

KANSAS HISTORY

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Kansas State Historical Society

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

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

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

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

Cover: Personifying the official floral emblem of Kansas, "The Sunflower Girl" appeared in the 1904 annual of the Kansas State Normal School, Emporia. Although the sunflower had been declared a noxious weed by the Kansas legislature in 1895, it was designated the state flower in 1903. In addition to the

sunflower, many other symbols and images have come to represent Kansas, as James H. Nottage and Floyd R. Thomas, Jr., discuss in "There's No Place Like Home': Symbols and Images of Kansas," beginning on p. 138 of this issue.

KANSAS HISTORY

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Volume 8 Autumn 1985 Number 3

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"There's No Place Like Home": Symbols and Images of Kansas <i>by James H. Nottage and Floyd R. Thomas, Jr.</i>	138
"A Genuine Western Man Never Drinks Tea": Gustavus French Merriam's Letters from Kansas in 1860	162
A Northern Cheyenne Called Roman Nose <i>by Orvel A. Criqui</i>	176
Kansas Farming and Banking in the 1920s <i>by Mary Scott Rowland</i>	186
Book Reviews	200