

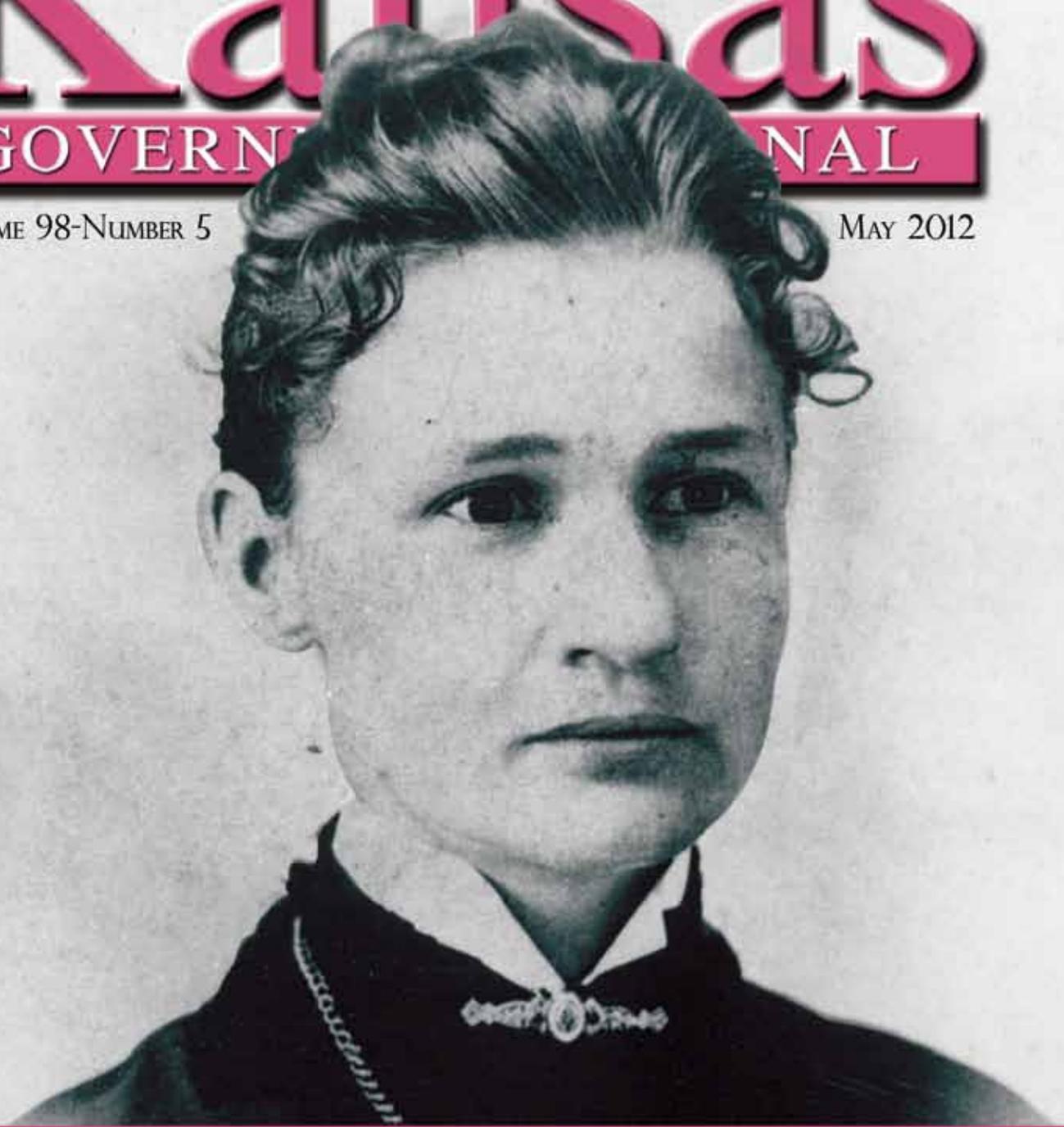
# Kansas

SPECIAL EDITION

## GOVERNMENTAL

VOLUME 98-NUMBER 5

MAY 2012



★ ★ ★ ★ KANSAS WOMEN LEADING THE WAY ★ ★ ★ ★



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About the Cover:  
 This special edition, *Women Leading the Way*, highlights the 125th Anniversary of the election of the first woman mayor in the country, Susanna Madora Salter. It also commemorates the 100th Anniversary of full women's suffrage in the state. Photos provided by [kansasmemory.com](http://kansasmemory.com) and [brynmawr.edu](http://brynmawr.edu).

# Kansas

## GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

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*The mission of the League shall be to unify, strengthen, and advocate for the interests of Kansas municipalities to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.*

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## Contributors

Larry Baer, Assistant General Counsel, [lbaer@lkm.org](mailto:lbaer@lkm.org)

Joan Finney and Kathleen Sebelius

Sandy Jacquot, Director of Law and General Counsel, [sjacquot@lkm.org](mailto:sjacquot@lkm.org)

Georgia Neese Clark Gray and Carry A. Nation

Mike Koss, Membership Services Manager, [mkoss@lkm.org](mailto:mkoss@lkm.org)

Kathryn O'Loughlin McCarthy and Kansas Women in Congress

Don Moler, Executive Director, [dmoler@lkm.org](mailto:dmoler@lkm.org)

Nancy Landon Kassebaum

Nicole Proulx Aiken, [naiken@lkm.org](mailto:naiken@lkm.org)

The Honorable Kay McFarland and Minnie Johnson Grinstead & Patricia Solander

Kimberly Winn, Deputy Director, [kwinn@lkm.org](mailto:kwinn@lkm.org)

Kansas Women Leading the Way, Susanna Madora Salter, Oskaloosa City Council, and LKM Women Presidents

All contributors are staff of the League of Kansas Municipalities and may be contacted at their respective email addresses or (785) 354-9565.

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**M**uch has been written about the many strong women who blazed the trails across the harsh and unforgiving plains. These were the women who worked tirelessly to raise their families, worked the land, and maintained homesteads on the Kansas prairie. These women are remembered for their steadfast determination and the sheer will of their convictions.

Just as the early pioneers blazed literal trails into the vast landscape, the women of Kansas have blazed trails in our government and in our political systems. These women showed leadership and courage in the face of incredible opposition and even discrimination.

As Kansans, we can be proud of the women who have worked hard to serve our communities, our state, and our country. We have a unique history and this special edition of the *Kansas Government Journal* was designed to honor that history and tell the story of the women who blazed the trails of government service.

### School Elections (1861)

Some date the suffrage movement in Kansas to pre-statehood as there were those who advocated for full voting and property rights for women and African Americans to be included in the Kansas Constitution. *Women's Suffrage History Collection Biography* (1867 - 1891), Kansas State Historical Society. Those efforts were only partially successful as the original Kansas Constitution granted “[a]ll white female persons over the age of 21 years” the right to vote in school district elections. Kan. Const., Article III, Section 2 (1861). While some might consider this initial attempt at suffrage a failure because it was limited to school district elections, it is important to put this achievement in historical context. Women in Kansas were granted the right to vote in school elections a full eight years before Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association to advocate for the voting rights of women. See, <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/woman-suffrage/awsa-memorial.html>. This was an important step that became the foundation for an ever-expanding role for women in elections and in government in Kansas.

Kansas remained a leader in the early struggle for women’s suffrage. With a referendum on the ballot in the fall of 1867, Kansas became the first state in the Union to officially consider women’s suffrage. The following year, Kansas Senator Samuel Pomeroy introduced the first federal suffrage amendment in Congress. See, <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/schs/ritchie/education/timelines/womenssuffrage-us.pdf>.

### Municipal Elections (1887)

The next chapter in the journey toward women’s suffrage in Kansas came in 1887. In that year, the Kansas Legislature granted women the right to vote and hold office in cities and school districts.

*That in any election hereafter held in any city of the first, second or third class, for the election of city or school officers, or for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of any bonds for school purposes, the right of any citizens to vote shall not be*

*denied or abridged on account of sex; and women may vote at such elections the same as men, under like restrictions and qualifications; and any women possessing the qualifications of a voter under this act shall also be eligible to any such city or school office. Kan. Sess. Laws, Chapter 230 (1887).*

Ironically, it was in this same year that the U.S. Senate first voted on the issue of women’s suffrage. The proposition, Senate Resolution 5, failed 34-16 with 25 senators not voting. 18 Cong. Rec. 1002 (49th Congress, 1887). Again, Kansas was at the forefront of granting women full rights to participate in government.

### Full State Suffrage (1912)

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of full state suffrage for women in Kansas. In 1911, eight years before the U.S. Congress approved the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Kansas Legislature approved the following proposition to amend the Kansas Constitution: “The rights of citizens of the State of Kansas to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex.” Kan. Sess. Laws, Chapter 337 (1911). The electorate of Kansas approved full state suffrage for women on November 5, 1912 by a vote of 175,246 to 159,197. *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XII, No. 3, 317 (August, 1943).

On March 20, 2012, the Kansas House of Representatives honored this achievement with the passage of H.R. 6020 which began “WHEREAS, In 1912, the great state of Kansas distinguished itself by becoming the eighth state in the nation to permanently enact women’s suffrage....” The resolution concluded: “[W]e recognize the centrality of women’s suffrage to democratic values.” H.R. 6020, *Journal of the House* (March 20, 2012).

### Full National Suffrage (1920)

Almost exactly 60 years after the suffrage movement in Kansas began, the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was passed by the Congress on June 4, 1919. Leading the charge for national suffrage, Kansas became the fourth state to ratify the Amendment on June 16, 1919. Ratification was ultimately completed on August 26, 1920. See Revisor’s Note, *Kansas Statutes Annotated, Amendments to the U.S. Constitution*. This Amendment finally granted women full voting rights in every state in the country.

While the passage of the 19th Amendment marked the end of the long struggle for suffrage and equal voting rights, it also marked the beginning of the journey for representation in government. The women we honor in this special edition are just some of the trail blazers who devoted themselves to representing Kansans in local, state, and federal government capacities. Since the granting of suffrage, countless women have served this great state as mayors, councilmembers, commissioners, city clerks, county clerks, and legislators.

We honor these Kansas women not to say that the journey has been completed. But rather, we honor them as remarkable women who paved the way for all the women who have served, or will ever serve, the citizens of Kansas for the betterment of this great state and country.



## SUSANNA MADORA SALTER

-FIRST WOMAN MAYOR IN THE COUNTRY-

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the election of the first woman mayor in the country. Just weeks after Kansas granted women the right to vote in municipal elections in 1887, Susanna Salter was elected Mayor of Argonia, becoming the first woman mayor in the country. This historic election took place a full 33 years before the United States granted full suffrage to women with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

In 1872, Susanna Madora Kinsey moved with her family from Ohio to Argonia, a small community in Sumner County, Kansas. She later attended Kansas State Agricultural College (which later became Kansas State University). It was there that she met her husband Lewis Salter.

