
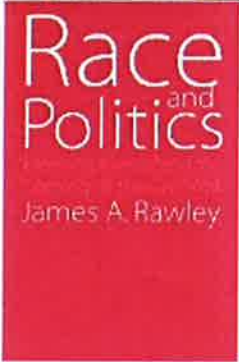
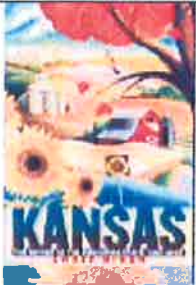


## Kansas Destination Specialist Approved Reading List

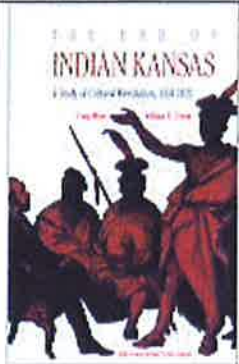
**Requirements:** A minimum of one book from each category (Kansas, Marketing and Leadership) must be submitted using the book report form. After committee approval, members will be notified of remaining points necessary to obtain KDS designation.

If you have a book that you believe should be included on this, please email the title and author to Amy Garton at [agarton@visitoverlandpark.com](mailto:agarton@visitoverlandpark.com). The KDS Committee will review the book and make a recommendation of approval/disapproval to the TIAK Board. No book report points will be granted unless the book has been added to the approved reading list.

### Category One: Kansas

	<p><b>War to The Knife: Bleeding Kansas 1854-1961</b>  <b>Author: Thomas Goodrich</b></p> <p>Long before the secession crisis at Fort Sumter ignited the War between the States, men fought and died on the prairies of Kansas over the incendiary issue of slavery. Because the conflict soon spread east, events in “Bleeding Kansas” have largely been forgotten. But as historian Thomas Goodrich reveals in this compelling saga, what America’s “first civil war” lacked in numbers, it more than made up for in ferocity.</p>
	<p><b>Race and Politics: “Bleeding Kansas” and the Coming of the Civil War</b>  <b>Author: James Rawley</b></p> <p>Race and Politics offers an analysis of the controversies that followed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. The question of whether the still unsettled Kansas Territory should be slave or free divided the nation into hostile and ultimately irreconcilable camps, creating conditions that only civil war could resolve. The author demonstrates, however, that the fundamental issue was not slavery as such but <i>race</i>: whether the country, its egalitarian slogans notwithstanding, could tolerate the expansion of African Americans, slave or free.</p>
	<p><b>Kansas: The History of the Sunflower State</b>  <b>Author: Craig Miner</b></p> <p>Ranging from the days of cattle and railroads to the era of oil and agribusiness, this history situates the state in its own terms rather than as a sidebar to a larger American epic. Miner brings to its pages an identifiable Kansas character to preserve what is distinctive about the state’s identity for future generations, echoing what one Kansan said over half a century ago: “Kansas is simply Kansas. May she never be tempted to become anything else.”</p>

	<p><b>Bleeding Kansas</b>  <b>Author: Sarah Paretsky</b></p> <p>Set in the Kaw River Valley, where Paretsky grew up, Bleeding Kansas is the story of the Schapens and the Grelliers, two farm families whose histories have been entwined since the 1850s, when their ancestors settled the valley as antislavery immigrants.</p>
	<p><b>Pioneer Women</b>  <b>Author: Joanna L. Stratton</b></p> <p>From a rediscovered collection of priceless autobiographical accounts written by hundreds of pioneer women, Joanna Stratton has made a remarkable and widely celebrated book. Never before has there been such a detailed record of women's courage, such a living portrait of the women who civilized the American frontier. Here are their stories: wilderness mothers, schoolmarms, Indian squaws, immigrants, homesteaders, and circuit riders. Their personal recollections of prairie fires, locust plagues, cowboy shootouts, Indian raids, and blizzards on the plains vividly reveal the drama, danger and excitement of the pioneer experience.</p> <p>These were women of relentless determination, whose tenacity helped them to conquer loneliness and privation. Their work was the work of survival, it demanded as much from them as from their men — and at last that partnership has been recognized. "These voices are haunting" (New York Times Book Review), and they reveal the special heroism and industriousness of pioneer women as never before.</p>
	<p><b>Civil War Kansas: Reaping the Whirlwind</b>  <b>Author: Albert E. Castel</b></p> <p>Civil War Kansas describes the political, military, social, and economic events of the state's first four years. Castel contributes to a better understanding of the Civil War in this region through a realistic presentation and analysis of the Kansas-Missouri border conflict, the operations of the Missouri guerrillas under Quantrill, and the Union and Confederate military campaigns in Missouri, Arkansas, the Indian Territory, and Kansas itself.</p>



