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.

OFFICERS
R. Reed Whitaker, Overland Park, President
Ellen May Stanley, Dighton, First Vice-President
Paul E. Wilson, Lawrence, Second Vice-President
Ramon S. Powers, Topeka, Secretary
Colene Bailes, Topeka, Treasurer

Ex Officio members
R. Reed Whitaker, Overland Park
Ellen May Stanley, Dighton
Paul E. Wilson, Lawrence
J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita

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: This bird’s-eye view of Lawrence from 1858 provides an idea of the settlement described by Edward Fitch in his letters written from Lawrence between 1855 and 1863. Some of the view, however, is more representative of the boosterism practiced by settlers and speculators, including Edward Fitch: a bridge is shown in this 1858 view, when in fact none existed for another six years, and substantial buildings are illustrated where none ever existed. Along with the letters of Edward Fitch are those of his wife Sarah, who wrote a graphic heartrending account of Quantrill’s raid in which Edward was killed.

The back cover photograph represents the Kansas Geological Survey, celebrating its centennial this year and chronicled in an article in this issue of Kansas History.

The remaining articles in this issue carry educational themes. Donald J. Berthrong’s study of Southern Cheyennes and Arapahos provides a look at educational opportunities for Native Americans while Nona Brown Thompson’s firsthand account of teaching in a one-room country school reminds of a vanishing American symbol of education.