Reflections

A publication of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Foundation

Finney County

The People and Their Buffalo
Nile of America
Feeding the World

Spring 2015
The Kansas Historical Society touches the state in many different ways—through collections, sites, and ongoing programs. This issue of *Reflections* explores Finney County.

American Indians once hunted buffalo on the rolling prairies and sand hills of the region. Through treaty negotiations tribes were being relocated to Indian Territory as American adventurers arrived to hunt buffalo and capture wild horses. The Americans stayed and established farms, ranches, and communities. Through the lens of the photographers we can view this area’s natural beauty over time and witness the developing industries. The growth in industries offered opportunities for immigrants who came from around the world to find work. Today Garden City’s rich culture reflects these different traditions, languages, foods, and festivals. Find more information, photographs, and videos online at kshs.org/19218.
Beautiful Gardens

The city’s three founders selected this area near the Arkansas River, which offered water and resources, but no trees. The James Fulton and William D. Fulton families built two frame houses in 1878. They planted vegetables in the garden, which grew in abundance that summer. According to legend, a man approached Lettie Fulton and asked her the name of the town. She said that it was called Fulton, after the founders. “Why don’t you call it Garden City?” he asked as he viewed her beautiful garden.

Since that time the city has worked to maintain its beautiful reputation. W. D. Fulton’s hotel, the Occidental, boasted the town’s only tree. C. J. “Buffalo” Jones, who had operated a nursery, planted trees along his lots for sale.

Pedaling on the Prairie

This tandem bicycle, owned by Henry Baugh, was perfect for enjoying Garden City in the 1910s. It has a drop frame for women riders wearing full skirts. The front pedals allowed the rider to pedal faster, but with less effort. The two handlebars are joined to coordinate steering. Baugh gave the bicycle to Joe and Elizabeth Sartorius. Joe worked as a superintendent at the Garden City sugar beet factory. They gave the bicycle to their daughter, Maria, who took it to Wichita. In 1981 she donated the bike to the Kansas Historical Society.
For generations Plains Indians lived and hunted in western Kansas. Arapaho, Comanche, Kiowa, and Plains Apache occupied the area along the Arkansas River. The people considered the American Bison, or buffalo, to be sacred. Once the most numerous of the Earth’s large animals, buffalo provided nearly all of the peoples’ daily needs. Living in portable housing, they were able to move each season to follow bison herds and gather wild plants.

When Americans moved west into Plains Indian territory following the Civil War, the U.S. government began negotiating for the relocation of tribes to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. The new treaties limited the Indians’ hunting rights.

Workers on the railroads and soldiers guarding construction at the frontier forts needed food. Railroads hired buffalo hunters to supply the need and they offered excursions for hunters to shoot buffalo.
Let them kill, skin, and sell until the buffalo is exterminated, as it is the only way to bring lasting peace and allow civilization to advance.

General Philip Sheridan

cite{Jones}

from the train windows. Henry Raymond, one of those hired as a buffalo hunter by the Santa Fe railroad, kept a diary of his experience.

Nov. Saturday 23 1872
Went out, helped skin 17 buffaloes. Very warm and pleasant. Theodore killed 5 of them. Abe Mayhue came in. Saw badger and prairie dogs.

Nov. Monday 25 1872
Abe and Bat started for Dodge City this morning. Ed killed 19 buffalos. Skinned 15 of them. I killed one at night. Saw jackrabbit. Saw pack of wolves. Sent for pants and overalls, and cup and camphor gum, by Bat. Made ring of hoof.

Nov. Tuesday 26 1872
Killed and skinned 20 buffalos. I killed 3 of them. Beautiful day until night, turned very cold and windy.

Demand for buffalo fur eventually outgrew the need for meat. Suppliers in the East discovered this new domestic source for leather, which led to carcasses being left to rot. Between 1868 and 1881 approximately 31 million bison were killed and by 1885 fewer than 500 animals existed. In 1894 President Grover Cleveland signed a bill to protect the species. The buffalo survived and today numbers at more than 545,000 head in North America.

