

History Day Topic Summaries

Topic	Short Summary
Quantrill's Raid	<i>William Quantrill's Confederate guerrillas raided Lawrence, on August 21, 1863, burning much of the town and killing about 200 men. Materials provide firsthand accounts of this event and the community's rebuilding after the Civil War.</i>
WWI Soldiers	<i>Lawrence residents responded to the outbreak of World War I (1914-1918). Materials document the experiences of Lawrence soldiers and the impact of the war on the community.</i>
WWII Soldiers	<i>When the U.S. joined World War II in 1941, residents of Lawrence answered the call. Materials examine life in the armed services and on the home front and document the community's support for the war effort.</i>
LGBTQ Rights	<i>Movements that impacted the nation were expressed in Lawrence as well. Materials document efforts in Lawrence to promote equality from the 1890s to today.</i>
Floods and Natural Disasters	<i>Tornados and floods have had devastating impact in Douglas County. Materials capture the extent of damage and explore response and recovery efforts during natural disasters from 1900 to the 1990s.</i>
African Americans in Douglas County	<i>Though headquarters of the Free State Movement in the 1850s, Lawrence experienced the same practices of segregation that were common nationwide. Materials document the African American community's experiences and struggles to overcome prejudice from the late 1800s to the 1960s.</i>
Citizen Diplomacy in 1980s	<i>Lawrence residents were leading participants in the national antinuclear war movements of the 1980s. Materials reveal the variety of efforts citizens made to promote diplomacy and improve relations with the Soviet Union.</i>
POW Camp	<i>During WWII, the U.S. military established POW camps in several locations in Kansas, believing the state's landlocked location would discourage attempts to escape. Materials explore Lawrence's POW camp, the work done by German prisoners of war, and the relationships they established with Lawrence residents.</i>
Fair Housing	<i>Before the passage of the federal Fair Housing Act in 1968, residents worked together to pass a Fair Housing Ordinance in Lawrence. Materials tell the stories of the individuals and groups who joined this effort.</i>
Protests/Demonstrations	<i>National civil rights and anti-Vietnam War protests found expression in Lawrence. Materials detail the issues, protests, and accomplishments of activists in Lawrence from the 1960s to today.</i>
The movie "The Day After"	<i>The TV movie "The Day After" was filmed partly in Lawrence in 1983 and helped shape the national debate on nuclear disarmament. Materials detail stories of filming in Lawrence and the roles played by residents.</i>

Woman's Christian Temperance Union/Prohibition	<i>The Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union held its first meeting in Lawrence in 1878. Materials document efforts to promote temperance in Lawrence beginning in the 1860s and the effects of national prohibition in the 1920s and 1930s.</i>
Suffrage	<i>Women in Kansas fought to gain the right to vote. Lawrence women achieved the right to vote in local elections long before passage of the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920. Materials reveal the local efforts to support women's suffrage from the 1870s to the 1920s.</i>
Religion/Churches	<i>Religion has been important to local citizens ever since Lawrence and Douglas County's founding. A wide variety of faiths have called the area home and built houses of worship, many of which survive today or are extensively documented in our collections.</i>
Architecture & neighborhoods	<i>Our collections include materials on the history of specific buildings and neighborhoods, including maps, guidebooks and directories, and neighborhood newsletters.</i>
Industry	<i>Bowersock Mill, Consolidated Barbed Wire, Sunflower Ordnance, and a host of other industrial concerns have called the area home. Materials include records and photographs of these businesses.</i>
Retail and Restaurants	<i>Lawrence has a rich history of eclectic shops and restaurants, many of which are documented in our collections.</i>
Fashion	<i>Changes and social influences on fashion are documented in our huge array of portraits and group photographs dating from the mid-19th century to the present.</i>