



Capturing Your Community



**Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference
January 27, 2022**

Joan K. Weaver

Director Kinsley Public Library



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Kinsley Public Library

Kinsley, Kansas

www.kinsleylibrary.info



STORIES MAKE A COMMUNITY
CAPTURE THE STORIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY
AND CAPTURE YOUR COMMUNITY'S INTEREST & SUPPORT

**You can
start small**

Ah-h-h-h-h



**Kent &
Wilda
Bartman
1951**

WHERE DO YOU FIND INSPIRATION?

In your community:

People

Places

Events

Culture

**ONE THING
JUST LEADS TO
ANOTHER**



What can you discover about your community's past?

- **Use your library research resources**
- **Use community resources:**
museums, historical societies, civic groups, churches, schools, local government
- **Ask your local experts**
- **Newspaper Archive Databases**

Badgerlink contains: Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers
Newspaper Source Plus,
Newspapers.com Library Edition - World Collection

- News**papers™
Publisher Extra

[Search](#) [Browse](#) [Papers](#) [Clippings](#)

 KinsleyLibr...
SUBSCRIBER[See all→](#)

Get Started

Tutorials & video to help you get started using the website. [Start now »](#)

Introduction



Newspapers Publisher Extra Home Search Browse Papers Clippings

81 matches Kinsley, Kansas 1912 Suffrage Show advanced

Narrow by Date

1877 1912 1922

1912 Update

Added in the past

- 1 month
- 3 months
- 6 months
- 1 year
- Any time

81 matches

1ional Educational Asso-
convention at Chicago,
equal **suffrage**. Jane
rites: "I am happy to say
National Educational As-
adopted a **suffrage** resolu-

The Kinsley Graphic
Kinsley, Kansas
Thursday, July 25, 1912 - Page 2
1 of 9 matches on this page.

G WAS WELL ATTENDED BIG F
Phases of the **Suffrage** Que-
tion Were Touched Upon.
suffrage meeting at the Con- All
mal church Sunday after- the cur-

The Kinsley Graphic
Kinsley, Kansas
Thursday, June 06, 1912 - Page 1
1 of 8 matches on this page.

the anti-suffrage leaders.
have come to the conclu-
sion of my observation
e administration of many

The Kinsley Graphic
Kinsley, Kansas
Thursday, August 29, 1912 - Page 2
1 of 8 matches on this page.

OLUTION.
the reform Mayor
ressed himself as
f woman **suffrage**
e Cincinnati dele-
Municipal Con-
a few days ago.

The Kinsley Graphic
Kinsley, Kansas
Thursday, February 22, 1912 - Page 2
1 of 7 matches on this page.

LaFollette, wife States.
convention has just Dece-

The Kinsley Graphic

https://www.newspapers.com/image/64453926/?terms=Suffrage

FIND CLIP PRINT/SAVE SHARE

KinsleyLibr... SUBSCRIBER

FIND CLIP PRINT/SAVE SHARE Save to Ancestry

1 of 9 matches Suffrage Find Cancel

THE KINSLEY GRAPHIC, THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1912.

will support Roosevelt should
be elected on the Republican
ballot as those who will support Mr.
Taft, the nominee of their party.

The National Educational Association, in convention at Chicago, endorsed equal **suffrage**. Jane Addams writes: "I am happy to say that the National Educational Association adopted a **suffrage** resolution the day before yesterday, due I think to the sheer momentum of the Cause."

By a vote of 430 to 180, Chicago boys, sons of members of the Association of Commerce, decided their mothers should have the ballot. The boys were on the steamer United States, enjoying the annual excursion given them by the Association, and their **2 of 10** were not present to influence the vote.

Summer Clearance At Reduced

Where you can get help and funding?

➤ **Humanities Nebraska**



➤ **Local volunteers**

➤ **Community Foundations**

➤ **Nebraska State Historical Society** 

➤ **National Endowment for the Humanities**

➤ **Gilder Lehman Institute**

➤ **American Library Association**

Solicit and train volunteers

Research
Scanning
Web Development



Virginia Gleason



Sally
Bidleman



Bette Ryan



Nancy Weidenheimer

Programming
Mounting displays
Promotional designs



Beverly Craft

ORAL HISTORIES



2009 - *Patchwork of Dependency: The Effects of World War II on Edwards County* 22 Interviews

2011 - *Patterns of Change: Edwards County, 1950-1970* 23 Interviews



2012 - *1979 Tractorcade to D.C.: Edwards County Farmers and the American Agriculture Movement* 14 Interviews



Carnival History



Veterans



Dust Bowl

Hold Open Houses to connect your citizens to the oral histories.



Patterns of Change

**Open House
November 5, 2011**



**Dr. Boehme's
English 11
Class "Our
Town" project
included
researching a
local building.**

**Gave them
FREE copying**

2000 on





Local History Archive

**Do you have one? Wonderful!
Don't have one...
begin to create one**

**Catalogue
files**

**In 2003 we
digitized an
ongoing burial
file begun in
1950**



Kinsley Library
Hello User,
Please Login

[Go back](#)

Cover art not available

Availability: 1

Title : Ball Park
Format : Archival Materials
Found In : SWiftnet
Other Functions ▾

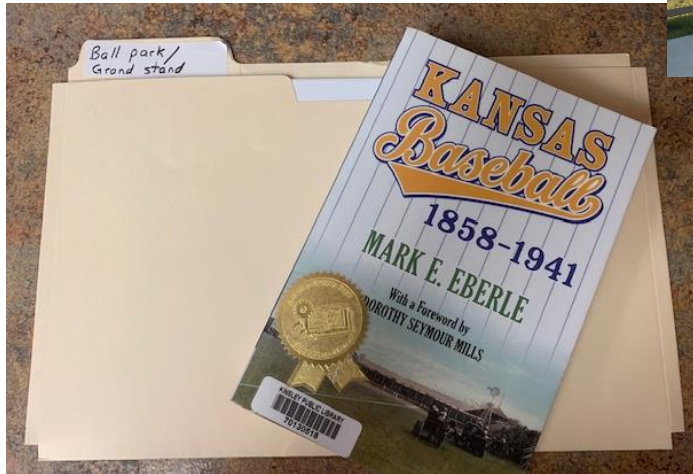
Details

Details

Title: [Ball Park](#)
Notes: The original ball park was built in 1904. This grandstand burned in 1931 and the new ball park was constructed in 1934.
Subject: [Grandstand in South Park completed in 1934](#)
Subject: [Ball Park may be the oldest in the state Edwards County Sentinel \(September 10, 2014\), Researched by Mark Eberle from Fort Hays State University](#)
Subject: [Minutes of the City Commissioners, March 5, 1934.](#)
Subject: [Picture of the grandstand taken in 1905.](#)
Subject: [South Side Park baseball field](#)
Subject: [Baseball stadium](#)
Subject: [South Park field, Kinsley, Kansas 1904, 1934 copy of an article by Mark Eberle](#)

Location	Call Number	Barcode	Status
Kinsley Public Library - Adult - Vertical File	KIN Ball Park/ Grandstand (File Folder)	141121000004*	● Available

Catalogued files make them accessible to both local and remote researchers.



William Wolfgang visits



Kinsley has the oldest grandstand in Kansas

Kinsley was home to the oldest community Shakespearean Festival.