Jones moved to western Kansas to hunt bison and capture wild horses. As a co-founder of Garden City, Jones helped guide the city's growth, encouraging the railroad to relocate, establishing irrigation ditches for farms, and serving as the first state legislator from the area. When Jones realized that the extinction of the buffalo was imminent, he began an effort to reestablish herds, experimenting with a cross between buffalo and cattle. His friend President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him the first game warden for Yellowstone National Park in 1902. Author Zane Grey helped to secure Jones' fame in his saga, The Last of the Plainsman.
Adventurers arriving in Garden City in 1878 viewed a welcome site—an abundant Arkansas River. A major tributary of the Mississippi River, the Arkansas is 1,460 miles long, originating in the Colorado mountains near Leadville. It runs east through the Royal Gorge and southeast to its mouth in Arkansas. Called the “Nile of America,” the Arkansas River over time deposited sand along its path to eastern Colorado and western Kansas.

In the early days of mining Colorado began diverting water from the Arkansas River to use in the mines. As miners claimed a stake, they would also claim first water rights. Called “first-in-time, first-in-right,” this concept continues today, limiting availability of water rights.

In Finney County the Arkansas River once ran wide and shallow. The upland plains with gently rolling hills north of the river were naturally well suited for crops. The short tributaries and shallow depressions temporarily hold water during heavy rains. With annual precipitation at about 20 inches,
farmers discovered they needed supplemental moisture for their crops and livestock. Garden City businessmen proposed an innovative plan that would form ditch companies and establish water rights to divert water from the Arkansas for irrigation.

Construction began in 1880 with the first of several ditches. These canals carried water from four diversion points in the river to area farmlands. These companies became so successful they received national attention. Western Kansas businessmen and land speculators envisioned a farmer’s paradise and encouraged new settlement in the area.

The porous soil caused problems with the canals, which allowed seepage and waste in dry years, and flooding in wet years. The ditches struggled to meet allocations and many eventually closed.

Then in 1904 engineers learned that the water seepage contributed to an underflow that was about 10 feet under the surface. This run-off from the Rockies formed the Ogallala Aquifer, one of the world’s largest underground layers of water. This water table covers about 174,000 square miles in the Great Plains.

The ditch companies expected this aquifer to be an inexhaustible source. They could pump a thousand gallons of water per minute without depleting the supply.

As Colorado’s water use increased, the flow of the Arkansas into Kansas decreased. In 1901 Kansas challenged these rights in the U.S. Supreme Court.

“It will be but a few years till that irrigation region will be the great garden of the West.”

Kansas Board of Agriculture, 1885
After a number of court cases Congress eventually passed the Arkansas River Compact in 1949 to define water rights of the Arkansas River basin. Since that time further compacts and legal cases have attempted to clarify these rights for Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

In the 1940s farmers turned to center-pivot irrigation to provide water for crops. This efficient irrigation system features sprinkler heads mounted on segments of pipe and truss on wheels. It completes a full rotation about every three days around a single point in the field. Viewed from above, the center-pivot creates lush green crop circles. Through irrigation farmers have produced much higher yields and have transformed the semi-arid plains into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. In Kansas nearly 3 million acres of farmland are irrigated.

Six ditches have survived and still operate today in Finney, Hamilton, and Kearny counties. Yet diversion and these irrigation methods have exceeded the water table’s rate of recharge, causing a slow decline in the aquifer. The Arkansas River receded in many places in western Kansas and by the 1950s it had mostly disappeared underground at Garden City. Local residents recall seeing it only a few times since then.

Henry L. Wolf documented daily life in southwest Kansas between 1888 and 1901, capturing many images of the Arkansas River and canals. He homesteaded in the sand hills south of Garden City and described the native prairie as “raw.” Wolf operated a studio in the Z. T. Nelson building, now listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a program of the Kansas Historical Society. His images are preserved in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society and the Finney County Historical Society.
The new settlers were provided with wagons, horses, steers, harnesses, cows, sheep, poultry, and implements. They homesteaded on 160-acre tracts along Pawnee Creek. Since lumber was scarce they built sod houses, usually about 12 by 24 feet, or dugouts, along with a sod synagogue and school. While the houses had no glass windows and tended to leak in the rain, the settlers kept them clean, applied whitewash, and built additions to make them more comfortable.

At first rainfall was abundant. They plowed 350 acres of land, planting sorghum and vegetables. Years of drought and blizzards threatened their crops. By 1885 the settlers abandoned the town and relocated to Jewish communities in Kansas City, Hebron, Barber County; Lasker, Ford County; Touro, Kearny County, and Leeser, Finney County.

