



Kansas Museums Association

Preserving & Promoting History - Art - Science for Kansas Communities

eNewsletter

February 29, 2012

Greetings!

Mark your Calendar!

**Kansas Museums Association
2012 Annual Conference -
Newton, Kansas - October 24-26
*At the Crossroads of Change: Traditions and Visions***

**Call for Proposals
Deadline April 15, 2012**

Proposal Form

The Kansas Museums Association invites you to submit session proposals that explore the successes, challenges and opportunities available to Kansas museums. We are seeking sessions related to collaboration, marketing and public relations, collections care, exhibits, education, volunteer management and any other topic related to the diverse and dynamic work of museums.

Please submit the completed form via e-mail to **Lisa** or mail to Kansas Museums Association - P.O. Box 782620 - Wichita, KS 67278-2620.

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Allen County Historical Society Benefits from KMA Institutional Grant

The Allen County Historical Society would like to thank the Kansas Museums Association for the institutional grant given us to build a new exhibit space in our Allen County History Museum. This new exhibit allows us to safely share more of the wonderful artifacts we have in our collection with our thousands of visitors each year.

When our original museum displays were constructed, a small shelf was built into the wall in the back of the building. This shelf held supplemental reading materials for our visitors to browse and use for research. Recently, these supplemental reading materials were moved, as a reorganization of the museum provided a better space for these books. This left us with an empty space in the back our museum, and the desire to use this space to display more artifacts.

Like many small museums, our display cases do not provide the level of protection necessary for certain artifacts. In particular, the lights in our museum and in our display cases put artifacts like hand-written documents, certain fabrics, and old photographs at risk for deterioration.

Of course, changing all the lights in our museum is cost prohibitive. But, we thought that if we could turn this now empty shelf space into an exhibit case that could safely display these types of artifacts, we could at least put some of these objects on display on a temporary basis.

The KMA grant allowed us to buy a UV-resistant acrylic front for our case, which protects the artifacts from the fluorescent lighting in the museum, and of course provides a barrier between the artifacts and our visitors. The grant also allowed us to purchase recessed LED lighting for the interior of the case. Again, the LED lighting limits the amount of UV light our artifacts receive. We replaced the wooden bookshelves previously installed in the case with glass shelving, allowing the light to filter through to the bottom of the case. We purchased acrylic menu holders, which will allow us to write descriptive placards for each unique display, while maximizing the amount of space used for the artifacts on each shelf. Our contractor even found a way to give us access to the exhibit from the back of the display. By moving the lock



The KMA Web page is evolving and wants to feature photos and news articles from your museum. Send information to
to
director@ksmuseums.org

Important Dates

2012 KMA Annual
Conference October 26-26,
2012 Newton - North
Newton

American Association of
Museums Annual
Conference
April 29-May 2, 2012
Minneapolis - St. Paul, MN

Association of State and
Local History
October 3-6, 2012
Salt Lake City, UT

Mountain-Plains Museums
Association Conference -
Corpus Christi, TX
October 1-5, 2012

Employment Listings

Executive Director - Butler
County History Center

Kansas Cosmosphere &
Space Center Seeks CEO

Send employment listings
to

director@ksmuseums.org

Exchange Submissions

to the back of the case, the exhibit has a clean look for our visitors, and the artifacts are safer from theft. This also makes changing the displays much easier.

We are already using this new exhibit space to display a portion of our Earl Ansell World War II collection (pictured), and have heard very positive responses from our guests. The photographs and letter on display have never before been exhibited. In the next few months we are planning an exhibit of glass slides used in kerosene projectors to advertise local businesses. The LED lighting in the case illuminates the slides perfectly. We also plan to display a collection of Civil War letters, World War I letters and diaries, and old tintype photographs in our new case.

None of these items could have been put on display without this new exhibit case, and we could not have built this case without the KMA grant. Thank you to the Kansas Museums Association for your support. Stop by and see us and our new display at the Allen County Historical Society!

Gardner Historical Museum Benefits from 2011 KMA Institutional Project Grant

by: Mica Marriott-Ward

Mike Wolf and Frank Fritz of The History Channel's American Pickers have coined the phrase, "Rusty Gold," which is their definition of the treasures they find in barns and scrap piles on people's property across America. Though, what if these "treasures" were stored out of the elements and in a proper place, so they could be enjoyed for generations to come? Thus, they would not be deteriorated and rusted.

Museums throughout the world discovered years ago the benefits of climate controlled storage. Gardner Historical Museum has not had the funds to achieve such a goal of a climate controlled storage facility until the fall of 2011. The Gardner Historical Museum was the recipient of a 2011 KMA Institutional Project Grant.

On October 18, 2011 Gardner Historical Museum received a letter of approval for a grant in the amount of \$500 dollars from the KMA. Shortly after, the maintenance committee began work on making the garage of the museum's Bray House, an annex to the Museum, a climate controlled space for storage. Chair of the maintenance committee, Claude Steed said, "Our goal was to make this space as weather resistant as possible."



Unfinished ceiling in Gardner Historical Museum garage



Volunteers Rusty and Claude just finishing the work on the garage.

Newsletter Submissions are due the first of the month.

Newsletter is published monthly around the 15th of each month.

Send information to director@ksmuseums.org

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Starting with open rafters, un-insulated walls, and one single paned window, the maintenance committee had their work cut out. To fully utilize the space, they built in an attic space with insulation and sheet rock underneath. Hickman Heating and Air Conditioning Inc. of Gardner, Kansas came in and installed duct work and venting, so heating and cooling could be regulated. The raised wooden floor had been built earlier by local mason Terry Austin, to put space between the badly cracked cement floor. Insulation and paneling was installed on the walls as well as new lighting and the window was weatherized.