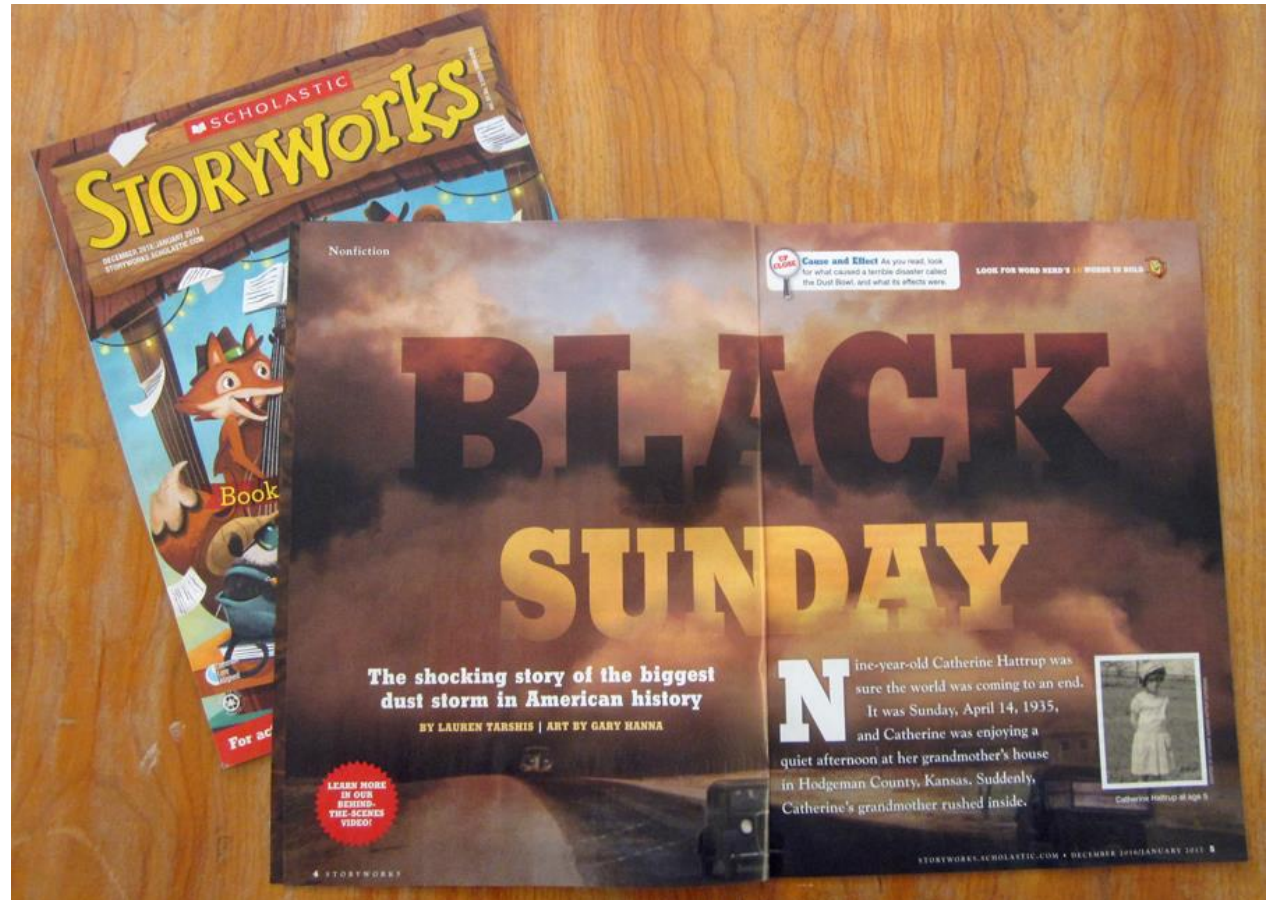




**Catherine Hatrup
1925-2020**

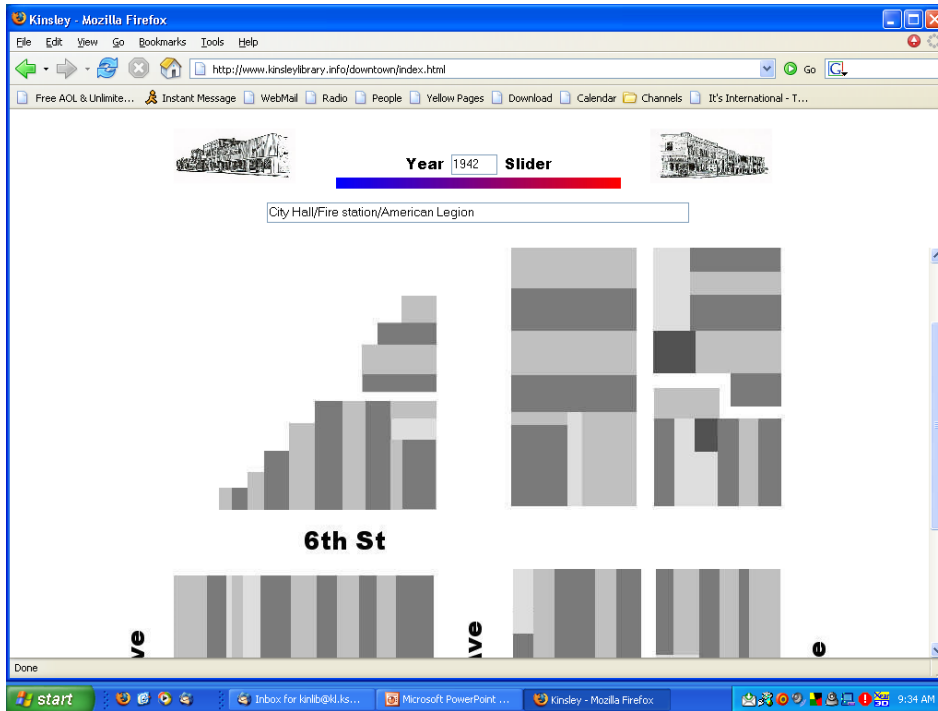
**Catherine's story reached one million
4th and 5th graders because it was
catalogued.**

Catherine's story is also preserved.



Spring 2002

Don Benish, computer programmer, walked in the library door and said he had an idea for a historical digital map if we wanted to do the research.



He designed and implemented the
Downtown Kinsley Digital Map.

MAP # <u>123 East 6th</u>	YEAR <u>1938</u>
(Highlight location on back)	
BUSINESS NAME: <u>Bentley Hardware & Fur</u>	
TYPE OF BUSINESS: _____	
Owner: _____	
Leasee (if applicable): <u>Howard Bentley</u>	
Location in Building (e.g. upstairs, basement, back-half): <u>West side of building</u>	
SOURCE(S) OF INFORMATION: (The library will make copies of source information for the files.) <u>1928 Telephone Book</u>	
NAME OF RESEARCHER: _____ <u>Ag</u>	

Volunteers researched a specific area of downtown Kinsley



Nancy Weidenheimer

Sally Bidleman



Four photographs albums by professional California photographer William Reagh from 1978 and 1985 becomes core of digital project.

Images gathered from organizations and the community

Kansas
State
Historical
Society

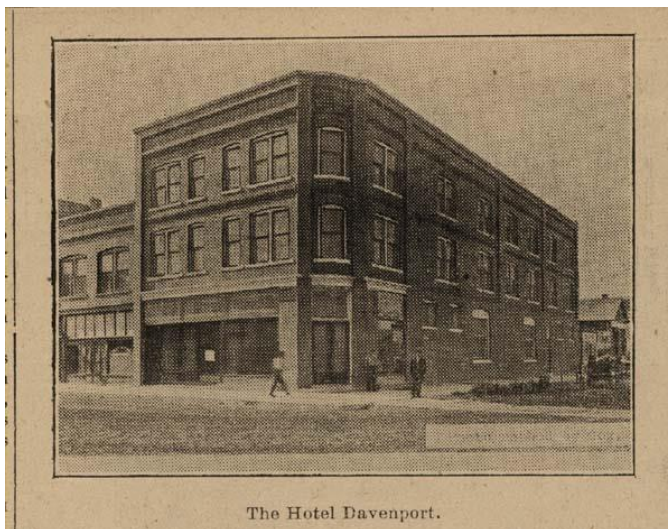


Edwards County Historical Society
Local newspapers and books



Commercial postcards

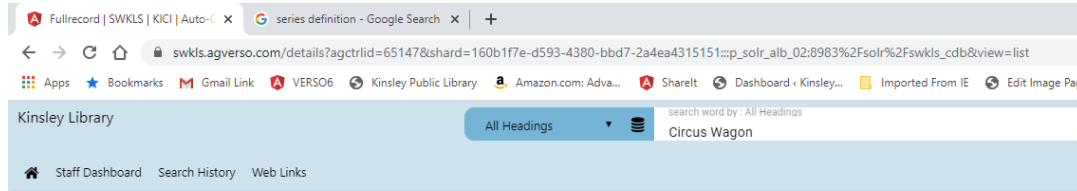
Family albums



Individual collections



Images catalogued in Kinsley collection



Details

ISRN: kdm139echs
Title: [Circus Wagon on street](#)
Date: 1900?
Publisher: Kinsley Public Library
Notes: Digitized as part of the Western Trails Project.
Notes: Project funded by a grant from the Kansas State Library Network Board.
Notes: Still image
Notes: 216-220 E. Sixth St. Circus wagons entering northwest corner of Sixth Street and Niles Avenue from the east. One wagon is pulled by six white horses and the next wagon is pulled by two white horses. The buildings on the left (north) are Falk's Implement House, unknown wood frame building (with a balcony), Donnell Noble & Noble Real Estate-Insurance. The buildings are wood frame, with wooden awnings.
Notes: 216-220 E. Sixth St. Circus wagons entering northwest corner of Sixth Street and Niles Avenue from the east. One wagon is pulled by six white horses and the next wagon is pulled by two white horses. The buildings on the left (north) are Falk's Implement House, unknown wood frame building (with a balcony), Donnell Noble & Noble Real Estate-Insurance. The buildings are wood frame, with wooden awnings and sidewalks. Ladies with parasols watch from the balcony.kdm139
Notes: Digital copy. Dodge City Windows XP Pro; scanned
Notes: Black and white photograph; inches; 3.5 x 4.5 inches.
Terms: Photograph from the private collection of the Edwards County Historical Society. Copyright is unknown and provided here for educational purposes only.
Subject: [Western trails digitization project](#)
Subject: [City and town life Cities and towns Pictorial works Circus Business enterprises](#)
Subject: [Kinsley \(Kan.\) Edwards County Kansas West \(U.S.\) History](#)
Subject: Internet resource (Web)
Co-Author: [Kinsley Public Library](#)
Electronic: <http://www.kinsleylibrary.info/downtown/200North/200kdm139echs.jpg> View image
Location:

Location	Call Number	Barcode	Status	Edit Item
Kinsley Public Library - Kinsley - Digital Map 4	KDM CD-4 (Weblink)	070326001359*	Available	Edit Item
Kinsley Public Library - Kinsley - Digital Map 4	KDM CD-4 Web (Weblink)	11111111	Available	Edit Item

MARC Display

Control Number : 65147

Last Modified : 20080307084810



2017

**Edwards County Historical Society
received boxes of glass negatives done
by the photographer W. O. Durstine of
Belpre, KS.**

**Kansas State Historical Society scanned
and archived them.**

**Kinsley Library working to identify them
and also storing digital copy.**



2008 - Hutchinson

UNDERGROUND VAULT AND STORAGE, INC.

- Did research in stored records
- Networking with Librarians, County Commissioner, Historical Society & Museum, Cemetery Board, Volunteer Researcher
- Public Preservation Awareness (Newspaper coverage of trip)
- Brought early tax roles home to create digitized spread sheets



The Things They Carried Home Preservation Workshop - 2015



EXHIBITS



The Edwards County Arts Council sponsored the Kansas Humanities Council talk on “Main Street Kansas” at the library. A companion display was mounted with photographs of Kinsley’s main street borrowed from the Edwards County Historical Society.



1999





Collections from individuals on exhibit at library

Call for artifacts for group exhibits with open houses to share stories

Objects are dug out and dusted off.
Memories are shared and recorded.
Families think about preservation.



**2001
Handkerchiefs**



**2000
Aprons**

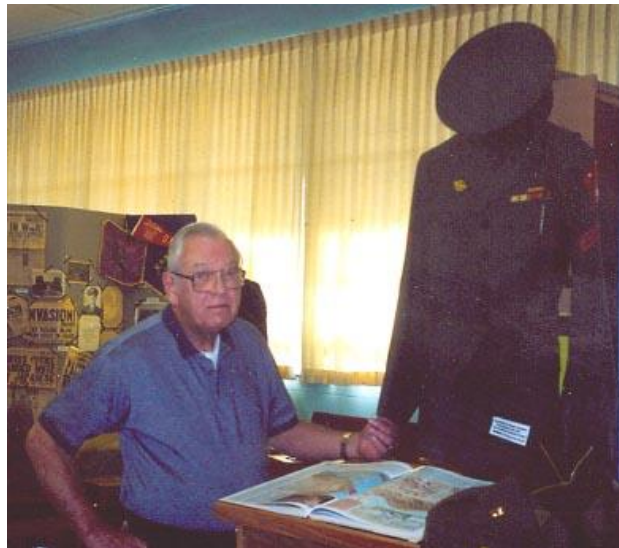


**2003
Pot Holders**



World War II patron-generated exhibit with open house held on Veterans Day

2003





Korean and Vietnam Wars Exhibit 2004



From the Bookshelf of....

From the bookshelf of...
*a changing exhibit of the books our patrons
 have enjoyed or been influenced by*

Beginning August 20, 2003
 by featuring the bookshelves of
**M. Dale Atwood
 and Dorothy Airgood**

Patrons featured will be changed
 every three weeks through Dec. 17

Kinsley Library, 208 E. 8th St.
 620-659-3341
 Mon. & Wed 9 a.m.-8 p.m.;
 Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 9 - 11 a.m., 1-5 p.m.
 Saturday 1-5 p.m.



**From the Bookshelf of
 Librarian interviews
 citizens about their lives and
 their important books.
 Display mounted with the
 citizen's books.**

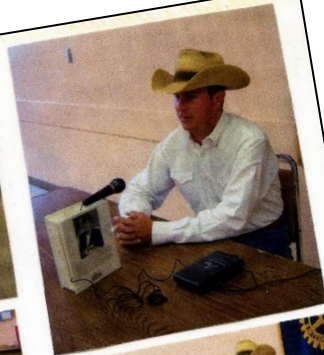
2002-2003

INCLUDE/INVOLVE YOUR TEENS



Summer Reading programs for teens

Three interviews conducted by teens for
Summer Reading, *Discover New Trails*, 2004



John Mundhenke shares his adventures on the Great American Cattle Drive as part of the summer reading oral history project.



