The City Bank of Leavenworth, privately owned, opened in 1857. During its few months of operation the bank issued large amounts of unsecured paper notes. That fall, when the nation experienced the Panic of 1857, the Leavenworth bank and many others like it in Kansas Territory failed. Individuals and businesses were left to bear the loss of the worthless currency.

When Lucien Ayer, a New Hampshire man, announced he was opening a bank in Leavenworth in 1854, the local newspaper voiced concerns. “We know nothing of the solvency of the gentleman, or upon what basis the notes will be issued,” the Leavenworth newspaper wrote. After Ayer return to the East to distribute his notes, the newspaper reported that Ayer had been arrested there. The bank had never been established but Ayer had



Several failed bank notes from the collections are available in our online archives. kansasmemory.org/category/11200

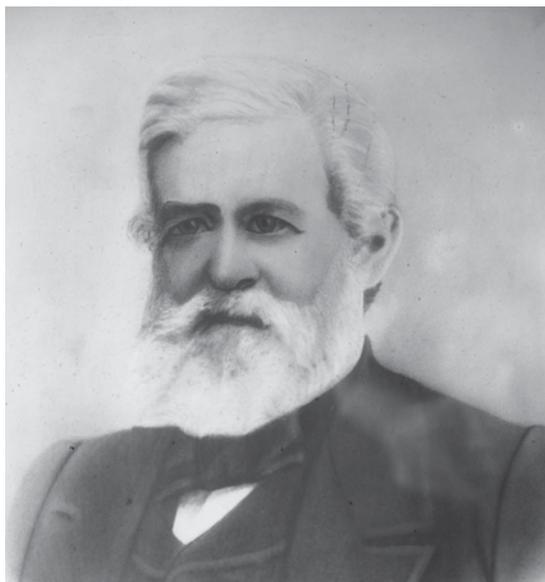
profited from distributing counterfeit bills in New York and Boston.

In 1858, after the Free State Party took control of the legislature, it repealed earlier charters by the proslavery government. The legislature established one-year charters for three banks. Only one of those, the Lawrence Bank, began operations, but did so a year after its charter had expired. The bank printed its own wild cat currency and arranged with a bank in Wisconsin to distribute the bills there in exchange for circulating counterfeit Wisconsin currency in Kansas.

“If there be any evil by which a young territory should guard against, it is a spurious currency,” the Leavenworth Daily Times reported in 1860. “For some days past the bills of the ‘Lawrence Bank’ have been in circulation among us.”

Territorial Governor Samuel Medary considered paper money “a deception and a cheat. . . . It is a scheme invented by the few, by which to transfer the hard earnings of the many into their own coffers.”

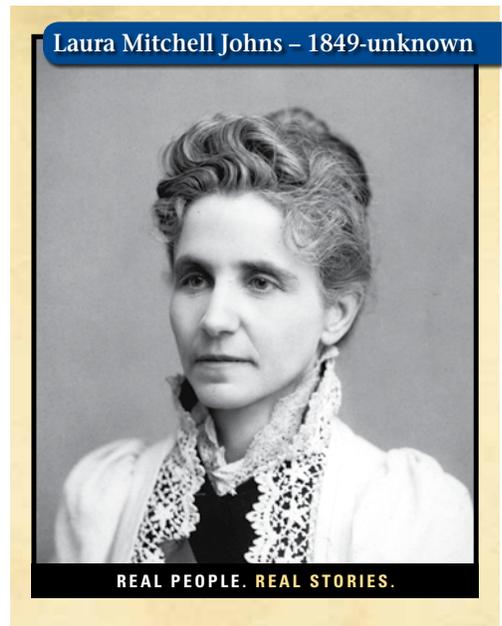
By the end of the century Kansans were provided further banking protections. Kansas established banking rules and a banking commissioner in 1891. The U.S. banking system, the Federal Reserve, was established in 1913, and amended by the Banking Act of 1933, so that only the U.S. government can issue paper money.



Above, Territorial Governor Samuel Medary; left, Leavenworth, 1858.

Laura Mitchell Johns

Laura Mitchell Johns believed in industrial, political, and social equality for women. She devoted her life toward the passage of an equal suffrage amendment.