Some moved to the nearby towns of Ravanna and Eminence. They established dry goods, beef supply, hardware, and implement stores. When these towns failed in their attempts to become the county seat, they too were eventually abandoned. The descendants of many of these colonists continue to live in Kansas today.

Kansas Historical Markers

Find the Beersheba historical marker on K-156 in Finney County in the rest area west of junction K-23. The Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Department of Transportation administer the historical markers throughout the state. This marker was added through the generosity of Kansas Historical Foundation members Barton and Mary Davidson Cohen of Kansas City in 1998. The Cohens have been dedicated to celebrating Jewish history and heritage. Find more about the markers at kshs.org/14999.
Sugar Beets

In 1889 farmers produced several tons of sugar beets. The crop required an investment of water to produce, which was made possible through newly installed irrigation systems. They shipped the beets to factories in Colorado and Nebraska to be processed and refined into sugar. Impressed with Kansas’ efforts, Colorado investors established the United States Sugar and Land Company in Garden City in 1905, purchasing 52,000 acres in Finney and Kearny counties. They invested in a power plant, irrigation systems, and reservoirs to serve the factory and provide water for crops.

Hundreds of workers were needed during fall and winter production. They hired American Indians from New Mexico and Arizona, and people from Germany, Mexico, and Japan. More than 150 houses were built to house...
workers on 80-acre tracts. Production continued to increase until World War II, when the company was required to contribute to the war effort. After the war, sugar beet production ceased and was replaced with more efficient crops like corn and wheat. The warehouses and some of the housing are still used today for other business.

Cattle

Early Kansas ranchers grazed cattle on prairie grasses during the growing season. They sold their herds to the railroads that shipped them to Kansas City, Chicago, or Denver, where they were fed and processed. By 1892 there were 5,471 head of feeder cattle in Finney County.

Then Kansas cattleman Earl Brookover changed the process. In 1951 he established the first commercial feed yard in the Midwest. Brookover had grown up on a farm in Scott County and studied civil engineering at Kansas State University. He gained agricultural production experience in California and Peru before returning to Kansas. That application of engineering and agricultural was revolutionary in the industry, said Ty Brookover, Earl’s grandson.

“Cattle have the ability to convert something that we don’t want—sorghum and alfalfa—into something that we do want, quality beef,” said Ty Brookover of Garden City. “Why not consolidate all of these functions—feed, cattle, and processing—into one region? He understood how irrigation worked with natural gas. He was fascinated by engineering how to access the natural gas to power the irrigation. No one was doing that at that time.”

The Brookover feedlot was located north of Garden City. Brookover bought herds of large calves that could survive in the region while they were fed grains and forage produced onsite through powered irrigation. He

Migration and Refugee Services

The beef packing plants in southwest Kansas employ large numbers of immigrant workers. Since 1975 Levita Rohlman has helped these people transition to their new communities through Garden City’s Catholic Agency for Migration and Refugee Services. Rohlman begins working with individuals before they move to this country. Once they arrive, she helps them locate housing, schools, services, language classes, and employment.

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introduced the slogan, “Eat Beef, Keep Slim,” in the 1950s; his concept was embraced by the beef industry.

The only missing component in the process was a local packing plant. In 1980 Iowa Beef Processers opened the world’s largest beef packing plant at the time nearby in Holcomb. Three years later Val-Agri opened a packing plant in Garden City. Since thousands of workers were needed to operate these plants, people were hired from around the world—Mexico, Vietnam, Somalia, Eritrea, Burma, and China. The Garden City plant closed in 2000 due to a fire, but large plants continue to operate in Holcomb, Dodge City, and Liberal, where 14 different languages are often spoken.

Ty Brookover continues his grandfather’s operation, following in his father, Earl, Jr.’s, footsteps. There are now two commercial feed yards with a capacity of 80,000 head. Others joined the Brookovers and today Finney County raises nearly 200,000 head of beef cattle annually. The community comes together each year in June to celebrate this industry with Beef Empire Days, now in its 47th year. The event includes a parade, barbecue, concert, rodeo events, and scholarships.

