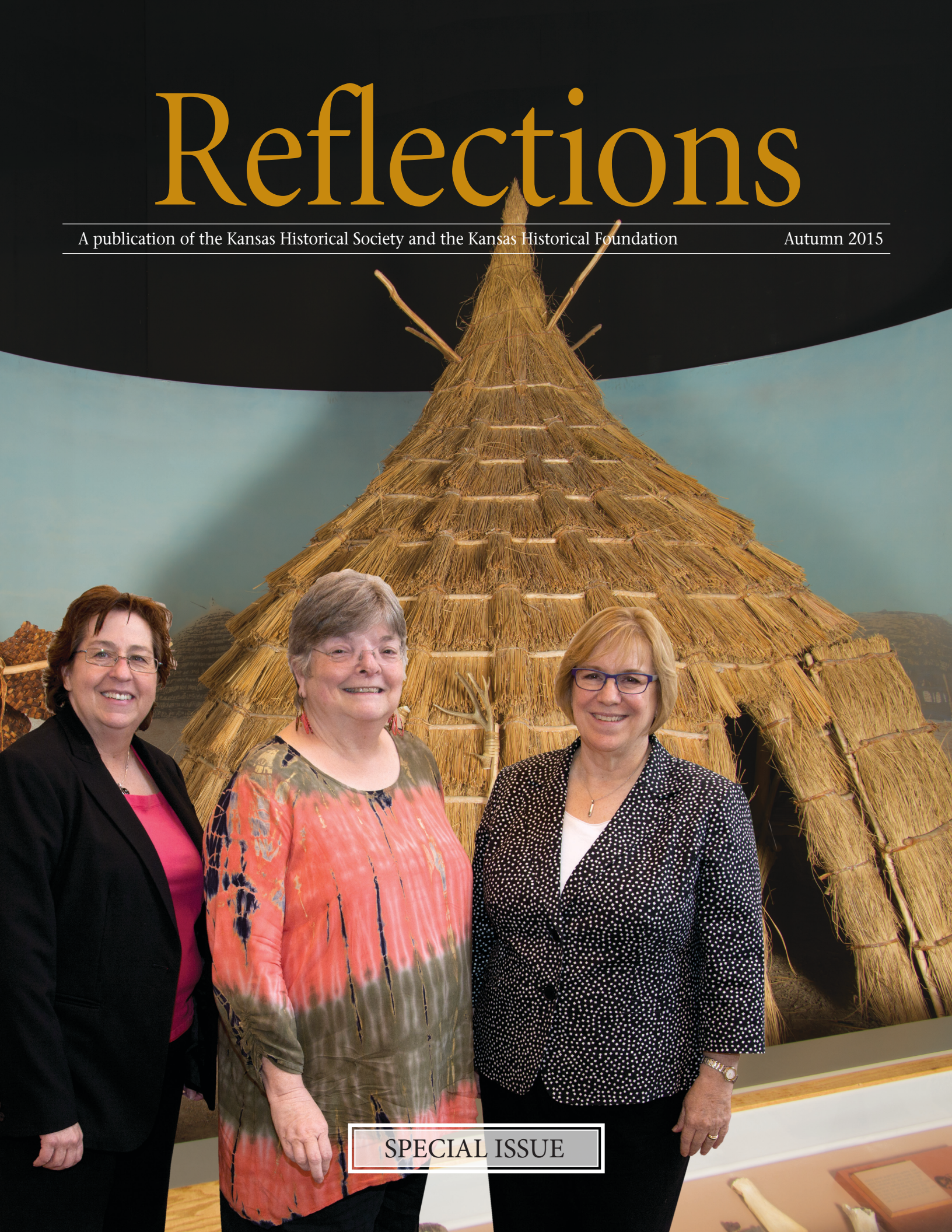
Reflections

A publication of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Foundation Autumn 2015



SPECIAL ISSUE

I was so amazed at this museum. Very comprehensive of KS history. A jewel!!

Visitor

Seen several museums in USA and Canada – [Pawnee Indian Museum] is one of the best!

Visitor

The entire [Taste of Southeast Kansas] tour was fantastic and not only did I learn about the area but met great people and made new friends.

Participant

I've taken students to Kansas Day at the Museum for several years. Each time the kids comment on how that was "the best field trip ever."

Mary Hildebrand, Garfield School, Abilene

ON THE COVER:

Vicky Henley, Kansas Historical Foundation executive director and CEO; Deborah Barker, Kansas Historical Foundation president; and Jennie Chinn, Kansas Historical Society executive director, work together to celebrate Kansas history.

Reflections

AUTUMN 2015
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4
SPECIAL ISSUE

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From the Editor

This volume of *Reflections* has taken you to several parts of the state to explore history, culture, and food. We appreciate your enthusiastic response to this new format and we will return to our regional focus with the Winter 2016 issue.

In this Autumn issue of *Reflections* we bring you stories from the past that span the state, highlighted by our accomplishments this year. This special issue combines the fiscal year 2015 annual reports of the Kansas Historical Society and Kansas Historical Foundation. Established together in 1875 as a member organization by the Kansas Editors' and Publishers' Association, the Historical Society was designated as the trustee of the state in 1879, and the repository of official government records in 1905. The Kansas legislature separated the functions of the Historical Society in 2001. The membership, retail, and fund raising portion of the organization became the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., dba Kansas Historical Foundation. We bring you our joint successes of the past year.

Above, West Fest: National Day of the Cowboy at the Kansas Historical Society; right, students tour the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka.

Kansas Historical Society
Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report

The Kansas Historical Society is part of the executive branch of state government. Information in the annual report covers activities from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. Find more detailed information about the agency's audiences and activities at kshs.org/15794.

From the Executive Director

It is important to preserve and share the history of Kansas. The stories of families, towns, businesses, churches, immigrants, and others come together to form our shared history. To understand who we are we must honor the past and use it to inform the future. In Kansas we are lucky because we have interesting, unique, and important stories to tell. This past year the Kansas Historical Society had some remarkable successes telling some of those stories.

We marked the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Kansas with a special exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History and a special observance at Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site. We offered hands-on experiences with the Kansas Archeology Training Program field school, which featured a High Plains prehistory village site near Hays. The field school celebrated its 40th year and was recognized by the Society for American Archaeology with an Excellence in Public Education Award. Online access to the agency's collection of Kansas newspapers continued to grow. Our launch of the Taste of Kansas bus tour series received 100 percent enthusiastic and favorable comments. We received a gift of the Last Chance Store in Council Grove so that we might tell its important story on the Santa Fe Trail.

During 2015 participation in agency programs and services, both in-person and online, reached more than 13 million. This would not have been possible without the dedication and creativity of our staff and volunteers.

I would like to thank Governor Sam Brownback and our Kansas legislators for their continued support of Kansas history. The board of directors and the staff of the Kansas Historical Foundation continue to be an invaluable resource for the Historical Society. We invite you to celebrate Kansas history with us through this highlight of our past year.