Public service was a part of Salter's family. She was the daughter of Argonia's first Mayor, Oliver Kinsey. Her husband was the City Clerk, and her father-in-law was the Kansas Lieutenant Governor Melville Salter.

Susanna Salter herself was quite involved in politics. She was a member and officer of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). The WCTU sought increased enforcement of the State's prohibition laws. Before the local election in 1887, the WCTU gathered to nominate a slate of men to support during the upcoming city elections.

As a joke in order to embarrass the women of the WCTU, a group of about 20 local men hatched a plan:

*You know she wasn't nominated in any of the conventions. About 9 o'clock on election day all of us boys were feeling gay and agreed to meet at a hall and nominate a candidate – to knock out Wilson. Jack Ducker, he is the toughest man in the place and the undertaker, got up in the meeting, and nominated Mrs. Susan Madora Salter for mayor and the nomination was made unanimous. We rushed into the streets and commenced to work for our candidate....We got full of whisky and enthusiasm, and at 4 o'clock every one was voting, for our candidate...We had a jollification, and when she took her seat like a man all our fun was busted. Former Argonia City Marshal, Indianapolis Journal, from [www.kansasmemory.org](http://www.kansasmemory.org)*

In the end, the joke was on them. Susanna Salter was elected Mayor, garnering 2/3 of the vote. She was 27 years old at the time.



Susanna Salter at the age of 27 in 1887 when she was elected Mayor of Argonia.

Following her election, she received this communication from the previous Mayor of Argonia:

*You are hereby notified that at an election held in the City of Argonia on Monday, April 4, 1887 for the purpose of electing city officers, you were duly elected to the office of Mayor of said city. You will take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.*

*-Wm. H. Watson, Mayor of Argonia. From [http://www.kancoll.org/khq/1954/54\\_3\\_billington.htm](http://www.kancoll.org/khq/1954/54_3_billington.htm).*

National and international attention followed. The story of the first woman mayor to be elected was covered across the United States. Letters arrived from foreign countries.

Editorials, both for and against women serving as mayors, appeared in newspapers. The city of Argonia became the center of the political world for this moment in history. By all accounts, Mayor Salter served honorably and presided over the council meetings with effectiveness.

Susanna Salter served her one-year term as mayor and chose to return to private life. Although she chose not to seek reelection, history was made during her brief time in office. Her election was a small door opening to a world where women would be free to vote and free to serve their communities, their state, and their nation. It would be 25 more years before women would achieve full suffrage in Kansas. And, 33 years later, women across the country gained full suffrage.

Susanna Salter's legacy is forever etched into the history books. She led the way for the many women local officials who came after her in order to serve their communities with honor and distinction. The Salter House Museum in Argonia stands as a tribute to Susanna Salter. The home, built by Oliver Kinsey, Susanna's father and the first Mayor of Argonia, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sources:  
Billington, Monroe. *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, "Susanna Madora Salter – First Woman Mayor," Vol. 21, No. 3, pp 173:183 (Autumn, 1954).  
Kansas State Historical Society, [www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org)



Susanna Salter at the age of 94 in 1954.

## OSKALOOSA CITY COUNCIL

-FIRST ALL WOMAN CITY COUNCIL IN THE COUNTRY-



Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper was one of many national publications to carry stories and illustrations on the Oskaloosa mayor and city council. Pictured from left to right are Mayor Mary D. Lowman and councilmembers Carrie Johnson, Sadie Balsley, Hannah P. Morse, Emma K. Hamilton, and Mittie Golden.

One year after Susanna Salter became the first woman elected mayor in the country, the City of Oskaloosa, Kansas made history as well. Small wins in the struggle for women's suffrage prompted other cities to step to the forefront to actively promote the participation of women in governmental affairs.

Before the 1888 municipal elections, Dr. J.W. Balsley took up the mantel in Oskaloosa. He put together a slate of six prominent women to support for the Oskaloosa city governing body. Dr. Balsley actively promoted his ticket among the voters in the city.

With their election, Oskaloosa became the first city in Kansas (and likely in the country) to nominate and elect a woman mayor and all-female council. It was reported that every eligible voter turned out to vote in the election and the women won by a three-to-one margin. All of these women from Oskaloosa were active citizens from prominent families in the community.

Perhaps even more important than the original election, was the reelection of Mayor Lowman and another all-woman city council the following year. The council included three of the same original members and two new members.

The excitement over women playing a role in government continued to spread throughout Kansas. In 1889, four more communities in Kansas elected all-women governing bodies. Those included Baldwin City, Cottonwood Falls, Elk Falls, and Rossville.

### Mayor

**Mary D. Lowman** was the deputy register of deeds; her husband was the register for the County. She was a teacher and was active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

### Councilmembers

**Sadie Balsley** was Dr. Balsley's wife.

**Hannah Morse** was the wife of one of the local attorneys.

**Mittie Golden** was the blacksmith's wife.

**Emma Kirkpatrick Hamilton** was the wife of a local real estate dealer.

**Carrie Johnson** was the wife of state Senator Charles Johnson.

A century after this historic election, the Petticoat Council was formed in Jefferson County to honor the first all-woman mayor and council. This group dresses in period clothing and participates in local events. It is a lasting tribute to the women who were the first to blaze the trails of municipal government in Kansas, and indeed, the country. [http://www.tonganoxiemirror.com/news/2007/jan/03/mclouth\\_women\\_bring/](http://www.tonganoxiemirror.com/news/2007/jan/03/mclouth_women_bring/)

Source:

Parts of this article were taken from Gehring, Lorraine, *Women Officeholders: 1872 - 1912* (publication date unknown). [http://www.kshs.org/publicat/history/1986summer\\_gehring.pdf](http://www.kshs.org/publicat/history/1986summer_gehring.pdf)



The Oskaloosa all-women City Council pictured together in 1888. Back Row: Carrie Johnson, Sadie Balsley, and Emma Hamilton. Front Row: Hannah Morse, Mary Lowman (Mayor), and Mittie Golden.



## LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES WOMEN PRESIDENTS

**F**ounded in 1910, the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) is the statewide association serving the cities of Kansas. Just as women have been active participants in municipal government in Kansas, women have played an important role in the League. Throughout the more than 100-year history of this organization, women have served on the LKM Governing Body, participated in policy committees, sought training, and worked for the League.

LKM is governed by city officials from around the state who are selected each year at the Convention of Voting Delegates. To date, seven women have been elected to serve as the President of the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM). In addition, LKM is currently served by a woman Vice President.

All of these women have served their communities and LKM with distinction. We are pleased to highlight each of these women. The year they served as LKM President is listed.

### **Karen Graves Commissioner Salina (1981)**

Twelve years after Jan Meyers served as LKM President, Karen Graves was elected as the second woman to lead the organization. Graves was first appointed to fill a vacancy as a City Commissioner in Salina in 1977. She served in that capacity until 1982, including a term as the first woman Mayor of the City. In addition, Graves served a term on the National League of Cities Board. She remains active in a variety of charitable and public endeavors.



### **Jan Meyers Councilmember Overland Park (1969)**

Jan Meyers served on the Overland Park City Council from 1967 to 1973. During that time, she became the first woman to serve as President of the League in 1969.

“It is indeed an honor to be president of such a vital and important organization. I look forward to serving and hope that I’ll be able to do a good job,” said Meyers in the November 1969 issue of the



*Kansas Government Journal*.

Meyers went on to distinguished service in the Kansas Senate and in the United States House of Representatives where she served the 3rd District for 12 years (see related article on page 155).

### **Peggy Blackman Mayor Marion (1984)**

In 1977, Peggy Blackman became the first woman to serve as Mayor of the City of Marion. She served the City in that capacity until 1986. In 1984, she was elected as the third woman to serve as LKM President. Blackman remains very active in her community. In 1993, Blackman received a “We Kan” Award from the Kansas Sampler Foundation honoring her enthusiasm and dedication



to the Marion community. She currently serves as the WRAPS Strategy Coordinator for Marion Reservoir and the Water Quality Initiative Coordinator for Flint Hills Resource Conservation and Development.



**Irene French  
Mayor  
Merriam (1989)**

Irene French served the City of Merriam for more than 30 years. In 1968, she was appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee. She was appointed to the Planning Commission in 1971 and served there for two years. French was elected to the City Council in 1973 and served in that capacity until she was elected Mayor in 1981. For 20

years, French served as Mayor of Merriam and she was selected to serve as LKM President in 1989. Her legacy of service was honored when the City named the community center for her. French is also a published author, having written a history of the City entitled *Historic Merriam*.

**Frances Garcia  
Councilmember  
Hutchinson (1990)**

First elected to the Hutchinson City Council in 1985, Frances Garcia served in that capacity for 14 years. During that time, she was the top vote-getter on the Council in all four of her election bids (1985, 1989, 1993, and 1997). In 1998, she was elected to the Reno County Commission where she served for 12 years. Garcia is now retired and remains active in the Hutchinson community.



**Carol Marinovich  
Mayor/CEO Unified  
Government of  
Wyandotte County,  
Kansas City (1999)**

After 23 years as a teacher, Carol Marinovich became a Councilmember in Kansas City in 1989. In 1995, she became the first woman to be elected Mayor of that City. Marinovich was the driving force behind the first city-county consolidation in Kansas and she became the



first-ever Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government in 1997. Her leadership efforts also led to a rebirth in Wyandotte County with the development of the Kansas Speedway and the Legends shopping area. In 2005, she retired from the public sector, but still finds time to teach classes at Donnelly College in Kansas City.



**Joan Bowman  
Mayor  
Lenexa (2001)**

The consummate public servant, Joan Bowman was elected to the Shawnee Mission School Board in 1981. She served two terms, including two years as Board President. In 1987, she was appointed to the Lenexa City Council. In 1995, she was elected to the first of two terms as Mayor. In 2001, she became the seventh woman to serve as LKM President.

Mayor Bowman died on March 11, 2004, leaving a legacy of support for public education and a vision for her community that has since been realized and surpassed.

**Brenda Chance  
City Clerk  
Phillipsburg  
(Vice President, 2011)**

The current League of Kansas Municipalities Vice President is Brenda Chance, City Clerk of Phillipsburg. She was elected at the 2011 Annual Conference for this position. Traditionally, this position is part of the officer track for the LKM Governing Body with the Vice President moving on to serve as President the following year. The Convention of Voting

Delegates will make the final determination at the 2012 Annual LKM Conference. Should Chance be elected President at that time, she will be the eighth woman to serve as President of the League.

Chance began her public service career in 1981 with the City of Phillipsburg working as a Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator. She worked her way up at the City to eventually be appointed City Clerk in 1987. She has served in that capacity for 25 years.

Throughout her municipal service, Chance has been actively involved in the League and the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas. Should she be elected President of the League in 2012, it will be the first time since 1946 that a city clerk has served as LKM President.





## National Historic Register Adds Sites

The National Park Service approved three Kansas listings for its National Register of Historic Places listing. The listings are the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe (ATSF) Steam Locomotive No. 3415 in Abilene, the Jackson-McConnell House in Junction City, and the Viesta Block in Augusta.

