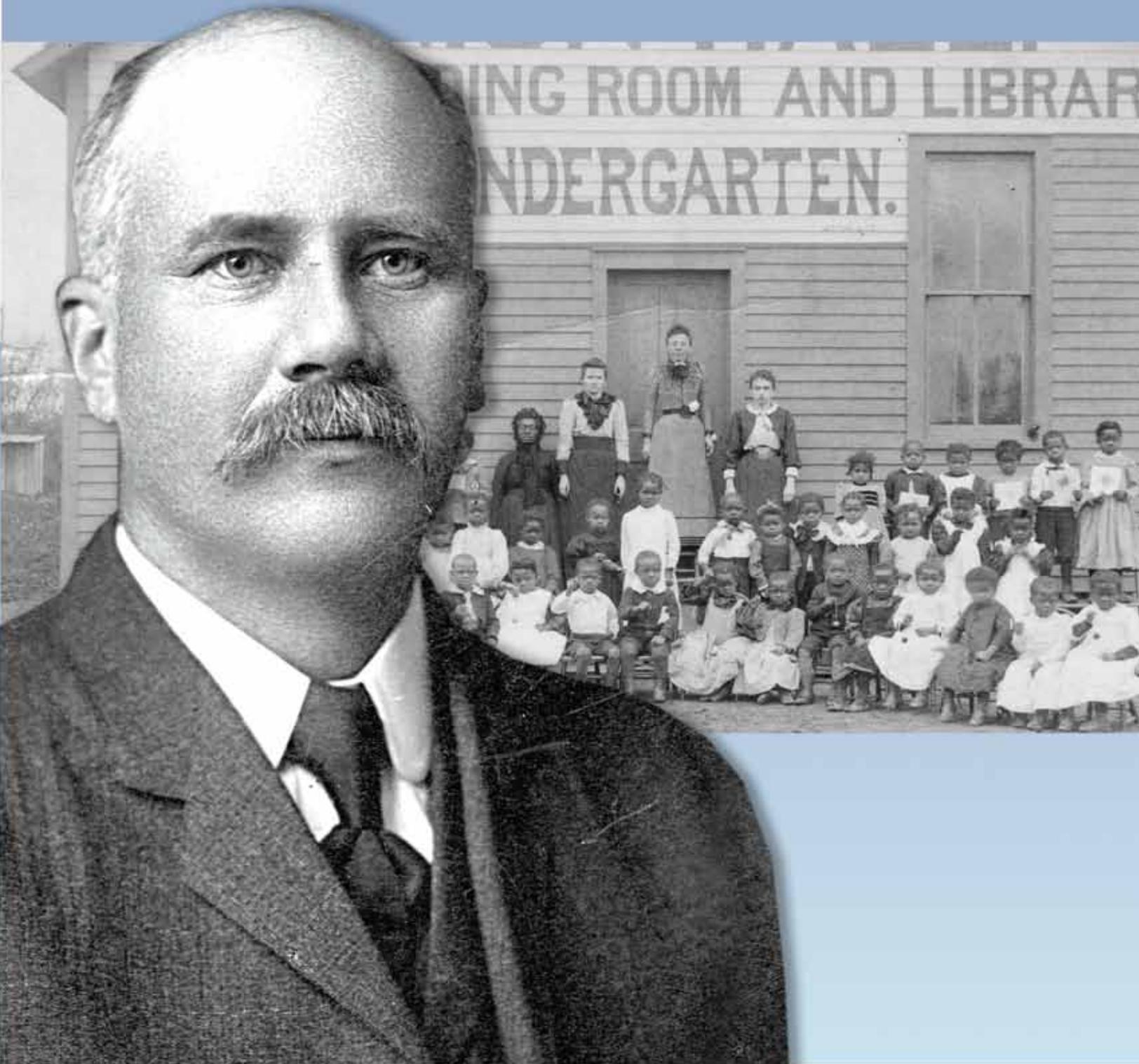


Winter 2012

Reflections

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



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Winter 2012

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

FROM OUR COLLECTIONS

2

Bringing the Social Gospel to Kansas: Charles M. Sheldon

6

Golf Legends and Quality Clubs from Kansas

10

Putting Kansas on the Map

Departments

Notable Events 1

Save Our History 4

Real People. Real Stories. 8

Online Collections 9

Most Popular 12

Calendar 13

On the cover: Charles Sheldon's writings, which include the ninth bestseller of all time, have been read around the world. See story page 2.

Reflections

Welcome

The Kansas Historical Foundation, the nonprofit organization that supports the programs of the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency, recently underwent changes to help position both organizations to thrive in the future. Changes in the museum admission desk operations, Museum Store merchandise, and Foundation staff were implemented to reduce expenses and increase charitable giving and earned income. The Foundation hired Sally Monahan Zogry in the newly created development officer position to help support fundraising efforts.