Jennie Chinn
Executive Director
Kansas Historical Society

Kansas' Precious Civil War Flags

Throughout the Civil War soldiers often put their lives at risk to protect their regimental flags. Soldiers fought under unimaginable conditions with brutal weather and smoke-filled hills. The color guard carried the flags in front of the regiment, leading the way for the soldiers. By watching the flags the officers could mark the location of their regiments from a distance and issue orders to direct the battle. Flags planted within enemy lines signaled a victory. Absent flags marked defeat.

When the war ended Kansas soldiers found a way to make sure their beloved flags were preserved. On July 4, 1866, representatives from Kansas regiments presented the Kansas Adjutant General with these precious battle flags in a special ceremony.

The collection comprised about 75 flags, furled on the staff, including six flags from African American regiments.

Above, representatives of Kansas regiments proudly carry their furled battle flags from the Kansas State Capitol to the Kansas Historical Society's new home in Memorial Hall in 1914.

Many were tattered and torn, damaged during their service in battle. In the adjutant general's office in the Kansas State Capitol they were stored furled and upright in cases. In 1905 the Kansas legislature transferred the battle flags to the care of the Kansas Historical Society, also located at the time in the Capitol.

In 1914, when the Historical Society moved to Memorial Hall, veterans from Kansas units proudly carried these flags to their new home. There they were displayed for many years furled in their cases. The flags were among collections moved with the Kansas Museum of History to west Topeka in 1984. There museum staff members began to unfurl these brittle and fragile standards. Since that time, through the generosity of donors, about 30 flags have been conserved. They tell an important story of Kansas history.

Civil War Exhibit

The Great Soldier State: Kansas and the Civil War was a special exhibit last year at the Kansas Museum of History marking the 150th anniversary and the history of the war in the West. The display centered around the battle flags and the soldiers who took part in this often forgotten story of the American Civil War.

CIVIL WAR
IN KANSAS

Barbara Palmer Dolson was an eyewitness when the Civil War came to Kansas on October 25, 1864. Clinging tightly to her infant daughter, Elizabeth, she watched the advancing Confederate army from the home of her parents and two sisters just as breakfast was ready.

Dolson later recalled how Confederate soldiers filled their house, sat down to the table, and helped themselves to the food. "I went to the door and looked out; the whole valley seemed full of men," Dolson remembered. "At the head of the column was an old rebel flag all torn in strips, fluttering in the wind."

Samuel Reader was a Union soldier captured by the Confederates. His illustrations provide an eyewitness account of the battle and the community.

The Palmer house was only 100 yards from the Mine Creek ford that was muddy from recent rain. Dolson observed the Confederate supply train passed with increasing speed as the Union cavalry followed in pursuit. ". . . as the last wagon train passed, they were in great confusion and going at a dead run," Dolson wrote. "This was the supply train which they were anxious to save from the attacking Union forces."

The Confederate rear guard formed a skirmish line and the artillery opened fire. "I could see a great mass of men and horses coming swiftly on; soon the rattle of musketry

I went to the door and looked out; the whole valley seemed full of men. At the head of the column was an old rebel flag all torn in strips, fluttering in the wind.

Barbara Palmer Dolson

Reader depiction of the Confederate rear guard.

was so great I could hear nothing else," she recalled. "I could see the cannons a mile away belch out their flames and smoke but could not hear them for the noise of the small arms all around me."

By afternoon the rebels were in retreat, forced to sacrifice many of their wagons mired in the muddy creek. The 7,000-men Confederate Army of Missouri suffered more casualties than the Union side: 300 men were killed, 250 wounded. The 2,500-men Union forces lost 15, with 94 wounded. The engagement was one of the largest cavalry battles of the war. It was to be among the last significant battles fought in the west.

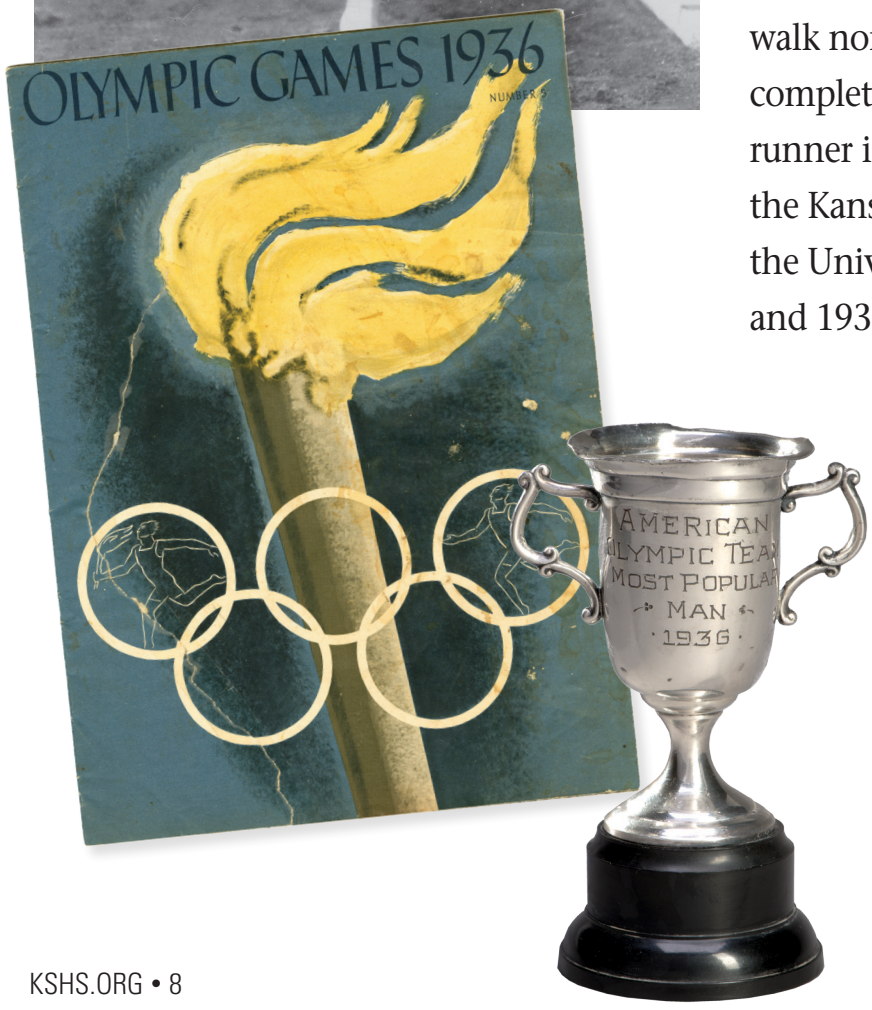
I could see the cannons a mile away belch out their flames and smoke but could not hear them for the noise of the small arms all around me.

