Samples of Our Heritage

by James R. Kratsas,
Mary Ellen Hennessy Nottage, and
John Zwierzyna

With the dedication of the Kansas Museum of History, the opening of “Samples of Our Heritage” inaugurates a continuing exhibits program. Thousands of artifacts are housed in the museum, and “Samples” is an overview or sampling of the Society’s holdings representing a number of aspects of the collection.

For more than a century the Historical Society has been charged with gathering objects illustrative of the history of Kansas and the Great Plains. The artifacts are the heart of the museum and the basis of all its activities; exhibits and education programs would be impossible without the collections. The objects are the reason the Kansas Museum of History exists.

Why does the Society continue to collect even though it already possesses thousands of artifacts? The material culture of Kansas history is extremely broad and varied. Try to imagine all the objects used in each year of Kansas history; the concept is almost beyond comprehension. The items used every day range from business cards to artworks, from hammers to combines, from shoes to automobiles, and from kitchen knives to furniture. To preserve the history of a culture, a museum must acquire examples from all areas of life and all episodes of time. The institution must collect not just the elegant furniture of the past, but also the common, middle-class chairs and tables that were used by the greater proportion of families.

Moreover, Kansas history is not static. Each generation leaves the materials and objects it created and used in the course of everyday life. As time passes, the material culture of preceding years is actively sought by the Society before the items deteriorate and are lost forever. The objects are acquired, stored, and preserved for future generations and for historians who use the materials in order to understand the past.

Even though all objects will not be exhibited at any one time in the museum’s galleries, it is still necessary and desirable to acquire more artifacts for the study collections. These collections aid researchers in tracing the technological and stylistic evolution of objects and in understanding their role in our culture. The variety of artifacts allows visitors to gain a more accurate view of the past—to comprehend that in 1870 not all furniture was fabricated from a particular wood and not all tableware was silver plated. Although a museum may possess several articles of clothing from 1890, there are a number of styles from that year. A sample of each one or of styles of various years will provide a more comprehensive study collection.

In fulfilling the task of interpreting the artifacts collected, the museum will have exhibits in the large main gallery outlining the history of the state. Changing exhibits in the special gallery will explore certain topics pertinent to life in Kansas. The first exhibit, however, is different. “Samples of Our Heritage” focuses on the materials of which later exhibits will be made. Rather than serving to tell a story or explore a specific theme, the artifacts are featured alone.

Each object in the museum collection is significant, and the importance of an artifact is judged by what one can learn from it. The objects in “Samples” contain many messages about Kansas, illustrating why they were collected by the Society.

Visitors to “Samples” will find the artifacts arranged into three separate groups: objects associated with famous people, places, or events; common, everyday objects of a utilitarian nature; and objects that are unique, pleasing, or innovative. Any artifact in the collection could fall into one or more of these groupings; an object has been placed in a certain section because of a particular message it conveys.
The Society collects objects related to famous people, places, and events that are prominent in our collective memory and serve to mark our history. Objects that are associated with these historical milestones are traditional favorites of museum visitors. They are direct links to times or individuals which otherwise are only abstract ideas. The artifacts give credence to times past; they are concrete evidence that people existed and events occurred.

**Medal**

Many contemporaries of John Brown considered this radical abolitionist a martyr after he was executed for attempting to lead a slave revolt. A group of French leaders, including the novelist Victor Hugo, had this solid gold medal struck in 1877 to honor Brown and his companions for their sacrifices. The medal was sent to Brown's widow, Mary, and their children later donated it to the Kansas State Historical Society.

**John Brown's Surveyor's Compass**

When not fighting to further the free-state cause, John Brown spent some time employed as a surveyor while in Kansas. This surveyor's compass set served as one of the principal tools of his trade. In addition to the brass compass, the set includes two brass protractors, two brass rules, a plumb bob, and the original walnut storage box. The scientific instrument makers Phelps and Gurley of Troy, New York, made the compass.

**Exposition Window**

World's fairs were events of international import in the past as they are today. Kansas entered grand exhibitions at these fairs, showing with pride agricultural produce, manufactures, products of the mining industry, artworks and handicrafts of individual citizens, and cultural treasures. This stained and painted glass window was created for the Kansas Building at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Centennial Exposition in Saint Louis and was used as a transom over the main entrance. It welcomed visitors with a splash of color and with symbols which Kansans recognized as their own.

**Trophy**

*Radio Digest* of Chicago presented this trophy to KFKB, "Kansas First, Kansas Best," of Milford as the world's most popular radio station. KFKB's owner, Dr. John R. Brinkley, used the station for advertising his medical clinic and pharmacies and for campaign-
ing in his unsuccessful attempt to gain the governorship of Kansas in 1930. The Federal Radio Commission (FRC) revoked the radio station's license in 1930. The loss of the license was because of Brinkley's use of the airways for doling out prescriptions, a practice not condoned by the FRC.

Presentation Sword

James G. Blunt holds the distinction of being the first Kansan to achieve the rank of major general during the Civil War. To honor the general, two of Blunt's close wartime associates presented this exquisite sword set to him. A product of the renowned Tiffany and Company of New York, the sword consists of an ornate silver hilt with a grip in the shape of a cannon barrel and a pommel with a gilt eagle perched on a ball. The blade, manufactured by Collins and Company of Hartford, Connecticut, has been etched with military motifs on a frosted gold background. In addition to the sword, the presentation set includes a gilt silver scabbard, a gilt wire sword knot, and a silk sash.

French Vase

The winter of 1947 was hard for thousands of Europeans. The devastations of World War II were felt most severely by ordinary citizens. In Wichita a movement was organized to send a Southwest Friendship Train loaded with food and supplies to struggling Europeans. This train with its cargo from Kansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas joined similar caravans from other parts of the country. Promoters of the Southwest Friendship Train noted that gifts from Kansas filled over half of the 255 cars. More than 40 of those cars contained Kansas wheat and flour. The citizens of France wished to express their gratitude for the aid and organized a train of their own. Their "Merci" train included a car for each state containing mementos from French families and products of newly rebuilt French industries. Many of the mementos from the car sent to Kansas are in the Kansas State Historical Society collection. Among them is a personal gift from French President Vincent Auriol to the people of Kansas, a fine Sèvres porcelain vase.

The Society also collects the stuff of everyday life, for people living ordinary lives are as important to history as are famous people, places, and events. Through these artifacts we learn how people worked and played. We can examine things made in Kansas
and things brought to Kansas to make a new home familiar. These are the belongings of generations of Kansans who created the Kansas of today.