The locomotive in Abilene was nominated for its significance in the areas of engineering and transportation. The passenger engine was built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1919 and was operated for 34 years. It is one of only three 4-6-2, 3,400 class Pacific-type steam locomotives remaining in Kansas, and the only member of the class that is operational. The “4-6-2” designation refers to the engine’s wheel arrangement.

The Jackson-McConnell House, built in 1911, was nominated for its architecture. The house is located near downtown Junction City and is built in the Queen Anne, bungalow, craftsman, and foursquare styles. The house is a well-preserved example of the American foursquare and reflects a mix of popular early 20th Century architectural styles.

The Viesta Block in downtown Augusta was nominated for its local commercial history and its commercial-style architecture. The Viesta Block is a two-story building that occupies three city lots, developed over many years in the early 20th Century and today retains its commercial-style appearance, its traditional storefronts and recessed entrances, tile entry, and glass transoms.

## Historic Restaurant Reopens

Five months after a devastating fire, the Historic Hays House 1857 Restaurant in Council Grove reopened on May 18, 2012.

The restaurant is believed to be the oldest continuously operated restaurant west of the Mississippi River. It was opened in 1857 by Seth M. Hays, the great-grandson of Daniel Boone.

A group of 25 Council Grove residents bought the restaurant after the fire. Rick Paul, who owned and operated the business from 1988 to 2002, returned as general manager and head chef.

A fire on December 14, 2011, destroyed the kitchen and caused soot and smoke damage throughout the building.

## 2012 Best Small Library in America

The Independence Public Library has been declared the Best Small Library in America for 2012. The award was sponsored by the *Library Journal* and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Independence Public Library won the award by recovering from a financial crisis through an ongoing program of community partnerships, programming, excellent customer service, and extensive marketing, including a sophisticated Geek the Library campaign.

The library has won awards, received grants, pursued successful fundraising, and increased its tax income. The transformation has been so dramatic that an article in *Library Journal* (<http://>

[lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/01/managing-libraries/best-small-library-in-america-2012-the-independence-public-library-ks/](http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/01/managing-libraries/best-small-library-in-america-2012-the-independence-public-library-ks/)) described it as a “Renaissance.”

In her email announcing the award, Julie Hildebrand, Director of the Independence Public Library, pointed out that the work of many people, in Independence and in the Kansas library community, had contributed to this remarkable outcome. She paid tribute to city government, state legislators, the Friends of the Library, the Geek Committee, and the eight member library staff.

## Montgomery County Awarded CDBG Funds

The Kansas Department of Commerce announced Montgomery County will receive \$365,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the economic development category.

The funds will be used by the County to make an equipment loan to Midwest Plastics Company, a manufacturer of molded and injected plastic products located near Cherryvale. The CDBG funds will be matched with \$182,500 of private investment. The project will create 10.5 permanent jobs.

The Department’s Business and Community Development Division administers the CDBG program in non-metropolitan areas of the state. Economic development grants are given to cities or counties that, in turn, loan the funds to private businesses that can create or retain permanent jobs. Funding is also available for infrastructure improvements that lead to the direct creation or retention of permanent jobs in the private sector. For more information about the CDBG program, visit [KansasCommerce.com/CDBG](http://KansasCommerce.com/CDBG).

## Hospitals Receive Designations

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has designated two Kansas hospitals as Level IV trauma centers. They are Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems in Beloit and Sabetha Community Hospital in Sabetha.

These designations are a landmark, as they are the first hospitals to receive the Level IV trauma center designation in the State of Kansas. KDHE was given legislative authority earlier this year to begin designating Level IV trauma centers.

“Trauma center designation is one component of a comprehensive statewide trauma system designed to get patients with life-threatening

injuries to a hospital with the necessary resources,” said Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer. “It means these hospitals have met essential criteria that ensure institutional performance and trauma care capability.”

State trauma designation is a voluntary process that provides confirmation that a hospital has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care for all injured patients. To earn designation, the hospital must have the necessary equipment and resources needed for trauma care.



## Mobs Help Kansas Business

If someone told you that a mob was heading for your store, you would likely be concerned. But several city groups throughout Kansas are changing the way people look at mobs—thanks to “cash mobs.” These mobs are groups of Kansas consumers helping local businesses thrive.

A cash mob is a group of people within a community who gather at a specific local store to buy goods from that store. Each person in the mob generally agrees to spend a certain amount of money, creating a fun social event that benefits local businesses. Some groups have created cash mob rules (<http://cashmobs.wordpress.com/rules-2/>), but the gatherings are generally informal. The first official cash mob met at a wine shop in Buffalo, New York in August 2011. Since then they’ve spread throughout the country, springing up in 35 states, including Kansas.

One of the first cash mobs in Kansas organized in Garden City on February 18, 2012. Two local radio hosts used their show and social networks to organize a mob at Book Nook, a bookstore whose owner allowed local musicians to sell their merchandise in the store. The mob reached almost 60 customers and caused sales at Book Nook to double compared to the average day. The group’s next mob gathering was planned for Fresh Bites Café on May 18, but they hope they can begin meeting once a month to help small businesses throughout Garden City.

In March, a Hutchinson software developer invited 20 of his friends to invite their friends to be part of the first Hutchinson cash mob. The group ended up growing to 167 people. They voted online to mob Back to Nature, a local store that sold ear candles, root beer, dried soup mixes, body lotion, and many other items. Everyone in the group agreed to spend \$10, and they went to lunch together afterward to show off their purchases. The group is planning to continue to meet once a month.

Shortly after the success of Hutchinson’s cash mob, Wichita business consultant Jill Miller decided to form Cash Mob Wichita. Within 36 hours of forming the group, it had grown to 1,500 members. Cash Mob Wichita organizes day long events, so the group can hit several businesses within the city. The group members commit to spending \$10 per store, and can meet at a local bar afterward to celebrate their support of local businesses. On March 24, the group selected 7 stores to hit within the Delano district, including a bakery, a book store, and an art store.

During Wichita’s first cash mob gathering, Salina also organized its first group. The mob grew to 700 members and voted to hit K Belle, a local clothing store. Although there was only a slight increase in customers during the time set to mob the store, there was a continuous stream of customers for the rest of the day and week. Although the group didn’t achieve the “mob” feel of other Kansas groups, the attention given to the store caused increased sales for the rest of that

week, creating new, long-lasting connections between the store and Salina consumers.

Emporia, Harper, and several other Kansas communities have also started their own cash mobs to support local businesses. But as this movement grows, the causes the mobs support continue to evolve. Mobs are now being formed that specifically target minority-owned businesses. Others target only those businesses that agree to give back to the community in some way. The potential causes that cash mobs could support are limitless, which is a good sign they’ll remain a force in community development for the foreseeable future.

Possibly the most innovative cash mob has existed in Kansas for several years now. The Retired Old Motorcyclists Eating Out (ROMEO) Riders not only have a strong claim as the first cash mob in the world, but also the coolest. The Riders are a group of motorcyclists from across the state that meet weekly to eat lunch at a specific café in some small Kansas city. The group’s goal is to support small-town eateries while enjoying the open roads on their bikes. Founded in Salina in 2008, the group has supported café’s all over the state, including cities like Scranton, Haddam, Wilson, and Peabody. The ROMEO Riders continue to meet weekly, so if you’re interested in contacting them, visit <http://romeoriders.com/romeoriders/cms/>.

Because of the positive effects cash mobs are having on local business communities, many community chambers of commerce are getting involved in organizing the mobs. These chambers are great organizers of cash mobs because they have close ties to local businesses and often have experience with “buy local” initiatives. In Huntington, New York, the community’s chamber organized a cash mob where each participant spent \$20 in exchange for a 20% discount at each store and free refreshments. Almost 50 people joined the mob. The chamber has announced that in the future, local businesses will be selected to be mobbed via lottery, ensuring the positive effects of the mob are spread evenly across the community.

Cash mobs are an example of groups of people coming together to take responsibility for the welfare of their community. In fact, one of the strengths of cash mobs is that they can flourish without a central organizer. But, there are certain steps city leaders can take to encourage cash mobs within their cities. Using the city website or Twitter feed to advertise when and where a mob is going to meet is a good start. Cities can also block off roads to areas that cash mobs are targeting to facilitate pedestrian movement from store to store. By taking steps to incentivize cash mobs, city leaders can assist them in maintaining healthy and vibrant businesses within Kansas communities.

 *Michael Koss is the Membership Services Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at [mkoss@lkm.org](mailto:mkoss@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.*



## GEORGIA NEESE CLARK GRAY

-FIRST WOMAN UNITED STATES TREASURER-

**G**eorgia Neese Clark Gray was most famous as the first woman Treasurer of the United States, named to that post by President Harry Truman in 1949. She served in that position until President Truman left office in January 1953. During her four years as U.S. Treasurer, her signature graced some \$30 billion in paper money. Gray's honor in being named U.S. Treasurer was one of a number

of Clinton Lake near Lawrence, Kansas. Because of the slow progress being made toward building the reservoir, Gray was instrumental in urging Congress to finally appropriate funds for the project so residents could receive the payments for their property and move on with their lives.

On a personal level, Gray graduated from Washburn College in 1921, a time when few women went to college. She went on to become an actor in various stock companies for some 10 years, during which she married her manager, George Clark. They later divorced. During the Great Depression, she returned to Richland to help her father in the Richland State Bank due to his poor health. She became the bank's president after his death in 1937. Gray also became active in Democratic politics during that time and was a supporter of Harry Truman. Her involvement in the Democratic Party led to the creation of an award, the Georgia Neese Gray Award, which is annually presented by the Democratic Party to a locally elected official who has performed outstanding service for his or her community. Gray's involvement in the Democratic Party and her support of Harry Truman ultimately led to Truman's appointment of Gray to be the U.S. Treasurer. After returning to Richland at the conclusion of her term as Treasurer, she married Andrew Gray.

After the buyout of the entire City of Richland for the reservoir, Gray moved the Richland State Bank to Topeka, Kansas in 1964, and renamed it Capital City State Bank. Former President Harry Truman spoke at the bank dedication and stated "Mrs. Gray is the only United States Treasurer since the Civil War who really worked at her job....She knows money affairs as well as any man, and anyone who brings their money here will know it is in charge of someone who knows how to take care of it." *New York Times*, Georgia Neese Clark Gray Obituary, October 28, 1995.

The Georgia Neese Gray Performance Hall in the Topeka Performing Arts Center is a testament to Gray's love of the arts. Her induction into the Topeka Business Hall of Fame is indicative of her business acumen. Georgia Neese Clark Gray died on October 26, 1995, and is buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery near Topeka. She was truly a pioneer in a number of ways and a remarkable Kansas woman.

Sources:

Much of the information for this piece came from information available from the Kansas State Historical Society ([www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org)) and the October 28, 1995, obituary in the *New York Times*.



of accomplishments throughout her lifetime. Her reported response to being asked by President Truman regarding whether she could afford to take the position, which was fairly low paying, was, "Can I afford not to?"