Barbara Palmer Dolson

150th Anniversary Commemoration

Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site, near Pleasanton, and Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation commemorated the 150th anniversary on October 18, 2014. More than 400 people visited the battlefield that day to hear authors and historians and view cavalry drill teams, infantry drills, encampments, surgeon's tent, gunnery crews, and farrier demonstrations.

GLENN CUNNINGHAM



The Kansas Flyer

When Glenn Verniss Cunningham was eight he was severely burned in a schoolhouse explosion in Elkhart. His 13-year-old brother, Floyd, was killed as a result of the fire. Doctors recommended amputating Glenn's legs, predicting that he would never walk normally again. With determination, he completed physical therapy and became a runner in high school. Earning the nickname, the Kansas Flyer, he continued to compete at the University of Kansas. He was on the 1932 and 1936 U.S. Olympics teams.

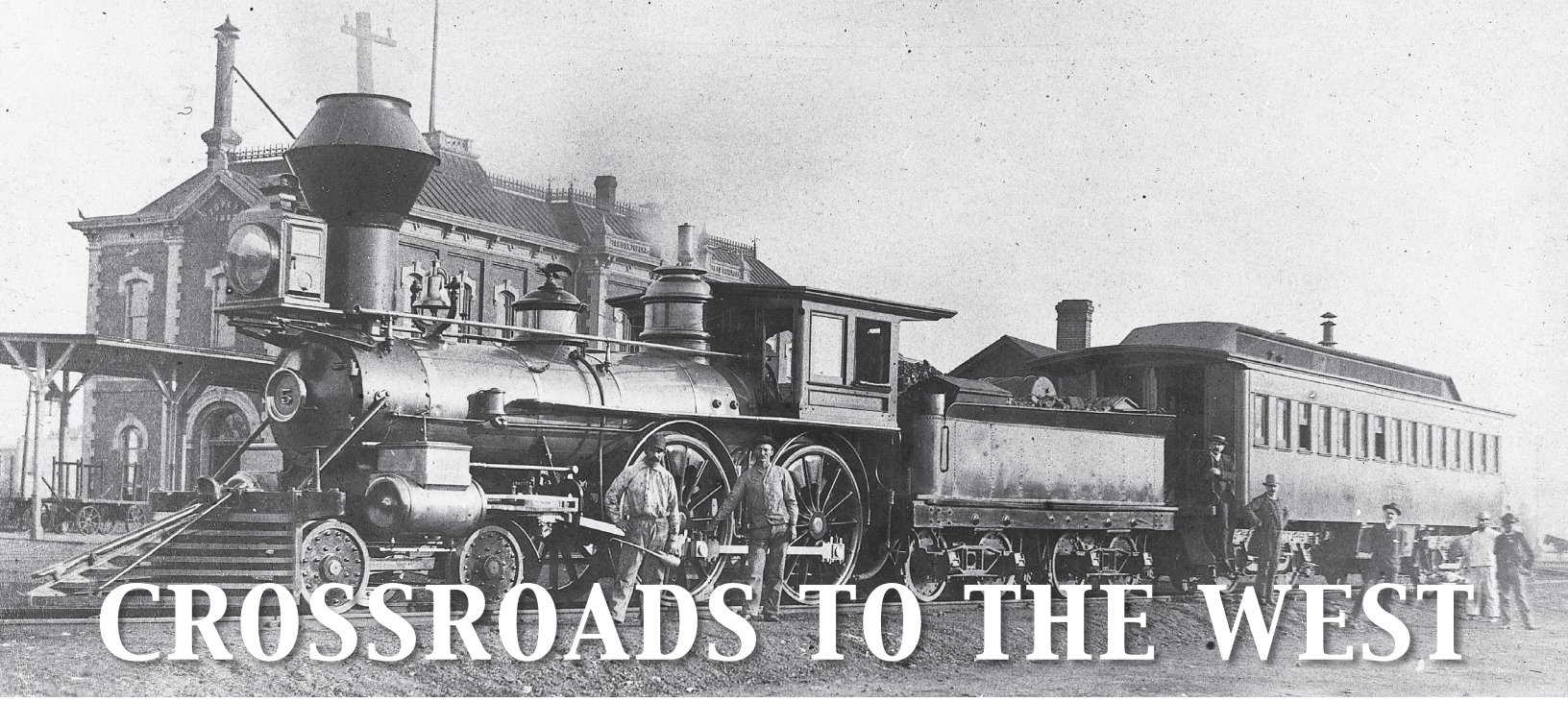
During the 1936 Olympics in Berlin Cunningham received the silver medal for the 1500-meter run. Tensions were high as Adolph Hitler used the Olympics to promote his government and ideas of racial supremacy. In the hope of showing the German athletes' invincibility, he broadcast the first live television coverage of the Olympics.

Amidst the politically-charged setting of the games Cunningham wrote a letter to an acquaintance from Kansas. He noted that the games were over for him and that his U.S. team members had fared well in "most of the events." He failed to mention that he had received a trophy for being the most popular athlete on the U.S. team.

Cunningham continued to set world speed records. He retired from competition in 1940. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy, establishing physical training programs. He taught at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and established the Glenn Cunningham Youth Ranches, which he operated in Kansas and Arkansas. The ranches served more than 9,000 disadvantaged youth. Cunningham died in 1988, leaving an inspiring legacy to "never, ever quit."

Cunningham Family Donation

Cunningham's daughter Cindy was inspired to make a donation of her father's items when she discovered his Olympic letter on the Historical Society's websites. It had been donated by the recipient's descendant in 2006. She recently donated his trophy, notebooks, boxfuls of photographs and documents, and a 1934 letter sweater from the University of Kansas to the Historical Society's collections.



CROSSROADS TO THE WEST

Kansas' location in the middle of the nation was perfectly suited to serve as the crossroads for the railroad. When the Kansas territorial legislature chartered the Atchison and Topeka Railway Company in 1859 it forever linked the history of the state and Santa Fe. Congress granted the railroad odd numbered sections of land along the roads and branches to be sold for operating capital. The federal act required that the rail line from Atchison to the Kansas-Colorado border be completed and in operation in 1873.

The railroad set up land offices, influenced immigration, and offered discounted fares and rebates to encourage settlement. Santa Fe built depots along the lines to serve customers. Fred Harvey enhanced the travel experience when he opened a lunch counter focused on cleanliness, service, and good food at Topeka's Santa Fe depot.

To preserve its history the Santa Fe railroad began donating records to the Kansas Historical Society in the 1960s. Over the next few decades the Historical Society received several grants to transfer and process records. This extensive resource of about 1,700 cubic feet includes photographs of engines, depots, and shops from Kansas to California; film footage, maps, depot architectural drawings, pamphlets, and Harvey restaurant materials. Since the development of the railroad and the state were so closely linked, this resource provides valuable insights into Kansas history.

