The beginning of winter at the Historical Society signals holiday events, open houses, and festive items for sale at our museum stores. We hope we can be a part of your holiday plans. The quarterly meeting of the Historic Sites Board of Review always kicks off the winter with nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. In this issue we introduce you to the person who administers that program.

Sarah Martin, a native of Abilene, is in her fourth year as the National Register coordinator for the State Historic Preservation Office where she assists owners of historic properties through the nomination process. “I work with a lot of folks who’ve never nominated a historic property to the register,” Sarah said. “The nomination paperwork requires a great deal of research and writing and can be very intimidating. I just try to make the process as smooth and enjoyable as possible.”

As part of her duties, Sarah travels throughout the state providing guidance to owners of historic properties. Many nominated properties are in transition and being rehabilitated. “Nothing is more satisfying than seeing a property brought back to life and reused again,” Sarah said. “Kansans are lucky to have quality financial incentive programs to assist owners with rehabilitation.”

Sarah is a graduate of the University of Kansas and Middle Tennessee State University, and credits her interest in history to family road trips to Plymouth Plantation, the Molly Brown House in Denver, and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. “Experiencing history is so important,” she said. “Documenting and sharing history with others is invaluable.”
Lucy Hobbs was born March 14, 1833, in New York, the seventh of 10 children. After moving to Michigan in 1849, she became a school teacher for 10 years, then moved to Ohio to pursue a dentistry degree. Because of her gender, Hobbs was denied admission to the Eclectic Medical College and the Ohio College of Dentistry in Cincinnati. A recent graduate of the latter, Dr. Samuel Wardle, agreed to tutor Hobbs in an apprenticeship in his new office. In 1861 she opened her own practice.

Hobbs moved her practice to Iowa in 1862, became a member of the Iowa State Dental Society, and served as a delegate to the American Dental Association Convention of 1865. Partly because of the trust she had gained through her practice, and partly because of the school’s change in attitude toward admitting women, Hobbs was allowed to enroll as a senior at the Ohio College of Dentistry. In 1866 she became the first woman in the world to receive a doctorate in dentistry.

Hobbs again moved her practice, this time to Chicago, where she married Civil War veteran James Myrtle Taylor and began to teach him dentistry. The couple moved to Lawrence in 1867 and established a joint practice. The Taylors purchased an empty lot in Lawrence (now 809 Vermont) and built a combination office and residence. Here they created one of the most successful dental practices in Kansas. Then they built a home on Ohio Street and moved their practice to a commercial building at 8th and Massachusetts streets. A year after her husband died in 1886, Taylor retired and devoted her time to charity and social causes, namely women’s rights.

Taylor repurchased the home and office building in 1895 and reopened her practice, which she operated until her death in 1910. The Lawrence Daily Journal wrote, “Dr. Lucy Taylor was one of the most striking figures in Lawrence, she occupied a position of honor and ability, for years she occupied a place high in the ranks of her profession. Dr. Taylor was a great charitable worker and did much good in a quiet, unobtrusive manner.”

Today the American Association of Women Dentists recognizes outstanding women in the dental profession with the Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award, the most prestigious honor the organization bestows.
The WPA in Kansas: “A More Abundant Life”

Swimming pools, libraries, courthouses, bridges, and other public buildings are visible examples of the Works Progress Administration story in Kansas. But there is more to the story that is not as easy to see when driving along Main Street. The WPA was also about education and preserving and sharing culture.

Unemployment, bankruptcies, and home foreclosures plagued the United States in the 1930s. For farm families in Kansas and other plains states, eroding topsoil created a “dustbowl” where crops failed to thrive. Between a bleak economic outlook and monstrous dust storms rolling across the state, these were figuratively and literally dark times in Kansas.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration in 1935 to provide relief by putting people to work on public projects. More than $11 billion was spent building highways, roads, bridges, and public buildings. In addition to revitalizing the nation’s infrastructure, Roosevelt wanted the WPA to give Americans “a more abundant life” with “the first completely democratic art movement in history.” WPA cultural programs employed writers, performers, musicians, actors, and artists, who created more than 15,000 pieces of public art in the first six months of the program.