Georgia Neese Gray was born in 1898 in Richland, Kansas. Richland was a small community in northeast Kansas that was ultimately purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the late 1960s for the purpose of building a federal reservoir. The town was vacated by 1974 and the land became a part

# CARRY A. NATION

-POLITICAL ACTIVIST-

In addition to the women who held public office in Kansas, many women became political activists. One of the leading causes that resulted in political activity by women was the issue of alcohol and the enforcement of the stringent liquor laws in Kansas. And, no woman is more well known for her activism in this area than Carry A. Nation.

Kansas had a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquor from 1881 to 1948. Federal prohibition lasted from 1919-1933. However, the law in Kansas was often ignored, leading to activists to spend decades fighting to get the laws properly enforced. "A woman is stripped of everything by them [saloons]. Her husband is torn from her; she is robbed of her sons, her home, her food, and her virtue...

Truly does the saloon make a woman bare of all things!" (Online Exhibits No. 2, Carry A. Nation, Kansas Historical Society, <http://www.kshs.org/p/online-exhibits-carry-a-nation-part-2/10590>)

Carry Nation was born on November 25, 1846 in Kentucky, and reported experiencing a religious conversion when she was 10 years old, which would shape some of her actions in future years. Carry's first husband was Dr. Charles Gloyd, a man she met when he was a boarder at her parents' house. Her parents were reportedly not in favor of the match, due to Charles's drinking, but the couple married and had a child. As his drinking became worse, he begged Carry not to leave him or he would "be a dead man in six months." (Online Exhibits No. 4, Carry A. Nation, Kansas Historical Society,



In 1890, the family moved to Medicine Lodge, which began Carry Nation's association with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and efforts to close down "joints."

The following quote from Carry Nation's autobiography, *The Use and Need of the Life of Carry A. Nation*, published in 1908 and quoted in Online Exhibits No. 2, Carry A. Nation, Kansas Historical Society, <http://www.kshs.org/p/online-exhibits-carry-a-nation-part-2/10590>, explains the evolution of her hatchet smashing of joints.

*On the 5th of June, before retiring, I threw myself face downward at the foot of my bed in my home in Medicine Lodge. I poured out my grief in agony to God, in about this strain: "Oh Lord you see the treason in*

*Kansas, they are going to break the mothers' hearts, they are going to send the boys to drunkards' graves and a drunkard's hell. I have exhausted my means, Oh Lord, you have plenty of ways. You have used the base things and the weak things, use me to save Kansas. I have but one life to give you, if I had a thousand, I would give them all, please show me something to do." The next morning I was awakened by a voice which seemed to me speaking in my heart, these words, "GO TO KIOWA," and my hands were lifted and thrown down and the words, "I'LL STAND BY YOU." The words, "Go to Kiowa," were spoken in a murmuring, musical tone, low and soft, but "I'll stand by you," was very clear, positive, and emphatic. I was impressed with a great inspiration, the interpretation was very plain, it was this: "Take something in your hands, and throw at these places in Kiowa and smash them."*

In 1901, David Nation filed for divorce from Carry citing desertion as the grounds. She had become so immersed in her prohibition activities, that he felt she was not running his house as a wife should. Carry A. Nation died on June 9, 1911, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The epitaph on her grave marker states, "She Hath Done What She Could." (Online Exhibits No. 7, Carry A. Nation, Kansas Historical Society, <http://www.kshs.org/p/online-exhibits-carry-a-nation-part-7/10595>) Although much more could be written about Carry A. Nation, perhaps the most important point to draw from her legacy is the recognition of how the economic impact on her family and, likely on many other activists, shaped her desire to eradicate alcohol. While it certainly had a moral component, economics played a large role in Carry Nation's historical place in the history of Kansas women.

*Which spelling is correct? Carry or Carrie Nation? The answer is both. She was christened "Carrie" by her parents. However, once she married David Nation and realized her passion was to rid America of the evils of alcohol, she began spelling her name Carry. Thus, the meaning became clear; she would "carry a nation" from alcohol. <http://www.barbercounty.net/medicinelodge.html>*

<http://www.kshs.org/p/online-exhibits-carry-a-nation-part-4/10592>)

In fact, he died when Carry was 23, leaving his wife and an infant daughter.

Carry Nation was now the sole support of

a young daughter and, apparently, her mother-in-law. She moved to Warrensburg, Missouri, and took college classes to become a teacher. Her teaching career lasted about four years, until she was fired for supposedly mispronouncing words. The job was subsequently given to the niece of a man who had complained about her teaching. After that, she met and married an older man named David Nation, who did not have much of a career doing anything. Her marriage was plagued with financial uncertainty and the poor health of both her daughter and her husband.

## THE HONORABLE KAY MCFARLAND

-FIRST WOMAN CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE KANSAS SUPREME COURT-

Chief Justice Kay McFarland accomplished many firsts during her historic legal career. Born on July 20, 1935, Chief Justice McFarland grew up in Topeka where her father was the Superintendent of Schools. She attended Washburn University and graduated magna cum laude in 1957 with dual majors in English and history-political science. Seven years later, she graduated from Washburn University School of Law, where she was the only full-time female student enrolled.

Upon graduation, Chief Justice McFarland worked for the law firm of Murrell, Scott, and Quinlan. She left the law firm in 1971 when she became the first woman elected to a judgeship in Shawnee County and served as the Judge of the Probate and Juvenile Courts. Two years later, Chief Justice McFarland was elected to serve as a judge for the Fifth Division of the District Court of Kansas, earning the distinction of being the first woman to serve as a district court judge in Kansas.

In September 1977, Chief Justice McFarland achieved another first when Governor Robert F. Bennett appointed her as the first woman to serve as justice on the Kansas Supreme Court. Eighteen years later, Chief Justice McFarland became the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. She remained in that position until she retired in 2009.

Chief Justice McFarland has received many awards throughout her career. In 2006, she received the Washburn University School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award for her exceptional professional accomplishments. In 2007, she was inducted into the Topeka Business Hall of Fame and in 2009 she received an honorary doctor of law from Washburn University School of Law.

Chief Justice McFarland also has an award named after her. The Women Attorney's Association of Topeka created the Chief Justice McFarland Award in 2006 to honor her historic legal career and the positive influence she has had on other women attorneys. Like Chief Justice McFarland, recipients of the award must achieve professional excellence



and open doors for women attorneys in areas of law that have been historically closed to them.

There is no doubt that Chief Justice McFarland, through her many firsts, opened several doors for women attorneys throughout Kansas. Yet her most important accomplishment may be the impact she had on those that worked for her every day. As Deborah Hughes, a research attorney for Chief Justice McFarland explains:

*I admired Chief Justice McFarland long before I began working as her research attorney. I loved her strong writing style—in fact some of my*

*favorite legal opinions were authored by her. I had heard her speak at various events over the years and knew her reputation for keen wit and great storytelling was not exaggerated. And I knew her “firsts”—first woman district judge in Kansas, first woman appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court, and first woman chief justice in Kansas—had opened so many doors for women attorneys, like myself. So it would be an understatement to say I was a little nervous on my first day. My anxiety was unnecessary. Chief Justice McFarland is down-to-earth, unpretentious, and genuine. Working with her was a great experience and an honor.*

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Photo courtesy of [www.kscourts.org](http://www.kscourts.org)



## 2012 Smoking Case

As evidenced by the Legislature's recent unsuccessful attempt to undo the smoking prohibitions put in place during the 2010 Legislative Session, smoking in bars and restaurants remains a controversial issue. At the time of the adoption of the smoking prohibitions, 35 cities and 3 counties had ordinances or resolutions that restricted smoking to various degrees in public places. Those local prohibitions covered about 55% of the Kansas population. A brief review of the legislation is helpful to an understanding of the most recent court case on the smoking legislation, *Downtown Bar and Grill, LLC v. State*, \_\_\_ Kan. \_\_\_, 273 P.3d 709 (2012).

The first important point about the law is that it did not have a preemption clause, so cities may have more restrictive ordinances than state law. What the law did is set forth places in which smoking is prohibited. As stated in a previous *Legal Forum*, these prohibitions include, public places and public meetings; taxicabs and limousines; common areas of buildings including lobbies, restrooms and hallways; common areas of motels and hotels and at least 80% of sleeping rooms; and any place of employment. Thus, restaurants and bars would fall under the prohibition. In addition, smoking is prohibited within 10 ft. of an open window, door, or air intake of a building. This impacted some city ordinances that had allowed smoking in outdoor areas, if those areas violated the 10 ft. threshold. Some exceptions were allowed under the law, such as casino floors and tobacco shops. Another exception, and pertinent to this case, was for Class B clubs (private membership clubs) established before January 1, 2009, if the proprietor notified the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that it wanted to continue as a smoking-permitted facility.

In the *Downtown Bar* case, the Class B club in Tonganoxie sued the State, alleging a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the constitutions of the United States and State of Kansas. Downtown Bar had always been operated as a drinking establishment, but on May 4, 2009, became a class B club. It had wanted to take advantage of the exception under the new smoking laws and continue to allow smoking in the club. Under the law, however, it needed to have been licensed by January 1, 2009, to fall under the exception. Thus, it could not allow smoking inside the establishment. It is helpful to remember that the reason for the 2009 date was that the smoking ban bill was introduced in the 2009 Legislative Session, the first year of the biennial session. It was not passed that year, so when it came up again on some procedural maneuvering where no amendments were allowed late in the 2010 session, the date could not be changed.

The trial court found that the January 1, 2009 was arbitrary, so there could be no rational basis for the distinction between Class B clubs. Thus, it issued a temporary injunction staying the State's enforcement of the statute. First, the Kansas Supreme Court in its analysis, set forth the factors to be considered when determining whether to grant a temporary injunction. There are five factors which all must be met, the first being whether there is a substantial

likelihood of success on the merits of the case. This was the focus of the Court's analysis. In order to determine the likelihood of success, an analysis of the equal protection argument was key.

In any constitutional case, there are three levels of scrutiny that may be applied depending upon factors not pertinent to this article. The first is whether the classifications created (the clubs established before and after January 1, 2009 in this case) bear some rational relationship to a valid legislative purpose. Because the nature of the rights sought to be protected in this case do not warrant higher scrutiny, the rational basis test, the least stringent, is the applicable analysis. The Court noted that the rational basis test is typically applied in cases where social legislation is being challenged. The parties all agreed that this was the test, but the club argued for a stricter view of "rational" in this case.

The Court set forth the rule that, if any facts may be conceived to rationally justify the law, it should be upheld, even if the reason was not the Legislature's reason for creating the classifications. Further, it is the plaintiff club's duty to counter every basis that might conceivably support the different treatment under the law. The Club argued the view that rational must mean logical, and just any basis at all should not be allowed to defeat its case, or it is a meaningless concept. The Club admitted it could not meet the requirement that it negate every conceivable basis that might support the classification. The Kansas Supreme Court did not agree with the Club's argument.