Laura Mitchell Johns

Johns was born December 18, 1849, in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, to John Ross and Angeline Ayers Mitchell, who encouraged her to pursue an education. She worked as a school teacher before marrying James B. Johns on January 14, 1873, in Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

The Johns family moved to Salina in the early 1880s and Laura Johns soon became involved in the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association. “. . . it was the avowed intent and well considered plan to take the fortress of woman’s disenfranchisement by graduated approaches,” she said, “capturing the outposts, getting possession of every vulnerable piece of vantage ground before advancing upon the main stronghold, and wresting from prejudice, precedent and constitution the last vestige of our claim,

our heritage of full citizenship. This, we deemed, would be the best method of warfare while the time was ripening for final action.”

Johns worked to convince legislators and organized a series of congressional conventions in Kansas to promote the cause.

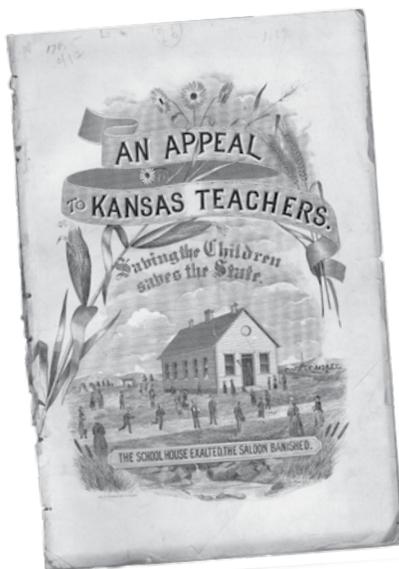
Finally in 1887 the Kansas legislature passed a bill that allowed women the right to vote in municipal elections.

She then turned her attention to promoting full suffrage for women. In 1889 she wrote a pamphlet, targeting school teachers, in support of prohibition that was distributed to 11,500 school students. She coordinated conventions and participated in public speaking tours across the nation.

At the conference of the National Woman’s Suffrage Association in September 1888 Johns addressed attendees. “I am partially enfranchised, as I have a municipal vote,” Johns said. “I am asked to tell you something about municipal suffrage in Kansas, and I want to tell you that Kansas is the first State in the Union to confer this honor upon women.”

Reelected six times as president of the Kansas State Suffrage Association, Johns was also president of the Republican Woman’s Association in 1892. When full suffrage for women passed in 1893 in Colorado, Kansas women were hopeful for a similar victory. As president of two organizations with opposing platforms, Johns was placed in a difficult position. When the amendment was lost, Johns was blamed and she ended her efforts on behalf of suffrage in Kansas.

The Johns moved to Long Beach, California, around 1910 where they spent the remaining years of their lives. The date of Laura John’s death is unknown.



Laura Mitchell Johns wrote this brochure in support of prohibition, 1889.

Check Out Our “Recently Added” Items



Kansas Memory: Charles M. Sheldon's Correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon served as minister of the Central Congregational Church in Topeka from 1889 to 1920. He also wrote the international best seller, *In His Steps*, which was published in 1897. The correspondence consists of letters, postcards, cards, one notebook containing letters and newspaper clippings, and several drawings. kansasmemory.org/item/227019



Kansapedia: The History of American Quilting

American women have been creating quilts since the arrival of the first immigrants. Originally made as a necessity, quilts always have been, and still continue to be, a means of self-expression for the creator. kshs.org/kansapedia/quilting/17889



Cool Things: Kansas Canals Map

To make better use of western Kansas' semi-arid climate, Ness City banker James Hopper proposed a four-state canal system extending from South Dakota to Oklahoma. In 1915 Hopper had this large poster printed to explain and promote the canal in the Ness City area. kshs.org/p/cool-things-kansas-canals-map/17669



President Taft and the Memorial Hall Cornerstone

In July 1911 construction began on Memorial Hall located at 10th and Jackson Streets in Topeka, and the cornerstone laying was scheduled for September 27. President William Howard Taft agreed to set the stone in place.

The hall was designed to serve three purposes. It was the new home of the Kansas Historical Society and the headquarters for the department of Kansas Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). It was also a monument to the Kansas soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War. The gray granite and white marble four-story classical building was 102 by 185 feet in dimension.

