

# Kansas History

A Journal of the Central Plains

Volume 42, Number 1 | Spring 2019




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

“Better Than Ever”

**BETTER THAN EVER. THE FOURTH ANNUAL**

# FAIR



OF THE WESTERN KANSAS AGRICULTURAL FAIR ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT

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This appealing colorful agricultural fair poster from 1886, titled “Better Than Ever,” was typical of those used to booster interest in settlement and generate excitement in showcasing the agricultural activities and achievements within a locality, especially during the last quarter of the nineteenth century in

the Midwest and Great Plains; in this case, Hays City, Kansas. Attendance was encouraged by opportunities to win premiums at competitions, view demonstrations of farm implements, take railroad excursions, watch or participate in horse-racing, along with a host of social entertainments.



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*Front cover: Henry Worrall watercolor depicting iconic Kansas images for the state chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the 1884 World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition.*  
*Back cover: Program for a performance of the Premier Circuit of Redpath-Horner Chautauquas to be held in Wamego, Kansas in August 1922.*

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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 fundraising, 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.

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The journal is available as one of many benefits of membership with the Kansas Historical Foundation. Find more information online at [kshs.org/11413](http://kshs.org/11413).

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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](http://kshs.org/12447). Articles appearing in *Kansas History* are available online at the Kansas Historical Society's website ([kshs.org/12445](http://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*.

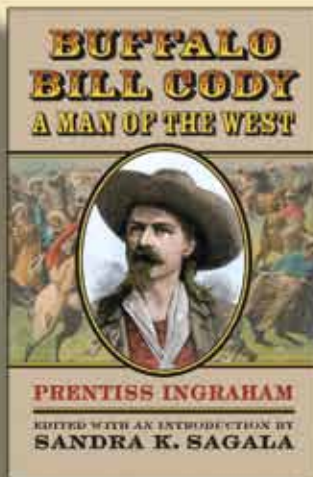
The editors welcome letters responding to any of the articles published in the journal. With the correspondent's permission, those that contribute substantively to the scholarly dialogue by offering new insights or historical information may be published. All comments or editorial queries should be addressed to the editors, *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, 201C Calvin Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-1002; 785-532-6730; email: [KHJournal@k-state.edu](mailto:KHJournal@k-state.edu)

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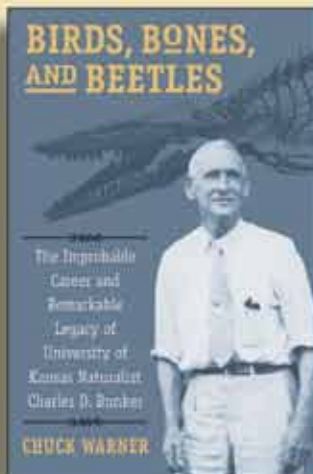
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Prentiss Ingraham

Edited by Sandra K. Sagala

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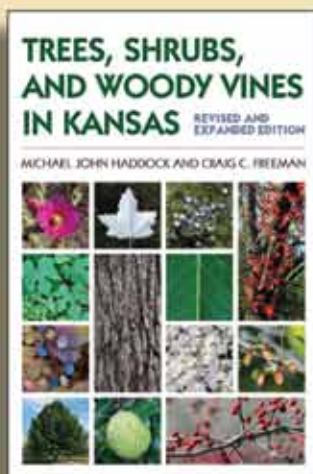
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