Francis Marion Steele was an early photographer who documented Colorado, southwest Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma Territory, and Texas from 1890 to 1905. His photographs of cattle drives, railroads, ranching, and farming operations provide a vision of life in the West and are preserved in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society and the Finney County Historical Society.
President Theodore Roosevelt believed that nature existed to benefit humanity. To that end he promoted conservation of natural resources, a part of his Square Deal program. Roosevelt designated 80,000 acres of land in the sand hills of Kansas as the Garden City National Forest Reserve, one of 150 such national forests. Through Roosevelt’s plan water could be used to irrigate semi-arid farmlands, animals hunted for food, and timber used for building. Much like the old theory “rain follows the plow,” Roosevelt thought trees could transform the sand hills.

During the five-year experiment 1 million trees of different species were planted. In 1906 they tried yellow pine, hackberry, locust, and Osage orange trees. The following year they planted evergreen, black locust, western yellow pine, jack pine, and Scotch pine. The goal was to cover the acreage in trees, but a prairie fire destroyed more than 200 acres of saplings. Eventually renamed the Kansas National Forest, the area was expanded to include 302,387 acres and comprised Finney, Kearney, Hamilton, Grant, and Haskell counties. Drought in 1911 killed 90 percent of the trees, but plantings continued. Most of the trees, including a stand of yellow pine, never grew more than two feet tall.

By 1915 it was clear that the experiment had failed and President Woodrow Wilson abolished the forest. Much of this land was opened to homesteaders. A few of the trees that survived can still be seen at the Sandsage Bison Range managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

“We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune.”

Theodore Roosevelt
John A. Stevens arrived in southwest Kansas to hunt buffalo and capture wild horses. Finding opportunity in the new town of Garden City, he was among the first homesteaders in 1879.

Stevens became a town developer along with C. J. “Buffalo” Jones, and soon a rivalry emerged between the two that drove much of the city’s early development. Jones had one vision for the town plat, Stevens had another.

Jones built the Marble Block on Grant Avenue in 1885, and the Buffalo Hotel in 1886 at a cost of $40,000, both designed by Topeka architects J. H. Stevens and C. L. Thompson. The Buffalo Hotel featured elegant rooms, dining, and a two-story atrium.

Stevens opened the Stevens Opera House on Main Street in 1886. He hired the same architects to design his Windsor Hotel at a cost of approximately $90,000, which was completed in 1888. The Windsor was one of the largest and most elegant hotels in western Kansas in its day and featured a square tower above the main entrance, 125 guest rooms, and a magnificent three-story atrium with skylights.

Built in the Renaissance style of native stone and locally kilned brick, the Windsor’s lobby is lined with balconies on three sides; two long mahogany stairways lead to rooms at the upper levels. Interior guest
rooms looked out over the open central court. The Windsor had a reputation for fine dining; a Sunday dinner menu included clam chowder, prime rib, breaded red snapper, oysters, veal, sweet bread, and lemon meringue pie. This was a place where cattlemen conducted business; and townspeople held banquets, balls, and social gatherings.

The Presidential Suite overlooked Main Street and featured a solid cherry wood fireplace with hand-painted Italian tile. Special guests of the day included stage actress Lillian Russell, Vaudeville actor Eddie Foy, and Buffalo Bill Cody. Stevens’ family occupied a private suite in the hotel. They had direct access to box seats in the opera house next door.

The city’s boom ended in the 1890s and both Stevens and Jones lost much of their holdings. The Windsor continued operating as a hotel until 1977. In 1997 the hotel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the community began planning for its restoration. Transportation enhancement funds recently helped provide stabilization work. Fundraising is now underway to Save the Cupola.

Ada McColl

One of the most well-known images of the West was created by this early photographer. McColl served as an apprentice with photographer Henry L. Wolf of Garden City. With her Rochester camera she photographed the magnificent atrium of the Windsor Hotel, pictured above. In 1893 she staged the famous photograph, “Independence on the Plains,” with her brother Burt. Her mother pressed the shutter at McColl’s instruction. McColl’s granddaughter loaned this and 12 other photographs to the Kansas Historical Society in 1984.
Blowing in the Wind

People who live in semi-arid regions of western Kansas know to expect some years of drought and dust. Occasionally the lack of rain persists year after year. In summer 1930 the region entered such a decade.