In Kansas, WPA cultural and educational programs included classes on literacy, vocational training, housekeeping, citizenship, and parenting. Public art appeared on buildings and libraries flourished. Some projects, like bookmobiles, recreation programs, and hot school lunches, became so core to our culture that they still exist today. At its peak, the WPA employed more than 50,000 Kansans.

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As the nation entered World War II, WPA War Service programs directly supported the war effort and Defense Health and Welfare programs focused on those left on the home front. Recreation centers in the eastern half of the state provided entertainment for soldiers stationed at Forts Riley and Leavenworth. Childcare centers and nursery schools were opened near industrial centers to provide assistance for working mothers.

The demand for workers created by the war, along with the draft and enlistments, nearly wiped out unemployment in the nation and the WPA was terminated in June 1943.

The stories told by the buildings, documents, and historic images are a valuable part of our cultural heritage.
Jones Trust Advances William Allen White’s Legacy

Walter and Evan Jones, who grew up on a farm near Lebo in Coffey County, managed a cattle operation during their lifetime. When Walter married in 1911, his wife, Olive, became involved in the partnership. Their wills provided a trust to be used for medical assistance for needy children in Lyon, Coffey, and Osage counties. Education benefits were added in 1961 and in 1974, the W.S. & E.C. Jones Foundation was established to manage the administration of grant requests for medical and educational programs.

The W.S. & E.C. Jones Trust, Bank of America, Trustee, awarded a $100,000 grant to be used at the William Allen White House State Historic Site in Emporia. The grant will be paid in five annual $20,000 installments and will expand the site’s audience base through schools. The site is operated in cooperation with the non-profit William Allen White Community Partnership whose president, Tom Eblen, commented, “This generous gift ensures that future generations of Kansans will continue to discover and appreciate the impact William Allen White had on Kansas and American history.”

Jones Trust brothers and founders Walter S. Jones, top right, and Evan C. Jones, right, are pictured during leisure activities.

A Workbook for Kansas Students

The Historical Society’s Read Kansas! cards were distributed to all elementary schools and now provide students with a rich source of materials to learn the key topics in Kansas history. Much of the Kansas history portions of the social studies standards in the elementary grades are concentrated in the fourth grade. The one curriculum piece that teachers still lack to cover this requirement is a self-contained look at Kansas history for fourth graders.

To fill this void, the Kansas Historical Society is planning a student workbook that addresses different themes in Kansas history. The workbook, designed for the 35,000 fourth graders in 1,400 classrooms across the state, will help students develop critical thinking skills. Lessons will be designed to challenge, motivate, and excite students about their state’s past.

The workbook project is one of the Historical Society’s legacy projects for the Kansas 150 statehood commemoration, which begins January 2011. Plans call for the workbook to be in classrooms by fall 2010.

Private funds in the amount of $30,000 will need to be raised to produce and mail the workbook to every Kansas elementary school. If you know an individual, company, or foundation that would be a good match for this project, please contact Vicky Henley at 785-272-8681, ext. 201; vhenley@kshs.org.

Read Kansas! cards were distributed to all elementary schools in the state.
Pawnee Rock

To travelers on the Santa Fe Trail, the sandstone citadel called Pawnee Rock marked the halfway point of the trail and was one of the most prominent landmarks on their long journey. American Indians were said to have used Pawnee Rock as a vantage point to spot bison herds and approaching wagon trains.

On July 8, 1846, Private Jacob S. Robinson described what he saw from the top of Pawnee Rock.

_I witnessed one of the grandest sights ever beheld. Far over the plain to the west and north was one vast herd of buffaloes; some in column, marching in their trails, others carelessly grazing. Every acre was covered, until in the dim distance the prairie became one black mass...extending to the horizon._

Unfortunately much of Pawnee Rock was destroyed in the 1870s by the railroad and by settlers who were in need of building stone. The Woman’s Kansas Day Club acquired the remaining portion in 1908. The next year it was turned over to the state of Kansas as a historic site. On May 24, 1912, a stone monument was dedicated with great celebration before a crowd of some 8,000 onlookers.

Today interpretive signs tell visitors the story of the Santa Fe Trail, the Pawnee Indians, and Pawnee Rock. A shaded pavilion with an observation deck gives a spectacular view of the surrounding area.