Post Rock Fence Post
Wood was a scarce commodity on the relatively treeless plains of central Kansas. As a result, farmers and ranchers substituted the locally available limestone for wood as a material for fence posts. This unique type of stone, colloquially referred to as post rock, could be quarried readily from shallow deposits. Because of its stratified nature and its softness when initially extracted from the ground, post rock could be split easily and worked into fence posts. Travelers through central Kansas can still see the durable post rock fence posts dotting the landscape.

Trade Sign
The cigar store wooden Indian has always been a familiar and easily recognized symbol of the tobacconist. In 1871, Henry Moeser opened a cigar store on Kansas Avenue in Topeka and adorned it with this Indian. It is believed that the Indian was later displayed at the Windsor, one of Topeka’s leading hotels.

Cabinet
As leisure time became more available to middle-class Americans in the nineteenth century, hobbies gained popularity. Men as well as women desired to fill parlors with all manner of handworked artistry. Some hobbyists found a creative outlet in fretwork, the creation of wooden articles using a scrollsaw. The result was an abundance of lacy letter racks, comb holders, picture frames, and small furniture. Perhaps one of the most prolific fretworkers in Kansas was J. T. Genn of Wamego. After his discharge from Civil War service, he spent much time at his scrollsaw creating dozens of decorative and utilitarian household items. The small, wall-hung cabinet in the exhibit represents only a fraction of his work now in the museum collection.

Plains Rifle
For hunting and defense, frontiersmen often chose the attractive yet rugged Plains rifle. Leavenworth gunsmith John R. Biringer made this type of rifle for the local market. This gun, an example of Biringer’s work, has a .40 caliber, octagonal barrel and a walnut half stock. Note that the lock bears not Biringer’s mark, but that of “Goddard.” By the
second half of the nineteenth century, gunsmithing, like many other trades, was losing aspects of its craft tradition. Many gunsmiths no longer made the entire firearm from scratch but, because of economies resulting from the specialization of labor, often contracted to have the intricate lock mechanisms made for them. Biringer did just that with this rifle.

Coverlet

Henry Adolph was born in 1815 in Alsace, France. He migrated to America sometime before 1855 and began to practice his craft of weaving in Ohio. By 1857 he was working in Indiana, later moving his trade to Iowa. He next went to Douglas County, Kansas, where he was known to be working in the mid-1860s. His fine skills are evident in the colorful coverlet in the exhibit. It is a jacquard woven double lily pattern in double cloth. Weavers like Adolph signed their work with pride. The corner signature block of the coverlet bears the woven inscription, "Made by H. Adolph, Clinton, KS 1876." Coverlets such as these were cherished household possessions in Kansas.

Hair Wreath

Handicrafts have always been popular for young and old. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, many natural materials such as shells and hair were used to create decorative items for the home. Hair wreaths were such creations. They varied in size and quality, with this wreath being rather large and complex.

Among the artifacts collected by the Historical Society are unique, beautiful, and innovative objects that have intrinsic value. For example, one-of-a-kind works of art are valued by our culture. Artists depict unique visions of the world that not only add beauty to our lives but also present new ways to see and understand the past.

The task of bringing aesthetics to our lives is not carried solely by artworks, however. The furnishings with which we surround ourselves and the tools we use are products of standards of design. Objects of taste and pleasure are everywhere. They help us understand the cultural traditions of the man-made world. In addition, objects that show technological innovation are abundant in the museum's collection. Americans have continually searched for better, faster, and easier ways to accomplish their work. Artifacts reflecting this trait help us understand attitudes
toward work; we can learn what types of work were considered most important. We can begin to comprehend the significant role of technology in our culture.

Pastel

The World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago was a showcase for many items including new inventions, crafts, and artworks. The exposition was enriched by a piece of art copyrighted by Henrietta Briggs-Wall and executed by W. A. Ford, both of Hutchinson. The pastel *American Woman and Her Political Peers* was a popular attraction at Chicago. It demonstrates the belief that a woman in the United States had as little political power as the disenfranchised Indian, madman, convict, and idiot. Creating quite a stir across the country, the pastel was reproduced on cards and distributed nationwide. Several newspapers and journals commented on it including the *Alger County Republican* in Michigan, which stated that *American Woman* would be to woman suffrage what *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was to abolition.

Oil Painting

Henry Worrall emigrated from Cincinnati to Topeka in 1868 and quickly discovered that Kansas was not the dry wasteland he had heard. When his eastern friends made derogatory statements about the land’s aridity, Worrall sketched his version of *Drouthy Kansas* in 1869. Originally done in charcoal, then in this oil in 1878, *Drouthy Kansas* proclaimed huge harvests of wheat, watermelons, and corn and heavy rainfalls. The work drew much attention, appearing on the cover of *Kansas Farmer* and on circulars to promote immigration to Kansas.

Angell Disc Plow

In the 1920s, farmer/mechanic Charlie Angell of Plains developed a new type of disc plow especially adapted for wheat farming on the dry and windy High Plains. Angell’s plow, unlike the traditional moldboard plow, did not turn over the soil and completely bury the surface trash. Instead, it merely tilled the soil while incorporating the trash or stubble into the top layer of the soil. This stubble then served as a mulch which conserved precious moisture, reduced wind erosion, and increased the humus content of the soil. After producing close to five hundred of the plows on his farm, Angell sold his rights to the plow to the Ohio Cultivator Company which marketed it as the “Angell One Way Disc Plow.” Angell made this small, four-foot model (the most common size of the field models was ten feet) in 1926 for use in his family’s vegetable garden.
Patent Model of Grain Separator

On January 15, 1878, Thaddeus Histed of Salina received a patent for an “improvement in grain-separators.” Histed’s grain separator or fanning mill separated grain from chaff and other debris and sorted it into several different grades. This is the model of Histed’s separator which he submitted to the United States Patent Office to illustrate his invention. He proudly christened his new machine the “Belle of the Plains” as engraved on a silver plaque on the model.

Horn Furniture

Fascination with organic furnishings and the romance of the West popularized horn furniture in America. Scattered from the rustic lodges of Wyoming dude ranches to the well-appointed parlors of New England families, these pieces were made of cattle or buffalo horns. The fashion spread in Kansas as well. Charles A. Calwell first glimpsed a horn chair in a wagon in 1895. His interest led him to gather cattle horns in his hometown of Wetmore, where many cattle were being dehorned. His first attempt to construct furniture resulted in the table in the exhibit, built in 1896. After his marriage in 1898, both he and his wife built more furniture including the chair exhibited with the table.