Eldon Gray relates how he became an optometrist in Kinsley and why he takes his skills to Third World countries

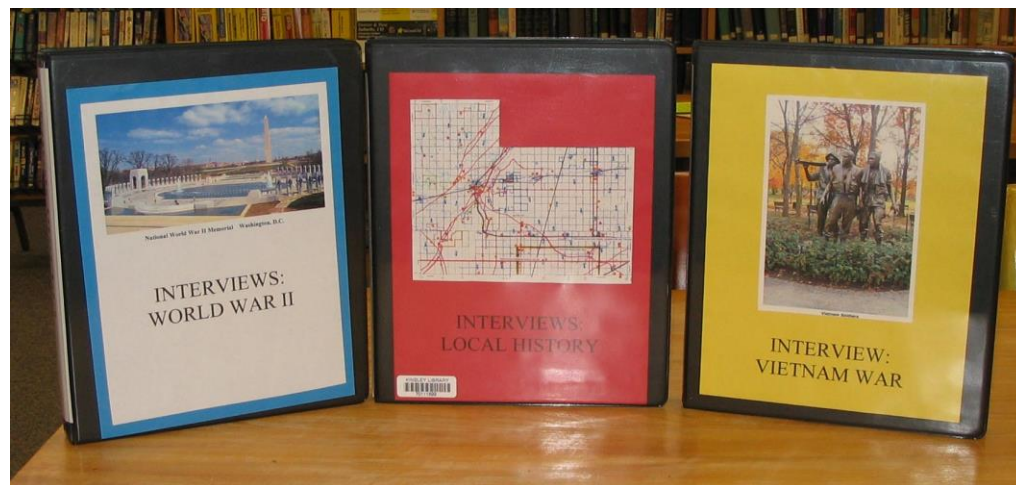


**Fits 2020 Summer
Reading Theme
"Imagine Your Story"**

Selma Peranovic, a Bosnian refugee new to the community, tells of the struggle of an interfaith marriage in Bosnia and the challenges of immigration.



Partnered with H.S. English class in the Library of Congress *Veterans History Project*



VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT
A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ABOUT THE PROJECT

HOW TO PARTICIPATE
- guidelines, forms (field kit), partner resources

SEARCH THE VETERANS COLLECTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NEWS AND EVENTS

**Experiencing War
Healing with Honor
Medical Personnel**
View Featured Interviews

RSS Feed
VHP Disclaimer | Contact Us
Legal | External Link Disclaimer

*** NEW ***
**VHP Fieldkit
Companion Video**
watch video

2013 Preservation Week Feature new

Volunteer Spotlight

Using the Collections

Print Forms & Kits

Staff Favorites

For Researchers

**Featured Book:
Forever a Soldier**

Help support VHP
Donate Now

18 Interviews
Conducted 2004-2006
Interviews entered into library collection

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

**Get help here:
Print Forms and Kits**



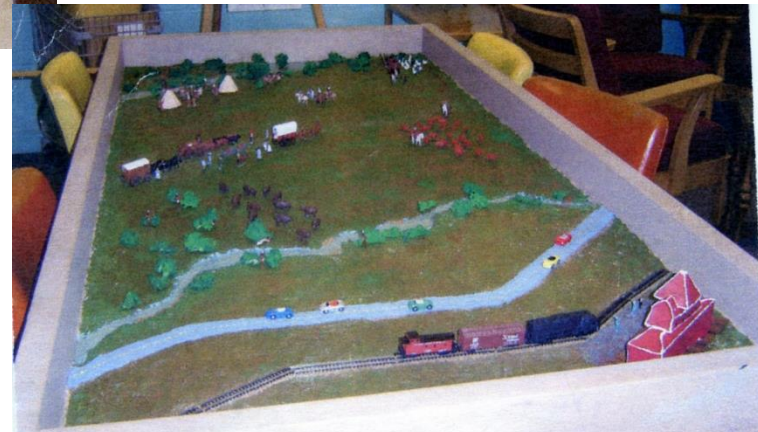
Teens create topographic map of Edwards County Trails

Summer Reading “Discover New Trails” 2004

SEVEN TRAILS

Buffalo, Indian, Conquistador, Santa Fe Trail,
Cattle Trail, Santa Fe Railroad, Highway 50

Exhibited at Kansas State Fair
and Santa Fe Trail meeting



Destination Here

Page design by Zona



Above: Aubrey Oswalt, Dakota Schulte, Dawn Thorp.

Above right: Dawn Thorp, Joan Weaver, Aubrey Oswalt, Dakota Schulte, Zona Rhoades, and Clifford Tipton.

Far right: George Rhoades and Zona Rhoades.



Aubrey, Dakota, Linette Miller, Zona and Dawn Thorp meeting.



Above: Dakota Schulte in museum.

Below: Aubrey Oswalt in museum.



Destination Here met with Linette Miller, Edwards County Economic Development Director, who showed us brochures. We made plans to make the video and made story boards. We chose our music on the internet. We walked to main street and took pictures. On Saturday, June 18, George Rhoades and Clifford Tipton drove the cars we used in our video. We went back to the library and edited the film, and added the music and titles. Mrs. Miller thought we did a great job. You can see the video at www.kinsleylibrary.info



WELCOME TO EDWARDS COUNTY, KANSAS



Teens make a film of Edwards County attractions

Used by the Economic Development director at the Kansas Sampler Festival.

Summer Reading theme
One World, Many Stories
2011

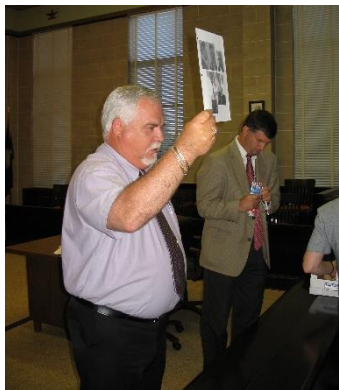


Get a Clue @ the Library 2007 Summer Reading theme



**Solve the Mystery of the
Fleagle Gang Bank Robbery (1927)**

**A visit to the Edwards County Courthouse to get
Clues from the County Clerk, Treasurer, Lawyer,
District Judge, Sheriff, and Police**



2018 MUSICAL

The Kinsley Library Summer Reading Program Presents

Hands Up! It's a Robbery!

June 27, 2018 - 7 pm - KHS Auditorium

Directed by Joan Weaver
Music by Thad Beach

Assistant Director: Dawn Thorp Music Director: Lynette Anderson
Costumes: Judy Miller

Set Designers: Lawrence, Sabrina, Kansas and Charles Lange

Playwrights: Kali Hansel, Kansas Lange, Karina Reyes,
Julia Perez, Harley Saylor, Taylor Dishneau

Lyricists: Trenton Anderson, Isabelle Bowman, Kali Hansel,
Kansas Lange, Canvas Lovesee, Elise Ritchie, Abigail Schwartz

1927 Master Buick Six: Canvas Lovesee and Trenton Anderson

Lemonade Stand: Hunter Castaneda and Shaylen Katz

Barber Pole: Hunter Castaneda, Payton Ritter

Bank Counter: Canvas Lovesee, Trenton Anderson, Hunter Castaneda

Costume Crew: Caitlen Gleason

Tech Crew: Ricardo Lujan, Diana Holguin, Krisstal Holguin, Alexandra Fuentes

*Produced by the Kinsley Library with support from the City of Kinsley, Ryans
USD 347, Farmer's Bank & Trust, Twice Is Nice, Phil Morris, & Romano's Pizza*

Funded in part by the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission

1960 & 1927, Kinsley

**Research and
Script Writing**



**KCAIC Artist in
Residence,
Thad Beach,
Lyrics and
Music**

**Set,
Properties,
Costumes
Promotion**



Summer Reading theme – Libraries Rock



Picturing America

NEH grant - 2008



Edward Hooper's *"House by the Railroad"*



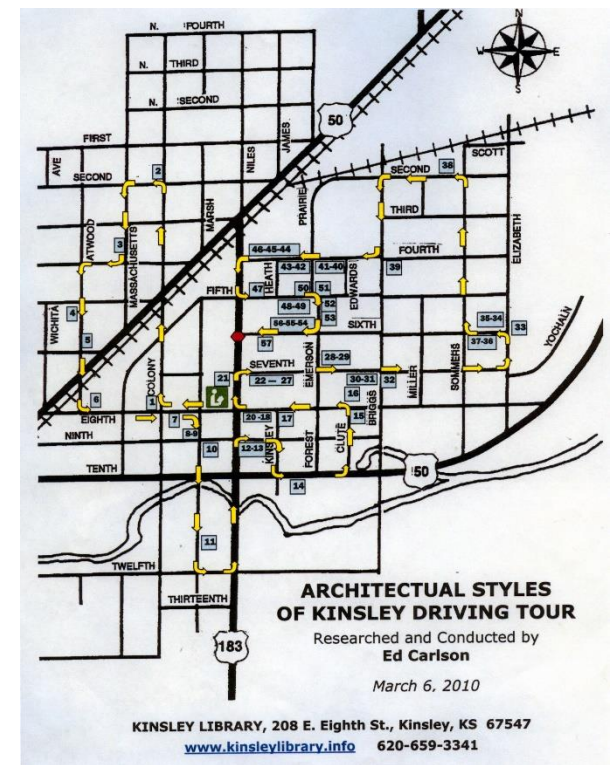
**Hobbs house next to the
railroad in Kinsley**



**Architect and local historian Ed Carlson
researches and conducts a bus tour**

“Architectural Styles of Kinsley”

2010 and 2017





ARCHITECTURAL STYLES of KINSLEY, KANSAS

Original Bus Tour Researched
& Conducted by
Ed Carlson, Architect
for the
Kinsley Library
March 6, 2010

Photography: Julie Ackerman
Research and Fact Checking: Rosetta Graff
Compilation and Editing: Joan Weaver

Kinsley Library
208 E. 8th St.
Kinsley, Kansas 67547

Take your own self-guided tour

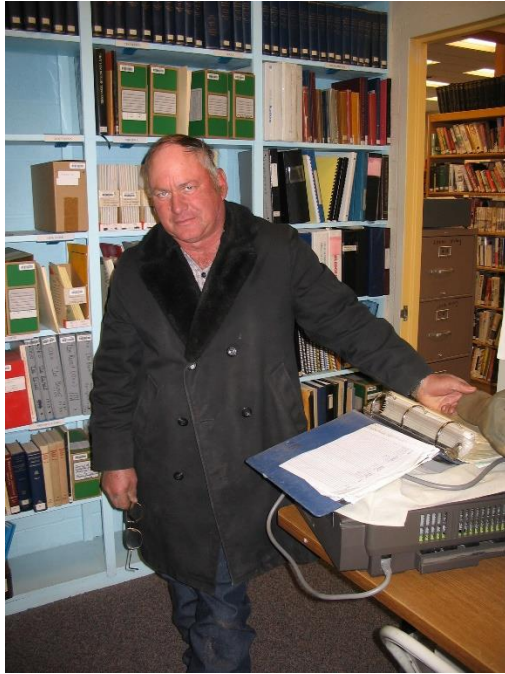
**Recorded Ed's tour talk,
transcribed it and added his
primary research**