Zogry, a native of Washington, D.C., received a bachelor's degree in anthropology and religious studies and a master's degree in philosophy and religious studies from the University of New Mexico. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was the development director for the Health Care Access Clinic in Lawrence. She also has previous experience in advertising, marketing, and freelance writing. Zogry lives in Lawrence with her husband and two children.

As the Foundation's development officer, Zogry helps with recruitment cultivation and stewardship of individual and corporate donors. She is also responsible for increasing Foundation membership awareness and recruiting members. Zogry is working to increase visibility of membership and charitable giving opportunities on kshs.org, and is already seeing results from these efforts.

"I love meeting people and letting them know how their involvement makes a difference," Zogry said. "I was thrilled to join the team here and to work on a statewide level for such an important cause."



Sally Monahan Zogry

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 agriculture.

Breadbasket of the World

Farmers in Kansas had grown wheat long before the territory was opened in 1854. From early American Indian gardeners to settlers from the East, farmers experimented with varieties of soft and hard wheat, along with other crops.

They learned that summer wheat was more susceptible to drought than winter wheat, which took advantage of the winter moisture. The year 1874 proved especially challenging for farmers who faced both drought and locusts. Some decided to leave Kansas in search of better opportunities; many stayed and varied their crops and improved their farming techniques.

During the mid-19th century, the State Board of Agriculture and the Santa Fe Railway vigorously promoted settlement to people in the East and to countries in Europe. Germans who had fled to Russia a century before to escape military service and taxes were now experiencing the same pressures in their adopted country. On the Russian plains they had become skilled wheat growers. Thousands of these farmers agreed to bring their agricultural skills and move to the central part of the state in the mid-1870s.

Kansas surpassed other states in the production of winter wheat in 1876. On October 12, 1888, the *Topeka Daily Capital* claimed "In wheat, Kansas can beat the world." Farming communities emerged in rural areas and mills, elevators, bread companies, and bakeries were established.



Top, this Angell plow, invented by a Kansas farmer, worked so well that some people believe it contributed to the Dust Bowl; above, these Volga-German immigrants used a steam powered threshing machine to harvest wheat near Munjor in Ellis County.

Updates in technology helped farmers plant larger areas and improve their yields. During the early 20th century Kansas adopted a new nickname, the "Wheat State." Our state continues to be known as the breadbasket of the world, the nation's leading wheat producer.

MARCH 5, 1862

Kansas Agricultural Society established

Bringing the Social Gospel to Kansas: Charles M. Sheldon

Charles Sheldon wanted to apply the teachings of Jesus to everyday life. As minister of Central Congregational Church in Topeka, he was concerned about the poverty in nearby neighborhoods, in particular the African American community of Tennessee Town. He observed the effects of alcoholism on the family and wanted to see more enforcement of the prohibition laws in the state. He believed that all persons were equal and should be treated with respect and dignity. Sheldon took his beliefs to the streets and became a leader of the Social Gospel Movement, the religious side of the Progressive Movement.

Born in New York in 1857, Sheldon was a minister in Vermont when he was encouraged to come to a new church in Topeka, Kansas. Formed as a mission church to Tennessee Town and Washburn University, a Congregational institution, there were but 57 members in 1889 when Sheldon arrived. Their place of worship was a small wooden building. Sheldon focused on recruiting new members and building a permanent church. His larger goal was to take his social gospel message to the community.

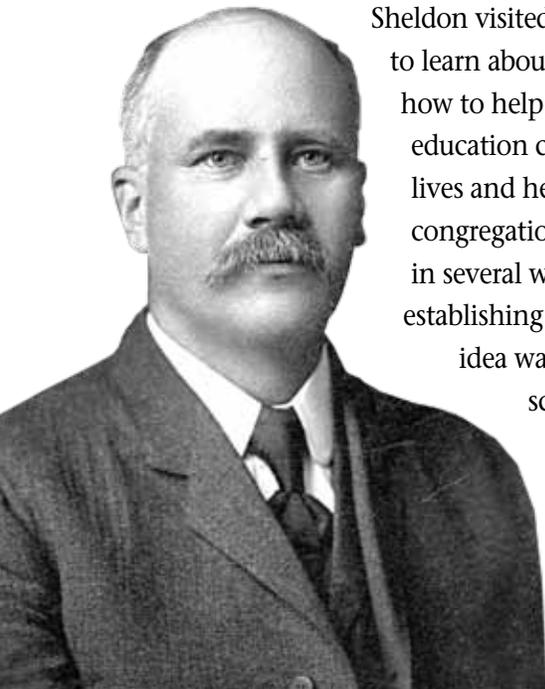
Tennessee Town had been settled in the 1870s by a number of African American Exodusters from the South.

Sheldon visited with the families to learn about their needs and how to help. He felt that education could improve their lives and he encouraged his congregation to assist them in several ways, including establishing a kindergarten. The idea was novel; the Topeka school system offered no kindergartens at the time.