**The End of Indian Kansas: A Study of Cultural Revolution, 1854-1871**

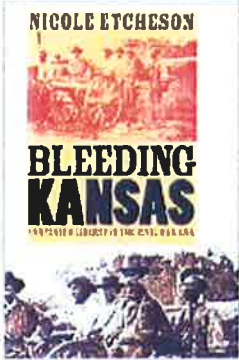
**Author: Craig Miner and William Unrau**

When Kansas became a U.S. territory in 1854 literally all of its land area was guaranteed by treaty to Indians. More than 10,000 Kickapoos, Delawares, Sacs, Foxes, Shawnees, Potawatomis, Kansas, Ottawas, Wyandots, and Osages, not to mention a number of smaller tribes, inhabited Kansas. By 1875 there were only a couple of bands left.

The forced removal of thousands of Indians from eastern Kansas between 1854 and 1871 affected more Indians and occupied more government time than the celebrated exploits of the military against the more warlike western tribes. In this volume Miner and Unrau show Kansas at midcentury to be a moral testing ground where the drama of Indian disinheritance was played out. They relate how railroad men, land speculators, and timber operations came to be firmly entrenched on Indian land in territorial Kansas. They examine remarkable incongruities in Indian policy, land policy, law, and administration, pointing to specific cases in which legal maneuvers by the federal government—within the framework of treaties, statutes, and executive pronouncements—helped to insure the pattern of tribal destruction.

Separate chapters deal with internal factionalism in the Indian tribes, the practice of government chief-making, and the "Indian Ring"—the sub rosa alliances influencing the treaty or sale process. The authors also include revealing portraits of the individuals, from territorial governors to railroad officials, who helped engineer the end of Indian Kansas.

"There are no heroes in this narrative of fraud, corruption, and violence."

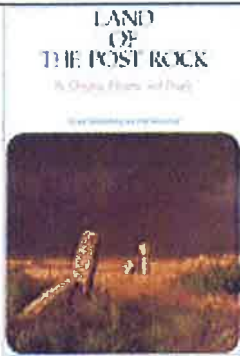


**Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era**

**Author: Nichole Etcheson**

Bleeding Kansas is a gripping account of events and people—rabble-rousing Jim Lane, zealot John Brown, Sheriff Sam Jones, and others—that examines the social milieu of the settlers along with the political ideas they developed.

As Etcheson demonstrates, the struggle over the political liberties of whites may have heightened the turmoil but led eventually to a broadening of the definition of freedom to include blacks. Her insightful re-examination sheds new light on this era and is essential reading for anyone interested in the ideological origins of the Civil War.



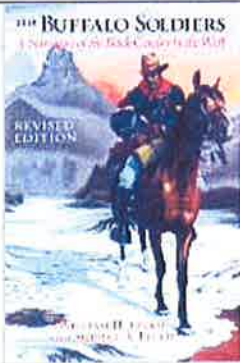
**Land of the Post Rock: Its Origins, History and People**  
**Author: Grace Muilenburg**

In north-central Kansas, where woodlands are sparse and prairies expansive, rows of creamy-buff, brown-striped stone fence posts grace the landscape. These stately posts are shaped from the native rock known as Fencepost limestone, or simply post rock. Now tourist attractions, the posts are also regional trademarks that bespeak the resourcefulness of early Kansas settlers. *Land of the Post Rock* is a story of north-central Kansas and its people, and their relationship to the post rock. The authors weave together regional geology, geography, and economics with local history and pioneer folklore to describe how post rock shaped the area's development. They have recorded the story of a unique aspect of Mid-American heritage.