**Check out the book at the
library or access it in digital
form online**



Encourage cooperation and sharing within community

Ray Wetzel



Burial files online - 2003

Library cooperates with Cemetery Board

Sexton does research in library on burials

Sexton's cemetery records added to library website 2004

Librarian joins Cemetery Board

Cemetery Board applies and Civil War Monument is put on the National

Registry of Historic Places and becomes eligible for grants for preservation

Local funds generated to enclose monument in a building - 2015





A NEW WODEHOUSE SERIAL
1939



KINSLEY is MIDWAY USA

- Geographically
- Homebase for carnivals
- Bruce White – Carousal figure carver

ILDP Grant for Carnival Resources – 1998

**Bookworm carving by teens – 2000
Kansas Arts Commission grant**



Your Midway to Resources



Archiving and hosting Carnival Heritage images on library website 2009-2011

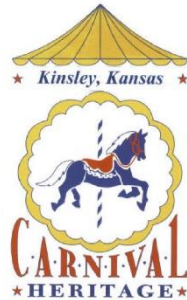
KINSLEY LIBRARY CARNIVAL RESOURCE LINKS

National Foundation for Carnival Heritage
[DIGITAL IMAGE COLLECTION](#)

Kinsley Library [PRINT RESOURCES](#) and [ORAL HISTORIES](#)

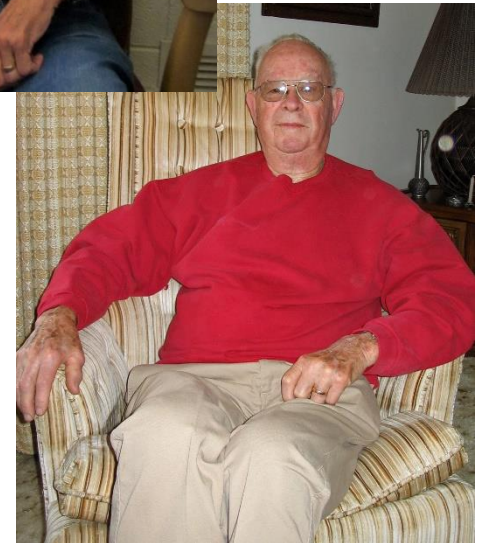


industry, were started in Kinsley.



Part of Kinsley's history can be found in U.S. carnival history. Beginning in 1901, Charles Brodbeck began by placing a carousel on his farm as a means of generating additional income. Later he took the ride to carnivals held in neighboring cities. Soon, six carnival companies, including some of the best-known names in the

Conducted Oral Histories



BRING BOOK DISCUSSIONS HOME

2005 - Lewis & Clark Bicentennial

Local programs by modern voyagers on:

- Patron drives Model T to Florida
- Patron takes boat up the Missouri River

2009 – *Virgin of the Plains*

Program on

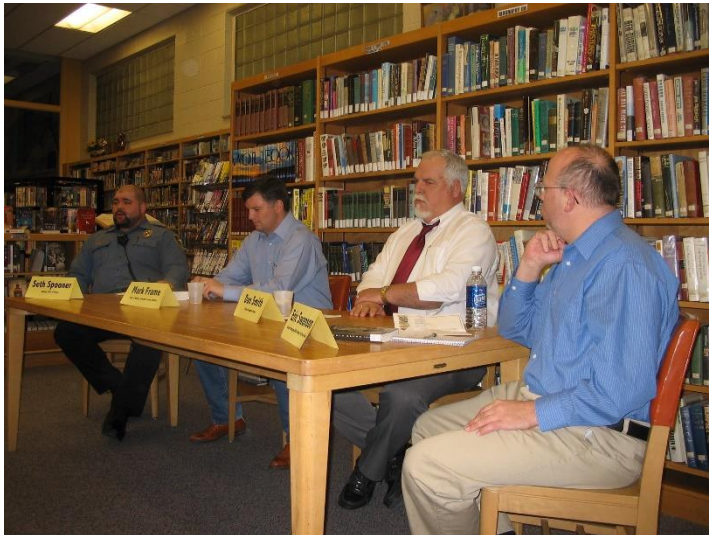
**Civil War Monument &
Ghost Stories of Edwards County**

KANSAS READS...

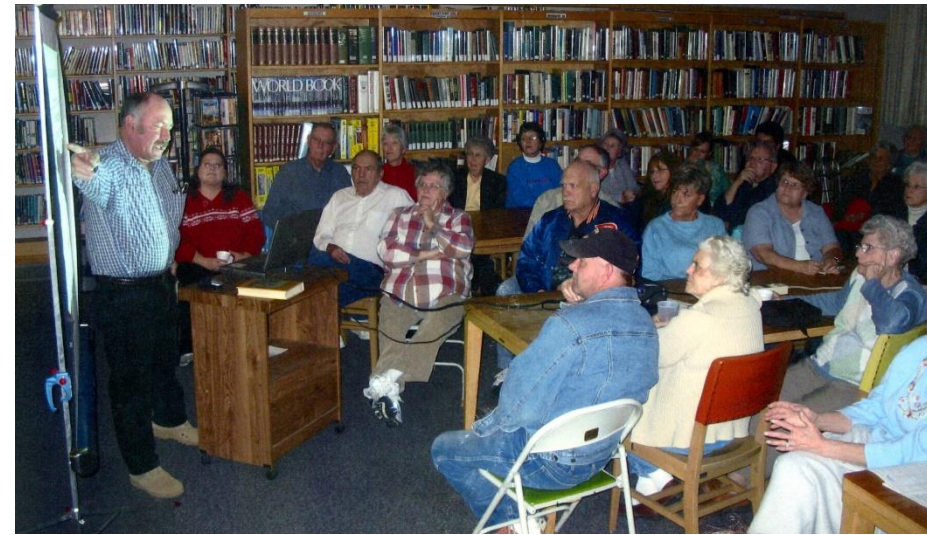
2006 – *The Learning Tree*

**Researched and shared history of
African Americans in Edwards County**

2008 - *In Cold Blood*



**Panel of Police, Lawyer,
Judge and Reporter**

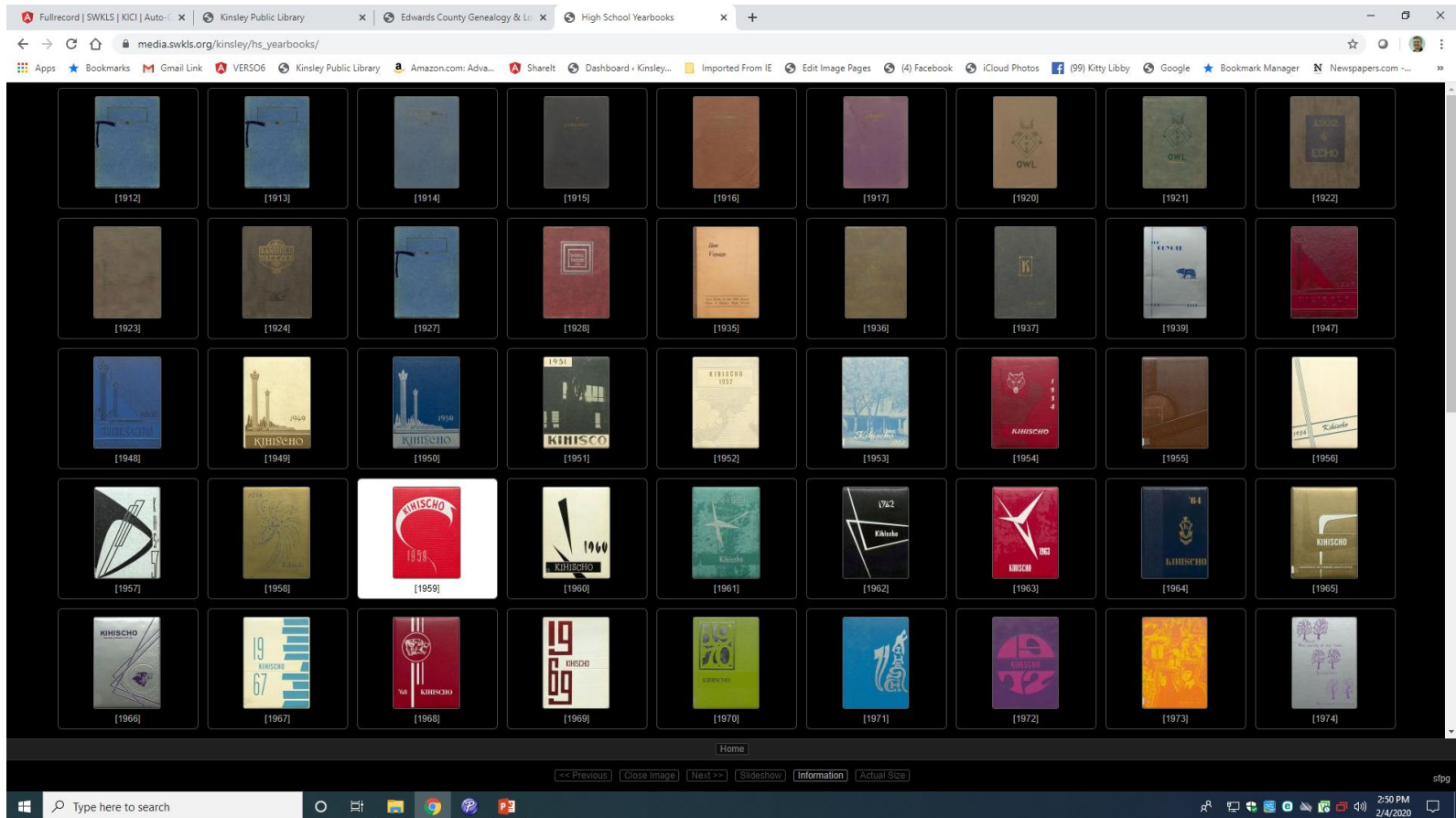


2010 - *Dreams of My Father*

Local people did programs on

- **Kenya**
- **Preserving Family Stories**
- **Grandparents: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities**

High School Annuals scanned and online Oklahoma Correctional Industries



RODEO RECOLLECTIONS



An evening of cowboy truths &
alternative facts on ridin' and ropin'

FEATURING EDWARDS COUNTY'S OWN

 Melvin Gleason  Geronimo Holguin
 Ron Gleason  Darrel Miller

Monday, March 27 at 7 p.m.
Kinsley Library, 208 E. 8th St.

Free and open to the public

**Recorded, transcribed,
and accessible on
website**

2017

Panel Discussion by local cowboys





CONNECT POET LAUREATE VISITS TO YOUR COMMUNITY

HUMANITIES
KANSAS

Early local poets 2014



OUR PATCH OF PRAIRIE POETS The Lady Poets of Edwards County

Neil Lewis Woods

1889 – 1959 Age 70

Graduated KHS 1907



"It seems to me that there wasn't a time when I didn't want to write, and writing is one hobby of which I never tire."