Pitcher

Nineteenth-century American potteries looked to long-established European potteries for design sources. Late in the century, however, some potteries began to break away from European tradition and to create works that showed the individual artistry of American potters. Potteries were established from coast to coast in response to the new trend away from mass production and toward artist-produced pieces. Their products were widely available and found their way into many Kansas homes. The Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati, Ohio, was a pioneer in the American art pottery movement. New shapes, new pictorial designs, and new glazes were produced. Designers turned to the Orient for inspiration. The Rookwood pitcher in the exhibit was decorated in 1882 by Albert R. Valentien, a noted ceramic artist. Japanese prints served as sources for many of his designs.
Artifacts in the Exhibition

Teapot
Ca. 1810; porcelain; h. 4½ in., diam. 4½ in.
This Chinese export teapot was used by Rev. and Mrs. Robert Simerwell when they worked at the Pottawatomie Baptist Mission during the 1840s and 1850s. Donated by Susie M. Arnold and the estate of Mary Esther Manley.

Riveting Hammer
1840-1860; steel; l. 6½ in.
The Reverend Robert Simerwell made this small riveting hammer in the blacksmith shop of the Pottawatomie Baptist Mission. Donated by Susie M. Arnold and the estate of Mary Esther Manley.

Surveying Outfit
1845-1855; brass, steel, wood; transit on tripod, h. 6½ in.
Albert D. Searl used this surveying outfit to lay out the towns of Lawrence, Topeka, and Manhattan for settlement in the mid-1850s after Kansas was organized as a territory. The outfit includes a transit, tripod, chain, and box. Donated by Mrs. S. J. Searl.

Comforter Fragment
1855; wool, linen, linsey-woolsey; l. 21¾ in., w. 12½ in.
A comforter was made of Revolutionary War soldiers’ cloaks and was sent from the Boston headquarters of the New England Emigrant Aid Company to the residents of Lawrence. There they auctioned it to raise money to aid their free-state settlement. Only fragments of the comforter remain. Donated by Louisa B. Prentiss Simpson.

Seal
1854-1860; brass; diam. 1¾ in.
The territorial auditor’s office of Kansas embossed many official documents with this seal. Donated by William H. Morris.

Gavel
Ca. 1859; wood; l. 10½ in.
Alfred Larzelere used this gavel to bring the territorial House of Representatives to order. Donated by the heirs of Alfred Larzelere.

Candlesnuffer
Ca. 1830; cast iron; l. 6½ in., w. 2½ in.
Residents of the Presbyterian Mission to the Iowa, Sac and Fox used this candlesnuffer. Donated by W. F. Horn.

Surveyor’s Compass
1845-1855; brass, walnut; l. 15½ in., w. 7 in.
Abolitionist John Brown used this compass while he was employed as a surveyor in territorial Kansas in the 1850s. In addition to the brass compass, the set includes two brass protractors, two brass rules, a plumb bob, and the original walnut case.

Pike
1858-1859; l. 80¾ in.
This is one of about one thousand pikes which John Brown had ordered specially made. Brown intended to arm southern slaves with the pikes and lead them in an insurrection. This particular pike was captured at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, after Brown’s unsuccessful, yet fateful, raid on the federal arsenal there in 1859. Kansas State Historical Society purchase.

Medal
1877; gold; diam. 2¼ in.
This commemorative medal was struck in honor of abolitionist John Brown by French republicans. It was presented to Brown’s widow. Donated by the children of John and Mary Brown.
Compote
Ca. 1860; pressed glass; h. 5 in., w. 7¾ in.
This compote survived the destruction of Lawrence in 1863 by William Clarke Quantrill and his men.
Donated by Mrs. Claude Edmiston.

Presentation Sword
1860-1863; steel, silver; l. 37¾ in.
This exquisite Tiffany-made, silver-hilted presentation sword belonged to James G. Blunt, the first Kansan to achieve the rank of major general during the Civil War. In addition to the sword, the set includes a gilt silver scabbard, a silk sash, and a gilt wire sword knot.
Donated by Mrs. J. H. Gillpatrick and Rufus G. Blunt.

Medal
1864; bronze, silk; l. 4¾ in.
Corporal Samuel Grimshaw earned this congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War at the siege of Atlanta. Grimshaw moved to Kansas after the war.
Donated by Samuel Grimshaw.

Gown
1865; silk; bodice, l. 17½ in., skirt, l. 49¾ in.
Margaret Usher wore this gown at Abraham Lincoln’s second inauguration. Her husband, John Usher, was secretary of the interior under Lincoln and later promoted railroads and practiced law in Kansas.
Donated by Mrs. Linton Joseph Usher.

Boots
Ca. 1870; leather; h. 22 in. (each).
These boots were owned by George Armstrong Custer.
Donated by Elizabeth B. Custer.

Hatchet
1825-1865; iron, steel, wood; l. 15 in.
This saddle hatchet reportedly belonged to Kit Carson, legendary scout and frontiersman. Donated by W. F. Thompson.

Banner
1858; silk; l. 58 in., w. 49 in.
Students of Lombard College in Illinois presented this banner to Abraham Lincoln before one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. The banner was later used in the 1860 presidential campaign in Kansas by Lincoln supporters. Donated by Mrs. Mark Delahay.

Winchester Rifle
1879-1882; iron, walnut; l. 43¾ in.
In 1883, the townspeople of Caldwell, Kansas, presented this custom-made Model 1873 Winchester rifle to Henry N. Brown in gratitude for his services as their marshal. Just a year later, Brown staged an unsuccessful bank robbery in Medicine Lodge. An infuriated mob fatally shot Brown and lynched his three accomplices for murdering the bank’s president and cashier during the holdup. Donated by the James H. Woods Foundation.
Presentation Revolvers
1860-1863; iron, ivory; l. 13½ in. (each).
In 1863, the men of Company A, Sixth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, presented this pair of revolvers to their major, J. Arrel Johnson, "as a token of his soldierly qualities." The silver-plated Model 1863 Remington revolvers have gold-plated cylinders and ivory grips. The presentation inscription is engraved on silver plaques on the grips. Donated by J. Arrell Johnson.

![Presentation Revolvers](image1)

Legislative War. The wood was salvaged by Republican McGowan Hunt. Donated by Mrs. William Warren Powell.

