Kansans traditionally take advantage of summer months to explore historic sites and activities around the state. It's a time, too, when travelers stop to discover Kansas treasures. As you browse this issue you may want to plan your own road trip to take in the special places, food, and fun our state has to offer. One of Kansas' most popular destinations, and one that literally takes your breath away, is the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka.

Since 2005 Andrea Burton has been the tour coordinator at the Capitol Tour Center, a program administered by the Kansas Historical Society. Burton is also adjunct faculty in the department of sociology and anthropology at Washburn University in Topeka. The capitol offers historic tours of the Senate and House chambers, murals, and other architectural features. For the adventurous visitor, the capitol also offers dome tours, which climb the 296 steps to the top of the dome. More than 100,000 people have taken dome tours since they were reopened to the public in January 2006.

Burton conducts many of the tours and enjoys the responses she receives from visitors. “You have the hustle and bustle of the legislative session and then it is quiet except for the hundreds of school kids who visit at the end of May,” Burton said. “Then you have the summer season and visitors from around the world.”

These free tours, scheduled on an hourly basis, appeal to a wide range of visitors. “Most everyone who visits loves the building and thinks that we have one of the most spectacular Senate chambers in the nation,” Burton said. “We had 60,000 visitors last year and I believe that we will have even more this year.”
He Followed His Passion

Walter P. Chrysler’s fascination with engines grew as he worked his way around the company. After finishing his apprenticeship, Chrysler traveled through the West, moving from one railroad mechanic job to another. Chrysler was living in Oelwein, Iowa, in 1908 when he attended an automobile show in Chicago. He had never owned a car but wanted one so he could learn how it worked. At the Chicago show, he found a Locomobile that cost $5,000. Chrysler paid $700 cash (wiping out his bank account), borrowed the rest, and had the car shipped home. 

Time wrote in its 1929 Man of the Year article, “Mrs. Chrysler was not very much pleased, especially when she discovered that her husband did not mean to get some good out of so much extravagance by driving it around Oelwein. Instead, what did he do but take it all apart, put it all together and take it all apart again, getting all greasy and wasting his holidays … ”

The discoveries Chrysler made while working with his car fueled his passion for improving automotive design. When asked by a Buick Motor Company executive about his interest in auto production, Chrysler resigned the railroad position to join Buick. He was hired as the works manager in charge of production at the Buick plant in Flint, Michigan. During the next eight years, Chrysler’s recommendations for production efficiency and business reorganization helped Buick increase its daily production from 45 cars a day to 600.

In 1916 Chrysler was given the opportunity to take the helm at Buick, with the then unheard of salary of $10,000 a month plus a $500,000 bonus at the end of the year. Chrysler had started working at Buick for $6,000 a year, but when he left the company in 1919 he was one of the richest men in America.

Chrysler launched his own auto company June 6, 1925, and set up the Plymouth brand to take on Chevrolet and Ford, top producers in the small auto market. Chrysler thrived in the boom of the 1920s. He acquired an estate on Long Island and built the Chrysler Building, which was the world’s tallest skyscraper at the time. Chrysler, as Time reported, “had his neck farther out” than anyone when the stock market crashed in October 1929. His spirit of innovation helped him adapt as the nation struggled to recover, and although his company did not escape the Great Depression unscathed, it fared better than many competitors because of his shrewd business sense.

“The real secret of success is enthusiasm,” Chrysler said. “I feel sorry for the person who can’t get genuinely excited about his work. Not only will he never be satisfied, but he will never achieve anything worthwhile.”

Chrysler became semi-retired in 1935, although he stayed on as chairman of the corporation until his death in 1940. Today his boyhood home in Ellis is a popular stop for tourists and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
Along Came the Car

The car changed everything for American families. The new mobility allowed for faster travel, which meant families could more easily pick up and move, go on vacations, and explore the nation’s beautiful scenery. American families began to discover the charm of small town America. While on the road, travelers demanded the same comforts they enjoyed at home – lodging, family activities, and, most importantly, food. And Kansas was at the center of it all.

Wichita businessmen Walter A. Anderson and E.W. “Billy” Ingram quickly saw the need for food on the go. In 1921 they partnered to open the first White Castle restaurant. Anderson emphasized cleanliness with his small white “castle-like” buildings, stainless steel interiors, and uniformed employees. His assembly line process set the standard for fast food restaurants. White Castle became known for its unique recipe – grilled hamburgers with onions and juices that permeated the bun. The thin square hamburgers were served with a slice of pickle and customers added their own toppings – ketchup or mustard. Soon the chain spread across the Midwest where it continues today with 392 stores, although none are in operation in Kansas.