Classes began in 1893 with an average of 28 students; by 1900 a total of 287 students had attended. In 1910 the kindergarten was incorporated into the Topeka school system.

In 1896 Sheldon developed a series of sermons, which he delivered as dramatic stories, but he withheld the ending until the following week. He hoped to encourage people to return to hear the conclusion. The sermon stories proved so popular that Sheldon began to submit them to religious magazines of the day. The most popular of these stories asked “What would Jesus do?” The next year this series was published in the book, *In His Steps*. The publisher did not follow proper copyright procedures for the book, which was printed again and again. Today more than 30 million copies of the book have been sold, and it is considered the ninth bestseller of all time.

For one week at a time Sheldon put himself in the shoes of others. He was a homeless person looking for a job, he attended college classes, he was a railroad laborer, he attended court hearings, and he went on rounds with doctors. He wanted to understand the challenges of their lives and to build trust in the church. The experiment culminated in Sheldon’s weeklong position at the *Topeka Daily Capital*, editing as he thought Jesus would do. Issued



Charles Monroe Sheldon, 1890s



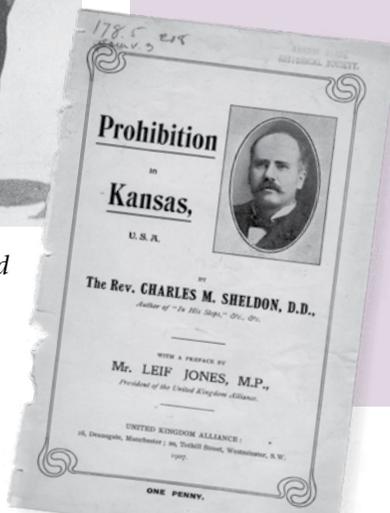
The Reverend Charles Sheldon with kindergarten students, 1897.

in March 1900 he shared with readers his ideas on the “abhorrence of war,” “the prohibition of the whole liquor business,” and encouraging that they “seek first the Kingdom of God.” The newspaper’s circulation rose from 15,000 daily copies to more than 350,000 that were delivered internationally.

Through Sheldon’s efforts Central Congregational Church grew to 750 members by 1910. He retired as minister in 1920 and continued to support the temperance movement, served as an advocate for peace, and wrote more books and articles. The phrase “What Would Jesus Do?” inspired a series of WWJD bracelets, t-shirts, and necklaces.



Above, the Reverend Charles Sheldon (right) and the Reverend Young on a temperance crusade, 1914; right, Prohibition in Kansas, brochure written by Charles M. Sheldon, 1907.



BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Our digital archives features photographs of Sheldon, Central Congregational Church, Tennessee Town kindergarten, and other related documents.

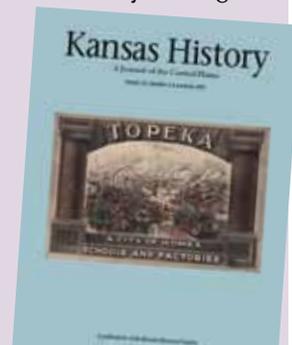
kansasmemory.org/category/5255



READ | KANSAS HISTORY

Two of America’s most important contributions to the history of Christianity—the Social Gospel and Pentecostalism—have ties to Kansas history through Charles Monroe Sheldon and Charles Fox Parham, read more in this issue from Summer 2009.

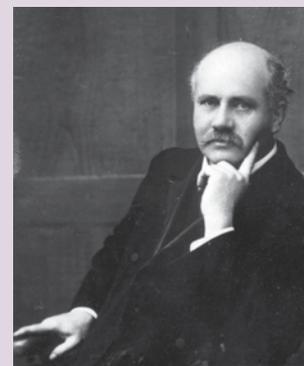
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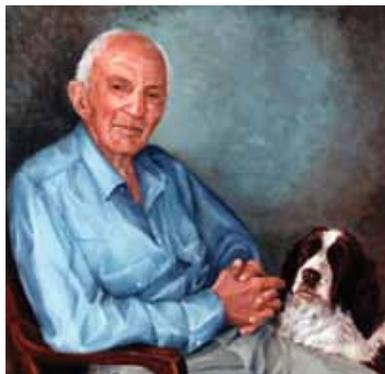
EXPLORE | KANSAPEDIA

Charles Sheldon was named one of the top 25 people in Kansas history. Learn more about his accomplishments in our online encyclopedia.

ksks.org/12201



R.E. French Family Funds Equipment



Roy E. French

An improvement grant of nearly \$12,000 from the R. E. French Family Educational Foundation of Gridley will benefit schoolchildren and visitors to the Kansas Museum of History and the State Archives for years to come. The grant made it possible for the

Historical Society to purchase digital camera equipment, projectors, interactive white boards with slates, and a touch screen. The purchase of this equipment would have been impossible without the educational grant.

