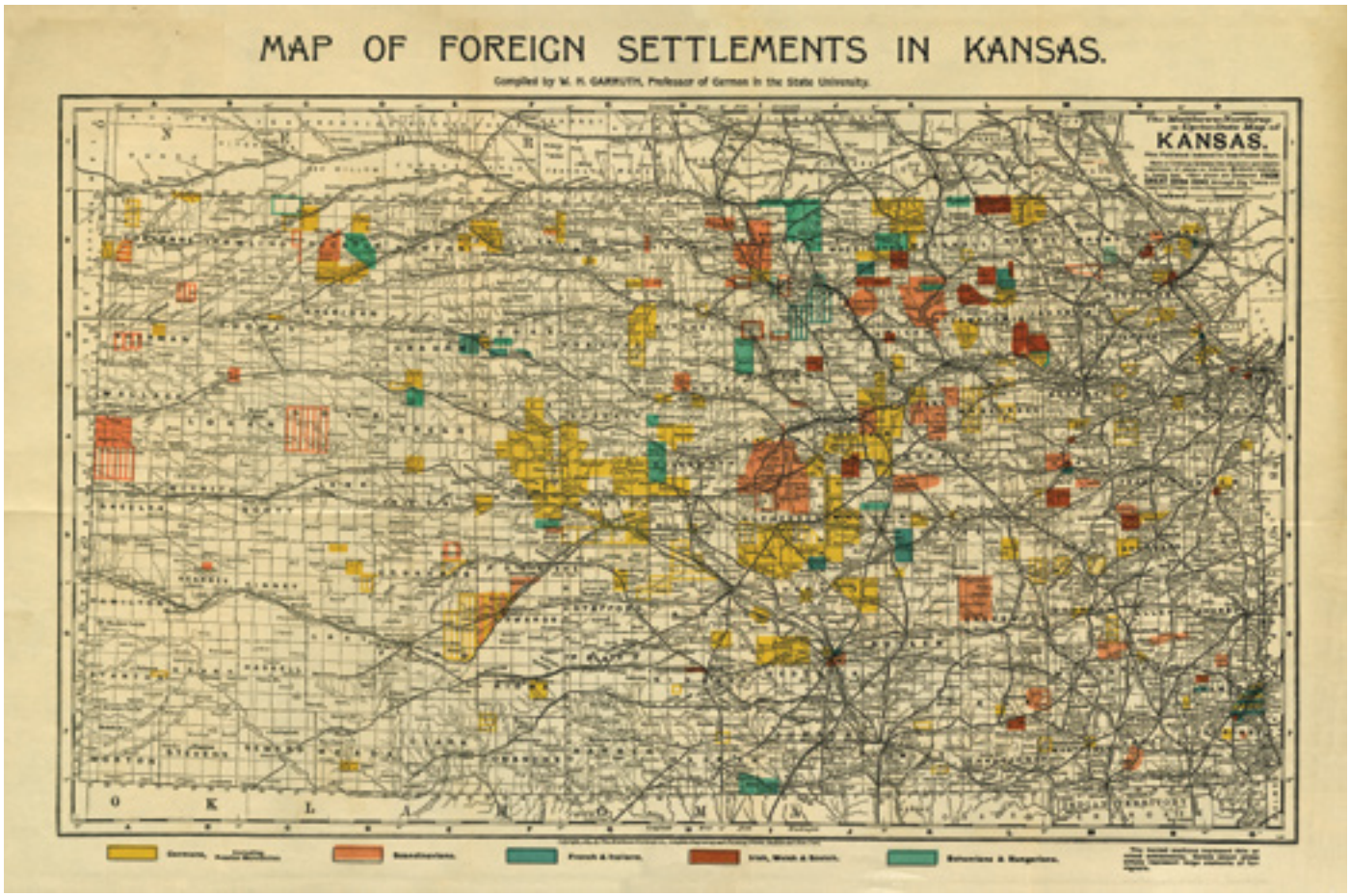
Kansas History

A Journal of the Central Plains

Volume 38, Number 2 | Summer 2015

A collaboration of the Kansas Historical Foundation and the Department of History at Kansas State University



Kansas experienced its most dynamic period of population growth by far during its first three decades of statehood. At the end of the Civil War in 1865, the state census enumerated 136,000 people; federal census takers counted 364,000 in 1870; almost one million in 1880, and nearly a million and a half in 1890. Most of the expectant settlers came from states to the east, with Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri leading the field. But the state's immigrant population, most of whom hailed from the British Isles or Germany, was significant, and although it actually peaked at 13.3 percent in 1870, the overall number continued to increase. Thousands of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe joined this transatlantic migration around the turn of the twentieth century. For the most part, the state welcomed all the migrants who came to settle its vast public and private lands and to build their farms and towns, especially during the immediate postwar decades. The State Bureau of Immigration, the State Board of Agriculture, local newspapers, businesses, and private individuals and groups actively recruited immigrants. The editor of the Junction City Union *proclaimed on April 29, 1865, that Kansas "presents to the pioneer settler inducements second to no State in all the West, as a field for emigration. . . . The idea that the Central and Western portion of the State is a Desert is exploded. . . . The field is wide and inviting, and there is nothing in the way. The idea of border and Indian difficulties has kept the State from settling up rapidly. Both of these evils have passed." In 1868 the commissioner of immigration called on Kansans to be aggressive in their recruitment of immigrants: "It would not be characteristic for Kansas to be hid under a bushel. Let us see that her light shall shine."*