New Online Catalog Access

The Santa Fe collection has been extremely valuable to researchers, yet difficult and timely to use because of its size. Now through the work of staff members and volunteers, the collection can be more easily searched by keyword, date, and type of material and the catalog can be found online at kshs.org/16432.

Top to bottom, Santa Fe steam locomotive No. 5 "Thomas Sherlock" in Topeka, 1880s; Santa Fe depot in Nortonville circa 1910.

Dedicated to Public Service

Donation of Records

Materials from Beatty's life were recently donated to the Kansas Historical Society. The materials include correspondence, speeches, newspaper clippings, and other print materials.

Pauline Beatty devoted her life to helping thousands of people in varied ways. From school lunch programs to civil defense work, Beatty believed in public service.

She grew up in Linn County and attended Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg. In 1935 she worked for the Works Progress Administration as a school lunch supervisor, traveling throughout the state sharing program plans with school officials, parents' organizations, and civic groups.

During World War II Beatty moved with her husband to Washington, D.C., where she coordinated the movement of oil to the war front, then to Germany, where she helped children's groups through the Army Red Cross. Beatty returned to the U.S. to assist with the 1950 U.S. Census effort. At the height of the Cold War she served with the Kansas Survival Plan Project, part of the Federal Civil Defense Administration. Beatty was involved with the Kansas Press Women, the Topeka Knife and Fork Club, and assisted with her husband's political career.

Above, children enjoy meal time at a Works Progress Administration school lunch program in Garland, Bourbon County, circa 1940.

THE LEGACY OF
KANSAS NEWSPAPERS

Above, Kansas Historical Society's newspaper filing room, Kansas State Capitol, Topeka, 1890; *Garden City Daily Telegram*, April 10, 1935

At the Kansas Editors' and Publishers' convention in Topeka in 1875 members decided to organize a state historical society "for the purpose of saving the present and past records of our twenty-one years of eventful history." Collecting and preserving the state's newspapers became one of the Kansas Historical Society's primary goals. Publishers submitted issues in return for membership, resulting in one of the largest and most complete statewide newspaper collections in the nation.

Garden City Daily Telegram

'BLACK FRIDAY' MEETS ITS MASTER

Will Speed Works Program To Peak By Next November

Farm Credit Officials Find Collateral Up In The Air

Boy and Girl Are Found After Night In Raging Duster

Midnight Darkness Shrouds Southwest As Grime Rolls In

Government Crop Report Indicates Decline In Wheat

Late Wire News

Trash Clean-Up Drive Regardless of Dust

Soil Erosion Sessions Held When and If—

Senator Nye Says Vandenberg Is Best Presidential Timber

Once-Affluent Land Dealer Here Is Dead

NEWS Behind The NEWS

That newspaper delivery system continued in much the same way for decades, and the Historical Society continued to collect the

issues from across the state. The old method began to change and by the year 2000 newspapers in Kansas were moving toward digital delivery.

In order to collect and preserve digital newspapers staff members formed a partnership with the Kansas Press Association. The partnership developed a workflow for transferring content, which began in 2015. Now 60 percent of the 230 digital Kansas newspapers are being collected and preserved. These include the *Abilene Reflector-Chronicle*, 2011-2015; *Arkansas City Traveler*, 2011-2015; *Belleville Telescope*, 2011-2015; *Garden City Telegram*, 2011-2015; and *Lansing Times*, 2011-2015. This content is available to researchers onsite at the State Archives.

THE BELLEVILLE TELESCOPE

"At The Crossroads Of America"

81 36

1 Section, Vol. No.31 $1.50

SATURDAY

Continuing Walnut Valley coverage ... in Action!

See Page 1B

THE ARKANSAS CITY TRAVELER

September 21, 2013

Your news. Your events. Your paper — since 1870.

arkcity.net

vol. 144 no. 29

rack 50¢/home delivery 35¢

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

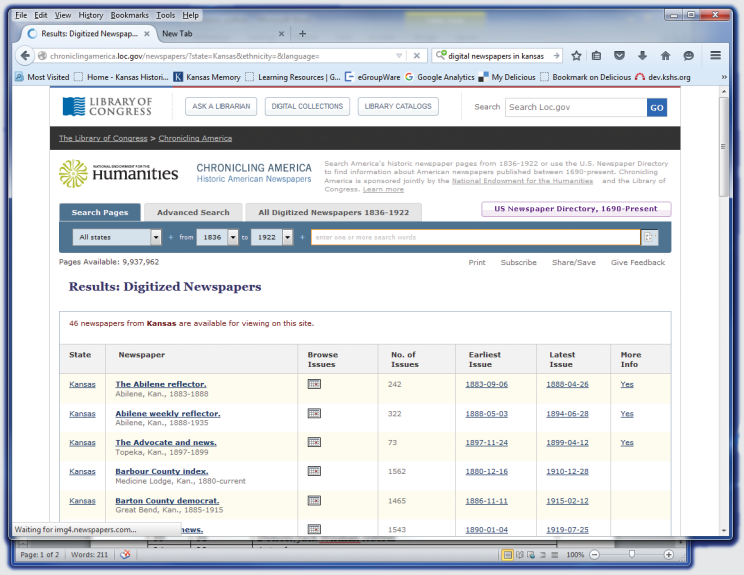
LANSING TIMES

INSIDE: Commission approves pavement project

Since the preservation of born-digital newspapers offers different challenges than those in newsprint, staff members are partnering with other organizations for web archiving and techniques to ensure that current day newspapers take their place alongside the state's large newspaper collection to tell the story of the past.

Historic Newspapers Online

Through both public and private partnerships the Historical Society has provided free online newspaper access to more than 2.7 million pages from 1854 to 1922 through websites like *Chroncling America* and newspapers.com. Later content, subject to copyright laws, is not available online.



Fool Chief's Village Marker

The newest historical marker was recently added for Fool Chief's village west of Topeka. Named for a bold, courageous Kansa leader, this was the largest of three Kaw reservations created from reduced lands in 1825. A planned road project at the intersection of U.S. 24 and Menoken Road threatened to negatively impact the site and the Historical Society, Kansas Anthropological Association, and Kansas Department of Transportation worked together to carry out a data recovery program in 2012, uncovering information about the earlier inhabitants. This marker acknowledges the important role that archeology played in substantiating what is known about the Kaw.

Marking Kansas History

Kansas highways in the 1940s beckoned travelers to discover local history. Areas once difficult to reach became accessible and families looked for roadside plaques or markers to tell about events that had occurred on the site.

In 1938 the state of Kansas initiated a program with the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Department of Transportation and erected the first state historical marker. The project, sponsored by the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce, resulted in 56 historical markers, selected by a state committee. More markers were added from the 1940s through 1960s.