Visit the site!
Pawnee Rock State Historic Site
One-half mile north of U.S. 56 and the town of Pawnee Rock
kshs.org/places/pawneerock
Admission: Free
Visitor hours: Open dawn to dusk
From Our Collections

“Quiet But Full of Force”: Arthur Capper

For someone “modest” and “unassuming,” as Arthur Capper was often described, his “quiet” and “full of force” characteristics drove him to create a publishing empire, become governor and U.S. senator, and serve as an advocate for youth programs.

Growing up in Garnett, Capper became a “printer's devil” with the Garnett Journal at the age of 14. In 1884, after graduation from high school, Capper took a job as a typesetter at the Topeka Daily Capital. He worked his way up at the newspaper, becoming an editor and serving as correspondent for the state legislature and U.S. Congress.

“That was about as far as I could go in Topeka,” Capper was quoted in Arthur Capper: The Man. “And I wanted some experience in the East, although I hoped to go back West where I belonged and have my own paper.”

Capper left Kansas, took a position with the New York Tribune, and worked as a congressional correspondent in Washington, D.C., before returning to his native state.

Capper purchased the Topeka newspapers Mail and Breeze in 1893 and 1895. When the Capital suffered financial difficulties and was taken over by the bank, Capper was encouraged to return as editor and publisher. In 1901 he purchased controlling interest and began reestablishing the newspaper. By 1911 the Saturday Evening Post called Capper’s Capital “one of the best and brightest dailies in the West.”

He built his readership through a variety of publications, adding Capper’s Weekly, Capper’s Farmer, and Household Magazine. “My chief aim is to make a steadfast friend of every man, woman and child who subscribes for or advertises in my papers, or transacts business of any nature with my office;” Capper said, “the underlying principle that has built up the Capper business is to treat everybody square and not knowingly have one dissatisfied customer.”

Capper was drawn to the Progressive wing of the Republican Party and ran an unsuccessful campaign for governor in 1912, losing by a mere 29 votes. Two years later he became the first native-born Kansan elected governor, serving two terms 1915-1919. He then served five terms as U.S. senator from 1919-1949. As a senator, Capper supported programs that benefited farmers, such as the Capper-Volstead Act, which allowed agricultural producers to form unions and be exempted from anti-trust acts.

With an understanding of new technologies, Capper purchased WIBW in 1927, one of the first radio stations in...
the state. In 1936 he became one of the first to record regular congressional updates for constituents for distribution on radio. By 1943 congressional radio broadcasts were commonplace.

An advocate of children’s welfare, Capper established a number of events and programs to assist the state’s youth. In 1908 Capper sponsored a summer event for Topeka children. Known as the Capper birthday party, the popular event was held in a city park and drew thousands. The event was held annually and continued until 1951 when flooding forced its cancellation.

A young Kansas boy once addressed a request to Capper as publisher of the *Daily Capital*. “Please help me buy a pig,” the boy wrote. Capper responded by sending a check to cover expenses and as a result launched the Capper Pig Club for boys and Capper Poultry Club for girls. The programs lent money to students so they could start a modest business. Capper lent more than $100,000 to students, which was all repaid. These clubs eventually merged into the 4-H movement.

To benefit children with disabilities, Capper formed an institution in Topeka in 1920, which operates today as the Easter Seals Capper Foundation. He organized the Goodfellows’ Club of Topeka to remember people at Christmas time who might have otherwise been forgotten.

During the height of his career, Capper gained national status. In 1926 he was featured on the cover of *Time* and by 1929 he was considered one of the three leading publishers in the United States. Capper was chair of the Senate’s agriculture committee, when, at the age of 81 in 1946, he decided not to seek reelection.

Capper continued to operate his media properties until his death in 1951, convincing the Federal Communications Commission to designate Topeka as a media market separate from Kansas City. In 1953 Capper Publications obtained a license to operate WIBW Television.
In 2011 Kansas will celebrate its statehood sesquicentennial. “Countdown to Statehood” is a series of articles depicting key events from Kansas’ territorial days and related commemoration events sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society.

**Countdown to Statehood:**

**Waiting for Congress and the Hanging of John Brown**

Ratified by Kansas voters on October 4, 1859, the Wyandotte Constitution was sent to Washington, D.C. for approval by Congress. It would be 15 months before Kansas was admitted to the Union, and much happened in the interim to further polarize Northern and Southern states.

