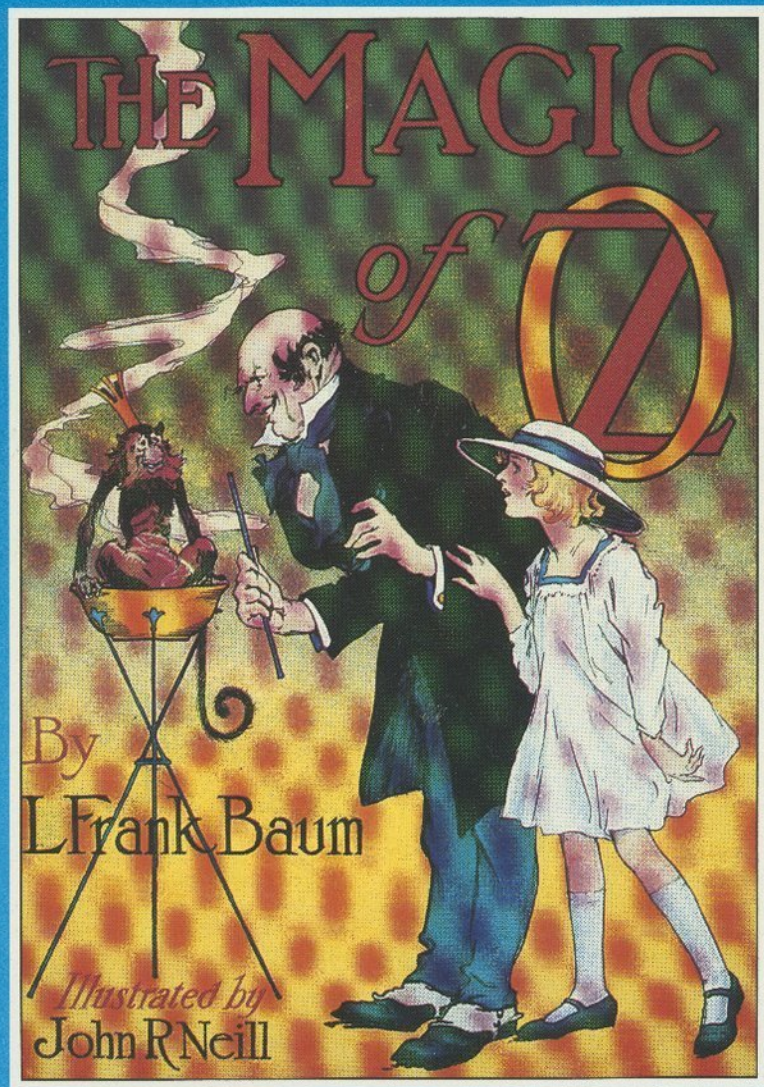


KANSAS HISTORY

A Journal
of the
Central Plains

Volume 12, Number 1
Spring 1989



Kansas State Historical Society

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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 66612-1291.

Cover: The *Magic of Oz*, illustrated on the cover, was one of the fourteen Oz books written by L. Frank Baum and published between 1900 and 1920. Baum energetically promoted his works which eventually saw adaptation on the stage and in movies. While Baum may not have intended to link the image of Kansas to that of Oz, that identification, over time, has been made. A study of the "Land of Oz" becoming the "Land of Ah's" is presented in this issue's article, "Oz and Kansas Culture."

The remaining articles in this issue look at other Kansas connections. Kansas' identity with the national question of Popular Sovereignty, the Overland Trail,

and the migration of blacks before and during the Civil War are each a topic of importance. Kansas' explosive territorial period and the free-state question are portrayed in the letters of an early Lawrence settler, Edward Fitch, and experiences of a Lawrence family on the Overland Trail in 1867 are revealed in the diary of Elizabeth "Bettie" Duncan. The territorial period and early years of statehood are also the time of study for the topic of black fugitives and contrabands coming into Kansas.

Each of the articles in this *Kansas History* allows us a view of ideas and experiences that have shaped Kansas and its people.

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