The markers were placed in roadside parks and rest areas so travelers could safely stop to read them. Constructed of cast metal, most display the distinctive sunflower design at the top. Funding for the program ended in the late 20th century, however, the Department of Transportation continues to maintain the markers. Communities and interested parties have funded a few markers in the last few years to add to the story of Kansas history.

Top, historical marker dedication near Larned, 1982; above, 2015 marker dedication, from left, Crystal Douglas, director, Kanza Museum and NAGPRA coordinator; Robert Hoard, state archeologist, Kansas Historical Society; Secretary Mike King, Kansas Department of Transportation; Tricia Waggoner, principal investigator, Kansas Historical Society; Elaine Huch, chair, Kaw Nation Tribal Council; Governor Sam Brownback; and Jennie Chinn, Kansas Historical Society. Photo courtesy Kansas Department of Transportation.

Investigating History Through Time

A tradition began 40 years ago to study the archeological past. The ancient site of El Cuartelejo in Scott County was the first site, which drew about 90 people to examine the area where refugees from the pueblos of the southwest had fled in the 1600s.

Generations of Kansans have been involved in the Kansas Archeology Training Program over the years. A joint project of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Anthropological Association, the program invites volunteers with no prior experience to receive onsite training and work alongside professional and avocational archeologists. Participants help with surveying and excavating in the pits, and cleaning and cataloging artifacts in the lab.

These field schools have been held across the state with focuses that range from the early Archaic period, to territorial and frontier fort history. The two-week long program draws repeat participants, families, students, and those who love Kansas history and the out of doors.

High Plains Village, Ellis County, 2015

This year's training program focused on a prehistoric High Plains village site near Hays. People inhabited the area between 500 and 1100 CE and were the first in the area to make pottery and use the bow and arrow. Below, Tylus Reed, Lindsborg, first-time participant, with his grandfather, Bill Olsen, an experienced participant, photographs by Byron Strom.

Training Program Honored

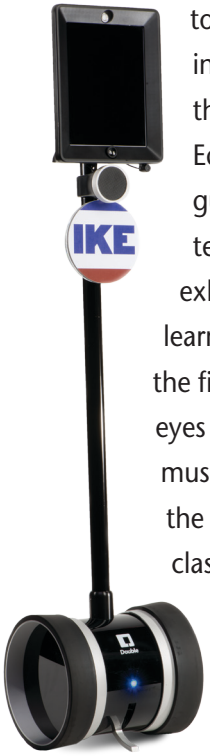
The Kansas Archeology Training Program was recognized this year by the Society for American Archaeology, which presented its Excellence in Public Education Award at the annual meeting in San Francisco. The award recognizes and encourages outstanding programs that share archeological knowledge and issues with the public.

Stemmed dart point of petrified wood.

FIELD TRIPS IN *Kansas History*

IKE – Interactive Kansas Educator

To meet today's school needs the Kansas Museum of History introduced a groundbreaking program this year to offer tours to students in the classroom. IKE, the Interactive Kansas Educator, is remotely guided by a classroom teacher through the exhibits. This distance learning approach is the first in the state. IKE's eyes and ears allow the museum teacher to hear the classroom and the classroom to see the galleries.



The Kansas Historical Society's museum exhibits in downtown Topeka were popular destinations for adults, families, and school groups. The displays on the third and fourth floors featured period rooms and highlighted objects like the Longren biplane and stagecoach.

The Kansas Division of the American Association of University Women wanted to ensure that students learned valuable lessons in Kansas history through their visits to the museum. The group agreed to run the tour program for the museum in the early 1980s.

In 1984 the Kansas Museum of History was established in a new building in west Topeka, and volunteer docents assisted with the growing tour program. The education division was created in 1991 and the tour program expanded over the years. Today the tour topics range from Indian homes to aviation and are designed to address Kansas social studies standards. Thousands of students have gained a deeper understanding of Kansas history through the tour program, seeing the actual objects and working with interactive displays.

Below, students tour the museum displays at the Kansas Historical Society in Memorial Hall, 1972; left, Joy Brennan, program coordinator, uses new technology to give a tour directed by a teacher and students using IKE, the Interactive Kansas Educator.

TALENTED TEENAGED PHOTOGRAPHER

Far left, Halbe as a teenager; left, young men near the railroad tracks in Dorrance, taken by Halbe in 1909.

Leslie Winfield Halbe was a self-taught photographer who enjoyed snapping pictures in his community of Dorrance and surrounding Russell and Ellsworth counties. Working in his father's candy shop in 1908, he was 15 when he discovered an inexpensive Sears and Roebuck box camera on the shelf.

He created a studio in a tent in his parents' yard. For his darkroom he used the family bathroom, and later, the basement. Even though he lacked formal training and extensive equipment, his work was of exceptional technical quality. Halbe learned to develop a close rapport with his subjects, which yielded natural expressions and poses.

He charged 25 cents each or 3 dollars per dozen for his pictures. His business resulted in a remarkable portrait of Kansas during the transition from the 19th to the 20th century. In 1912 Halbe left Kansas to attend law school at the University of Missouri. He abandoned his commercial photography business and eventually settled in Florida. The Kansas Historical Society's Halbe collection consists of 1,500 glass plate negatives. Several can be seen online at ksnsasmemory.org/category/4652.

Happy Birthday, Kansas!

Marearl Denning is a Kansas photographer who wanted to inspire students to explore Kansas as Halbe did. Denning partnered with the Kansas legislature and the Kansas Historical Society to develop a student photo contest. More than 500 entries were submitted the first year. First- and second-place awards were presented in each grade and announced on Kansas Day, January 29, 2015. "Our Kansas students did indeed discover Kansas," Denning said, "filled with interesting places, faces, and families."

Above right, from left, Governor Sam Brownback presents photo contest awards to eighth grade winners Garrison Stowell, Vermillion, second place; and Rylee Shrock, Brookville, first place; with Diane Macheers; Representative Sharon Schwartz; and Senator Dennis Pyle; right, Shrock's winning entry, *Kansas Skies*.

SUPPLIES ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

The Santa Fe Trail was the most important international trade route to the West. Used extensively by traders, freighters, people headed to Pikes Peak, and the military, two-thirds of the 850-mile route crossed Kansas. Traders' caravans, stage, and mail lines also followed the trail and established stations along the route.

Last Chance Store as it appeared in mid-20th century.

Built in Council Grove in 1857, the Last Chance Store served travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. It afforded the last opportunity to purchase supplies on the trail for those headed west. It was one of the first stores located in the area and operated for 23 years. Here Kaw Indians from the nearby reservation could trade for manufactured goods. It housed post office facilities and served as a government trading house. In 1858 it was a polling place where people of Kansas Territory could vote on the proslavery Lecompton Constitution.

In 1963 the site was designated a National Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The Last Chance Store is among few commercial buildings of its period still standing on the Santa Fe Trail.