Abolitionist John Brown, who left Kansas in January 1859, rented a farmhouse north of Harpers Ferry, Virginia. His plan was to secure the federal arsenal there, use the weapons to arm enslaved African Americans, and then lead those people to revolt. Brown’s plans were foiled and 10 of his men were killed, including his sons Oliver and Watson. Brown was tried, found guilty of treason, and hanged on December 2. The raid did not lead to a slave uprising, but it did increase sectional tensions and made all out war between North and South more likely.

Charles Robinson, who would later be elected as the first governor of the state of Kansas, was traveling in New York in January 1860 when he wrote to his wife, Sara, in Lawrence. He mentions Congress considering Kansas statehood and refers to John Brown’s October raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

*Congress not yet organized & no prospect of it.*

*Colby says the Democrats will oppose our admission into the Union. He thinks I may be sent for as a witness in Harpers Ferry affair.*

The Kansas Historical Society holds a large collection of letters and other manuscripts written by or to Charles and Sara Robinson. They provide a glimpse into Bleeding Kansas history and can be found online at kansasmemory.org.

**Charles Robinson** was a founder of the Free State Party and was arrested for treason. His wife, Sara, reported on his arrest and stirred sympathy. Their letters and manuscripts tell the story of the struggle for Kansas statehood.
Meet Our Members

Holly Zane

For Topekan Holly Zane, becoming a Kansas Historical Society member was a natural outgrowth of a long-standing relationship with the organization. An avid researcher, Zane has visited the State Archives & Library in Topeka to research her family history and that of other Wyandot Indians who were moved to Kansas in the mid 1800s. She and her sister Kristen have amassed an immense collection of materials documenting their family in Ohio and Kansas.

As an attorney and key member of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas, one of four groups that comprise the Wendat Confederacy, Zane also used the Historical Society’s archeology resources to gather critical information for litigation in the 1990s involving a Kansas and Wyandot landmark, the Huron Indian Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas. Zane argued the case as the attorney general for the Kansas Wyandots. The case resulted in the immediate and future protection of the cemetery located at Seventh and Ann streets.

Many of Zane’s ancestors are buried in Huron Cemetery, including Eliza “Lyda” Conley and Helena Conley, Zane’s cousins who physically defended the cemetery after developers negotiated sale of the land with the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma at the turn of the 20th century. The U.S. Secretary of the Interior approved the sale and reburial of remains in nearby Quindaro cemetery, but the Conleys staved off trespassers during a two-year vigil. Lyda Conley became the first American Indian woman admitted to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court when she defended the case in 1910.

More than 75 years later, Zane was inspired to obtain a degree from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1986. Lyda Conley’s fierce dedication to the Wyandot people encouraged Zane to follow this path and eventually to argue the case against the development of a casino on sacred land.

Today Zane and her sister continue to care for the cemetery and the hotel where her great-great grandfather housed refugees along the Underground Railroad in Quindaro. Zane shares books, information, and traditions with friends and younger family members to preserve Wyandot history. “I’m hoping that it will put the spark in them,” she said. Zane hopes to volunteer for the Historical Society and supports its work through her membership. “If I don’t become a member and don’t get involved, that history is lost.”

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 the Historical Society’s 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.
Making a Home in the Saline River Valley

Solomon Humbargar was a quiet man and a hard worker who built a log house along the riverbank near what would become the town of Culver in Saline County. As a teenager in 1857 he moved with his family from Ohio to an area on the Solomon River in the northeast part of the county.

Humbargar later moved to the north bank of the Saline River in a wooded setting in the valley. The Homestead Act of 1862 made it possible for individuals who made improvements on undeveloped land to file for a deed of title and receive up to 160 acres of land. Humbargar applied for his homestead in 1866, built a log house, and received approval on March 15, 1872, signed by President Ulysses S. Grant. Here he gained a reputation as a buffalo hunter and scout. While he was away on a hunting trip in the mid 1860s the dwelling burned. Humbargar immediately rebuilt on the site.