The Psalms as Poetry

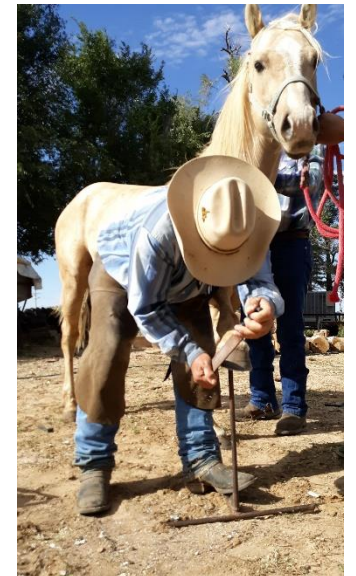
Dr.
Boehme
2014



Ivo Tvtkovic, a Bosnian Refugee, shares his poetry 2016



Photovoice project 2019



ANNUAL DISCUSSION SERIES

2011 Civil War

2012 Tractorcade

2013 Kansas Forts & the Indian Wars

2014 Kansas Trails and Rails

2015 Dust Bowl

2016 Kansas Mosaic (*Immigration*)

2017 Kansas Architecture

2018 World War I

2019 Kansas Indians

2020 19th - Piecing Together Women's Suffrage



Thinking beyond the library walls

Santa Fe Railroad Depot in Dodge City
Fort Larned, Fort Dodge, Fort Hays
Palace Theater, ECHS Sod House, USD 347 Dome
Bus Tour to Lawrence and Black Jack Battlefield



Local exhibits

**High school shop class made
stack-end holders for posters**



8 foot foyer display poster created in Microsoft Publisher and professionally printed



1979 TRACTORCADE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



EDWARDS COUNTY CONTINGENCY

STAPLETON TRACTOR & TRAILER
W. A. "Dub" and Clara Stapleton
Larry Seale

SNYDER TRACTOR
Beverly Snyder Anderson

TITUS TRACTOR & Trailer
Jim and Jean Titus

FUEL TRUCK
Lester Derley

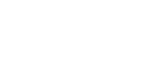
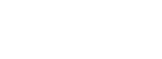
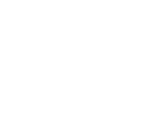
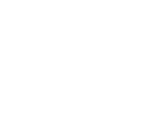
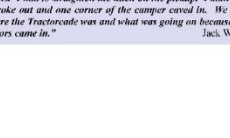
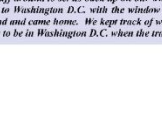
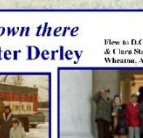
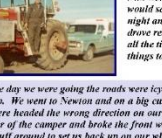
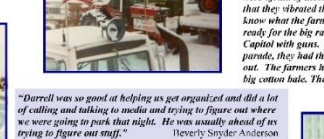
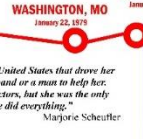
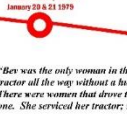
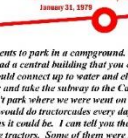
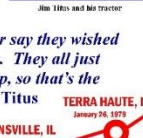
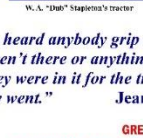
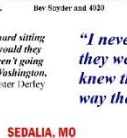
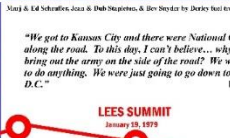
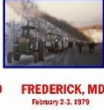
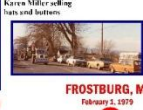
SCHUEFLER TRAILER
Ed and Marjorie Schuefler

MILLER TRAILER
Darrell and Karen Miller

WOLFE TRAILER
Dorcas & Jack Wolfe



"I helped in the AAM office in D.C. I answered the phone and whatever they needed me to do. People would call from everywhere wanting to know what was going. They got this idea to simulate some interest by having fortune cookies made with a farm fact in each one. This friend of mine, Beatrice Benson, and I took them everywhere. We weren't the only ones; we took them to all the offices, the Federal Reserve, just anywhere. We took them a sack of those fortune cookies." Karen Miller





HUMANITIES
KANSAS



HUMANITIES
KANSAS

[illegible]

TRACTORCADES

Edwards County farmers demonstrated in tractorcades in:
Lewis, Kinsley, Orlorio, Greensburg, Larned, Great Bend,
Macksville, St. John, Hutchinson Topeka, & Washington, D.C.



Farmers Union in Topeka



David Miller "Farmers have more to plant here on the same acre"



Beverly Snyder "Woman In Farm Economics"



Jack Wolfe "100% Farmer's Union"



Alvin Wheaton "Farmers don't Dilly Dally, Farmers They're Flat Busted"



Chris Paine "Center's Farm Bill—Share It!"



Alvin Wheaton "He passed the normal test, Now let's make money"



Jack Wolfe "Squeeze the Farmer Squeeze the Nation"



Jack Wolfe "Squeeze the Farmer Squeeze the Nation"



Leo Schmidt "Carter has promises, Bergland has Curves, Farmers have bills, 100% Party"



Jeff Mead "Strike for 100% Party, Farm Market or Park It"



Lytle Lighthouse "I'm tired of being tired"



Doyle Jones "If I have to sell my farm, I'll be after your job"



Ed Schneider "Bergland's view is an answer at my front end"



Lisa & Oren Schneider in Kinsley Parade

36" X 36" mounted on display board and easel

TRACTORCADE TO TOPEKA December 13-16, 1978



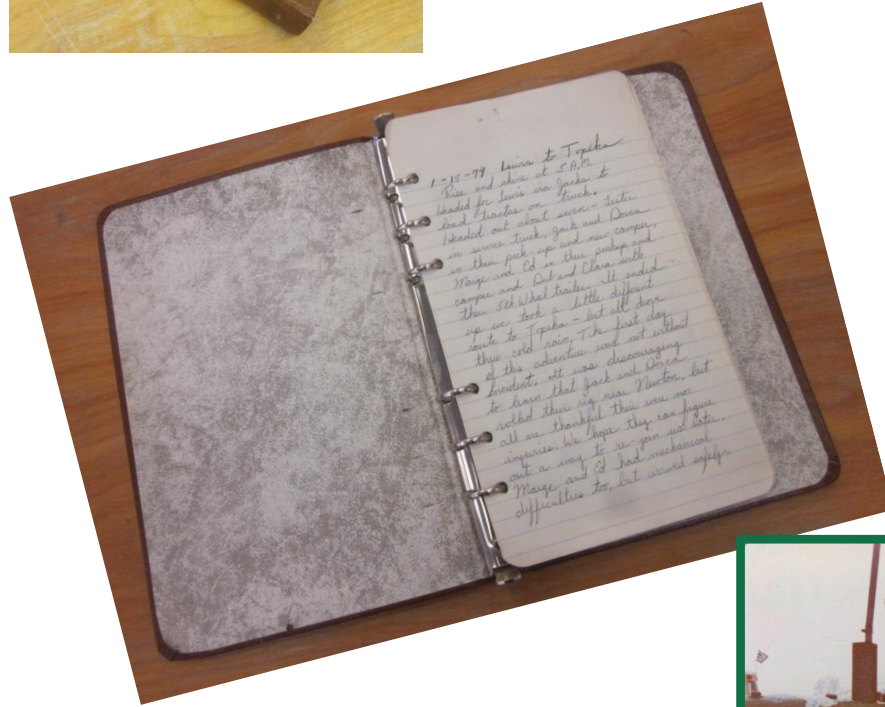
A Demonstration and Preparation for Washington, D.C. Tractorcade
Taken from the diary of Jeff Mead, Lewis, Kansas

December 13th 1978: Tractors to Topeka from Lewis, Zolten and Edwicks pickup in Lewis about 8:30. Then the American, Kansas and American Agricultural Traps on roadside truck, Alvin Wheaton, Beverly Snyder, Jack Wolfe and Sherri Miller, Dan Pratt, Bob McKinney, Leo Schmidt, Leroy the dog, a big Ford truck with 500 gallon fuel tank in it, our Ford pickup with 100 gallons of fuel, Bob McKinney, Jack Wolfe towed their pickups, Bob had 500 gallons of fuel, Tractorcade tractors piled up at Lewis. I drove our pickup to Bob McKinney's. Zolten took the pickup from there. James Bill Wapner's "Flat" Alvin Wheaton's tractor, I think that was the first tractor I ever drove with kind of a slow-speed transmission. Mary Schneider let it out. Jerry Meyer told us at Lewis, in our office had 14 tractors on the road. Support at Macksville for James. I had had a truck. After dinner I went about to Kinsley to Alvin Wheaton's shop. They had it about five minutes. I had back in the group when they come through. We got to Hutchinson about 4:30. We stayed at Trip-Trip Equipment, Alvin Wheaton's dealer in Hutchinson. They had supper for us, had a coffee. Lewis people stayed in Schuman Hotel, Bob and Chris Hopkins had his pickup and stayed in campus P-Hotel.





Beverly Snyder diary published in installments 34 years later



1979 Tractorcade Diary written by Beverly Snyder Anderson



CREATING AN EXPERIENCE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY




ALA & Gilder Lehman National Traveling Exhibit 2015

**DUST,
DROUGHT,
AND
DREAMS
GONE DRY**


**January 7 - February 20
KINSLEY LIBRARY**

*Exhibit Grand Opening
Saturday, January 10, 1-5 p.m.*





Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division


A Traveling
Exhibit and
Public Programs
About the
Dust Bowl

 Humanities

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations
expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent
those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

 ALA American
Library
Association

 MOUNT HOLYOKE
never fear / change

 KANSAS STATE Library


IT BLEW SO HARD
The Dust Bowl and Great Depression in Western Kansas


... a discussion series led by Leo E. Oliva, Ph.D.

... incorporating Oral History, Film, Music, Reenactment, & Conversation

... Sundays afternoons, 2-5 p.m. January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12

For more information and
complete schedule
www.kinsleylibrary.info
620-659-3341
KINSLEY LIBRARY
208 E. 8th St.
Kinsley, KS 67547

 Principal funding for this series is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural
organization that connects communities with history, traditions, and ideas to strengthen civil life.
Additional funding by the Kansas Department of Commerce, Creative Arts Initiatives Commission



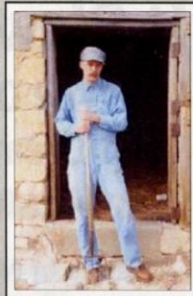
Humanities Kansas Heritage Grant, "It Blew So Hard"

January 11

Why the Dust Bowl?

Introduction by
Dr. Leo Oliva

PLUS - Nolan Sump
Portraying "Hank
Emerson", a 1930s Dust
Bowl farmer in Morton
County, Kansas.



SESSION RESOURCES:

"The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl" by Timothy Egan. (Interlibrary Loan)

February 8

Searching the Dust Bowl Archives: Ken Burns & Caroline Henderson

SESSION RESOURCES:

Caroline Henderson papers

From the Mount Holyoke College collection
and linked on the library website.

Ken Burns "The Dust Bowl"

Interlibrary Loan documentary to view at home or
View Parts 1 & 2 at library January 25, 2-4 p.m.
View Parts 3 & 4 at library February 1, 2-4 p.m.



PLUS - Thad Beach,
singer/songwriter
presenting *"Dust Bowl
Survivors: We Called It
the Dirty Thirties"*



Russian thistle offers some resistance to wild sand.
South of Kinsley, May 13, 1938
Courtesy of Morse Collection, Kansas State University Libraries

It Blew So Hard

Sunday afternoons
Kinsley Library
2-5 p.m.