The digital camera will enable visitors to the State Archives to copy microfilm. The projectors will allow school children to view websites and PowerPoint

presentations. Classes that participate in specific education tours at the museum will use the interactive boards with slates as part of their experience. Visitors to the museum will learn by doing through the use of the 52-inch touch screen to manipulate images.

Sarah Grimm, a trustee for the French Family foundation said that the Historical Society's programs match its funding goals. "We are always happy to be helpful for educational endeavors," Grimm said.

Roy E. French was a self-made oilman and philanthropist who loved dog breeding and set up the foundation in 1981. Additional funding came in his bequest. The foundation provides renewable scholarships to many Kansas high school graduates. A biography of French written by the Honorable James K. Logan for his 2009 Kansas Historical Foundation President's Address is available online at: kshs.org/publicat/history/2010spring_logan.pdf.

Local Business Support

The Kansas Historical Foundation is working to solicit local businesses to support the work of the state agency in its efforts to collect, educate, and preserve Kansas history. Highly regarded as one of the top historical societies in the country, the state agency has experienced a number of reductions in funding over the last few years.

"We need Kansas businesses to support the work of the historical society in order to maintain the same level of success," said Vicky Henley, executive director of the Kansas Historical Foundation. "The state agency has achieved much in the past 136 years. One area where we have fallen behind our top peer institutions is in fund raising. They have a 20-year head start with targeted efforts. We have only recently concentrated full-time on securing private support."

The foundation has provided more than \$500,000 each of the last four years to the programs of the state agency. With reductions in state general funds the importance of private funding is magnified. Sally Zogry, the foundation's new development officer is reaching out to Kansas businesses and building important partnerships for the benefit of both. (Read more about Zogry on the inside cover.)

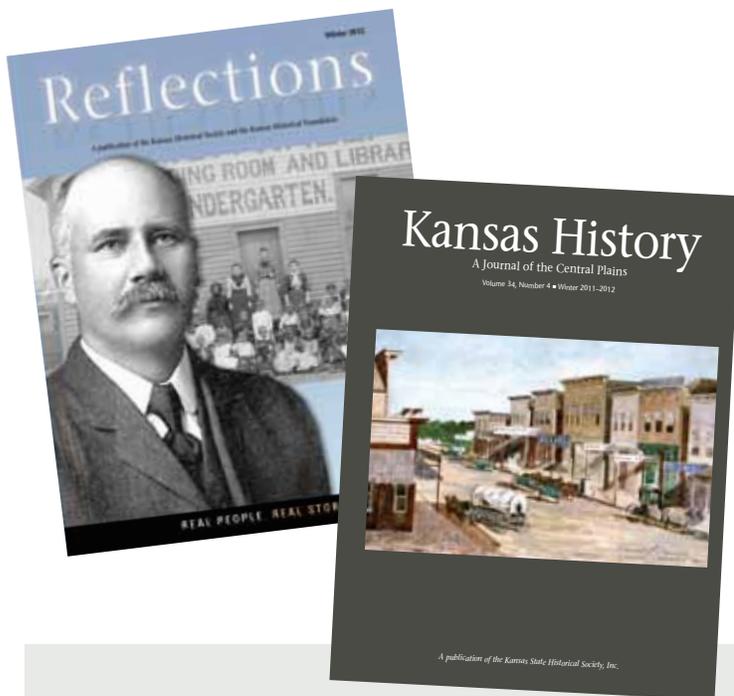
If you are part of a local business that would benefit from supporting an important educational and cultural institution like the Kansas Historical Society, please contact Sally Zogry at 785-272-8681, ext. 210; szogry@kshs.org. The Kansas Historical Society is worthy of your support. Thank you for your consideration!

Corporate Memberships

Local, regional, and national corporations can help to promote Kansas history in a number of ways. Financial support from corporate sponsors allows the Kansas Historical Society to engage in programs and activities that could not otherwise be pursued. These commitments will make a difference in the lives of students and citizens and support the priorities of educating, collecting, and preserving Kansas history.

All members receive these benefits:

- Subscription to *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, published quarterly
- Subscription to *Reflections*, published quarterly, highlighting the collections
- Discounts in the museum stores
- Reciprocal membership benefits through Time Travelers, free or reduced admission and gift shop discounts at more than 169 museums and historical societies in 41 states



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Corporate memberships range from \$1,500 to \$10,000 and above. Benefits and recognitions for businesses depend on giving levels and can include some or all of the following:

- Recognition of the corporate membership at select events/exhibits at the Kansas Museum of History
- Recognition on the Kansas Historical Foundation donor board in the Kansas Museum of History lobby
- Special recognition and company logo and link on the Historical Society's website, kshs.org, which receives four million visits per year
- Corporate member designation and company logo on *KSHS eNews*, a quarterly publication
- Recognition in *Reflections* magazine and the Kansas Historical Foundation's annual report
- VIP passes to the Kansas Museum of History and all historic sites
- Discounts at the Museum Store and State Historic Sites stores
- Venue rental discounts on events held in the Museum and State Archives
- Free registrations for the Foundation's annual meeting and luncheon

*Donors may choose to decline tangible benefits while retaining donor board listing and other recognitions, thereby preserving the full deductibility of their donations.