The Court went on to look at the trial court's analysis of the reasons for the classifications of the clubs before and after January 1, 2009. The trial court admitted that the State would have had an interest in protecting more established clubs and also preventing drinking establishments from circumventing the smoking ban by becoming private clubs. Thus, had the law been passed in the 2009 Legislative Session, the date would have acted as a deterrent during the pendency of the legislation. The trial court reasoned, however, that because the law did not pass in 2009, the continued inclusion of the January 1, 2009, date was arbitrary and an unintended consequence.

The Kansas Supreme Court, while agreeing with the trial court on the first point, rejected its conclusion that the date became arbitrary in the bill that passed in 2010. The Court found that the Legislature could just have reasonably kept the date for the same reasons in the 2010 session, to make sure there was no rush to private club status to circumvent the law. Thus, the Club had not met its burden of negating every conceivable basis that could support the different treatment of the clubs.

The smoking ban law continues to be in full force and effect across the State of Kansas. The Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act may be found at K.S.A. 21-6109 *et seq.*

 Sandy Jacquot is the Director of Law/General Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at [sjacquot@lkm.org](mailto:sjacquot@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.



## NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM

-FIRST WOMAN U. S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS-

**N**ancy Landon was born in Topeka, Kansas on July 29, 1932, the daughter of Alfred M. and Theo (Cobb) Landon. That was a big year for the Landon family as 1932 was also the year that her father, Alf Landon, was elected Governor of the great state of Kansas. As part of her young life, as is known to Kansans near and far, Alf Landon was then chosen as the standard bearer for the Republican party in the 1936 presidential election, where he faced incumbent President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was then running for a second term.



She grew up at 521 SW Westchester Road in Topeka, in a subdivision which was developed by her parents out of the remains of the unsuccessful Prospect Hills golf course. After graduating from Topeka High School, she attended the University of Kansas where she obtained her undergraduate degree. That was followed by earning her Masters degree in Diplomatic History at the University of Michigan. While at the University of Michigan, she met and married Philip Kassebaum in 1956. After graduating from the University of Michigan, they moved to Maize, Kansas, where they raised four children, and she worked in the family communications business. The couple divorced in 1979.

Her political activity began with her service on the Maize school board. In 1975, she took a staff position in the office of U.S. Senator James Pearson of Kansas. When Senator Pearson decided not to seek reelection three years later, Nancy Landon Kassebaum entered and won the Republican primary and was subsequently elected at the general election in November of 1978. With this election, she became the first, and only, woman ever elected to the office of U.S. Senator from the state of Kansas. This also made her the very first woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate without following her husband into politics.

As an interesting side note to the ways of national politics, and a little bit of insight into the old way of doing things, she took her U.S. Senate seat early. Senator James Pearson resigned in late December of 1978, and she was appointed to fill the vacancy, thus beginning her term in the U.S. Senate a few weeks early. The reason for this was undoubtedly to provide her extra seniority which is important in Senate

committees, and in various other customs of the U.S. Senate that she would later encounter. Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum served three terms in the U.S. Senate, choosing not to run for a fourth term in 1996.

In her tireless work for Kansas in the U.S. Senate, she became almost a universally admired figure in the state, and became known and respected on both the national and international stages. Her signature piece of legislation was in the area of health care when she cosponsored the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act with Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts. Shortly before retiring from the U.S. Senate, Senator Kassebaum married

former Tennessee Senator Howard Baker.

Since her time of serving in the U.S. Senate, she has been involved in many public service efforts including being a member of the advisory board of the Partnership for a Secure America, which is a not-for-profit organization that has as its motto: "Responsible Foreign Policy Through Bipartisan Action." She was instrumental in the creation of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, which covers almost 11,000 acres of prairie land found in the beautiful Kansas Flint Hills.

Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker is a true daughter of Kansas. She has provided exceptional leadership, and she has become an iconic figure in the State of Kansas. Her legacy will serve to provide a symbol for future generations of young women.

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*Button from 1990 election, urging Senator Kassebaum to seek a third term.*

## KATHRYN O'LOUGHLIN MCCARTHY

-FIRST WOMAN U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM KANSAS-

**A**lthough Kathryn O'Loughlin McCarthy started and ended her life inconspicuously in western Kansas, her time in between was filled with major achievements. McCarthy would attend one of the best universities in the world, fight for the impoverished in the crime-ridden streets of 1920s Chicago, and become the first woman from her state elected to Congress. Always unselfish, she constantly searched for ways to give back to her community.

Kathryn O'Loughlin McCarthy was born to Mary and John O'Loughlin on April 24, 1894 in Hays. McCarthy grew up on her family's ranch in Ellis County, and developed a diligent work ethic helping her father do chores. She went to high school and college in Hays and, after graduating, attended the prestigious University of Chicago Law School. With women making up only 2% of the nation's attorneys at that time, her career choice foreshadowed a future of trailblazing.

After receiving her law degree in 1920, McCarthy used her education to return to Kansas for public service. Her father had just won the 89th State House district and she decided to join him at the Capitol as a clerk for the House Judiciary Committee. While there, McCarthy discovered her passion for politics, later saying, "[s]ometimes I could hardly sit still at the debates... I wanted to get in there and argue, too." As her father prepared for his reelection campaign, Kathryn decided she was done "sitting still" and searched for a way to make her own impact. After her clerkship, McCarthy returned to Chicago to help the city's disadvantaged by participating in social welfare work and legal aid. And although the avant-garde culture of 1920s Chicago appealed to many young professional women of the time, McCarthy's heart remained with her home state.

In 1928, McCarthy returned home to Hays to practice law, but her desire to serve her community continued. After practicing law for about a year, McCarthy decided to run for her father's former state House seat. With her recognizable last name, agricultural background, and passion for social causes, she was a natural fit for the state legislature, and won the seat handily. After taking office in 1931, she was an important voice in Topeka on agricultural issues and the driving force behind the creation of the Fort Hays Frontier Historical Park.

After serving just one term in Topeka, McCarthy's eyes turned to a bigger stage. In 1932, she filed for the 6th Congressional District, becoming the first Kansas woman ever to run for Congress. As a progressive Catholic woman, she was a hard sell to many voters in a culturally conservative and largely Protestant western Kansas. But by traveling more than 30,000 miles and giving almost a dozen speeches a day, she helped remove any prejudices they may have had about her fitness to serve. After beating eight men in

the primary, she faced two-term incumbent and former state judge Charles Sparks (R). She continued to gain popularity by promising to support New Deal farm relief programs to help farmers devastated by the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. On election day, she defeated Sparks with 55% of the vote. She became the first woman from Kansas and first female attorney ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

In Congress, McCarthy helped pass several bills important to Kansas. She fought for a seat on the Education Committee and used it to appropriate \$15 million for vocational schools, lessening the pain of 300 recent Kansas school closings. And even though she lacked the power of a seat on the Agriculture Committee, she introduced several bills increasing crop prices, fulfilling her promise to help her farming constituents. Despite her efforts to help Kansans, in 1934 McCarthy faced strong political opposition back home and lost her reelection campaign 49% to 51% to Frank Carlson.

Although her elected career was short, McCarthy's impact on political and social issues continued beyond her time in office. After returning to her law practice in Hays, she served as a delegate to several state and national Democratic conventions. She also continued to fight for society's disadvantaged. In 1937, she led a statewide movement to end sterilization of young girls at state correctional facilities. She also paid the tuition and provided housing to many poor minority students who couldn't afford to attend college. On January 16, 1952, after a lifetime of community and public service, Kathryn O'Loughlin McCarthy passed away in Hays from chronic illness.

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## KANSAS WOMEN IN CONGRESS

-MARTHA KEYS, JAN MEYERS, SHEILA FRAHM, NANCY BOYDA, AND LYNN JENKINS -



Since women achieved full suffrage in 1920, 277 women have served their respective states in Congress. Of those, 238 have been Representatives and 39 have served as Senators. Eight women have served in both chambers. <http://womenincongress.house.gov/historical-data/>. Seven women have served the citizens of Kansas in Congress.



Nancy Landon Kassebaum was the first woman Senator from Kansas. And, Kathryn O’Loughlin McCarthy was the first woman Representative from Kansas. Their profiles are featured on pp. 152:153. Since that time, one other woman has served as a U.S. Senator and four other women have served as Representatives from Kansas.



**S**heila Frahm was selected to fill the vacancy when U.S. Senator Robert Dole resigned his position to run for President in 1996. Her appointment was a recognition of her devotion to her state and her success as a state legislator.

Sheila (Sloan) Frahm was born in Colby, Kansas, on March 22, 1945. She graduated with a B.S. from Fort Hays State University in 1967. She married Kenneth Frahm and the couple raised three daughters in western Kansas.

Frahm’s political career began by chairing several regional boards of education, before being appointed to the Kansas Board of Education in 1985. In 1988, she was elected to the Kansas Senate. Frahm served until 1994, and became the first woman to serve as Kansas Senate Majority Leader. She was elected the first woman Lieutenant Governor of Kansas in 1994 and appointed as the Kansas Secretary of Administration in 1995.

On May 24, 1996, Governor Bill Graves appointed Frahm to replace Bob Dole in the U.S. Senate, who announced his resignation from the body after locking up the GOP nomination for President. Frahm’s appointment made Kansas just the second state to have two women serving it in the U.S. Senate.

In her brief time in office, Frahm helped pass legislation on workplace, health care, and immigration. She was also instrumental in designating Nicodemus, Kansas as a national historical site. Nicodemus is a community that was founded by freed slaves hoping to find better lives away from the South.

In August of 1996, Frahm lost the GOP primary to Sam Brownback. After her defeat, she returned to Colby to help her husband with the family’s farming operation. She also went on to serve as the Executive Director for the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. She still resides in Colby, Kansas.

Sources:

<http://womenincongress.house.gov/member-profiles/profile.html?intID=80>

Photo courtesy of U.S. Senate Historical Office

**M**artha Keys didn’t possess the typical background for a member of the U.S. Congress. But, in her time in Washington, she was an important voice on issues of gender equality and Title IX. She spent her entire life committed to social causes.

Martha (Ludwig) Keys was born on August 10, 1930, in Hutchinson, Kansas. She graduated from high school at the age of 15 in Kansas City, Missouri and received her college degree from the University of Missouri – Kansas City, in 1951. In 1949, she married Sam Keys, a future professor and dean at Kansas State University. They raised four children in Manhattan, Kansas.

In 1974, after serving as the coordinator for several Democratic Party campaigns, Keys decided to run for the U.S. House of Representatives seat vacated by Representative William Roy. She defeated her GOP opponent John Peterson, 55% to 44%. The civil tone of the contest caused a national newspaper reporter to comment that the race was “a model of what American campaigning could be—but rarely is.”

While in Congress, Keys worked extensively on nuances of the recently passed Title IX laws, which created equal opportunities for female athletes. The new provisions helped add over 2 million women to high school athletics in the 25 years after its passage. Keys was also instrumental in making Social Security fairer to women, helping pass legislation that provided for coverage to those who had spent their lives working in the home.



