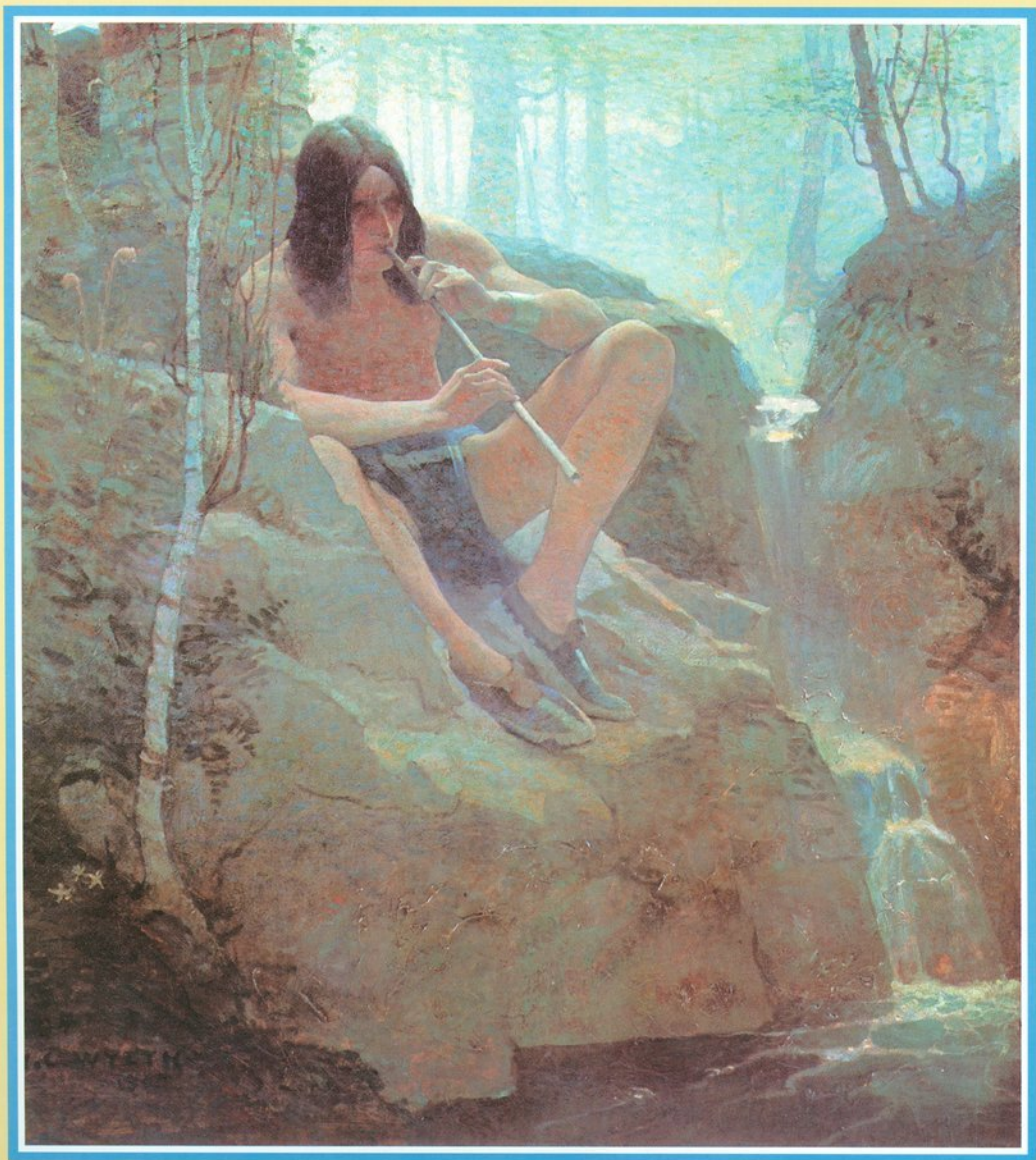


# KANSAS HISTORY

A Journal  
of the  
Central Plains

Volume 23, Number 3  
Autumn 2000

---





Sycamore Springs, Brown County, ca. 1890

As Rex Buchanan, Robert Sawin, and Wayne Lebsack note in "Water of the Most Excellent Kind: Historic Springs in Kansas," mineral water springs and spas, which were popular forms of entertainment, recreation, and medical treatment throughout the nation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, are something of a forgotten chapter in Kansas history. The alleged restorative power of these waters attracted thousands. In the late 1920s Waconda Health Resort in Mitchell County "provided a place where people in ill health can obtain a thorough and dependable examination and diagnosis," followed by "mineral waters and baths best suited for their needs" and "correct, wholesome diets," as well as rest and relaxation. All of this was available for an average cost of thirty dollars per week.

These popular tourist attractions could be found across the state. Most are no more, but Brown County remains home of two such resorts: Sun Springs and Sycamore Springs, depicted above. E. V. Kauffman, who became proprietor of the latter in 1895, claimed to be one of its water's beneficiaries. Sycamore Springs water would, claimed Kauffman, purify the blood, renovate the stomach, cure bladder and kidney diseases, and remedy constipation, indigestion, and rheumatism. The property changed hands and fortunes many times over the years but long remained a popular health and recreational destination. By the late 1930s it sported, in addition to a "commodious" hotel, cottages, chemical or bottling building, a dance floor, bandstand, merry-go-round, baseball diamond, swimming pool, and skating rink.