Crandall Hammer
1880-1900; steel; l. 25 in.
A temperance advocate presented this vicious-looking tool to Carry A. Nation. Although originally intended for dressing building stone, Mrs. Nation put it to use in her anti-saloon crusade. Donated by Carry A. Nation.

![Crandall Hammer](image2)

Pin
1901-1911; mother-of-pearl; l. 1½ in.
Pins such as this one were sold at temperance meetings to raise funds. Donated by Mrs. Charles Ray Fuller.

Roster
1898-ca. 1910; paper; l. 21½ in., w. 17½ in.
This roster was printed to commemorate a company of Kansas volunteers that served in the Philippine Insurrection. Donated by the United Spanish War Veterans.

![Roster](image3)

Sledge
1880-1895; steel, hickory; l. 26¾ in.
George L. Douglass, Republican speaker of the house, used this sledge to smash the doors and gain entry to the Populist-controlled house chamber during the Kansas Legislative War in 1893. Donated by George L. Douglass.

![Sledge](image4)

Inkwell
1930; silver plate; h. 4 in.
Charles Curtis, a Kansan who served as vice-president of the United States from 1929 to 1933, was given this silver-plated inkwell. Donated by Margaret L. Seusy.

![Inkwell](image5)

Photographic Print
Ca. 1893-ca. 1940; walnut, paper; l. 10¾ in., w. 8¾ in.
The frame of this photograph was fabricated from a piece of the wooden doors smashed during the Kansas Legislative War. Donated by John Seaton and B. S. Warner.

![Photographic Print](image6)

Shaving Mug
Ca. 1920-ca. 1940; porcelain; h. 3½ in., diam. 4¾ in.
Like many men of his time, Charles Curtis owned a personalized shaving mug. His name is emblazoned across this mug in bold, gilded letters. Donated by Margaret L. Seusy.

![Shaving Mug](image7)
Trophy
1930; sheet metal; h. 10⅜ in.
Radio Digest awarded this trophy to radio station KFKB of Milford as the world's most popular radio station. KFKB was owned by Dr. John R. Brinkley who ran for governor in the 1930s. Donated by Angela Brinkley.

Chair
Ca. 1900; oak; h. 39 in., w. 29 in.
This chair was part of the furniture in the old governor's mansion before Cedar Crest became the official residence of Kansas governors. Donated by the Office of Secretary of State Paul R. Shanahan.

Window
1903; stained glass, painted glass; h. 42 in., w. 78 in.
This window was placed over the door of the beautiful Kansas Building at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Centennial Exposition in Saint Louis. Donated by the Kansas World's Fair Commission.

Saw Set
1895-1910; steel; l. 17½ in.
Walter Chrysler, the automobile manufacturer, first developed his mechanical skills while employed as an apprentice in the shops of the Union Pacific Railroad in Ellis. Lacking money, he learned to make many of his own tools. This saw set, a tool used to set the teeth of saws at alternate angles, was fabricated by Chrysler.

Vase
1947; porcelain; h. 9½ in., diam. 4½ in.
This fine Sevres vase was a gift of appreciation to the people of Kansas from French President Vincent Auriol. Kansans had participated in sending a Southwest Friendship Train loaded with food and supplies to Europe after World War II. Donated by the Office of Governor Frank Carlson.

Barong
1900-1920; steel, silver, ivory; l. 24½ in.
Osa Leighty Johnson, wife of Martin Johnson, acquired this barong, a Moro jungle knife, on the world-famous couple's first exploring trip to Borneo in 1917. The knife has a silver-banded grip and a carved ivory pommel. Donated by the Woman's Kansas Day Club through Belle Leighty.

Ballot Box
1870-1890; wood; l. 22½ in., w. 5 in.
Members of North Topeka GAR Blue Post 250 used this ballot box for voting at their meetings. The painted wooden box is shaped like a ship. Donated by the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Kansas.

Tableware Set
1873-1891; porcelain; plate, diam. 7¾ in., cup, diam. 3¼ in., saucer, diam. 5¼ in.
This plate, cup, and saucer were used in the home of Cyrus K. Holliday, a founder of Topeka and of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. Donated by Mrs. George W. Burpee and Mrs. Frank Smithies.

Medal
1898; gold, silk; l. 4¼ in., w. 1½ in.
Adorned with gems, this medal was presented to Grand Army of the Republic State Commander Theodosius Botkin.
Pipe Bowl
1956; corn cob; h. 2 in.
*This pipe bowl was used as a promotional novelty by Kansan Alfred M. Landon in his bid for the presidency in 1936. Donated by Philip E. Zimmerman.*

Necktie
1932-1944; rayon; l. 47½ in.
*This tie is an example of the novelties used in Franklin D. Roosevelt's several presidential campaigns. Donated by Anita Reid Tannuzzo.*

**Drawing**
1936; ink on paper; h. 17¾ in., w. 13¾ in.
*Cy Hungerford created this pen-and-ink cartoon which illustrated a few of the issues of the 1936 presidential race.*

Poster
1900; lithographic print; w. 24 in., h. 16¾ in.
*This colorful lithograph was one of several used in the presidential campaign between William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan.*

**Ribbon**
1904; silk; l. 16½ in.
*Hugh S. Cooper was awarded this ribbon for the outstanding corn he entered in the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Centennial Exposition in Saint Louis. Donated by H. S. Cooper.*

**Medal**
1870; silver; l. 5 in., w. 3 in.
*Flour milling has always been an important industry in Kansas. The Skelton Mills of Leavenworth was presented this silver medal for its fine wheat flour. Donated by Dora Skelton.*

**Quilt**
Ca. 1890; cotton; l. 37 in., w. 32 in.
*Amanda Elizabeth Gorman of Osborne made this quilt by tracing her little daughter's hand for the handprint appliques. Donated by Agnes Hibbs, Lala Hibbs Morris, and Katherine Taylor Rowland.*

**Clock**
1903-1907; oak; h. 71 in., w. 17¾ in.
*Frank Kaho was a student of woodworking and drafting at the Kansas State Manual Training Normal School, Pittsburg, when he made this clock. Donated by Mrs. Dean Depler.*

**Rolling Pin**
1899; Osage orange; l. 16½ in., diam. 2¼ in.
*John McCreary carved this rolling pin for his daughter. He used the wood of the Osage orange, a tree found in Kansas hedgerows. Donated by Paul M. Reid.*

**Wastebasket**
Ca. 1900; pine; h. 18 in., w. 10½ in.
*Pyrography was a popular home handicraft at the turn of the century. All types of household items were decorated by burning designs into the wood. Donated by the estate of Hattie Mack.*

**Pillow Shams**
Ca. 1880-ca. 1895; cotton; l. 25½ in., w. 27½ in.
The art of embroidery was promoted by late-nineteenth-century women's magazines which often featured designs for embroidered pillow shams in their pages. Donated by Mrs. Dale E. Logan and Mrs. Gordon A. Summers.*
Wreath
Ca. 1860-ca. 1890; hair; h. 36½ in., w. 28¼ in.
The weaving of hair was a popular handicraft of the nineteenth century. The hair was worked into various forms including framed wreaths.