Newest State Historic Site

The Kansas legislature accepted a donation of the Last Chance Store this year from the current owner to be preserved by the Kansas Historical Society.

Made Just for Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts of Ashland in Clark County had long dreamed of a place where they could camp and hold meetings. The Ashland troop, organized in 1924, may have been inspired by the Little House movement, which began in 1923 when the General Federation of Women's Clubs built a demonstration home near the White House in Washington, D.C. The house, which became a model for Girl Scout clubhouses, was gifted to Lou Henry Hoover, national president of the Girl Scouts and wife of President Herbert Hoover.

The Ashland council received a grant from the Works Progress Administration to hire local laborers; the city council served as sponsor for the project. Land was donated in a residential neighborhood and individuals, businesses, churches, and community groups donated money to cover construction costs. The building, made of locally quarried stone of light and dark hues, exhibits the Rustic style typical of New Deal-era buildings. Completed in 1937, the building was dedicated in 1938, where it served the region's 255 Girl Scout and Brownie troops. Over the years it has hosted numerous Girl Scout meetings, events, and campouts.

New National Register Nominations

The Girl Scout Little House was among the 34 properties nominated this year to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Kansas Historical Society administers the National Register program and works closely with the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review, a group of 11 professionals from various fields, that meets quarterly to review and recommend nominations, and approve state register listings. National Register nominations are then forwarded to the Office of the Keeper in the U. S. Department of the Interior, which makes the final approval. Find the National and State Register listings at kshs.org/14638.

Kansas Historical Society
FY 2015 Overall Program and Service Usage

Type	FY 2014	FY 2015
Visitors	136,019	146,608
Public programs	15,627	13,827
Curriculum programs	59,968	55,036
Services	48,452	37,213
Publications	35,350	25,071
Online resources	13,217,053	12,963,755
Grants awarded	25	21
Total audience	**13,512,674**	**13,241,531**

This flag, which flew over the *U.S.S. Ralph Talbot* at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was saved by Sharitt Baker of Topeka, who served on the ship. It was recently donated to our collections.

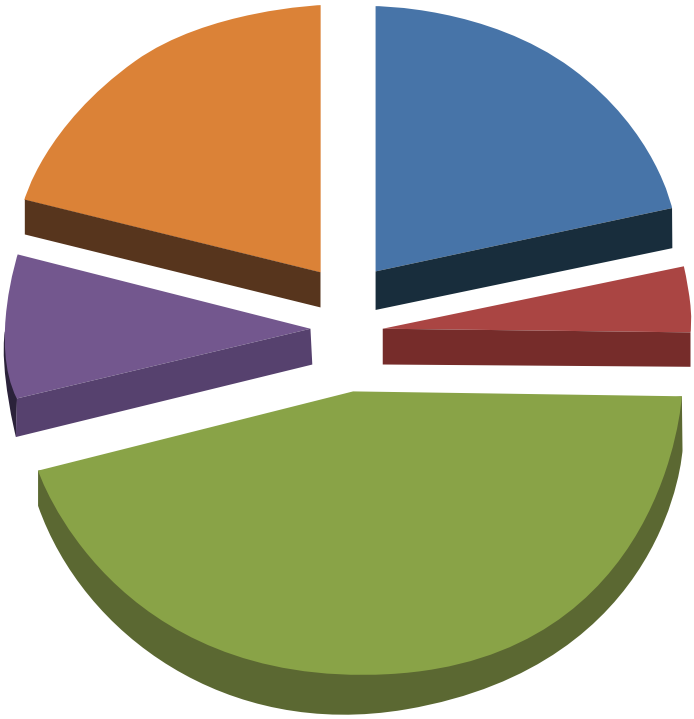
Kansas Historical Society
Fiscal Year 2015 Resources

Revenues by fund – $8,590,199

State General Fund	$4,499,746
Agency fee funds	$1,148,412
Private gifts	$23,587
Heritage Trust Fund*	$2,150,467
Federal funds	$767,987

*The Heritage Trust Funds represent two years of grants because the agency held the start of 2014 projects until the legislature resolved the issue of funding for the program.

The Kansas Historical Foundation provided $279,997 to the agency in FY 2015.



Expenditures by division – $8,590,199

Administration*	$1,823,999
Capital Improvements	$345,309
Cultural Resources	$3,900,872
Education and Museum	$757,753
State Archives	$1,762,266

*All utilities, office equipment, and supplies for the entire agency are included in the Administration budget, as are all pass-through funds.

Kansas Historical Foundation
Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report

The Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., doing business as the Kansas Historical Foundation, is an IRS determined 501(c)(3) non-profit. Find more detailed information about the organization at kshs.org/18573.

Key accomplishments for FY 2015 include:

- Donations increase of 40 percent
- Support for programs of $279,997
- Exclusive history two-day bus tour in Crawford County
- Return of crucial artifact storage space to the Historical Society
- Net retail profit of more than $37,000
- Progress on the joint strategic plan

Dear Friends,

This has been a transformative year! We have new donors, new ideas, and new projects. This organization and your board are enthusiastically moving forward.

We are grateful to every donor who invests in the work of the Kansas Historical Society through contributions to the Kansas Historical Foundation. We are pleased to tell you about two special gifts. Marie Louise (Wentworth) McMinn was born and raised in Topeka but lived much of her life elsewhere. She loved her home state and thoughtfully provided for the Kansas Historical Foundation in her estate. The Craig Miner Endowment supporting the State Archives collections also received a major anonymous gift toward the principal of that fund. We are indebted to those who think about history and look to the future with their philanthropy.

Your board of directors has been hard at work this winter leading an effort to survey members and donors about the feasibility of significantly increasing private support for the Historical Society. We will have exciting news to share with you as plans solidify; it has been heartwarming to know the Historical Society is well respected and worthy of major financial support from our members and friends.

Thank you for your support! We appreciate the time, talent, and treasure you invest in supporting the work of the Kansas Historical Society. Your philanthropy makes a difference. Please enjoy the details of this year in the pages that follow.

Thank you.

Deborah Barker,
President and chair
Kansas Historical Foundation

Vicky Henley,
Executive Director & CEO
Kansas Historical Foundation

Kansas Historical Foundation

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Donita Barone, vice president, Frontenac
Mary E. Turkington, secretary, Topeka
James Maag, treasurer, Topeka
Jack Alexander, past president, Topeka

Executive Committee

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Don Chubb, Topeka
J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita
William A. Kassebaum, Burdick
Annie Kuether, Topeka
John Pinegar, Topeka
Hal Ross, Wichita
F. Dave Seaton, Winfield

Executive committee meetings held in FY 2015: August 22, 2014; December 1, 2014; March 6, 2015; June 5, 2015.

