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: Cantonment Leavenworth in 1827, as depicted in a somewhat romanticized view published in 1902. Situated on the west bank of the Missouri River, the cantonment (later fort) was home for a remarkable family of women, Catharine Hertzog and her daughters, whose story is told in “The Pleasures of Female Society” in this issue. Later, young Billy Cody, who became famous as Buffalo Bill, spent his childhood near Fort Leavenworth absorbing tales of western adventure from the freighters and frontiersmen who frequented the area. These early experiences undoubtedly formed the basis of some of the episodes described in his autobiography, as John S. Gray points out in sorting fact from fiction in Cody's Kansas boyhood.
Maxine Benson, Editor
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Fact versus Fiction in the
Kansas Boyhood of Buffalo Bill
by John S. Gray

“The Pleasures of Female Society”
at Cantonment Leavenworth
by Daniel D. and Marilyn Irwin Holt

Growing Up in Kansas
by Blanche Beal Lowe

Manifest Destiny in the Midwest:
Selected Kansans and the Philippine Question
by Barry Hankins

Book Reviews

Picture Credits