Why is Alf Landon a Notable Kansan?

Alf Landon Family—left to right daughter Peggy, Landon, daughter Nancy, son John, and wife Theo.

Landon served as governor of Kansas from 1932 to 1936. During the time of the Great Depression he helped to stabilize the Kansas economy. In 1934 Landon was the only Republican incumbent governor to win reelection.


Landon’s success as governor of Kansas led the Republican Party to choose him as its candidate for president against Franklin Roosevelt in 1936.

My entire security consisted of a bulletproof-steel speaker’s podium that reached up to my chin—all you could see was my head—and one bodyguard, a retired federal agent hired by the campaign committee. That podium went everywhere with me on the train. It took four big men to load and unload it.

—Alf Landon

Landon lost the election to incumbent President Franklin Roosevelt. On November 4, 1936, he sent his concession message to Roosevelt.