Mug
1907; porcelain; h. 7½ in., diam. 4¼ in.
Many Kansas women applied their artistic talents to decorating china. May Cropper of Pittsburg painted a landscape on this mug. Donated by the Topeka Club.

Cabinet
Ca. 1870-ca. 1900; walnut, pine, paper; h. 23½ in., w. 21½ in.
J. T. Genn of Wamego was one of many men who enjoyed the hobby of fretwork. Using his scrollsaw he made dozens of intricately designed household items such as this cabinet. Donated by J. T. Genn.

Broom
1870; wood, straw; l. 58¼ in., w. 11½ in.
M. M. Maxwell made this broom in Indiana and brought it with him when he moved to Valley Falls in 1870. Donated by Minnie Campbell.

Cream Pitcher
Ca. 1825; earthenware; h. 3½ in., diam. 3¼ in.
The Page family used this copper lustre pitcher in their home in Scotland and brought it with them when they moved to Kansas in the 1890s. Donated by Euphemia B. Page.

Child’s Rocking Chair
Ca. 1850; oak, cane; h. 19½ in., w. 14½ in.
The Delahay family disposed of most of their household goods before they moved from Alabama to Leavenworth in 1856. Three-year-old Julia would not part with her rocking chair, so the family brought it with them. Donated by Mary E. Delahay.

Waffle Iron
Ca. 1750-ca. 1800; cast iron, forged iron; l. 24¾ in., w. 6¼ in.
This waffle iron traveled with the Hart family as they moved from Maryland to Grenola in 1884. Donated by Lester W. Servis.

Table
Ca. 1825; cherry or maple; h. 29 in., l. 42 in.
A covered wagon carried this table to Kansas. It was used in a sod house from 1879 to 1893. Donated by May Rose.

Cream Pitcher
Ca. 1870; earthenware; h. 6½ in., diam. 3½ in.
When Mr. and Mrs. James Wallace moved from Nebraska to Kansas in 1882, Mrs. Wallace carried her cherished majolica pitcher in her lap. Donated by Evangeline L. Hudelson.

Tea Caddy
Ca. 1810-ca. 1840; mahogany, brass; h. 5½ in., w. 5½ in.
Mary Crocele brought this English tea caddy with her when she moved to Kansas in 1857. Donated by the estate of Frances L. B. Rowland.
Smooth Plane  
1853-1870; beech; l. 8 in.

Molding Plane  
1833-1844; beech; l. 9½ in.

Molding Plane  
1833-1844; beech; l. 9½ in.

Level  
1850-1870; wood, brass; l. 12¼ in.

Marking Gauge  
1840-1870; beech; l. 9¼ in.

Calipers  
1840-1870; steel; l. 6¾ in.

Brace  
1840-1870; beech, brass; l. 13½ in.

Bit  
1840-1870; steel; l. 5 in.

Gouge  
1860-1870; steel, wood; l. 8½ in.

Backsaw  
1833-1870; steel, brass, wood; l. 15 in.  
*These tools, many of which were made in Scotland, belonged to carpenter William Bainbridge. Bainbridge was among a small group of Scottish tradesmen and their families who homesteaded an area of Republic County in north-central Kansas in the early 1870s. The area became known as the Scotch Plains. Donated by Wilma V. Berry.*

Lamp  
1910-ca. 1929; nickel-plated metal, glass; h. 22 in. diam. 10¼ in.  
*One of the many products of the Coleman Lamp Company of Wichita was the gasoline lamp. This model was patented in 1910 and was popular through the 1920s. Donated by Claude Brey.*

Silk Fiber Sample  
Ca. 1890; silk; l. 15½ in.  
*Experiments in raising silkworms took place in Kansas from 1869 through the 1890s. The state government established a silk station in Peabody where this dyed sample was produced. Donated by I. V. Horner.*

Coverlet  
1876; wool; l. 85 in., w. 76 in.  
*Henry Adolph was a skilled weaver who worked in Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa before moving to Kansas. He made this jacquard coverlet in Clinton. Kansas State Historical Society purchase.*

Canning Jar  
1901-ca. 1910; mold-blown glass; h. 9¾ in., diam. 4½ in.  
*Coffeyville had natural resources which led to the growth of its brick and glass industries. This canning jar was produced at one of Coffeyville’s glass factories. Donated by Joseph Bidwell.*

Shirt  
Ca. 1913; silk; l. 34 in.  
*The Capital Shirt Factory of Topeka manufactured this silk shirt. Donated by the estate of Robert Billard.*

Plains Rifle  
1860-1890; iron, walnut; l. 49¼ in.  
*Gunsmith John R. Biringer of Leavenworth made this Plains-style rifle. The specimen has a .40 caliber, octagonal barrel and a walnut half stock. Kansas State Historical Society purchase.*

Chair  
Ca. 1861; oak, woven bark; h. 32½ in., w. 17¼ in.  
*Small shops as well as large factories produced necessities for Kansas homes. John W. Worley made this chair in his cabinet shop near Cherryvale. Donated by the Woman's Kansas Day Club.*

Anti-cowkick  
1907-1915; steel; l. 31 in.  
*In 1907, Topekan Alfred B. Smith patented this “anti-cowkick” or “kickers,” a device used to restrain...*
cows from kicking while being hand milked. The shackles were secured firmly around the hamstrings of the cow's rear legs, and the chain was tightened to restrict leg movement. Donated by Mrs. Ted North.

Sales Model of Hay Stacker
1910-1950; steel, wood; l. 90 in., h. 37¼ in.
In 1903, Frank Wyatt of Hoxie received a patent for a portable hay stacker. That same year he founded the F. Wyatt Manufacturing Company in Salina and began to produce and market his "Jayhawk Hay Stacker." This one-fourth scale "Jayhawk" served as the company's sales model. Donated by the F. Wyatt Manufacturing Company.

Cornhusker
1875-1925; antler; l. 5½ in.

Cornhusker
1875-1925; iron; l. 5 in.