- Each session will have a talk and discussion on the topic of the day led by Dr. Leo E. Oliva.
- PLUS guest presentations will bring added depth and understanding.
- Complete details and additional information on presenters along with resource links available at:
www.kinsleylibrary.info

Experience the exhibit
*Dust, Drought, and
Dreams Gone Dry*
January 7 - February 20

March 8

Responses to the Dust Bowl, Then & Now

SESSION RESOURCES:

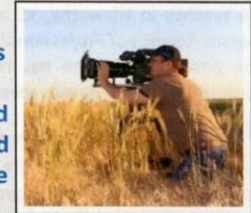
"Harvesting the High Plains"

Film will be watched during session

"Here Today, Here Tomorrow: G-K Farms in the Dust Bowl Years, Thomas County, Kansas" by Craig Miner (Linked online)

"When the Dust Settled" (Linked online)

PLUS - Jay Kriss
will speak about his
grandfather, John
Kriss, who managed
the Ray Garvey land
in NW Kansas in the
1930s. Jay directed
the film *"Harvesting the High Plains."*



April 12

A Shared Past and Future

SESSION RESOURCES:

"Women in the Dust Bowl"

from the Oklahoma State University online oral
history archives and linked on the library website.

Excerpts from Edwards County oral histories
(Linked online)

PLUS - Richard Basore will speak on
"Drought Effects on Surface Water"

PLUS - Panel Discussion on Water

Richard Basore, Watershed Field Coordinator KDHE
Richard Wenstrom, Board President Water PACK
Jeff Lanteman, Water Commissioner, Division of
Water Resources, Stafford Field Office

**Custom created
Humanities Kansas
*Talk About Literature in Kansas Series***

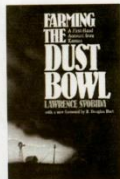


TALK

Talk About Literature in Kansas
Book Discussion Series



Written from the Dust Bowl



Tuesday, September 16, 7 p.m.

**Farming the Dust Bowl: A First Hand
Account from Kansas**

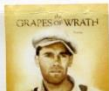
By Lawrence Svoboda of Meade County
DISCUSSION LEADER: Jane Holwerda, Ph.D.



Tuesday, October 14. 7 p.m.

The Worst Hard Times

By Timothy Egan
DISCUSSION LEADER: Brenda Craven, Ph.D.



Tuesday, November 11, 7 p.m.

The Grapes of Wrath

By John Steinbeck

**Teacher In-Service in
cooperation with the Kansas
State Historical Society**

Did you know LESSON PLANS CAN BE DIRTY?



Arthur Rothstein, 1936.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
Prints and Photo Division.

**So add a little
dirt to your
curricula with
Dust Bowl
connections**

An invitation to FREE

❖ **Professional Development Seminar**

October 17, 2014, 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Earn 3.5 Individual Development Points

❖ **Classroom visits to *Dust, Drought,
and Dreams Gone Dry* exhibit**

January 7 – February 20

Hosted by the Kinsley Public Library

In partnership with

- USD 347
- Kansas Historical Society
- American Library Association
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Oklahoma State University Library
- Mount Holyoke College Library
- Edwards County Historical Society Museum



Mike Adams



Traveling trunk of costumes for book: “Voices of the Dust Bowl”

Kansas Creative Arts Industries Grant, Artist in Residence, Thad Beach

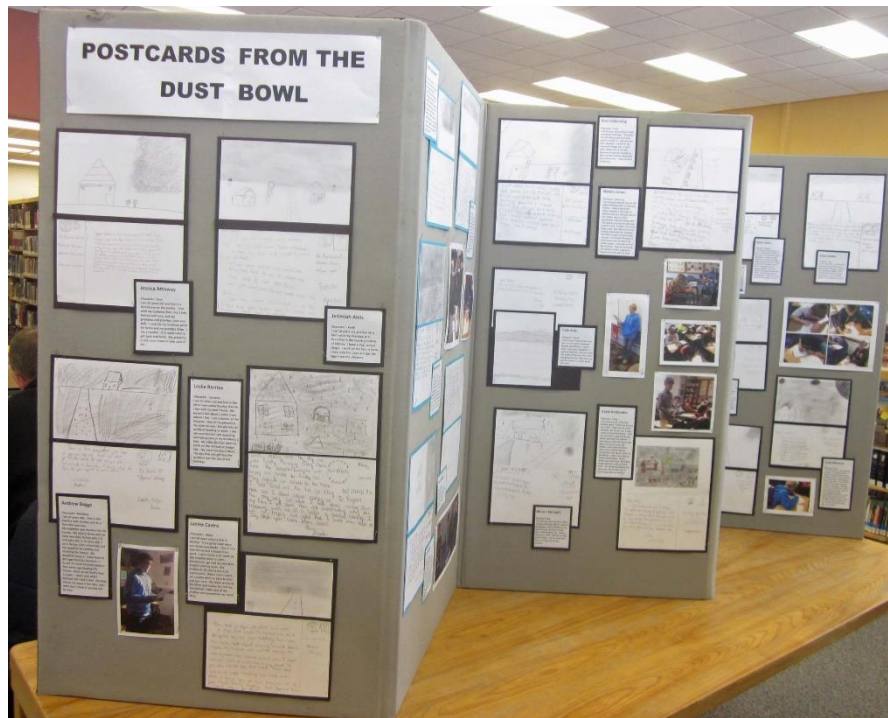


Exhibit Open House and Guided Classroom Visits

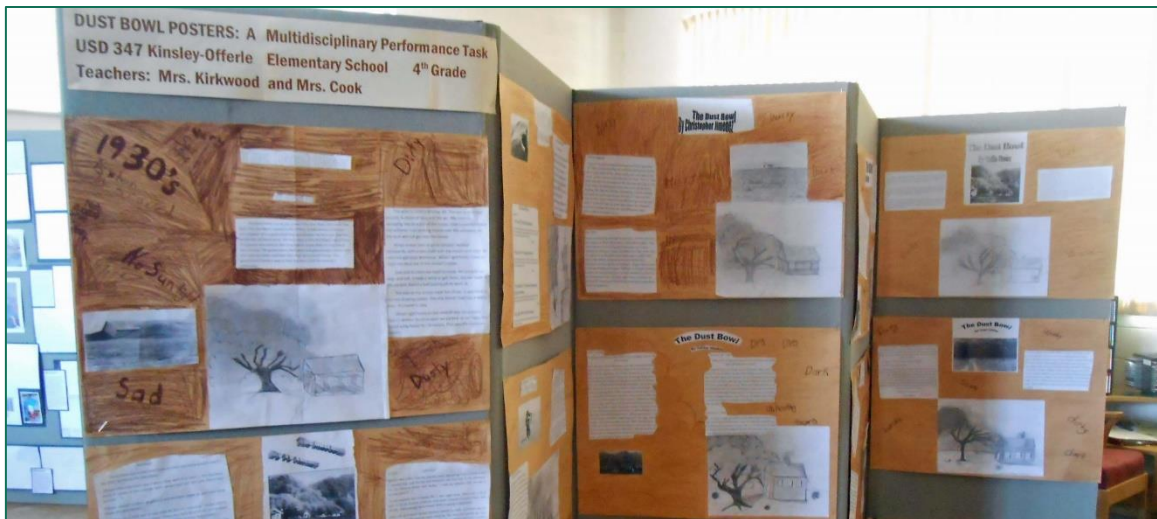


PROJECT EXHIBITS

**7th and 8th Grade
*Postcards from the
Dust Bowl*
with Thad Beach**



4th grade Dust Bowl art project



**8th Grade Projects Class
Conducts 3 Oral Histories**



Dust Bowl Survivor



1950s Drought



KSU Extension Agent

WORLD WAR I letters published in local newspapers



LETTERS TO HOME

Lieutenant Gilbert M. Lewis, France, Early July, 1918

"I've had a new job wished on me in addition to my regular duties. I am town mayor altho I still wear Lieutenant's bars and have that salary. Have charge of the handling of the billets of troops and officers and the first thing I did was to billet myself in a nice room vacated by the departing town mayor. It is a dandy clean room upstairs, simply spic and span as can be, and down stairs the people run a bake shop and are nice and friendly. They gave me some warm water for a bath tonight. On the bed is a thick feather tick and you almost sink out of sight in it, but my how you do sleep....The way the job came, they sent to Co. H. for an officer to relieve the departing mayor, and being the Junior Lieutenant the Captain picked on me.

Kinsley Graphic, August 8, 1918

Gilbert M. Lewis was born September 18, 1892 in Kinsley. He graduated from Kinsley High School in 1910. He attended the University of Kansas for one year and then studied law at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He received his Bachelors of Law degree and began practicing in Pittsburg, Kansas in 1914.

Gilbert volunteered for service the day following the declaration of war against Germany. He was commissioned in the first officers' training camp at Fort Riley and went overseas as one of the officers of the all-Kansas Regiment. He would die of battle wounds on November, 3, 1918 at the age of 26. He is buried in France. The Kinsley American Legion Post is named the Gilbert M. Lewis Post #113.



Painting of a French village by Walter Schofield, c. 1910

"Today, July 14, is a big day for France, the anniversary of the taking of the Bastille. They celebrate as we do the Fourth of July, and today we are to help in their celebration by having a parade. As town mayor I am to go with a party of officers and call on the Mayor and present America's compliment and say a few nice things, and then when the excitement is over the rest of the day is ours."

Kinsley Graphic, August 15, 1918

"....The mayor must act as a buffer between the civilian and military authorities, and up to date, I have settled fifteen hundred rows more or less. Of course an interpreter goes with the office. This morning I had a time assuring an old Frenchman that the gas engine of the surgical car would not shake his building down, and another that the boys would not play ball in his pasture any more. Also asked an old lady if we could have religious services on her field and she said 'sure' in French.

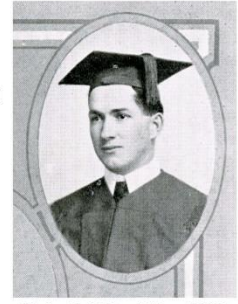
Kinsley Graphic, August 8, 1918



LETTERS TO HOME

George Hildenbrand wrote from France, Summer, 1918

"I was down to the Y.M.C.A. last night to a Chinese opera and it was good only I could not understand the language. An interpreter explained the play so I got an idea of what it was about. The Y.M.C.A. over here are about the same as at the camps in the states where we can go to write and have other amusements.



Kinsley High School, Class of 1915

Kinsley Graphic, August 29, 1918



George F. Hildenbrand was born October 4, 1892. He graduated from Kinsley High School in the class of 1915. He was inducted into the Army on May 29, 1918 as part of a "new army of over a quarter of million men and the quotas called from the different counties are the largest yet asked for in any of the previous calls. Edwards County is called upon to furnish some 39 men during the week of May 25th who will go to Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, Missouri."

(Kinsley Mercury, May 16, 1918.)

George wrote in June, 1918 about being in the Signal Corp: "...I have landed in a branch of the service that is a pick of the bunch by a big part of the men if they can get in. ...It is going to be just like going to school while I am getting my training, for I will drill about two hours a day and the rest will be study and classes."

(Kinsley Graphic, June 27, 1918)

He returned to the states in July and was mustered out on August 2, 1919. He married Eliza Ford two years later and had two sons. He died on December 11, 1989 in the Soldiers Home at Fort Dodge, Kansas.



