This 1919 poster, titled “The Best Souvenirs,” was produced by the noted American artist Gordon Hope Grant, best known for his maritime watercolors and work with the Boy Scouts. Issued by the Moral Branch of the Army General Staff, the image depicts the benefits of military service during World War I. The inclusion of “health determination” is a clear reference to the federal government’s desire to protect American troops from the dangers of venereal disease. This crackdown on prostitution, or “social evil,” played into existing efforts by health officials like Samuel Crumbine, whose work regarding the incarceration of thousands of Kansas women and girls is the subject of Christopher Lovett’s article, “Bad Girls.” Courtesy of the National World War I Museum and Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri.
We-He-Sa-Ki (Hard Rope): Osage Band Chief and Diplomat, 1821–1883

by Isaias McCaffery


by Christopher C. Lovett

Assembling a Buckle of the Bible Belt: From Enclave to Powerhouse

by Jay M. Price

Reviews

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

Kansas History 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

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Homesteading the Plains

By Richard Edwards, Jacob K. Friefeld, & Rebecca S. Wingo

“Homesteading the Plains, the first major scholarly study of homesteading in a generation, uses new data sources and new digital techniques to present a nuanced account of an important government program that scholars will need to reevaluate.”

—Richard White, Stanford University

Attractively and accurately written, this book demolishes much conventional wisdom about homesteading — that it was a minor factor in settlement, that most claims never proved up, that fraud was “rife.” The book also seriously revises the idea that homesteading dispossessed Indians, expands our understanding of women homesteaders, and explains how homesteading helped build communities. This is the most thoughtful analysis of homesteading to appear in many years.

—Walter Nugent (emeritus), University of Notre Dame

This careful empirical analysis provides a long overdue corrective to frequently cited but flawed “facts” about homesteading in the nineteenth-century West.

—Brian Cannon, Brigham Young University

Homesteading the Plains fundamentally alters the dominant frame for understanding the costs and consequences of settling the Great Plains. Engagingly written, full of lively people’s stories, this book upends many tired and baseless myths about the settlement of the continent. The authors tell a nuanced, fascinating national story that is regionally rooted and beautifully illustrated with tables, charts and maps.

—Karen V. Hansen, Brandeis University

Homesteading the Plains unsetses longstanding homesteading myth and history alike. Provocative and illuminating, it offers new data, technologies, and questions to open new historical terrain.

—Elizabeth Jameson

University of Calgary

Homesteading the Plains is a provocative plea for a new history of the Homestead laws. The authors argue that a yawning gap exists between public perceptions of the free land granting policies as great successes and negative scholarly assessments of those same laws as ineffective and even harmful failures tainted by fraud and corruption. Anyone interested in understanding the place of these almost mythic laws in the American past must read Homesteading the Plains.

—Michael Grossberg, Indiana University

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KANSAS

NO PLACE LIKE HOME
Lessons in Activism from LGBT Kansas
C.J. Janovy

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