Post rock played a vital role as the central Kansas upland evolved from a treeless grassland to an area of cultivated farms. Obligated to find a substitute for post timber, early settlers began turning back the sod and splitting posts from the rock layer that for hundreds of centuries had lain dormant. The rock became a central factor in the development of that segment of the plains as dugouts and sod houses gave way to substantial dwellings constructed of stone.

This book contains a generous amount of local oral history. The authors traveled the region collecting stories about the early settlers' dependence on post rock to survive on prairie homesteads. Here, too, is ethnic history. Details are provided on the backgrounds, talent, and personalities of the European immigrants who settled the area and used the rock.

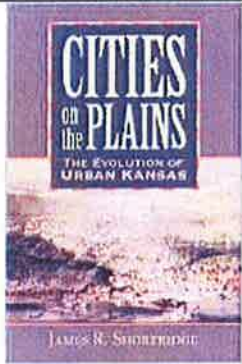
Those who are curious about the physical nature of post rock and how it was formed will find answers in this book. The authors explain how the rock was quarried, how stone posts were set, and how post rock was prepared for buildings and other structures.



**The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Black Cavalry in the West**  
**Author: William Leckie and Shirley Leckie**

Originally published in 1967, William H. Leckie's *The Buffalo Soldiers* was the first book of its kind to recognize the importance of African American units in the conquest of the West. In this revised edition, the authors further explore the lives of buffalo soldiers in the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments, showing that they were increasingly confident in their fighting ability and, above all, determined to prove themselves worthy of their newly entitled citizenship.

Written in accessible prose that includes a synthesis of recent scholarship, *The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Black Cavalry in the West, Revised Edition* delves further into the social impact of an African American soldier in the nineteenth century. This work also explores the experiences of the soldiers' families at frontier posts. In a new epilogue, the authors summarize developments in the lives of buffalo soldiers after the Indian Wars and discuss contemporary efforts to memorialize them in film, art, and architecture.

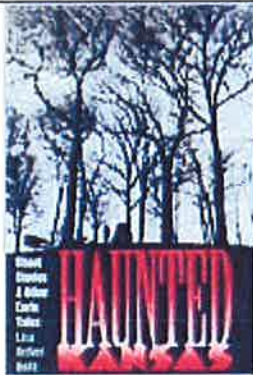


**Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas**

**Author: James R. Shortridge**

"A tour de force that shows how changing systems of production, transportation, and services have continually remade the fortunes of Kansas communities."—Carl Abbott, author of *The Metropolitan Frontier: Cities in the Modern American West*

A valuable book for anyone concerned with the historical evolution of urban systems generally and an absolutely essential book for anyone interested in the urban history of Kansas and the Great Plains."—John A. Jakle, author of *City Lights*



**Haunted Kansas: Ghost Stories and Other Eerie Tales**

**Author: Lisa Hefner Heitz**

Who's that? Is someone there? A whisper of air brushes your cheek. Then all is still. Maybe it was just the wind. Or maybe it wasn't. . . .

Maybe you've just been visited by the late Ida Day lurking in the basement of Hutchinson's public library or the widow Tarot staring forlornly from an upstairs window at Fort Scott, or the phantom Earl floating behind the scenes in Concordia's Brown Grand Theater. And maybe the horrific Albino Woman truly does haunt Topeka, turning romantic nights into nightmares. . . . maybe. Pursuing the stories behind these and other spectral manifestations, Lisa Hefner Heitz has traveled the state in search of its ghostly folklore. What she has unearthed is a fascinating blend of oral histories, contemporary eye-witness accounts, and local legends. Creepy and chilling, sometimes humorous, and always engaging, her book features tales about ghosts, poltergeists, spook lights, and a host of other restless spirits that haunt Kansas.

