

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A STATE AGENCY



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.



ANNUAL REPORT | 2007

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

At the Kansas Historical Society, our vision is to enrich people's lives by connecting them to the past. The story of Kansas is the story of its people – both past and present, famous and not so famous. Kansas history includes stories of triumphs, challenges, and adventures.

The Kansas Historical Society is one of the premier historical agencies in the country. Within our physical and virtual walls you can meet such colorful characters as Mabel Chase, the first woman elected sheriff in the United States who in 1926 Kiowa County hunted for bank robbers and bootleggers in an armor-plated car. Or you can meet Takeru Higuchi, once chairman of the chemistry department at the University of Kansas, who contributed to our health by developing slow release medicines. Hattie McDaniel, the first African American to win an Academy Award, and William Inge, the well-known playwright who won both Pulitzer and Academy awards, are also a part of the Kansas story. Other famous Kansans include U.S. Vice President Charles Curtis, photographer Gordon Parks, and children's author Laura Ingalls Wilder.

"Here everyone is always so helpful and knowledgeable and willing to offer ideas. This is truly a gem and we sometimes forget that."

— Lavonne Carpenter

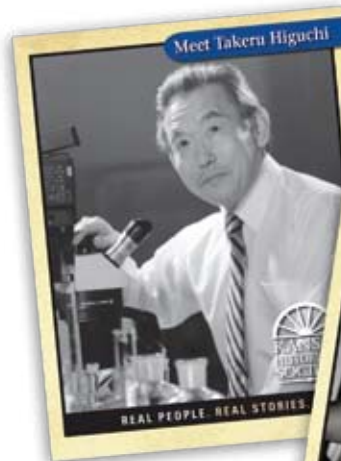
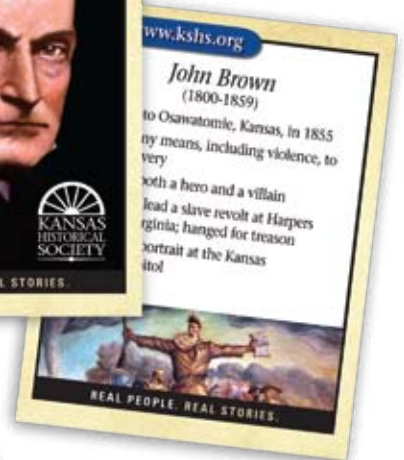
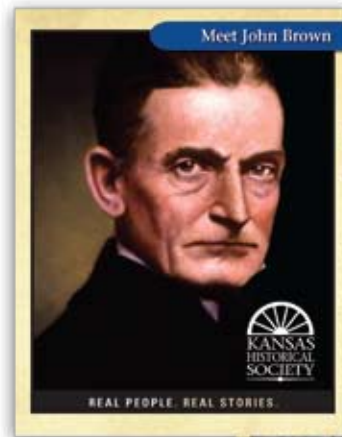
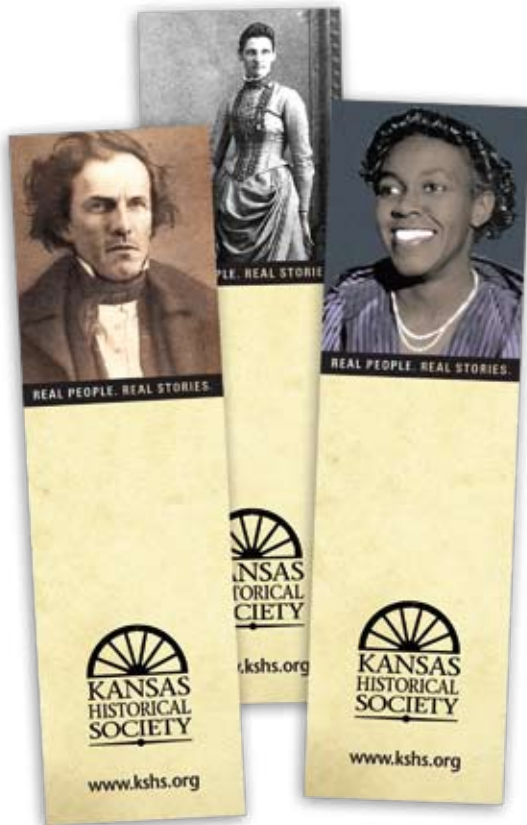
The list of Kansans that have made a difference goes on and on and on. Each year more than 6 million visitors explore the lives of Kansans through the programs and services of the Kansas Historical Society. Just as importantly, many of our visitors spend time within our walls digging for clues about their own ancestors. The Historical Society is for and about each and every one of us. We hope you will continue to be a part of our story.