Cornhusker
1900-1940; brass, leather; l. 3¾ in.

Cornhusker
1900-1950; steel, leather; l. 5 in.

Cornhusker
1900-1950; steel, leather; l. 5½ in.

Cornhusker
1900-1950; steel, leather; l. 5 in.

Prior to the invention of mechanical corn harvesters, corn had to be laboriously picked and husked by hand. To assist them in their task, farmers used cornhuskers or shucking pegs which enabled them to strip the husk from the ear as they pulled the ear from the stalk. These cornhuskers range from homemade examples of antler and iron to factory-produced types of brass and blued steel. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hunter, Mrs. S. A. McLain, the estate of Johnson Alcott Holmes, Charles Darnell, and an anonymous donor.

Post Rock Fence Post
1880-1885; limestone; h. 55 in.
In central Kansas where wood was scarce, early settlers substituted the readily available, easily worked local limestone, known as post rock, as a material for fence posts. This post was quarried in the 1880s and used in Lincoln County. Donated by the Lincoln Rock and Mineral Club through Harry Raush.

Barbwire (Stubbe Plate, Large Design)
1883-1900; steel; l. 30 in.

Barbwire (Frye's Parallel Design)
1878-1895; steel; l. 21 in.

Barbwire (Kelly's Thorny Fence Design)
1868-1885; steel; l. 23½ in.

Barbwire (Hodge's Spur Wheel Design)
1887-1900; steel; l. 18¾ in.

Barbwire (Allis' Buckthorn Design)
1881-1900; steel; l. 18¾ in.

Barbwire (Allis' Ribbon Design)
1881-1900; steel; l. 18¾ in.

Barbwire (Brink's Lance Design)
1879-1900; steel; l. 18¾ in.

Barbwire (Havenhill's Arrow Point Design)
1879-1900; steel; l. 19¾ in.
Beginning in the 1870s barbwire became a popular, inexpensive fencing material. These are just a few of the hundreds of different and unusual designs patented in the nineteenth century. Donated by Mrs. W. M. Richards, Thomas Patrick Barr, and Thomas Patrick Barr, Jr.

Drug Mill
1890-1920; iron, steel; h. 45 in.
Petro's Drug Store in Topeka used this large coffee-type mill to grind ingredients for medicines to treat...
ailments of livestock. The mill, made by the Enterprise Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia, bears decals of patriotic motifs and floral designs. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Petro.

Jigsaw
1877-1890; iron, wood; h. 40% in.
Jigsaws or scrollsaws were used during the Victorian period to produce the elaborate scroll and perforated designs associated with furniture styles then in vogue. Hobbyist J. T. Genn of Wamego used this jigsaw to make ornate fretwork furniture. Donated by the estate of J. T. Genn.

Anvil
1875-1925; steel; l. 31 in., h. 11¼ in.

Tire Measuring Wheel (Traveler)
1880-1930; iron; l. 12 in.

Hoop Tongs
1880-1940; iron; l. 21½ in.

Hollow Bit Tongs
1880-1940; iron; l. 18¾ in.

Punch
1880-1940; steel; l. 17¼ in.

Apron
1900-1940; leather; l. 33¾ in.
This group of blacksmithing tools was used in the Turnbull blacksmith shop which operated continuously as a family business in Maple Hill from 1888 through the 1950s. Donated by the estate of John Turnbull, Jr.

Dental Instrument Kit
1840-1875; steel, ivory, rosewood; case, l. 17 in., w. 10 in.
This set of ivory-handled dental instruments with rosewood case was used by Eben Palmer. He practiced his profession in Jackson County from 1881 until his retirement in 1907. Donated by F. R. Palmer.

Lithographer's Stone
Ca. 1905; stone; l. 10 in., w. 9 in.
This lithographer's stone was used by the Hall Lithographing Company of Topeka to print checks and receipts. Donated by Clarence M. Locke.

Line Gauge
Ca. 1900-ca. 1930; brass; l. 13¾ in.
Used much like a ruler, this line gauge was used by a printer to measure type. Donated by John A. Ogle.

Leg-iron
1867-1890; iron, leather; l. 14 in., h. 8¾ in.
Patented in Oregon in 1876, this variation of a ball and chain was used at the Kansas State Penitentiary in Lansing. Known as the "Oregon Boot," it featured an ankle weight supported on top of an iron frame attached to a shoe. Donated by the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Outside Calipers
1900-1930; steel, brass; l. 12½ in.

Rule Calipers
1900-1930; brass; l. 9¾ in.

Rule Calipers
1900-1930; brass; l. 27¾ in.
The Bertillon system is a method of criminal identification which uses calipers to take precise body measurements. In the early 1900s, fingerprinting began gradually to supplant this system as a means of identification. This set of three Bertillon calipers was used at the Kansas State Penitentiary in Lansing. Donated by the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Paperweight
Ca. 1910-ca. 1920; glass; l. 4¼ in., w. 2⅞ in.
This paperweight was probably distributed as an advertising novelty by the I. M. Yost Milling Company of Hays. Donated by Leota Motz.
Relief Block
Ca. 1910-ca. 1940; wood; l. 18½ in., w. 8¾ in.
This relief block was used to print advertisements for the Smith Truss Company of Topeka.

Trade Sign
Ca. 1865; painted wood; h. 59 in.
The wooden Indian has always been the familiar trademark of tobacco shops. This figure was brought to Topeka in 1871 and was located at Henry Moezer's Cigar Store on Kansas Avenue. Donated by Hedwig Wulke.

Display Horse
Ca. 1890-ca. 1905; papier-mâché; l. 94 in., h. 87 in.
This life-size papier-mâché horse was used to fit and display saddles and harnesses in the shop of Fox and Son in Anthony. Donated by Clarence E. Fox.

Sales Model of Saddle
1875-1890; leather, wood; l. 14½ in., h. 17½ in.
The Robert E. Rice Saddlery located on Dodge City's notorious Front Street displayed this small-scale western saddle as a sales model. Donated by Clifford H. Rice.

Hairbrush
Ca. 1895-ca. 1910; rubber, bristle; l. 5¾ in., w. 2¼ in.
At the turn of the century many people believed static electricity could cure various ailments. Dr. Scott's Electric Hairbrush was supposed to relieve headaches. Donated by the estate of G. C. Wegele.

Serving Dish
Ca. 1895; ironstone; h. 5 in., l. 9¾ in.
Ironstone china tableware made in Britain flooded the late-nineteenth-century American market. The tea leaf pattern of this dish was popular throughout the country and was featured in the Sears, Roebuck and Company catalogs. Donated by Maj. and Mrs. M. V. Liepman.