One of the issues that set this drought period apart was a shift in farming methods. Advancements in mechanized farm implements made it possible to break the sod and till millions of acres of virgin grasslands where farmers planted corn and wheat. Scientists and land speculators embraced the old “rain follows the plow” theory—when the soil is cultivated and its moisture exposed to the sky, increased rainfall would come. The entire Midwest passed season after season with below normal rainfall. After four years of drought the Kansas crops shriveled.

Right, tractor buried in dust; below, approaching dust storm, both photographs by Frank D. “Pop” Conard, 1935.
A two-day storm in May 1934 dumped 12 million pounds of soil from the plains states on Chicago. On Black Sunday, April 14, 1935, a massive front moved across the Great Plains from the northwest. Winds of 60 miles per hour scooped the topsoil and formed billowing clouds of dust hundreds of feet high. More than 75 percent of the Kansas topsoil was carried away by the wind.

Those caught outside risked suffocation and death. Daily activities ceased as fine silt seeped into houses, schools, businesses, churches, and hospitals. Thousands of people fled the Midwest, causing the largest migration in American history. In Kansas there was a decline in population of 4.3 percent from 1930 to 1940; Finney County experienced an 8.4 percent decline.

Several New Deal programs were established to help states recover including the Soil Conservation Service. Many people displayed an indomitable spirit, surviving through hope, humor, and innovation. They changed farming techniques, restored pastureland, and planted wind breaks in an effort to succeed. Their resolve assured Kansas’ place as the breadbasket of the nation.

Frank D. “Pop” Conard

The most widely used photographs of the Dust Bowl were shot by Frank D. “Pop” Conard. His photography studio was located in the Nelson building in Garden City. Conard found ways to express humor in the midst of the drought through creating exaggerated postcards. He made composite images of daily scenes with huge grasshoppers and jackrabbits, and was called the master of the “whopper hopper.” Several of these postcards are in the Kansas Historical Society’s collection.
“I did see great tumble weeds blown over the hills in ‘herds’ making one think they were seeing buffalo … I also saw rattlesnakes …”

Homesteaders were immediately welcomed to the sand hills of Finney County where the Kansas National Forest had once existed. With settlement came the need for schools.

Maude Elliott was one of several new teachers to arrive in 1917. After completing one year at Kansas University, she needed funds to continue her education. She found a position in the sand hills and lodging in a claim shack with another schoolteacher.

“I did see great tumble weeds blown over the hills in ‘herds’ making one think they were seeing buffalo on the move,” Elliott recalled. “I also saw rattlesnakes, coyotes, and sand—sand everywhere—no trees, no gardens and not even many fences.”

Elliott had a revolver that she used when threatened by rattlesnakes. She walked about three miles to her schoolhouse, a temporary structure that was formerly a chuck wagon and shoe shop. Elliott earned $55 per month teaching 20 children in eight grades, 32 lessons a day, plus she cleaned and made the fire in cold weather. After five months, Elliott returned to finish her education at KU and went on to teach school for 47 years.

In 1976 Elliott donated a reminiscence and photographs of her experience to the Kansas Historical Society. Find them online at kansasmemory.org/item/215029.
Finney County has welcomed people from around the world to relocate and contribute to the region’s agri-business. They brought with them foods, festivals, and many different languages in addition to English: Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, German, Lao, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. These immigrants introduced cultural traditions that now have become part of Finney County’s heritage.

Foods are among the most popular ways to share traditions. Garden City residents have abundant choices to explore new cultures through the many different types of restaurants.

**Mexican Fiesta**

Mexican Independence Day, observed September 16, marks the date when the people stood up to their Spanish rulers. Garden City’s Mexican Fiesta, begun 89 years ago, is held in September and honors the community’s Mexican heritage. Top, a young girl celebrates the fiesta, photo courtesy Community Mexican Fiesta; above, parade participants in 1929; photo courtesy Finney County Historical Society; left, Mexican Fiesta in 1938, Kansas Historical Society collections.