Jennie Chinn
Executive Director
Kansas Historical Society



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

We want to share with you some of the real people and real stories from Kansas history. Soon you will be seeing these collector cards, bookmarks, and billboards featuring a sampling of photographs and objects from our collections.



Kansas Historical Society **REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES** collector cards and bookmarks.

New Publication – *Reflections*

In the spring of 2007 the Kansas Historical Society unveiled a new publication that not only helps readers make a connection to Kansas history, but keeps them informed about events and programs. *Reflections* is an easy-to-read, full-color quarterly magazine loaded with photographs from the the KSHS collection and articles about people in Kansas history.

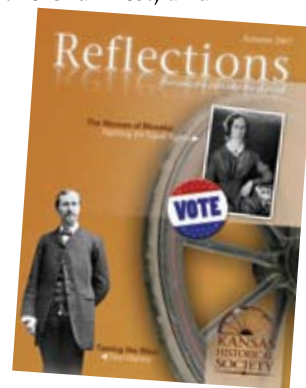
In addition to telling the stories of Kansas and its people, *Reflections* includes information on how readers can learn more by visiting online or in-person at the Kansas State Capitol, Kansas Museum of History, the State Archives & Library, or one of our 16 State Historic Sites.

Regular sections include From Our Collections, Save Our History, History's Heroes, Happenings at KSHS, and a Calendar of Events. The back cover

features an image from *Kansas Memory*, our newest online offering.

The first two issues of *Reflections* included articles on John Fenton Pratt, Kansans in sports, El Cuartelejo, the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry, and the preservation of a Kaw village. *Reflections* also tells the stories of people who are working today to preserve Kansas history. Mary Turkington, KSHS, Inc. board president; Kathy Fox, volunteer; and Don Chubb, board member, were featured for their efforts in preserving history.

Upcoming issues of *Reflections* will feature articles on William Allen White, firearms of the Old West, and letters from World Wars I and II, just to name a few. Issues are mailed to KSHS, Inc. members, provided to visitors at KSHS sites, and available in downloadable PDF files online.



Publications

Title	Issues	Distributed
<i>Kansas Heritage</i> (discontinued in January 2007)	2	7,300
<i>Kansas History</i>	4	14,400
<i>Kansas Kaleidoscope</i>	5	16,250
<i>Reflections</i> (began Spring 2007)	2	18,000

Reflections contributors select images for an upcoming issue.



Elementary Curriculum Materials – *Read Kansas!*

For years educators have requested primary source materials to teach Kansas history in their classrooms. The “No Child Left Behind” federal program, emphasizing reading and math, reduced the time teachers could spend on history curriculum. In response, the Kansas Historical Society began work on original writings that utilize a strong reading curriculum through incorporating Kansas history primary and secondary source materials.

The *Read Kansas!* cards help students develop critical thinking skills – analysis, synthesis, and evaluation – while learning Kansas history. The accompanying lesson plans provide teachers with assessment tools to gauge student learning.

The Kansas State Department of Education provided \$200,000 during four fiscal years toward the *Read*

Kansas! project. The Kansas Health Foundation also provided funding for the production of the cards. In fiscal year 2007 the staff completed cards and lesson plans for the primary and intermediate levels (K-5). As a result of the funding collaboration, all public elementary schools in Kansas were sent free sets of cards and lesson plans.