Trinket Box
Ca. 1885; silver plate; h. 5¼ in., w. 4¾ in.
The East Coast silver plate industry allowed people to buy cheap goods that looked expensive. Items like this box designed to hold pins, jewelry, and other trinkets were readily available to Kansans. Donated by Dr. Charles L. Overlander.

Scrap
Ca. 1880-ca. 1900; chromolithographed paper; Santa sheet, w. 4½ in., doves, w. 3½ in., animals, w. 2½ in.
Collecting scrap was a fashionable late-nineteenth-century pastime. The colorful paper figures were imported from England and Germany. Scrap was pasted in scrapbooks and was used to adorn calling cards and to make Christmas decorations. Donated by Gertie Maurer and an anonymous donor.

Medicine Box
Ca. 1880-ca. 1930; cardboard, paper; h. 7¼ in., w. 6½ in.
Kansans could ease their pains with their own “Kansas Headache Cure.” This medicine was the product of Dr. Chester L. Stocks, a Bushong druggist. Donated by George Baldomino.

Medicine Bottle
Ca. 1925; molded glass; h. 8½ in., w. 3 in.
The A. B. Seelye Medical Company of Abilene was one of the few large patent medicine producers in the central prairie states. Its “Wasa-Tusa” promised to cure the ills of man or beast. Donated by Mrs. F. E. Frisby.

Sled
Ca. 1880; pine; l. 38 in.
Sleds have been used for many years, offering children a recreational device for winter fun. This sled was bought by the Jetmore family of Kansas around 1880. Donated by Henry C. and Margaret Jetmore Mulroy.
Billiard Balls
Ca. 1860-ca. 1870; ivory; diam. 1¾ in. (each).
*An OZawke poolroom possessed these solid ivory billiard balls around the Civil War era. Donated by Frank M. Skelton.*

Bowling Ball
Ca. 1880-ca. 1900; burlwood; diam. 8¼ in.
*This wooden bowling ball was used in Burlingame at a recreational hall. It features two sets of two fingerholes of different sizes so that it can fit several people. Donated by Charles Goebel.*

Roller Skates
Ca. 1860-ca. 1880; pine; l. 10¾ in. (each).
*A bed brought to Kansas in 1855 provided the material for these handmade roller skates. Donated by George J. Remsburg.*

Golf Bag
Ca. 1910-ca. 1930; canvas; l. 32 in.

Golf Club
Ca. 1910-ca. 1930; hickory, wood; l. 44½ in.

Golf Club
Ca. 1910-ca. 1930; hickory, forged steel; l. 39 in.

Golf Club
Ca. 1910-ca. 1930; hickory, forged steel; l. 37 in.

Golf Club
Ca. 1910-ca. 1930; hickory, forged steel; l. 35 in.
*Hickory-shafted clubs such as these were used on many golf courses early in this century. Hickory was gradually replaced by steel and various other materials. Donated by Lyal Dudley.*

Trophy
1926; silver; h. 16½ in.
*The Goldsmith trophy was presented to the Milford Goats for their championship season. This baseball team was owned by Dr. John R. Brinkley, who gained nationwide fame for his implantation of goat glands in humans. Donated by Angela Brinkley.*

Football Game
Ca. 1927; sheet steel; l. 13¼ in.
*Many children played games such as this one advertised in the 1927 Sears catalog. Donated by Robert W. Richmond.*

Card Game
1903-ca. 1910; paper; w. 5¼ in.
*Gavitt’s Stock Exchange card game was manufactured in Topeka. Its appeal was based on the thrill of the stock market, with cards indicating shares in various railroad companies. Donated by Earl G. Radenz.*

Semimechanical Bank
1875-1895; cast iron; h. 5¾ in.
*The figure of this bank was based on William Marcy “Boss” Tweed, the corrupt New York City politician. When a coin is placed in Tweed’s hand, the hand “pockets” the coin just as the real-life figure “pocketed” many dollars. Donated by Opal C. Teeter Robbins.*

Still Bank
1907-ca. 1925; cast iron; h. 5¾ in.
*Comic-strip characters provided subjects for manufacturers of banks. This Mutt and Jeff bank was probably produced soon after that comic strip made its debut in 1907. Donated by Nyle H. Miller.*

Mah-jongg
Ca. 1925-ca. 1940; bone, bamboo; l. 9¾ in., h. 6½ in.
*During the 1920s mah-jongg became the most popular parlor game, and sets of bone or ivory could be found in many homes. Donated by the estate of George McGill.*

Mechanical Toy
1906-ca. 1909; tin; l. 7¾ in.
*German manufacturers of tin toys enjoyed enormous success throughout the United States before World War I. The war forced this industry to produce war materials instead of entertainment items. Donated by the estate of Dr. Lamoile Rush and Ella Cullen King.*
Building Blocks
1880-ca. 1905; stone; l. 13⅜ in.
This stone construction set of 260 pieces challenged children’s imaginations. Similar sets were popular among the nobility in Europe to teach their children architecture.

Brist
1903-ca. 1920; wood; racket, l. 23 in., boomerang, l. 15 in., w. 15 in.
Manufactured in Topeka, Brist enjoyed success as a lawn game when croquet and tennis were very popular. Kansas State Historical Society purchase.

Painting
1878; oil on canvas; w. 28 in., h. 18¾ in.
Topekan Henry Worrall created his vision of Drouthy Kansas, a land he considered blessed with excellent rainfall and harvests.

Painting
1838; watercolor on ivory; h. 5½ in., w. 4½ in.
Painted on a thin sheet of ivory, this portrait of Mark W. Delahay is finely detailed. Delahay became a prominent Kansas politician. Donated by Mary E. Delahay.

Painting
1867; watercolor on paper; w. 20½ in., h. 14 in.
Attack on Gen. Marcy’s Train was painted by Pvt. Hermann Steffel, a private in the U.S. Infantry which took part in this engagement with Cheyenne forces. Donated by Mrs. Berth Kitchell Whyte.

Drawing
1892-1893; pastel; h. 72¾ in., w. 62½ in.
Henrietta Briggs-Wall of Hutchinson copyrighted American Woman and Her Political Peers and commissioned another Hutchinson native to draw the work. This pastel created quite a stir at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Donated by Henrietta Briggs-Wall.