A six-stool diner opened in Salina in 1922. It soon became known as The Cozy Inn, offering small hamburgers with a generous helping of onions. These “Cozies” were served with a pickle, ketchup, and mustard, but never cheese. The Cozy Inn became a popular hangout in the ’50s and ’60s, and drew a following that spanned beyond the Kansas borders. The diner continues to serve Cozies today and has added t-shirts, caps, and other merchandising.

The American Highway System Act in 1926 opened the way for two-lane highways that connected small towns with large cities. Route 66 was one of the first two-lane highways developed as part of the highway system. Known as “Mother Road,” it wound through the heart of the nation – Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma – connecting Chicago and Los Angeles. Kansas’ stretch of Route 66 was just 12.8 miles long, located in the southeast corner of the state from Galena to Riverton to Baxter Springs. Gas stations, motor lodges, and diners
emerged along the route to fill tourists’ needs. This highway came to represent the romance of the road trip, and even inspired a television series.

Around 1930 in the south central town of Hazelton, Arthur and Ella Valentine opened a diner. The business proved successful and it opened similar restaurants offering short orders, regular dinners, lunches, and sandwiches in Wichita and Hutchinson.

In the early 1940s Valentine took over operation of a sheet metal business and began to design portable lunch buildings. The Valentine Manufacturing Company sold portable steel sandwich shops to business owners across the nation. With names like Flo-Inn, Dynet-Quik, and Brint’s, the buildings were small, square, eight- to twelve-seat diners, and easily moved from place to place. Units were produced until the mid-1970s. Valentine diners are still in operation in 25 states across the nation, including several in Kansas.

Bobo’s Drive-In began serving Topeka customers in 1948. By 1953 there were two locations that specialized in fresh hamburgers, onion rings, and even apple pie. Carhops came to the car to take orders and returned with a tray of delicious foods that fastened to the car window. Bobo’s fresh beef hamburgers came with a salty crust and juicy interior. They were topped with American cheese, lettuce, and tomato, and served on a bun. One Bobo Drive-In is still in operation today.

The car culture reshaped Kansas communities along highways and Interstates, as they changed to meet the needs of tourists. These locally owned businesses continued to operate as long as the highways brought traffic to the communities. As businesses declined when highways were rerouted, newer national chains took their places along busier routes, attempting to recreate the charm of the originals. Fortunately, Kansans today can still find seats at a few home-owned diners.

Valentine designed portable steel sandwich shops, produced until the mid-1970s.
SAVE OUR HISTORY

Dole Gift Helps Two Historic Sites

Senator Robert Dole spent his long career in service to Kansans. He continues his support of state programs through a generous gift of $155,000 to assist the Historical Society with efforts at Fort Hays State Historic Site in Hays and William Allen White House State Historic Site in Emporia.

“I am proud of what the Kansas Historical Society is doing to preserve our heritage and our historic sites throughout the state,” Dole said, “to educate ourselves and others about the important contributions of Kansans throughout our nation’s history, offer researchers and students what they need to do their important work and, finally, remind everyone of the values and sacrifices of Kansans that still help make this a great country.”

A native of Russell, Dole was studying law at the University of Kansas when the United States became involved in World War II. He left his studies to serve as a member of the U.S. Army’s Enlisted Reserve Corps. After recovering from injuries sustained in the war, Dole attended the University of Arizona and Washburn University, where he received his law degree. He began a long political career that culminated with 27 years of service as U.S. senator, serving part of the time as Senate majority leader. Dole has also been involved in presidential politics and has authored several books. He serves as special counsel to the Washington, D.C., law firm of Alston & Bird and is a political/public policy consultant and public speaker.

Dole’s donation will be used to supplement budgets for two of the Historical Society’s state historic sites. Fort Hays was an important U.S. Army post that was active from 1865 until 1889. The William Allen White House was the showplace home of the nationally known newspaperman and author from 1899 to his death in 1944. “We are extremely appreciative of Senator Dole’s generosity,” said Jennie Chinn, executive director. “We’ll use this gift to assist with programs for visitors at the two sites, particularly those intended to reach students K-12.”