George Hildenbrand in France
Dear Folks:—Will write you a few lines this evening. I am all O. K. and feeling fine and hope this will find you folks the same.

I have had a very interesting trip all the way and have seen four different countries already. It is very interesting to see the customs of the people and I have seen a little of both city and country life of the people. The only part that has put me in mind of the States is the part that I am in now.

I was down to the Y. M. C. A. last night to a Chinese opera and it was good only I could not understand the language. An interpreter explained the play so got an idea of what it was about. The Y. M. C. A. over here are about the same as at the camps in the states where we can go to write and have other amusements.

Well, as news is scarce that I can write I will close for this time and write again soon.—George Hildenbrand.

Kinsley Graphic, August 29, 1918

WWI BLOG

Post # 21 John P. Wire's Experience with the Selective Servi



In Post #19, I mentioned finding Raymond Smith's a scrapbook made by Louise Wire. Louise Wire w Wire. Their son, John P Wire, was born on May : same 1912 Kinsley High School graduating class a

Another item I found in Louise's scrapbook was classification card.

Thirty-Nine Called.
 Following is the list of the men in
 the draft who are called to the col-
 ors for the week commencing May
 28th, 1918:
 Albert W. Aderhold, Youngstown,
 Henry Albert Plummer, Offere,
 John Hindeliter, Belpre.
 William James Partridge, Lewis
 John P. Wire, Kinley.
 John P. Carr, Kinley.
 Lloyd L. Carr, Kinley.
 George E. Jüdenpaster, Kinley.
 Alvin A. Watson, On Hill, Kan.
 Henry France, Grand Island, Neb.
 Henry Feltthus, Kinley.
 Homer L. Israel, Lewis.
 Louis Frank Wilson, Lewis.
 Martin D. Kirkbride, Kinley.
 Charles R. Harrison, Kinley.
 Harry M. Darnon, Dodge City.
 Kenneth B. Keener, Kinley.
 Robert E. Warren, Wichita.
 Walter H. Hancey, Wichita.
 Ray Robertson, Spearville.
 Clifford Shaw, Kinley.
 Samuel R. Deen, Lewis.
 Arthur C. Graham, Pochontas, Ar-
 kansas.
 Jesse C. Besis, Eldorado, Kan.
 Waldo Carl Wade, Columbia, Mo.
 Hugh B. Oliphant, Kinley, Kan.
 Aloysius Buchert, Offere.
 Burgess E. Goldman, C. Smopoli,
 Washington.
 Roy Davis, Offere.
 Wesley Weaver Peoples, Versall.
 Iles, Mo.
 George Edward Bolay, Emporia.
 Cecil A. Nixon, Sterling, Kan.
 Edward L. Kerson, Kinley.
 Jim Panting, Kinley.
 Jim Wilson, Springfield, Mo.
 Carl G. Eiting, Belpre.
 Joseph E. Graff, Belpre.
 Joseph L. Luther Green, Wichita.
 Noah E. McCaleb, Coalfield, Tenn.
 Erastus C. Gordley, Kinley.
 The following are named as alter-
 nates:
 Floyd N. Evans, Belpre.
 Floyd C. Lohmeyer, Offere.
 Robert C. Koch, Offere.
 David Gugins, Trousdale.
 Amos John Brunsden, Offere.

#44 A Neighborhood General

While looking for the picture of G.E. Wilson, the Edwards County Food Administrator mentioned in Post #41, I was attracted to a picture of his son, Robert.



He sets all of the grown-ups in Piety Park such an example that we all do our part of war work a little better.

*This young soldier, working between school hours
sons of Mr and Mrs. G. E. Wilson. His biggest bri
Lakes Training camp.*

Robert is doing more than his share to whip his

This article was written a week before Robert about "Piety Park" mentioned in the article. In the vicinity of all the churches -- from the Methodist Episcopal, Christian Christ on Niles Avenue, to the Baptist on 32nd Street. The Wilson home was at 321 Eighth and the old Church of Christ stood.

In Post #42 I reported that the Boy Scouts were distributing tags for shovels to remind people to conserve coal. Then, this week, while reading *Kinsley Graphic*, I found these things together

"A Neighborhood Gene"

Not all the able gener
French front or in the
been given the comm
service in their count
the uniform of a Boy
He is busy all the tir
everybody buy Libe
drives. For selling
certificate with th
bonds has anothe

He brings us all t
department, no
get it. He tags
Bonds. We su
our neighbor
Park." If he v
food to win t

Chester's memorabilia with us to scan for this display and to archive in our collection. Chester wrote letters and kept a small diary during his months of service. The diary is in such good shape, I can only imagine that he carried it in a small tin box or leather case for protection during those hard days. I will be excerpting Chester's diary and letters in future posts during the next few months as we follow his war experiences. But first, a little bit about Chester

Chester was born January 18, 1895 in Seward, KS to William and Etta Bell Bidleman. The family came to Edwards County by 1908. Chester graduated from Kinsley High School in 1913. He went on to Kansas State Normal College (Emporia) for two years and became a teacher of mathematics in Greeley, Kansas.



1913 H.S. Graduation



1915 Kansas State Normal College Delphian:
Mathematics Club, Physics Club,
Commencement Play '15



1916 Taken when teaching at
Greeley, Kansas.

#47 Chester Bidleman Joins the Army and Writes Home – Part 1



I just changed my foyer display to feature Chester W. Biddleman who served in the trenches in France. Chester's granddaughter, Lucinda, recently came to visit her father, Bill John. She generously brought in and shared Chester's memorabilia with us to scan for this display and to archive in our collection. Chester wrote letters and kept a small diary during his months of service. The shape, I can only imagine that he carried it in a small tin box. I will be excerpting Chester's words from his war diary in the future.

Chester was born January 18, 1895 in Seward, KS to William and Etta Bell Bidleman. The family came to Edwards County by 1908. Chester graduated from Kinsley High School in 1913. He went on to Kansas State Normal College (Emporia) for two years and became a teacher of mathematics in Greeley, Kansas.

Lots of Research



Coming October 26

2 p.m.

NAVIGATING ROUGH WATERS

FREE

The **TRUE STORY** of
living on a flood plain
and how it affects one
small community

PREMIERE SHOWING

- Film: *"The Chickens Survived"*
Community & Cooperation - Offerle and the Flood of 1965
- Introduction by Eric McHenry, Washburn University
- Film: *TURNING POINTS: STORIES OF CHANGE*
A series of short films exploring pivotal
moments in four Kansas communities
- FEMA Regulations & Flood Insurance Panel
Steve Samuelson, Jay Dill, & Marsha Bagby

See your friends and
neighbors on the big screen



Turning Points: Stories of Change

Turning Points is dedicated to the memory of Kansas Historian Craig Miner
and has been made possible through the generous support of Suzi Miner.

Humanities Kansas *"Turning Points"*



File generated for City Manager to
modify the flood plain restrictions - 1997

Researched more; called for pictures

Gizmo Film crew
came to interview
and film

Decided to do
another short film
on the floods in
Offerle.

Shown at the
Palace Theater
with panel
discussion on
flood plain
Issues 2014





19th

Piecing together women's suffrage

Women's Suffrage 2020

WE WANT THE VOTE

SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION MEETING

It Will be Held at the City Hall in Kinsley Saturday, February 24

The Edwards County Suffrage Association will hold a meeting in the City Hall Kinsley, Saturday afternoon, February 24, at 2 o'clock. This meeting is open to all, and a cordial invitation is extended to the friends of Suffrage, and to those willing to hear the reasons why Kansas men should vote for the amendment giving the ballot to Kansas women. This association is for the purpose of doing the work necessary to carry this amendment next fall. It will have no existence after November. Even the busiest woman should give a little time and money for this cause. Membership is given to men as well as women, and both are invited to the meetings of the association, and to become member. (Kinsley Graphic, February, 15, 1912)

OFFICERS

COUNTY PRESIDENT: Mrs. Cora G. Lewis

COUNTY SECRETARY: Lulu Baugher

COUNTY TREASURER: Mrs. Helen Cole

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Belpre: Mrs. Olive May McKibben

Lewis: Mrs. Lillian Cramer Nelson

Kinsley: Miss Ruby Donnell

Offerle: Miss Hazel Ott

PRESS CHAIR: Floy H. Leonard

EDUCATIONAL CHAIR: Loraine Lewis

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Mrs. J. B. Crow



Suffragette meeting in Bethel Church, south Edwards County (p.239, The Great Next Year Country)



Jane Addams
10/6/1860-5/28/1935



Rev. Olympia Brown
1/5/1835-10/23/1928



Minnie J. Grinstead
9/30/1869-12/24/1925



Clara Bewick Colby
8/1/1840-9/7/1916

SUFFRAGE LEADERS INSPIRE THE LADIES

MAY 7 & 8: Kansas ESA meeting in Wichita

Jane Addams, Hull House Chicago and 1st

Vice president of the NWSA

Rev. Olympia Brown, the first woman to graduate from a theological school and become a full-time ordained minister.

JUNE 2: Congregational Church Thinking men are deeply concerned in getting the amendment passed. The meeting was given over to all men. Principal speaker: Jouett Shouse

JULY 30: Methodist Church

Speaker: Mrs. Minnie Johnston Grinstead, President of the 7th District ESA from Liberal, would become the first female member of the Kansas House of Representatives, 1918-1924.

SEPTEMBER 25: Christian Church

Speaker: Clara Bewick Colby, British-American lecturer, newspaper publisher, correspondent and suffragist leader.

OCTOBER 13: Speaker: W. Y. Morgan, editor of the Hutchinson News

OCTOBER 30: W.C.T.U. Suffrage party at the home of Mrs. Nancy M. Orr. Spirited debate ending with a win for women's suffrage.

NOVEMBER 5: Election Day



L. to R. Laura Clay - President of Kentucky FSA, Lucy B. Johnston, Sarah A. Thurston, Helen Lacher, and Stella Stubbs, 1912
Kansas-Memory Kansas Historical Society

NOVEMBER 14, 1912 There are three hundred thousand new citizens in Kansas, and they are the wives, mothers, daughters, sweethearts, and sisters of Kansas men. (Kinsley Graphic)



WASHINGTON LETTER

Barnum & Bailey may have thought they had the greatest show on earth, but it could not have come up to the one just put on here. "General" Rosalie Jones and her band of Pilgrims were the first to arrive last week. They came through many difficulties bearing a message to the President, which one of the Washington leaders who rode out to meet the party kept, after it was handed to her. The police made efforts to route the Pilgrims up a side street, but the General was not to be fooled. She came into town about 3 o'clock, marched around the Capitol grounds and up Pennsylvania Avenue. The crowd grew so large they could hardly move. All the ladies wore brown caps and carried a staff. General Jones is most pleasing in her appearance, but she looked peeved during the parade. They wanted to hire a band as an escort into town, but were told it was impossible to procure one.



General Rosalie Jones and hikers arriving on March 2, 1913 LOC

Myra McHenry, one of Carrie Nation's lieutenants in days gone by, was first to greet the hikers on behalf of Kansas. She wanted them to march through the Capitol grounds, but we told her it was against the rules. This irritated Myra, and she proceeded to state her opinion of things in general, insisting among her other statements that she was "the human dynamo from Kansas." After she promised not to shock us, we showed her where the hikers were, and she move on, still talking. ...