After losing her 1978 reelection campaign by a margin of 52% to 48%, Keys remained in Washington and worked for several organizations seeking to shape education policy.

Source:

<http://womenincongress.house.gov/member-profiles/profile.html?intID=130>



**J**an Meyers was the quintessential public servant, working her way up from campaign chair, to city council, to state senator, before finally serving her state in Congress.

Jan (Crilly) Meyers was born on July 20, 1928 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She grew up in Superior, Nebraska, where her father was the editor of *The Superior Express*. After graduating high school, she started training for a career in media and earned a B.A. in communications from the University of Nebraska in 1951. While working in Lincoln, she married TV announcer Louis “Dutch” Meyers, in 1953. In 1956, the couple moved to Overland Park, Kansas after Dutch got a job at Kansas City’s KMBC TV.

Upon arriving in Overland Park, Jan immediately became involved in the community. She first became engaged in politics by serving as the local chair of several successful GOP campaigns. In 1967, she began her own political career, serving a five year stint on the Overland Park City Council. In 1972, Meyers won election to the Kansas State Senate. She served for the next 12 years, rising to chair the Public Health and Welfare and Local Government committees. In

1978, she ran for a U.S. Senate seat, but lost in the primary to eventual winner Nancy Landon Kassebaum.

In 1984 Representative Larry Winn retired, creating an open seat in Meyer’s own 3rd Congressional District. She was elected and went on to serve in this position for the next 12 years.

In Congress, Meyers was best known for her work on the Small Business Committee where she fought to keep small businesses unburdened by government regulation. She became chair of the committee in 1994, marking the first time that a Republican woman had chaired a House committee in almost 40 years. Meyers was also an important figure in supporting legislation on the war on drugs and federal welfare reform.

In 1996, due to her belief in Congressional term limits and her desire to spend more time with her family, Meyers retired from Congress. In 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives recognized Meyers for her lifelong commitment to public service, approving legislation to name a U.S. Post Office in Overland Park after her.

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- <http://womenincongress.house.gov/member-profiles/profile.html?intID=168>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOpT1-whrGE>

**N**ancy Boyda served one term as Representative from the Kansas 2nd District (2007 - 2009). In her tenure, she fought for important military interests within her district and initiated legislation that would later result in national ethics reform.

Nancy Boyda was born on August 2, 1955 in St. Louis, Missouri. She received her B.S. from William Jewell College in 1977. After graduating, she worked the Environmental Protection Agency and several pharmaceutical companies while raising two children. In 2003, Boyda changed her political affiliation from Republican to Democrat, and in 2004 ran against Representative Jim Ryun for the Kansas 2nd Congressional District. Although she lost, she used her knowledge from the campaign to defeat Ryun for the seat just two years later.

Upon entering Congress, Boyda advocated for her districts’ farmers from her seat on the Agriculture Committee. She also made sure that the military installations in the 2nd District remained fully funded by supporting federal funds for the district through her work on the

Armed Services Committee. Boyda also introduced a bill that denied pensions to members of Congress convicted of criminal acts while in office. Although the bill wouldn’t pass during her tenure, it served as inspiration for legislation that passed in the following session.

In 2008, Boyda lost a close reelection battle to Lynn Jenkins. Boyda continues to participate in public service, recently taking part in an online program that teaches civics lessons to high schoolers.



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- Photo courtesy of <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nancyboyda/2910443246/>



**L**ynn Jenkins is the only woman currently serving in the Kansas Congressional Delegation. Almost one-third of her life has been committed to serving Kansas.

Lynn Jenkins was born in Holton, Kansas on June 10, 1963. She grew up on a dairy farm near Holton before attending Kansas State University from which she received her Associates degree. She also has a B.S. from Weber State University. After graduating, she became a certified public accountant.

In 1998, she was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, and was elected to the state Senate two years later. In 2002, she defeated Sally Finney to become State Treasurer, serving in that

office for six years. While Treasurer, she showcased her leadership qualities by becoming President of the National Association of State Treasurers. In 2008, she defeated Nancy Boyda for the Kansas 2nd Congressional District. She was reelected in 2010 and is currently serving her second term in Congress.

While in Washington, Jenkins has fought to eliminate pork-barrel projects and to keep enemy combatants out of Kansas military bases. She has also been a strong supporter of the effort to relocate the National Bio-Agro Defense Facility to Manhattan, Kansas. Jenkins is a member of the Financial Services Committee, which has done important work on financial reform during the recent recession.

Sources:

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## JOAN FINNEY

-FIRST WOMAN GOVERNOR-

In 1990, Joan Finney was the first woman elected Governor of Kansas. In addition to being the state's first female Governor, she was Kansas's oldest Governor, taking office at the age of 65. She was also the first Roman Catholic Governor, and the first Governor to invite American Indian tribal leaders to Cedar Crest.

Finney was born in Topeka in 1925. She attended high school in Manhattan and later received a degree from Washburn University. She and her two sisters were raised by their mother, who was a music teacher. The Governor-to-be was an accomplished musician and often played her harp at social and political functions. She married Spencer Finney, Jr. in 1957. They had three children, Sarah ("Sally"), Richard, and Mary.

In 1953, Finney took the first step in what would be a more than 40-year journey in state, local, and federal government politics when she joined the staff of U.S. Senator Frank Carlson. She served in Senator Carlson's Washington, D.C. office and later returned to Kansas to serve as his aide until his retirement in 1969. Finney considered Carlson her mentor. It is reported that she kept a portrait of the senator hanging in Cedar Crest during her term as Governor and counseled closely with him before her switch of political parties in 1974.

In 1970, Finney was appointed to serve as Shawnee County Elections Commissioner. Her first foray into elected politics occurred 2 years later when she unsuccessfully ran for the 2nd Congressional District seat as a Republican. She lost in the primary to Charles McAtee who later lost to Bill Roy. Finney felt that the Republican party did not want her to run.

This perceived snub by the Republican party led her to switch parties. It was as a Democrat that she ran for and was elected as the State Treasurer in 1974 — thus becoming the first female State Treasurer. Having served 16 years in this position, she is the longest serving State Treasurer to date. It was during her term as Treasurer that she began to display, what some have termed, "old style populist rhetoric." This included an unsuccessful attempt to amend the Kansas Constitution to allow initiative and referendum—letting electors put questions directly on the ballot.

In 1990, following 16 successful years as state treasurer, Finney took on her most ambitious political endeavor. She first challenged former Governor John Carlin in the primary and then Republican incumbent Mike Hayden, in the Kansas Governor's race. She was the dark horse in both races. She narrowly defeated Carlin, but handily defeated Governor Hayden by nearly 6%. By defeating Hayden, Finney gained the distinction of being the first woman to defeat an incumbent Governor in any state.

Finney served only one term as Governor. She announced more than a year before her term ended that she would not seek reelection stating that her 1994 agenda was too important to her to take time



away for campaigning. Although serving only four years as Governor, Finney's time in the Capitol was marked with many significant changes. There was a major rewrite of financing for public education wherein the State took full responsibility for financing public schools. Abortion laws were revised to permit abortions until a fetus was viable, but imposing waiting periods and parental notifications. There was a significant rewrite in the state workers' compensation law following Finney's veto of one bill because she said it would cut benefits too much. Capital punishment was reestablished in Kansas. Indian gaming in northeast Kansas was established

with the signing of four compacts by the Governor.

Finney's position on abortion and capital punishment may be the best examples of her acting on her populist beliefs and establishing her as the "people's Governor." Finney, a catholic, personally opposed abortion. Many thought she would veto the bill. However, she signed it, saying the restrictions justified the action. Finney opposed capital punishment, but had said during her campaign that if a bill approving it came to her and it was supported by the people she would allow it to become law. In 1994, she kept her word by allowing capital punishment to become law without her signature.

In 1996, Finney ran against Jill Docking, a Wichita business woman, in an attempt to seek the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat formerly held by Bob Dole. Finney was defeated in the primary.

Joan Finney died in Topeka on July 28, 2001, of cancer. In death, as in life, Governor Finney was remembered by friends and political peers as "the feisty populist," "an ardent populist," "a remarkable figure in Kansas public service," "combative" (when dealing with legislators), and "[a person who] put the value of popular opinion and her deference to popular opinion above other values."

Her legacy as the first woman Governor of the great State of Kansas endures.

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## KATHLEEN SEBELIUS

-FIRST WOMAN TWO-TERM GOVERNOR-

In 2002, Kathleen Sebelius was the second woman to be elected Governor of Kansas and the first daughter of a Governor to be elected Governor in U.S. history. In repeating this feat in 2006, she became the first woman to win a second four-year term to the state's highest office. Sebelius was also the first woman Insurance Commissioner to be elected in Kansas, serving in that office from 1994 to 2002.

Sebelius was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a graduate of Trinity Washington University, Washington, D.C. She also received a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas. She is married to Gary Sebelius, a federal magistrate judge. They have two sons, Ned and John. Her father, John J. Gilligan, is the former Governor of the State of Ohio. Her husband's father is the former six-time U.S. Representative Keith Sebelius.

Some might say that Sebelius was destined to political office having grown up in a family where her father was involved in politics most of his life. He served in the House of Representatives and as Governor of Ohio. However, in an interview done in 2002 with *Trinity Washington University* magazine, she seems to put this notion to rest by saying, "My father was involved with politics for about 25 years from the time I was 5; in spite of the fact that I have been exposed to politics for most of my life, it was really more about community service....My dad was always committed to that as a way to give something back, make a difference, and work on issues you cared about, but never really suggested to me the notion that I would be a candidate."

Sebelius served eight years (1986 - 1994) in the Kansas House of Representatives. It was during her tenure as Insurance Commissioner (1994 - 2002) that Sebelius began to make a name for herself. She was the first non-insurance department associated individual to be elected to the office in more than 50 years and the first Democrat to have been elected to that position in many years.

In 2001, *Governing* magazine recognized Sebelius as one of its Public Officials of the Year. This award was based in part upon her rejuvenation of the Insurance Commissioner office that at the time was nearly invisible to the insurance consumers of Kansas. She updated the Department's technology systems and slashed duplicative regulations to enhance efficiency. At the same time, she also improved consumer relations and enhanced the Department's profile and visibility with consumers. Much of the consumer side of the changes came from consumer-friendly legislation encouraged by her office. This included patients' bill of rights, mandated maternity coverage, and initiatives to protect consumer privacy. She also established anti-fraud and "market conduct" units. During her time as Insurance Commissioner, she also served as President of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

As Insurance Commissioner, Sebelius was also recognized for refusing to take campaign contributions from the insurance industry. Perhaps the most newsworthy event of her eight years

as Insurance Commissioner came in 2003 when the Kansas Supreme Court upheld her 2002 decision to reject the takeover of Kansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield by Anthem of Indiana.

In 2002, Sebelius followed her successful two-terms as Insurance Commissioner with a big win in the Governor's race. Being a "blue governor" in a "red state" continued to attract national attention to Sebelius. She built upon her popularity to easily win a second term as Governor in 2006 by more than 15%. During her terms as Governor, Sebelius worked to make school finance a top priority. She also pushed for environmental issues encouraging statewide recycling and opposing the construction of additional coal-fired power plants in the state.