Make donations online at
store.kshs.org.

Golf Legends and Quality Clubs from Kansas

The sport of golf dates back to the mid-1400s in Scotland. When the first course was built in New York in 1888, it took just a few years for the sport to spread to the West. One of the first golf clubs (or “country clubs”) west of the Mississippi was built in 1896 in the Mission Hills area of Kansas City. Just three years later Topeka built its first golf course. As the *Topeka State Journal* proclaimed that year, “Golf is the rage.”

Harold “Jug” McSpaden was born in Monticello (Johnson County) in 1908. He worked as a caddie to learn the game and played money matches on area golf courses. In 1926 McSpaden joined the Professional Golf Association. He played his first Masters Tournament in 1934. He won several professional tournaments in the United States and Canada, and played on the Ryder Cup team. McSpaden set a record in 1939 when he shot a 59 in a practice round of the Texas Open.

Because of a sinus condition, McSpaden couldn’t perform military service during World War II. Instead, he and golf rival (and friend) Byron Nelson partnered to use their talents on the links to raise money for war bonds. The two men had previously worked together with shoe

manufacturer Field and Flint to improve the comfort and grip of golf shoes. McSpaden and Nelson became known as the “Gold Dust Twins” because they finished first and second place in almost every tournament they entered.

Golfer Judy Bell was born in Wichita in 1936. “I played my first tournament when I was 10,” Bell said. “The good news is that I won the girls” division. The bad news is that I was the only girl.” That win was at the prestigious Broadmoor Invitational Golf Tournament. Bell’s father entered her in the tournament when he saw her putting around the course.

Bell won the city title in Wichita at the age of 14 and became the state amateur champion the next year. She returned to the Broadmoor Invitational and won the tournament in 1957, 1958, and 1959. Bell also played twice on the Curtis Cup team and later coached the team. She was the first woman president of the United States Golf Association (USGA) and is a member of the Kansas Golf Association Hall of Fame and World Golf Hall of Fame.

Kenneth Smith was a caddy in Kansas City, Missouri, when the USGA was founded in 1916. With his knowledge of golf technique and equipment, he started making his own clubs. Golf pro Horton Smith bought a set of Kenneth Smith’s clubs in 1928 and went on to become the leading money winner on the 1928-1929 pro tour. Kenneth Smith Golf Clubs gained national recognition.

Legendary golfer Harold “Jug” McSpaden of Monticello helped improve the comfort and grip of modern golf shoes.





Wichita native Judy Bell was the first woman president of the United States Golf Association.

Smith purchased a country home in Shawnee (Johnson County) in 1933 and built a factory on the land. Farmers in the area had been hit hard by the Great Depression and Smith was able to give them jobs in his company. "They understood machinery, had patience, and wanted to learn a skill," Smith said.

Smith employed as many as 60 people in his business, now recognized as the first American company to manufacture golf clubs. Clubs were made to order

for each customer; no inventory was kept. Smith's customers included pros such as Babe Zaharias and Tom Watson and notables such as President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Smith died in 1977 and his company closed in 2003.



Lenexa golf club manufacturer Kenneth Smith (right) measured customers to ensure a custom club fit. Inset, Kenneth Smith created this 1 wood for Topekan Tillie Becker.

SEARCH | NATIONAL REGISTER DATABASE

Lake of the Forest Golf Course in Edwardsville is a great example of a pasture golf course, where the natural features of the land provide the course contours and hazards. Explore it and hundreds of other recreation-related items in our Kansas Historic Resources Inventory database. kshs.org/khri



BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Topekan Tillie Becker won the Kansas State Women's Golf Championship four times in the 1940s and 1950s. This golf bag and clubs belonged to Becker, who once played in a tournament with golf legend Babe Zaharias. kansasmemory.org



LISTEN | COOL THING PODCAST

This ticket entitled the bearer to admission to a 1968 golf match between Kansan Harold "Jug" McSpaden and partner Byron Nelson against Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, on a Kansas City course designed by McSpaden. kshs.org/10357



