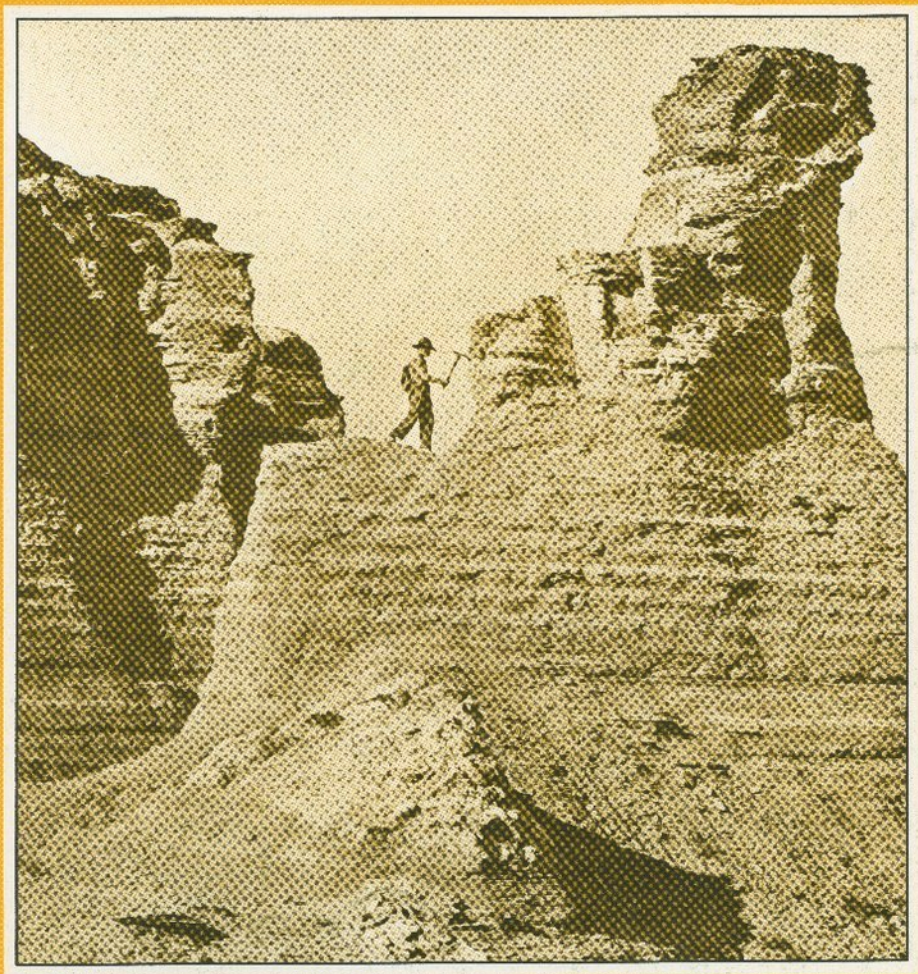


# KANSAS HISTORY

A Journal  
of the  
Central Plains  
Volume 10, Number 3  
Autumn 1987



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# Kansas State Historical Society

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**T**HE 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.

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**Cover:** During the late 1860s, paleontological finds in western Kansas began to attract both amateur and professional scientists. That attraction continued into the twentieth century and encouraged Kansas' universities and colleges to offer training in all sciences. Shown on the front cover is a member of a Sternberg paleontological field party in Logan County shortly after the turn of the century, and featured on the back cover is an 1895 field camp of a University of Kansas paleontological expedition at Lightning Creek, Wyoming, led by Samuel W. Williston. An extant photograph label, difficult to read, indicates that the group probably includes James P. Sams, university regent; J. W. Beebe; Ralph C. Gowell; Barnum Brown, later a paleontologist for the American Museum of Natural History, New York; Elmer S. Riggs, later a paleontologist

for the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; and Hugo Kahl, University of Kansas entomologist.

The two articles in this issue of *Kansas History* provide a continuing theme of scientific exploration and discovery in Kansas. "Thof's Dragon and the Letters of Capt. Theophilus H. Turner, M. D., U. S. Army," describes Capt. Turner's paleontological find near Fort Wallace and presents a compelling account of fort life during the Indian wars of the late 1860s. The second article, "Science in Kansas: The Early Years, 1804-1875," focuses on the formative years of scientific exploration, curriculum, and organizations in Kansas. Together, these articles remind us of Kansas' contributions to the expansion of scientific knowledge in the nineteenth century.

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*Kansas History* (USPS 290 620) is published quarterly by the Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1291. It is distributed without charge to members of the Kansas State Historical Society. Membership dues are as follows: student, \$7.50; individual, \$15.00; family, \$25.00; organization, \$25.00; corporate (annual), \$100.00; life, \$500.00. Membership dues should be sent to Robert W. Richmond, treasurer. Single issues, when available, are \$4.00.

The Society assumes no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors.

Second-class postage paid at Topeka, Kansas. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Kansas History*, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1291.

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Articles appearing in *Kansas History* are abstracted and/or indexed in *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*.

Layout and production: H. M. Ives and Sons, Inc.

Typesetting: H. M. Ives and Sons, Inc.

Printed by H. M. Ives and Sons, Inc.  
Topeka, Kansas

Marilyn J. Holt, *Editor*  
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