Because of her popularity, moderate position on most issues, and ability to work with both parties, Sebelius was often mentioned in discussions regarding national offices and cabinet positions.

On March 2, 2009, President Obama officially announced Governor Sebelius as his appointment to the position of Secretary of Health and Human Services. She was confirmed and sworn into office on April 28, 2009.

This position has put Secretary Sebelius at the forefront of the national health care debate. She is the primary spokesperson for the Obama Administration regarding the Affordable Care Act that was signed into law in 2010 and she oversees the Department that will be responsible for significant aspects of the law's implementation. Her commitment to serving the citizens of this country continues.



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## MINNIE JOHNSON GRINSTEAD & PATRICIA SOLANDER

-FIRST WOMEN IN THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE-



It is hard to imagine a time when women were not an integral part of the Kansas Legislature. Yet, less than a century ago, a woman had never been elected to the state legislature. Minnie Johnson Grinstead broke this barrier for women in 1918 when she was elected as the first woman to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives.

Grinstead was born on a farm in Crawford County on September 30, 1869. She attended school in Walnut and later graduated from the Kansas State Normal School of Emporia (Emporia State University) with a life teaching certificate. She taught for several years in Pittsburg and eventually became a principal. She stopped teaching in 1896, however, to become a lecturer for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Four years later, the association appointed her as state evangelist.

She married Virgil Hooker Grinstead in 1901 and had four children, although only two survived to adulthood. In 1910, she championed for prohibition in Missouri. And, as chair of the 7th Congressional District Committee in 1912, she successfully advocated for full women's voting rights in Kansas. Six years

later, she was elected by the voters of Seward County to represent them in the Kansas House of Representatives.

As a legislator, Grinstead continued to advocate for women's rights. She helped to pass a bill that appropriated \$500,000 to build women's housing at five state colleges. She also supported the Coverture Bill, which provided some labor and legal rights to housewives. She also introduced a bill to allow injured women to receive award damages directly rather than paying the damages to their husbands; this bill ultimately failed.

In addition to supporting women's rights, Grinstead helped to pass legislation that allowed small cities to levy funds for libraries. She also proposed legislation to ban the sale of cigarettes, but this too failed.

Grinstead was reelected in 1920 and 1922, but chose not to run again after her husband passed away in February of 1924. Instead, Grinstead was elected probate judge of Seward County. She served in this capacity until she suddenly passed away from a stroke on December 24, 1925. At the time of her death, President Coolidge was considering appointing her for the post of United States Civil-service Commissioner.

Source:

(<http://www.kshs.org/p/minnie-tamar-johnson-virgil-hooker-grinstead-collection/14051>)

Patricia Solander became the first woman elected to the Kansas Senate in 1929, 11 years after Grinstead was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives.

Solander, known as Patricia Dale Nichols as a child, was born on March 17, 1887, in Vernon County, Missouri. At the age of one, she moved to Kansas and lived in Iola and Leavenworth. She attended the University of Missouri and taught junior high school in Montana, Missouri, and Kansas. She married Thaddeus T. Solander, an engineer in Osawatimie and, from then on, was often referred to as Mrs. T.T. Solander. See, *A History of the Michael Reasor & Allied Families* by Fred Hiner Dale.

Solander accomplished numerous achievements throughout her life. She received the first state honorary life membership given by Delta Kappa Gamma for her outstanding service in the field of education and the interests of women. She was the state chairman of the America's Creed, a member of Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Affairs, a Director of the Kansas Historical Society, a State Director of American Women's Voluntary Services, and an Aeronautical Governor of the Topeka Unit of the National Women's Aeronautical Association. She served as President of the Osawatimie Board of Education for many years and was an information representative of the State Safety Department of the Kansas Highway Commission. (*The Topeka Capital-Journal*, March 7, 1954) As the *Missouri Pacific Lines Magazine* in October

1937 pointed out, "Mrs. Solander likes women who do things."

Possibly most important, Solander represented the citizens of Johnson and Miami counties as the first woman elected to the State Senate. *Who's Who in the Kansas Legislature*, 1931 explains:

*Senator Solander brings to the upper house a woman's view point. Not a narrow, prejudiced view point, but one formed out of her experiences in rural life, her work in the class room and her contact with labor. She adds a touch of gentility and refinement to the Senate. Her very presence does that.*

While a senator, Solander was the first woman to preside over the Senate as a whole. Later in life, she married John Mayhew. (*The Topeka Capital-Journal*, March 7, 1954) And, from news clippings found at the Kansas Historical Society, moved to Moab, Utah. But, it is noted that her fondness for Kansas continued even when she was away from the state. She often held parties at her home in Utah to celebrate Kansas's birthday on January 29. (Kansas Historical Society News Clippings)





## Business Appreciation Winners

The Kansas Department of Commerce has named 22 Regional Business Excellence Award winners and 97 Merit Award winners as part of Business Appreciation Month (May), the Department's annual celebration of Kansas businesses and their contributions to their communities and the state economy.

The 119 businesses were nominated in one of four categories: manufacturing/distribution, service, retail, and hospital/non-profit. Six of the 22 Regional Business Excellence Award winners have been named finalists for the Governor's Award of Excellence—the top award given to a business by the state—which will be announced

June 12 at the Kansas Cavalry Encampment in Manhattan. The six finalists are:

- Carter Automotive Warehouse (Coffeyville and four other locations)
- Custom Foods, Inc. (DeSoto)
- Gove County Medical Center (Quinter)
- Midland Marketing (Hays)
- NetStandard Inc. (Kansas City)
- Nex-Tech, Inc. (Lenora)

For more information, visit [kansascommerce.com/BAM](http://kansascommerce.com/BAM).

## Sign Honoring Veterans Unveiled

A sign designating a 270-mile stretch of U.S. 24 the "World War II Veterans Memorial Highway" was unveiled at an event in Colby on May 17, 2012.

The bill authorizing the naming was passed by the 2009 Legislature, but until now the only posted signs on the highway were located at the eastern end of the route in Clay County. The sign unveiled will be posted on the western end near the U.S. 24/U.S. 83 junction east of Colby.

By state law, the money for the sign and future maintenance must come from private donations. A local effort successfully raised the \$1,600 required in January, 2012.

Speaking at the event was Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Secretary Mike King, KDOT's Northwest Kansas District Engineer Jeff Stewart, Relda Galli of the Thomas County Historical Society, and World War II veteran Dale Deaver of Levant.

## KDA Announces Photo Contest

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) is hosting a photo contest through June 30. KDA is asking Kansans to submit photographs that display all aspects of Kansas agriculture, from the scenic landscapes and livestock to the machinery and small to large-scale agricultural facilities.

KDA is not only looking for scenic photos but also pictures of Kansas agriculture at work. Examples include crops and machinery in the field, feed yards, people working livestock, feed mills, processing plants, crop harvesting, and other agricultural businesses and activities.

The categories for the competition are youth, adult, professional, and KDA employees. The youth category is open to individuals who were 18 years old or younger on January 1, 2012. Individuals aged 19 and older as of January 1, 2012, fit the adult category unless they are a professional photographer. A professional is someone who makes a substantial amount of their living taking photographs.

The photographer of the winning photo in each category will receive a \$100 gift card. Photographers of the runner-up photos in each category will receive a \$50 gift card. Individuals may submit more than one photo if they desire to do so.

Contest entries will be used on international trips to give people around the world an idea of what Kansas agriculture looks like. The photos will also be used on the [www.ksda.gov](http://www.ksda.gov) website, in publications, on social media, and shared with other Kansas agriculture groups.

Photos must be submitted no later than midnight on Saturday, June 30, 2012. Winners will be announced by July 31, 2012.

For more information about the competition, contact KDA Communications Director Chelsea Good at [chelsea.good@kda.ks.gov](mailto:chelsea.good@kda.ks.gov), or visit <http://www.ksda.gov/news/id/461>.

## Annual Solid Waste Grants Announced

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) Bureau of Waste Management announced recipients of the Green Schools grants and the waste tire recycling grants. These annual solid waste grants are awarded to municipalities and school districts across the state, and this year, they totaled more than \$450,000.

The Green Schools Grants ranging from \$210 to \$4,500 were awarded to 26 Kansas schools, totaling more than \$75,000. These grants are for projects to take place during the 2012–2013 school year. Projects include purchasing recycling bins, beginning composting programs for cafeteria waste, and field trips to community recycling centers.

More than \$375,000 was awarded in waste tire recycling grants, which goes toward partially funding safe surfacing at playgrounds

and picnic tables and benches made from waste tires. This year's 43 waste tire recycling grants, ranging from \$300 to \$47,617, are distributed to recipients across the state. This is the sixth round of the popular grant program following several years of grants to Kansas tire processors to purchase equipment to process the tires into a usable raw material. The grants are funded through a 25¢ tax paid on the purchase of new tires.

For a complete list of the 2012 Waste Tire Grant Recipients, visit [http://www.kdheks.gov/news/web\\_archives/2012/download/2012\\_Waste\\_Tire\\_Grant\\_Awardees.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/news/web_archives/2012/download/2012_Waste_Tire_Grant_Awardees.pdf) and for the 2012-2013 Kansas Green School Grant Recipients, visit [http://www.kdheks.gov/news/web\\_archives/2012/download/Green\\_School\\_Grant\\_Applications\\_Round\\_5.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/news/web_archives/2012/download/Green_School_Grant_Applications_Round_5.pdf).



## ...To Washington (Kansas, that is...)

It was late April, and this day's ultimate destination was Marysville, where the KMIT Board was to meet the following morning. After sharing lunch with two city managers in Concordia (more next time), I continued on up US-81, and hung a right, onto US-36, at Belleville, motoring east toward Marysville, 53 miles away. But first, a stop in Washington, about 2/3 of the way there, at the intersection of US-36 and K-15 (which also goes through Derby at my end of the world).

The City of Washington is also the county seat of Washington County. When I looked up the Washington County Courthouse online ([www.washingtoncountyks.net/history](http://www.washingtoncountyks.net/history)), I discovered that the current wonderful edifice is courthouse number FIVE, and dates back to 1934. The first one (1867) was a former stockade, and burned down (arson?); the second courthouse (1871), also was a frame structure, and also burned down (1872), also suspiciously; the third courthouse was a duplicate of the second, but actually lasted until it was replaced by a magnificent native-stone building in 1886, which itself survived an earthquake in the mid-1890s, but not a giant tornasty (on the Fourth of July, 1932). The fifth, and current, Washington County Courthouse seems destined to make it... as it has for nearly 80 years now.

The original limestone city hall (it says so right on the front) in Washington is on north C Street (the main drag), north of the courthouse, and north of the square. Some years ago, the City moved into a building at the square's southwest corner.