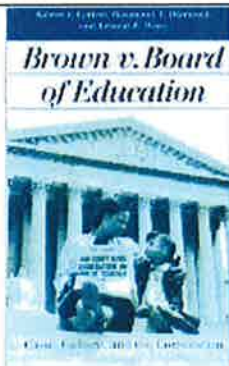
Heitz's spine-tingling collection of stories raps and taps and moans and groans through a wealth of descriptions of infamous Kansas phantoms, as well as disconcerting personal experiences related by former skeptics. Many of these ghosts, she shows, are notoriously linked to specific structures or locations, whether it is an eighteenth-century mansion in Atchison or a deep—some have claimed bottomless—pool near Ashland.

The evanescent apparitions of these tales have frightened and at times amused Kansans throughout the state's long history. Yet this is the first book to capture for posterity the lively antics of the state's ghostly denizens. Besides preserving a colorful and imaginative, if intangible, side of the state's popular heritage, Heitz supplies ghost-storytellers with ample hair-raising material for, well, eternity. Maybe that person breathing softly behind you has another such story to share. Oh, no one's there? Perhaps it really was just the breeze off the prairie.



**Why the West was Wild: A Contemporary Look at the Antics of Some Highly Publicized Cowtown Personalities**  
**Author: Nyle H. Miller and Joseph W. Snell**

Nyle H. Miller and Joseph W. Snell's *Why the West Was Wild* is the unabridged and unsurpassed collection of material assembled on the famous and infamous personalities of Kansas cowtowns, including legendary figures such as "Wild Bill" Hickok, Bat Masterson, and Doc Holliday, and such locales as Abilene, Wichita, Caldwell, and Dodge City. First published by the Kansas State Historical Society, these portraits are based on research in newspapers, legal records, letters, and diaries contemporary to these legendary figures. This anniversary volume is the first complete edition to appear in forty years.



**Brown v. Board of Education: Caste, Culture and the Constitution**  
**Author: Robert J. Cottrol, Leland B. Ware and Raymond T. Diamond**

Before 1954, both law and custom mandated strict racial segregation throughout much of the nation. That began to change with *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark decision that overturned the pernicious "separate but equal" doctrine. In declaring that legally mandated school segregation was unconstitutional, the Supreme Court played a critical role in helping to dismantle America's own version of apartheid, Jim Crow. This new study of *Brown*—the title for a group of cases drawn from Kansas, Virginia, South Carolina, Delaware, and the District of Columbia—offers an insightful and original overview designed expressly for students and general readers. It is concise, up-to-date, highly readable, and very teachable. The authors, all recognized authorities on legal history and civil rights law, do an admirable job of examining the fight for legal equality in its broad cultural and historical context. They convincingly show that *Brown* cannot be understood apart from the history of caste and exclusion in American society. That history antedated the very founding of the country and was supported by the nation's highest institutions, including the Supreme Court whose decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) supported the notion of "separate but equal." Their book traces the lengthy court litigations, highlighting the pivotal role of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and including incisive portraits of key players, including co-plaintiff Oliver Brown, newly appointed Chief Justice Earl Warren, NAACP lawyer and future Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall, and Justice Felix Frankfurter, who recognized the crucial importance of a unanimous court decision and helped produce it. The authors simply but powerfully narrate their story and show that *Brown* not only changed the national equation of race and caste—it also changed our view of the Court's role in American life. As we prepare to commemorate the decision's fiftieth anniversary in May 2004, this book invites readers to appreciate the lasting importance of what was indisputably a landmark case. This book is part of the Landmark Law Cases and American Society series.