As our readers well know, in anticipation of Kansas’s sesquicentennial commemoration in 2004, Kansas History launched a review essay series with the autumn 2001 issue. Co-edited by Professor Rita G. Napier of the University of Kansas, whose essay “Rethinking the Past, Reimagining the Future” served as its introduction, the series has already explored such important themes as Bleeding Kansas, water, literature, race, and art. In coming volumes we intend to examine Kansas historiography as it relates to children, women, American Indians, the military, transportation, politics, agriculture, and reform, among others, perhaps. We remain convinced, as noted in the autumn 2001 issue, “that these contributions will serve a useful purpose, calling attention to the importance of recent writings and encouraging our readers to see Kansas history differently. Hopefully, the series also will inspire some to take research and writing in new directions.” Most importantly, to paraphrase a line from Kansas History’s inaugural issue penned by its first editor, as the journal begins its second quarter century, we hope you, our readers, continue to enjoy and benefit from whatever appears between our covers, and we always welcome your comments and suggestions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume 25</th>
<th>Winter 2002–2003</th>
<th>Number 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THE WHITEFORD FAMILY OF SALINA: MID-TWENTIETH-CENTURY AVOCATIONAL ARCHEOLOGISTS</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by Donna C. Roper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THE EDUCATION OF AN INTELLECTUAL: GEORGE S. COUNTS AND TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY KANSAS</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by Claudia J. Keenan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KANSANS AND THE VISUAL ARTS</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review Essay by William Tsutsui and Marjorie Swann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REVIEWS</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BOOK NOTES</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INDEX</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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THE SOCIETY was organized by Kansas newspaper editors and publishers in 1875 and soon became the official trustee for the state's historical collections, since that time the Society has operated both as a nonprofit membership organization and as a specially recognized society supported by appropriations from the state of Kansas. A ninety-nine-member board of directors, through its executive committee, governs the Society, which is administered by an executive director and an assistant executive director.

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Kansas History is distributed to members of the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc. All persons are cordially invited to join the Society. Annual membership dues are: basic $30, family $55, donor $50–$499, sponsor $500, benefactor $1,000, and patron $2,500 or more. Call 785-272-8681, ext. 232. Corporate membership information is available upon request. Issues of Kansas History are $6 each ($9 for double issues) available from the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099; 785-272-8681, ext. 454.

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Kansas History is published quarterly by the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., and contains scholarly articles, edited documents, and other materials that contribute to an understanding of the history and cultural heritage of Kansas and the Central Plains. Political, social, intellectual, cultural, economic, and institutional histories are welcome, as are biographical and historiographical interpretations and studies of archeology, the built environment, and material culture. Articles emphasizing visual documentation, exceptional reminiscences, and autobiographical writings also are considered for publication. Genealogical studies generally are not accepted.

Manuscripts are evaluated anonymously by appropriate scholars who determine the suitability for publication based on the manuscript's originality, quality of research, significance, and presentation, among other factors. Previously published articles or manuscripts that are being considered for publication elsewhere will not be considered. The editors reserve the right to make changes in accepted articles and will consult with authors regarding such. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors.

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Individuals wishing to provide additional support for the Society’s work may want to consider contributions in the form of gifts or bequests. If you would like more information about how you can provide a gift or join our LEGACY CIRCLE, which recognizes the generosity and foresight of individuals who have provided bequests to the Society, please contact the Chief Executive Officer, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc. The Society is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, and donations are deductible in accordance with IRS code section 170.

Kansas History follows the Chicago Manual of Style, published by the University of Chicago Press (14th ed., rev., 1995). A style sheet, which includes a detailed explanation of the editorial policy, is available upon request. Articles appearing in Kansas History are abstracted and/or indexed in Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life. The journal is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing, which includes a plaque and an honorarium of two hundred dollars, is awarded each year for the best article published by Kansas History.

The editor welcomes letters responding to any of the articles published in this journal. With the correspondent’s permission, those that contribute substantively to the scholarly dialogue by offering new insights or historical information may be published. All comments or editorial queries should be addressed to Virgil W. Dean, editor, Kansas History A Journal of the Central Plains, 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099; 785-272-8681, ext. 274; e-mail: vdean@kshs.org.
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