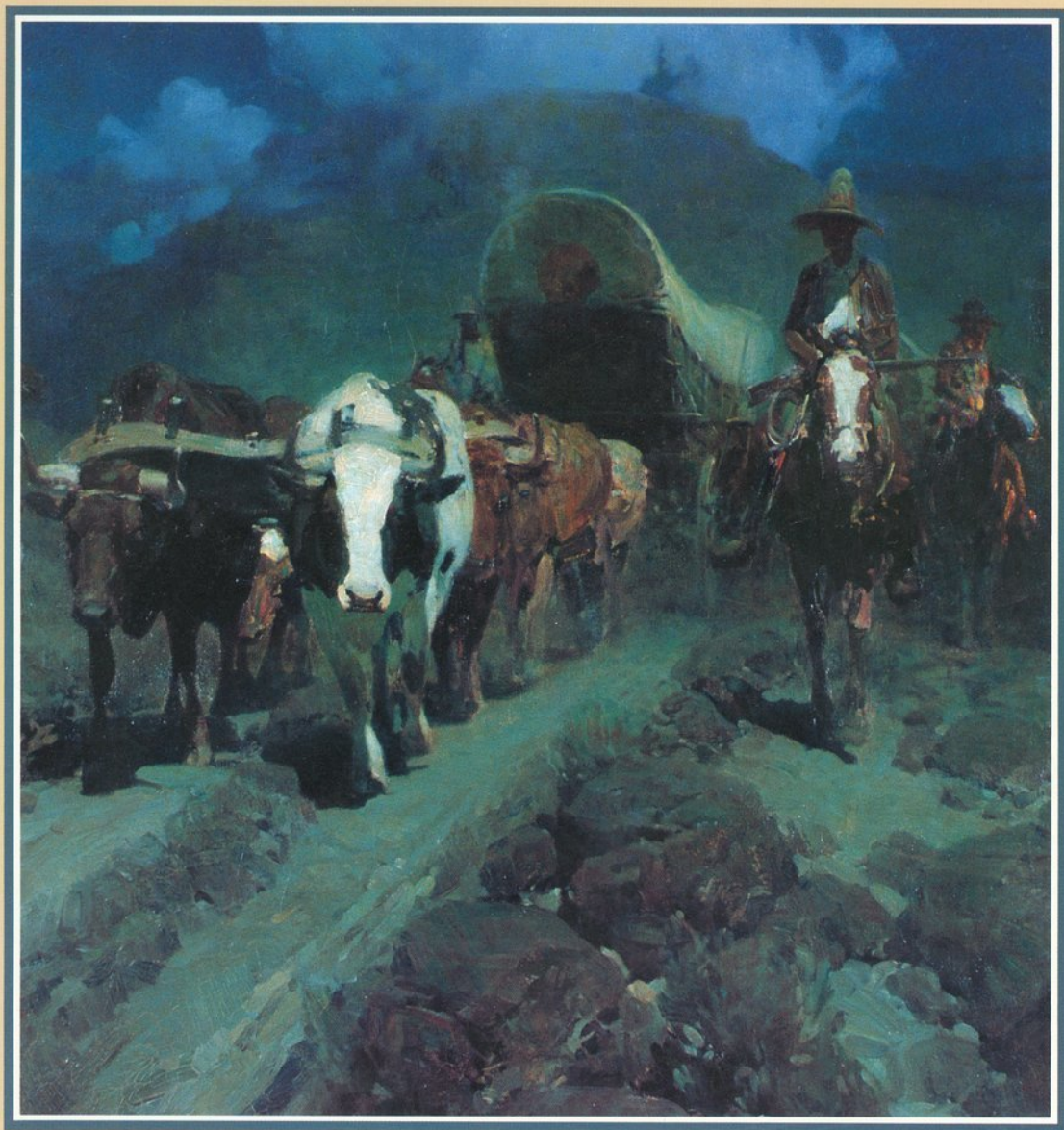


# KANSAS HISTORY

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Victory Garden, Wichita, Kansas, 1942.

Planted by rural and urban residents alike, Victory Gardens were an important part of the war effort on the Kansas home front. This particular Civilian Defense program was being organized and promoted by state and local officials within weeks of the U.S. entry into the Second World War. Victory Garden committees helped city folk find available garden plots and furnished the names of men willing and able to do the plowing, disking, and harrowing. They also promoted good planning, offered technical advice and guidance, and encouraged the novice gardener to make wise, nutritious decisions in the selection of crops for planting. "A good Victory Garden," wrote horticulturist W. F. Pickett, "will not be composed merely of some lettuce, radishes, and onions, as is too frequently the case with some would-be gardeners who lose their enthusiasm for plant culture when the first weeds make their appearance. Instead, the crops to be grown in the Victory Gardens should consist of early season, midseason, and late season vegetables of many kinds." Every farm, home, and community was exhorted to take part in this effort to supply the family dinner table and the school lunch room.

Millions of people responded nationally, as did tens of thousands of Kansans. In Wichita, wrote E. Gail Carpenter, a petroleum geologist and First Presbyterian Sunday School teacher, "Every patriotic and red blooded husband is searching for a plot of ground for his wife to spade, plant, and harvest in her spare time. Small talk chiefly has to do with whether or not you are going to have a garden, where it is, how you are going to get it plowed, and what you intend to plant." Two months later in May 1943, he reported that "In many parts of town even the curbing is green with straight, well cultivated rows of vegetables. Most V-gardeners are already enjoying onions, lettuce and radishes. The sweet corn is knee high and the peas and beans are in bloom." By most accounts, Kansas' wartime gardening effort was a great success.

A further look at Kansans' home-front efforts during the war may be found in this issue's photo essay "A Common Cause," part 2 of "Kansas At War."

# KANSAS HISTORY

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Front cover: On the Santa Fe Trail by Frank Tenney Johnson. The wet and dry routes of the Santa Fe Trail across southwest Kansas are the subjects of this issue's article by David K. Clapsaddle. Back cover: WWII poster of the Third War Loan. Home-front activity in Kansas is the focus of "A Common Cause," part 2 of our four-part photo essay "Kansas At War."

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**BUY WAR BONDS**



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