“You cannot believe how ecstatic I am to be able to share the *Read Kansas!* curriculum materials with the teachers at Auburn Washburn and you cannot believe how ecstatic they are to get them!” said Kim D. Rasmussen, USD 437 curriculum coordinator. “We have never experienced curriculum materials like this.”

Additional sets are available to purchase at a nominal fee and also are provided as free downloadable PDF files on the Historical Society’s website.



“What a cutting-edge product – marrying the reading and history standards of our state.”

— Kim D. Rasmussen
USD 437 curriculum coordinator

New Exhibits – Shawnee Indian Mission

The crossroads of cultures are the focus of new exhibits at Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site. Installed on the second floor of the east building, the exhibits cover the period from 1840-1880.

A video describes the concept of Manifest Destiny as Americans moved west to the area that was home to many American Indians. Interactive displays explore life along on the trail and living in a log cabin.

Exhibits also feature the coming of the railroad. Visitors can listen to diary readings of trail travelers, immigrant guides, and letters from Indians who were



forcibly moved to the area. Displays on the first floor focus on life at the mission and what students were taught.

The site also served as a brief home to the territorial legislature, supply point on the Santa Fe and Oregon-California trails, and a camp for Union soldiers during the Civil War. The Shawnee Indian Mission Development Project raised funding for the new exhibits.

“I was impressed with not only the information, but also the interactive component of the exhibit. The Shawnee Indian Mission is truly a treasure in Northeast Johnson County.”

— Jules Young Taggart
Northeast Johnson County Chamber



1,000 Historic Properties on the National Register

More than 1,000 properties in the state of Kansas are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The new additions, representing 36 different counties across the state, include several multiple property listings of historic theaters and opera houses, county courthouses, historic railroad resources, public schools, and residential suburbs in Kansas.

The Berger Lustron House in Abilene, built in 1949, was part of a multiple property listing for the prefabricated all-steel houses. They offered efficient construction methods, were built on concrete slabs, and were available in two- and three-bedroom models. The Berger house, typical of the 91 others in the state, has a maize yellow exterior, dove gray roof tiles, two bedrooms, and is the only Lustron in Abilene.

The Paradise Water Tower in Russell, built in 1938, was part of the New Deal multiple property listing this fiscal year. The tower, which still serves as a water storage facility, contains a double-leaf entrance with an Art Deco-inspired limestone surround. The building is 17 feet diameter and 35 feet in height.

During the fiscal year 76 Kansas properties were added to the National Register and nine to the state register.

“We are all so excited about this.”

— Phyllis Bitner, Franklin Sidewalk Project,
upon being nominated to the
National Register of Historic Places



A Kansas Diary – Mabel Legg Ross

For seven decades, from the age of 19, Mabel Legg Ross kept a diary. This Brown County resident developed a love for writing that eventually led to a career as a columnist.

Ross surprised herself at her own dedication to writing. “I did not realize when I started my diary several years ago that I would keep it for any length of time, but I have reached the conclusion now that I shall continue it through my life because it has become a part of me,” Ross wrote. “It seems to be a living thing.”

Just four days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Ross wrote, “The war rages on at present there are 36 nations at war. Today U.S. officially declared war on Germany, Italy and Manchukuo . . . This evening we drove over to Alfred’s folks and spent the evening listening to news broadcasts come in over the radio.”

In 1984, at the age of 71, Ross became a columnist for the *Horton Headlight* in Brown County. Her first column of “Life Can Be Interesting,” began with “John Gingerich called to talk to me about my column. He asked if I’d break down the last column I had written into several columns. He said he wanted to teach me that I really have a talent for writing . . . I’m floating on cloud 9 again.” Ross continued her column for 22 years.

Ross recently donated her diaries, along with photographs, family histories, and columns to the Kansas Historical Society. She continues to write today at the age of 94.



