This May 2004 the nation will mark the fiftieth anniversary of Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. No doubt many Americans will, as they should, ask, why did this landmark civil rights case originate in Topeka? Perhaps, however, as Professor Paul E. Wilson wrote in A Time to Lose: Representing Kansas in Brown v. Board of Education (1995), a better question would be, why not Topeka, Kansas?

In reality, of course, Brown was not just about Topeka. It was actually five cases originating in four states (Virginia, South Carolina, Delaware, and Kansas) and the District of Columbia, which collectively became known as Brown v Board when they reached the U.S. Supreme Court for the first time in the fall of 1952. Litigation of the Topeka case commenced two years earlier when the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and a number of African American parents challenged the constitutionality of the Kansas statute that in 1950 authorized twelve cities in Kansas to maintain segregated elementary schools; the Topeka district consisted of twenty-two elementary schools, four of which were designated for black children.

The first trial of the Brown case took place in the summer of 1951. The board of education won because the schools were found to be of equal quality. But in his opinion for the lower court, presiding Judge Walter A. Huxman, a former Kansas governor, essentially sided with the plaintiffs. Huxman argued that separate schools by their very nature were not equal; however, in this judge’s opinion, it was up to the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on constitutionality, since precedent favored the defendants.

And so it did. Almost three years later, on May 17, 1954, writing for a unanimous court on May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren struck down the “separate-but-equal doctrine.” But the momentous decision, immediately heralded as the end of all “Jim Crow,” did not change the nation overnight. Indeed, in part because Brown was a decision in favor of neighborhood schools and because the Supreme Court adopted a “go slow” approach, separate schools such as the one depicted above continued. Nevertheless, as journalist Richard Kluger (Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America’s Struggle for Equality, 1976) concluded, “Probably no case ever to come before the nation’s highest tribunal affected more directly the minds, hearts, and daily lives of so many Americans.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume 26</th>
<th>Winter 2003–2004</th>
<th>Number 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL PLAINS ENTREPRENEURS: THE RISE AND FALL OF GOLDSMITH'S INC., 1878–2003</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>by Scott Dalrymple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“LIGHT THE BEAUTY AROUND YOU”: THE ART COLLECTION OF THE KANSAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>by William M. Tsutsui and Marjorie Swann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHY THE HISTORY OF KANSAS LAW HAS NOT BEEN WRITTEN</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>Presidential Address by Michael H. Hoeflich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN INDIANS IN KANSAS</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>Review Essay by Donald L. Fixico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDITOR'S NOTE</td>
<td>288</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVIEWS</td>
<td>290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOK NOTES</td>
<td>297</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX</td>
<td>298</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Brian Moline, Topeka, Chair
Glee Smith, Lawrence, Vice Chair
Jack Alexander, Topeka
Kathleen Holt, Cimarron
Annie Kuether, Topeka
James Logan, Olathe
Barbara Magner, Overland Park
Alicia L. Salisbury, Topeka
Derek Schmidt, Independence
Clinton L. Stalker, Satanta

Paul K. Stuewe, Lawrence
Mary Turkington, Topeka
Mark Viets, Fairway

OFFICERS
William Tsutsui, Lawrence, President
Hal Rose, Wichita, President-elect
Brian Moline, Topeka, Vice President
Michael Hoeflich, Lecompton, Immediate Past President
Cheryl Collins, Manhattan, Secretary
Don Schepker, Topeka, Treasurer

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 one-hundred-two-member board of directors (three of whom are appointed by the governor), through its executive committee, governs the state Society, which is administered by an executive director.

MEMBERSHIP

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: individual $40, household/family $50, donor $100; sponsor $1,000. Call 785-272-8681, ext. 222. Corporate membership information is available upon request. Issues of Kansas History are $7.00 each (double issues $12.00) available from the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099; 785-272-8681, ext. 454.

E D I T O R I A L  P O L I C I E S

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.

Kansas History follows the Chicago Manual of Style, published by the University of Chicago Press (15th ed., rev., 2003). A style sheet, which includes a detailed explanation of the editorial policy, is available on 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 Langsdorff 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@khs.org.

I L L U S T R A T I O N  C R E D I T S

Cover: Househang Gallery, Santa Fe, N.M.; inside front cover: Kansas Collection, University of Kansas Libraries; back cover, 238 (advertisement) KSHS; 238 (Goldsmith photo) Rodger Arst; 240 Cowley County Historical Society; 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 247 Rodger Arst; 248 Publishers’ Weekly; 249, 250 Rodger Arst; 251 Herman Miller Corp.; 252–253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 263, 265 KSHS; 266 University Archives, University of Kansas; 267, 268, 271, 273 KSHS; 277 Charles Goslin; 278 KSHS; 281 Gilcrease Museum; 282, 284, 287, 288 KSHS.