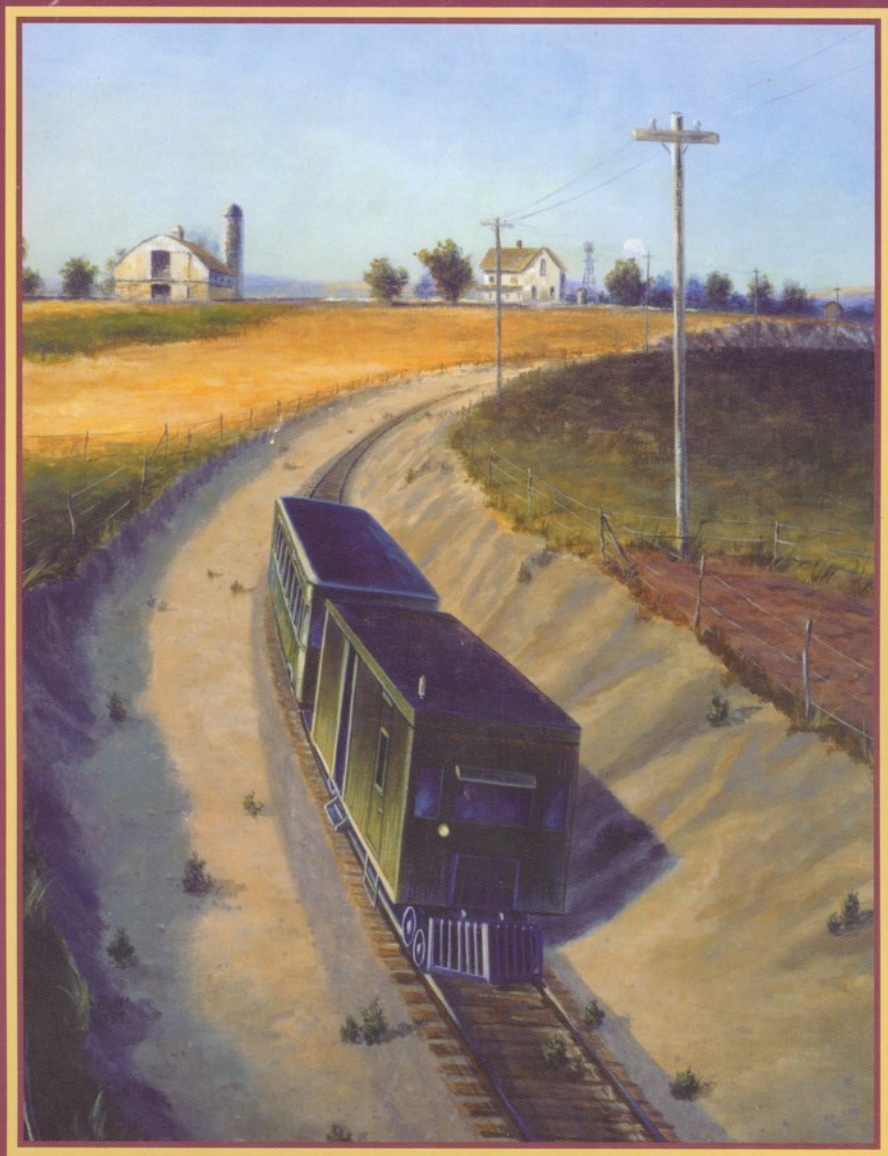


KANSAS HISTORY

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The Latham Cash Grocery, Junction City, 1901

Bearing little resemblance to the suburban "super store" of today, the well-stocked grocery of the turn of the past century was nevertheless a vital fixture in any well-appointed downtown commercial district. Junction City actually boasted several such general merchandise and grocery establishments along Washington Street, the city's main business artery. Nearby stood banks, bakeries, barber shops, butcher shops, clothing stores, confectionary stores, hardware and implement dealers, a furniture and undertaking business, hotels, and restaurants, as well as dentists, druggists, physicians, and much more in the city's business core.

The above image was made by Joseph J. Pennell, a Junction City photographer who kept a studio at 701 North Washington, just north of the Latham Cash Grocery. According to James R.

Shortridge, *Our Town on the Plains: J. J. Pennell's Photographs of Junction City, Kansas, 1893-1922* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2000), G. A. Latham was one of the three or four traditional grocers who operated downtown. He promised an altogether modern grocery and fruit establishment when he opened in October 1901, but his venture closed after only two years. Shortridge speculated that Latham's short Kansas tenure might have been connected to the "No Credit" sign at the back of the store. No merchant liked the bookkeeping and financial uncertainty associated with charge accounts, but the practice was an accepted part of retail life.

Kansas History will use this space in each of the next three issues during 2001 to look back one hundred years by featuring depictions of typical scenes from 1901.

KANSAS HISTORY

VIRGIL W. DEAN
Editor

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Number 1

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COVER: *The Leavenworth & Topeka's new "double motor" takes a morning eastbound run through rural Jefferson County, 1924. An article on the L&T railroad begins on page 18. BACK COVER: The western meadowlark, one of many bird species found at Cheyenne Bottoms. An article on this wildlife refuge is examined in "Creating a Sea of Galilee," beginning on page 2.*



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