Using his skills with a broadax, he selected large cottonwood logs about 15 inches to 20 inches in height, which weighed about 600 pounds each. He made the walls 10 feet high and about 8 inches thick and created hand-hewn dovetail joints, designed to allow water to drain rather than collect in the corners. The ceiling joists and rafters probably came from a sawmill in Salina. Humbargar used short, split boards and stones for chinking materials and a lime and sand mixture may have been used for daubing. The house offered a sleeping loft accessible by stairs. Humbargar’s 14 foot by 16 foot house would be home to his family for nearly 30 years. In 1871 Humbargar married Nancy Ann Alley. Their two sons, Charles and Howard, were both born in the log house.

The family made modest improvements to the log house. Nancy Ann used newspaper to cover the walls. (An 1872 issue still remains affixed to the stairway.) She later used wallpaper she had purchased from a store. Nancy Ann cooked meals for the family, made clothes, and assisted with farm chores, including maintaining an orchard the size of a city block with apple, pear, and peach trees, and a well-stocked chicken house. In the woods nearby they found wild plums, grapes, elderberries, currants, and gooseberries.

Solomon raised corn, barley, millet, sorghum, cane, and wheat. He dug a 35-foot deep well, which he lined with native stone. In addition to providing water, the well was used to keep milk, cheese, and butter cool. He built a smoke cellar, also lined with native stone, where the family kept sausage, bacon, smoked ham, and other meats. Above the cellar was a shop and storeroom where pickled meats, apples, and vegetables were stored and where the family...
hung onion string from the rafters. Solomon used the shop area to work on his guns, saws, and other tools. He built a lean-to on the rear of the house sometime prior to 1883.

In the late 1880s the family moved the log house about 100 yards to the west and began construction on a new frame farmhouse. In the last few years of his life, several attempts were made to interview Solomon about his early years. He adamantly resisted those attempts, leaving local historians to turn to neighbors for information about this early settler. Solomon died in 1917 and the log house was turned into a grain storage shed. In the 1960s it stood vacant and portions began to deteriorate.

The Humbargar descendents later decided to preserve the log house, and after several years of planning, donated it to the Kansas Museum of History in 1986, where it was partially reconstructed and placed on display.

Solomon and Nancy Humbargar built a new farm house in the late 1880s. Here they are pictured with sons Charles and Howard.
Happening at KSHS

Cars: The Need for Speed, Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

This special exhibit, scheduled to run January 22 – November 28, 2010, will explore the impact of cars in Kansas. Automobiles inspired innovations in fast food and entertainment. They also drove our passion for racing. Meet dirt track racecar driver, Troy Baumgartner, pictured below. kshs.org/exhibits/current/upcoming

Special Exhibits at Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

The work of artist George Catlin will be featured in a month-long exhibit in December. Catlin painted more than 600 portraits of Indians from many plains tribes including the Pawnees. Another exhibit in January will feature the paintings, pottery, and music recordings of Pawnee artists. kshs.org/places/pawneeindian

2009 KSHS, Inc., and KSHS Annual Reports

The latest annual reports can be found online at kshs.org/joinkshs. The report is available in PDF format. A video update of the fiscal year can also be found online.

Holiday Hours

Please note closings at our facilities as we observe the following state holidays:

Friday, December 25 – all locations closed
Saturday, December 26 – museum and sites with winter hours will be open, State Archives & Library will be closed
Friday, January 1 – all locations closed
Monday, January 18 – all locations closed
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through December 31, 2009

George Catlin, Frontier Visionary
Exhibit at the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

January 2-31, 2010
Pawnee Artists, Voices from the Past and Present
Exhibit at the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

January 22-November 28, 2010
Cars: The Need for Speed
Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 29, 2010
Kansas Day at the Museum
Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 29, 2010
Kansas Day
Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

January 29, 2010
Kansas Day
Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

January 31, 2010
We the People of Kansas: the Wyandotte Constitution and the Birth of the 34th Star
Presentation at Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton

Happy Birthday, Kansas!

Kansas will celebrate 149 years of statehood Friday, January 29, 2010. Join us for transportation-themed activities and entertainment at the Kansas Museum of History or for other statehood commemorations at the state historic sites. kshs.org/teachers/fieldtrips/kansasdday

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Kansas Memory

Children playing in a nursery school, Frontenac, Kansas. You can browse this and other Works Progress Administration images at kansasmemory.org