In 1857 Gerat H. and Sophia Hollenberg established a way station in Washington County for travelers on the Oregon-California Trail. Gerat sold supplies while Sophia cared for and fed travelers. During the brief life of the Pony Express (1860-1861), a mail route passed the Hollenberg’s station. The couple extended hospitality to both riders and horses. With the end of the Pony Express and the reduction in traffic along the trail, the Hollenbergs turned to farming. Gerat founded the nearby town of Hanover and went on to serve three terms in the Kansas Legislature.

The station building, now a National Historic Landmark, and a visitor center tell the story of the Hollenbergs, pioneer life, and the Pony Express.

Students particularly enjoy the Wagons Ho! for the Oregon-California Trail standards-based field trip that allows them to decide what to load in their own covered wagons before setting out on the trail and handling many of the situations faced by travelers on Kansas trails.

Visit the site!
Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site
Four miles north of U.S. 36 on K-148, one mile east on K-243 in Hanover, Kansas • 785-337-2635 • kshs.org/places/hollenberg

Admission: $3 adults, $2 seniors and students; members of KSHS, Inc., and children five and under admitted free

Visitor hours (subject to change):
Through September 5, 2009 • 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday
Ambrose Lopez, Sylvester Rodriguez, Bennie Gomez, and Louis Silva, all of Emporia, were working for the Santa Fe Railway when Pearl Harbor was bombed December 7, 1941. Antonio Tabares, an Emporia native, was working for Bethlehem Steel in Chicago at the time. Nearly 65 years later, these five Emporia men and other Kansans were interviewed as part of the Kansas Veterans of World War II Oral History Project funded by the Kansas Legislature in 2005. The veterans told stories of their lives before, during, and after the war.

The men from Emporia recall a climate of racial prejudice prior to and after the war. “We weren’t allowed to go to a certain part of the movie houses,” Lopez recalled. “We had to sit in a certain part . . . apart from the white people.”

“When it came to Emporia,” Silva said, “there was a lot of prejudice. You couldn’t go to a lot of places to eat, and if you liked to go to a bar, you had to go in the back, you know, and drink a beer in the back part of the bar. You couldn’t sit in front.”

Once they began their military service, the men said they experienced little racial discrimination. Each said that they were the only Hispanic men in their unit.

Tabares was a private first class in the Army Air Corps when he and other men were waiting for a train in El Paso. The station had segregated restrooms. “… I had to go to the bathroom, and I went into the black one. And before I entered a guy was right there and said, ‘Where in the hell are you going?’ I said, ‘I have to go to the bathroom’.” He said, ‘You can’t go in there.’ I said, ‘Why? It says black. Where am I supposed to go?’ He said, ‘Up there.’ But that was white. I said, ‘Have you got one for brown?’ ‘Oh, don’t be so silly, get in there!’” Tabares, who was eventually promoted to staff sergeant, supervised mechanics in the 524th Fighter Squadron until he left the service in 1945.

Rodriguez served from 1946 until 1948 in the 35th Constabulary Squadron and 42nd Construction Squadron. He said that when he returned to Emporia after the war,
there were few positions available for minorities. “There weren’t any jobs,” Rodriguez said. “The only ones there were was Santa Fe and the packing house and that’s it.” He added, “Things started changing in the 1960s when they were having all these civil rights marches.”

Gomez was married with children when he enlisted in the Navy in 1944. He said coming home presented a challenge for him and his family. “Just getting back on track after you’ve been in the Navy, doing things different. It takes a while to get back into a routine.”

In addition to the challenges every veteran had to face when returning home, Lopez experienced discrimination. “We couldn’t go into restaurants,” he said. “When I got out of the service we couldn’t join the VFW or the American Legion … they had some guy in Wichita who started a forum, a Mexican GI Forum they called it. We had one here in Emporia for awhile.”

The American GI Forum was established in 1948 to address the concerns of Hispanic American veterans like those profiled here, who did not receive the same benefits as non-minority veterans. Most of the men in this story joined the VFW and American Legion after membership was opened to minority veterans.

You can read the transcripts of the Kansas Veterans of World War II Oral History Project at kansasmemory.org. The Department of Social Sciences at Emporia State University was one of the grant awardees and interviewed the men in this story.

Ambrose Lopez was celebrating his 16th birthday when news came of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He heard the war would be over in six months, so he did not think he would be involved.