Painting
1897; oil on canvas; w. 44 in., h. 35 in.
Samuel J. Reader of Topeka created Battle of Big Blue depicting a Civil War engagement in which he took part. Reader, a member of the Second Kansas State Militia, was captured by Confederates at Big Blue.

Statue
1978; bronze; w. 29½ in., h. 17 in.
The bronze has long been a popular western art form. The Hide Hunter, created by Charlie Norton of Leoti, is an example of this art. Kansas State Historical Society purchase.
Carving  
Ca. 1920-1927; painted wood; h. 7¼ in.  
*Fred Douglas showed a great talent for carving figures, then assembling them in bottles. Donated by Rhetta Hood.*

Sideboard  
1870-1880; walnut; h. 88½ in., w. 47½ in.  
The elaborate Renaissance Revival styling of the sideboard was fashionable before popular taste dictated a return to less complicated furniture.

Sideboard  
Ca. 1900-ca. 1910; oak; h. 63½ in., w. 50½ in.  
The clean lines and simple ornamentation of Arts-and-Crafts-style furniture had nationwide appeal.  
*Donated by Barbara Mertz.*

Table  
1896; cattle horns, pine; h. 28 in., w. 27 in.

Chair  
1898-ca. 1900; cattle horns, walnut, fabric; h. 38 in., w. 24½ in.  
Furniture made of cattle horns was popular in the late nineteenth century. Charles and Nancy Ellen Calwell of Wetmore made several pieces including this table and chair. Donated by Charles A. Calwell.

High Chair/Stroller  
Ca. 1910; oak; h. 41 in., w. 17½ in.  
*With the flip of a latch the seat can be lowered and the legs spread out to convert this high chair into a stroller. Donated by Opal C. Teeter.*

Child’s Lounge  
Ca. 1902; walnut, fabric; h. 22 in., l. 42 in.  
*This scaled-down version of an adult lounge or fainting couch furnished the backyard playhouse of Saraleen Curtis of Topeka. Donated by Saraleen Curtis.*

Fish Knife  
Ca. 1870-ca. 1895; silver plate, shell; l. 12 in., w. 3½ in.  
*As the elaborate marine motif on the blade indicates, this utensil was designed solely for serving fish. Donated by Mary E. Delahay.*

Compote  
Ca. 1880-ca. 1890; pressed glass; h. 14½ in., diam. 8½ in.  
The log cabin, buffalo, and Indian pictured on this pressed glass compote commemorate the nineteenth-century American fascination with the West. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Grogger.

Bride’s Bowl  
Ca. 1885; silver plate, glass; h. 17 in., diam. 11½ in.  
*Lavishly decorated bride’s bowls were popular wedding gifts during the 1880s. Donated by Mrs. Vernon E. McArthur.*

Tray  
Ca. 1870-ca. 1885; papier-mâché; l. 30 in., w. 24 in.  
Papier-mâché was a material that was well suited to the eclectic embellishments of Victorian design. A picture of a dog, a gilded border, and inlaid abalone shell adorn this example. Donated by Zulu Adams.
Pitcher
1882; earthenware; h. 8½ in., diam. 6½ in.
This pitcher is a product of the Rookwood Pottery. It was decorated by Albert R. Valentinien, a pioneering artist of the American art pottery movement. Donated by Mrs. Richard J. Tratt.

Colt Revolver
1884; iron, ivory; l. 10½ in.
The Colt Single Action Army Revolver, colloquially known as the “Peacemaker” and “Frontier Six-shooter,” has become a classic symbol of the Wild West. This extensively engraved, nickel-plated .45 caliber Colt features carved ivory grips in the shape of a steerhead. Donated by Andrew Sughrue.

Escapement
1896; brass; l. 4⅛ in., w. 2⅛ in.
Topekan Alonzo Thomas made this escapement at watchmaking school in order to prove his skills before graduating. Donated by the estate of Alonzo Thomas.

Instructional Model of Locomotive Engine
1900-1940; iron; l. 29½ in., h. 9¼ in.
Instructors at the Santa Fe Railway’s apprentice school at Dodge City used this model to demonstrate how a steam locomotive engine works. The hand crank at the left powers the model. Donated by Charles Goebel.

Patent Model of Grain Separator
1877; wood, steel; l. 11¾ in., w. 7¾ in.
In 1878, Thaddeus Histed of Salina received a patent for a grain separator, a device used to clean chaff and other debris from grain. He submitted this model to the United States Patent Office to illustrate his invention. Kansas State Historical Society purchase.

Bandolier and Pouch
Ca. 1880-ca. 1925; loom beading, cotton, velvet; l. 43 in., w. 13 in.
Once a functional shoulder bag, the bandolier and pouch evolved into a non-functional item of ceremonial dress. The colorful floral beadwork patterns of this example are typical Woodland Indian motifs. Donated by Mrs. Fred Garwood.

Electrotherapy Machine
1860-1900; mahogany, steel; l. 10 in., w. 4½ in.
In the nineteenth century, static electricity was a commonly accepted cure for almost every sort of malady. “Davis & Kidder's Patent Magneto-Electric Machine” for nervous diseases was a popular remedy during this period. Donated by Roy Faulkner.

Sod Plow
1875-1880; iron, steel, wood; l. 80 in., h. 35 in.
Early settlers on the prairies used sod plows to turn over the thick, virgin sod. The unusual rod moldboard helped to reduce soil friction, but its peculiar appearance earned for the tool the name “grasshopper plow.” Donated by John L. Agnew.
Disc Plow
1926; iron, steel; l. 108 in., w. 78 in., h. 60 in.
In the 1920s, Charles Angell of Plains developed a disc plow especially adapted for wheat farming in the dry and windy High Plains. Marketed as the “Angell One Way Disc Plow,” it changed dryland farming methods. Angell used this small, four-foot model in his family’s vegetable garden. Donated by C. Francis Angell.

Boring Machine
1875-1900; steel, wood; l. 28½ in., h. 24 in.
Around the middle of the nineteenth century, boring machines began to be substituted for, but did not entirely replace, augers as a means of drilling holes in wood. Donated by Carl Puderbaugh.

Fruit Parer
Ca. 1885-ca. 1920; cast iron; h. 10½ in., w. 8½ in.
Not only was the fruit parer a great labor-saving device, but its gears and wheels could be decorated to produce a functional tool of pleasing design. Donated by Henry C. Vangampolard.

Butter Churn
Ca. 1880; oak, various woods, cast iron; l. 108 in., h. 63 in.
The McFaddens of Peabody put their dog to work on the treadmill of this butter churn. Donated by the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel McFadden.