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In Memory
Board of Directors
George G. Breidenthal, Jr.
March 22, 1948 to June 23, 2015

Honorary Board
Marjorie L. Crump.
September 2, 1924 to April 1, 2014

"The past is awfully important, without the past we don't have any future."

Jack Alexander

Celebrating the 139th Annual Meeting

Following in the tradition established in 1875, the members and board of the Kansas Historical Foundation met at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka on November 7, 2014. More than 76 participants gathered to elect officers and board members, participate in discussions, and celebrate Kansas history.

The board participated in a visioning session to gather input for future exhibit galleries in the Kansas Museum of History. Members shared personal stories about their love of history and discussed ways to share those topics with others.

The highlight of the meeting was Jack Alexander's president's address, "A Personal Commemoration of *Brown v. Board*." Through a videotaped presentation Alexander marked the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark desegregation case by relating his own perspective growing up in Topeka. The meeting concluded with Alexander passing the gavel to incoming president Deborah Barker.

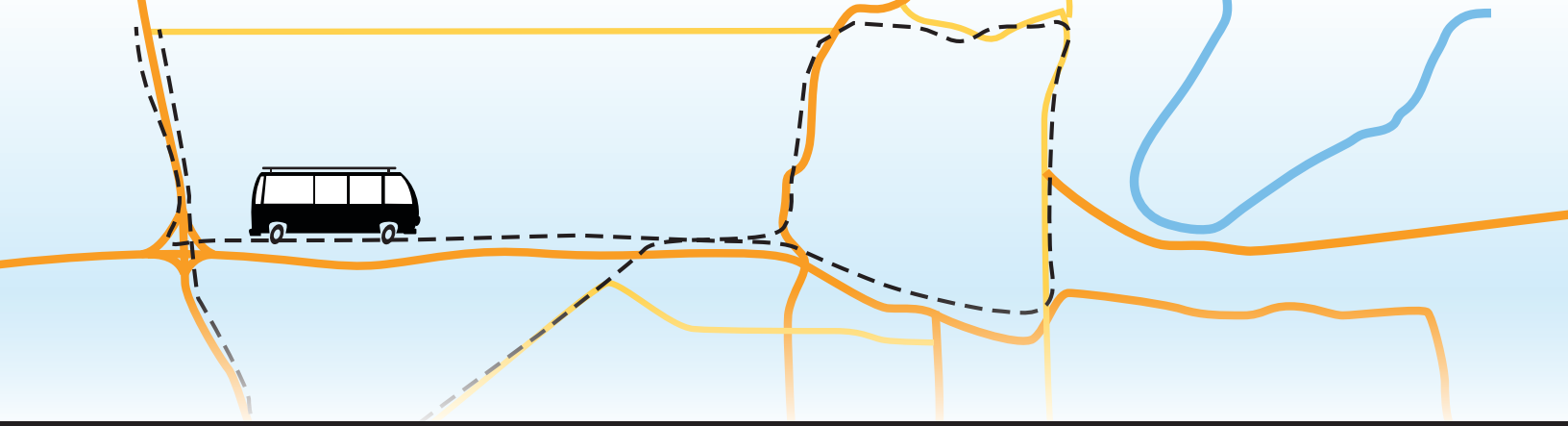
The following awards were presented at the meeting:

Alfred M. Landon Historical Research Grant
Funded by the Landon Endowment and established in 1987, the $1,000 grant helps cover costs for a graduate student to conduct onsite research in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society. This year's recipients were Amy Bergseth, Norman, Oklahoma, completing a mid-19th-century community study of the Kansas Territory tribes that eventually relocated to Ottawa County, Oklahoma; and Jaclyn J. S. Miller, Lawrence, conducting dissertation research for "Financing the Frontier: Bankers and the Development of the High Plains, 1870-1941."

Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing
Honoring the memory of Edgar Langsdorf, a longtime employee of the Historical Society, the award recipient is selected by a panel from among articles published the previous year in *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. The plaque and $200 award was presented to Tai S. Edwards, Overland Park, for "Disruption and Disease: The Osage Struggle to Survive in the Nineteenth-Century Trans-Missouri West," *Kansas History* 36 (Winter 2013-2014.)

Edward N. Tihen Historical Research Grant
Funded by the Tihen Endowment and established in 1995 in appreciation of his role as an amateur historian, the $500 grant helps cover costs for non-academic researchers to access collections onsite at the Kansas Historical Society. This year's recipients were Taylor C. Bye, researching abolitionist and publisher Daniel Read Anthony, brother of suffragist Susan B. Anthony; Antonio Delgado, on early Mexican settlements in Kansas and the communities' association with the railroads; Lori Ann Dell'aira, on study of fraud in the offices of Coffey County; Michael Hopps, on Confederate Major General Sterling Price's 1864 raid of Missouri; and Jonathan Weber, with the topic of transnational corpse transportation between the United States and Mexico in the late 19th century.

Dan Holt presents the Langsdorf Award to Tai S. Edwards.



NEW PROGRAM OFFERS
TASTE OF KANSAS

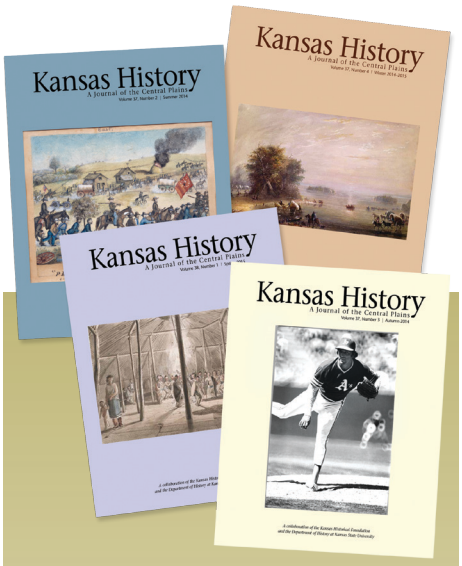
For many years the Kansas Historical Society and Kansas Historical Foundation have presented the spring meeting, an opportunity for members to visit and enjoy the history of communities around the state. This past year we launched Taste of Kansas, which replaced the previous meetings and took the tour to a new level.

Taste of Southeast Kansas combined history, food, culture, and fun in the region with an insider's guide from the staff of the Kansas Historical Society much like a family road trip. The bus tour hosted 52 participants who walked the only National Register-listed sidewalk; climbed the largest electric coal shovel in the world, Big Brutus; and danced to the tunes of a local polka band. They ate Italian sandwiches and fried ravioli, world famous chicken, and cinnamon rolls bigger than a fist. They said they "enjoyed everything" and were eagerly awaiting the next road trip. The tour offered special value for members. As a result, several people joined the Foundation to take advantage of the offer.

Clockwise from top, stops on the tour included the immense Big Brutus in Scammon, Pallucca's Meat & Deli in Frontenac, Miner's Memorial in Pittsburg; and participants dance to the tunes of the Johnnie Zibert Polka Band at Franklin Park.