Donation of Football Uniforms

Kansas high school communities feel strongly about their Friday night football games. As smaller Kansas town populations dwindled, schools faced challenges finding enough players for their teams.

Windom High School began the tradition of eight-man football in Kansas in 1956. Rules are generally the same as for the 11-man game. Teams play on a smaller field – 80 by 40 yards – and eliminate two tackles and a wide receiver. Today there are about 100 schools across the state playing eight-man football.

“All high school sports tend to pull a community together but I think eight-man football does this in an even stronger way because it’s often played in communities so small that getting enough players to fill the ranks sometimes is a whole school effort,” said David Stephens, Hutchinson, 2006.

Waverly High School in Osage County donated some of its old football uniforms to the Kansas

Historical Society. In 2002 the Waverly Bulldogs began playing eight-man football due to diminished population. Although the town of 600 was hesitant to see the switch at first, they eventually became strong supporters of the team. The support for the Bulldogs paid off when they won back-to-back state championships in 2005 and 2006.

The Museum’s exhibit, *Game Faces: Kansans in Sports*, features one of the football uniforms from Waverly, along with several other eight-man teams, including a cooperative team from Ransom and Healy. The exhibit runs through December 30, 2007.



Listen to our History

People from around the country are lauding the Kansas Historical Society's podcasts as progressive, innovative, and entertaining. From the subways of New York to Los Angeles, people are gaining a new perspective on Kansas history through podcasts. The Historical Society's two podcasts are released bi-weekly.

The *Cool Things* podcasts, offering an insider's perspective to the museum, were rated number one in the U.S. on MuseumPods top 10 list. Twenty-six new episodes were added to the *Cool Things* podcasts repertoire in this fiscal year.

The *Kansas Memory* podcasts, featuring readings from diaries, letters, and other documents in the collections, launched in January. The first series of

podcasts focused on the Bleeding Kansas era. The most popular podcasts were the two on slavery – Marcus Freeman recounting his life as a slave, and wanted posters from slave owners and efforts to resist from abolitionists. Each of these was downloaded more than 1,000 times. Thirteen podcasts were produced during the fiscal year.

"I LOVE the podcast! I listen to it on my subway rides here in NYC!"

— Kris Belden, Adams, NY



Recording a Kansas Memory podcast; right, items from Cool Things collection.

Kansas Archeology Training Program – Nicodemus

One hundred and twenty years after it was claimed as a town site along the Solomon River, Nicodemus was chosen as the location for the 2007 Kansas Archeology Training Program field school, June 2 - 17. The field school was held in conjunction with Washburn and Howard universities, the Kansas Anthropological Association, and National Park Service.

For hundreds of freed slaves, the 160-acre site of Nicodemus represented the “promised land” – a chance to build a better future. Those who lived in Nicodemus left behind clues to their daily lives – clues that tell the stories of a town and its people.

For students and volunteers participating in the field school, Nicodemus presented an opportunity to learn archeological skills and help discover stories waiting to be told.

Two sites were chosen for the field school – a schoolhouse and a farm. Throughout the two weeks 144 volunteers worked at the site. They excavated 35 one-meter square units and 24 shovel test pits. Volunteers at the field lab, set up at a nearby school, cleaned 203 bags of artifacts and catalogued 125 bags from the farm site. In addition, workers uncovered 95 bags of artifacts at the schoolhouse site.

The 2007 summer field school provided many clues about everyday life for African Americans from the time period and offered insight as to how homes were constructed. Although the field school was completed, much work remains, including more excavations and study of the artifacts.

“Wow! People there were ALWAYS great and more than willing to help or answer questions. Great experience!”

