A defining period in American history, the Civil War was fought across thousands of miles with the largest volunteer and conscription armies in the nation’s history. Among those caught up in the conflagration were Native Americans, particularly those living in the border areas of Kansas, Missouri, and Indian Territory. Thousands of American Indians made the decision to fight, recognizing their already fragile positions with white Americans. Nearly thirty thousand ultimately served in both the Union and Confederate armies.

The Confederacy was the first to recruit native troops, an act made easier by the federal government’s abandonment of military posts in Indian Territory. As Greg Olson explains in his article, many members of the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Chickasaws, and Choctaws) viewed this as a breach of federal treaties. Thus, deserted by the Union, they felt forced to ally themselves with the South. Brigadier-General Albert Pike, an Indian agent who was known and trusted by many Native people in the territory, conducted treaty negotiations on behalf of the Confederate government.

In 1862, Pike would lead approximately 3500 native soldiers into battle at Pea Ridge, the first major battle of the Civil War to involve Indian troops. Union forces assigned to keep Missouri in the Union had successfully driven the Confederate Missouri State Guard under Major General Sterling Price out of the state and into northwestern Arkansas. Seeking to end the Confederate threat in the region once and for all, Union Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis led his Army of the Southwest in pursuit. As determined as Curtis was to defeat the secessionists, his opponent, newly appointed Major General Earl Van Dorn, was intent on destroying the Union Army and retaking control of Missouri. The two sides met on March 7 near Elkhorn Tavern on the Pea Ridge Plateau, a local component of the Ozark Mountains. Despite initial success, Van Dorn was forced to retreat on March 8 due to the lack of supplies, particularly ammunition. The Confederate defeat allowed Union forces to maintain control of Missouri until Price’s raid in 1864.

Following the Battle of Pea Ridge, the Ioways joined the fight against the Confederacy, enlisting in the Thirteenth Regiment Kansas Volunteer Infantry. As Greg Olson shows, they became swept up into similar battles as that at Pea Ridge, including Cane Hill and Prairie Grove. When the Civil War ended in 1865, the Ioways, having acculturated through adoption of European American ways and military service, remained on their land in Kansas.
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.

The journal follows the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010). A style sheet, which includes a detailed explanation of the journal’s editorial policy, is available at kshs.org/12447. Articles appearing in Kansas History are available online at the Kansas Historical Society’s website (kshs.org/12445) and from EBSCO Publishing. They are available on microfilm from ProQuest Microfilms.

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 in Kansas History.

The editors welcome letters responding to any of the articles published in the 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 the editors, Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains, Department of History, Kansas State University, 208 Eisenhower Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-1002; 785-532-6730; email: KHJournal@k-state.edu

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 Baseball, 1858–1941
Mark E. Eberle
With a Foreword by Dorothy Seymour Mills

“Mark Eberle’s Kansas Baseball, 1858-1941 is a valuable study of the under-appreciated role of baseball as a mirror of the social, cultural, and economic influences in the state as it navigated its formative years. His examination of teams of immigrants, women, African Americans, Native Americans, and Mexican Americans is a treat and reveals much about Kansas society and character during the period prior to World War II. The author’s impressive use of local and regional newspapers, county and city archives, and recent websites has produced a model study that will not be duplicated. It will be a wonderful book to take on a road trip across Kansas to explore its past.”—John Dreifort, editor of Baseball History from Outside the Lines: A Reader

424 pages, 44 photographs, 1 map, 15 illustrations, Cloth $45.00, Paper $27.95, Ebook $27.95

Driving across Kansas
A Guide to I-70, Revised and Updated Edition
Ted T. Cable and Wayne A. Maley

“Cable and Maley put to rest the notion that Kansas is flat and uninteresting. They bring the vast grassland to life as an exciting player in the history of America. We may look across rolling pastures but after using this book, we’ll see Indians hunting buffalo, cowboys pushing herds up from Texas, rowdy wranglers spilling out of cowtown saloons, and the first homesteaders in the great western migration. And the Civil War? We think it started here. Read every page and feel history come alive!”—Bill Kurtis

280 pages, 72 photographs, 2 maps, Paper $17.95, Ebook $17.95

NEW IN PAPERBACK

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, editor of Kansas Geology: An Introduction of Landscapes, Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils and coauthor of Roadside Kansas: A Traveler’s Guide to Its Geology and Landmarks

232 pages, 10 photographs, 1 map, Paper $19.95