Gilbert Lewis, the son of J. M. and Cora G. Lewis and the editors of the Kinsley Graphic, wrote home after the March 3, 1913 suffrage parade in Washington, D.C. He had graduated from Kinsley High School in 1910 and was attending law school at Georgetown University in Washington. Later, he would enlist in World War I as a Lieutenant and serve in France where he died in the very last days of the war.



All of this went on until Monday when the big suffrage parade was given. There was an enormous crowd in town by this time, and the reviewing stands and sidewalks were jammed full the whole length of Pennsylvania Avenue, from the White House to the Capitol.

The parade was scheduled to start at 3 p.m., and contrary to all tradition, the women started on time...Then came Miss Inez Mulholland one of the most beautiful of the suffragettes, dressed as a herald. She was followed by a large float with an inscription demanding an amendment to the Constitution, enfranchising women, and after this Dr. Anna Shaw, president of the National Suffrage Association. The wonderful pageant was too long to give our readers a full description.... On the steps of the treasury building a tableaux was enacted as the parade passed. It is estimated there were five thousand people in line. Those who are so behind the times as to claim that the ranks of suffrage workers are composed largely of old maids, and homely women, would certainly have changed their minds after seeing this pageant. As a performance, it contained a large percentage of charming and handsomely gowned actors. A woman's sphere is in the home, of course; but it certainly was satisfying to the eyes to look at those who had left it for a short time to help in a most wonderful and impressive pageant in the capitol of their country.



Pennsylvania Avenue, completely choked with spectators during the Suffrage Parade on March 3, 1913. Library of Congress



Lawyer Inez Mulholland Roussevain prepares to lead the Suffrage Parade. Library of Congress



The German actress Hedwig Reicher wears the costume of "Columbia" in the tableaux in front of Treasury Building. Library of Congress

HUMAN DYNAMO FROM KANSAS



Myra McHenry was a reformer who fought for anti-smoking laws as well as temperance and women's suffrage.

Only one unpleasant feature marred the spectacle. As the ladies marched up the avenue the people crowded out into the street, and interfered with the procession. This was due to the inadequate police protection, and the chief of police is on the carpet for it. If he is responsible for the unpleasantness, a large-sized can will be attached to his important personality.

Published in the Kinsley Graphic, March 13, 1913

WE WANT THE VOTE

W.C.T.U.



Women's Christian Temperance Union

"For God and Home and Native Land"

The W.C.T.U. linked together the causes of Christianity, temperance, and social reform. As a religious organization, the WCTU was seen as a more ladylike and respectable way for women to become involved in the struggle for suffrage. Since each local chapter of the WCTU was autonomous, local leaders had the freedom to act on issues such as women's suffrage under the banner of a respectable religious organization.



REGULAR COLUMN APPEARED IN BOTH THE KINSLEY GRAPHIC AND KINSLEY MERCURY

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.	
KINSLEY W. C. T. U.	
Meetings held Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock at the M. E. Church.	
First Tuesday.....	Bible Reading
Second Tuesday.....	Business Meeting
Third Tuesday.....	Mother's Meeting
Fourth Tuesday.....	Responsive Reading
Fifth Tuesday.....	Literary

YOUTH ARE INCLUDED: Young People's Branch (YPB) for teens fourteen years old and over and a Loyal Temperance Legion Branch for children between the ages of 6 to 16.

1873: W.C.T.U. founded
1878: Kansas W.C.T.U. organized
1883: Local District W.C.T.U. formed
1886: W.C.T.U. petitioned for Women's Suffrage



Women's Christian Union Convention Hall, Lodge, and Banquet rooms in Salina, Kansas

TEMPERANCE DOXOLOGY
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, who saves from sin and woe!
Praise Him, who leads the Temperance host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

BATTLING DEMON RUM

Opposing viewpoints

"The women who want suffrage are generally uneasy old maids, wives whose married life has been an unhappy experience and ... those of vast aspirations and feeble capacities." Atchison Companion, July 30, 1881

Kinsley Mercury

Editor: W. S. Hebron

As all our readers know the *Mercury* is opposed to woman suffrage....

On the passage of Municipal Suffrage Bill giving Kansas women the right to vote and hold office in cities...

February 5, 1887 "We do not believe the people of Kansas were fairly represented by their state senators in the passage of the Municipal suffrage resolution. If left to a vote of the women of Kansas, the Woman suffrage bill now pending in our state legislature, would be snowed under so deep that it wouldn't be heard of again for a quarter of a century....There is not one in fifty of the good women in Kansas who want to vote, and instead of taking up the study of politics, they will show their contempt for this new law by staying away from the polls."

March 5, 1887 "The law it seems to us does not go hardly far enough. It ought to allow women the blessed privilege of working on the streets as men do to pay their poll tax. It ought to allow them in time of peace to join the Militia, and in time of war to be compelled to fight their country's battles, the same as men do. As the case now stands they are allowed the privilege of voting and yet are not subject to the burdens which the same privilege imposes upon men. This is not fair."

On the action of the people of Oskaloosa in electing a city ticket composed entirely of women...

April 12, 1888 "We were never in Oskaloosa in our life, but it is a county seat in Kansas. That it is void of the hie or spirit, and too dead to kick or otherwise that it is under the dominancy of cranks, is self-evident. It goes without saying further that no man of capital, energy, enterprise or sense could be induced to cast his fortunes with or put his money into a town where manhood is at such a discount....it sounds the death knell of the town..."

On prominent women not joining the cause

May 30, 1889 "The great obstacle in the way of accomplishing the revolution proposed by these very serious ladies is that their sex generally refuse to come to their assistance. Forty years ago the leaders of the movement, among whom Susan B. Anthony was so conspicuous a figure, were much more deserving of respectful attention. Yet meanwhile, as we have said the ranks of the agitators for woman suffrage grow thinner in this country.... Women suffrage continues to be very unfashionable in this republic and it will never become a question of practical politics while it so remains."

"I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."

Alice Paul

Kinsley Graphic

Editors: J. M. Lewis, Cora G. Lewis

We will once more endeavor to advance a few arguments in favor of equal suffrage....

On a specific insult of withholding the vote from women...

May 21, 1886 "Miss Jennie Newby claimed that there were four classes of people who were deprived of the right of suffrage — Indians, idiots, inmates of a penitentiary and women, and (she) considered it an insult too gross to contemplate that the latter should be classed with the former. The time is fast approaching when the question of extending the right of suffrage to the women will be made a state question in this and several others if not a National one."

On answering some of the arguments proposed by Mr. Smith in the Kinsley Mercury the week before...

June 8, 1894 "The colonies rebelled not because certain individuals or certain classes were without representation in the British parliament, but because the whole community was not represented. Women are fighting for the same reason, because an integral part of our commonwealth — the whole community of women is not represented."

"Mr. Smith speaks of 'the knowledge of men and the conditions that surround business' that make a vote 'effective and valuable.' What 'knowledge of men or business conditions' have the Italian street cleaners and banana vendors of New York City, or the hordes of Scandinavians and Huns in the mining regions of the east? Yet their votes are 'effective' enough to elect men to represent them in legislative halls....As to the value of the vote because the man who casts it has such a thorough knowledge of 'economic principles' — well, we have known them to be bought in Edwards county at the rate of three for ten dollars, while in New York City they can be had in plenty at fifty cents apiece."

"Now I ask all gallant men to help women on the battle field of life to engage on equal terms with men. We know that thousands of them must, and do, take care of themselves and their families, and yet have very unequal terms in the 'battle of life.' The women behind a counter gets five or six dollars a week while the man beside her gets ten or twelve."

"Mr. Smith asks us what experience we have to prove that we will be of help or benefit to our country if given the ballot. What experience did the negro have in 1865 when your party unreservedly placed the ballot in the hands of millions of them?"

FIRST WOMAN CITY MANAGER IN KANSAS & U.S.

Vivian Irene (Rena) Milner

Kinsley City Manager, 1928 - 1932

Miss V. I. Milner was appointed Kinsley's third city manager on May 7th, 1928. Previously, she had served as city clerk from 1921 to her appointment.

From V. I. Milner's 1929 end-of-year report to the city:

"During the past year, a number of improvements have been made in the city, such as the installation of two new pumps which furnish an abundant supply of water; the erection of street markers over a large portion of the city; houses are being numbered, parks beautified by the planting of trees and flowers and several miles of streets and alleys gravelled. The Western Gas Co. was serving 87 customers by the end of the year and have a number of applications on file."



V. I. Milner
"Looking Back" Kinsley Mercury, June 30 1994



Kinsley City Hall and Fire Station, 507 Marsh Avenue

"Milner kept her radio in the window in the front of the house, which faced east on Atwood Avenue (in view of the back side of the courthouse). She would radio far into the night and would sit in the dark, imagining the surrounding from which the programs originated. The programs were not so distracting that she missed the night life of Kinsley, which often was presented in front of her living room where she had a ringside seat. Milner often remarked about some of the things she saw, but never mentioned who was involved, even though she may have recognized the people who took part in the events.

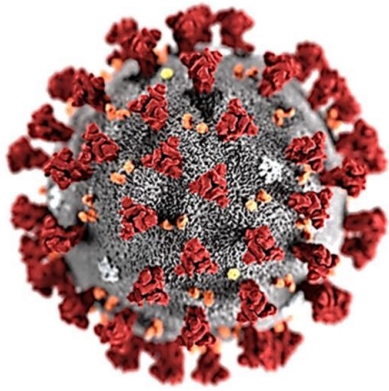
(Changes Rode the Wind, p. 39)



Rena was born July 10, 1867. She came to Kinsley as a small child with her parents and graduated from high school in 1886. Records show that she was a bookkeeper at the First National Bank in 1892. However, by 1894 she is living and working in Chicago. In November, 1914 she returned to keep books at Edwards and Noble where she remained until 1918 (*current location of Circle K Auto Parts*). She returned to Chicago until she came back to take care of her mother around 1921. "As city manager and in private life she was a colorful personage. She had many hobbies that she pursued with diligence. She was a first and limited edition book collector, a radio fan in the early days of radio when it was an accomplishment to get foreign stations, and flowers and birds were her delight. She served on the Kinsley library board for 14 years. She died on Jan. 1, 1950. (from Kinsley Graphic obituary, 1/4/1950)



Hillside Cemetery, Edwards County



Pandemic hits

WEEKLY BLOG & NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

- From Your Remote Librarian
- From the Library Archive

StoryWalk®



Storywalk frames were built by staff during pandemic closing.



For community display of...

- Student artwork
- Student Poetry
- Summer Reading artwork
- Historical buildings
- Historical events & tidbits



Francie Alexander

*Senior Vice President & Chief Academic Officer
Scholastic Inc.*

**“None of us can do everything,
but all of us can do something.
Choose what will mean the
most to the community you
serve, and take the first step
next Monday.”**

Joan K. Weaver

director@kinsleylibrary.info

620-659-3341

Kinsley Public Library

Kinsley, Kansas

www.kinsleylibrary.info

