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THE COVER

An act of the 1955 legislature of Kansas named the buffalo the official state animal of Kansas. Millions of head once roamed the plains of Kansas until exterminated by hunters in the 1870's and the 1880's.

The cover picture—a 1907 water color by Samuel J. Reader, pioneer of Shawnee county—recalls a hunting expedition in November, 1857, "on the headwaters of Chapman's creek," northwest of Fort Riley. Reader wrote that he "was nearly unhorsed by a wounded bull, and that night got lost in a furious snow-storm. It was enough."

The Reader diary, now the property of the State Historical Society, is in 16 volumes and covers most of his Kansas life from 1855 until his death in 1914.