When the Memorial Building at Tenth and Jackson, aka the Center for Historical Research, was dedicated on May 27, 1914, thousands attended what the Topeka State Journal called "a great patriotic occasion befitting the history it commemorates." Governor George H. Hodges, the state's nineteenth chief executive, welcomed the throng, saying "the magnificence of this building only befits the glorious record of the soldier boy from Kansas, the history of whose deeds it is intended to preserve and perpetuate." On October 7, 1995, nearly four thousand people attended a very different, day-long celebration at the Kansas History Center; this event marked the opening of another chapter in the Society's history.

Archivist of the United States John Carlin, the fortieth governor of the state of Kansas (1979–1987), delivered some fitting dedicatory remarks. In part, he said: "With the opening of the Center [for Historical Research] the Kansas State Historical Society takes a significant step forward in preserving the state's history and most importantly making it available to the public. . . . This dedication today is the culmination of a vision many associated with the Museum, the Center, and the Historical Society have had for many years. As one who has been around or was around when the planning for this day began, I know what this day means to all of us." Archivist Carlin reminded the audience that "those of us entrusted with preserving public records today face challenges far more difficult than we resolved while I was a legislator and governor," and then spoke of the peculiar problems and opportunities of this electronic age. "It is important to remember that archives are a public trust," concluded the former governor.

"We need to do more than provide a nice place for historian to do research. We have a responsibility to enable average citizens to inspect for themselves the record of what government has done. We have a responsibility to enable officials and agencies to review their actions and help citizens hold them accountable for those actions. If we meet these responsibilities, we can help raise the public's confidence in government. While the challenges are many, I am excited on what lies ahead. We have a chance through archives to provide a really meaningful public service to the American people, and we will do it by working together—Washington and Kansas; federal, state, and local governments—to make it happen. I look forward to making this vision of openness and accessibility all a reality in the months and years ahead. I congratulate you on the completion of a project that was just a vision a few years ago, and through hard work, careful planning, and support from policy makers has become a reality."
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