— field school participant



Fiscal Year 2007 Admissions

Site	Location	Paid	Complimentary	Total
Capitol Tour Center	Topeka	No charge	53,718	53,718
Constitution Hall	Lecompton	2,672	785	3,457
Cottonwood Ranch	Studley	859	1,712	2,571
First Territorial Capitol*	Ft. Riley	No charge	1,077	1,077
Fort Hays	Hays	4,234	2,727	6,961
Goodnow House*	Manhattan	No charge	1,230	1,230
Grinter Place	Kansas City	Closed for renovations	81	81
Hollenberg Pony Express Station	Hanover	1,825	169	1,994
John Brown Museum*	Osawatomie	No charge	2,970	2,970
Kansas Museum of History	Topeka	34,676	13,209	47,885
Kaw Mission	Council Grove	3,490	769	4,259
Mine Creek Battlefield	Pleasanton	1,150	468	1,618
Native American Heritage Museum	Highland	1,191	176	1,367
Pawnee Indian Museum	Republic	2,692	476	3,168
Potawatomi Mission	Topeka	No charge	6,622	6,622
Research Room	Topeka	No charge	7,251	7,251
Shawnee Indian Mission	Fairway	725	0	725
William Allen White House*	Emporia	962	0	962
Total		54,476	93,440	147,916

*Community partnership site

“I would advise anyone who is in this area
to visit the [Pawnee Indian] Museum.
I learned a lot.”

— Ben Little, Covington, Tennessee

Left to right, William Allen White House, Kaw Mission, Pawnee Indian Museum



Fiscal Year 2007 Public Programs

Site	Location	Onsite	Offsite	Total
Constitution Hall	Lecompton	2,246	5,784	8,030
Cottonwood Ranch	Studley	23	539	562
First Territorial Capitol*	Fort Riley	153	0	153
Fort Hays	Hays	4,381	1,667	6,048
Goodnow House*	Manhattan	50	75	125
Hollenberg Pony Express Station	Hanover	115	0	115
John Brown Museum*	Osawatomie	541	551	1,092
Kansas Museum of History	Topeka	6,022	0	6,022
Kaw Mission	Council Grove	2,620	1,115	3,735
Mine Creek Battlefield	Pleasanton	824	478	1,302
Native American Heritage Museum	Highland	574	11,001	11,575
Pawnee Indian Museum	Republic	653	8,800	9,453
Shawnee Indian Mission	Fairway	4,179	395	4,574
William Allen White House*	Emporia	79	17	96
Total		22,460	30,422	52,882

*Community partnership sites

Special Programs for Children

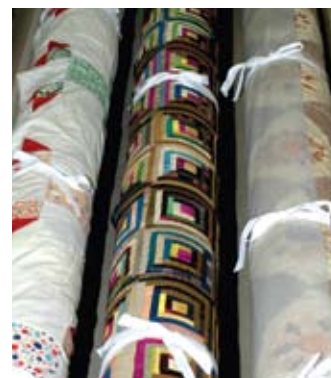
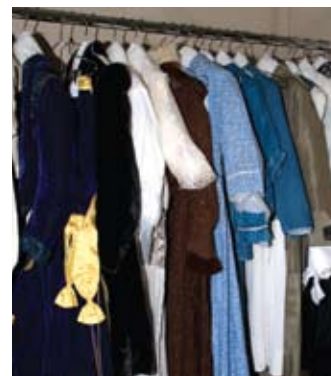
Program	Location	Total Served
Blacksmithing at the Mission	Fairway	72
Discovery Place	Topeka	7,703
History and Environmental Fair	Topeka	1,500
Kansas Book Festival – Children’s Activities	Wichita	5,023
Kansas Day at Hollenberg Station	Hanover	54
Kansas Day at the Capitol	Topeka	1,000
Kansas Day at the Museum	Topeka	1,800
Kansas History Day	Statewide	899
Republic County Field Day	Republic	62
Storytime for Preschoolers	Topeka	620
Through the Eyes of a Young Soldier	Hays	32
Traveling Resources Trunks	Statewide	19,800
USD 501 (Topeka) Indian Education Program	Topeka	50
Young Troopers	Hays	90
Total		38,705



Collections

The Kansas Historical Society tells the story of our state through exhibits, historic sites, and vast collections including archeological materials, books and periodicals, objects, diaries, letters, photographs, audio-visual materials, and state records.

