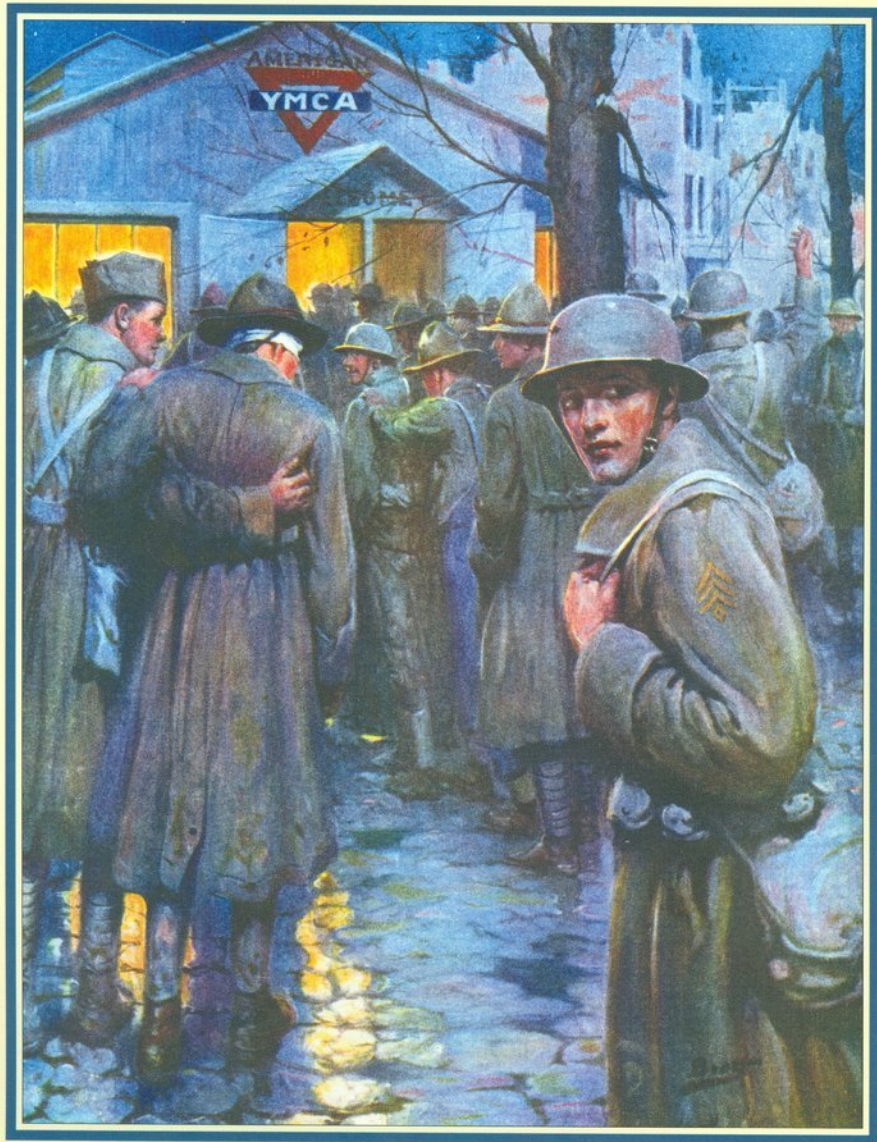


KANSAS HISTORY

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Carrie Nation, Enterprise, Kansas, 1901.

The year 1901 was marked by what certainly must be considered one of the most unusual scenes or occurrences in Kansas history: a matronly woman, dressed in black, wielding a hatchet and exhorting her fellow Kansans to really give up demon rum. Frustrated after five futile years of conventional temperance activity in and around her home town of Medicine Lodge, Carrie Nation, known locally as "Mother" Nation and later as CARRY A. NATION, burst onto the Kansas scene, attracting national attention by launching a crusade against illegal joints. Her saloon smashing campaign reached Topeka in late January 1901. By the summer of that year she had scolded Governor William Stanley, lectured the legislature and delegates attending the annual meeting of the Kansas State Temperance Union, destroyed some barroom fixtures, spent some time in jail, and launched a brand new, albeit short-lived, newspaper, *The Smasher's Mail*. For the next several years, Mrs. Nation endured ridicule, arrest, and jail to promote the cause to which she was committed.

Prior to her arrival in the state capital, Mrs. Nation visited Enterprise on January 23. There she "wrecked" one saloon and, as depicted above, was escorted to jail by the city marshal after a "fracas" with the joint owner's wife, "who was backed by a dozen women who championed the saloons." According to an item in the *Topeka State Journal*, "a general fight between the women ensued, during which a woman heavily veiled rained blow after blow upon Mrs. Nation with a horsewhip. Men drawn to the scene became interested spectators, but offered no aid to either side." The following day, "badly bruised" but still defiant, Mrs. Nation proclaimed, "they are trying to kill me, but my work will go on. . . I am ready to die in the cause . . . and am merely an instrument in God's hands." A local supporter made the comparison to John Brown. Mrs. Nation "is doing the same great moral work," insisted Mrs. Christian B. Hoffman. "She is an instrument for good."

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VIRGIL W. DEAN
Editor

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COVER: A 1918 painting by Harold Brett depicts the American soldier during the Great War standing before "the greatest home in the world," the YMCA. An article on American Indians during World War I begins on page 84. BACK COVER: The Garden of Eden, Lucas, Kansas. See page 118 for an article about this unique political statuary.



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