When the date was announced for the laying of the cornerstone, other events were added to the day's festivities, including a celebration of the state's 50th anniversary and a Grand Army of the Republic reunion. The town was in a celebratory mood. Downtown buildings were decorated, and the Kansas State Capitol was decorated inside and out with more than 1,000 American flags. Mayor J. B. Billard proclaimed a half holiday for the day. He asked businesses to close in the morning to permit the citizens of Topeka to give due honor to the president and "the laying of the cornerstone of this building, which shall stand as a monument, and be in memory of, the bravery and courage and the sacrifice of the soldiers and sailors of Kansas."

On September 27 Taft arrived in Topeka by train about 5 a.m. He ate breakfast at the country club then moved on to Washburn College for the dedication of a flag staff presented to the college by the Civil War veterans of Shawnee County. Next the president took his place in the mile-long GAR parade that began at the fairgrounds. The procession included 30 cars from the president's party, National Guard members, Civil War veterans, and several bands. The parade arrived at the corner of 10th and Jackson Streets amidst a cheering crowd that filled



Top, President Taft guides the cornerstone into place September 27, 1911; above, plaque on Memorial Hall cornerstone.

every space within sight of the building. A smiling Taft bowed and waved his thanks for the warm welcome.

The ceremony began at 10 a.m. with Governor Walter Stubbs presenting the cornerstone to the veterans and the

people of Kansas. In accepting the stone, GAR Commander T. P. Anderson of the Department of Kansas said, "We recognize the fact that this structure is to be a monument to the heroism of the past and a store-house of knowledge for the future." The American flag was raised and the Star Spangled Banner was sung before the GAR chaplain offered a short prayer for the blessing of the hall and of his comrades both living and dead. At 10:15 a.m. President Taft spread the mortar, guided the stone into place, and announced, "I have the honor to advise you that the cornerstone is well and properly laid."

After the ceremony, the president walked across the statehouse grounds to a platform where he addressed the crowd of 40,000. "Kansas is a soldier state and therefore it is fitting that she should give such a great memorial as this, not only for the use of the soldiers who are left, but in commemoration of her character as a soldier state and in gratitude to those of her sons that bared their breasts to the bullets in the civil war and helped to save the nation."

President William Howard Taft spent five hours in Topeka that September day, laying the cornerstone and commemorating the state's 50th anniversary and its Civil War veterans. His name will forever be linked to Memorial Hall—a building that has been in constant use for 101 years. Today it is home to the offices of the Kansas Secretary of State and Kansas Attorney General.



Memorial Hall under construction in April 1912. Today it houses the offices of the Kansas Secretary of State and Kansas Attorney General.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Hail to the Chief, the new special exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka, features presidents and presidential elections. Campaign materials, banners, and personal items are on display, as well as souvenirs from the candidates' visits to Kansas. A few of the many artifacts on display are pictured here. The exhibit runs through February 24, 2013.



Top to bottom, kepi with drawing of Dwight Eisenhower; Alfred Landon's 1936 campaign poster; pennant commemorating Theodore Roosevelt's visit to Osawatomie in 1910.

MOST POPULAR

Some of the most frequently viewed images last month on *Kansas Memory* were the Kansas Film Commission photos. In the 1980s and 1990s, before the age of digital photography, the Film Commission created panoramic images of business districts, buildings, houses, and streets to promote Kansas locations to film companies. The panoramic images were created by taking individual photos and taping them together. The photographs in this image are of Main Street in Augusta. kansasmemory.org/item/227561



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through February 24

Hail to the Chief exhibit • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

November 2

Kansas Historical Foundation Annual Meeting • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

November 3

End of Season Open House • Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site, Pleasanton

November 8

Discover the Facts: Art at the Pawnee Indian Museum • Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

November 10

Second Saturdays by the Grinter Stove • Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

November 12

State Holiday – Veteran's Day

November 22-23

State Holiday – Thanksgiving

December 1-2

Holiday Open House • Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

December 2

Pembroke Hill Students Melodrama • Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

December 7-8

Christmas Past • Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

December 8

Christmas Traditions • Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

December 8

Holiday Open House • Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

December 9

Holiday Benefit Dinner • Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

December 24-25

State Holiday – Christmas

Autumn 2012

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4

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Kansas Memory

This studio portrait of six members of the Paxico Rural High School basketball team was taken between 1900 and 1919.

kansasmemory.org/item/209367