Type	Amount
Archeological artifacts	4,590 cubic feet
Library books and pamphlets	442,449
Manuscript materials	10,561 cubic feet
Maps and architectural drawings	30,411
Microfilm reels	78,130
Museum artifacts	108,582
Photographs and audio-visual items	489,313
Properties on the National Register and state register	1,051
State archival material	34,025 cubic feet
State records at records center	61,851 cubic feet



“This is a hidden treasure. Something you should be very proud of.”

— online respondent



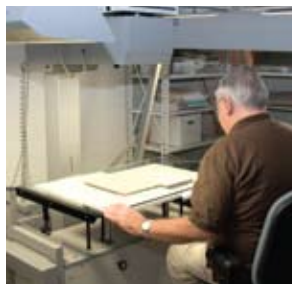
Services

Type of Service	Total
Archeology Training Program participants	144
Archives Workshops participants	90
Interlibrary Loan requests filled	2,972
Kansas Archeology Month – Artifact identification participants	30
KITES (Kansas Interpretive Traveling Exhibits Service) borrowed	51,025
Microfilm rolls (duplicates) produced	1996
Microfilm rolls (originals) produced	92
Museum loans processed	563
Museum request for information answered	320
Photo digital prints produced	3,678
Photo digital scans produced	4,248
Photo transparencies developed	2,073
Photographic use permits granted	166
Podcast downloads	48,502
Preservation state and federal law reviews completed	2,629
Research requests answered	5,027
Research Room visits	7,251
Research Room tour participants	527
Retention and disposition schedules approved	62
State records retrieval requests completed	30,890
Teacher training attendance	108
Third-party events participants	20,921
Unmarked burial sites preservation act cases	21
Website user sessions	5,826,846
Total	6,010,185

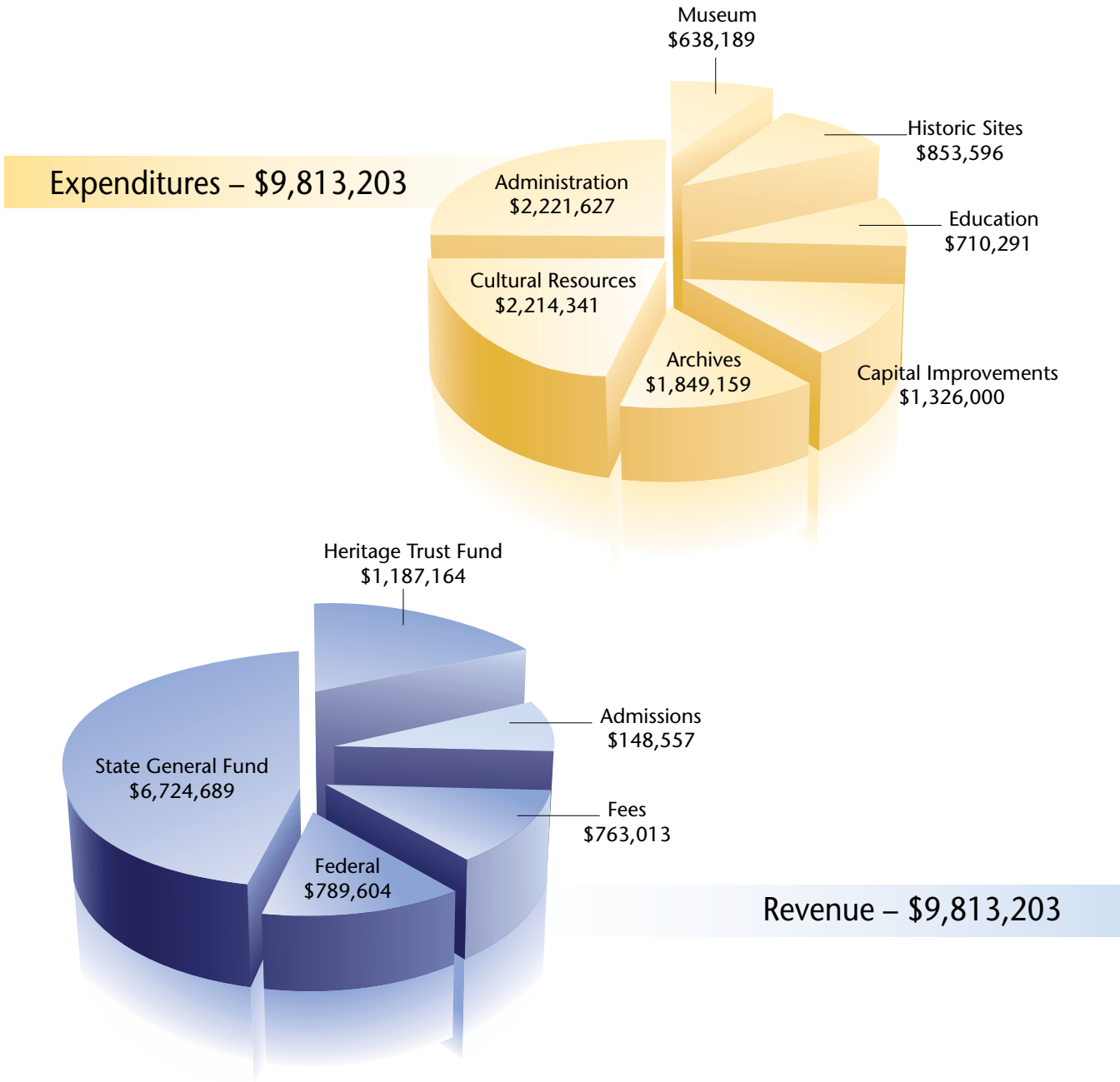
“Most user-friendly state historical web site
I use and I use a lot of them. Thank you!”