Retail Products Celebrate Kansas

Since 1984 members and shoppers have come to appreciate the Museum Store for gifts and books related to Kansas history. The Capitol Store, which opened in 2014, provides another shopping experience for those who love Kansas products. The Museum Store Online, newly upgraded in 2014, makes it possible to shop 24/7 at store.kshs.org. From unique products made with Capitol copper to finely crafted items by Kansas artists, these stores offer great variety and value for Foundation members who save 10 percent on purchases.



Scholarly Journal Highlights Current Research

One of the most popular member benefits in the Kansas Historical Foundation is *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. Members receive four issues annually of this award-winning publication, which offers the latest in scholarship on Kansas history,

Published since 1978 by the Kansas Historical Foundation, the journal is being produced in collaboration with the Department of History at Kansas State University. This partnership helps to defray costs and increase readership. Four issues were produced in fiscal year 2015 with a circulation of 3,925.

Remembering Kansas History

Growing up in Topeka, Kansas, Marie Louise McMinn gained a deep appreciation for her home city and state. Her great grandfather was a member of the New England Immigrant Aid Society and one of Topeka's early settlers. McMinn later lived much of her life in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She always carried a love for her home state of Kansas.

Born to Earl V. and Lilian M. (Yungeberg) Wentworth in 1921, she attended Topeka schools. McMinn married Clarence Edward McMinn in Little Rock, Arkansas. He joined the Navy Seabees, serving during World War II. The couple lived most of their life in Arkansas, where Edward worked as a farmer.

Throughout her life Marie continued to support Kansas history, becoming a life member of the Kansas Historical Society in 1969. She enjoyed discussing the state's past and learning more about specific topics in history. Although she never drove herself, with her husband, Edward, she made many car trips from their home in Arkansas to visit historic sites across Kansas. She enjoyed volunteering, leading a Girl Scout troop. The couple lived the last few years of their life in Kansas City, Missouri, becoming avid Kansas City Chief fans. Edward died in Kansas City in 2005.

When McMinn died in 2013 she was cremated and her remains were spread across Kansas. She remembered her native state with a gift to the Kansas Historical Foundation. Her generous donation of more than $200,000 will support upcoming promotional efforts.

Edward and Marie L. McMinn.

Throughout her life Marie continued to support Kansas history, becoming a life member of the Kansas Historical Society in 1969.

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$200,000+
Marie L. McMinn Estate

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Anonymous

$10,000+
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Topeka Genealogical Society
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Robert C. Stevens
Grace and Robert J. Strathman
Herschel and Jacqueline Stroud
Ann W. Talcott
Dave Webb
June S. Windscheffel

The work of the Kansas Historical Society is very important. The State Archives collection supports government transparency, important research and lays the foundation for understanding Kansas history.

Nancy Landon Kassebaum

I give to the Kansas Historical Foundation because I appreciate their hard work. I especially value the Kansas Museum of History. All Kansans especially should visit the museum. It is a very enjoyable visit, as are all the state historic sites in Kansas.

Donita Barone

$100 +

Jack and Tillie Alexander
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Mary Bacchus
Bessie and Edward Beasley, Jr.
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Doug and Sandra Wiley
Claire Willenberg
Donna E. and Jack Wortman
Deborah Lea and Robert W. Wright
Robert E. and Madge G. Yarmer
Gayle L. and Michael Zuk, Jr.

Kansas Heritage Circle, our planned giving recognition society
Anonymous
Susan K. and William P. Bunyan, III
Sally Dorr Hatcher
Meryl J. "Boo" and Melissa R. Hodges
Michael Hoeflich
Jane A. Kelsey
James and Linda McHenry
Patricia Michaelis
Nancy Kay Sherbert
Joanna L. Stratton
Judy Stutenroth
William M. Tsutsui and Marjorie E. Swann

In Memory
Harold Davis
Peggy Holwick
Virginia Bostick McArthur
Teresa McPhail
Lauren Stauffer
Morris Werner

In Honor
J. Eric Engstrom
John Mallon
Hal Ross

I have a passion for history and I'm interested in people who drive the events that propel our history. I want to support those like the Kansas Historical Foundation who share my passion for history.

Jack Wisman

Kansas Historical Foundation
Fiscal Year 2015 Actuals

Income – $991,835

Contributions and grants	$501,544
Retail sales	$291,426
Gain on sale of stock	$146,741
Administrative fees	$122,598
Interest income	$78,545
Membership dues	$69,170
Recovery of expenses	$8,770
Other income	$3,853
Unrealized market (loss)	($230,812)

Expenses – $1,085,957

Support to Kansas Historical Society	$279,997
Retail	$253,644
Membership/board awards	$165,104
Fundraising	$164,429
Administrative fees	$112,366
Management and general	$110,417

Kansas Historical Foundation – Private Funds

Statements of support, revenue, and expenses—modified cash basis year ended June 30, 2015.

	2015				
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Permanently restricted	Total	2014 Totals
Support and revenues:					
Gifts and grants	$ –	$110,995	–	110,995	$117,010
Sundry and books	291,426	–	–	291,426	299,775
Contributions	77,085	271,294	42,170	390,549	239,825
Unrealized loss in marketable securities	(230,812)	–	–	(230,812)	(72,281)
Membership dues	69,170	–	–	69,170	70,595
Recovery of expenses	8,770	–	–	8,770	7,760
Interest income	76,052	2,493	–	78,545	58,395
Other income	3,853	–	–	3,853	2,282
Administrative fees	122,598	–	–	122,598	115,895
Gain (loss) on sale of stock	146,741	–	–	146,741	667,126
Net assets released from restrictions:					
Satisfaction of program restrictions	277,543	(277,543)	–	–	–
Total support and revenue	**842,426**	**107,239**	**42,170**	**991,835**	**1,506,382**
Expenses:					
Program expenses	811,110	–	–	811,110	777,225
Fundraising expenses	164,426	–	–	164,429	95,579
Management and general	110,417	–	–	110,417	175,063
Total expenses	**1,085,953**	**–**	**–**	**1,085,956**	**1,047,867**
Change in net assets	(243,527)	107,239	42,170	(94,121)	458,515
Net assets at beginning of year	1,201,398	1,911,759	1,151,621	4,264,778	3,806,263
Net assets at end of year	$957,871	$2,018,998	$1,193,791	$4,170,657	$4,264,778

James Maag serves as treasurer and chairs the finance committee. The Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS, Inc.), dba Kansas Historical Foundation, is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization.

An independent CPA firm conducted the audit in September and a draft of its findings was submitted to the audit committee. Mary Turkington serves as secretary and chairs the audit committee. The auditor's report was then reviewed and approved by the audit committee and forwarded to the executive committee for its review and final approval.

Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099

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Kansas Historical Society

Kansas Historical Foundation

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