The museum is already utilizing the space and the members are ecstatic over the outcome. Future plans for the space include adding flooring to the attic space for storage of less climate sensitive items, putting a clothes rod up and painting.

Board member, Charlie Troutner labored to move all the items which were being stored, out of the garage space prior to the remodel and recently after the New Year moved the items back. Troutner stated, "This is no longer just a garage, it is a proper storage facility for our artifacts that we were in desperate need of."

To find out more about "Where the Trails Divided" visit [Gardner History Museum](#) or call 913-856 - 4447.

KMA Website Offers Exhibition Announcements

Do you have an exhibition you would like to promote? The KMA website will post exhibition announcements, press releases and photos. Due to our limited staff, we cannot post announcements for brief events, but if you have an exhibition for an extended period of time, we will try our best to include it in our exhibition section. Check out current exhibitions at ksmuseums.org

Help us become the "go to" site for visitors looking for unique museum experiences. E-mail information in digital format to [Lisa](mailto:Lisa@ksmuseum.org) at director@ksmuseum.org.



Red Desert, Green Prairie, Blue Sky: Photographing the West

**Open until March 10
Butler County History Center**

The Butler County History Center, Home of the Kansas Oil Museum. Red Desert, Green Prairie, Blue Sky: Photographing the West opens this week at The Butler County History Center, 383 E. Central, El Dorado, KS. This striking photography exhibition documents the cultural landscape of the Great Plains, featuring the Red Desert of Wyoming, the prairie of Central Kansas, and the Llano Estacado of northwest Texas and eastern New Mexico.

These three regions belong to the arid expanse of the United States between the Missouri River and Rocky Mountains that was known as the Great American Desert in the 1800s because of the fragile, hostile character of the land. Perceived as an inhospitable wasteland, the High Plains did not attract European American settlers until the 1860s. George Jerkovich's panoramic scenes memorialize the diversity of the Kansas prairie—from the rolling hills of the Dakota Sandstone region to the flat, semi-arid plains. Alternatively his photographs capture the evolution of Kansas agriculture from family farms to agribusiness as reflected in images of sunflower-dotted green prairies, expansive wheat fields, and dying small towns.

The Butler County History Center is hosting a variety of events throughout the month of February. An opening reception will be held on Friday, February 3rd, from 5-6 pm for members only, and 6-8 pm for the public. The opening will feature Flint Hills poetry and light refreshments. Celebrate Kansas! Family Day, will be held on Saturday, February 4th, from 1-3 pm. Children's activities, demonstrations, and history interpreters will be featured throughout the day. Additionally, on Thursday, February 23rd, from 6:30-8:30, the museum is presenting another exhibit, Flint Hills Artist Showcase, in which there will be guest speakers, live music, cider and cookies. All events are free and held at BCHC, 383 E. Central, El Dorado, KS 67042. For additional information, please call 316.321.9333.

The exhibition is organized and toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. ExhibitsUSA sends more than

20 exhibitions on tour to more than 100 small- and mid-sized communities every year. Mid-America is the oldest nonprofit regional arts organization in the United States. More information is available at www.maaa.org and www.eusa.org.

For **additional information**, please call 316.321.9333.

Kansas Association of Historians Annual Meeting

March 30-31, 2011

Wesleyan University - Salina

Early registration deadline is March 4th.

The Kansas Association of Historians (KAH) is an organization of college, community college, & university faculty members; public historians; secondary school teachers; and others interested in promoting the study of history in the Sunflower State. Founded in 1917 and formerly known as the Kansas History Teachers Association, KAH has welcomed non-teaching public historians for many years and changed its name in 2007 to reflect that inclusion.

KAH holds an annual meeting each spring featuring scholarly papers, presentations by students, a banquet, and keynote speakers. In addition, KAH sponsors three awards for the best undergraduate and graduate student research papers each year. In recent years, KAH has also supported Kansas History Day through contributions to partially offset travel expenses for state winners going to the national contest.

If you would like to help further history in Kansas by joining KAH, dues are a low \$8 per year or are included in the annual meeting registration fee. Information on this year's KAH annual meeting on March 30th and 31st at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina is attached. As secretary - treasurer, I'll be glad to enroll you as a member or an attendee at the annual meeting.

Please note that the early registration deadline is March 4th.

For more information visit **the website** or you can contact me with any questions you may have.

- **Bob Knecht**

John Mark Lambertson Retires from Director Post at National Frontier Trails Museum

John Mark Lambertson is a former KSHS employee and has Kansas roots. Kansas native John Mark Lambertson is retiring after 19 years as the director of the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, MO. FFNHA congratulates John Mark on his accomplishments as the museum director, and wishes him the best as he travels into the next phase of his life. **Read the Examiner.net** article for more information.



Kansas Museums Association Seeks You! Membership is OPEN!

If you have not renewed your membership for 2012, it's not too late!

KMS offers Individual, Institutional and Business Memberships. I urge everyone to join as both an individual and institutional member. Your \$20 individual membership shows your commitment to your profession and your investment in KMA's future. Institutional memberships are vital to maintain a strong, state-wide association and an engaged presence in events and issues impacting our community and profession.

2012 Membership Application & Benefit Details

Our Members represent a range of organizations and professionals in the state of Kansas including: Art Galleries and Museums, Historical Societies, Historic Preservation, Museums, Natural History Museums, Convention and Visitors Bureaus, and Zoos.

Contact Information

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Email director@ksmuseums.org

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