**Pho Hoa Restaurant**

Khanh and Ha Nyugen introduced Vietnamese foods to Garden City in 1987. Pho means noodles, which is among their most popular servings. The Nyuengs children, Dat and Huyen, grew up helping in the restaurant, which offers traditional Vietnamese recipes with sauces made from scratch. Customers love their egg rolls and com suon, pork chops with white rice and fish sauce.
Vietnamese New Year

Right, the Vietnamese New Year or Tet is celebrated on the first day of the lunar year in January or February. A popular element is the dragon dance with precisely timed movements to make the dragon appear to come alive. This dragon dance team is pictured in 1992, photo courtesy Finney County Historical Society; below, bright colorful clothing is worn during Tet to bring good luck and prosperity to people for the upcoming year. This Tet celebration was held at Alta Brown School, circa 1994, photo courtesy Finney County Historical Society.

Las Margaritas Restaurant

David Perez and Juan Florentino opened this family-style Mexican restaurant in 2006, which emphasizes “really good service,” healthy meals, and variety on the menu. Customers like their enchiladas, fajitas, and burritos, photo courtesy Finney County Historical Society.

Burmese New Year

People from Burma, or Myanmar, began arriving in the Garden City area around 2007 to flee political, religious, and economic persecution. A Buddhist festival, the New Year can span four to five days with water games and activities as a portion of the celebration. On New Year’s Day people honor their elders and make traditional offerings. In Burma there are eight major groups, four of those groups are represented in Garden City: Karen, Rakhaine, Shan and Chin. Garden City celebrates Karen New Year in mid-April, 2012.
Cao Thanh Restaurant

Thang and Tom Cao opened their restaurant in 2013, inspired by a business their parents ran in Vietnam. Their traditional Vietnamese dishes are packed with a distinct flavor, freshness, and heartiness. The pho (pronounced foy) is Vietnamese beef noodle soup and among their most popular dishes.

Read Kansas! lesson plans

The Kansas Historical Society produced an award-winning curriculum series for primary through high school. The ready-to-use materials for students and educators help increase students’ appreciation of Kansas and its history. One of the lessons for third grade students comprises eight holidays celebrated by different cultural groups in the state, including one on Garden City’s Lunar New Year celebration.

Garden City’s first Hispanic mayor, Dionisio Campos Garcia grew up in Holcomb and worked in the sugar beet fields. He worked at the post office for many years. In 1971 he was elected city commissioner, then mayor in 1973. Garcia and his wife were recognized for volunteerism at the local, state, and national level. Garcia was active in the American G. I. Forum in Garden City. Founded in Texas as an organization for Hispanic veterans, the Forum welcomed all veterans with honorable discharges. The Garden City chapter was established by Joe Ontineras, Jr., in 1954, and provided scholarships to many young people from Garden City.
Mary Regan was a high school drama and biology teacher before she accepted a position as assistant director of the Finney County Historical Society and Museum in 1987. The following year she was promoted to executive director where she served until her retirement in 2013.

“I found the professionals in the museum sphere to be friendly and helpful,” Regan said. “It was a pleasure to be associated with this community and I learned a lot from them. I loved all aspects of the work; it seemed to suit me well.”

Regan worked with the Kansas Historical Society on several history projects. “The Kansas Historical Society has been so important to Finney County and to the state,” said Regan. “Jennie Chinn encouraged me to apply for a grant for a folk arts festival and we were successful.” The next project was an exhibit on immigration and the beef industry, *I Born Again in America: Observations on a More Diverse Nation*, which was displayed in Garden City and among the Historical Society’s traveling exhibits.

In 1992 Regan was elected to the Kansas Historical Foundation Board of Directors and to the executive committee in 1998, where she served until 2003. In 2010 she was elected to the honorary board, where she continues to serve.

Three members of the Hope family from Garden City have also served on the board. Clifford Hope, Sr., served as president of the organization in 1970-1971. Hope was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. His son, Clifford Hope, Jr., was a board member and president in 1977-1978. A county commissioner and lawyer, he was appointed to the U.S. State Department Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid. His papers are preserved in the Historical Society’s collections. Quentin Hope, son of Clifford Hope, Jr., now living in Colorado, is a current board member.
Honor the Past
Educate the Present
Inspire the Future

Leave a Legacy
Join the Kansas Heritage Circle, the bequest recognition society.

To learn more please contact Tom Ellis at 785-272-8681, ext. 210; tellis@kshs.org.
For 47 years Beef Empire Days in Garden City brings together the entire community to celebrate the beef industry in many different ways. The two-week festival includes a rodeo, parade, cook off, and the chuck wagon, pictured here in Stevens City Park in 1990, photo courtesy Finney County Historical Society.