# KANSAS HISTORY

VIRGIL W. DEAN  
Editor

BOBBIE A. PRAY  
Managing Editor

SUSAN S. NOVAK  
Associate Editor

*Editorial Advisory Board*

Thomas Fox Averill  
Gayle R. Davis  
Donald L. Fixico  
James L. Forsythe  
Kenneth M. Hamilton  
Thomas D. Isern  
Patricia A. Michaelis  
Rita G. Napier  
Pamela Riney-Kehrberg  
James E. Sherow

*Ex officio Members of the  
Editorial Advisory Board*  
Jennie Chinn  
David A. Haurly  
Ramon Powers

COVER: Spring by N.C. Wyeth.  
Since our earliest native inhabitants, spring waters have been utilized throughout Kansas. "Water of the Most Excellent Kind" begins on page 128.  
BACK COVER: A 1906 poster advertising the Pike Pawnee Village celebration in Republic County. An article on early historic celebrations in Kansas begins on page 172.

Copyright © 2000 Kansas State Historical Society, Inc. ISSN 0149-9114

*Kansas History* (USPS 290 620) is published quarterly by the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas, 66615-1099. It is distributed without charge to members of the Kansas State Historical Society. Membership dues are: basic \$30, family \$35; donor \$50-\$499; sponsor \$500; benefactor \$1,000; and patron \$2,500 or more. Single issues, when available, are \$6. Periodicals postage paid at Topeka, Kansas, and additional mailing office. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Kansas History*, 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas, 66615-1099.

Printed by Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.

Volume 23

Autumn 2000

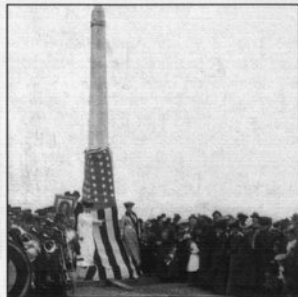
Number 3



p. 128-129



p. 150



p. 172

WATER OF THE MOST  
EXCELLENT KIND: HISTORIC  
SPRINGS IN KANSAS 128  
*by Rex Buchanan, Robert Sawin, and  
Wayne Lebsack*

CLASHING SYMBOLS IN A  
QUIET TOWN: HESSTON IN THE  
VIETNAM WAR ERA 142  
*by James C. Juhnke*

"KANSAS SHALL NOT HAVE  
THE RIGHT TO LEGISLATE  
SLAVERY OUT": SLAVERY AND  
THE 1860 ANTISLAVERY LAW 154  
*by Gary L. Cheatham*

MAKING A UNIQUE HERITAGE:  
CELEBRATING PIKE'S PAWNEE  
VILLAGE AND THE SANTA FE  
TRAIL, 1900-1918 172  
*by Amanda Laugesen*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 186

REVIEWS 187

BOOK NOTES 197

**1806 PAWNEE REPUBLIC 1906**

**CENTENNIAL**

**CELEBRATION**

**FOUR DAYS | SEPT. 26-27-28-29 | FOUR DAYS**

100th Anniversary of the First American Flag Unfurled on Kansas Soil

**AT PAWNEE STATE PARK, REPUBLIC, KANS.**

An Historic Spot, the site of the Village of the Pawnee Republic, marked by the State of Kansas by a monument in honor of LIEUT. ZEBULON MONTGOMERY PIKE, who caused the Spanish flag to be lowered and the Stars and Stripes to be raised.

**HON. E. W. HOCH, GOVERNOR**  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Will be present, and the following list of speakers has been secured: Captain Patrick H. Coney, John R. Mason, Hon. W. A. Calderhead, C. E. Adams, Geo. W. Martin, John B. Dunbar, Jas. R. Meade, Gomer T. Davies, W. C. Postlethwaite, Mrs. E. W. Hoch, Mrs. J. D. McFarland, Mrs. May Bellville-Brown, Mrs. Albert H. Horton, Mrs. C. E. Adams, and other eminent speakers.

**4 DAYS-FREE ATTRACTIONS-4 DAYS**

KENNEDY'S WILD WEST SHOW, Two Performances Each Day. ASCENSIONS Each Day  
BASE BALL GAMES Each Day

**THREE-BANDS-THREE**

THE REPUBLIC MILITARY BAND, 20 Pieces. THE COURTLAND JUVENILE BAND, 22 Pieces  
MOSHER'S MARSHAL BAND

A beautiful Grove furnishes abundant shade. Pure water in ample supply furnished by means of gasoline pumps and every provision made for your comfort

**HALF RATES ON ALL RAILROADS!**

In the State of Kansas and South of the Platt River in Nebraska, including Kansas City, Mo., St. Joseph, Mo., Omaha, Neb., and all intermediate points. EXCURSION TRAINS WILL BE RUN DAILY

H. H. SMITH, President

OWER, Secretary