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 and back cover: Football, a sport with professional, college and high school teams, is a part of Kansas's social history. Teams, such as Hoisington's 1991 undefeated champions (back cover), have played the game to cheering fans, and as Christopher H. Lee points out in "Adaptation on the Plains: The Development of Six-Man and Eight-Man Football in Kansas," the traditional eleven-man game underwent changes in Kansas.

"Adaptation on the Plains" is an apt theme for the articles in this issue of Kansas History. L. Samuel Tillman, as presented by Professor Dwight L. Smith, came to Kansas for his first tour of duty west of West Point. Tillman saw the state after the Civil War, and his descriptions provide a glimpse at his response to frontier and military life. Not long after Tillman left Kansas, black settlers moved into Hodgeman County. Adaptation for them was an absolute necessity; their story is told by C. Robert Haywood. And there is the adaptation of complex fence and herd laws to Kansas land, farming and ranching, as detailed in the article by Alvin Peters.

Life on the plains requires a flexibility and adaptability of people and their responses. The four articles in this issue illustrate some ways in which residents of Kansas have adapted to their social and physical environment.
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Marilyn J. Holt, Editor
Bobbie Pray, Associate Editor
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Adaptation on the Plains: The Development of Six-Man and Eight-Man Football in Kansas
by Christopher H. Lee

The Kansas Frontier, 1869-1870: Lt. Samuel Tillman's First Tour of Duty
edited by Dwight L. Smith

The Hodgeman County Colony
by C. Robert Haywood

Posts and Palings, Posts and Planks
by Alvin Peters

Comments by the President:
1989 Presidential Address
by R. Reed Whitten

Book Reviews

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