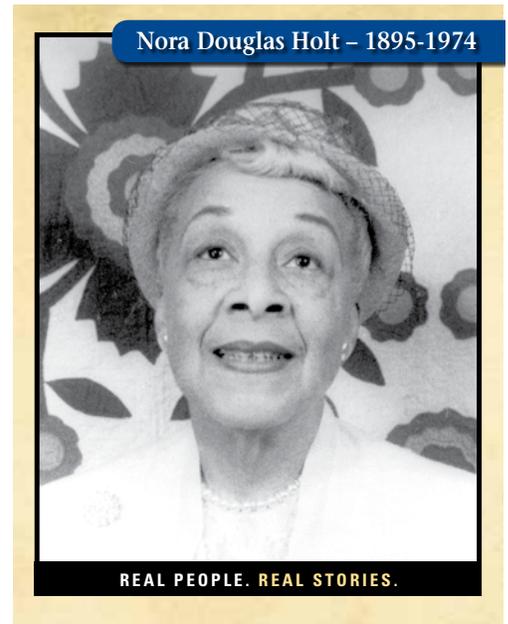
Nora Douglas Holt

Lena Douglas was born in Kansas City to African Methodist Episcopal Church minister Calvin Douglas and his wife, Gracie Douglas. The Reverend Douglas was closely involved with Western University of Quindaro in Wyandotte County, the first all-African American school west of the Mississippi River. Gracie was the first matron of the girl's building at Western University, and Lena grew up around the campus. When her father wrote the words to the school song in 1907, she wrote the score.

Lena studied music composition, musicology, and music criticism at Western and graduated as class valedictorian with a bachelor's degree in music. She had been married three times before graduating and moving to Chicago.

Douglas became the first African American woman to earn a master's degree when she graduated from Chicago Musical College. Her thesis composition was an orchestral piece called *Rhapsody on Negro Themes*.

The *Chicago Defender*, a black newspaper, hired Douglas as its music critic. She wrote an article advocating for an organization solely for African American musicians. In 1919 Douglas co-founded the National Association



of Negro Musicians. She also continued to compose and perform.

Lena Douglas changed her name to Nora Holt when she married her fourth husband, an elderly Chicago hotel owner named George Holt. Her husband's wealth and connections opened up opportunities for Nora to travel abroad. For a short time, she published her own magazine, called *Music and Poetry*. When George Holt died in 1921, Nora inherited his fortune.

Holt moved to New York after George's death and became an important part of the Harlem Renaissance. She was briefly married to her fifth husband, Joseph L. Ray, but their marriage ended in a bitter and highly publicized divorce. Known as a wealthy socialite, composer, and performer, Holt traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia. Before leaving the United States, Holt placed her nearly 200 works of orchestral and chamber music in storage. These and her other possessions were stolen during her travels. Only two compositions, *The Sandman* and *Negro Dances*, were preserved because of their publication in *Music and Poetry*.

Holt returned to the United States in 1938 and settled in Los Angeles. She taught music for several years, then returned to New York, where she was the first music critic for the *Amsterdam News* and later the *New York Courier*. In 1945 Holt became the first African American member of the Music Critics Circle of New York. She produced and directed "Concert Showcase," a radio show on WLIB in New York in the 1950s and 1960s.

Holt died January 25, 1974, in Los Angeles.



The score for the Western University school song was originally written by Nora Douglas. Professor R.G. Jackson helped with the harmony and asked to receive credit for doing so. A dispute arose, and Douglas destroyed the only copy of the music. This 1959 copy of the school song was written from memory by Orrin McKinley Murray, Sr., a Western University historian and member of the first junior class at Western.

Check Out Our “Recently Added” Items



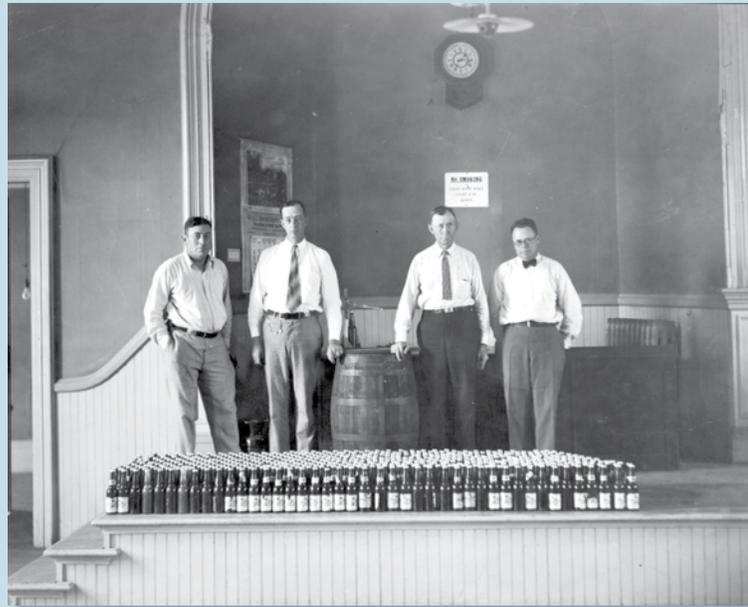
World War I Navy Uniform

Joe Price of Effingham wore this Navy uniform while aboard the *USS Vicksburg*, on patrol along the U.S. West Coast in World War I. Learn more about Price and an incident involving the *Vicksburg* and a schooner carrying Germans, Mexicans, and an American spy. kshs.org/17284