He went on to serve in the Third Marine Division from 1944 until 1946.
The Leavenworth Constitution of 1858, which would have granted voting rights to African American men, was rejected by a U.S. Congress still dominated by pro-Southern Democrats. The territorial legislature of 1859, controlled by freestaters, called a fourth constitutional convention in Wyandotte on July 5. Fifty-two delegates were chosen to attend the convention. Among them was John James Ingalls, who had recently moved to Atchison County to practice law.

Ingalls wrote his father a few days after being elected as a delegate in June 1859 describing Atchison as “an old stronghold of pro-slavery democracy.” He wrote that he was surprised by the win, considering every other county along the Missouri River elected proslavery Democrats. “I spoke … to a crowd of yelling miscreants, who would have been glad to have pitched me into the Missouri, I suppose, as they have done with several Republicans in the last few years.” Ingalls feared that if the majority of the convention representatives were Democrats, “Kansas may be a Slave State after all.” That was not the case, however, and on July 29, a new freestate document was adopted and signed by the 35 Republicans attending the convention. The Democrats refused to sign, leading to a bitter campaign for ratification.

Ingalls continued in public office for much of his life and represented Kansas for 18 years in the U.S. Senate. He coined the phrase that is now the Kansas state motto, “Ad astra per aspera,” (to the stars through difficulty). Ingalls wrote that “the aspiration of Kansas is to reach the unattainable; its dream is the realization of the impossible.”
Meet Our Members

Tony Maphet and the Pioneer-Krier Museum

The Clark County Historical Society is one of only a small number of organizations that has been a member of the Kansas Historical Society for more than 50 years. The historical society operates the Pioneer-Krier Museum in Ashland, formed in the mid-1930s.

Two large, connected buildings house documents and artifacts that tell the story of Clark County from the mid-1800s through the early 1900s. Director and curator Tony Maphet has been at the museum for about four years. He is intrigued by the array of collections in the museum's care.

“It’s diverse,” Maphet said. “For instance we have a collection of dinosaur bones from an area near Clark County Lake, a large barbed wire collection, genealogical materials, and a collection of famous deer mounts.”

Not too long ago, crews from the television show The Bass Pros shot footage of those deer mounts from south central Kansas. Recently, the museum hosted television teams from the Travel Channel interested in aviation-related artifacts and antique planes.

Maphet, who grew up in Oklahoma across the border from Englewood, spent 30 years working in private industry where he helped lead flight test operations and was involved with missile guidance research. At Pioneer-Krier, he led the museum’s board and volunteers to streamline everything from governance to collections management. They updated bylaws, put in place cataloging and preservation procedures, and planted the seeds of an endowment.

Much of the past year was spent overseeing renovation of the exterior of the museum and its lobby. A highlight was creating an online catalog that includes nearly 3,000 photos of artifacts in the collections, which is now available at pioneer-krier.com.

“People from all over the world have found us,” Maphet said. “Their ancestors may have been from this area and they may find some of their family’s early artifacts. Then I get a call asking about it, and then sometimes I get a donation because of it. That’s the kind of thing that being visible to your community can produce.”

Maphet said he and the Clark County Historical Society value their membership in the Kansas Historical Society. “Sometimes you need a peer to refer questions to,” Maphet said. The historical society became a KSHS, Inc., member in the early 1950s.

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership support enables the Historical Society’s programs to continue. The cost of membership remains only $40 annually. Members receive free admission to the museum and all state historic sites, a discount at KSHS stores and on online purchases, as well as quarterly issues of Reflections and the award-winning Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains. More information available at kshs.org/joinkshs, by calling 785-272-8681, ext. 209; or membership@kshs.org.
Windagamen Marshall’s world was already in upheaval by the time she was born in 1820. Her father, William Marshall, was a white trader to the Indians. Her mother, Elizabeth “Betsy” Wilaquenaho, was Lenape (Delaware). Windagamen, whose Lenape name meant “sweetness,” was the oldest of the four Marshall children. At some point, Windagamen became known as Anna. Few records exist about her because she was female and Delaware.

Treaties in 1804 and 1818 set the course for Anna’s family to move from their Miami County, Ohio, home. They relocated about 1826 to the James River near present Springfield, Missouri. There in southwest Missouri the Delaware joined the Osage, who had lived in the area for many generations. When Anna was of school age, she and other Delaware children probably attended Harmony Mission, located near the Osage village in Missouri. The Osage hunted the lands that had been assigned to the Delaware and regarded these new inhabitants as intruders.

