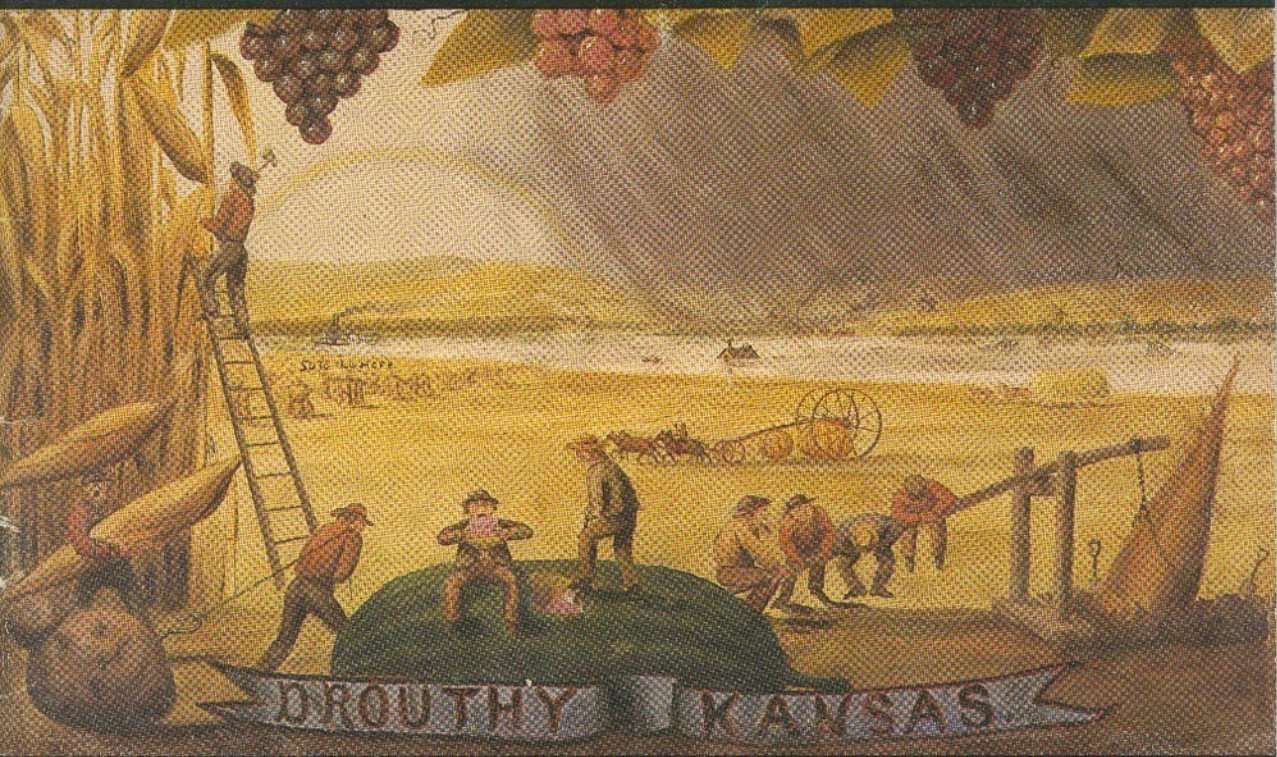


# KANSAS HISTORY

A Journal  
of the  
Central Plains

Volume 9, Number 1  
Spring 1986

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# Kansas State Historical Society

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**T**HE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1875 by the newspaper editors and publishers of the state, and four years later it became the official trustee for the state's historical collections. Since then, the Society has operated both as a non-profit membership organization and as a specially recognized society supported by appropriations from the state of Kansas.

The purposes of the Society are the advancement of knowledge about and the preservation of resources related to the history and prehistory of Kansas and the American West, accomplished through educational and cultural programs, the provision of research services, and the protection of historic properties. The Society is governed by a ninety-nine-member board of directors, elected by the membership, and is administered by an executive director and an assistant executive director.

The new Kansas Museum of History features exhibits and educational programs based on the Society's rich artifact collections. It is located near the historic Pottawatomie Baptist Mission west of Topeka, adjacent to Interstate 70. All other Society departments remain at the Center for Historical Research, Memorial Building, across the street from the State Capitol in Topeka.

All persons interested in Kansas history and prehistory are cordially invited to join the Society. Those who would like to provide additional support for the Society's work may want to consider contributions in the form of gifts or bequests. A representative of the Society will be glad to consult with anyone wishing to make such a gift or establish a bequest or an endowment. Address the Executive Director, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1291.

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**Cover:** *Drouthy Kansas*—the land of plentiful rainfall and mammoth harvests—was artist Henry Worrall's answer to his Eastern friends' derogatory view of the state. Originally worked in charcoal, *Drouthy Kansas* was recreated in oil in 1878, and became so popular that it appeared on brochures encouraging settlement in Kansas.

While Worrall gave a visual version of Kansas life, others were providing a written commentary for friends and family back East. In this issue of *Kansas History*, the perceptions recorded in letters written by newly arrived settlers are examined. "Kansas Frontierwomen

Viewed Through Their Writings" discusses the often overlooked sources for studying women's reactions to their environment and presents letters written by a mother and daughter during the territorial period. "Letters from Paradise" examines the descriptions and accounts written by newly settled Pennsylvanians to their home county newspapers. Although there are accounts of border ruffians and grasshopper ravages, the letters also praise the Kansas land, beauty and productivity, agreeing in spirit with Worrall's vision of his adopted state.

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<b>Kansas Frontierswomen Viewed Through Their Writings</b>	2
<i>by Glenda Riley</i>	
<b>Letters from Paradise</b>	10
<i>by James C. and Eleanor A. Duram</i>	
<b>Kansas Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 1900-1930</b>	19
<i>by Marilyn Dell Brady</i>	
<b>The Federal Government v. The <i>Appeal to Reason</i></b>	31
<i>by David L. Sterling</i>	
<b>Book Reviews</b>	43
<b>Picture Credits</b>	45