

KANSAS HISTORY

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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.

Cover: Since its inception the state of Kansas has made provisions to care for the poor, the insane, the criminal, and the dependent. In the 1860s the State Insane Asylum at Osawatimie and the Kansas State Penitentiary at Lansing were established, followed by other charitable and correctional institutions founded

during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Beginning on page 212 of this issue, Mary Scott Rowland examines trends in social services in Kansas between 1916 and 1930, shortly before these residents of the State Orphans' Home in Atchison were photographed in 1936.

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Maxine Benson, *Editor*
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