— Mary Clement Douglass, certified genealogist

*Left to right, digital imaging, research
room, Archeology Lab*



Resources



Volunteers

You'll see them cleaning artifacts in the Archeology Lab, welcoming visitors to the State Historic Sites, helping students to the top of the Kansas State Capitol dome, transcribing documents in the State Archives & Library, and giving tours at the Kansas Museum of History. Volunteers for the Kansas Historical Society contributed more than 20,000 hours.

Two of the Historical Society's volunteers passed 30 years of service this year. Ruth Lawson began in 1975 when the Historical Society was located in downtown Topeka. Mary Mosher followed a year later. When the Kansas Museum of History moved to west

Topeka in 1984, Ruth and Mary became the core of the new volunteer program.

The two have participated in the Museum's tour program, stationing in the main gallery, and have helped with numerous special events, including Kansas Day. For a number of years Mary taught classes for summer programs. Ruth has regularly volunteered at the Potawatomi Mission since its opening in 1995.

Ruth and Mary exemplify the hundreds of dedicated volunteers that help to make the Historical Society one of the best in the nation!

"I heard more than one teacher compliment you on doing such a nice job with the students. I guess when you are sharing something that is important to you, it is a joy!"

— Lori Siemsen, Republic County Conservation District



Service Area	Volunteers	Hours
Archeology	24	2,197
Capitol	4	268
Discovery Place	10	698
Historic Sites	303	10,886
Information Desk	21	1,743
Museum Docents	17	835
State Archives & Library	30	3,260
Special Projects	81	465
Summer Youth	15	364
Total	505	20,716

Mary Mosher and Ruth Lawson



Kansas Historical Society staff

The Kansas Historical Society is part of the executive branch of state government. Information in this publication covers activities from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. We are grateful for the support we have received from Governor Kathleen Sebelius; the Kansas Legislature; the KSHS, Inc. Board of Directors; and the numerous private donors that have helped preserve the history of this great state. Private funds were used to publish this report.



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099
kshs.org