During the first decades of the last century, postcards were a popular means of communication that allowed the sender to share something of personal significance—a family, a home, a local business. They were also a medium through which one could promote a city or a state, express humor, or advocate for a cause. Although the origins and purpose of this particular postcard image are unknown, it is not difficult to imagine it being “used to promote equal suffrage for Sunflower State women.”

Political corruption was widespread in the late nineteenth century, and reformers insisted that American society needed a real “house cleaning.” To truly accomplish this, they argued, women needed a measure of political equality—they needed the vote. The Kansas struggle for equal suffrage continued until, finally, in 1912 the vote for women was enshrined in the Kansas constitution. Dan D. Casement, the subject of one of this issue’s feature articles, championed the rights of women and children during the Progressive Era. His support of women’s suffrage is not surprising, insists the author, since his mother’s friends included Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. “A Sunflower of Kansas” and many other such postcard images can be viewed on KansasMemory.org.
“To Help Foster Athletic Equality Here in the Midwest”: Defeating Jim Crow in the Big Seven Conference
by S Zebulon Baker

A Progressive Rancher Opposes the New Deal: The Political Journey of Dan Casement
by Daniel T. Gresham

The Lender and the Modern The Competition to Claim Ownership of the Center of the Nation
by Jaclyn J.S. Miller

Reviews

Book Notes
Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains is published quarterly through a partnership between the Kansas Historical Foundation and the Department of History at Kansas State University. The Kansas Historical Foundation serves as a fund-raising, fund management, membership, and retail organization to support and promote the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency that safeguards and shares the state’s history through the collection, preservation, and interpretation of its past. The Society’s collections and programs are diverse and are made available through its library and museum in Topeka, historic sites and classrooms across the state, and publications and web-based resources accessible everywhere. The Department of History at Kansas State University is especially well-suited to the study of Kansas, agricultural, and environmental history. As a Land Grant school whose culture and economy have historically been shaped by the economy in the state, the history of Kansas holds a venerable place in the academic offerings of the University. Environmental history, with a particular focus on agricultural, water, and grassland issues in Kansas, has become increasingly more important to university research and curricula worldwide.

The journal is available as one of many benefits of membership with the Kansas Historical Foundation. Find more information online at kshs.org/11413.

The journal publishes 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 archaeology, the built environment, and material culture. Articles emphasizing visual documentation, exceptional reminiscences, and autobiographical writings are also considered for publication. Genealogical studies are generally not accepted.

Manuscripts are evaluated anonymously by scholars who determine their suitability for publication based on 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 the authors regarding such. The publishers assume no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors.

Illustrations appearing in the journal, unless otherwise noted, are from the collections of the Kansas Historical Society. Reproductions of images from the Society’s collections are available for purchase. Please contact the State Archives Division for ordering information: kshs.org/14154; 785-272-8681, ext. 132.

Kansas History (USPS 290 620) is published quarterly by the Kansas Historical Foundation, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099 (ks hs.org), officially the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., an IRS determined 501(c)(3) non-profit. It is distributed to members of the Kansas Historical Foundation. Annual membership rates are $30 for students, $40 for individuals, $50 for organizations, $60 for households, and $70 for international. Single issues are $7. Contact Vicky Henley, executive director and CEO, Kansas Historical Foundation, at 785-272-8681, ext. 201, for more information. Periodicals postage paid at Topeka, Kansas, and additional mailing office in Lawrence, Kansas. Postmaster: Send address changes to Kansas History, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099.
The Last Wild Places of Kansas
Journeys into Hidden Landscapes
George Frazier

“George Frazier takes you to some little known and under-appreciated natural spots in Kansas. His heartfelt affection and evocative descriptions will make you want to hit the road and experience these places for yourself.”—Rex Buchanan, Director of Kansas Geological Survey

“I thoroughly enjoyed The Last Wild Places of Kansas: Journeys into Hidden Landscapes as I too love to visit interesting and obscure Kansas locales. George Frazier interjects historical details and a wry sense of humor into these accounts of his fascinating travels to remarkable locations in Kansas, off the beaten path.”—Laura Calwell, Kansas Riverkeeper for Friends of the Kaw, Inc. from 2003 to 2012.

“My imagination didn’t have to go far to visualize the last wild places of Kansas. George Frazier writes with such detail that you can feel each place that he explores, including the Kansas River and his journey along her path. This book is a passage to sharing our beautiful Kansas with the world. I love that he writes, ‘you don’t have to own land or grow up on a farm to have a strong connection to wild places.’ Well said, Mr. Frazier.”—Dawn Buehler, Kansas Riverkeeper for Friends of the Kaw, Inc.

232 pages, 10 photographs, 1 map, Cloth $24.95, Ebook $24.95

American Serengeti
The Last Big Animals of the Great Plains
Dan Flores

“A big and haunting history stuffed with big animals and big ideas that reveals the fragility and resilience of the Great Plains ecosystem over the past 10,000 years.”—Karl Jacoby, author of Crimes against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation

“American Serengeti is Dan Flores’s love song to the Great Plains, with each verse a fond embrace of one of its own—grizzlies and bison, pronghorns and coyotes. Beautifully written, it strikes just the right note for those of us drawn to this magnificent part of America. For those yet to know the Great Plains, this book is a loving invitation to come and see.”—Elliott West, author of The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado

“A highly personal book reflecting the vast knowledge of a leading cultural and environmental historian.”—David Dary, author of The Buffalo Book and True Tales of the Prairies and Plains

172 pages, 11 illustrations, 5 maps, Cloth $24.95, Ebook $24.95