Confiscated Beer

This 1929 image shows a group of men with confiscated bottles of beer at the Greenwood County Courthouse in Eureka, Kansas. kansasmemory.org



Films

Kansas Memory is a great place to browse photos, manuscripts, and printed materials related to Kansas history. Did you know you can also find films and other audio-visual materials on *Kansas Memory*? Some of our most recent additions include films featuring communities such as Lawrence, Canton, Fairview, Manhattan, Emporia, Gridley, Kanopolis, Beloit, and Independence. kansasmemory.org



Putting Kansas on the Map

Maps help us navigate. Historical maps also help us understand how people perceived the world and what information civilizations valued. Maps provide a window into the view of our ancestors from an early time and reflect advancements in technology and knowledge.

Mapmakers in ancient times combined mathematics and observations from explorers to create maps. The Greeks made advancements in cartography circa 250 BCE, such as calculating the circumference of the Earth and developing the concept that the Earth rotates on an axis.

The first printed map devoted entirely to the New World was made by a German cartographer who never visited the Americas. Sebastian Münster was born in 1488 and published *Cosmographia* in 1544. The book was the first German description of the world. It was one of the most popular books of the 16th century.

Münster's map of the New World was the first to show North and South America connected to each other yet separate from the rest of the world. It was created just three years after explorer Francisco Vázquez de Coronado arrived in Kansas and before extensive Spanish exploration was complete. Münster was a well-educated professor of Hebrew. His knowledge of the New World was based on information available from other maps and explorations of the Americas. While the map wouldn't be considered accurate by today's standards (an ocean nearly separates the Northeast from the rest of North America), it was of the highest quality at the time it was created. Some features and shapes are recognizable, such as the panhandle of Florida and mountains in the West.

Four hundred years after Münster's map was printed, Major Stephen Long was appointed to lead an expedition through the American West, including present-day Kansas and other lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase. The 1819-1820 expedition mapped the central plains to the Rocky Mountains. Long was the first Army explorer to include professional scientists on his survey team. On his



The first printed map to show the New World.

map he described the plains as the “Great Desert,” a term that was repeated by other explorers and led to the notion that this region of the United States was uninhabitable. Long's map shows the location of the rivers, Indian villages, and limestone and coal deposits.

By the time Kansas Territory opened for settlement in 1854, maps of the area included more details and features. Free and cheap land provided by the Homestead Act and the railroads attracted many settlers. The government gave railroads free land as an incentive to build. Railroad land grant maps from the 1870s show rivers, creeks, marshes, and township and section boundaries.

With the invention of the automobile and the development of roads, maps became even more detailed. Maps weren't just for political, educational, and business applications—anyone with a car had use for one. Maps became advertising vehicles for companies such as gas

This railroad land grant map shows the area south of McPherson. The larger squares show the six-mile-by-six-mile townships and the 36 one square mile sections within each township.



stations and oil companies. Mapmakers included information for tourists, such as restaurants and other points of interest.

Maps are just as vital for navigation today and available in many new forms, from satellite imaging to street level views delivered on desktop computers and hand-held devices. Websites such as historypin.com allow users to upload historic photos and “pin” them on an interactive map for others to explore.



As more people owned automobiles and drove them for recreation, map publishers partnered with businesses such as gasoline companies to create road maps that doubled as promotional items. This 1929 map of Kansas, western Missouri, and eastern Colorado was distributed by the White Eagle Oil & Refining Company. White Eagle had several service stations in Kansas.

VISIT | KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Explore the world’s earliest printed map in our special exhibit, *You Are Here: Putting Kansas on the Map*, January 20 – April 29, 2012. kshs.org/17308



Photo courtesy Spencer Research Library

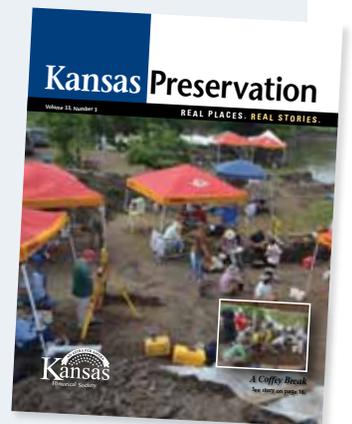
DISCOVER | COOL THINGS

See more than 70 maps from our collections on *Kansas Memory*, including colorful birds-eye view maps of communities such as Junction City, Atchison (shown here), El Dorado, Halstead, and Newton. kansasmemory.org