In the early 1890s, as the state's foreign-born population peaked at 148,000, William H. Carruth created this "Map of Foreign Settlements in Kansas." It was published in the Ninth Biennial Report *of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1893–1894, and shows the locations of German, including Russian Mennonite; Scandinavian; French and Italian; Bohemian and Hungarian; and Irish, Scotch, and Welsh settlements. The map above can be viewed on Kansas Memory at kansasmemory.org/item/220778.*

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Cover: Kellogg Cowboy. *Courtesy of Jay M. Price. Back cover: Souvenir program from the premiere of* Dark Command *(1940). Courtesy of the Douglas County Historical Society, Watkins Museum of History, Lawrence, Kansas.*

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Department of History

Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains is published quarterly through a partnership between the Kansas Historical Foundation and the Department of History at Kansas State University. The Kansas Historical Foundation serves as a fund-raising, fund management, membership, and retail organization to support and promote the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency that safeguards and shares the state's history through the collection, preservation, and interpretation of its past. The Society's collections and programs are diverse and are made available through its library and museum in Topeka, historic sites and classrooms across the state, and publications and web-based resources accessible everywhere. The Department of History at Kansas State University is especially well-suited to the study of Kansas, agricultural, and environmental history. As a Land Grant school whose culture and economy have historically been shaped by the economy in the state, the history of Kansas holds a venerable place in the academic offerings of the University. Environmental history, with a particular focus on agricultural, water, and grassland issues in Kansas, has become increasingly more important to university research and curricula worldwide.

The journal publishes scholarly articles, edited documents, and other materials that contribute to an understanding of the history and cultural heritage of Kansas and the Central Plains. Political, social, intellectual, cultural, economic, and institutional histories are welcome, as are biographical and historiographical interpretations and studies of archaeology, the built environment, and material culture. Articles emphasizing visual documentation, exceptional reminiscences, and autobiographical writings are also considered for publication. Genealogical studies are generally not accepted.

Manuscripts are evaluated anonymously by scholars who determine their suitability for publication based on originality, quality of research, significance, and presentation, among other factors. Previously published articles or manuscripts that are being considered for publication elsewhere will not be considered. The editors reserve the right to make changes in accepted articles and will consult with the authors regarding such. The publishers assume no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors.

Kansas History follows the *Chicago Manual of Style,* 16th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010). A style sheet, which includes a detailed explanation of the journal's editorial policy, is available at kshs.org/12447. Articles appearing in *Kansas History* are available online at the Kansas Historical Society's website (kshs.org/12445) and from EBSCO Publishing. They are available on microfilm from ProQuest Microfilms.

The Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing, which includes a plaque and an honorarium of two hundred dollars, is awarded each year for the best article published in *Kansas History*.

The editors welcome letters responding to any of the articles published in the journal. With the correspondent's permission, those that contribute substantively to the scholarly dialogue by offering new insights or historical information may be published. All comments or editorial queries should be addressed to the editors, *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, Department of History, 208 Eisenhower Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-1002; 785-532-6730; email: KHJournal@k-state.edu

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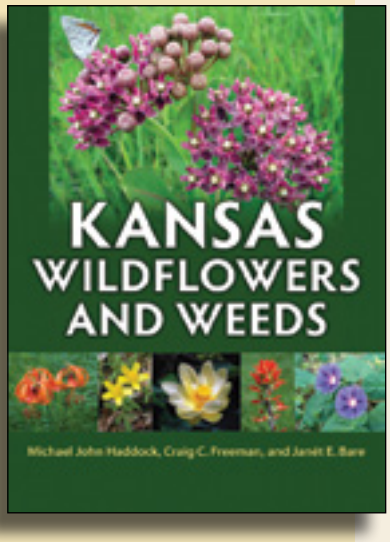
KANSAS NATURE & RECREATION



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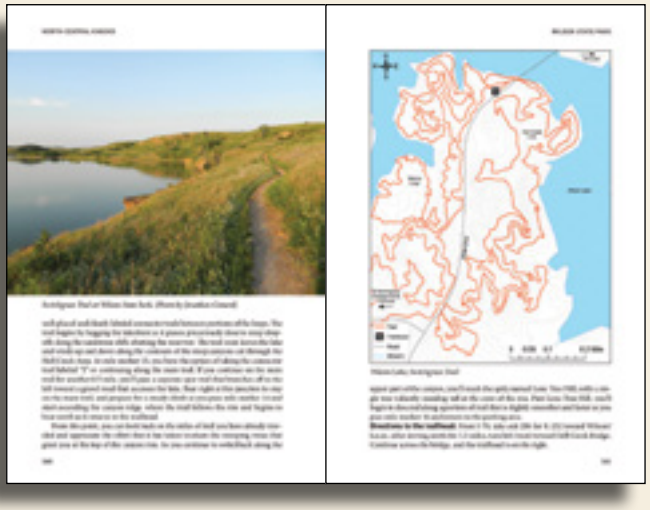
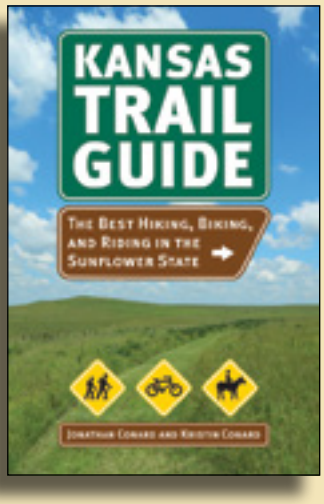
KANSAS WILDFLOWERS AND WEEDS



KANSAS TRAIL GUIDE



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