At City Hall, I was greeted by bubbly City Treasurer/Utility Billing Clerk Colleen Hillyer known locally as "The Face of City Hall." Colleen has been with the City since 1977, and it doesn't take long to find out that she is a character—the red-headed, gregarious kind. Colleen's story is that, after graduating from Washington High School, she graduated from Brown Mackie in Salina, and then, after working at a local grocery and movie theatre and doing some babysitting, she was accosted on the street to come to work for the City, and has been in bondage ever since.

Denise Powell is the City Clerk, and has served in her present position since 2004, though she started her public service career in 1989, as a first responder for the EMS; she got her EMT in 2000, and became a full-time EMT. Denise and I shared a number of experiences and stories that day, including the exploits and accomplishments of her 14-year-old freshman daughter and my 13-year-old 8th grade granddaughter.

The third member of the office staff is the current full-time EMT, Caroline Scoville, who has served in that role since 2002. Caroline is also a certified BLS CPR instructor. Originally from Salina, Caroline is also a busy mom of four.

As I was getting ready to leave, Denise asked me if I was planning to stop by MarCon Pies. As I have since learned, I might be one of

the two or three people in a three-state region never to have even heard of MarCon. But, the sincere advice of the office group was that I HAD to go there before exiting Washington, and I am GLAD I did. Located in a modest and inconspicuous little metal building just south of the highway a block or so, MarCon is a low-key business in the extreme, but one which offers a FABULOUS product. MarCon ("A Little Slice of Heaven") homemade pies are known far and wide, especially by folks who live in small towns and shop in mom-and-pop grocery stores. (One distinct DIS-advantage of living in a metro area, next to a gigantic national-chain, warehouse-type food store.) These marvelous creations are exactly how you remember your grandma's pies to be: heavy and SCRUMPTIOUS. I bought mine right from the prep table, at retail, and you could, too—but, mostly, MarCon delivers to grocery stores, supplies restaurants, works with non-profit fundraisers, and ships mail orders (shipping to more than 100 customers a day in Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri). I carried (lugged?) both a caramel apple and a strawberry-rhubarb out the door on this day, but ALL the standbys and oldies favorites (90 varieties of pies and cheesecake; gooseberry, anyone?) are baked by MarCon. MarCon had its quiet beginnings over 25 years ago, when MARilyn Hanshaw and CONnie Allen started baking pies out of their own kitchens for their catering business—a very fortunate happening for the rest of us. Fittingly, MarCon was selected as one of the Kansas Sampler Foundation's "8 Wonders" in 2009. Check out [www.marconpies.com](http://www.marconpies.com) to learn the whole story of MarCon, and maybe order a pie or two, too.

My TWO recommended books this month were both recommended to me by a buddy, and are both by the same author. On more than one occasion, I had held *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* in my hands, but had never bought it. After a buddy mentioned the book, by humorist/travel author Bill Bryson, I bought the paperback version, and very quickly devoured this story of a boy growing up in Des Moines in the 50s... admittedly, much of it reminded me of my own pre-teen days in Hutchinson and Haysville. I loved it. So, when the same buddy told me I should also read *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*, I did, of course. Despite (or maybe because of) living in Europe for a good part of his life (he now lives in New Hampshire), Bryson has very much a middle-of-the-country, laid-back but rather anti-establishment, humorous and insightful way of looking at the world, which makes reading his memoir tales a pure joy. *A Walk...* also contains just a ton of history about the "AT," and about lots of other aspects of US history. My kind of book(s).

☀ Don Osenbaugh is the Director of Finance and Field Services for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at [dosenbaugh@lkm.org](mailto:dosenbaugh@lkm.org)



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Box 421, Attica, KS 67009. Applications will be taken until position filled. Any questions please contact City Clerk's Office at (620)254-7216.

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The Director's position is responsible for total management of the City's finance department, financial systems and processes, short and long term financial analysis, development and preparation of the annual City budget, investment of City funds, supervision and preparation of the annual CAFR and management of debt and related financing activities. Should have 5 to 7 years of progressively responsible municipal finance, corporate or public accounting work experience and at minimum bachelor's degree in accounting or finance. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certification, or a Certified Public Finance Officer (Government Finance Officers Association) certification is preferred. Public utility accounting experience or knowledge of Kansas budgetary and municipal statutes is also beneficial. Salary range \$56,305-\$75,483 with excellent benefits. This position is open until filled; however the first review of candidates will begin July 11, 2012. May submit resume to Personnel Office, P.O. Box 646, Winfield, KS 67156 or online to [pking@winfieldks.org](mailto:pking@winfieldks.org). For more information see City website, [www.winfieldks.org](http://www.winfieldks.org). AA, EOE

## **Performance Analyst**

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### Water/Waste Water Superintendent

The City of Harper is accepting applications for a Water/Waste Water Superintendent. This position is responsible for the management and maintenance of the water and waste water facilities. Four to six years of related experience is preferred. Candidate should possess a state of Kansas Supply System Class II certification. Candidates must have valid KS driver's license and high school diploma or GED. Competitive wages and benefits, salary

based on qualifications and experience. EOE. Applications or resumes can be submitted to City Hall 201 W. Main Harper, KS 67058. For complete job description and more information please contact City Hall (620)896-2511 or email [thunter\\_clerk@att.net](mailto:thunter_clerk@att.net).

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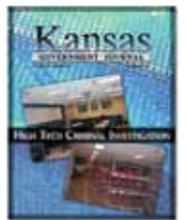
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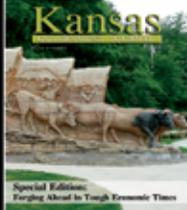
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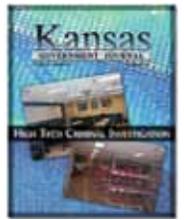
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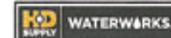
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## Maintaining History



This month represents a very special edition of the *Kansas Government Journal*. Given that we are specifically recognizing and honoring prominent Kansas woman who have played a significant role in the government of this great state and country, I thought I would discuss something that became apparent as the research on the various feature articles came into focus. I would describe it as an unexpected insight into the future.

We realized that most of the research was being done on the Internet. While several of our League staffers went to original source material for the feature articles, it became abundantly clear that most of the information was to be found on the Internet. The younger the staff member, the more likely they were to be looking for material that could be electronically sourced. We thought this was an interesting development, especially given the fact that only a very few years ago, that being prior to the time of the Internet in the late 1990s, all of the research would have been based on books and other hard-copy source materials. I thought this was especially interesting, and reminded me of a conversation I had not too long ago with oldest son Eric.

Eric is a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in history with his dissertation on the early years of Haskell. He currently is teaching several history courses, as one might expect from a professor at a University, and as part of these classes he requires some written papers. Whenever we have discussed this, he has always very emphatically stated that he does not accept Wikipedia as the sole source for work turned in his class. His concern has always been the fact that Wikipedia was so wide open, and that the facts presented there may or may not be facts given the subject matter, and the individual who last updated the source material.

If you are a regular Internet user, I am sure you have come across Wikipedia as it has a source listing for virtually anything imaginable. The question always is, how accurate is the source material found within the website? I thought this discussion was interesting in light of what we found while researching various aspects of the history of women in Kansas for this edition of the *Kansas Government Journal*.

It became clear, after looking at a number of sources, that some of the source material simply was being moved around from one website location to another. Essentially, if a "fact" appeared in one place on the Web, other sites would then find that root material and cite it as gospel in their own materials. So, in some respects it is a modern version of an oral history that is presented to those wishing to find quick facts on the Internet. Now for those of you who are not familiar with the term "oral history" here is the definition taken directly from Wikipedia itself:

Oral history is the collection and study of historical information about individuals, families, important events, or everyday life using audiotapes, videotapes, or transcriptions of planned interviews. These interviews are conducted with people who participated in or observed past events and whose memories and perceptions of these are to be preserved as an aural record for future generations. Oral history strives to obtain information from different perspectives, and most of these cannot be found in written sources. Oral history also refers to information gathered in this manner and to a written work (published or unpublished) based on such data, often preserved in archives and large libraries.

And that is sort of what we are starting to see to some extent with the Internet, and with history in general. Is it really any different when individuals simply can enter online databases and add their own take or perspective on a particular historical fact or individual and the "oral history" where individuals remember specific persons, places, events, or things from their past? We are not very far away from a time when all source material, and certainly all new source material, will be electronically generated and accessible over the Internet.

This raises the question of what the history will be when there is no hard copy to ultimately refer to for an answer. Now, this isn't to say that you can't find nonsense in hard back books. Certainly, as we all know, whoever writes the book gets to decide the history, or at least as far as their perception of that history. But in the age of the Internet, we are quickly going to become a society where facts will be whatever it says on the Internet. To take this one step further, I suspect that some source, whether it is Wikipedia or something else, will within the very near future, be considered the ultimate resource for historical matters. This historical resource will then become the ultimate source of information concerning history. So, whatever ends up in that database will be the final word, and the ultimate "written record" as it were, for history and the historians of the future.

The issue of electronic documentation is always going to be with us as we move even further into an electronic future. I think we are looking at a time when data, both in the areas of history and in public documents themselves, is going to have to be handled in such a way that we can ascertain what is real and what is imaginary. The old ways of doing things are quickly receding into the mists of time. We need to look forward so as to maintain integrity not only in public databases, but also in the integrity of the very history of our people, times, and civilization.

This issue will only get larger as time passes and more and more people move from reading books, magazines, and newspapers. With the inevitable decline of printed media, and a corresponding increase in the use of electronic media, electronic databases will be the final word for virtually all information in the future. Stay tuned, it's going to be a very interesting time indeed.

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  - ◇ Office Chairs
- ◆ **CLOTHING & BEDDING**
  - ◇ Inmate Clothing
  - ◇ Mattresses, Pillows & Toweling
- ◆ **DOCUMENT IMAGING**
  - ◇ Computer Logging
  - ◇ Contract Data Entry
  - ◇ 16mm & 35mm Large Document
- ◆ **BLM SPONSORED WILD MUSTANG ADOPTION PROGRAM**



## Contact Us:

Phone: (913) 727-3254

Fax: (913) 727-2331

Email: [kci\\_sales@doc.ks.gov](mailto:kci_sales@doc.ks.gov)

Web: [kancorind.com](http://kancorind.com)

Kansas Correctional Industries  
4th & Kansas

P.O. Box 2

Lansing, KS 66048



# FUNDING SOLUTIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS



## GLDD CAPABILITIES

- DREDGING RIVERS & LAKES
- LEVEE REPAIR & CONSTRUCTION
- ENVIRONMENTAL DREDGING
- WETLANDS RESTORATION
- FILL MATERIAL & PLACEMENT

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Corporation performs community dredging projects and can provide financing to allow government agencies to perform the work now and pay for the services over an extended period of time. GLDD's financing structure can improve management of cash flows and help focus budget dollars on additional important community efforts.

GLDD has been in the Marine Construction and Dredging industries since 1890. GLDD has removed millions of cubic yards of material from rivers and harbors throughout the United States. With 121 years of experience, GLDD will work with your team to develop the right solution for your community.