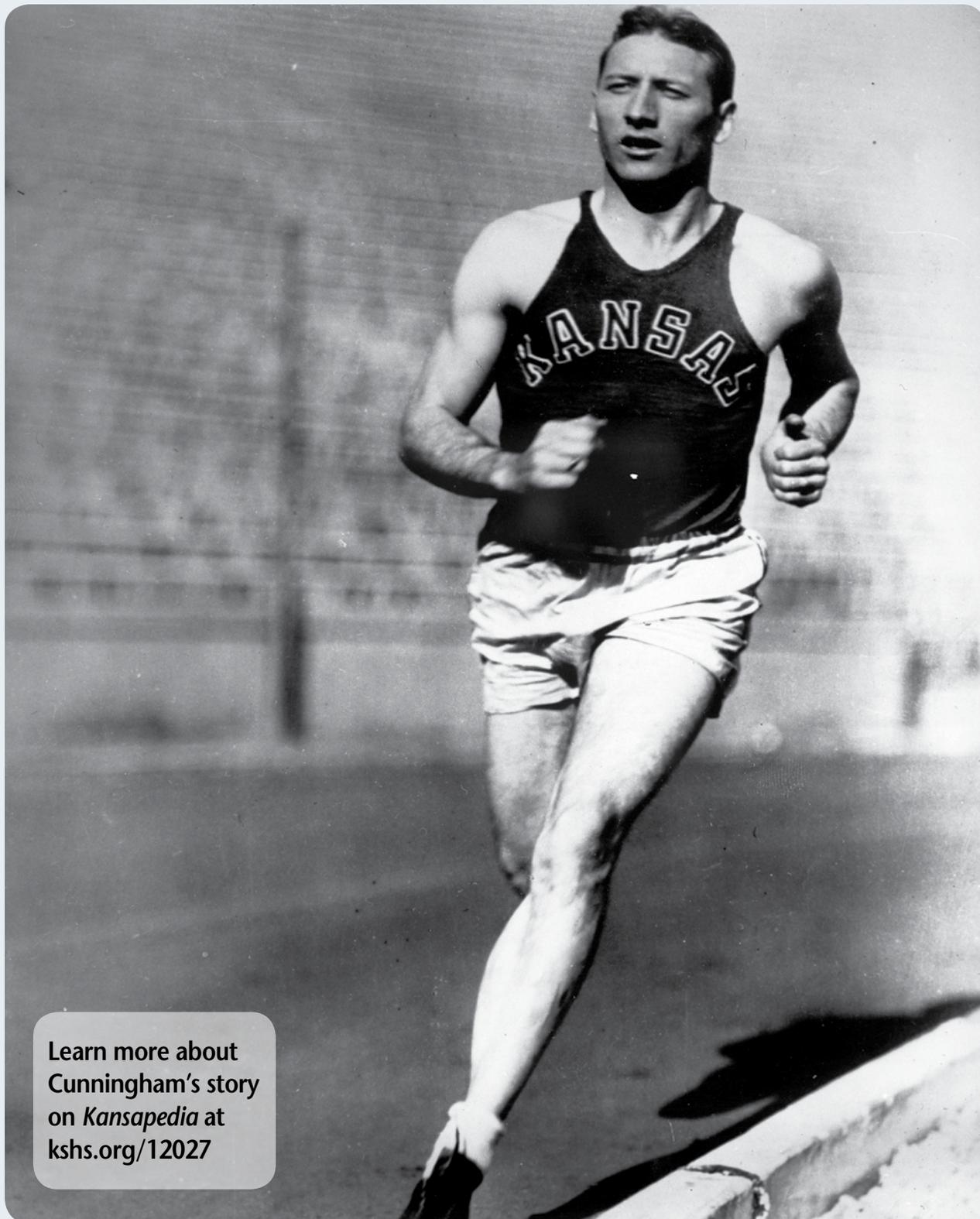
VISIT | KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The current issue of *Kansas Preservation* tells how recently rediscovered maps in our collections helped our staff piece together the story of life at Blue Earth Kansa Indian Villages in Pottawatomie County. kshs.org/15064



MOST POPULAR

One of the most frequently viewed images last month on *Kansas Memory* was this early 1930s image of Olympic miler Glenn Cunningham, running as a member of the University of Kansas track team. kansasmemory.org



Learn more about
Cunningham's story
on *Kansapedia* at
kshs.org/12027

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through April 28

Ledger Art of the Cheyennes and Kiowas Exhibit • Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

January 20-April 29

You Are Here: Putting Kansas on the Map Exhibit • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 25-28

Kansas Preservation Conference • Wichita

January 27-29

Kansas Day Commemorations • Various locations – visit kshs.org for details

Sundays, January 29 – February 26

Bleeding Kansas Series • Constitution Hall State Historic Site, LeCompton

February 10

William Allen White Community Birthday Party • William Allen White House State Historic Site, Emporia

February 11 & March 10

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

April 8

Spring Lecture • Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

April 14

Spring Tea • Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

April 24-27

Theme Days • Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

April 26

History & Environmental Fair • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

April 28-29

Grinter Place Quilt Show • Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

Winter 2012

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Kansas Memory

In honor of Kansas Day, we bring you this image of a woman pinning a sunflower onto a snowman. Find more images of Kansans playing in the snow on kansasmemory.org.

