



NEWS RELEASE

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES HONORS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

TOPEKA, Kan.—The Kansas Historical Society announced it is the recipient of two Awards of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 63rd year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. Awards for 2008 represent 57 organizations and individuals from across the United States. Award winners will be honored at a special banquet during the 2008 AASLH Annual Meeting in Rochester, New York, on Friday, September 12.

The Kansas Historical Society received awards for its *Kansas Memory* website and its *Read Kansas!* curriculum.

Kansas Memory is the largest online collection of photographs, manuscripts, documents, and other primary sources from Kansas history. The site, kansasmemory.org, uses a highly developed search engine that targets items based on multiple criteria.

"We are pleased to receive this recognition for *Kansas Memory*," said Kansas Historical Society Library and Archives Division Director Pat Michaelis. "Its launch was truly a team effort. We are thrilled that *Kansas Memory*, which contains the same diversity of historical holdings reflected in our research collections, is now available to students, teachers, local historians, and others all over Kansas and the world 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The over 7,000 items with 37,000 images or pages are just the beginning. New items are added to *Kansas Memory* weekly and it will continue to grow."

Read Kansas! is a curriculum of student reading cards and lesson plans that address Kansas history standards as well as state writing and reading standards.

"This is a progressive model for teaching history," said Mary Madden, director of the Historical Society's education outreach division. "For years teachers have requested primary source materials to use in their classrooms that engage students in critical thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students are practicing skills that will aid them throughout

their lives while learning Kansas history. Teachers appreciate the cross-discipline nature of these lessons."

The *Read Kansas* cards can be viewed and printed at ksks.org/teachers/read_kansas. Through the support of the Kansas State Department of Education and additional funding from the Kansas Health Foundation, thirty complete sets of *Read Kansas!* lessons have already been distributed to every public elementary school in Kansas. Middle and high school lessons are currently being developed.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.