As more Delaware families were slated for removal to Missouri, those living along the James River became concerned about the scarcity of food. Some families agreed to cede these lands in exchange for a reserve in Kansas just north of Shawnee lands.

Anna, her mother, brother, and sisters were among an estimated 1,000 Delaware who moved to an area along the Kansas River in 1831. Here they found woodlands that offered plentiful hunting including deer, elk, and antelope.

Families brought corn and squash seeds for new gardens and enough flour to last through the first winter. Anna would have planted and harvested radishes, cabbages, peas, potatoes, and turnips from the garden. The Delaware also took advantage of some of the area’s wild vegetation – such as pokeweed greens and morel mushrooms.

After first living in temporary structures, the Delaware built log cabins on their Kansas reserve. While the structures themselves were small, the fireplaces were large enough to hang cooking pots over the fire. Anna would have dried corn and squash by hanging them from the roof. From the dried corn, the Delaware ground cornmeal to make cornbread, a staple in the diet. A popular specialty was corn dumplings, which were soaked in grape juice.

In the late 1830s Anna met Moses Read Grinter, who was operating a ferry along the Kansas River. He had moved from his native Kentucky to Kansas in 1828 as a soldier at Fort Leavenworth. In 1831 he was appointed by the government to run a ferry, which was located on the north bank within the Delaware reserve, not far from the Chouteau trading post and Shawnee Methodist Mission.
The ferry business grew as traffic increased on the Fort Leavenworth/Fort Scott military road and as immigrants headed west on the Oregon-California Trail.

Anna and Moses were married around 1838 and lived on the Delaware reserve where he continued to operate the ferry until about 1860. Since Moses was white and a man, much more is known about him today than his wife. Because Anna was Delaware, Moses was able to purchase the Chouteau's trading post on the reserve. The post carried approximately 160 types of goods – clothing, powder, bullets, perfume, sugar, and scissors. The Grinters also farmed, raised poultry and livestock, and planted an apple orchard. In 1857 they began construction of a brick house overlooking the Kansas River. They made the brick from clay, which they baked onsite in a kiln. A house in Moses' native Kentucky may have inspired their house design. Anna and Moses had 10 children, six girls and four boys. Five of their children grew to adulthood.

An 1866 treaty required the Delaware to either relocate to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) or to dissolve tribal relations and become citizens of the United States. Anna and several of her family members were among the 69 Delaware who chose to stay in Kansas and separate from their people. The remaining tribal members moved to an area on the Cherokee reservation near Bartlesville, Oklahoma. There are two groups of Delaware today headquartered in Bartlesville and Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Moses died in 1878 at the age of 71. Anna died in 1905 at 85. Their home, Grinter Place, is operated as a state historic site and is the oldest existing family residence in Wyandotte County.
Happening at KSHS

Applefest, Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City
Anna Grinter planted an apple orchard at Grinter Place. Applefest, September 11-12, pays tribute to that legacy and offers children and adults an opportunity to learn and share the history of the mid-1800s. Highlights include living history demonstrations, craft vendors, games for children and adults, food, quilters, and a silent auction. kshs.org/places/grinter

Artifact Identification Day, Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic
Kansas Historical Society archeologists will be on hand Saturday, July 18, to examine American Indian artifacts for the public free of charge. Experts will be happy to date and identify the origins of artifacts, but no appraisals will be made. This very popular event brings in collectors from a large area of Kansas and Nebraska. kshs.org/places/pawneeindian

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Available now at the Museum Store!
Janice Haney of Greensburg answered the call when her friends and neighbors said someone should compile the stories of the 2007 Greensburg tornado. The first collection of stories, Greensburg: Twisted Tales, as well as a sequel, can be found at kshs.org/store.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through July 26, 2009
Lincoln in Kansas
Exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

July 4, 2009
Independence Day Celebration
Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

July 17, 24, 31, and August 7, 2009
Sundown Film Festival
Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

July 18, 2009
Artifact Identification Day
Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

August 16, 2009
Annual Band Concert and Ice Cream Social
Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Grove

August 30, 2009
Pony Express Festival
Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site, Hanover

September 11-12, 2009
Applefest
Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

September 19-20, 2009
Freedom Festival
John Brown Museum State Historic Site, Osawatomie

September 19-20, 2009
Historic Fort Hays Days
Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

September 24-26, 2009
Bald Eagle Rendezvous 2009
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton

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Kansas Memory

This photo of a group of Potawatomi children wading in a pond is one of the many summertime fun images you can browse when you visit kansasmemory.org.